



Kairos



News in and around Camberwell Uniting Church

Volume 11 Number 2

Minister's Musings

Warm greetings to all.

These musings address the recent decision on marriage from the UCA Assembly. It's a good time to pause and reflect. In the Uniting church, we continue to take up the challenge of our Basis of Union to be active participants in God's mission of "reconciliation and renewal for the whole creation". Also it says that "The Church's call is to serve that end: to be a fellowship of reconciliation, a body within which the diverse gifts of its members are used for the building up of the whole, an instrument through which Christ may work and bear witness to himself". Making unity in diversity visible, is part of our church's DNA.

In December last year the Parliament of Australia amended the Marriage Act 1961, to describe marriage as a relationship between two people, rather than between one man and one woman. In July 2018, the Uniting Church Assembly agreed to allow its ministers to marry same gender couples in accordance with the amended Act.

This is a significant change. When the government conducted the postal plebiscite on attitudes to marriage in 2017, the question was mostly described in mainstream media as a controversy between religious institutions and secular society. But here is a mainstream Christian church, the third-largest church in Australia after the Catholic and Anglican churches, now affirming same gender marriage and agreeing to allow such marriages to be conducted in its churches by its ministers. It's a big change and one not well understood outside the church. And it's of such a sensitive nature, it will take some time to be well understood within the church too. So why has the church decided to do this?

It happened because the Uniting Church in Australia has been discussing questions of sexuality now for a long time. Each time the Uniting Church has discussed sexuality it has come to a similar conclusion. There are a variety of positions on sexuality held with integrity by members and ministers of the Uniting Church, and the Uniting Church accepts that.

The decision made by the 2018 Assembly to allow ministers to marry or not marry same-sex couples on the basis of conscience follows on from all the other decisions that the Uniting Church has made over its history to allow members and ministers to hold different positions according to our consciences. The Uniting Church has done this in matters of sexuality because we recognise; "Homosexuality is not a new phenomenon within the Church and community and current statistics would lead to the assumption that it also includes a percentage of members and ministers of the Christian Church."

The Uniting Church has said, among other things:

- that the Assembly affirms that all baptised Christians belong in Christ's church and are to be welcomed at his table, regardless of their sexual orientation.
- that the Assembly resolved: to reject judgmental attitudes in sexual ethics and witness to the renewing grace of God in this as in all attitudes of human behaviour.

So we now have a new alternate description of marriage to stand alongside the existing one:

"Marriage is a gift God has given to humankind for the well-being of the whole human family. For Christians, marriage is the freely given consent and commitment in public and before God of two people to live together for life. It is intended to be the mutually faithful life-long union of two people expressed in every part of their life together. In marriage two people seek to encourage and

enrich each other through love and companionship, experience the fruitfulness of family, contribute to the well-being of society and strengthen the mission of the church.”

In its wording there is not much difference, but I think it would be fair to say this is a subject that the church has agonised over. But we aren't the only ones doing this and it's not the first issue we have made bold changes in. Some overseas churches have made a similar move, some have and will not. Some other churches have, like the UCA welcomed the gifts of women as well as men, equally in service of the church, some not.

A generation ago divorce and remarriage were understood in new ways, more consistent with the Christian principles of love, grace and the opportunity for new beginnings. In this and many social policy areas we've come to see that Jesus principle of the law being made for humanity, not humans made for the law, is true in more ways than we've imagined.

I see this as the church moving to a position of supporting and nurturing faithful relationships for all. It may also be that this turns out to be an opportunity for reconciliation and another sign of God's all inclusive love at work still in the church, to draw people into God's family. I pray that it will be. In this, as with all issues, I welcome comment and conversation, as we work together to build each other up in faith and love.

Grace & Peace,
Ian

From the editor

Hello, and welcome to the winter edition of Kairos 2018.

This edition is slightly later than usual due to the early timing of Easter this year. As a result, there are twice as many Messy Church reports in this edition compared to the last.

