

M U C

Magazine

The News and Views of the
Murrumbeena Uniting Church



To make Christ known by preaching the
gospel in word and deed

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The Uniting Church in Australia
MURRUMBEENA UNITING CHURCH

February – March 2020

ABOUT US

MINISTRY TEAM

REV. JAY ROBINSON

Minister

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tai.alphred@gmail.com

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Children's Ministry Coordinator.

erinwaitrobinson@gmail.com

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CHURCH COUNCIL



CHAIR:

**Alison Campbell
Rate**

0438 569 690



TREASURER:

Greg Pressey



Doug Faram

Also responsible for Pastoral Care

0422 033 283



Jo Petzer



Rachel Dart



**Margaret
Reid**



**Dave
Robinson**

ORGANISATIONS AND GROUPS

- Community & The Arts
- Community Garden
- Craft Circle
- Drop In
- Adult Fellowship
- Friendship Fellas (Men's Group)
- LIFT (Women's Group)

THE CHURCH

- Adult Bible Studies
- Pastoral Care
- Worship Band
- Lending Library

YOUNG ADULTS (18-35)

- Getaway
- Sonder Collective
- Studies
- Sunday Brunch

YOUTH (13-17)

- Camps
- Lunchtime Groups
- Youthy

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

- Families
 - » F.E.A.S.T
 - » Family Craft Days
 - » Family Movie Days
- Kids
 - » Countdown to Christmas
 - » Kids' Time
- Mainly Music

GLENDAL LEIGH

Culture of Safety contact person

9568 8177



Welcome to this edition of the *MUC MAG*, the first for 2020. What a start to the year it has been? The extensive and devastating bushfires have turned the attention of the world to Australia.

Wikipedia

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_and_dependencies_by_area) lists 194 separate countries, plus a number of other dependencies (such as the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Ashmore and Cartier Islands, and Gibraltar). Of these 194, Australia is ranked the sixth largest. A current estimate of the area that has been devastated by bushfires this season is around 186,260 Hectares. This area exceeds that of 107 countries around the world (more than 55%)!

Apart from the 34 human lives lost and 2779 homes destroyed, possibly one billion animals have been affected, at least half dying in the fires and the remainder will likely die later due to the destruction of their food and shelter.

Even those remote from the fires have suffered due to the smoke haze that has blanketed south eastern Australia and extended across the Tasman Sea to New Zealand.

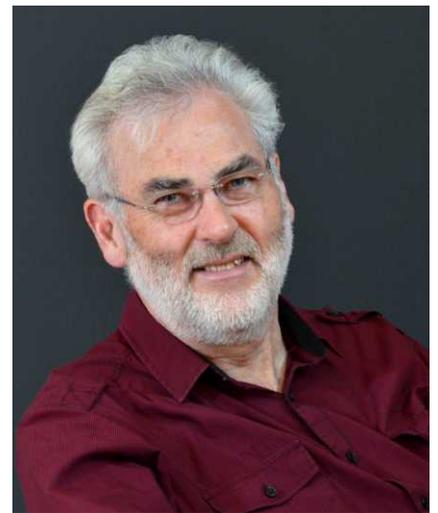
Within our church, several members have worked as volunteers assisting those directly impacted by the fires, and Sonder have organised a fundraiser Trivia Night with all profits going to the Australian Bushfire Relief, through the Salvation Army Disaster Appeal and the World Wildlife Fund.

Apart from these aspects related to the bushfires, our Murrumbena Church community is doing many other positive activities for people. This edition of the *MUC MAG* has stories and information about the Murrumbena Community Garden, the Knitting and Craft Group, the Women's Group (LIFT), the Men's Group (Friendship Fellas), and Pancake Drop-in. If you aren't already involved in any of these, 2020 is the year to make a change and get involved. There is also a feature article about the Yarra area Street Pastors (to which Doug and Carol belong). They are in need of some assistance with various roles - perhaps you could offer to help with one of these?

I started this Editorial with the subject foremost in everyone's mind at the moment. I will finish it with a similar but starkly different aspect of our Australian environment. In mid-January, I was driving back to Melbourne after a few days in Caboolture, Qld. I was approaching Dubbo, hoping to reach there before nightfall, when I was stopped in my tracks by a massive dust-storm which turned day into night in a matter of seconds. It was so thick, I could scarcely see the front of the car, let alone the road, or anything else. I can truly say that God blessed me that evening. I was on a minor road when I saw the dust-storm. There was an area close to the intersection of a main highway where I could park well off the road. I got out of the car, took half a dozen photos, and jumped back into the car, just as the dust cloud rolled over and blanketed everything. Had He not presented me with the opportunity to park and take photos, I would have been on the main highway, unable to see, unable to find a spot to park safely until such time as the dust cloud cleared. I dread to think of the consequences. Praise the Lord!

Roger McCowan

Please e-mail articles to:
triumphguru@gmail.com, or
hand them to Roger on a
Sunday





Many could say that February is when the year actually begins. Our groups start up again, school and other programs for our young people get going, those who are working are back at work and the long summer holidays have finished.

