



Glen Waverley

Uniting Church

Welcome

GWUC is a faithful, Christ-centred community that meets God and shares that unconditional love

SUNDAY PREACHING PLAN - March 2018

Time	March 4 Lent 3	March 11 Lent 4	March 18 Lent 5	March 25 Palm Sunday
8.00 am	10am Combined Service Ministry Team Congregational Meeting	Susan Karoly Rev Tom Rose Communion	Ross Mackinnon Communion	Rev Neil Peters Communion
9.15 am		Rev Neil Peters	Rev Neil Peters	Alanee Hearnshaw
11.00 am		Rev Neil Peters	Rev Neil Peters Communion	Alanee Hearnshaw
4.30 pm		Children & Families	Children & Families	Children & Families
5.30 pm		Alanee Hearnshaw	Alanee Hearnshaw	Alanee Hearnshaw
Lectionary	Exodus 20:1-17 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 John 2:13-22	Numbers 21:4-9 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 Ephesians 2:1-10 John 3:14-21	Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16 Hebrews 5:5-10 John 12:20-33	Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 Philippians 2:5-11 Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16
Liturgical Colour	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple

Holy Week Services

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday at 7.30pm - Maundy Thursday at 8pm
Good Friday at 9.15am - Easter Day at 10am

FEBRUARY

4 February 12 noon
6 February 10am
11 February 12 noon
1pm
13 February 10.30am
25 February Afternoon

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Club 2018
The Hub resumes
Light Lunch
Pastoral Workshop
Pancake Day
Chinese New Year on Kingsway

MARCH

2 March 10.30am World Day of Prayer at GWAC
3 March 8.30am Book Fair
4 March 10am Combined Service & Congregational Mtg
4 March 12 noon Club 2018
11 March 12 noon Light Lunch
15-20 March All day Getaways in Warragul
22 March 10am Hot Cross Bun Morning Tea at The Hub



Book Sale

1000s of Secondhand Books

二手書出售



Glen Waverley
Uniting Church

cnr Kingsway & Bogong Ave
Glen Waverley

Saturday
3 March

8:30am-1:00pm

Enjoy a Devonshire Tea

Donations of books welcomed from February 26



Proceeds to support the work of Glen Waverley Uniting Church

www.gwuc.org.au

Proudly sponsored by **Ray White.**
Glen Waverley

The Christian Church in the World

Battle Christian prisoners in captivity at Christmas

For most Christians, Christmas is a season of immense joy. For Christians separated from loved ones and fellow believers due to incarceration or captivity, it can be particularly painful. Christians are incarcerated in Algeria, Burma, China, Eritrea, Indonesia, Iran, North Korea, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Vietnam and possibly elsewhere. Christians are also being held captive by Islamic jihadists in Mali. Some are pastors and evangelists and some are 'prophetic voices' of righteousness, whilst others are simply pawns in a much larger game. Whatever the cause of their incarceration or captivity, we cannot overestimate the ferocity of the spiritual and emotional struggle taking place within these prisoners' souls. Traumatized, isolated and condemned to harsh and often dehumanising conditions designed to break the spirit, Christian prisoners need our prayers!

Persian convert in Iran to stay in jail

In May last year, Persian convert to Christianity, Naser Navard Gol-Tapeh and three Azerbaijanis were sentenced to ten years in jail for 'missionary activities' and 'conducting activities against national security'. They were deemed guilty of propagating house churches and promoting 'Zionist Christianity'. The Christians were derided as making 'foolish claims'. Whilst the Azerbaijanis were permitted to return home after posting bail, Naser Navard Gol-Tapeh (an Iranian national) was sent to prison. The verdicts were appealed, but on 12 November an Iranian court upheld all four 10-year sentences. Naser will remain in prison where he is liable to be treated harshly with physical punishment. Please pray for Naser, for Iran and for all of Iran's Christian prisoners.

from Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletin

May I share a few thoughts, based on the book "Roads a Christian must travel" (by Merrill Tenney) and on Acts, chapter 26-28.

"Paul's faith is outstanding, in obedience and confidence. He did not quit under pressure or difficult circumstances. He responded to God's will. And Paul had learned that he could be sure of the presence and power of God, whatever the dangers were that threatened him, and by that trust he triumphed."

"Before us stretches the road to "Rome". Let us accept God's calling, the challenge and motivation of life. Trust in God and move onwards, He is the only sure guide for life. Follow Him to the destination He has prepared."



HOT CROSS BUN MORNING TEA at THE HUB

Join us for hot cross buns, tea or coffee



and help support

THE ROYAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL



Where : Glen Waverley Uniting Church
cnr Bogong Avenue & Kingsway

When : Thursday 22nd March 2018

Time : 10 am to 12 noon

**Please add your name to the list on the office counter
if you are planning to attend.**

Anniversary

Today Rev Neil Peters begins his fifth year of ministry with us at Glen Waverley Uniting Church. We have certainly been blessed by his worship leading, teaching, care and concern for us during this time.

Australia Day Honours

Congratulations to John Snare who received an OAM in the Australia Day Awards for services to the information technology sector and security standards.

