

Kingsway

A MAGAZINE OF GLEN WAVERLEY UNITING CHURCH



Welcome.

Glen Waverley Uniting Church is a faithful, Christ-centered community that meets God and shares in that unconditional love.



Ministerial Musings

Pastor Di Paterson



As I write this musing, we are shivering through the coldest start to Winter in over 70 years. It is cold and wet, like the Winters I remember as a child. Walking is often a challenge at this time of year as it is easier to stay home in the warmth, but if we brave the chill there is so much to discover when we walk. I love to walk by the sea, on firm sand being exhilarated by the wind and the waves. I also love walking in the bush as there are so many amazing things to discover, that can inspire and encourage. During the long weekend I walked quite a bit in the bush, as I was staying near a State Forest. Yes, there was a walk to a waterfall, but the thing that caught my eye was the mushrooms and toadstools growing in the most amazing places. Growing on tree trunks, dead logs, and on the ground. I find it fascinating that they seem to push their way through soil, sticks, leaves and even bark, to break through to the surface. I reckon this fungus is powerful and determined and has a real strength to push through to the light.

Mushrooms and toadstools grow in the dark. I guess there are many jokes about us as people being a bit like mushrooms, growing in the dark and being fed manure. Whatever happens inside the earth strengthens the fungi to come into the light. Have you ever noticed that each mushroom or toadstool is an individual, but they grow together in little families. They take their nutrients from the soil and moisture that seeps into the soil. This reminds me that we grow from the inside out. God places the Holy Spirit into our hearts and that is the seed that helps us to grow. Psalm 139 tells us that God "Created our innermost being", "My frame was not hidden from You when I was made in the

secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth." So, God works on our innermost being and gives us the strength and the encouragement to break through the barriers, that life might throw at us, into the light. Also, if you notice fungus grows in a vast array of colours, some are similar in looks and some look quite different, and that just about describes our Church.

The other exciting thing about a mushroom or toadstool is that when they break through the soil into the light, they grow and eventually open and spread the seeds or spores to create more mushrooms and toadstools. When we break through the surface of our uncertainties, and step into the light of God's love and grace, we can also scatter the seeds of God's love and grace as we grow as disciples of Jesus.

We are all individuals but when we gather as a Church, we are fed the good news of Jesus, we can rekindle the fire of the Holy Spirit, and be watered by the prayers we share so that we are strengthened to go out to be the Church in the World.

During our time of lockdown, we felt that we were in a dark and lonely place, but during that time, we had live stream and ZOOM, and we were able to stay connected. Like mushrooms and toadstools, we have been fed, during the lockdown and also since returning to face to face worship, with the nutrients that have fed our faith. Now that the Church has celebrated the coming of the Holy Spirit and are encouraged by the Trinity, we are encouraged to break through to the light and shine for Jesus wherever we are.

What's On...

Not all events are held each week - please contact the church office for details.

WORSHIP SERVICES

8am Contemplative

9.15am Interactive (+live broadcast) incl. Holy Communion
- 1st Sunday of each month

11am Traditional (+live broadcast) incl. Holy Communion
- 3rd Sunday of each month

1pm Indonesian Fellowship on Zoom

5pm Creative Worship

MONDAY

10.00am GOMERs
10.00am Playgroup
10.00am Leisure Time
10.00am Craft Group
8.00pm Badminton

TUESDAY

10.00am The Hub
10.00am Playgroup
2.00pm Mindful Meditation
4.00pm Meditation Online
7.30pm Bible Study

WEDNESDAY

7.30am Prayer Time Online
8.00pm Free Spirit

THURSDAY

11.00am English Conversation Class
7.00pm Monthly Reflection Online

FRIDAY

9.30am Choir of Hope
5.30pm/7.00pm Uthies/Youth

GWUC Westpac Bank Account

Uniting Church Glen Waverley
BSB: 033 052
Account Number: 92 2198

Welcome to Kingsway Magazine

"Kingsway" is a regular magazine of Glen Waverley Uniting Church. It is designed to provide a voice for the church community to share activities, thoughts, celebrations, stories and the faith journey, and will present to the church community the quiet achievers and achievements in the life of our church. "Kingsway" has a multi-generational, multi-cultural and missional focus and is designed to build community, lift the spirit and strengthen our faith. If you have an item, article or notice that you think will be just right for "Kingsway", please contact Joanne Boldiston (office@gwuc.org.au) or David Fraser (davidfraser60@gmail.com).



CALL OF THE RIVER

*The swagge was born by the river bank,
While the water meandered downstream.
Forever, as it escaped to the sea,
It called to his hopes and dreams.*

Anne Cook ©2022

SPREADING THE GOSPEL (where have members past and present gone?)



