

# NEWSBEAT

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST



JUNE 2021



A Happy Mother's Day, enjoyed with a Happy Iftar dinner. Page 4.



This year in an exciting new location. Discover where on page 8.

## Churches unite in action to house the homeless



The Uniting Church is signing up to support an ecumenical program as part of a winter shelter scheme for the homeless.

The program offers beds in church spaces to pre-screened homeless 'guests'.

Murrumbeena Uniting Church is joining local churches for this dynamic initiative, affiliated to Stable One Winter Shelter, and is hoping volunteers will come forward.



All volunteers will be asked to undergo police and working with children checks. Training provided.

Volunteers can register on the Compass Community Care website: <https://www.compasscommunitycare.org.au/winter-shelter>

5 minute project video on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bj-J0HkqVpo>

Stable One Winter Shelter information can be found on their website: <https://stableone.org/>

Rev Jay Robinson explains: "Murrumbeena UC is getting involved in the Glen Eira Winter Shelter, which will be running for 12 weeks, from 1st July - 23 September."

This is an ecumenical outreach program and the following churches have already agreed to be host churches in the city of Glen Eira: Ormond Anglican, St Agnes Anglican, St Clements Anglican, Holy Cross Catholic, Seventh Day Adventist Glen Huntly and Eastleigh Community Church. Compass Church will provide facilities (including a shower) in the daytime. Whitehorse churches are also hosting guests during the winter.

These churches will take turns one night a week sheltering up to 10 homeless guests and providing dinner, breakfast and the option to make sandwiches for lunch. Rev Jay Robinson adds: "We are looking for people to come forward to volunteer to work with a church involved in the project."

"To make this work really well we need 200 volunteers from all of our local churches and the community."

Details from [jay@murrumbeenauniting.org.au](mailto:jay@murrumbeenauniting.org.au) or call 0410 465836.

Visit [ucapppep.org](http://ucapppep.org), [facebook.com/ucapppep.org](https://facebook.com/ucapppep.org), [twitter.com/ucapppep](https://twitter.com/ucapppep) & [instagram.com/ucapppep](https://instagram.com/ucapppep)

# The Spirit of Mission

by Craig Mitchell  
Presbytery Minister:  
Church Development

The book of Acts is the narrative of Spirit-inspired apostles on journeys beyond their comfort zones. Followers become pioneers. The gospel is shared and becomes grounded in communities of varied culture and language. From its earliest days, the church is marked by its diversity. Luke speaks more of context than crusade, reflecting chapter 10 of his Gospel account, where those sent come as guests seeking hospitality.



In Port Phillip East Presbytery, we are seeking to foster this Spirit of Mission by encouraging visioning, dialogue and reflective practice in relation to mission, and mission-shaped discipleship. Perhaps these seem like code words, so let's break it down.



## Regional possibilities

A week ago the Presbytery hosted a consultation across six churches in the outer south east to begin to explore whether a shared vision for ministry and mission is part of God's future in this rapidly growing area.

The aim is not to consolidate but to spread. It's early days, but people were remarkably open to where such a conversation might lead.

## New communities of faith

Casey-Cardinia region has a population the size of Tasmania, and is projected to grow by 250,000 people in the next 20 years.

Synod eLM staff and a neighbouring presbytery about identifying people to be part of fostering diverse faith communities into the future.

Perhaps in homes, perhaps linked to playgroups or op shops or cafes.

## Mission Experiments

Had we known about COVID-19, we might not have started a Mission Pilot Project in 2020!

The two pilot churches, Glen Waverley and Cheltenham-Mentone, along with the Pilot team, found the experiment to be quite a challenge during extended lockdown.

Nevertheless there were significant learnings about mission which will be reported to the Presbytery in June.

The Pilot steering group is making plans to help churches experiment in mission based on these learnings. What's your experiment zone?

## Congregational Consultations

The Presbytery's new Consultation Team, convened by Cam McAdam, will explore how to engage in strategic congregations for the sake of mission.



This means not simply waiting for five yearly reviews, but identifying communities ready to take a step and helping them to do it.

One focus is on different ways to help churches engage more fully in local mission.