We had a busy December and the usual quiet January. Our journey to Christmas was filled with many things, Advent studies, Countdown to Christmas, special services, our church Christmas lunch, Carols in the Garden with Coatesville UC, special Christmas services for a couple of local nursing homes as well as end of year events for a number of our programs. It was a busy time but a fun time, at least I thought it was!

I also had a quick visit in December to New Zealand - Auckland and then Dunedin - to present at and be involved with two conferences that deal with university chaplaincy. One was great, that was the one I presented at; the second not so great due to the lack of understanding or comprehension about the place of chaplaincy in university student services. There is still a lot of work to be done here, but it can be done. As Kelly and I maintain a presence on campus at Monash Caulfield, and as we come in contact with students and staff who are interested in exploring their faith, we can see how important chaplaincy is. We here at Murrumbena have been welcoming to students as they explore Christian community with us.

January is usually filled with time to clean up, re-arrange and get sorted for the year to come. This December/January we've also been overwhelmed by the bushfire situation and the enormity of it all. We've taken time to pray, we've made opportunities for people to help with donations and we've had members of our congregation spending time at relief centres supporting those who have been affected.

As we move into February there are a number of new things for us to explore. We'll be making decisions around moving forward with the counselling proposal, there will be some adjustments in our ministry team and we will continue to look for opportunities to get more involved in the community in a number of ways including greater connection with the local churches in the area. There are also Presbytery events and collaborations to look forward to.

As we move towards Easter there are a number of our members who are asking questions around baptism/confirmation and re-affirmation of faith. With this in mind we are running some opportunities to get together and explore this more - check out the flyer further in the MUC Mag for dates and details. The ministry team is hoping that we can celebrate these milestones in our Christian journey on Easter Sunday - if we can it will be a Sunday not to miss!

Looking forward to what the year has in store for us all!

Your fellow traveller

Jay



claiming our faith

TAKING THE NEXT STEP IN YOUR FAITH
WEDNESDAYS • 11 MARCH - 8 APRIL
5 SESSIONS • 7:30PM - 9:00PM

CONTACT: JAY - 0410 465 836 • KELLY - 0432 714 758
BAPTISM • CONFIRMATION • RE-AFFIRMATION
MURRUMBEENA UNITING CHURCH

LECTIONARY READINGS FEBRUARY AND MARCH

2nd February	Mark 5:21-43	New Life
9th February	Mark 6:1-29	New Context
16th February	Mark 7:1-23	New Rules
23rd February	Mark 8:27 - 9:8	New Perspective
26th February	Mark 9:30-37	Ash Wednesday
1st March	Mark 10:17-31	Who do you think you love?
8th March	Mark 10:32-52	Who do you think you are?
15th March	Mark 12:1-12 (13-17)	What do you think you own?
22nd March	Mark 12:28-44	What is it worth?
29th March	Mark 13:1-8, 24-37	What awaits?
5th April	Mark 11:1-11 or Mark 14:3-9	What next Palm/Passion Sunday

Our journey through the gospel of Mark continues as we head towards our next major seasons of the church year - that of Lent and then Easter.

February sees us continuing to explore the new insights that have been given following the birth of the Christ child. The end of February brings the beginning of Lent - the 40 days (not counting Sundays) prior to Easter. Lent takes us through March and into the first two weeks of April. Easter Sunday this year is Sunday 12th April. We have plans for a very special celebration for this day that you will be able to get involved with.

After Easter we will be exploring the promises of the Holy Spirit as we move towards Pentecost - but more about that in the next issue.

THE YEAR OF 2020

Grounded as God's People

Theme's for 2020

- Good News
- Promises Of The Spirit
- New Insight
- Shalom
- Death To Self
- ***

hello
2020

YEARLY CALENDAR

The Sonder Collective gifts resources so individuals, and church communities, can be uplifted just as they are. It's a new kind of ministry that runs alongside churches. Below you can read when we are gathering together across Victoria.

- ★ Youth
- ★ Young Adults

THE IRL REGIONS

SONDER BAYSIDE

- ★ Study Night once a month.
- ★ Social Night once a month.
- ★ 5th Sundays of the month Board Games with Murrumbena.

- ★ Keep your eyes out for Worship nights to begin.

SONDER MURRUMBEENA

- ★ Youth Group (11 years old and up) on Friday nights during the school terms.
- ★ 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month at 5:30pm
- ★ 5th Sundays of the month Board Games with Murrumbena.

SONDER YONDER

- ★ Each term there will be a Youth & Young Adults Worship night. Keep an eye out for location and dates.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Passionate about Social Justice though wonder whether what the Church has to offer is the right answer? Across 2020 we will be running four events, in different locations. These will be shared as individual events-keep an eye out-asking 'what does mission look like in a decolonising world full of 'thoughts and prayers'?"