Rev. Gavin Blakemore -
Uniting Mission Director



Ms Dianne Paterson -
Black Rock congregation
(and GWUC!)



Mr Rod Duncan -
School chaplain

Rev. Robert Elkhuzen -
Pakenham Mission Area



Rev. Greg Fry -
Cheltenham-
Mentone
congregation



Rev. Heather Hon -
Koonung Heights
Uniting Church

Ms Belinda Clear -
Sandringham Uniting Church



Rev. Jay Robinson -
Murumbeena Uniting
Church

Rev. Julie Ross - Mount Waverley Uniting Church
(High St. Rd UC & St John's UC)



Rev. Tom Rose - Victorian
Council of Churches
Emergencies Ministry



Daniel Sihombing -
part time at Korean
Church of Melbourne

Rev. Graham Bartley -
Coatesville Uniting
Church



Ms Kelly Skilton -
Murumbeena
congregation,
University chaplain

Welfare During Winter 2022

Our aim in this article is to give a snapshot to the congregation of some of the issues we have noticed facing our Welfare service users, and the support that the Welfare Committee have been able to provide so far this year.

Groceries and Coles Vouchers

Historically winter is a time of increased expenses for people in our community because of the cost of energy to keep warm over the winter. Coupled with the rising cost of petrol and groceries during this current period, much pressure has been put on those who are already living on a very tight budget and low income. Some of our clients have a culturally diverse background and do not eat much Western food, so the Coles vouchers we can provide are helpful for purchasing specific items which we may not have in our food bank. In addition, many processed foods, such as canned soup, can have high salt and sugar levels, and cannot be eaten by some of our clients who have diabetes or other restricted diets.

In a similar vein, some of our clients are unable to prepare food because of living out of cars and not having access to kitchens. Some of our clients who are experiencing homelessness spend their time at night travelling on the suburban trains for shelter and cannot carry large amounts of food in a small backpack. They report visiting outreach centres during the day to heat up 'ready meals'. Others, in share houses and boarding rooms may live with people they find intimidating or problematic to spend time around. As a strategy to prevent arguments and tension, they might avoid the shared areas of kitchens and buy pre-prepared food. They may also experience stealing of their food by others, so prefer to only buy what they need for a couple of days.

Family Stress

For many of our clients with families, it

has not been uncommon for them to report that their children are having issues reintegrating back into school. Some of this is attributed to anxiety arising from lockdowns causing lack of connection to school and friendships, or because of periods of quarantining and therefore falling behind in some of the work. For others, family relationships have been put under strain due to the financial pressure of job losses, caring for family members or worsening mental health because of the unpredictability of life.

Housing issues

We have a number of people accessing the service who are experiencing a lack of safe housing. During the Lockdowns of 2020 and 2021, the government provided funding for hotel accommodation which gave people who were 'sleeping rough' some stability. Housing is a major issue for people on a low income because without a basic need such as the safety of a roof over one's head, people experience physical insecurity, health issues from being out in the elements or being around unsafe people if they are squatting.

Spiritual nourishment

While financial distress may be the presenting issue that motivates service users to approach our church for assistance, many clients receive something more when they come to the church for support. Some of our clients, due to managing a mental illness or disability, cannot maintain a social life, friends or connection to an ongoing regular activity. Knowing that they can come into the church and receive some support and maintain a regular relationship with the members of our small Welfare Committee is important for their sense of self worth and dignity.

The most important part of this ministry is spending time with people, being a listening ear and valuing hearing their

story. It is noticeable that for some people, sharing their troubles makes them feel lighter, and we are often thanked for listening. Many people hear about our program through Centrelink or are referred through another charity; and for many, it is their first experience of Christianity. People will comment on the various activities they notice happening in the church while they are waiting for us to prepare a food parcel or Coles voucher. For others, it is the quiet oasis of the church (amongst the busyness of Glen Waverley) that is a clear point of contemplation. We have, on occasion, had service users ask for a bible or other spiritual reading material, so we know that there is 'a work' happening on some level for people when they come to our church.

While the Welfare Committee is comprised of a very small number of people, we feel well supported by the congregation and appreciate the very generous financial donations and food bank purchases for our program. We know that our service users are very appreciative of the Church's support, especially in the current financial climate.

Can you help?

These are some of the items we collect for our food pantry...

Coffee; Tea Bags (Black); Full Cream UHT Milk; Sweet Biscuits; Weetbix (small packs preferred); Tinned Tuna (95g tins); Dried Red Lentils; Basmati Rice; Dried Pasta; Pasta Sauce (Tinned or Bottled); Canned Fruit; Shampoo & Conditioner; Toothpaste; Toothbrushes; Soap and Washing powder.

