

BULLETIN

Welcome to the Bulletin

From David: *Wyrd is a strange word.*

In terms of personal favourites, a very close second to science fiction has to be historical fiction; especially tales set in the 7th Century CE when a land of many kingdoms was being forged into one. One of my favourite writers is Matthew Harffy – he does great research. Not everyone’s cup-of-tea, but I like him. I’ve spent the past few weeks binge-reading a 6-part series.

Harffy uses lots of old Anglo-Saxon and Nordic words for places and people. Places I know very well but with other names. One word that keeps appearing in his novels is Wyrd. So, I looked it up. Here’s what the Urban Dictionary has to say about it:

Wyrd

The web of cause-and-effect that permeates the universe. The Germanic/North European equivalent of karma. Not to be understood as an externally-controlling fate but rather as the natural consequences of one's own actions; each person shapes their own wyrd. There are also family wyrd and national wyrd, which are shaped by the actions of the group as a whole. Wyrd, therefore, does not control our lives, it just responds to our own actions according to orlog, the fundamental law that governs the workings of our world.

This word ‘Wyrd’ doesn’t get used anymore, but it captures a great deal of how I understand life and faith unfolds. It resembles the Tao of things. Today we might use ‘Serendipity’, one of those delicious words that rolls around the tongue like a full-bodied red wine. But serendipity doesn’t quite capture it for me. Wyrd has been a very relevant word for the last few days since sharing with you my decision to retire around the middle of next year. Messages, phone calls and emails from many of you have been very heart -warming and gracious. Once again, the faith-community of St Kilda demonstrates its capacity for understanding, care and love.

I know from far too many experiences in ministry that the relationship between congregations and ministry agents is a steady sequence of connection and disconnection. Attachment and detachment. There is pain in that. Sometimes there is relief! But speaking for myself, acknowledging that it’s time to step aside from full-time ministry is a big step. This particular journey began in earnest back in 1979 and it’s been a pilgrimage involving periods of pure endurance and genuine joy. Like every pilgrimage. If I could live my life over again,

and all circumstances being equal, and with the benefit of hindsight, I would choose a similar road but I'd probably read more of the map beforehand!

Back to that word Wyrđ. Over the past few weeks through our Sunday online gatherings, we have been exploring the relationship between enlightenment, art, and faith/spirituality. Two gatherings in particular attracted a lot of feedback in the days that followed. I'm referring to the days on which we explored The Way and Impermanence. Perhaps these topics were bubbling up out of my subconscious but for whatever reason, whilst they spoke to many of you they also spoke to me. Every choice we make leads to unplanned consequences and unforeseen possibilities.

Since then, I have been pondering upon and have taken to heart these wise and thought-provoking words of Thich Nhat Hanh:

"Thanks to impermanence, everything is possible. Life itself is possible".

Endings and beginnings are the way of life. I think they are also the wyrđ of life.

Shalom

David

CYBER CHURCH via ZOOM: Sunday 25th October 2020 at 10.30am

Bible Readings: John 14: 1 - 9

This Sunday morning, our guest presenter on Art in a public space, will be our friend from Williamstown, Ross Howie. Ross will be speaking about a painting created by a group of Kaiadilt women from Bentinck Island. It's a most interesting story.

Ross's story got me thinking about home, leaving home, immigration and finding a new home. So that will also form part of our time together. It poses a question: where or what is 'home' to you?

Looking forward to seeing you online at 10.30.

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

BIBLE STUDY/Discussion Group via ZOOM this coming Wednesday 28 October: 7.30 – 8.30 pm.

Led by Robert Hoskin. *Afterlife: the other side of dying*. Last Wednesday, Robert led us through a very interesting Session 1 of this three-part series. We had some terrific discussion around a topic that is seldom discussed. Robert will lead us through part 2 next Wednesday.

The zoom Invitation will hit your email inbox around 7 pm. See you then. David

Interested? Then please join us. 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

PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIAN NETWORK VICTORIA is meeting **TODAY** Sunday October 25th via **ZOOM** from 4 – 5pm.

TOPIC: Multi-Cultural Approaches to the Biblical Text.

SPEAKERS: Assoc. Professor Monica Melanchthon and Jione Havea.

check the website for more information 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=t05hegz3vzblvhlvxdjqm04odjrqt09>

meeting id: 852 4918 8807 passcode: 683928

feel free to invite other interested friends



#BlackLivesMatter and the Australian context

As a Church how does our faith
inform responses to the global Black
Lives Matter movement?

Sunday 25 Oct

1500-1630 AEDT

On Facebook Live and
Zoom



A second webinar exploring the implications of the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement for the Australian context will take place with Uniting Church members this Sunday October 25th

Register [here](#). Enquires: UCC.CSU@gmail.com

Uluru Dialogue Seminar Series

In preparation for **NAIDOC Week** 8-15 Nov, the UNSW Indigenous Law Centre and Uluru Dialogue [@UluruStatement.org](https://www.ulurustatement.org) have partnered together to host a Seminar Series. This 3 part series will provide a nuanced and detailed analysis of sequenced reform Voice, Treaty, Truth decided by the 13 dialogues that were held across this great land in the lead up to the 2017 Uluru First Nations Constitutional Convention and the *Statement from the Heart* formed at Uluru.

Seminar 2 – TREATY Thursday 29 October, 6:00 - 7:30pm, register [HERE](#)

This seminar will consider questions of Sovereignty and Treaty. It will also discuss how cultural authority who participated in the dialogues identified the Treaty process to be strengthened from a constitutionally enshrined Voice to Parliament sequenced first in the [Uluru Statement from the Heart](#).

Join the *Being a Multicultural Circle and Assembly Resourcing Unit* for our fifth webinar looking at the Church and COVID-19. The topic of this webinar is *Domestic Violence*.

Our speakers will examine the increasing risk of Domestic and Family Violence in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and how different cultures engage differently in difficult issues.

The webinar will take place on **Thursday 29 October from 7-8.30pm AEDT**.

Our speakers will include: **Panellists:** Alison Overeem, Pr Ofa (Milise) Foiakau. Pr Levon Kardashian. **Theological Listener:** Dr Deidre Palmer **Moderator:** Rev. Dr Matagi Vilitama [Register now](#)

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

VISION STATEMENT. As a community of faith, the St Kilda Uniting Church strives to do what is just, to show constant love and to walk humbly with God.

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.