*Cont. on page 3*

## Intercultural ministry and mission

Quite a few of our congregations are comprised of people from many cultures. Most of our churches are in increasingly multicultural neighbourhoods.

How is our cultural richness reflected in our leadership, worship, congregational life and local community engagement?

In June, we're hosting a conversation about moving from multicultural to intercultural.

It's an invitation not to assimilation but to inclusive diversity in living our faith.

See details below.

## Growing young disciples

My conversations with youth workers and leaders always lean towards discipleship.

Leaders see this as the heart of the matter - not simply raising the next generation of churchgoers but forming people with a radical, lifelong, holistic faith-life. This is more than peer groups or programs. So this month we're also hosting a conversation for youth workers about discipleship.



“

If there's one thing we don't see in the early church narratives, it's survival mode. In the mixed economy of church life, there will always be deep roots and new shoots.

May we cultivate both in our shared mission.

”

## Building faith across cultures

Many of our churches are home to people from a diversity of cultures, places and languages, each with their own stories. Many of our churches are in suburban contexts that are increasingly multicultural.

**Many cultures  
Many voices  
Many hopes**

A conversation about becoming intercultural communities  
Leadership. Worship. Faith. Mission.

**PORT PHILLIP EAST PRESBYTERY**

**THURS 24 JUNE**  
**1.00-3.00pm**  
**Noble Park**

You're invited to a conversation about how multicultural churches can become more intercultural in their leadership, worship, discipleship and mission. Hosted by Rev Dev Anadarajan, Synod Intercultural Leadership Development Co-ordinator, and Dr Craig Mitchell, Presbytery Minister - Church Development.

Please RSVP to Presbytery Secretary Anne Kim by Monday 21 June e-mail: [secretary@ucappep.org](mailto:secretary@ucappep.org)

**Share your Spirit of Mission stories with us – send to [newsbeat@ucappep.org](mailto:newsbeat@ucappep.org)**

# A special evening of sharing an Iftar meal with friends

Glyn Howells, of Glen Waverley Uniting Church, discusses dining with some very special guests.



Glen Waverley Uniting Church, through its church council and our Indonesian fellowship led by Mr Lucky Kalonta, hosted a small dinner of about 25 people to share an Iftar meal – the meal that breaks the fast during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. Despite it being Mother’s Day, we gathered in our fellowship area where at 5:27pm we each ate a date and drank water or tea. Our Muslim friends then retired to pray before we all came together

again for a halal meal. The grace was said by Rev Dr Apwee Ting from the UCA Assembly.

Bonds of friendship grew with guests including Ibu Moniroh Rahim, the Acting Indonesian Consul General, Dr Mohamed Mohideen, the President of the Islamic Council of Victoria and a member of the Monash City Council Multicultural Advisory Committee, and Mr. Teguh Iskanto, representing the Indonesian Muslim Community of Victoria

and Mr. Nuim Khaiyath, the former Head of Indonesian Language Broadcasting on Radio Australia along with local representatives of the Faith Communities Council of Victoria.

We thank everyone involved for blessing us with their presence. Next year, we’d like to expand the event perhaps by collaborating with a neighbouring congregation; with an interfaith dialogue around fasting or another suitable topic.





The graphic features two stylized figures, a woman in a white dress and a woman in a yellow top, holding up a blue cloud and an orange speech bubble. The background is a vibrant purple with a pattern of small white dots. Logos for the Uniting Church in Australia Assembly, 'Around the Table' (Conversations with the President), and 'Abundant Grace Liberating Hope' are visible at the top.

**PRESIDENT'S ROUNDTABLE  
VICTORIA**  
18-20 JUNE 2021

Assembly President Deidre Palmer is visiting churches in Victoria for an important discussion with young adults on their hopes for the world and the church.

The Port Phillip East Presbytery is one of the Round Table locations and 18-25 year olds will gather at the Korean Church of Melbourne for the event.

Dinner will be provided as part of the sharing experience at KCM on Sunday June 20 - and we'd like to encourage people to come forward for this special event in the presbytery.

Robin Yang, Young Adults Coordinator at eLM, says: "Led by UCA President, Dr Deidre Palmer, this event is a time of listening to young adults about their hopes and dreams for the church and world. The President's Roundtable will be hosted by churches in Shepparton, Geelong and Melbourne over the weekend.

