

BULLETIN

WELCOME TO THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN

From David: Some things, you just never forget.

This week has re-activated some significant memories. Memories of incidents that have shaped my life and my theology. Let me tell you about just one of them. There are others.

At the bottom of this article are 2 photographs from an incident that sits in my memory as a constant reminder of what happens when poverty and ethnicity and neglect combine to create hopeless environments and unquenchable anger. I had just taken up a ministry position in Hornsey Tottenham Nth London. I'd been there about 8 weeks. One of my first pastoral visits was to an elderly West Indian woman. Clara was her name. She lived in a 2nd floor flat on the Broadwater Farm housing estate. It was a challenging experience. She insisted on meeting me at the bus stop and we walked to her home.

There were no lifts in the block of flats. The stairwell was full of urine, excrement, rubbish and old blankets. I was watched closely by everyone on the street. But Clara had lived there for over 20 years and had the respect of the community, so I felt safe. Kind of. She opened the door of the flat and invited me to sit at the kitchen table by the window that overlooked the street. It was a visibly bleak outlook on local life. Her home was a comforting oasis in the middle of a failed urban experiment. As we drank tea, she talked about her life and her home town of Montego Bay in Jamaica. How they had come to London expecting great things. She and her husband. How he had died shortly after arrival in a work accident in 1963. She had no children. But she had her church. Or rather, churches. She was Baptist in the morning. Methodist in the afternoon. Spiritualist in the evening. She went to the evening service with her neighbour, Tom. A good man but drank too much.

She asked me to pray with her. She was concerned about the young people on the estate; unemployed with nothing to do all day but hang around the street and make mischief. She was deeply troubled by recent incidents with the police.

She insisted on walking to the bus stop and waiting for the bus with me.

2 days later the Broadwater Farm riots erupted. PC Blakelock was killed and many people injured.

Cars were burned and homes destroyed. Clara was given a new place in Wood Green and on her first Sunday in her new place I went with her to her 'new' local church where she met a family she had known back in Jamaica. She felt connected again.

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I will never forget Clara or Broadwater Farm – or the consequences of systemic neglect.

All lives matter – not one, any more nor any less, than any other. But some lives and groups do warrant more advocacy than others.

Shalom

David



Sunday 7th June 2020: 10.30 am cyber-church

Bible Reading: Acts 7:51 – 8:3

This coming Sunday, we will journey just a little further into Acts and meet Saul of Tarsus. Saul was of the Tribe of Benjamin. He was also a ‘student’ of Gamaliel who in last week’s ‘episode’ was a major voice of wisdom and reason in the face of mounting tension and violence in Jerusalem.

During this Sunday’s service we will also cross live to Denver Colorado and talk with Trude and Tom about the situation in the states and how they, as part of a progressive Christian community, are feeling right now, and how they are responding to what is unfolding in their country.

We will celebrate communion together next week – 14th June

An invitation to join the gathering via Zoom will be sent to you around 9.45. Cyber- church will commence at 10.30am. If you would like to join in send David your email address. All welcome.

Bible Study group – Wednesday 10th June: 6 – 7pm

Session 2 in our series on the ‘titles’ in the New Testament that have been attached to the person Jesus. In next week’s session we will explore the meaning of the only title that Jesus used of himself – Son of man.

If you would like to be involved, send David your email address. Saints163@bigpond.com

Invitations to participate will go out around 5.45 pm. All welcome

The latest copy of **NEWSBEAT** – the newsletter of the Port Phillip East Presbytery of the Uniting Church can be found at <https://www.ucappep.org/>

MINDFULNESS BASED STILLNESS MEDITATION.

Online via ZOOM Monday to Friday 11am.

Teacher John Tansey, registered member of Meditation Association of Australia.

tojtansy@gmail.com

If you are in need of pastoral care, please contact David Pargeter 0412 334 334 or email saints163@bigpond.com

Please visit our website: www.stkildaunitingchurch.org.au It is updated on a regular basis by Petra.

If you would like to make a contribution to support the work of the church, the best way is through bank transfer: 013 427. Acct 3108 34465. The only identification needed is ‘ offering’ .

By mail: PO Box 385, Balaclava 3183

Contributions to these bulletins welcomed – please send to desleighk@ozemail.com.au

(photos, articles, poems – anything you would like to share with others)

- Separate attachment from Uniting Church in Australia Assembly responding to the death of George Floyd in USA and urging Australians to focus on racism in our own country.
- For your interest, there is a comprehensive list of anti-racism resources on the Victorian Women’s Trust website: vwt.org.au

We respectfully acknowledge the Yaluk-ut Weelam Clan of the Boon Wurrung – the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather. We pay our respects to their Elders - past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to this land.