

## BULLETIN

### Welcome to the Bulletin

#### From David: *BEING CHURCH*

**We are almost there! All being well, the St Kilda Uniting Church will gather in the building at 163 Chapel St on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December.**

That may sound like an odd way to describe returning to the building which for over 140 years has stood on the corner of Chapel and Carlisle and been called ‘the church’. But I wanted to really make the point that the church is a community of people that chooses to meet together in a building. Albeit, one built specifically for that purpose.

**However, *it* is not the church.**

Since going into lockdown, even though we have not been inside 163 Chapel St, we have been *the church*. We have never stopped being *the church*. We have gathered via the internet. We have listened and learned from each other about how to live through a pandemic and remain faithful. We have at different times been moved, touched, inspired, and hopefully for most of the time, we have been nourished and sustained. We have been able to see each other’s faces and the homes in which we live. We have ‘met’ each other surrounded by the ‘stuff’ of our lives: furniture, pictures, lamps, radios, plants, tapestries, clothes hoists etc. For me, this has been especially significant – as I so often say ‘context, context, context’. People participating in church life, while folding clothes, eating toast, drinking coffee or having a smoke. There was something incredibly authentic and real about gathering in this way. Personally, I think we were enriched and not diminished by the whole zoom experience.

It has been a most challenging 8 - 9 months, but through it all we have been *the church*. And now, *the church* is going to start gathering again in a building. I have no doubt that 2021 is going to be a disrupted year as we navigate major building repairs and other changes.

**But if 2020 has taught us one thing, it is that we can cope with anything. That as *a church* we can navigate whatever lies ahead because the faith that strengthened us this year will also sustain and strengthen us next year – and the year after, and the.....**

Shalom

David

***CYBER CHURCH via ZOOM Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 10.30am***

**Bible Readings: Mark 13: 24 – 37**

**This coming Sunday is the first Sunday in the Christian season of Advent. A period of preparation and anticipation for Christmas Day.** I think we all find ourselves being drawn into the cultural experience of Christmas - it's a time of generosity and fun and goodwill. It's good to celebrate life and find ways of sharing joy and love. It's good also, to spend some time refreshing our understanding of the circumstances in which Mary and Joseph lived and Jesus was born.

**To this end, each Sunday in Advent will include material produced by Act for Peace, and life in different countries will feature in our gathering times. This Sunday we will feature a country that has been in the news a bit this week regarding a report into ADF war crimes - Afghanistan.**

**I am taking next Sunday off (Dec 6<sup>th</sup>) and Rev Dr Robert Hoskin will be leading our time of gathering. A big thank you to Robert for being willing to take the lead on this day. Much appreciated.**

**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)**

**There will be NO Bible Study next Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. There will be Sessions on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Topics to be determined.**

**From the CHURCH COUNCIL**

**As David has already indicated, our Sunday morning gatherings at the church at 163 Chapel Street will re - commence on *SUNDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER at 10.30am*. All the COVID – 19 safety precautions will need to be followed and please do not attend if you are unwell.**

**It will be so good to see you all 😊**

**CHRISTMAS CAROL Service will be held either in the church or in the garden of the Engagement Hub on *SUNDAY DECEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup> AT 6.30PM*. This will be an evening of music, song, story and celebration of a faith that was made wonderfully authentic in Jesus of Nazareth. Come along and celebrate the end of a very profound year**

## **Christmas Concert & Singalong at Home!**

presented by Elwood Community Choir, led by Jeannie Marsh

in collaboration with Holy Trinity Balaclava and Elwood

**7.00 – 8.00pm Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

on **ZOOM**

As we near the end of this crazy year, it's time to  
celebrate the Christmas season through joyful song!



Elwood Community Choir has continued to sing every week since April via Zoom. It has kept our 40 singers connected, and lifted our spirits through the power of music. Being an "online choir" has also opened doors to creativity, and new vocal possibilities.

At this concert we will share recordings made by the choir during lock-down, using nothing but our iPhones and a sense of fun!

**PLUS**

We will lead a **SINGALONG** of  
**Christmas Carols and Christmas songs**

**this is a free event**

Please email [christmastreefest@hotmail.com](mailto:christmastreefest@hotmail.com) by **1<sup>st</sup> December** to register. You will be sent the Zoom link, and singalong word-sheets.

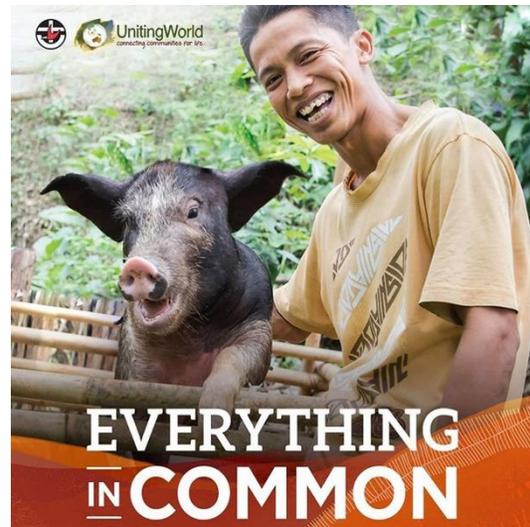


As we gather in our various places via Zoom, we acknowledge the *Yaluk-ut Weelam Clan of the Boon Wurrung People* as the traditional custodians of this land on which our church building stands. We give thanks for their commitment to nurturing this land over many generations. We honour the sacred stories 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.



### Christmas is coming

Target's annual Christmas appeal supporting UnitingCare Australia is up and running. Giving to the Appeal will help make Christmas a better day for thousands of people and families who might otherwise go without.



### A world of difference

UnitingWorld's Christmas catalogue of ethical gifts has a huge range of presents that fight poverty and build hope.



<https://gifts.actforpeace.org.au/> *GIFTS FOR PEACE CATALOGUE*

Give meaningful gifts to friends and family.

When you choose a Gift for Peace, you are giving a family a brighter future and your loved one will receive a beautiful card telling the story behind the program their gift is supporting. A thoughtful and kind gift for friends and family.