

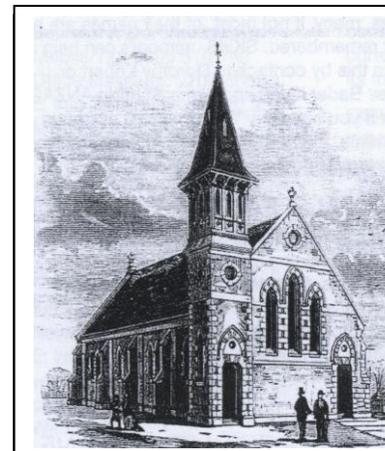
UNITINGWORLD *"Live simply, so that others may simply live."* Mahatma Gandhi. The 40-day season of Lent is an opportunity to disrupt our everyday routines by living more simply, taking up a spiritual discipline or being more intentional about our lives and habits..Lent Event is 40 days of living more simply, learning from our global neighbours and choosing to make a difference in our own lives and the lives of others. Take up a Lent Event challenge in 2020 and be part of a movement to end poverty and injustice in our world. [Action Ideas \(www.unitingworld.org.au\)](http://www.unitingworld.org.au)

We respectfully acknowledge the Yaluk-ut Weelam clan of the Boon Wurrung – the Traditional Owners of Port Phillip. We pay our respects to their Elders and community - past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to this land.

Date	21 February	28 February	7 March	14 March	21 March
Worship Assistance	David Roma	David Mary	David Wendy	David Randall	David Roma
Welcome at door	Maureen	Wendy	Louise	Mary	Maureen
Flowers	Maureen	Roma	Deb	Maureen	Louise
Coffee	Louise	Randall	Louise	Maureen	Mark
Rubbish collection	Roma	Randall	Mary	Roma	Mary

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0458 417 708

VISION STATEMENT:
As a community of faith, the St Kilda Uniting Church Parish Mission strives to do what is just, to show constant love and to walk humbly with God.
NEWSLETTER DETAILS:
Desleigh Kent is the editor and distributor of the Newsletter. .If you would like to receive a copy of the church newsletter each week or if you wish to be removed from the list, please contact Desleigh: desleighk@ozemail.com.au
Contributions to the content are also welcomed.



**St Kilda Uniting Church
Parish Mission**

NEWSLETTER

Volume 56 Issue 04

Sunday, 21 February 2021

FIRST SUNDAY of LENT

A warm welcome to everyone! Back in the church building today after a brief connection with Zoom last week. David will be conducting the service on this first Sunday of Lent. Please stay afterwards for tea/coffee and conversation. Please follow all the ‘COVID’ regulations
Bible Readings: Mark 1: 9 – 15 pg.664. Genesis 9: 8 – 17 pg.9
The Inclusive Bible

From David: I’m writing this just as Premier Andrews is announcing that our 5-day lockdown is over.

Our new COVID ‘normal’ was interrupted by a different kind of COVID normal – an outbreak that needed to be contained. I suspect that these 2 things together will be our new normal for the foreseeable future. It does pose the question: what is normal?

When I was studying statistics and things like bell-curves, it became very clear that the idea of normal is not very useful nor all that illuminating. All it produces is a reference point, a line in the sand, against which all other things are compared; everything either side of it is moving away from what is generally regarded as normal. Says who?

Hmmm, sounds like I’m on the cusp of crafting some kind of riddle!

Let me offer an example. My sister’s husband died in July 2019 after 10 years of periodic surgery for brain tumours. It was a long hard journey but my brother-in-law was a natural comedian and would find the funny side of everything. We were chatting on FaceTime at the weekend, and she was telling me that she hadn’t yet got around to packing up his clothes and giving them away.
Cont.....

Cont..... In one of those difficult to distinguish laughing / crying moments, she blurted, “Is this normal, David? Am I going mad?”

A brotherly conversation followed, but her question makes the point.

