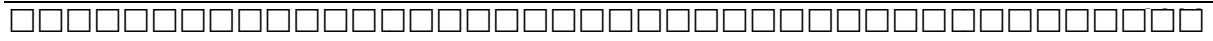




GLEN WAVERLEY UNITING CHURCH
 Cnr Bogong Ave & Kingsway GW
 Ph: 9560 3580 FAX: 9560 1735
 email: office@gwuc.org.au

NEWVIEW

OCTOBER 2010



GWUC GRAND FETE



NEXT Saturday
16th October
8.30am - 2.00pm

ONLY ONE WEEK TO GO - and lots of help is needed - so come along and share in the fun and fellowship of this great event.

Talk to any of the members of the FETE committee if you want to offer your help, or need more information.

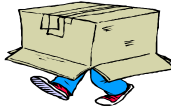
PEOPLE and more PEOPLE needed on Thursday 14th and Friday 15th to help get ready - and of course we need LOTS of help on the Saturday after the Fete to clean up.

PRE-LOVED CLOTHING not sold will be given to CARE Broadmeadows
 PRE-LOVED BOOKS not sold will be given to NADRASCA - Vermont

DONATIONS WELCOME FOR ALL STALLS - so start your spring cleaning early and sort out your books, clothes, trash 'n treasure etc ITEMS FOR THE FETE can be brought to the church during the week - and left in Room 4. Please do not leave goods in the foyer. Remember - we cannot take electrical items or mattresses.



FETE COMMITTEE
 Murray Lowe 9885 8514: Yan Emms 0419 365 913
 Cliff Baker 9802 8990 Judy Fry 9561 3031
 Faye Wagon 9560 7598



\$2 PICK-A-BOX - This is a favourite stall with the little ones. **PLEASE** return boxes-filled with items of new product to the specially marked box in the foyer ASAP. [Lollies must be wrapped-and **NO NUT** products.]



PLANTS - can be delivered to the church on the Friday prior to the fete.



PRE-LOVED CLOTHES -Items for this stall can be brought to the church anytime during the week prior to the fete.

MORNING TEA - Devonshire Tea. Any donations of freshly baked scones would be welcomed. *These are to be delivered on the morning of the Fete.*



BOOKS - take a few minutes and dig out unwanted books and magazines as a contribution to this stall.

ALSO WANTED: TOYS, GAMES, PUZZLES etc.



U.C.A.F. CAKE STALL - Your contribution to this very popular stall would be very much welcomed. *Remember - no cream cakes. It is requested that cakes are placed on paper plates [not polystyrene trays/meat trays].* **IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO BAKE AND WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION, USE A 'BAKELESS CAKE SALE' envelope from the office**

counter or talk to Alison Barr. For more information contact Dianne Sides [9561 4961].



COLLECTION OF ITEMS FOR THE STALLS. If you require items to be collected for the FETE, add your name, address and telephone number to the list on the table in the foyer and we will arrange collection.

PAINTINGS original artwork
by Margaret Frecker &
Iris Pederick.
All paintings available for sale.

CAR PARKING REMINDER

Please be aware of the council parking restrictions in the multi-storey car-park and the area near the church. *Don't let a parking fine spoil your day! The parking officers are very diligent!*

FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD.

Enjoy lunch at the Fete.

Asian Food, Sausage Sizzle, Hamburgers, Pizzas, Drinks, Sweets & Fairy Floss.

NEW STALL – [TOOLS]

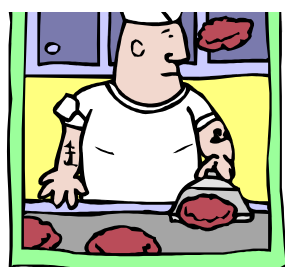
There will be a new stall at the Fete this year, and your support of this stall will benefit Habitat for Humanity. **SO HAVE A LOOK** - on the front lawn near the plant stall.

CHRISTMAS CARDS ON SALE - proceeds to Strathdon, Orana Family Care, SHARE, and Ryder-Cheshire Homes

Staying Healthy with **FREE** online **Food Safety Training**

Whether you prepare food for your family, friends, church group or others in the community, it is important to be aware of food safety standards. A clear understanding of safe food handling procedures is invaluable in the prevention of many common *food-borne illnesses*.

