

Glen Waverley

Uniting Church

SUNDAY PREACHING PLAN - May						
Time	May 3 Easter 5	May 10 Easter 6	May 17 Easter 7	May 24 Pentecost	May 31 Trinity Sunday	
8.00 am	Ross Mackinnon Communion	Ross Mackinnon Communion	Julie Hall Rev Evan Lairdlaw Communion	Rev Neil Peters Communion	Julie Hall Rev Bruce Bateman Communion	
9.15 am	Rev Neil Peters Heather Hon Communion	Rev Neil Peters Julie Hall	Rev Neil Peters Worship Team	Alanee Hearnshaw Rev Sunny Chen	Rev Neil Peters	
11.00 am	Rev Neil Peters	Rev Neil Peters Alanee Hearnshaw	Rev Neil Peters Alison Clarkson Communion	Alanee Hearnshaw Rev Sunny Chen	Rev Neil Peters Alison Clarkson	
4.30 pm	Children & Families	Children & Families	Children & Families	Children & Families	Children & Families	
7.00 pm	Alanee Hearnshaw	Alanee Hearnshaw	Alanee Hearnshaw	Alanee Hearnshaw	Dinner @ Airstream	
Lectionary	Acts 8:26-40 Psalm 22:25-31 1 John 4:7-21 John 15:1-8	Acts 10:44-48 Psalm 98 1 John 5:1-6 John 15:9-17	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 Psalm 1 1 John 5:9-13 John 17:6-19	Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekial 37:1-14 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21 John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15	Isaiah 6:1-8 Psalm 29 Romans 8:12-17 John 3:1-17	
Liturgical Colour	White	White	White	Red	White	

Welcome

GWUC is a faithful, Christ-centred community that meets God and shares that unconditional love: meet_god@anytime.with.us

APRIL

5 April	10am
10 April	5pm
12 April	All services
13 April	2.30pm

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Easter Sunday Service
COP Applications Due
Material Aid Offering - Open Family
Leisure Time AGM

MAY

3 May	12noon	Club 2015
5 May	11am	UCAF Annual Fundraising Luncheon
17 May	12.30pm	Munch with a Bunch Lunch
24 May	9.15 & 11am	Guest Preacher Rev Dr Sunny Chen
28 May	10am	Australia's Biggest Morning Tea at The Hub



Invitation to the Congregation and Volunteers

You are invited to attend the Leisure Time Annual General Meeting. Afternoon tea will be served after the meeting.

Under the Constitution all Church members are eligible to attend and cast a vote so come along and participate. Agenda papers will be available from the Church Office from 31 March to 12 April 2015.

There are two vacancies on the Leisure Time Committee for anyone who would like to assist.

NOTICE OF MEETING

The Annual General Meeting
of the
Glen Waverley Uniting Church Leisure Time
will be held at the
Glen Waverley Uniting Church
in Room 1 on
Monday 13 April 2015, at 2.30pm

The Agenda includes:

- Annual Report
- Audited Annual Accounts
- Reappointment of Auditor
- Guest Speaker: Rebecca Seiber from
UnitingCare Life Assist
- Election of Committee Members

Pam McDonald - Secretary
27 February, 2015.

The Christian Church in the World

In Laos, Church Leaders Imprisoned for Praying:

On 12 February a People's Court ruled that five Christian leaders - pastors (Mrs) Kaithong, Puphet Muk and Hasadee, as well as lay-leader Tiang - were guilty of a criminal offence causing death. They had been arrested in June 2014 as they gathered to mourn the death of a Mrs Chan after a lengthy illness. Because they had prayed with Mrs Chan, the Christians were deemed to have practised medicine without a licence, for which they were issued huge fines and sentenced to nine months in prison. The Christians were denied legal representation. This is gross injustice and abuse of power by authorities who just want to intimidate and persecute church leaders. Prison conditions in Laos are appalling and torture is routine. Please pray for Laos and its Church.