Also, due to the large of information uncovered, an article on the Derrick family stained glass window has been sent out ahead of time to (hopefully) whet your appetite for this current edition of Kairos, which will include the second and final part of the Derrick family legacy.

For a birthday present this year, a friend who knows I enjoy a good read gave me a book of 'bizarre facts to boggle your mind', produced by the creator of the television show QI. The book contained over a thousand 'facts', most of which were wasted on me, but some of which, when I picked my way through later, I thought I could bring to your attention to add to your store of 'useless' knowledge, or at least raise a smile.

July 2018

I found it interesting that it has been verified that 'when people sing together in a choir, their heartbeats synchronise' – at a fast rate too, sometimes, I imagine! At the end of life, 'the most popular song played at funerals in the UK is Monty Python's 'Always look on the Bright Side of Life' – that sounds so British! I would thought it difficult to get much more 'graveyard' humour, however I was wrong, as the 'categories at last year's Good Funerals Awards included Cemetery of the Year, Embalmer of the Year and Gravedigger of the Year.' As with other occupations, it is always nice to see good work recognised and acknowledged by one's peers.

In 2006, 'volunteers removing litter from Ben Nevis (the highest mountain in the British Isles, 4,411 feet above sea level), found a piano near the top.' One's imagination runs wild....? It will however, come as no surprise that 'the Wikipedia page for the word "pedant" has been edited more than 500 times'.

As usual, I was attracted to details about people. In this regard it was revealed that at school, 'Martin Luther King Junior got a C+ for public speaking' – some questionable judgment there, for he sure improved a lot after he left school; 'Freud kept a porcupine on his desk as a reminder of the prickliness of human relationships' – has anything changed here at all?; and 'Judi Dench first appeared on the stage at the age of five. She played a snail.' Budding thespians take note!

Some of the above surely bodes well for the future of the human race.

In terms of divine inspiration, I conclude with a small offering on the literal observations of young children about their parents, whoever they are and whatever they do.

A boy was watching his father, a minister, write a sermon. "How do you know what to say?" asked the little boy.

"Why, God tells me," replied his father.

"Oh, then why do you keep crossing things out?"

I trust you go on to enjoy this edition of Kairos.

Ed



Messy Church Reports



Sunday 18 March was, naturally, centred around the story of “Easter from Peter’s Viewpoint”, or ‘a fisherman’s tale of Easter’ (from the Gospel of John).

Activities began with trying to catch fish, much like Jesus fishing for his twelve disciples. Everyone then walked outside to get dirty feet like the disciples following Jesus, then Ruth washed everyone’s feet so they could stay in the hall.

For the last supper there were cups to decorate with bling. Jessica (our youngest leader) guided us in making a grain mosaic, in the shape of a slice of bread. This is to remind us of the broken bread shared at the Last Supper.

Using an egg carton, we made a table surrounded by 12 disciples at the last supper. Then we made a sunrise like a stained glass window, on a clear CD cover.



The food activity, always popular, was especially so at Easter, when there were Easter eggs to be had. Food craft was an Easter egg for the empty tomb on a biscuit with an icing flower garden.

The Celebration involved two stories about Peter from “The Lost Sheep” series. The emphasis was on Peter saying he loved Jesus but denied knowing him (when the cock crowed 3 times) and he ran away after Jesus was arrested. Ian talked about these stories and what they mean for us today. As usual we sang songs, with words to suit the Peter story.

Dinner was fish fingers and shapes, salad, bread then jelly and ice-cream and fruit, to share among our 23 Adults and 18 Children.



Sunday 22 April was themed around the “Parable of the Prodigal Son,” and titled ‘The Messy Son’ (from Luke 15: 11-32).

Our gathering activity was a Top Secret Mission - Margery gave us our “orders” and we reported back

to her with the answers: We followed the footprints of the two sons through the church to find out which son was gone; then we shone a UV torch on a card which had invisible writing to find what the son took with him; next an ice ball was cracked open to disclose letters to answer where the son had gone to; and lastly back to the hall to find out more.

