

CHURCH OFFERING.

To make your contribution to support the work of the church, we encourage you to do this by **bank transfer: St Kilda Uniting Church BSB 013 427. Acct 3108 34465. 'Offering' is all you need as a reference.**

Our Church community will be interested to know that **Rev John Tansey** has accepted the call to minister at South Port Uniting Church from July. He and Sue will be living in the manse in Port Melbourne. When the Induction date is announced we will let you know.

This month's NEWSBEAT is on the notice board.

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	2 May	9 May	16 May	23 May	30 May
<i>Worship</i>	David	David	David	David	David
<i>Assistance</i>	Melissa	Randall	Wendy	Roma	Mary
<i>Welcome at door</i>	Roma	Mary	Louise	Melissa	Maureen
<i>Flowers</i>	Mary	Roma	Louise	Maureen	Deb
<i>Coffee</i>	Mary	Louise	Maureen	Darren	Roma
<i>Rubbish collection</i>	Darren	Roma	Randall	Darren	Roma

Church

163 Chapel St., St Kilda. 3182
(cnr Chapel & Carlisle Sts.)

Engagement Hub

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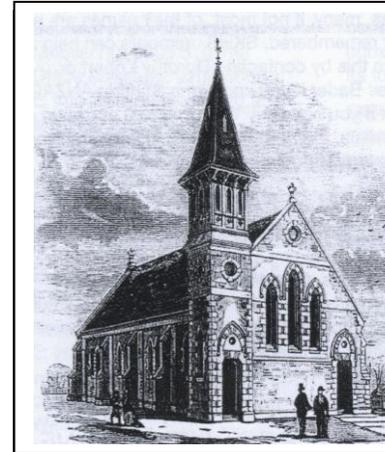
VISION STATEMENT:

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 14

Sunday, 2nd May 2021

EASTER 6

A warm welcome to everyone today. Our welcome includes our Zimbabwean friends, anyone who is visiting for the first time and those who make it their regular Sunday commitment. Rev David Pargeter will lead us in worship which includes communion. Please stay afterwards for tea/coffee and conversation.

Readings: Acts 8: 26 – 39 pg. 722 *The Inclusive Bible*

Selection of texts from other faiths about 'Welcoming the Stranger'

From David: Pluralism Sunday

I suspect (indeed hope) that most people have a period in their lives that they can look back on and say "That was a special time. Or, that time really changed me".

I've probably had more than my fair share of periods like that. Not because I am especially lucky but because every circumstance that I have found myself in, I have always looked for opportunities to learn new things. Whilst curiosity may have killed a few cats, it's always enriched my experience of being alive.

But there is one very special period in my ministry life that was transformational on so many fronts.

I had accepted a 'call' to work in North London and arrived there in 1982. One of the things that attracted me to ministry in that area was its cultural and religious diversity. **Diversity existed in every aspect of community life, including the congregation.** We lived in a row of terraced houses in Middle Lane. My neighbour on the left was an irritable old lady from Northern Ireland who hated the English and told me so every time she saw me. **Cont...**

Cont..... She used to 'post' weeds from her garden through our letter box. My neighbours on the right were a Muslim family recently migrated from Turkey. The mother of the family, Aisha, had 3 children, but adored our 3 children as if they were her own. The father of the family, Mehmet made the strongest and most delicious coffee I have ever had. He loved having a 'Holy man' living next door. We would walk down the street talking about faith in the context of ordinary things. I learned a lot from Mehmet about looking for God in the simple things in life; especially Turkish coffee.

In my first year of ministry in the Tottenham, Hornsey, Wood Green area of London, I undertook a research placement at my son's primary school – Rokesley Junior School, Hornsey. It was 1982. I had enrolled for a course with the interesting title of 'Black Settlement in post-war England' and I wanted to get a sense of how a local school approached teaching in a multi-cultural, multi-religious context. Staff at the school were very welcoming. At the time, the local area was about 40% BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups excluding White ethnic groups). The congregation where I was ministering had a large number of Methodists from the West Indies. Within 3 months of taking up this ministry, I was asked by a small group of Sikhs if they could meet for prayer and discussion in one of the community rooms. I often sat with them to talk about life as a Sikh in London. 6 months later, I was asked by the leader of an

African Spiritualist congregation from Nigeria, if they could gather for worship in our building. Each of these aspects generated a fair bit of debate among the congregation about whether a Christian building could be used by people of other faiths or 'strange' beliefs as some people called them. It was an important theological conversation about 'borders', and inclusion. It was a 'fun' time but all of it was resolved in the positive in the interests of local Peace building and being a welcoming community.

Back to the school. In many ways the local school was ahead of its time. It recognised the character of its community and celebrated the significant days of all the major religions. In fact, they used those days as opportunities to invite parents to gather with students and staff, and talk about their culture and their religion, if they had one, or their world view if they didn't. It was a very meaningful exercise in enabling young children to grasp the richness that diversity brings to a community. It was also a very meaningful way of valuing the contribution that diversity offers for developing community. The parents felt especially valued by the school.

It was one of those watershed periods in ministry during which I learned so much about people, place, patience and respect. It was also a learning experience that my son has never forgotten and to this day, lives by. In Singapore, where he lives, they have

public holidays and public celebrations for every major religious festival. Religious respect is enshrined in their constitution – he loves it.

This Sunday we will be celebrating Pluralism Sunday by having a post-colonial look at a story involving an Ethiopian eunuch and a chariot-chasing evangelist named Philip.

Shalom
David

Songs/Hymns:

TiS 693: Come as you are.

**This is my song
(Tune Finlandia TiS 123.- on screen)**

TiS 584: Just as I am (tune ii V 3 – 6)

God's Spirit is in my heart (screen)

NOTICES:

BIBLE STUDY (via ZOOM).

Wednesdays: 7.30 - 8.30

In the absence of any other suggestions, I'm proposing that we spend a few weeks taking a look at something which is seldom discussed or explored – **the Holy Spirit. It's a biggie but it's a goodie!** If you are interested, you are welcome to join in the conversation.

If you are not already included on the bible study list, let David know via email and he will add you to the invitation list.

saints163@bigpond.com

NEW WEBSITE FEATURE

If you are unable to attend church or want to refresh your memory of most of the Sunday services, then check out the website for the audio recordings;

www.stkildaunitingchurch.org.au

163 CONVERSATIONS

Unfortunately will NOT be back on Tuesday, 11 May at 6.30pm. Watch this space for information about the anticipated JUNE gathering

DO YOU LOVE TO SING? Then why not join the South Melbourne Singers.

There are no auditions, no fees, and no joining requirements, apart from a willingness to learn and work well with the group. You don't really need to be able to read music, and help is readily available. **REHEARSALS**

Once a week from 7.30 - 9.00pm on Mondays at the Uniting Church, 329 Dorcas St South Melbourne Parking is easy. **CONTACT DETAILS** c/- Uniting Church, 329 Dorcas St, SOUTH MELBOURNE VIC 3205 Annette Robinson, Secretary, 9699 2852 or 0435 052 538 or Jeff Castles 9531 7586 or 0421 994 115 **Email:** annettehrobinson@hotmail.com

FOR YOUR DIARY, Church AGM Sunday May 23rd starting with breakfast. Reports need to reach David no later than May 9th

Please keep SATURDAY JULY 10TH free for a church dinner 🍽️