Nigeria's Polls Postponed; Boko Haram To Face Regional Force:

An 8,700-strong regional force is being formed to finally destroy Boko Haram. Comprising troops from Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Benin, the force's expected deployment is in March. Boko Haram has driven some 1.5 million Nigerians from their homes, with around one million in Maiduguri (Borno capital) and some 155,000 in Niger, Chad and Cameroon where Boko Haram has escalated attacks recently. The Nigerian elections have been postponed to 28 March and the Opposition is protesting vigorously. Concerns are that if opposition elements riot then the insecurity will only benefit Boko Haram. Pray for the Church in Nigeria's mixed, volatile Middle Belt and for vulnerable Christian communities in the Muslim north. Please pray for the traumatised and devastated Christian communities across southern Niger and northern Cameroon. Prayer: Psalm 46.

From Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletin

Let us look to the Gospel of John, Chapter 3, Verses 14-21.

"For God so Loved the World, that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him, may not perish but may have eternal life."

"Those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."



**GLEN WAVERLEY UNITING CHURCH
ADULT FELLOWSHIP**

**ANNUAL FUNDRAISING
LUNCHEON**

TUESDAY 5th MAY 2015

11am

Guest Speaker

PHILLIP JOHNSON

Landscape gardener extraordinaire

Followed by lunch

Tickets: Talk & Lunch \$20.00 Talk only \$10.00

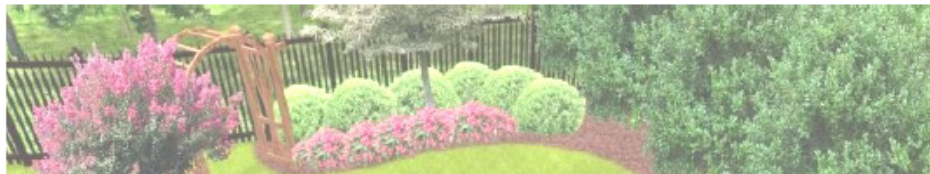
We hope that you will be able to join us and enjoy listening to this
Chelsea Flower Show Gold Winner.

Tickets available until Friday 24th April from

Barbara Thompson 9802 3980, Margaret Duncan 9803 1507

or The Church Office 9560 3580.

Phillip's recently released book 'Connected' will be available



A Letter to the Congregation

Dear Friends,

The March Congregation meeting agreed that we should advertise the Children and Families position. Church Council has developed a position description for this purpose and this description has been forwarded to Presbytery for their input.

Also, at the Congregation meeting there was a request for Church Council to undertake a survey about a proposal to combine the 9.15am and 11am Sunday services. A survey form has been designed and will be distributed after Easter. We would really appreciate if every member of the Congregation completed the survey.

During March we welcomed Julie Hall, a candidate for the ordained ministry, who has commenced her field placement with us. Julie's field placement is from March to October 2015. A lay consultative group has been formed to support Julie during her placement. We pray that Julie will find this an enriching experience.

When you visit the 'Sacred Space' you will notice a beautifully carved cross and near the base the 'empty tomb'. Please visit the 'Sacred Space' and prayerfully view the cross which has been especially designed. This 'Sacred Space' is a place where you can spend some quiet time being still and being aware of the Divine presence. In this hectic world it is often difficult to discover a place to be silent. Yet there is a longing to discover a place to nurture the soul.

The gospel of Mark (Mark 11:1-16:8) provides a day by day account of the week leading up to Easter. Marcus Borg and John Corssan wrote a book "The Last Week", a brilliant commentary on this passage; I recommend it to you very highly. As we read the scriptures we ponder Jesus' decision to go to Jerusalem.

This Easter may we each accept the invitation to listen and gaze with those who stood at the foot of the cross of Jesus. May we be enabled to encounter the words of Jesus in new ways so we become spiritually refreshed.