You Might Be Interested To Know ...

Some information has come to light regarding one of last Sunday's hymns (TIS 188) "Where wide sky rolls down".

This hymn was written by Australian priest and hymn writer Elizabeth Smith (b. 1956). She is quoted as saying: "I wrote the first verse on the Ghan (train) on my way home from my first trip to Central Australia. I wanted a song that would evoke some of the many Australian landscapes that I love. The text is modelled on some of the psalms where the whole created world, trees and mountains and rivers and oceans, sing for joy in God. Verse four has Australian people, in all our diversity, joining in too."

Geoff Willis

COP Funding 2018

A timely reminder is offered to the congregation to consider worthy projects for COP funding for the 2018 COP process. The opening date for applications is usually in March, so it is important to begin thinking through this now.

In the first instance, enquiries can be made to the Church Office on 9560 3580.

Leisure Time Success at Pinewood Pitch

In late 2017, Leisure Time applied for a donation through the Pinewood Pitch Community Grant Program. This is an initiative of the Pinewood branch of the Bendigo Bank in collaboration with other community Pitch Partners. It was decided to aim for an item of equipment which would benefit both the Leisure Time guests and the whole congregation, so after consulting with the Property Committee, a Hearing Loop for Room 1 became our goal.

Cliff Baker drafted an excellent application, which led to us being short-listed by the bank. We were then asked to attend a training session which outlined how to prepare and maximise the outcomes of a Pitch for funds from the Pitch Partners. It was all a bit razzamatazz for our committee but we soldiered on valiantly and prepared our display and handouts for the night at the Mulgrave Country Club. Warren Greenwood did a great job with the up-front "pitch" to the audience of about 500 people, and was ably supported by Leisure Time committee members.

The final result was a resounding success. The Bendigo Bank donated \$1200 (plus GST) and the Pitch Partners very generously committed a further \$1000 on the night.

The total cost of the Hearing Loop is \$2600, so Leisure Time provided the balance to make this new equipment possible for our hearing impaired members and visitors.

Well done to all involved.



Leisure Time Volunteer Guidelines

Could all Leisure Time Volunteers please return the signed form stating that they understand and agree to comply with all the principles and requirements listed in the volunteer guidelines. It is important that these forms are returned as soon as possible. They can be placed in the Leisure Time box on the Office Counter.

Autumn 2018 Getaway - 15 to 20 March

Our Autumn 2018 Getaway will be to Warragul Gardens Holiday Park from 15th to 20th March 2018. Please call the park directly on 5623 2707 for bookings. Book early to avoid disappointment!

Enquiries: Joanne Boldiston 0438 413 964

Emergency Medical Information Booklets

Some emergency medical information booklets are available to collect on the office counter if you would like to take one.

Dementia and Pastoral Care - Sunday 11 February

All are welcome to attend this workshop.

When: Sunday 11 February from 1pm until 3pm.

Where: Room 2.

Presenters: Di Paterson and Jan Clear.

We will explore different forms of dementia - names, causes, signs and symptoms and how we, as a church community, can care for those with dementia and their families.

Please join us. Enquiries to the Church Office 9560 3580.

Volunteering - Give Happy, Live Happy

Would you like to volunteer?

South East Volunteers is situated at 5 Myrtle Street, Glen Waverley (Melways 71 B2 - near the Glen Waverley Station) and is looking for social activity volunteers including drivers.

Free training and workshops are available. If you are interested or require further information please phone 9562 0414.

COP Committee Members

Where do monies from COP (Congregational Outreach Projects) go?

How many organisations are worthy of our COP support in 2018?

These questions and more are addressed by all our COP Committee Members.

An invitation is extended to all members of the congregation to apply to join this year's COP Committee.

Chinese New Year & Lantern Festival - Sunday 25 February

The Chinese New Year and Lantern Festival will be held in Glen Waverley on Sunday 25 February. This will be our fourth year, participating in the festival on Kingsway, and it is very exciting to have Dietrich, our Intercultural Community Planter, on board to help share all the ministries & opportunities our church has to offer.

We will be again providing free children's crafts in our tent and will also be handing out showbags & information about our church. We will be looking for volunteers to help with the day, to give half an hour or an hour of your time.

Welcomers to say Hi, hand out Glen Waverley Uniting Church showbags and chat about what is on at Glen Waverley Uniting Church, and

Kids Craft Helpers to help the smaller children to do their craft & or keep the space as tidy as possible and replenish supplies.

It is always a fun day out amongst our local community and a way to continue to follow our vision to be a church in the community.

Please sign up to volunteer on the sign up sheet outside the office.



Inclusive Community Report

We hope that you have shared many happy moments with your family and friends during the school holidays, and that you are ready to get back into your activities. Combined services during January were well attended and there was a real buzz during morning tea sessions. Members of Inclusive Community Committee pray that you will enjoy good health and happiness during 2018, and that you will be able to join us for some of our special functions.

