



18<sup>th</sup> August 2021

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

*As usual, the newsletter contains a number of 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. It is helpful if you can provide text, rather than copies of fliers which need to be transcribed and summarised. Please include contact information for those seeking more information.*

### **PRESBYTERY NEWS**

#### **Presbytery Meeting**

Members of Presbytery have been advised that the next meeting of the Presbytery will take place on Saturday 28th August on Zoom.

The agenda will include:

- A presentation by Peter Thomas, Director Property Services, about Essential Safety Measures that will impact every congregation
- A presentation by Rev Clare Brockett from Uniting Agewell
- A report and proposal about a change to the Presbytery staffing model
- Further activity about the way we relate to CALD congregations
- A report and proposal regarding the formation of a Covenanting Working Group
- Further discussion about the nature and expectations of congregations and presbytery oversight

#### **Annual Survey Responses are now (over)due**

Most Congregations have by now completed the annual Community Life and Financial Surveys conducted by the Synod. The Presbytery receives the information provided in the responses, and that is particularly helpful as we look at our current and future strategies. If your congregation has not yet completed the surveys, please do so as a matter of urgency, using the information in the email sent to your congregation about the process.

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| Presbytery Ministers | Liz McMillan     | 03 9857 1002 | <a href="mailto:liz.mcmillan@victas.uca.org.au">liz.mcmillan@victas.uca.org.au</a>     |
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| Secretary            | Geoffrey Grinton | 03 9857 1003 | <a href="mailto:pyy.secretary@victas.uca.org.au">pyy.secretary@victas.uca.org.au</a>   |

## **Congregation Naming Convention**

The Presbytery recently received correspondence from the General Secretary advising us of the adoption of a standard convention for congregation names. We are advised that the criteria to be used will assist in providing clarity and consistency for any future naming of congregations that may be established or result from an amalgamation. The criteria are:

- The name must indicate a location – a location which would be recognisable to external users, preferably a town or suburb;
- Saint names or street names appear in brackets following the town or suburb eg, Timbuktu (St Person) or Timbuktu (Main Street);
- For a Cluster: the name must include the word Cluster or Parish. Taking into consideration the removal of the Parish Regulations from the UCA's Constitution and Regulations, the preference is for 'Cluster' rather than 'Parish' eg, Timbuktu Cluster or Timbuktu (St Person) Cluster;
- Congregation names should not contain the words "Parish" or "Cluster" if they are only one congregation, even if they have multiple worship sites.

The aim of using these criteria across the Church is to make it easy for those seeking to locate or identify a congregation, as well as for both record keeping and record finding. It will be very helpful for presbyteries, congregations, the Synod, and individuals as resources, such as the Directory are accessed. It will also be helpful for developing continuity for use in annual returns, safe church information, etc.

While it has been clarified that it is not intended to mandate a change to existing names, the Presbytery Standing Committee requests and strongly encourages all Church Councils to give consideration to whether their name complies with the criteria above. If you wish to make change, this should be done through a minuted request to the Presbytery, since it is the Presbytery that has the responsibility to determine congregation names.

## **Online worship**

With ongoing lockdowns, here is an updated list of congregations offering online worship, and a reminder that the Synod maintains a full list of those that are known, and this is published on the Synod web site at <https://victas.uca.org.au/resources/weekly-worship/> .

The list includes the following congregations in Yarra Yarra Presbytery. Click on the underlined links to visit the listed pages.

Pre-recorded services:

- [Burwood Heights UC](#)
- [Hanbit Korean Church](#)
- [Manningham UC](#)
- [St Michael's UC \(Melbourne\)](#)
- [Koonung Heights UC](#)

The following are shown as live-streamed, so it may be necessary to check arrangements from week to week. We know that some of these congregations will be moving to –pre-recorded services during lockdowns.

- [North Balwyn UC](#)
- [Canterbury UC](#)
- [Ringwood North UC](#)
- [Living Faith \(Greensborough\) UC](#)
- [Whittlesea UC](#)
- [Burwood UC](#)

Other congregations offer services on Zoom, so check the Synod web site for individual congregation web pages for more information.

If your congregation is not on this list, please send details to the Presbytery Secretary, and advise Nigel Hanscamp in order to have the Synod site updated.

## BOOK LAUNCH

You are warmly invited to the launch of Sally Douglas' new book.

The book *The Church Triumphant as Salt: Becoming the Community Jesus Speaks About* will be launched by Rev Dr Geoff Thompson and Rev Sharon Hollis at Pilgrim Theological College on Friday September 3 at 5.30pm

The Jesus community is called to be the salt of the earth, a metaphor that contains rich and disruptive challenge (Matthew 5.13). Salt is little. We weep salty tears and grow up in dark salty wombs. Salt preserves. Salt draws out taste and too much salt spoils everything. Engaging with the biblical text, early church writers and contemporary expressions of ministry Sally Douglas invites us to reassess the mantra that the church is dying. She demonstrates that while the cultural church – the church as the purity police, social club and friend of empire – is dying, we now have a rich opportunity to become more like the church Jesus speaks about.

THE  
CHURCH  
~~TRIUMPHANT~~  
AS SALT

Becoming the Community Jesus Speaks About



— SALLY DOUGLAS —

For more information and registration, see <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-church-as-salt-book-launch-tickets-166490131465>

Note that if we are in lockdown at the time, the launch will move online.

### **SHARE SUNDAY PROMOTION**

This year, the focus of the Share Sunday resources is mental health, around the theme of 'All are welcome'. Uniting VicTas has just released the 2021 resources for a full worship service. These include:

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

The resources are available to view and download from the Uniting VicTas website at: [2021 Share Sunday Worship Resources](#). For more information, contact John Clarke at [john.clarke@vt.uniting.org](mailto:john.clarke@vt.uniting.org) or tel 0427 994 972.

### **HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTATION: SEARCHING FOR SISTER GRACE**

This presentation by the VicTas Uniting Church Historical Society will take you down some unexpected paths as the stories of four church workers known simply as Sister Grace are uncovered. During the presentation, issues such as why so many women's stories are absent from the Church's history and history in general will be explored.

The speaker will be Dr Cheryl Griffin, who has a particular interest in researching the lives of women in the early twentieth century.

This will be a free Zoom meeting on Sunday 22 August 2021 at 2.00pm. For the Zoom link, email: [robert.renton@bigpond.com](mailto:robert.renton@bigpond.com) or for other enquiries tel 0427 812 606.

### **DOES YOUR CONGREGATION NEED A PIANO?**

Due to a relocation, we have received an offer of an upright concert piano suitable for a large space, which can be made available at no cost to a congregation who is in need of an instrument. The availability timeframe is short, so if you have an interest, please contact the Presbytery Secretary on tel 04 1847 5564 before 29<sup>th</sup> August.

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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 and Presbytery members. 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.*