### CALLING FOR ALL UCA YOUNG ADULTS, I WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

The President of the Uniting Church Assembly, Deidre Palmer invites you to a conversation.

In living out the gospel of Christ, what are you passionate about?

What brings you joy?

What do you hope for?

What are your concerns about the world and our society?

As the Church, how do you think we could respond to these concerns and participate in the transforming mission of God in our world?

What are your hopes for who we are and who we are becoming in the Uniting Church?

I would love to hear your insights on these and other questions.

Come join me for a free-ranging conversation and together let's be part of the movement of God's liberating Spirit in the world.

For locations, times and to register visit <https://victas.uca.org.au/event/presidents-roundtable/2021-06-18/>

### 'Engage All Generations' Book Launch

June 9 at 11am AEST

**Engage All Generations: a strategic toolkit** is the latest book from Cory Seibel.

This very special FREE Zoom launch event will include the opportunity to find out more about the book, engage with a number of the contributors and connect with others interested in intergenerational ministry. Details and registration at:

<https://victas.uca.org.au/event/engage-all-generations-book-launch/>

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# Turning points

Pastoral notes and prayer  
by Anneke Oppewal



*Just 24 hours after this piece was written Victoria went back into a seven-day circuit breaker lockdown. Self-care and steadiness not 'all-systems go' as we re-emerge.*

Returning to more regular face to face contact and in person worship, ministry agents and congregations have been adjusting to a new 'normal'. For most of us this has come with ups and downs. Joy at being able to gather and see each other face to face again, excitement about restarting programmes and offering support to people in need, and gratitude for the relative security of the situation we find ourselves in in Australia.

Mark 1: 35, Luke 4: 42

At the same time some of us find ourselves feeling disoriented and exhausted by the demands put on them at this time while trying to get our heads around new regulations and re-establishing the old routines.

Many congregations find their financial situations changed, some volunteers hesitant to re-engage and members in varying levels of Covid regulation compliance or complacency. Difficulties, conflicts, and emerging concerns that were shelved over the past year because of Covid restrictions now suddenly needing urgent attention.

At Presbytery level this means that everything is suddenly all systems go, where requests for information and assistance seem to be coming in from every direction at once.

In the middle of all of that many ministry agents and leaders and members of congregations are very sensibly taking the opportunity to take time off to visit family and friends interstate they may not have seen for a while or to have some time to recuperate. I've been thinking of stories in the Bible where community leaders, after a time of challenge and difficulty, went to recover. Organising some time to spend with God and recharge their energy banks for the next stretch of ministry and service.

The scriptures tell us that Jesus retreats and goes to pray and recharge his batteries too. And perhaps that is something to remember as we move into the rest of 2021. Not everything has to happen at once, it is alright to take some time to adjust. Let us give ourselves and each other a chance to find our feet again and reconnect to each other and to God going forward.



*God of the still small voice  
in the middle of life  
we may sometimes feel  
far removed  
from the green pastures  
and quiet waters  
of your presence  
as we cope with the demands  
day to day living puts on us.*

*God of the fiery wind  
blowing cobwebs  
out of brains stuck  
in slow moving  
thoughts:  
Liberating  
hands and feet  
heavy with weariness.*

*Fill us with creative and renewing  
energy,  
Give us a readiness to engage again  
and follow Christ  
Touch us with the passion of your  
Spirit  
Lift our hearts and light up our souls  
so we will, from open hearts,  
share of your love and goodness  
with those around us.*

Amen.

## Preventing BURNOUT

In our Zoom cafe seminar series on the May 13, Anneke Oppewal gave a presentation on burnout. In it she explored what burnout is, how it affects people and offered practical suggestions about how to better regulate and manage life choices. She outlined how to find a healthy balance of consumption and expenditure of energy and a deeper sense of purpose and fulfilment at work.

A link to the video of this highly practical seminar can be found at:

<https://bit.ly/PPEPYoutube> Notes here: <http://bit.ly/ppeburnoutnotes>

## LEARNING TO LEAD WORSHIP

Twenty five leaders from Port Phillip East are among 65 leaders from across the synod engaging in online learning about leading worship in May and June.