Grace and peace,

Helen Stewart - Chair of Church Council

Material Aid Offering for Open Family

Glen Waverley Uniting Church Outreach Group has introduced a “material aid offering” to our worship services on the second Sunday of each month. The offering on 12 April will be in aid of Open Family.

Open Family/Whitelion’s Chatterbox Street Outreach Program is an after-hours assertive outreach program that works with young people who are aged between 12 and 25, who are street frequenting, homeless, or at risk of homelessness and/or engaging in risk-taking behaviour. The program utilises a modified bus as a mobile support base and is staffed by an Outreach worker from Whitelion and a team of dedicated volunteers. The bus is stocked with food, clothing, health supplies and other crisis supports. The program operates 5 nights a week from Tuesday night until Saturday night inclusive. The bus frequents known “hotspots” where there are young people at risk and not only provides a safe and supportive environment for the young people but also much needed material aid. The program is also able to provide referrals to various support services such as crisis accommodation, alcohol and other drug treatment services, medical, dental and general counselling services. The program also offers ongoing intensive case management support for young people who are assessed as being high risk.

The following is a list of things that Open Family will have use for in this program:

- Umbrellas
- Disposable wet weather ponchos
- Socks - black or white to suit male or female
- Toiletries - Deodorant, no water antibacterial hand gel (small individual bottles), packets of moist towelettes (eg: baby wipes etc)

Faye McDougall (macelc@optushome.com.au)

Looking Ahead

We will be celebrating Pentecost on Sunday 24 May.

We have invited Rev Dr Sunny Chen to be our guest preacher at both the 9.15am and 11am services that day. Sunny is chaplain at Melbourne University, teaches Greek at Pilgrim Theological College and was one of three people nominated for moderator at the last Synod meeting. Sunny is an outstanding preacher, speaker and teacher and we are delighted to have him as our guest. A little later in the year Sunny is also speaking at our 7pm service. It is great that we can invite quality speakers and preachers to come and share their gift and passion with us. Mark Sunny’s visit in your diaries so that you can be present at either service if you are able.

The Faith Development Missional Group are making plans to hold a cross cultural ministry seminar at our church. The seminar will tap in to the wisdom of others in our Presbytery. The seminar will be looking at how we can be more inclusive, reach out to our multicultural community and slowly and intentionally become a little more a cross cultural congregation. We will be looking at how to include others, respecting differences and honouring our different traditions. We hope the seminar will be as near as possible to when Rev Sunny Chen visits. Look out for more information.

Rev Neil Peters

Early Signs of Later Life

Yesterday we mentioned Barbara’s daughter, who cried on her first day of school because she didn’t want to go home. Barbara’s daughter is now in her 31st year of teaching.

See if you can guess what occupation Peter’s sister, Ineke, embarked upon. “Ineke came home and got a small wooden box to stand on and started ‘preaching’ to anyone who would listen.”

“Yes, Ineke has now been preaching for over 50 years as a Uniting Church Minister.”

From Herald Sun - 4 March 2015

Kenya Again 2015

We are going to Kenya again, June and July 2015, in order to assist the children of the Cherish Exchange Foundation.



Last year's Food Project of \$10,000 has helped to feed the 110 children daily (approx \$0.30 per child per day). However, the falling Australian Exchange rate means that we need to raise \$11,000 this year to provide the same Kenyan Shilling value. Also due to the increase in Kenyan food prices (due to the poor summer rains in 2014 and 2015), they really need more money than this.



Cherish is hoping to establish a Chicken Project to sell the chicken 'meat' - eggs are NOT a good market as a neighbouring country has flooded the Kenyan market with eggs. They need \$5,500 to build the chicken house, purchase 150 indigenous chickens, vaccinations and food for 12 months.

If you would like to assist in these Projects you can provide donations directly to us (or into our Cherish Bank Account - see us for the BSB and Account Number).

We have some small cost items for sale between the Sunday Services - photos in small and medium frames, cards, calendars (June 2015 to July 2016), 6 placemats, and t-shirts. These items will be available between the services in April, commencing Sunday 12 April.