Mostly unpleasant and inconvenient for the sufferer, some conditions can have devastating and life-threatening effects, especially for vulnerable groups such as the very young or old. ***Everyone can benefit from greater knowledge in the area of food safety.***



The Victorian department of health has recently launched a new online food safety training course called '**Do Food Safely**'. This course costs nothing and provides participants with basic training, information and advice in regard to safe methods of regular handling and preparation of food for others. *You do not need any prior knowledge or qualification to do this course.* It takes as little as one hour all up, but can be done at your own pace and in any order of topic.

Current Uniting Church Food Safety Supervisors use this site to 'refresh' their knowledge but we would encourage ANYONE to consider doing the course. Though a certificate is issued upon successful completion, it does not replace existing Food Safety Supervisor Training provided through a registered training organisation.

The Uniting Church has taken seriously its responsibility of providing a safe and healthy kitchen, and food service facility and is grateful to all its members and user groups who follow our Food Safety Guidelines.

This online training is a wonderful opportunity for anyone wishing to improve not only their knowledge but their overall health, as well as those they serve! Just go to:

<http://dofoodsafely.health.vic.gov.au>



CAN YOU HELP? One of our church family is enjoying crocheting rugs for those in need – and is in need of more wool. If you can help my donating some wool that would be great. 8ply wool is preferred, any colours, and part used balls are okay. Please leave at the church office or give them to Faye Wagon and they will be passed to the knitter. Thank You.

BEST POEM IN THE WORLD

[contributed by Margaret Fraser]

I was shocked, confused, bewildered
As I entered Heaven's door,
Not by the beauty of it all
Nor the lights or its decor.

But it was the folks in Heaven
Who made me sputter and gasp
The thieves, the liars, the sinners
The alcoholics and the trash.

There stood the kid from seventh grade
Who swiped my lunch money twice.
Next to him was my old neighbor
Who never said anything nice

Herb, who I always thought
Was rotting away in hell,
Was sitting pretty on cloud nine
Looking incredibly well.

I nudged Jesus, 'What's the deal?
I would love to hear Your take.
How'd all these sinners get up here?
God must've made a mistake.

And why is everyone so quiet,
So sombre - give me a clue.
Hush, child,' He said, 'they're all in shock
No one thought they'd be seeing you..

JUDGE NOT!!

Remember...Just going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in your garage makes you a car.

Every saint has a PAST.
Every sinner has a FUTURE
Now it's your turn... Share this poem.



Sammy Stamp.. ..If you have any old stamp albums or collections, or boxes of stamps taking up space in a drawer somewhere, we would be very pleased to receive them at the Synod Office, 130 Little Collins Street. Each week the volunteer Sammy Stamp team comes to the Synod Office to trim, sort, or sell stamps which are sold to raise funds for many good causes. Grants were recently approved for two such causes. First was \$500 for a water cooler for the operating theatre at Helena Goldie Hospital in the Solomon Islands. The second, \$2000 to SHARE's Pakistan Flood Relief Appeal. So far in 2010, \$14,050 in grants has been approved. *Thank you for all your continued support. Please keep your supplies of used stamps coming in. STAMPS CAN BE LEFT IN OUR OFFICE HERE AT GWUC. One of the volunteers collects them and takes them in.*



EDITORIAL — Ken Coutts



We returned from a wonderful overseas holiday and attended a Choir mid-year function where we enjoyed the company of about 25 people who are all church members and heavily involved in a variety of activities both internally and externally undertaking a variety of supportive outreach and pastoral activities. Yet, we sometimes take for granted the close friendships and affinities which have been fostered over many, many years. In my case it is even more relevant and apparent after we return home, to hear and see of so many activities and supportive endeavours across just the small group of people who we are closely associated with within the large GWUC.

It is also wonderful to listen and hear to the various choirs and musical groups who play such a significant role within our congregation. We are very fortunate to have the skills and capabilities to deliver a variety of conventional and modern music to the various elements of our congregation through the dedicated practice and rehearsals which are routinely attended by many people.

Christianity plays a fundamental role in our lives not only through our physical attendance at Church and its many relevant outreach activities, where we participate and contribute, but also in our attitudes and behaviours. I remain troubled as to the ongoing dismissive attitude toward Christianity that flows through much of public life and as portrayed by both the print and electronic media.

