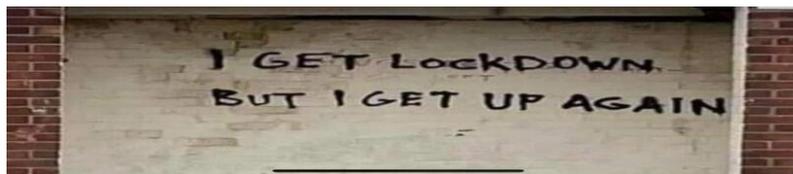


**Pastoral letter from the Moderator.** The Moderator of the Uniting Church Vic/Tas, Rev Denise Liersch, has written a pastoral letter to all congregation members: <https://victas.uca.org.au/lockdown-pastoral-letter-from-moderator/>

**“Act with Justice in Mind”** Check out the June Newsletter from The Justice Cluster at the Uniting Church <[jim@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:jim@victas.uca.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	13 June	20 June	27 June	4 July	11 July
<i>Worship</i>	David	David	David	David	David
<i>Assistance</i>	Melissa	Wendy	Roma	Randall	Louise
<i>Welcome at door</i>	Darren	Maureen	Wendy	Louise	Roma
<i>Flowers</i>	Mary	Deb	Maureen	Desleigh	Louise
<i>Coffee</i>	Mary	Mark	Melissa	Louise	Roma
<i>Rubbish collection</i>	Randall	Roma	Darren	Randall	Randall

**Church**

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

**Engagement Hub**

101 Carlisle St.

St Kilda 3182. Ph: 9525 5478

**Minister:** Rev. David Pargeter

Email: [saints163@bigpond.com](mailto:saints163@bigpond.com)

PO Box 385, Balaclava 3183.

Ph: 0412 334 334

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

**Church phone no.**

**0458 417 708**

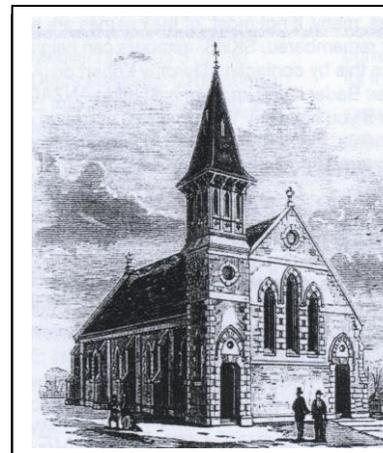
**VISION STATEMENT:**

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](mailto:desleighk@ozemail.com.au)  
Contributions to the content are also welcomed.

dP



**St Kilda Uniting Church  
Parish Mission**

**NEWSLETTER**

**Volume 56 Issue 20**

**Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

**We welcome everyone who has joined us via ZOOM today. Rev David Pargeter will lead our gathering. We are expecting to open up the church building next Sunday, but life these days is full of surprises, so we will not say farewell to our Zoom friends just yet!**

**READING:** Ezekiel 17: 22 – 24 pg. 309. Mark 4: 26 – 33 pg. 667  
*The Inclusive Bible*

**FROM DAVID:** I received an email last week from ‘Linda’ in England who was a member of the congregation in London, 39 years ago. In her words she had been ‘tracking’ me down for ages. She asked if I would give her call via zoom. She had a question about religion that she thought I could answer. So I contacted her.

After we got over the weirdness of it all; realising that we and our children were all 39 years older, that we still sounded the same, and after we’d condensed four decades of life into a few minutes, we got onto the question: **‘Can you still call yourself a Christian if you’ve given up on the bible and how the church uses it?’** A good question and one that can generate a lot of angst.

She still remembered services and discussions in London that opened up fresh ways of thinking about the ancient texts and when they were written. However, after we had left London and returned to Melbourne, ‘Linda’ and her family moved to a small village in Suffolk. They went to a local church but couldn’t adjust to the formal and conservative nature of it.

**Cont...**

**Cont...**After a few months they searched further away and found a slightly more 'modern' United Reformed Church. But after a couple of years it closed down and they simply all stopped going. Her hubby died a few years later and the children finished studies, left home and moved back to London for work. She had married again and was very happy.

She went back to church a few times over the years but discovered that very little had changed, and gave up again. **She said something very significant: 'I realised that I had changed so much in my thinking about God, but the church hadn't'.**

So, I asked her, why she had tracked me down to ask me that question rather than making a connection with someone in England. **She said, "Because I knew you wouldn't laugh or judge me"**. It was a rather beautiful and affirming thing to say but think about it for a moment. Here we have a 70 year old woman, who was a terrific member of the Church when she was 30, but unable to find a spiritual 'home' where she could wrestle with issues of faith and still feel that she was part of something good and life-giving.

**Instead of providing 'Linda' with an answer to her question, I asked her to answer the question herself based on how she was feeling and the thinking she must have done already.**

**She said, "I still love and value the Jesus story, it still influences how I live but I don't like what the church has done to it".**

I tried to reassure her that in many places the church was changing. I've since sent her a reading list of a few helpful books, a couple of blog sites, the names of a few people she could chat with in the UK and details of a progressive Christian network in her area.

**Jesus said that his mission was to the Lost Sheep of the House of Israel. I've always felt that an important part of the Church's ministry is to those who feel they can no longer belong it.**

Shalom  
David

### **SONGS/HYMNS:**

**There will be no hymns to sing today- David will choose music for the online service.**

### **NOTICES:**

**BIBLE STUDY/ Discussion (via ZOOM). Wednesdays: 7.30 - 8.30 pm.** In the absence of any other suggestions, I'm proposing that this week, **16<sup>th</sup> June**, we explore the concept of the Body of Christ as used by the Apostle Paul. We'll do this by focussing on one of the first Christian congregations in Corinth.

**The Corinthian church is an important window into early inter-cultural Christianity.** We'll also look at how much of Paul's theology evolved through writing letters to it. It's a good example of how to do contextual theology.

**If you are not already included on this bible study/discussion list, let David know via email and he will add you to the invitation list.**  
[saints163@bigpond.com](mailto:saints163@bigpond.com)

**163 CONVERSATIONS.** We are really hoping to meet on Tuesday July 13th at 6.15 for 6.30pm. Details to come.



The next PCNV meeting will be on **Sunday June 27<sup>th</sup>**. In the meantime why not check out the interesting material on the website:

<https://www.pcnvictoria.org.au>



**UNITING WINTER SHARE APPEAL** As winter is well and truly here, and the reduction in the JobSeeker payment, more and more people are slipping into crisis. **The Uniting Winter Share Appeal is a way of helping vulnerable people.**

**To donate:**

<https://www.unitingvictas.org.au/appeal>

The latest **CROSSLIGHT** is available online at <https://crosslight.org.au/> Hard copies will be available at the church when services are resumed there.



Space2b,144 Chapel St, St Kilda has decided to **POSTPONE** their multicultural celebration **Feels Like Home** planned for next **Sunday 20 June until a date in August.** This is to be held in our church. We'll keep you posted.



On World Refugee Day **next Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June**, Asylum Seeker Resource Centre will be holding a **TELETHON** to raise funds for their projects. Phone 1300692772 to make a contribution  
Check the website: <https://asrc.org.au>  
They also have a catering service – vegetarian meals can be picked up/delivered <https://meals.asrc.org.au/>