If you would like to make a donation, please leave item in the coloured bins near the church office door.

Thank you!

Together Again

In case you missed seeing our talented church members performing at the Together Again gathering on Sunday 22 May, here is the link <https://gwuc.org.au/sunday-22nd-may-2022-special-event-200pm-high-definition/> and some images. Well worth a look!



Choir of Hope



Piano Duet

Amber & Gavin May



Free Spirit



Jika ole pencobaan kacau-balau hidumpmu
hangman kau berputus asa; pada Tuhan berseru

Yesus kakan yang sepi, tyda ada taraNya
la tahu kelemahanmu; naikkan doa padaNya

Kolintang & Group Singing

Indonesian Fellowship



Poems

Gael O'Brien



see pages
7 & 8 for Gael's
poems

Guitar Solo

Jacob Davey



Instrumental Duet

Deb Leigh & Lyn Maslen



Vocal Duet

Cely & Sandra



Traditional Indian Dance

Anjana & Rebecca



Traditional Indian Dance

Anjana & Rebecca



5th Anniversary of GWUC Indonesian Fellowship 27 March 2022

The Indonesian Fellowship thanks those from Church Council and the wider congregation who have helped us feel part of the church community by joining us from time to time whether to preach or simply by accepting our invitation. At the same time, over these 5 years the life of our church has been enriched by the various faces of the Indonesian Fellowship.

Together we have worshipped, shared communion, held remembrance services for family who have died overseas during COVID, met in our homes, held Christmas celebrations for the wider community, hosted inter-faith gatherings and dialogues, hosted an Iftar meal, walked, celebrated birthdays, shared food and picnics and gone bush for retreats. We have welcomed strangers and shared our table. Frequently we connect on social media. In 2019 eight of us from GWUC travelled to our sister church in North Sulawesi (Riedel, GMIM in Tondano) and over the years we have welcomed preachers, guests, choirs and performers from Indonesia. But it has not all been smooth sailing.

At times our boat has struck rough weather. Like all communities we pray for God's grace that we might be led into the unity that Jesus called us to embody.

During the COVID years 10 to 12 of us have met on-line fortnightly for fellowship and Bible study. We are grateful for the generous leadership of Daniel Sihombing, who in his unique way has challenged us to deepen our faith through fresh understandings of the lectionary

readings and more recently the epistle to the Romans.

Since November 2021 Lucky Kalonta has organised preachers and liturgists from near and far for Sunday worship on zoom. Rev. Neil Peters has conducted communion and led services each month and Rev. Evangeline Pua is now leading us once a month from the Presbyterian church in the USA (the church from which we have been blessed by the series Full to the Brim). We are also grateful to Geri Kalonta and Darius and Christien Hetharia. Last but not least we thank Lina Liu and Andrew Hosking who have been friends to all and tirelessly rehearsed, hosted and helped run the service.

Thanks be to God.

Glyn Howells

(adapted from the Welcome to the celebration held in the Chapel on the 4th Sunday in Lent 2022)

A Prayer...

Lord who has called us from darkness to light,
we pray that we might truly worship you.
Through the power of Roh Kudus, the Spirit of Reconciliation, might we witness the healing power, mercy and forgiveness by which Jesus transformed the world at Easter.

Amen.

FAITH DEVELOPMENT MISSIONAL GROUP BLOGSPOT

Ross Mackinnon

Joan Chittister is an American Benedictine nun who has been an advocate of peace, justice, human rights, women's issues, and church renewal for over 50 years. She is also a theologian, author and speaker and is currently on tour in Australia. She was due to come to Australia two years ago to speak at a Catholic conference but was "disinvited" by the Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne. It is good to see that she is now able to bring her message to Australia. She likes to point out that her church is controlled by ordained men who constitute 1% of the membership of her church and continues to campaign for changes to this structure and for a greater say in church matters by women and lay people. She has written more than 60 books and hundreds of articles on Christian life. She is keen for churches to reconnect with society.

Here are some quotes from her writings:

"Feminists are asking women and men not to buy into patriarchal systems that destroy them both. Feminism comes to bring both men and women to the fullness of life, the wholeness of soul, for which we were all made in the image and likeness of God."



"Silence is a frightening thing. Silences leaves us at the mercy of the noise within us. We hear the fears that need to be faced. We hear, then, the angers that need to be cooled. We hear the emptiness that needs to be filled. We hear the cries for humility and reconciliation and centeredness. We hear ambition and arrogance and attitudes of uncaring awash in the shallows of the soul. Silence demands answers. Silence invites us to depth. Silence heals what hoarding and running will not touch."