This was recently highlighted very well in the magazine *A Catalyst*, where it referred to an article in *The Weekend Australian* by Angela Shanahan and pointed out that there is a "widespread opposition" to public figures with "strong religious beliefs" being allowed to participate in politics. The article commented that the implication is that Christians are entitled to their private views, but unlike other groups such as Buddhists, Muslims, Jews and atheists they must not promote their views in public life. But whilst I recognise some of these views, I find it disturbing that the contributions of so many Christians to the broader issue of our Australian and Western

Culture will not only be excluded but the more fundamental challenge of injecting Christian beliefs into contemporary matters of debate will be foiled. Even more annoying and concerning is the recent framework of debate on a range of human issues, human life, human rights and freedom of conscience issues where many "civil libertarian" subjects are debated with religious points of view suppressed or repressed in the name of political freedom. I reject these notions. I worry that our traditional Christian values and teachings are being "legitimately" excluded from public debate and the louder, currently more acceptable, voice of libertarians can gain a greater focus and prominence. I want people with strong Christian views to have the opportunity to engage and participate in public debate and to have a significant input as a means of ensuring that legislation and resultant changes, which impact all of our lives, engage all segments of our community. Also, importantly we need to ensure that the "Christian voice" gets a say and is considered as relevant.○

SENSELESS

*I wear dark glasses while in the sun's glare.
For some that is needless since
childhood glaucoma blinded their eyes.
Forever darkness.*

*I wear ear-muffs while mowing the lawn.
For some that is pointless since
industrial noise stole their hearing.
Forever silence.*

*I wear a mask while scouring the kitchen.
For some that is useless since
their only home is a toxic landfill.
Forever stench.*

*I wear a bib while savouring a meal.
For some that's irrelevant since
drought and disease devastated their crops.
Forever starvation.*

*I wear gloves while the weather is cold.
For some that's impossible since
old land mines blew away their hands.
Forever unfeeling.*

*My WorkSafe clothing never protects me
from the misfortunes of 'les misérables'.
Jesus forever challenges:
"Where is your compassion?"*



time to reflect



*Graeme Frecker
[2006]*





MEET JUDITH GREENWOOD

written by Cynthia Chin

Busy people are always advised to learn how to say 'no' to getting involved in either volunteer work or a voluntary project. However, it always turns out that these people take on more and more. Hence, the saying 'if you want something done, ask a busy person'. Is this due to the fact that a busy person

is better organized or that he or she gets his or her priorities in order? Who better to check with than Judith Greenwood!

When I first met Judith she was involved with KUCA (Kids of the Uniting Church in Australia), a group of 7 to 12 year old school children who met once a fortnight, with the highlight being a camp each year. Judith was part of a team of 3 or 4 leaders who ran this for about 15 years. The group disbanded when new leaders could not be found.

When GWUC ran the Occasional Child Care as an outreach activity, Judith joined as a committee member and volunteer and then became part of the staff. She thoroughly enjoyed the involvement with young kids up to 5 years of age and their mums. The idea was to give mothers a little break from their young ones while they used the time to keep doctor's appointments etc. In the last few years of its existence, Connections (part of the UC) ran it, but sadly this ended owing to various factors. Judith was involved in this for about 17 years.

When you think of Judith, you also think of craft and the fete. Together with Laurel Muir and Margaret Lemke, Judith has been co-ordinating the craft stall for a very long time. Preparations for the craft stall used to be held at the Greenwoods' place one morning a week a few months before the fete. However, these days people who are interested in helping take home 'job lots' to work on at their leisure. So craft preparations for Judith are like being 'on the factory floor' - buying stuff, cutting up, making samples, delivering, collecting and then, of course, the actual setting up for the fete. After the fete, it's back to

repacking the leftovers into boxes! Judith and her group see the craft stall as a way of raising money to help other people through COP (Congregational Outreach Projects) which is what the fete is all about.

There is a small group of people at GWUC who teach CRE (Christian Religious Education) at Glenallen Special School and Judith is one of them. She has been doing this for about 20 years with Noreen Rodgers. Most of the children at the school are in wheelchairs or use standing frames and many are not able to communicate. With music and stories Judith, Noreen and other volunteers help the children to know that God loves them. A smile on a child's face is often all the response Judith gets, but it is enough to make teaching CRE worthwhile.

