

## BULLETIN

### Welcome to the Bulletin

#### From David: On a Hill Far Away

Taking photos of ‘statues’ or more specifically works of art in public places, has been a hobby of mine for a long time. Art in open spaces fascinates me because it feels like a genuine interaction between the artist, the art, the environment and us. Or in this particular case – me.

I have always found sculptures in public places to be both evocative and provocative. They stir my imagination. They invite me to think. I love the 3-dimensional qualities of them. I can stand and look at them for ages; taking in their form from as many angles as I can. I’ll even lie down for another perspective. Rodin’s The Thinker is much more powerful set against a deep blue sky than an old stone wall.

Now, you might find this next confession a bit surprising, especially from someone who has a go at painting pictures, but I’m not a big art gallery fan. I seldom go. In truth, I find gallery environments much too sterile, and too quiet. Artificial, manufactured even. I would much rather look at a painting that’s hanging on the wall in someone’s kitchen while drinking coffee and eating toast. I feel that art belongs at the centre of people’s lives, both as décor and interlocutor. **Which is why I like the experience of art outdoors.**

I’ll give you an example. About 5 years ago I went to visit my family in England; some of whom live in Hartlepool in the North East. On this occasion, I decided to include a diversion and take a short walk to a sculpture that I had wanted to experience for a long while. The statue can be seen while driving north along the A1. It was erected in 1998. Even from the motorway it is an impressive work of art standing as it does on the top of a large mound. **It’s called the Angel of the North.** (see photo over).

I arrived early morning and there were about 40 people there already. But there was lots of open space so you could feel quite alone. I had done my research and was fully informed, but this did not adequately prepare me for the emotional impact of the scale of this artistic statement. Some people find it brutal and ugly. I was transfixed by its raw and earthy beauty.

**This is what the artist Anthony Gormley says about his work:**

**“Is it possible to make a work with purpose in a time that demands doubt? I wanted to make an object that would be a focus of hope at a painful time of transition for the people of the North East, abandoned in the gap between the industrial and the information ages.”**

You see, it was the end of an era; coal extraction had been phased out but beneath that mound and

others like it across the North East, thousands of coal miners had worked the seams deep underground for three centuries.

This is what the plaque beside the Angel reads:

“The hilltop site is important and has the feeling of being a megalithic mound. When you think of the mining that was done underneath the site, there is a poetic resonance. Men worked beneath the surface in the dark.... It is important to me (Anthony Gormley) that the Angel is rooted in the ground—the complete antithesis of what an angel is, floating about in the ether. It has an air of mystery. You make things because they cannot be said.” This writing pays homage to the central idea of the statue to represent the past, present, and the changing times of the nation.’

According to the artist, Anthony Gormley, the significance of an angel was three-fold:

- firstly, to signify that beneath the site of its construction, coal miners had worked for centuries.



- secondly, to grasp the transition from an industrial to an information age.

- thirdly, to serve as a focus for our evolving hopes and fears.

The statue is 54 metres wide and 24 metres tall, and like most crosses, is a symbol of suffering and hope.

Shalom

David

***CYBER CHURCH via ZOOM Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 10.30am***

**Bible Readings:** Ecclesiastes 3: 1 – 8

Matthew 6: 19 - 21

This Sunday we continue our journey of faith, life and enlightenment through the Arts. **We begin a season of thinking about art in public spaces.** Over the next few weeks we will hear from others reflecting upon a piece of public art /sculpture that has ‘spoken’ to them and connected them to something that words struggle to articulate. **This week Wendy and I will be thinking and talking about impermanence.**

**An invitation will arrive in your inbox around 9.45 am for anyone who feels like a chat – the ‘waiting room’ will be open from that time.**

**If you have not joined before please send David your email so that an invitation can be sent to your inbox: [saints163@bigpond.com](mailto:saints163@bigpond.com)**

***BIBLE STUDY/Discussion Group via ZOOM this coming Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October: 7.30 – 8.30 pm.***

Having looked at a few 'letters' in the bible (which I think was both interesting and enlightening) we will spend next week discussing our experiences of studying material associated with our faith.

After that, on 21<sup>st</sup> October, we will commence a 3 episode series that Robert Hoskin has prepared, on the subject of **Afterlife**. This is a topic that has captured Robert's life, faith and research over many years, and I know it will be both meaningful and challenging.

And just in case you haven't seen it, I highly recommend **Ricky Gervais's brilliant BBC series 'After Life'**, now in its 3<sup>rd</sup> season. Some of the language might be a bit confronting but it is in keeping with the experience of grieving.

**Interested? Then join us on-line at the new time of 7.30 – 8.30 pm on Wednesday.**

**If you are not already on the list and would like to join, just send David your email address and he will add you to the distribution list: [saints163@bigpond.com](mailto:saints163@bigpond.com)**

***CHURCH COUNCIL*** last met on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September. One of the items considered and discussed was: where to next - what does it mean to be a virtual church etc?

**David** will arrange to host some small group discussions for the congregation via zoom meetings. It was considered an exciting way to move through this break from being together in the physical church. Also that we ask the leadership group of the Zimbabweans if they are prepared to do a similar exercise.