Co-ordinated by Mel Perkins from the synod eLM unit, the series is offering guidance with leadership practice and well as biblical and theological understandings of worship.

Mel is co-leading weekly sessions on Zoom with others including Chris Barnett, Robin Yang, Siotame Paletua and Craig Mitchell.

The sessions cover the Seasons of the Church Year, working with the Lectionary, communication, multisensory worship, and much more.

Leaders are joining in each week from the Clayton, Oakleigh, Frankston, Southern Mornington, Seaford, Endeavour Hills, St Leonard's Brighton, St Georges Burnley, Leighmoor, Elsternwick, Hampton Park, St Marks Mornington and other places.

Videos from the online sessions are available to view online - <https://vimeo.com/showcase/8466786>

People have also been able to enrol to access a wealth of free online learning materials with optional assessment.

A six week series on preaching is on offer on Wednesday evenings in September (1, 5 18) and October (6, 13, 20). <https://victas.uca.org.au/exploring-preaching-in-the-uca/> Online enrolment.



## Anneke meets Alisha in a spirit of agency-church partnership

Rev Anneke Oppewal, Presbytery Minister - Pastoral, visited Alisha Fung, the new chaplain for Uniting AgeWell in Noble Park recently.

Alisha, pictured above, started in Covid times and with the easing of restrictions enjoys being able to meet 'her people' face to face (outside of circuit-breaker moments...)

Alisha completed a Master of Arts in public and pastoral leadership at the Vancouver School of Theology and comes with experience providing pastoral care in various disability and trauma settings, in Australia and abroad.

She is currently enrolled as a candidate for Minister of the Word at Pilgrim College. She has a passion for pastoral care, as well as using the arts and meditation practices in her work.

In other news: Andrew Kerr Care, in Mornington, is transferring to Uniting AgeWell ownership and management in a new partnership deal.

Uniting AgeWell Chief Executive Officer Andrew Kinnerly says: "This decision enables Andrew Kerr Care and Uniting AgeWell to strengthen support of older people on the Mornington Peninsula, and the legacy of Andrew Kerr Care continues."

# Somers is off to Grantville in 2021 - register now!

Somers is always the first week of the winter school holidays - so this year it's June 28 - July 2. Somers Camp is a Uniting Church camp run by the Port Phillip East Presbytery for children in Years 3 to 9.

The camp runs each year in the first week of the winter school holidays from Monday to Friday.

They have been running since 1957, and have become one of the largest Uniting Church children and youth camps in Australia.

Somer's priority is to create an environment where children and youth are comfortable being themselves—a place where they feel like they can put themselves out there without fear of rejection.

**For more information & registration, check out**

**[www.somerscamp.com.au](http://www.somerscamp.com.au)**

A graphic with a white background and a purple and yellow brushstroke border. At the top left is the logo for 'port phillip east presbytery childrens camp' with a cross icon. Below it is the word 'SOMERSCAMP' in large, stylized, purple and yellow letters. The main text is in purple and reads: 'NEWS BREAKING: SOMERS CAMP IS NOT AT SOMERS!'. A horizontal line follows. Below that, it says: 'That's right, due to covid restrictions, Somers is heading into "Wonderland"!'. Then: 'Where: Grantville Lodge - 200 Grantville-Glen Alvie Rd GRANTVILLE Victoria.' Next: 'When: The first week of the winter school holidays, June 28-July 2nd'. Finally: 'For more information & registration, contact [info@somerscamp.com.au](mailto:info@somerscamp.com.au) or Happy Chappy (Hannah Dungan): 0422628028'.

## Measuring your environmental impact

Port Phillip East Presbytery's property committee is building a picture of how we're addressing climate change through local action in congregations and other settings.

We're partnering with Five Leaf Eco-Awards, an Australian ecumenical environmental change program specifically designed for churches and religious organisations.

Using a series of non-competitive awards the program assists, inspires and rewards faith communities for taking environmental action

and becoming more sustainable in response to God's call to care for creation.

The Five Leaf Eco-Awards encourage holistic action for the environment covering five areas: Buildings, Worship, Congregation, Outreach, and Community Leadership.

We sent an invite out to each congregation, inviting them to use the Five Leaf Eco-Awards survey.