At GWUC we have what is known as FISH (Families in Sharing Homes) groups. Together with husband Warren and Sue and David Morgan, Judith co-ordinates all FISH groups by updating family particulars, inviting new families to join a group and also helps to coordinate the annual GWUC Christmas lunch. In the Greenwoods' own FISH group, they organize to meet about every 6 weeks while Judith is also the pastoral care person for this group. At the moment she is helping Jan Clear, the Newcomers Group Coordinator to organize new FISH groups for recent newcomers. FISH groups are a wonderful way of getting to know people better and this is like belonging to a smaller church family. FISH

groups also offer support, friendship and a time for sharing.

A regular activity each year towards Christmas is 'Christmas Alight', an advent workshop for pre-school and primary school children. Since it began about 8 years ago, Judith has been part of the group organizing this and in particular, craft activities, for the children. The event includes drama, singing and craft activities and is once again a wonderful outreach event.

Another regular event which takes place every second year in GWUC is the 'Easter Event', an activity for primary school children which shows them, and helps them to experience, the real Easter story. It is a fascinating event which involves make-believe caves and volunteers dressed in the garments of Jesus' day. It opens up a whole new world to children who have never been exposed to stories from the bible. This event takes place before Easter and involves several local schools. Judith is one of the hostesses who takes a group of children through different rooms as they listen to the Easter story. GWUC takes turns to hold this with the Holy Family Church in Mount Waverley. Next year, however, the Easter Event will be held right on our doorstep at GWUC.

Another regular commitment which Judith has is being on the roster for KAT (Kids' Activity Time) when she and other volunteers organize and help children with an activity that takes place during the sermon at the 9 am service. This allows parents of young children to be able to focus on the ministry of the word.

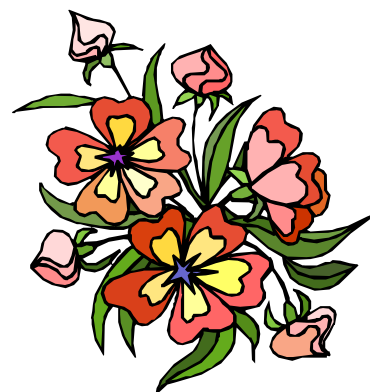
Last but not least, the Community Hub operates on Tuesdays and Thursdays (term time) from 10 am to 2 pm at GWUC. A group of rostered volunteers welcomes anyone who cares to have a cuppa and a chat, enjoy some company or just relax. The Hub aims to make a connection with the community and in this they have had some

measure of success and some wonderful stories to tell. Judith sits on the Hub Committee and does the Volunteer Roster as well as writes reports and bakes biscuits for these very pleasant sessions. She has a great passion for the Hub as she feels that it is something that God has called her to be a part of.

If you think that Judith has enough on her plate, please think again. She tells me that she has just joined the Newcomers' Group this year. A lunch for newcomers is held at intervals throughout the year when newly arrived members get to meet other members of the congregation who have been attending GWUC for much longer. She says "it is a great way to get to know new people at GWUC."

Apart from all these activities, Judith makes time for her family: husband, three children and their families which includes six grandchildren, with another one on the way. She also makes time for her parents and her friends. Yet when you meet Judith, you see a serene, calm and very warm person who shows no signs of stress. She just gets on with what she has to do without any fuss or bother. There is something to be said for keeping this active and remaining unfazed!

Footnote: If you want to know Judith's secret or are interested in any of the above activities, please see Judith Greenwood.



THIS DEVOTION WAS GIVEN BY JOHN KENEZ AT A RECENT MEETING OF THE MENS' FELLOWSHIP

A few weeks ago on the ABC Sunday night's Compass session, I was watching the story of Cheri Blair, the wife of the former British Prime Minister, Tony Blair. This was the 3rd part of a story on the past and present development of Christianity.

Cherie grew up in Liverpool in the 1950s. Her actor father left her mother, when Cheri was 8 years old, and she and her sister were brought up by their mother and grandmother, who were devout Roman Catholics. She studied in a Catholic school in Liverpool and already during her school years she noticed that there were many parish churches with very poor attendance - or being even closed down. Later she was studying law at the London School of Economics and became a barrister. As a barrister and after 1980 when she married Tony Blair, she had the opportunity to travel widely and noticed the great differences in the state and development of Christian congregations in America and Africa on one side - as against the United Kingdom and continental Europe on the other side.

