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*News for the Presbytery of Yarra Yarra Congregations and Institutions*

## Calendar of Events –February 2025

Date	Time	Event
Sat 22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	9:30am	Presbytery In Council Meeting, Balwyn Rd UC Canterbury
Thur 27 <sup>th</sup> Feb	1pm	Diving Deep – Preparing Baptism... Dr Craig Mitchell
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup> Mar	2:30pm	John Wesley's Political World, Rev Prof Glen O'Brien
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup> Mar	4pm	Tower of Auburn UC – Open to the Public
Wed 30 May 2025	5pm	Synod Membership Roll Closing Date
Sat 30Aug-Tue 2 Sep		Synod 2025, Box Hill Town Hall

***FURTHER DETAILS OF THESE EVENTS ARE IN THIS EDITION OF PYY NEWS***

## Presbytery Chair's Message

It seems a little strange to be bringing greetings for 2025 when we are already in February, but this is the time that the work of the Presbytery gets into full gear again as the various Committees begin to meet. We will gather as Presbytery in Council on Saturday 22 February, and it will be good to connect again and here some of what's been going on within the bounds of the Presbytery. At this meeting, Nadine Rozario will be commissioned into her PM Congregations role, as will those servicing on Committees. I look forward to seeing you all there.

A reminder that this coming Sunday, 16 February, Bethany Broadstock will be commissioned as a Pastor at Heidelberg Scots Church. **Members of Presbytery are invited to gather at 1.45pm so we can process in.** There is no need to robe, but it would be lovely if you would like to wear your red stole.

## Presbytery News

### Dates for the Diary - Presbytery In Council

Our first Presbytery In Council Meeting for 2025 will be held at Canterbury (Balwyn Road) Uniting Church on **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**. We would like to thank the Balwyn Rd Congregation for hosting this meeting. The meeting will include the Commissioning of our new Presbytery Minister for Congregations Nadine Rozario.

Dates of the remainder of 2025 Presbytery in Council Meetings are:

- Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May 9:30am
- Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 7:30pm - Zoom Presentation
- Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September 9:30am
- Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 7:30pm – Zoom Presentation
- Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November 9:30am

## Presbytery Committee Members

A warm welcome to our Elected Presbytery Committee Members for 2025. Thank you for participating in the life of the Presbytery and may 2025 be a fruitful year for us all.

## Presbytery Representative – Working Together in Covenant Committee

Thank you to Anna Harrison who has agreed to be the Presbytery Representative on the Working Together in Covenant Committee. We look forward to hearing her reports from the activities of this Committee.

## Applications for Working With Children Checks

The Presbytery of Yarra Yarra has been receiving, a number of Certificates for Working with Children Checks from the Department of Government Services. Please note that all Certificates need to be sent to the Synod and not to the Presbytery address.

When filling out your application, in addition to personal details and identification documents, the WWCC/VP check application form also requests the name(s) of organisation by whom the applicant is employed or for which they volunteer.

In addition to your congregations (and/or other UCA organisations or programs you are involved with), all Uniting Church applicants **need to include the Synod Office contact details** when applying or renewing. That is, provide the Congregation's name with Synod Address. For example:

**Paradise Gardens Uniting Church**  
**Level 2, 130 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne 3000.**

This will ensure all Certificates are received safely by Synod's Safe Church team.

A copy of the WWCC/VP Policy, with details of how to apply for WWCC can be downloaded from the SafeChurch website: <https://safechurch.ucavictas.org.au/policies-procedures/>

## SYNOD 2025: Sat 30 Aug – Tues 2 Sep 2025

The 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania meeting will commence at 10am on **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2025** and conclude by 4pm on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025 and will be held at Box Hill Town Hall, 1022 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill.

It will open with the installation of our new Moderator, **Rev Salesi Faupula**; and feature Bible studies and theological reflection – framed by the Synod meeting theme: *Pilgrims of the Spirit*, reporting from key Synod bodies, and opportunities for reflecting on, and looking forward for the Synod's mission as part of the UCA across Victoria and Tasmania.

Although we are still a number of months away from the Synod meeting, Synod are asking presbyteries to **begin thinking about Synod membership and encouraging discussions regarding Synod membership and any proposals for the Synod meeting**, within our presbytery and congregations as early as possible.