"The time is now. The time is for reflection on what we've lost in life, yes, but for what we have left in life too. It's time to begin to live life fuller rather than faster."

"It is precisely women's experience of God that this world lacks. A world that does not nurture its weakest, does not know God the birthing mother. A world that does not preserve the planet, does not know God the creator. A world that does not honor the spirit of compassion, does not know God the spirit. God the lawgiver, God the judge, God the omnipotent being have consumed Western spirituality and, in the end, shriveled its heart."

Sister Joan's website address is: www.joanchittister.org

OUR CHURCH IS A BUSY PLACE - COME & GET involved...

CHURCH COMMUNITY - Book Fair; Fete; Morning Tea; Pancake Day

FAMILIES / CHILDREN / YOUTH / SINGLES - Children's Space in Sanctuary; Uthies; Mice/Kats & Dogs; Youth Group

MUSIC - Free Spirit; Band; Organ Roster

RETIREES / SENIORS - Leisure Time; Seniors Worship Services

VOLUNTEERING - Rosters; Church Council; Faith & Functional Groups

WIDER COMMUNITY - Congregational Outreach Project (COP); The Hub; English Conversation; World Day of Prayer; Asylum Seeker Support; Choir of Hope; Play Group

SPIRIT & SOUL - Worship Services (8am Contemplative; 9am Interactive; 11am Traditional; 1pm Indonesian Fellowship on Zoom; 5pm Creative); Children's space; Bible studies; Mindful Meditation; Indigenous Appreciation Study Group

GIVING - Thoughtful Flowers; Volunteering, Direct giving; Open plate; Envelopes



CHRISTMAS/EASTER - The Empty Christmas Tree; The Hub - Special Christmas Morning Tea

LEISURE - Badminton/Table Tennis; Tennis; GWUC Riders; 3rd Saturday Walkers; F.I.S.H. (Families In Sharing Homes); GOMER; UCAF; Adult Group; Getaways

COMMUNICATION - Crosslight; Kingsway magazine; Monthly Bulletin; Weekly Bulletin; Website; Email; Wiki

Contact our church office to find out more:

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Greg Cottrell

22 August 1940 – 12 May 2022

Greg shared his time and talents at the Glen Waverley Uniting Church for a number of years and really enjoyed being a volunteer at The Hub where he was a great listener, an important trait. Greg was the author of twelve books designed to help others as they journey though life. He was working on the content for his thirteenth book when he passed away. His was a life worth living. Below find some extracts from the following books.

But first, in Greg's own words:

"I'm grateful for life, for my life, and from this gratitude I've found deep happiness."

I arrived on planet earth on 22 August 1940 thanks to the union of Jack and Mavis Cottrell, two quality people from Yarram in South Gippsland. Both my parents grew up on dairy farms and were devout Methodists - strict but loving. On Sundays my sisters and I put on our best clothes and went to church, Sunday School and Christian Endeavour. We weren't permitted to play sport on Sundays, and of course alcohol, smoking and gambling were absolutely forbidden at all times."

From Greg's books:

Ways to enrich your life

"Appreciation is perhaps my favourite word as it is the major ingredient of love, gratitude, valuing and understanding another person, and also for enjoying the only life we have."

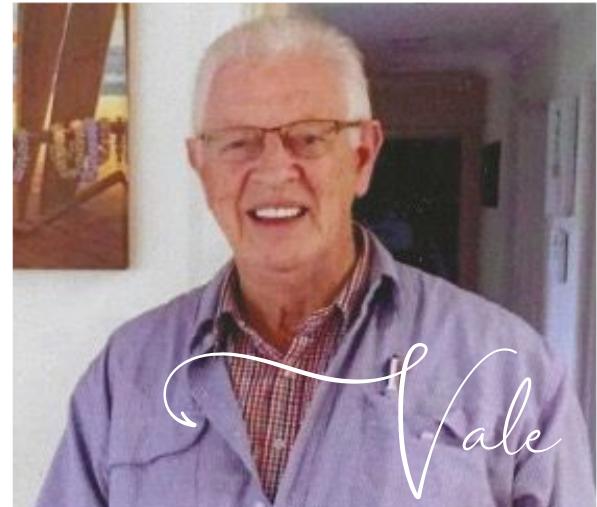
Be a Miracle-Creator

"You are a child of God – a God who passes all understanding, but can still be revered and worshipped everyday (and not just on Sunday mornings), as you appreciate God's creation all around you if you are spiritually attuned, aware and receptive".