In the hall there were many activities, including: making people from the place/country where the son had gone; we made a shape with coins (the money the son was given) - using all we were given (just like the son); a racing track with fast cars was enjoyed by many of us – representing the reckless life the son lived until....he had no money left.

There was a pig to make out of vegetables to represent the pig farm where the son worked when he had nothing left. Food craft was icing a cupcake and decorating it as a pig face! Cupcakes were yummy - better food than the son had at the pig farm.



The son returned to his father and is greeted as a son, and not as a servant. And we were left to answer questions about his brother, who felt left out. For the Celebration, we all joined in the story of the Messy Son (the Prodigal son) then saw a short animated version of the story. We sang two songs, Ian said a prayer, and spoke of God’s love for us even when we have done the wrong thing.

Then it was dinner of Hamburgers and salad, fruit and our cupcakes for 21 Adults and 17 Children.



Sunday 27 May was the Season for Weddings, and we had a Messy Wedding Story to tell. (from Genesis Ch 29). It began with two sisters.....

Jacob went to a farm belonging to Laban and worked as a shepherd,

and there he met Rachel (the only female shepherd in the Bible). There was a farm to create, fences to build and sheep to look after (not real of course).

The Welcome to Messy Church involved making an angel from marshmallows and lollies as a reminder of Jacob's dream after he left his father's house - his dream was of angels climbing up and down a ladder

Jacob asked to marry Rachel and her father said yes, if Jacob worked on his farm for seven years. We made a bride out of cardboard with a lollypop head.

Jacob and Rachel often met at the well when getting water, so there was a well to make out of plaster of paris on a plastic tube which we then decorated.



Rachel had a sister Leah who was older. Her father tricked Jacob into marrying Leah. However because in those times you could have more than one wife, Jacob married Rachel after a week or so. We had a picture to create of the two sisters using foam cut outs for the sisters.

In the Celebration we sang "Life is Better with a Little Mess", and then Ian wrote different words to "I have got Peace like a River" to match the story of Jacob and Rachel (and Leah). We watched a "cartoon" of the Jacob and Rachel's story including the wedding of Jacob and Leah (when he thought he was marrying Rachel).

Ian talked about being patient and what in life is worth waiting for, then he lead us in prayers, and we all said the Lord's Prayer, before heading for dinner - Shepherds Pie of course (no shepherds were used in the making of this!), salad and trifle, for our 17 Adults and 9 Children.



Sunday 24 June was themed around Messy Friends. - the story of Peter and Cornelius (a Centurion), taken from Acts Ch 10.

They came from different worlds and ate

different food but they became friends and both wanted to follow Jesus' teachings.

In the church there were pictures of animals. Margery asked the question – would we eat each animal or not. Then she gave us 2 menus.

The story of the day centred on two cities- Joppa (an old Jewish town) and Caesarea on the coast (a new Roman town-new at that time, which housed a Roman garrison) and was mostly a tent city at that time. The menus were for a café in each town. This showed the difference between what people in each town ate. On a sheet of paper we stamped those animals that Peter could eat, and on another piece of paper we stamped the animals Cornelius could eat.

Peter received a visit in a dream, of an angel showing him all animals together. There was a picture of Peter to colour on the roof in Joppa where the angel came to him, and also an angel to cut out and put together. On completion, we were allowed to ice biscuits and decorate with jube animals!!

Animals could be made out of kinetic sand and then we could build the city of Joppa with Lego. Caesarea could be built out of cards similar to a tent city. On the back wall of the hall, pictures of Roman soldiers were put up to add to atmosphere of a Roman town.



In the Celebration we watched a video of the story, sang two songs, and tried to solve a puzzle which had in pieces around the church. The puzzle was a quote from Acts: 34 - "I know that it is true that God treats everyone on the same basis." Ian spoke of all creatures and hence all people being equal in the sight of God. He then said a prayer and we all said the Lord's Prayer.