A former school friend in Liverpool, now a Jesuit Priest, commented, that while in the 1970s about 70% of the people in Britain considered themselves as being Christians - by now about 70% have no religious affiliation. Many consider that this development started following the great loss of manpower and assets during the First World War and continued through the years of the great depression and the Second World War. From the 1950s on the profound social changes in personal relationships, migration and economy, further eroded the authority of the churches and the observance of their basic tenets. The leaders of the Roman Catholic and Protestant churches were too slow to

counteract the criticism of their respective congregations - with the exception of Pope John XXIII. In 1959 Pope John XXIII convened the 2nd Ecumenical Council of the Vatican. His aim being "to open the windows of the Church so that we can see out and people can see in", but following the social changes and the increasing number of charges against the widespread sexual misconduct by priests, there was a reaction to "close the windows again".

Many leaders and members of congregations are deeply worried about the future of the mainstream denominations. As one Church of England minister put it: if we do not change to make our service more relevant, we may finish off as quaint, retirement village like groups!

As a way out and possible future development of Christianity in the UK and Europe. Cheri highlights the current spectacular growth in the USA and in Africa. In the USA currently there are approximately some 3000 Roman Catholic parishes each with 2000 or more weekly attendants. The development of the protestant, mainly Baptist or Pentecostal mega-churches, very often outside the main denominations, gave quite significant spiritual and also political power to Christians in the USA. However, five of the ten largest protestant Churches are in South Korea. Most of these churches and their services do not follow any traditional design of the building, or the service. They are large halls with large open spaces, so that the entire congregations can see and hear. There are up-to-date facilities for video presentations and projections. Often there is only little strict formal service - worshippers may come and go as they wish. There are needs for large car parks, so often the churches have to be located on the outskirts of large cities.

Devotion

In northern Africa the conquest by the Islamic Caliphate around 700AD made Catholicism a minority religion, but recently there has been tremendous growth in Christianity in most of sub-Saharan Africa. Christianity is extremely popular amongst the blacks, coloureds and whites and by the year 2000 there were an estimated 380 million Christians, many of them Pentecostals and Charismatics. Many of the estimated over half a million congregations are completely unknown in the West. While remaining true to its basic beliefs, Christianity in Africa has become a distinctly Africanized faith with elements of traditional beliefs and culture. The viability of these indigenous churches has transformed the African continent into a new Christian heartland.

Because of these encouraging developments, Cheri is convinced that there is a future for Christianity also in Europe, once the churches put their message and services in forms relevant to today's audiences. Such moves, such as Fresh Expressions, which aim to develop new ways to connect worship and mission within our changing society, are already existing also in the Uniting Church - and our congregation in Glen Waverley is also considering them.

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, help us to observe and follow the teaching of Paul's on understanding and tolerance, as stated in Chapter 9 of his first letter to the Corinthians [vv19-23]:-



FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

The first print of 'Food for the Journey', a collection of recipes and devotional material [helping to sustain our bodies and our spirits] which has been prepared by the National Adult Fellowship Committee, has sold rapidly at \$10 a copy. Proceeds from the sale of these books, being sold in every Synod, go to the John Flynn Foundation, for ongoing support of patrol ministries. Early this month a cheque for \$8000 was handed to the Rev. Gregor Henderson, chairperson of the Foundation.

A copy of 'Food for the Journey' would be a perfect Christmas gift for friends and relations. Available from Nahum Hall at the UCAF office - 9251 5255.

Tassie Forests

The forest is a living, breathing thing

Not static as we think.

A tree dies, falls down
and lets the sunlight in.
Another species grows up
and if this is multiplied
A whole forest can be changed
over time.

A bushfire can run through
The eucalypts all die.
But other seeds germinate
then they too gain life.

The logs are homes for animals
for insects and fungi
And even make a table
for we travellers passing by.

Gale O'Brien



Greetings from Greg and the Ministry Team

Alpha Course

On 11 October we had the last night of the Alpha Course. We have had up to 20 people at our sessions, one of which included a Saturday down at Hastings. The members of the group have enjoyed the dessert, fellowship, singing and the discussions. One of the questions we talked about is "What difference has your relationship with God made in your life?" We don't often share our experience of God, so it took a little while to answer the question. As some people began to share we started to recognise how different our life would be if we had not asked God to be a key part of our lives.



I have found the Alpha course has been a good refresher for people about the basics of our faith - not only learning about prayer and healing, but praying for each other and sharing our experiences of our encounters with God. It has also given us the opportunity to get to know each other, our cultural backgrounds and experiences in the church. Let me know if you are interested in being part of the next Alpha course.