***PAX CHRISTI VICTORIA – INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN PEACE MOVEMENT*** invites you to an online ZOOM Forum: ***Palestine: A Turning Point?*** Next Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October. The speaker will be one of Asia's leading public intellectuals: ***Dr Chandra Muzaffar***

To register: email [camrita44@gmail.com](mailto:camrita44@gmail.com) or phone 0448 701 877 giving names of those wishing to participate and their emails. You will then be given instructions on how to join and participate in the ZOOM

***THE PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIAN NETWORK VICTORIA*** next meeting is on Sunday October 25<sup>th</sup> via ***ZOOM*** from 4 – 5pm.

**TOPIC: Multi-Cultural Approaches to the Biblical Text, with Assoc. Professor Monica Melanchthon and Jione Havea.**

check the website for more information [www.pcnvictoria.org.au](http://www.pcnvictoria.org.au)

join free pcnv zoom meeting by clicking on the link below just before 4:00pm  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85249188807?pwd=t05hegz3vzb1vhlfvxdjqm04odjrqt09>

meeting id: 852 4918 8807 passcode: 683928

feel free to invite other interested friends



This month of October, Act for Peace (National Council of Churches Australia), is supporting education in Pakistan, particularly the education of young girls. Your support of Act for Peace's local partner, Community World Service Asia's (CWSA) education program in rural Pakistan, will make a real and lasting difference in the education of a generation of children.

It has been the custom in many parts of rural Pakistan for girls to marry early or stay home to help with household chores, which

then places no value or worth on education. As well as this cultural barrier, rural communities can lack qualified teachers and education resources which restrict the quality of education in the classroom. Your gifts make a difference!

[www.actforpeace.org.au](http://www.actforpeace.org.au)

**From Dr Deidre Palmer, President - Uniting Church of Australia. OCTOBER 6, 2020**

### **A Budget of Hope – but not for all**

UnitingCare Australia commends the Government's commitment to creating jobs and the unprecedented recovery efforts in tonight's budget. Yet, despite record spending and investment, millions of Australians are still at risk of deepening disadvantage.

"We are disappointed that the Government has not taken this moment to raise the base rate of JobSeeker and provide confidence and hope for millions of Australians facing poverty and a very bleak Christmas" said National Director, Ms Claerwen Little.

"This budget is also a missed opportunity to invest in social housing and ensure that everyone has shelter in the storm of this recession.

"Despite some measures to support Closing the Gap and specific health measures, overall our First Peoples have been neglected.

"We welcome the Government's commitment to job creation and supports, especially for young people, but there is still an opportunity to invest in essential caring roles and social infrastructure. New research indicates that job creation in the care economy is five times greater than construction," Ms Little said.

"The 23,000 additional home care packages announced tonight do very little to address the urgent needs of older people still waiting for the right level of support at home. Older Australians were hoping for much more and the aged care sector will need to wait until the next budget for its much needed investment.

"On the journey to recovery, everyone needs hope, and unfortunately, this budget does not deliver that hope for everyone."

**From Port Phillip East Presbytery - Rev Duncan Macleod: Team Leader**

**This Sunday** we hold in prayer the congregation at **Springvale Uniting Church**, including minister Paul Dau and chair Jean Taylor. Keep in your prayers the support of people in need in the Springvale area including homeless and lonely. For the congregation at **St Kilda Uniting Church**, including minister David Pargeter, and chair Randall Kent. Keep in your prayers the 101 Engagement Hub in their provision of a takeaway meal and support of people as they gather outside.

The Presbytery of Port Phillip East - October edition of **NEWSBEAT** magazine is available for downloading on <https://www.ucappeg.org/newsbeat/>

**Preparing for Advent & Christmas** The season of Advent begins on Sunday November 29 this year. How will we help people enter this season, given that much of what we do this year will need to be either online or in outdoor spaces? We're providing two online meetings to share ideas, on **Tuesday October 6**, 10-11 am, and **Thursday October 8**, 7.30 - 8.30 pm. We're using the usual Zoom Café space, accessible at <https://bit.ly/ppepsupport>.

**Blessed** are those brief moments of gift,  
when the serendipitous slips into the sacred,  
when a lucky coincidence becomes  
a strange warming of the heart.

**Blessed** is the hand there to be held and  
the one holding, both on to the life that flows,  
in, through, under the expected, hoping...  
as the beeping monitors serenade.

**Blessed** is the untimed arrival of a friend,  
sitting, watching, serene, presence as prayer,  
wordlessly knitting a sacred garment of moments  
past with moments present

**Blessed** is that bird on the outside sill,  
visiting each day, as if to say, 'Are you okay?'  
No wonder holy spirits are oft ornithic,  
leaving a gift, a crevice in time.

Blessed are those brief moments of gift,  
when the serendipitous slips into the sacred,  
when a lucky coincidence becomes  
a strange warming of the heart.

Rev. Glynn Cardy

Thank you to everyone who has continued to support our church financially. Contributions to support the work of the church can be made through bank transfer: 013 427. Acct 3108 34465 - the only identification needed is 'offering' – or by mail: PO Box 385, Balaclava 3183

Contributions to these bulletins welcomed – please send to [desleighk@ozemail.com.au](mailto:desleighk@ozemail.com.au) (photos, articles, poems – anything you would like to share with others)

As we gather in our various places via Zoom, we acknowledge the *Yaluk-ut Weelam Clan of the Boon Wurrung People* as the traditional custodians of this land on which our church building stands. We give thanks for their commitment to nurturing this land over many generations. We honour the sacred stories that belong to this land. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and for those emerging who will lead their communities into the future. We commit ourselves to empowering children to continue the journey of reconciliation on this land.