Dinner was soup and bread stick, then baked potatoes with cheese and many other toppings, then fruit. Enough to feed 21 Adults and 13 Children.

Many thanks to those involved in the planning and preparation of the “Messy” activities. Thanks also to those who manage and supervise the various activities, those who bring food, those who work in the kitchen, and those who stay and clean up afterwards. It is a big team effort, but we believe that the rewards for the children are worth it. Above all we thank Ian and Margery for their vision and leadership.

There is NO Messy Church In July – a midyear break for all in winter.

Fiona Ensor
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Report to Kairos of Camberwell Refugee Support (CRS) formerly CASS

We have a new name! It was agreed at the last meeting that Camberwell Refugee Support is a better title to represent the membership of our group. Of course the residents of Illoura are still the main focus of our activities but this is in the context of concern for all refugee/asylum seekers.

The money raised at the March 4th Pleasant Sunday Afternoon was \$1,865. We are focused on contributing to the cost of Illoura’s spouting repairs. A further fundraising effort was the donation of goods to the Outer Eastern Asylum Seekers Support Network Opportunity Shop. The network had the use of a Lion’s Club opportunity shop for two weeks and in that time raised just under \$1,600 which was forwarded to Lentara for their management of refugees, among whom are our residents.

Routine maintenance tasks have been carried out at Illoura including dealing with a mice plague and dealing with possum raids on the garden. A cage has been constructed for the management of the latter. The planting of a lemon tree, provision of a clothes drying rack, an extra TV and a hard waste collection are examples of activities at Illoura. A donation of blankets from a house down-sizer was a welcome response to the colder weather.

Some readers may remember former Illoura residents Cywell, Quyyem, Louise and Mimi, who are all doing well.

The next meeting of CRS (formerly CASS) is on Tuesday 21st August at CUC at 7.45 pm.

Margaret Watters
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Lexophiles

- No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
- If you don't pay your exorcist you can get repossessed.

July 2018

- I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down.
 - I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.
 - I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, and then it dawned on me.
 - I changed my iPad's name to Titanic. It's syncing now.
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Children Learn What They Live

The child who lives with criticism, learns to condemn.

The child who lives with hostility learns to fight.

The child who lives with ridicule, learns to be shy.

The child who lives with shame, learns to feel guilty.

The child who lives with tolerance, learns to be patient.

The child who lives with encouragement, learns confidence.

The child who lives with praise, learns to appreciate.

The child who lives with fairness, learns justice.

The child who lives with security, learns to have faith.

The child who lives with approval, learns to like her/himself.

The child who lives with acceptance and friendship, learns to find love in the world.

Taken from the UCA Network Magazine, May 2018 (submitted by Elinor Morison)
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From the Vault.....

Late in 1967, Camberwell Methodist Church had a major makeover. The front entrance of the church was demolished, and in its place was constructed the current Narthex, the Fellowship Room, the suite of offices currently used by our Minister and others, surrounding the green square much appreciated then and now by the young to do anything from running off steam, toasting marshmallows and playing at the 'beach' or by the 'pool.'

The late Roy Lawton was on hand to supervise the building works, as well to record the transformation of the façade of the Church in Camberwell Road. His photos have survived in excellent condition, and some are reproduced below to indicate the scale of the construction. The cost of undertaking the project today is not something I would want to put before the Treasurer without a MICA Ambulance standing by!



The original front entrance to the Church



Early stages



Between the front of the church & the Sunday School



Taking shape...



Out the back – behind the church offices



Camberwell Methodist Church Looking good!! More photos of the makeover are on the board in the Narthex.

First Day of Union in Cheltenham – the positive side

Attached to the last edition of Kairos (April 2018) was an article on the stained glass window erected in memory of Robert Smith.

As part of the article it was identified that the Smith family had a family gravesite at the Old Cheltenham Cemetery, which I visited not only to take photographs of the site, but also to return to a place connected to my childhood, which included the Cheltenham Primary School and the Pioneer Memorial Presbyterian Church, both of which I attended.