Ministry Team

The Ministry Team has had the joy of being involved in a number of weddings recently. Weddings are an important part of our ministry, but also a fun part. We have the privilege of caring for people and families in important times in their lives including those where major health issues have overtaken people. We have also shared in the mourning for a number of our church members as we have shared with grieving families in preparing for Funerals and Thanksgiving services. Thank you for your prayers and support in these important aspects of our ministry and that of our congregation.

GWUC Pastoral Team

To help the Ministry Team exercise the pastoral care in our congregation we are forming a Pastoral Team. This team is a group of people who have been chosen to form a pastoral unit at GWUC. The role of the Pastoral team is :-

- assist the Ministry Team with pastoral situations that arise in the congregation,
- at times be the first point of contact with pastoral issues,
- meet monthly with the Ministry team,
- undergo training in pastoral care,
- be commissioned for the role,
- have name badge so they can be identified in the role,
- this role is distinct from the pastoral visitors who have a group people they care for,
- personal information will only be shared with the Ministry Team as appropriate,
- have a current Police Check.

The Pastoral team will be a valuable addition to the pastoral ministry of our congregation and the team will be commissioned on 7 November.



Ministry to Seniors News

NEXT SERVICE

Sunday 5th December - 11.00am

Preacher: The Moderator - Isabel Thomas Dobson

Ministry to Seniors : Alison Dingwall

Support Group: Lois Hosking, Graham Lockhart,
Kaye Mackinnon, Elwyn Pederson, John Pooley.

Prayer Book

can be found on the Prayer Book Stand in the foyer and **you are warmly invited to enter Prayer Requests.**

This book will be brought into the church each Sunday, with the offering, and prayer requests will be mentioned in our **PRAYERS**

FOR OTHERS - If the prayer request is for another person you must obtain their permission for their name to be used.

We must move from asking God to take care of the things that are breaking our hearts, to praying about the things that are breaking His heart.

For everything there is a season and a

time for every matter under heaven . . .

We record with sadness the deaths of members of our church family and we give our love, support and sympathy to their families.

Max Bartlett, Trevor Nixon, and Christopher Stork,



We celebrate the marriage of:

Alison Dingwall and Brian Clarkson on 2nd October.



We record with joy the Blessing & Thanksgiving service for Theophilus Alexander Budirahardjo.



GRAHAM KENDRICK

Graham Kendrick has been described as a 'father of modern worship music' whose songs are crammed full of poetic, divine, biblical truth that have 'sculpted a view of God that has impacted generations.' For more than 30 years he has been at the forefront of Christian music in the UK, having written and recorded hundreds of songs, many which are well known around the world, including *Shine, Jesus, Shine*, *Knowing You*, *The Servant King*, and *Amazing Love*.

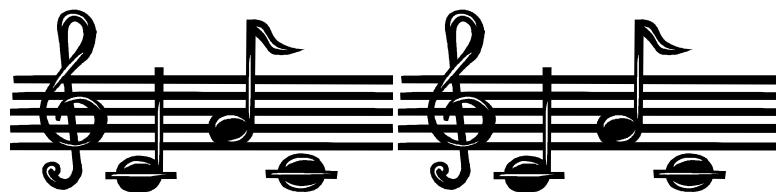
Graham is based in the UK and travels internationally participating in tours, festivals, conferences and training events, as a worship leader, speaker and performer.

Graham Kendrick was born in 1950 in Northamptonshire, England, the son of a Baptist pastor. By the end of the 20th century, Kendrick was probably the best known composer of contemporary worship songs and choruses in the English language. Usually he writes the lyrics for his own music. He was trained as a teacher, but launched out as a singer-songwriter in 1972, soon producing such albums as *Footsteps on the Sea*, and *Paid on the Nail*.



As well as being popular in small churches, his music has been sung at Billy Graham crusade meetings, Promise Keeper rallies and a four-million strong open-air gathering in Manila, where Pope John Paul II "swung his cane in time to the music". In 1986 he co-founded the global March for Jesus which began in Soho, London and grew to involve about 55 million people worldwide by the end of the century. He and his wife, Jill, own the company Make Way Music. In 1995 he received a Dove Award and in 2000 was awarded an honorary doctorate from Brunel University in recognition of his contribution to Christian worship.

Hymns in *Together in Song*, written by Graham Kendrick - - - 256, 670, 675, 690.



thank you

This is the last edition of Newview that I will put together. After being involved with Newview for over 20 years, it is time to pass it on to someone new. I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to all those many people who have supported me, encouraged me, and most of all made contributions of articles and stories.