We'll be collating results in late July, with a view to presenting an overview and awards at our Presbytery meeting in August.





# Looking into the mirror

Australia's five yearly national census is almost upon us, which means that 2021 is also time for the five yearly National Church Life Survey (NCLS) conducted across Christian denominations around the country.

The PPE Standing Committee has agreed to request all congregations in the presbytery to undertake both the members and leaders surveys in October-November this year.

The NCLS has been running for 30 years and is respected internationally as providing valuable information for church leaders to understand their church members' attitudes towards congregational life, worship, faith development, community service, and matters of social concern.

Along with the leaders' survey, the data becomes a resource to aid discernment and planning. The aim is not to compare churches, but to assist churches to look at themselves in the mirror. This is an incredibly helpful set of tools.

Dr Craig Mitchell will be co-ordinating the presbytery's engagement with the NCLS. More information about the NCLS and how it works will be available in the coming months.

For now, you can learn more about it here - <http://ncls.org.au/research/2021-ncls-proposal>

## Presbytery Meeting Dates 2021

- Wednesday, June 16, 7 - 9pm, on Zoom
- Saturday, August 21, 10am, in person & on Zoom
- Wednesday, November 17, 7 - 9pm on Zoom

### Presbytery Contacts:

- Tom Spurling [chair@ucappeg.org](mailto:chair@ucappeg.org)
- Anne Kim [secretary@ucappeg.org](mailto:secretary@ucappeg.org)
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Uniting in prayer	AT the end of each year the Presbytery sends out the prayer calendar for use in worship. It is also uploaded onto the Presbytery website <a href="http://www.ucappeg.org">www.ucappeg.org</a> . Here's the list for June:
June 6	Pray for Murrumbeena UCA, including ministry team Jay Robinson, Kelly Skilton and Zak Hany, and chair Alison Campbell Rate.
June 13	Pray for Monash UCA including minister Kharis Abadani and chair Chaterine Altmann. Pray for Mulgrave UCA including minister Kharis Abadani and chair Kaye Cosham.
June 20	Pray for Mount Martha UCA including minister Paulo Kwajakwan
June 22 - UCA Anniversary	Pray for Assembly President Deidre Palmer, General Secretary Colleen Geyer and President Elect Sharon Hollis.
June 27	Pray for the combined Mount Waverley UCA (High St Road & St. John's), including ministry team Julie Ross and Semisi Tauli'i, and chair Colin Adam. Pray for Somers Camp meeting at Grantville, including Camp Chaplain Hannah Dungan and Somers Core Chair Ryan Gregory.

The Port Phillip East Presbytery website is an exciting additional resource tool for communication across our churches, agencies, schools and communities. We welcome submissions to the website, Newsbeat, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, but should advise that photographs may be used across all, unless instructed otherwise.

To submit a news item for the Presbytery's monthly Newsbeat newsletter, send all articles and images to [newsbeat@ucappeg.org](mailto:newsbeat@ucappeg.org)



# ORMOND LEARNING HUB

## Winter Course:

### Exploring the New Testament

As the winter months approach, we look with excitement towards our next course in the Ormond Learning HUB program, 'Exploring the New Testament'. We will delve deeply into these ancient texts which are the basis of our Christian faith. This course offers a literary, theological and personal exploration of the New Testament.

You will discover the world in which they were written and how the faith of their writers informs our faith today. During this unit you will have the opportunity to read or peruse the New Testament texts themselves. We will also be assisted by two textbooks, one of which is available to participants on loan and another at a cost of under \$45.

The course will be conducted on-line via Zoom so you can connect from wherever you are - including the warmth of home through the cold winter nights. Come and join us on what promises to be a fascinating and potentially transforming journey.

**Dates:** Thursdays, 3rd June to 26th August - 12 weeks with a 1-week break in the middle

**Time:** 7.30 - 9.00pm

**Format:** Online (Zoom)

**Cost:** \$120 + course text (eBook or hard copy)

**Facilitators:** Brad Denniston & Andrew Boyle

For enrolments and enquiries please email

[learninghub@ormond.unitingchurch.org.au](mailto:learninghub@ormond.unitingchurch.org.au) indicating your interest or

contact Andrew on 0409 869 009