As a postscript to the article, I made mention of the fact that the Church was then, and remained as now, a Presbyterian Church, disappointingly taking the advice of its Minister of the day not to join Union in 1977.

This prompted a reply from Tim Heazlewood, for which I am most grateful, and which I have taken the liberty of repeating in part, below.

Tim wrote that the article was: “one that also touches on a coincidental moment in time, during Union. My own father (Reverend Vere) left Camberwell Methodist Church at the start of 1976 to next take up an appointment at the Cheltenham Methodist Church. The church where Stuart and his family used to attend in 1977, was a stones throw from where both Lynne and I attended Church around the same time.

Unlike some of those from the Ensor's Church who didn't want to join in Church Union, attached is a photo taken back on the first day of Union that both my mother and father are in (far left). It shows that there is a mixed representation of young Methodists, Presbyterians and Congregationalists.”



I cannot tell you how pleased I am when any item in Kairos resonates with someone in our community, and I wish to thank Tim for taking the time to retrieve such a great personal and public photo capturing such a momentous, positive and unifying moment in time.

Ed

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Historical (Hysterical) Church Bulletins (part 2)

In a previous edition, we featured some excerpts from weekly Pew Sheets and Church Notices, much the same as today, except that there was the occasional proof-reading lapse or lack of grammar-check that computers provide as standard today.

We have some more quotes which actually appeared in Church Bulletins (not including Camberwell of course):

The church will tonight host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

Pot-luck supper Sunday at 5:00 pm - prayer and medication to follow.

The minister would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church on Friday at 7 pm. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

And with great reluctance and apologies to our treasurer, I finish with this one:

The Relieving Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours.'

Thank you to Barry Docking

Vale Joy Guerin



In a piece of sad news, we were informed of the death of Joy Guerin on 11 July 2018. She was aged 95 years.

In the days where the Camberwell Parish included the Camberwell, South Camberwell and South Hawthorn Uniting Churches, Joy was a stalwart of South

Hawthorn. Over time she was an Elder, chaired the Church Council, and was a tireless worker for the church community.

Joy was the co-founder of ECOS some 20+ years ago, as well the South Hawthorn Drop-in Centre on Wednesdays which operated successfully as a church-based outreach activity providing entertainment, food and fellowship in the local community for many years.

Joy's late husband Neil supported her in all her endeavours. Joy and Neil had four children, one of whom (Jill Forsyth) ran the Kumon after school math and English education program for many years out of the Workshop at the Camberwell Church complex.

Joy's eulogy (delivered by three of her four children – the fourth was described as "being in the Baltic region somewhere"), described her excellent domestic management skills, her devotion as a mother, grandmother and great grandmother, and her enjoyment and prowess at sport, particularly tennis. Her extensive wider charitable work was also generously acknowledged.

Joy's life was celebrated as a Christian life lived to the full.

The memorial service, held for Joy at the Deepdene Uniting Church on Wednesday 19 July, 2018 was full of family and friends, and included representatives of the current and past Camberwell Church who knew Joy from both South Hawthorn and from her other many and varied social and charitable commitments, including Lois Grenfell, Alex Stewart, Stuart Ensor, Barb. & Lindsay Herbert and Jim Provan.

Joy died peacefully, surrounded by her family.

Ed

Lexophiles

- England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.
- This girl said she recognised me from the Vegetarians Club, but I'd swear I've never met herbivore.
- I know a guy who's addicted to drinking brake fluid, but he says he can stop any time.
- I got some batteries that were given out free of charge.
- A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.
- A Will is a dead giveaway.
- With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.
- Police were summoned to a day-care centre where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.

Ministry: Worship 10.00 am
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Website:
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Messy Church:
<https://www.facebook.com/camberwellmessychurch>

Kairos is the Greek word meaning "time", that is, those times which are turning points demanding decision while the opportunity remains. Although it refers primarily to the coming of Christ it may also refer to the present time in the life of our congregation.
Editor: Stuart Ensor