

Our neighbours at **Holy Trinity Anglican Church** (cnr Chapel St and Brighton Rd) are having a **Buster Keaton Silent Movie Night next Friday at the church at 7pm** and we are invited. David Johnston will accompany the films on the pipe organ. Admission \$20 includes supper. See Notice Board

**St Kilda Gatehouse** is in need of warm winter clothes for the women who attend the drop-in. If you have spare coats, jumpers, scarves, socks etc in good condition please drop off at the Baptist Church. Phone 9525 4620 Thurs/Fri

**We respectfully acknowledge the Yalukit Willam clan of the Boon Wurrung. We pay our respects to their Elders and community past and present. We acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to this land.**

Date	July 9	July 16	July 23	July 30
<i>Worship. W. Assist.</i>	David Randall	David Andrej	David Beverley	David
<i>Welcome at door</i>	Roma	Annie	Louise	Beverley
<i>Pre-Service Prayer</i>	Mary	Beverley	Beverley	Roma
<i>Flowers</i>	Mary	Beverley	Mary	Andrej&Petka
<i>Coffee</i>	Roma	Beverley	Beverley	Andrej

**Church**

Corner Chapel & Carlisle Sts  
St Kilda 3182/9525 4319

**Engagement Hub**

101 Carlisle St.  
St Kilda 3182/9525 5478

**Minister:** Rev. David Pargeter

[saints674@inet.net.au](mailto:saints674@inet.net.au)

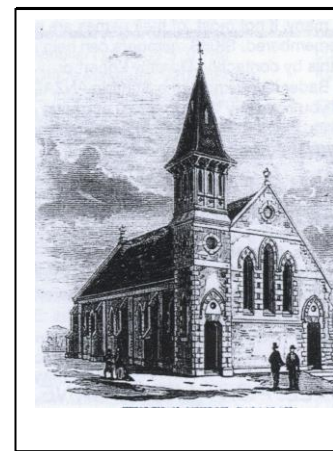
PO Box 385, Balaclava 3183.

Ph. 0412 334 334

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

**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:** The newsletter editor is Desleigh Kent. Contributions are welcome and can be sent to her at [desleighk@ozemail.com.au](mailto:desleighk@ozemail.com.au)  
If you would like to be part of a growing congregational email list (and receive a full colour copy of the church newsletter in pdf format), please contact Rob Hess at [Robert.Hess@vu.edu.au](mailto:Robert.Hess@vu.edu.au)



**St Kilda Uniting Church  
Parish Mission**

**NEWSLETTER  
Volume 52, Issue 22  
Sunday, 9 July 2017**

**PENTECOST 5**

**You are most welcome to the service today. Rev. David Pargeter will lead our worship. Please stay afterwards for tea/coffee.**

**Bible Readings: Judges 13: 1 – 24 pg. 277. Mark 6: 21-29 pg. 1102, & 16: 9  
40 years in the wilderness.**

Sometimes it takes that long to find out who you are and where you want to go. Sometimes it takes even longer - like 2000 years. The Uniting Church in Australia has recently been celebrating its 40th birthday. Some of that has involved looking back; hopefully so that hindsight might inform foresight. I think about the future a lot. Always have. Sometimes it distracts me from thinking about and living in the present but it's difficult to escape the reality: that how we live and think today influences all our tomorrows. Today never stands alone.

**So, what next?**

After 2000 years of Christendom and the politics of Empire, a quantum shift is taking place - more outside the church than within it; especially among those who have abandoned it but still feel connected to some kind of faith story. There is a deep theological rumbling in the guts of many Christians (and other religions) who are asking different questions about faith and life. Asking questions like, "what is it all about"? "Where do we go from here"?

Many possibilities present themselves, but the one that pre-occupies me (and has done for some time) is how do we make the necessary transition from being a European transplant to being a genuine Australian expression of the Christian faith? I pose the question at the end of NAIDOC week because I believe our spiritual health, growth and maturity depends on such a transition.

It's a discussion I would love us to have as a local congregation. Over the years I have visited many church buildings of all 'traditions' and almost all of them could be in Europe or the UK.

I have seldom seen an interior that reflects the character and spirituality of this amazing continent.