**Presbytery's process has changed**, Minister's within the Presbytery of Yarra Yarra are no longer automatically made Synod Members by the Presbytery, instead **Ministers will need to notify Presbytery Office of their interest in nominating for Synod Membership.**

Further information will be provided in the coming months.

## Faithful Futures Update

As a new year begins, Moderator Rev David Fotheringham has provided an update on the Faithful Futures Project.

“The presbyteries and the Synod have been working together to consider the opportunities and challenges for the church in the coming years, to ensure that we are prepared well for the journey,” David said.

“This work is aligned with much of the work of the national Act2 Project, aimed at equipping communities of faith for discipleship and mission, with fit-for-purpose arrangements for administration and oversight.

“The Faithful Futures Project is helping to discern priorities and direct resources in response to the call of the gospel, and to the life and needs of the communities in which we are located or may be located in the future.”

As part of the Faithful Futures Project, a one-page poster summary has been created, outlining the Vision, Values and Goals as they are being discerned and developed.

A briefing video from David has also been released outlining the project.

“Many of these (project) goals represent directions that are already being taken across parts of many presbyteries,” David said.

“There will be varied and flexible ways of approaching the goals, depending on the local contexts and conversations with presbyteries, and I commend the work of this project to you.”

**The one-page summary can be found [here](https://victas.uca.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/faithful-futures-one-page-summary.pdf)** (or copy this link <https://victas.uca.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/faithful-futures-one-page-summary.pdf>), while the video is available [here](https://vimeo.com/1026701480/714e394c6a?share=copy) (or copy this link <https://vimeo.com/1026701480/714e394c6a?share=copy>)

Presbyteries will appoint and empower three people to attend the final Faithful Futures meeting in March to finalise these goals.

## Lenten Study 2025

Would your congregation be interested in being part of a "wide" Lenten Study in 2025? The Parkville UCA congregation will be running a couple of study groups on **Rowan Williams' Christ on Trial: How the gospel unsettles our judgement**, and would love to have others join us or run their own local groups as part of a common study, with a view to having a number of group options available to maximise participation. If this interests you, please get in contact with Craig Thompson ([craigthompsonxyz@gmail.com](mailto:craigthompsonxyz@gmail.com)).

## "Diving Deep" - Preparing Youth and Adults for Baptism and Confirmation

Dr Craig Mitchell will be offering an online workshop for church leaders on **Thursday 27 February, 1.00-3.15pm** (times for different states in the link below) and repeating it on Wednesday 12 March. The session will explore how we might approach baptism and confirmation in a post-Christendom era, belief and discipleship, the role of mentors, how ages and stages of faith are relevant, available resources and planning approaches. **Details and registration here.** (<https://craigmitchell.com.au/diving-deep-workshop/>)

## Tower of Auburn Uniting Church – Open Day

The Tower of Auburn Uniting Church will be open for visitors on **Sunday evening 16 March 2025**, with first admission at 4.00pm and last at 7.40pm. Visit by timed ticket, available now via TryBooking: <https://www.trybooking.com/CYZSE>.

For the comfort and safety of all, visitors are limited to 10 in each 20 minute session. You may climb to level 4, the open observation deck, or just to level 3, to see the panorama taken in 2017.

After the climb, you are welcome to sit in the church with a cup of tea or coffee, and enjoy a free musical programme presented by three generations of the Chaffee family, led by organist Alan. Arranged by the Friends of the Auburn Tower Inc, with proceeds to roof restoration.

Auburn Uniting Church is on the corner of Oxley Rd and Hepburn St in Hawthorn.



The Church as a Prophetic Voice in Australian Society

Past, Present & Future

UNITING CHURCH NATIONAL HISTORY SOCIETY

NATIONAL CONFERENCE 3-5 OCTOBER 2025

✉ ucnhs2025conference@gmail.com

🌐 [uniting.church/uca-national-history-society/](http://uniting.church/uca-national-history-society/)

### CALL FOR PAPERS

The Society invites papers that address this conference theme. Papers may focus on the period covering the Uniting Church (1977-2025) and/or refer to the history of its antecedent denominations, or of other denominations.

Proposals for papers up to 20 minutes in length, and abstracts of no more than 300 words, should be submitted to our email address by 31 March 2025. Enquiries welcome.

