



10<sup>th</sup> August 2018

## **Notes and news for Yarra Yarra Congregations and Institutions**

*As usual, the newsletter contains two sections. The first has information directly related to Yarra Yarra Presbytery, and this is followed by information about items which may be of interest to your congregations.*

*Please identify other items relevant to your community, and promote the issues and events listed below through your own newsletters and other communication channels as appropriate. There is much going on, so please take a few minutes to review.*

*Please ensure that items for the next edition are sent in by the end of the month.*

### **PRESBYTERY NEWS**

#### **Welcome to Rev Liz McMillan**

A warm welcome to our new Presbytery Minister, Rev Liz McMillan, who was inducted into her new role at the Presbytery meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> August. Commencing just a couple of days later, Liz has already become tightly integrated into the Presbytery leadership team, and is looking forward to getting to know both Ministry agents and congregations over the next few months. We also thank Rev Lynette Dungan as she returns to her placement at Warrandyte after providing supply assistance for the past three months.



#### **Ministers and Pastors Conference**

As you receive this newsletter, the Yarra Yarra and Port Phillip East Presbyteries are combining for the 2018 Ministers and Pastors Conference, at Pallotti College. The registrations have been encouraging, but there is still scope for us to find out why some Ministers and Pastors don't feel that this annual event is part of their timetable. Church Councils are encouraged to have a discussion with Ministers about why they did or did not attend; any feedback to the Presbytery will be helpful.

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Chairperson	Ross Pearce	0437 561 833	<a href="mailto:rgpearce.au@gmail.com">rgpearce.au@gmail.com</a>
Presbytery Ministers	Dan Wootton	03 9857 1000	<a href="mailto:dwootton@victas.uca.org.au">dwootton@victas.uca.org.au</a>
	Liz McMillan	0419 884 736	<a href="mailto:liz.mcmillan@victas.uca.org.au">liz.mcmillan@victas.uca.org.au</a>
Secretary	Geoffrey Grinton	03 9857 1003	<a href="mailto:pyy.secretary@victas.uca.org.au">pyy.secretary@victas.uca.org.au</a>

## **Call for nominations**

This is the time of year for seeking nominations for Presbytery leadership positions and committee membership for the year from March 2019. It may sound early, but we have found that by ensuring that appointments are made at the last meeting of Presbytery each year there is time for preparation, transition and planning. The formal Call for Nominations documents will be circulated shortly, but please start thinking of people in your congregation or faith community who would be able to contribute to leadership in the Presbytery. We know that most nominations arise because an approach made by someone, so every member and Church Council should see this as a task to be welcomed.

## **Planning and Build Advice — Contractor Engagements**

Church Councils should have received new information about engaging contractors from the Synod's Property Services Unit.

The primary message is that the UCA OH&S policy requires that all contractors working on or at property undertake an Online Health & Safety Induction Course. This is available on line at <http://www.inductme.com.au/uca>. The Induction Course must be undertaken by all persons who will carry out the Works, including employees and all subcontractors.

For further support from The Uniting Church in Australia Property Services team, please call 9251 5949 or email [property@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:property@victas.uca.org.au)

## **FREE ENGLISH CLASSES**

Everyone likes something that is free, and what better way to ensure that there are opportunities than by becoming a volunteer.

Several congregations in our Presbytery are part of a network offering free English Classes, and we are aware of programmes at Burwood Heights, Burwood and Melbourne Wesley. The Burwood Heights programme (ECOS, for English Conversation for Overseas Students) meets from 7pm to 9pm on Sunday evenings. For more information, contact Barry Horn, tel 0419 302 334. Learners and volunteers are equally welcome. Information about other programs can be found at <https://www.youenglishcorner.net/melbourne.html>

## **SHARE SUNDAY 2018**

Share Sunday celebrates the amazing array of community services being undertaken by our agencies, parish missions and congregations. These community services are an expression of our call as disciples of Jesus Christ to serve those at the margins and to love our neighbour. Share is now part of Uniting, the community services organisation of the Church in Victoria and

Tasmania, continuing the legacy of Share and Share Sunday.

This year's focus of "Faith in Action" might be the time to have a shared-lunch, and to invite some of the local Uniting staff or volunteers or a Uniting board member along to present in worship or afterwards.

The Share Sunday 2018 resources offer a full worship service including:

- A sample service outline, including a liturgy, sermon and suggested hymns;
- A PowerPoint presentation; and
- Stories of people supported by the church's faithful generosity.

You are encouraged to adapt the material to suit your context and congregation(s) on a Sunday of your choice.

To request a copy of the Share Sunday resources, contact Deborah Loh:

P: (03) 9192 8101 or E: [Deborah.Loh@vt.uniting.org](mailto:Deborah.Loh@vt.uniting.org)

### **BOOK LAUNCH**

John Bodycomb has just published another book... this time wearing his 'sociologist of religion' hat. The book, *Two Elephants in the Room*, will be launched on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September, at 5:00pm, at Manningham Uniting Church, Westfield Drive, Doncaster, Vic. The launch will be followed by light refreshments. You are invited to attend; please RSVP to Lorraine Parkinson at [parki@netspace.net.au](mailto:parki@netspace.net.au)

### **MIND, BODY, SPIRIT**

At the next Mind, Body, Spirit session the speaker will be Dr Peter Sherwen, formerly a GP in North Balwyn and a Palliative care doctor for 20 years – now working at Caritas Christi Hospice, Epworth Hospital and for Eastern Palliative Care community service. His topic will be "Decision making at the end of life". Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September from 5:30–7.30pm . The talk will be followed by soup and then a short reflective service. North Balwyn Uniting Church, 17–21 Duggan St, Balwyn North. Enquiries to Nell Potter, tel 9857 8412 (Wed–Fri, 10am–4pm) or to [mail@nbuc.org.au](mailto:mail@nbuc.org.au).

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*If you have information that you wish to have distributed through this newsletter, please ensure that it is submitted by the start of the month in which the item is to appear. I plan to try to send newsletters out in the third week, so that means if your event occurs early in the month, you will need to have it submitted by the start of the **previous** month.*

*The newsletter is sent to Church Council Secretaries. If you should not be receiving it, please contact me at [pyy.secretary@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:pyy.secretary@victas.uca.org.au) with the name of your congregation and the name of the correct person.*