Of course, there are lots of things that have the name tag ‘normal’. For example, we ‘normally’ drive on the left-hand side of the road etc. – normal things like that prevent a lot of chaos. **But in other things, like grieving, for example, there is no such thing as ‘normal’.** There are patterns but there is nothing normal about how we go about navigating it.

The same goes for Spirituality.

Over the years people have said to me things like: “I’m not very good at praying – is that normal?” Or, “I don’t get much out of reading the bible – am I normal?” Or, “I really don’t have a problem with other people holding to other faiths or world views – is this normal?” Or, “I love the Jesus story but I don’t need the virgin birth or bodily resurrection stuff to feel faithful – is this normal?”

The problem with ‘normal’ is that it starts to create unhelpful judgements about ourselves and about others.

I think we should drop the word from our vocabulary and learn to be more at peace with sitting somewhere along the circumference of a large circle, rather than on a straight line either side of what someone else thinks is ‘normal’.

Shalom. David

NOTICES:

**BIBLE STUDY on ZOOM
Wednesday 7.30 – 8.30 pm.**

During the season of Lent, we will spend **5 Wednesday evenings** looking at and behind some of the key bible ‘moments’ that will help us to appreciate the days leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus.

**For your calendar:
Feb 24, then March 3, 10, 17, 24 7.30 – 8.30 pm. Holy Week begins
Monday 29th March.**

If you wish to be a part of this particular journey and are not already included on the bible study list, let David know via email and he will add you to the invitation list.



***Forests, Faith & the Frontline:
Why the Cosmic Christ is calling you
to stand up for Creation***

**With Rev Alex Sangster,
Next Sunday February 28 from
4:00pm - 5:00 pm**

Join PCNV zoom meeting by clicking on the link below from 3:50 pm
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87344906739?pwd=afpedznid2nnrhinuq2wxnbynzOut09meetingid:87344906739](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87344906739?pwd=afpedznid2nnrhinuq2wxnbynzOut09meetingid:87344906739passcode:643853)
passcode: 643853

Feel free to invite other interested friends.

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT.

Hopefully this Sunday you will see some evidence of progress with **roof repairs** (scaffolding?). We are relieved that the front door and church building can still be accessed while work is going on.

Offering. As you know, Covid restrictions have prevented us from making our ‘offerings’ during services, so we will make sure that there is a plate at the front door if you would like to use it. Otherwise your best and safest option is to make your contribution to support the work of the church by **bank transfer; St Kilda Uniting Church BSB 013 427. Acct 3108 34465.** ‘Offering’ is all you need as a reference.

SYNOD of Victoria & Tasmania will meet next weekend on-line. **Key items** include the election of a Moderator Elect. Proposals from the Justice & International Mission cluster around justice and faith issues, including climate change and gambling. How as a church we are responding to covenanting between ourselves and our First Nation peoples. Reports from the various Uniting church bodies such as Uniting, Uniting AgeWell, Uniting Housing and U Ethical.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER, 5th March This year’s World Day of Prayer will be at **Holy Trinity, Port Melbourne** (162 Bay St), 10.30 am, Friday 5th March. **The 2021 service has been prepared by women from the churches in Vanuatu.**

CONNECT to the TRADITIONAL LANDS of the KULIN and LEARN the LORE OF BUNJIL TO LOOK AFTER COUNTRY

Experience a Welcome to Country by the Boonwurrung People of the Kulin Nation with English subtitles. **Learn the lore (teachings) of Bunjil**, the creator deity of the Kulin, who travels as an eagle. On First People’s land, we all have the responsibility to keep a promise with Bunjil and care for Country and our local environment.

When: 24th February 1.00 to 2pm
Zoom – .To register email:
info@ecocentre.com
[https:// ecocentre.com/CNF2021](https://ecocentre.com/CNF2021)



City of Port Phillip International Women's Day 2021

Come join us as we celebrate the everyday achievements of local women, and get to know the people in our community. A free conversation-based event followed by light refreshments.

Date: Thursday 4 March 2021

Time: 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Register: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=711948>