A few years ago I wrote a very brief piece of whimsy about the tiny preposition that sits within our name as a National Church. I pondered upon the impact on our psyche and theology and Christian witness if we were to make the small but profound change of moving from the Uniting Church in Australia to becoming the Uniting Church of Australia.

What if we were to risk abandoning being in a plant pot. A pot that sits on the land watered and fed by Euro-centric theologies and philosophies, and shielded by the orthodoxies that emanated centuries ago from that same region. What if we risked being an introduced species that is placed into the dirt of this land. Puts its roots deep down into the soil and learns to adapt and adjust to its environment; fed and watered by the land itself as well as indigenous wisdom, stories and symbols. That's what evolution involves. Things that don't evolve die. **And the key to evolution is not strength, power and fitness but the ability to adapt.**

I understand the issues around appropriation and syncretism but there must be ways of reflecting what it means to be an Australian Christian Community. I'd welcome your thoughts and responses.

Please engage by writing to: [Saints674@inet.net.au](mailto:Saints674@inet.net.au). I would love to hear from you. **David**

### Songs/Hymns

#### **All over this Land**

All over this land, the spirit is moving.  
All over this land, its people and the sea.  
All over this land, there's a gentle reawakening.  
Of the story of our faith, that so long ago began.

All over this land, its history is weeping.  
All over this land its people are in pain.  
All over this land there's a quiet desperation  
As the ancient paths grow cold, and the language is no more.

All over this land, in Songlines and Dreaming.  
All over this land, God's wisdom can be heard.  
All over this land, the sun and wind are singing  
Like a timeless breath of life, in a universe of hope.

Words: David Pargeter. Tune: Roy Turner

#### **For You, Deep Stillness**

For you, deep stillness of the silent inland;  
for you, deep blue of the desert skies;  
for you, flame red of the rocks and stones;  
for you, sweet water from hidden springs.

From the edges seek the heartlands,  
and when you're burnt by the journey  
May the cool winds of the hovering Spirit sooth and replenish you.  
In the name of Christ. (repeat)

(second time, repeat last line twice)

Words: Julie Perrin; Music: Robin Mann © 1996

### Notices

**Parish Council will meet this Thursday night 7pm at the church.**

**TABLE CONVERSATIONS. SHARING FOOD – SHARING IDEAS** The next *163 Table Conversations* will be **Tuesday July 18th at 6.15pm**. The speaker will be the Commissioner for Gender and Sexuality, Ro Allen. **All welcome - bring your friends!** For catering purposes **rsvp to Mary:** [brimary@iprimus.com.au](mailto:brimary@iprimus.com.au) /phone 9529 6927 or 0409060846  
Donation to cover the cost of dinner. BYO drinks or a bottle to share.

#### **READING GROUP:**

**The next meeting will be on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> August, 7.30pm at Mary and Brian's.** David will circulate an article before then to anyone interested so please see him if you would like to come along.

**ADULT'S DINNER** this year will be on **Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup> at Lou and Matt's home in Mentone.** **More information to come.** **The newly renovated**

**ENGAGEMENT HUB** will be officially opened on **Thursday July 20<sup>th</sup> at 12md by the Hon. Martin Foley MP, Minister for Mental Health.** You are most welcome to attend. Rsvp 96929550

**OUR GREAT NEWS is that Darren has reworked our WEBSITE and you are welcome to visit it:**

**[stkildaunitingchurch.org.au](http://stkildaunitingchurch.org.au)**  
Darren and Melissa have been putting information on the old site for some time but now with some training from Darren a few people will have access. It looks great!

**PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIAN NETWORK. Sunday 23 July at 3.00pm:** "Implications of Progressive Christian Understandings of Hope" at **Ewing Memorial Centre of Stonnington Uniting Church**, Burke Road, Malvern East The final in the series of four explorations of implications for life today of Progressive Christian understandings.

**ALSO: Next SUNDAY 16 JULY at 7.00pm hear about A Progressive Christian Voice Australia**, at Habitat Uniting Church, Corner of Mont Albert and Burke Roads, Canterbury.  
<http://www.progressivechristians.org.au>