Email: [ucnhs2025conference@gmail.com](mailto:ucnhs2025conference@gmail.com)

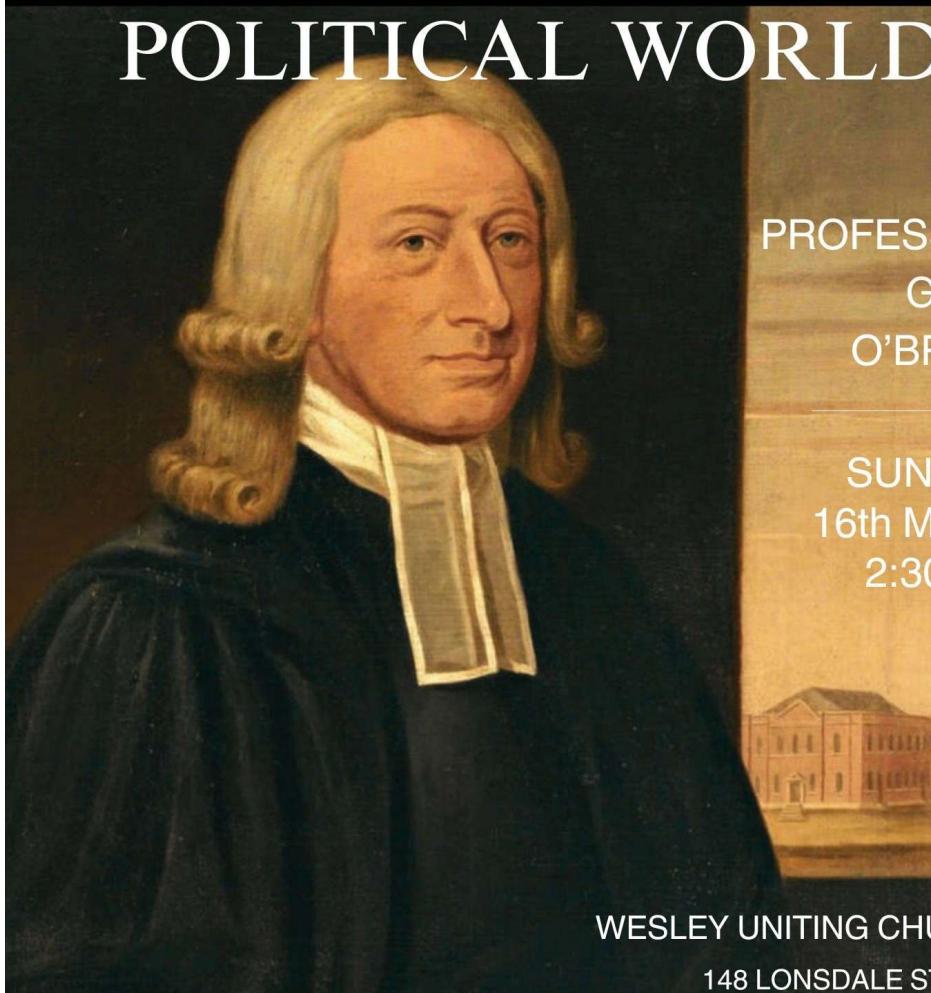
### March Newsletter Deadline: 14<sup>th</sup> March

Please forward articles and other information you wish to share with the Presbytery of Yarra Yarra to [ann.williamson@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:ann.williamson@victas.uca.org.au) by 14th of the month.

A UCA VIC/TAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY PUBLIC LECTURE

# John Wesley's

## POLITICAL WORLD

A portrait painting of John Wesley, an English Methodist preacher, social reformer, and the founder of Methodism. He is shown from the chest up, wearing a dark blue clerical robe over a white cravat and a white clerical collar. He has long, powdered grey hair and is looking slightly to the right with a thoughtful expression.

REV  
PROFESSOR  
GLEN  
O'BRIEN

SUNDAY  
16th March  
2:30 PM



WESLEY UNITING CHURCH  
148 LONSDALE STREET  
MELBOURNE

FREE  
EVENT

ATTEND LIVE OR EMAIL FOR LINK  
TO: [KEN.BARELLI@BIGPOND.COM](mailto:KEN.BARELLI@BIGPOND.COM)

*The newsletter is sent to Church Council Secretaries and Presbytery members. If you should not be receiving it, please contact myself at [ann.williamson@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:ann.williamson@victas.uca.org.au) with the name of your congregation and the name of the correct person to receive PYy News.*