My grateful thanks to all. Faye Wagon

Return to Kenya

Dec 2010 - Jan 2011

The crew is returning to Kenya this Christmas to continue the relationship with Mission in Action and the surrounding community, expressing their faith in a different context through serving where there is need. There is a growing number of people joining the crew, beginning with five from Melbourne and three from the U.S, with others showing interest in the past couple of weeks.

For those who are new to the Kenya project, a group of young adults from Glen Waverley Uniting Church volunteered in Kenya at Mission in Action during Dec 2009 - Jan 2010. Mission in Action is an orphanage run by an Australian couple who care for 43 children from a variety of challenging backgrounds and has a wider purpose of missional outreach in the local community. They now have the first stage of a school in operation, a general store and a hairdresser. They employ evangelists who identify needs in the community and work to meet these needs with the support of Mission in Action sponsors.

Whilst at Mission in Action, the crew will assist in the daily running of the orphanage (cooking, laundry, AM/PM childcare, nappy changes) as well as preparations for the opening of the new Mission 2 building and new school room which will include painting, and setting up furniture. They will also install water tanks in the local community as well as delivering basic supplies, education packs, clothing and if they're lucky, they'll get the chance to walk a cow or deliver some chickens to someone for Christmas.

It's hard to explain the attachment you get to a place like Kenya, particularly when you reflect on the children at the orphanage and in the community and the warmth with which you are greeted when you enter people's homes. The reality of their poverty and our affluence hits hardest when you return and you're faced with day to day decisions regarding excess of everything - food, material possessions and reflect on just how complex we've made our lives. The faith of these people who remain so positive and happy even in such absolute poverty is so humbling and you certainly kick yourself when you find yourself complaining about trivial things. So of course, after such an amazing experience and such a purposeful month of our lives, where our faith, beliefs and values were put into action, there was no hesitation when asked if we'd be returning to Kenya - of course, why wouldn't we?

How can you help?

In the coming months there will a number of opportunities for you to support the Kenya project including:

Africa Reflections Book - \$20 (Order from the GWUC office).

Africa 2011 Calendar - Coming soon... it will be a great Christmas gift for friends, family and work colleagues.

Pinewood Movie Outing - "Made in Dagenham" (from the creators of Calendar Girls).

Date and time to be advised.

Africa Gig featuring Jason Mann and other artists (Nov/Dec)

It's not too late to come to Kenya! Maybe this is an exposure opportunity you are being called to...

more over page

Speak to Alanee Hearnshaw or Kat Mann if you're interested in coming (Dates: 19th Dec - 17th Jan)

We've had a few questions about how much of our fundraising goes to Mission in Action and their surrounding community and we'd like to assure you that 100% of money raised goes directly to Mission in Action's projects and to helping their community. All of our travel and accommodation costs are personally funded. If you would like to make a donation towards the Kenya project, please see Alanee or the church office.





The SUPPORTIVE CARE LINK is happening almost all of the time - transport, meals, shopping, home help - for special needs regularly occur - and occasionally unexpected needs appear - but all are met because of the generosity and kindness of people who offered to provide the service needed.

Thank you to all who share in such pastoral care. *If you feel you would like to contribute in practical ways when needed, please speak to Laurel Muir [9560 1518].*

Everytime you help you are a partner in pastoral care.

CHRISTMAS CARDS.

ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE.

PURCHASE OF THESE CARDS WILL HELP SUPPORT THE WORK OF UC SHARE, STRATHDON, ORANA FAMILY CARE and RYDER CHESHIRE HOMES.

Faye Wagon



NCYC 2011

The National Christian Youth Convention is a Uniting Church event for 16 - 25 year olds and has been running biennially for more than 50 years. Held in different locations across Australia, NCYC seeks to encourage relationships between Christians and build first time or deeper personal relationships with God.

NCYC11 will be held from Wednesday 29 December 2010 to Tuesday 4 January 2011 at The Southport School on the Gold Coast.

For more information, please visit: <http://ncyc11.com.au>

NCYC Music launch

The NCYC music site is now live, offering songwriters the ability to submit music to be used during worship at NCYC11.

The site also offers users the ability to download music, lyric sheets and chord charts for worship in local congregations.

For more information, please visit: <http://ncycmusic.com.au>