Prayer Support Group: If you have a prayer request and you don't want it placed in the prayer book, we do have a prayer support group. All requests for prayer are kept confidential and are only passed on to group members. We don't need to know why you are requesting prayer, just a name is fine. If you need more information, contact Heather or Wendy in the office during office hours, or Beverly on 0417 359 779.

Club 2018 will be held, in the fellowship area, TODAY. Bring a plate of food to share.

A Light Lunch will be held on Sunday 11 February, after the 11am service. Food is provided so join us, in the fellowship area. Following the light lunch, we are having a Pastoral Workshop on Dementia and visiting/pastoral care. The workshop will run for two hours from 1.00pm. If you have already decided that you would like to attend the workshop, it would be helpful if you could let Wendy or Heather (in the office) know. If we have some idea of numbers, it will help us with photocopying as we have handouts that we will give you. If you decide on the day and you haven't let us know, just come.

Munch with a Bunch will be held at the RSL on Sunday 25 February at 12.30pm. Invitations are being given out or posted now. Replies are due by 18 February.

Pancake Day for 2018 will be held on Tuesday 13 February, at our church, from 10.30 am until 1.30pm. Volunteers are needed to cook and serve. If you can help, please see Jan or Alison. It would be good to have some more helpers so we can share the load.

Our next Inclusive Community Meeting will be held on Thursday 8 February at 1pm. If you have suggestions for activities, please let us know.

Jan Clear

Exciting News - Commonwealth Grant Round 3 Opportunity

I have some exciting news to share with all of you.

Back in late July 2017 we were invited by MP Julian Hill (who you may recall has had several visits to GWUC for a variety of functions) to submit an application for a Commonwealth Grant under their "*Stronger Communities Programme*" that would assist us in continuing and/or expanding our community work.

The grant conditions are very specific, limited, and had a very short time frame for us to respond.

Julian and his team were allocated a total of \$150,000 to spread in his entire electorate, and two, of many, key conditions were that we would have to fund 50% or more of the project ourselves, and that it be completed prior to June 2018. They also wish to have the MP's office involved with its commissioning as they are to gain local reporting on the grant outcomes.

With Church Council, Finance Committee and others we looked and discussed with as many of the congregation key team, Leisure Time and others, as to what projects we would want to consider.

Although there were a number of options ranging from a Mini Bus and electric BBQs through to miscellaneous equipment, none of these items had been previously researched or sufficiently costed to be able to submit them.

Property Committee has for some time costed the replacing of Worship Centre ceiling heating with an efficient inverter air-conditioning option to provide better heating in winter (as the current heating is a 28 year old ceiling based unit that is very expensive to operate) and to also provide summer cooling. We currently only have the 4 small ceiling fans.

We believed the A/C was needed going forward both for our community groups that use the facility as well as our own congregation members. We have lost bookings that could help pay for these new options, due to the lack of adequate heating and cooling.

The project was estimated to have a total cost of approximately \$33,000, and so, with Church Council, Finance Committee and the Treasurer's support and approval (that we could proceed with the project if we received any substantial grant by using our deferred maintenance funds) we submitted the project to the MP's office mid August 2017.

I am really pleased to advise that Julian Hill has recommended to the Commonwealth Grants Office that we should receive **\$12,000** of the \$16,000 we applied for, towards this project. It was very much a "first in best dressed" process.

Julian had over \$500,000 of applications for the \$150,000 he could recommend. Therefore our recommended share is spectacular!

The key reasons for Julian Hill's support for our request were:-

- From his various visits to GWUC, he could see that we were actively working with the local community in a number of ways such as the HUB, Playgroups, English classes, Probus, Mini Maestro's, Leisure Time etc.
- That although we were a *Faith based organisation*, we allowed community groups to use all our facilities for these activities: and
- That we were known in the local community for our welfare support, receive referrals from Monash Council, the Library and many others through our work with PALs, Seniors Week as well as our fund raising events for Cancer Council, MND, the fete and much more.

This is a tremendous encouragement and compliment to the whole congregation for their work in looking to and working towards our mission.

Many of the other applicants were not open to community access of their facilities or had not developed a community plan, and wanted to wait until funding was provided, whereas we were already reaching into the community and doing this work.

Julian and his committee liked and were impressed that we did not wait for others, we just got on with it.

Once again, the time frames to complete the final documentation to receive this grant were very short and the office manager of Julian Hill's electorate recommended we have our final application during the week commencing 11th September, which would, in his words, *almost ensure we will receive the funds*.

A decision to spend \$20,000 or more of our *Deferred Maintenance* funds was discussed and supported at the last Congregational meeting, but the office manager of Julian Hill's electorate suggested we complete the application, while having this conversation with our congregation.

We have received confirmation of the \$12,000 grant (Jan 2018), which is spectacular, and in accordance with the above story, the project will proceed immediately. Due to the significant additions to our switchboard needed to support this installation, we are also taking the opportunity to upgrade our switchboard with a global "earth leakage protection" feature, as recommended by Synod and Presbytery Safe Church and Property procedures.

The congregation needs to be congratulated that our efforts to engage with the community have been witnessed by others and supported by this substantial grant.

Warren Greenwood - Chairperson, Property Committee.