We are also collecting children's clothes (ages 3 to 12) in good clean condition to give to the needy children.

Lyn and Pam McDonald

9560 9798 or lynmcd@chariot.com.au

Inclusive Community Report

Prayer Chain: If you have a prayer request and you don't want it placed on the weekly prayer list, we do have a prayer chain. All requests for prayer are kept confidential and are only passed onto chain members. We don't need to know why you are requesting prayer, just a name is fine. If you are interested please contact Heather in the Office.

Seniors' Service was held last Sunday. Thanks to those who helped. We really appreciated your efforts. (Elwyn & Jan).

Medical Cards: We will be giving out small cards soon that we would like you to fill and keep in your wallet or handbag, at all times (similar to the ones that you have been given in organisations such as Probus.) These cards will be very useful if we need to contact family members or doctors, in the case of medical emergencies.

Munch with a Bunch was held on 15 March at the RSL. We had about 50 people who enjoyed lunch and fellowship together.

Transport: We are looking at alternative modes of transport for those who are unable to drive to the Church for worship and other functions. If you are finding driving difficult, would you please speak to Heather in the Office.

Light Lunch: We will provide a light lunch after the 11am service on Sunday 12 April. All welcome.

Diary Dates: 3 May - Club 2015.

17 May - Munch with a Bunch at the RSL.

24 May - Seniors' Service at 2.30pm - to be confirmed later.

Meeting: Our next Inclusive Community meeting will be on Wednesday 29 April at 2pm in Room 4 at the Church. If you have any ideas or suggestions for functions, please let us know.

Outreach Forum Thanks

Thank you to all who attended our fifth Outreach Forum held on 22nd March.

There was a great turn out and everyone enjoyed the presentation from Dr Maithri Goonetilleke. He shared with us some of the stories from his time in Swaziland working with Possible Dreams International, of which he is the founder.

Between the takings from the forum and generous donations of those present, we were very glad to be able to present him with a donation of \$400 to go towards the work of Possible Dreams International.

Amy Spark - Outreach

Finance Committee Report

The following is the first in a tri-annual report on behalf of the Finance Committee, which aims to provide the congregation with information about statistics and important events that may be of interest to you.

Dependant on the time of the year, it may be about auditing, our year to date actual vs budget financial information, proposed capital works (eg: solar panels), or a who's who in the Finance Team. In this report, I'd like to thank all members who have committed to continue to be part of our community with their offering, following our latest giving program, and also the members on the Committee itself for their time and efforts.

Finally, some draft finance information for the year ended 30 December 2014 (which was presented at the March 2015 Congregational Meeting), which shows a small deficit ie: less than \$7,000 comparing our income to expenses.

I am pleased to report that our 2015 year to date income is within \$2,000 of our budget.

Should you have any questions, please contact me via the Church Office.

Ashley Irvine - Treasurer

COP Applications 2015

The Community Outreach Group now invites applications for Congregational Outreach Project (COP) grants from 2015 Fete proceeds. The Application Form and Selection Criteria are available on the wiki at <http://wiki.gwuc.org.au/gwuc/CopProjects2015> or from the Church Office.

Completed applications need to be emailed to cop@gwuc.org.au or delivered to the office by Friday 10 April 2015.

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea at The Hub

This special morning tea will be held on Thursday 28th May, 10am till 12noon.

Staff from The Body Shop will be joining us again in this community event, as together we support the Cancer Council Victoria.

All donations will be given to the Cancer Council Victoria.

Hot Cross Bun Morning Tea at The Hub

Thank you to everyone who supported this special morning tea, and thank you to The Hub Volunteers who helped on the day.

Special thanks to Muddings Kingsway Bakery who donated all the hot cross buns and to staff from The Body Shop at The Glen who joined in helping us on the day.

Donations totalling \$428 were given to The Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal. Thank you!