Each Day is a Gift, Not a Given

"Some appreciation opportunities:

- Snuggle in a warm bed before you get up
- Stand in your garden at dawn to feel the presence of your creator in the peace and quiet.



- Warm your hands on a mug of tea then wrap them around your face.
- Enjoy the ecstasy of a hot shower.
- Enjoy cooking in a warm kitchen on a cold day.
- Thank God for the people who have made your life happy and safe.
- Learn to do nothing. Learn to enjoy being alone."

A Grateful Wonder-Full Life

"My penultimate happiness creator is one of the most important. Helping, serving and assisting others is love in action, and the main reason we are put on earth, the bottom line in life and the best creator of personal fulfillment and happiness. A song is not a song until it is sung and love is not love until it is expressed as service."

Manifest Your Magnificence

In this book Greg wrote a thought for every day of the year. On the 12th of May, the day Greg passed away, the thought in the book is:

"Email from the dead; If all the dead could send you an e(eternity)-mail, I think it would be, 'Appreciate how lucky you are to be alive.' Appreciate and enjoy each present moment as they never return for you to re-experience, if you are not happy, you are wasting your one and only life."

*My
Kakadu
by Gael O'Brien*

Oh Kakadu, my Kakadu, how my heart twists at your name.
You're not what I expected; now I'll never be the same.
You're rock art's really awesome, especially lightning man.
He became my favourite as I hiked but never ran.
Gum trees mixed with palm trees was unexpected to.
I thought you would have rainforest with green of every hue.
Your birdlife is amazing with lagoons for feathered friends.
Pink lotus and blue water lily around every bend.

Oh Kakadu, my Kakadu, how I struggled up your paths from rocky trails to concrete steps, I crept in to your heart.
I saw fine views of mountain tops and precipices strong and brave and found a new serenity you gave.

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SWAPPING SKINS by Gael O'Brien

What a wonderful sight to see when the giraffe and the wombat came to tea.
 "I'm sick of these long old legs", said the Giraffe, "they are just like crutches and don't make me laugh".
 Wombat said, "I can't see a thing my dear, if you please, my legs are short and my eyes close in.
 How nice it would be to see far and wide, and what's over those hills on the other side.
 So giraffe took the short legs and wombat the long, but together they wailed something is wrong.
 Wombat trembled, "I'm not happy up here. It's too high and too cold and there's no grass to eat.
 Giraffe said the same, "It's too low down here, and I can't reach the canopy leaves I like.



My tummy gets scratched and I'm all uptight.
 So I said to them both "try to live in your skin".
 We all have to put up with the one that we're in.
 We are lucky to be here, to live on this earth.
 So take time, be yourself and chuckle with mirth".

HAZARDS OF THE BUSH - BEWARE by Gael O'Brien

Now watch out for the midges
and mind the spinifex.

One bites you and one stabs you,
until your bodies quite a wreck.

Of itching and scratching, it's a real
pain in the neck.

Oh, it's great in the bush in Australia.

Look out for endangered bats and watch out for
the python, while green ants climb upon your van.

Now look out for goannas and don't
step on the lizards.

You mustn't drive through road kill or you'll end
up in their gizzards.

Oh, it's great in the bush in Australia.



Make sure you take your water as it does get very
hot when you're climbing up the rock faces to
see the art on top.

You are sure to need a shower when you get back
home for tea, because you'll be exhausted from
the wondrous sights you'll see.

Oh, it's great in the bush in Australia.

Revised Common Lectionary - Year C

July 3

Pentecost 4
(Green)
2 Kings 5:1-4
Psalm 30
Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-16
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 24

Pentecost 7
(Green)
Hosea 1:2-10
Psalm 85
Colossians 2:6-15 (16-19)
Luke 11:1-13

August 14

Pentecost 10
(Green)
Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19
Hebrews 11:29-12:2
Luke 12:49-56

July 10

Pentecost 5
(Green)
Amos 7:7-17
Psalm 82
Colossians 1:1-14
Luke 10:25-37

July 31

Pentecost 8
(Green)
Hosea 11:1-11
Psalm 107:1-9, 43
Colossians 3:1-11
Luke 12:13-21

August 21

Pentecost 11
(Green)
Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
Hebrews 12:18-29
Luke 13:10-17

July 17

Pentecost 6
(Green)
Amos 8:1-12
Psalm 52
Colossians 1:15-28
Luke 10:38-42

August 7

Pentecost 9
(Green)
Isaiah 1:1, 10-20
Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Luke 12:32-40

August 28

Pentecost 12
(Green)
Jeremiah 2:4-13
Psalm 81:1, 10-16
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
Luke 14:1, 7-14