THE COLLECTIVE CAMPS

- ★ JUNE 5th - 8th • \$170.00
STATE YOUTH GAMES
Lardner Park, Warragul
trybooking.com/BHQWI
- ★ AUG 14th - 16th • \$75.00
SONDER YOUTH CAMP
Adekate Lodge, Creswick
trybooking.com/BHQUR
- ★ SEPT 25th - 27th • \$90.00
YOUNG ADULTS RETREAT
Community of The Holy Name, Cheltenham
trybooking.com/BHQTT

WE WILL ALSO JOIN IN

- ★ MAR 19th - 22nd
SURRENDER CONFERENCE
A collective of organisations & people living the radical call of Jesus amongst the margins.
- ★ APR 5th - 7th
OMEGA CON
Where gaming and community align.

IRL VIRTUAL

THE CLOUD

SONDER CLOUD

is our online region. Each week-day we have a team member who coordinates study and/or community on discord and twitch.

It is a space particularly for the gaming community, and offers an entry level space for those who want a group of friends to play games with.

- ★ MONDAY
 - 8:00pm-9:00pm Faith Chats with Kelly
 - 9:00pm-12:00am Noobie Games with Kelly
- ★ TUESDAY
 - 8:00pm-12:00am Gaming with James
- ★ WEDNESDAY
 - 8:00pm-12:00am Gaming with Alana
- ★ THURSDAY **NEVER ODD NEVER EVEN**
 - 8:00pm-9:00pm Faith Chats with Rev Will
 - 9:00pm-12:00am WoW with Rev Will
- ★ FRIDAY
 - 8:00pm-12:00am Gaming with Adin
- ★ UNDER 18 YOUTH
 - A couple of nights a week Elliot will be coordinating the under 18 channel. Keep your eyes out between 4:00pm-8:00pm.

CHANNELS
www.discord.gg/GyWxypN
www.twitch.tv/sondercloud

GET IN CONTACT

If you would like any information, or to be linked into a region, feel free to get in contact with The Sonder Collective Director:

KELLY SKILTON
0432 714 758 • kelly@skiltons.com

OUR SOCIALS

- 📶 sondercollective.org
- 📷 @the.sondercollective
- 📌 @sondercollective



THE CHURCH IN ACTION ON THE STREETS

Yarra Street Pastors is a community project aiming to create a safer night time experience for people frequenting key entertainment venues in Richmond and Fitzroy.



When we consider who is out on the streets at night -our sons, daughters, friends and colleagues - we want to do our best to ensure they have a fun time and get home safely. Many people we speak to on the street at night have expressed appreciation of our commitment and effort to look after the wellbeing of the community.

We head out as teams between 10.00pm and 3.30am on Saturday nights; giving out water, thongs for the aching feet, blankets and beanies to homeless people too. We patrol nightlife areas on Saturday nights to remove hazards (such as broken glass) and watch over the well-being of the vulnerable (e.g. the intoxicated), and those alone. We will assist people to access transport home, and make sure they are safe. It may just be a simple conversation with a lonely person.

We all do God's work in different ways and truly God shall supply all our needs. We see our role as the hands and feet of Jesus on the streets each week.

We also have a prayer pastor, stationed at our base, who is continually praying while the team is out. We keep regular contact with the prayer pastor throughout the night, praying continually for the wellbeing of all

Recently our teams have been somewhat depleted due to illness and overseas job opportunities. If you know of anyone who feels led to this type of outreach - an experience night can be arranged.

We are also in need of prayer pastors if you feel that walking may be too taxing. Some assistance with an administration role is also required.

Any further information can be gained by having a chat to Doug on 0422 033 283 or Carol on 0438 729 900.

Countdown to Christmas 2019 was an absolute blast! We had over thirty children and an enthusiastic group of volunteers join us over two days to celebrate the birth of Jesus. We learned about how great God is at keeping promises from our angels, A1 and A2, as well as the meaning behind our Christmas decorations. Our puppets helped out the angels with the story, as well as showing off their spectacular singing and dancing skills. There was some amazing craft made by all of the groups and we all had a great time with the many activities.

Thank you to everyone who helped out and came to Countdown. Can't wait to do it all over again next Christmas!

Erin Robinson



THE FIVE FS

We were asked to write a piece for the MUC magazine letting you know about the 2020 program for the Murrumbena Community Garden. Well it can be summed up with five Fs - **fun, friendship, food, flowers and facts**. Now that mightn't seem very informative but that about covers what we will be doing this year. The exact details will be available progressively as we respond to opportunities and ideas from our gardeners, supporters and other people we happen to meet along the way.



Whilst you are waiting to find out more, here's a few ways how you can be involved in the Garden in 2020:

- » take a walk in the Garden and enjoy the plants, insects, birds and art work.
- » say hello to any gardeners that you see and find out what they are up to. Your encouragement of their efforts is always welcome.
- » invite your friends and family to visit. There's always a table and chairs to use so bring a coffee and have a chat with them there.
- » read the Garden newsletter for plenty of gardening tips, information on upcoming events in the Garden and the local community and a recipe or two. The newsletter comes out at least once a month and can be found on the noticeboard in the Church foyer. If you would like to receive a copy directly, let us know by emailing us at murrumbeenagarden@bigpond.com. You'll also read about us from time to time in the pew sheet.
- » bring your food and garden scraps for our compost bins but please make sure that your items are cut up into small bits. The bins are clearly marked as to which ones to use.
- » donate unwanted, good quality garden tools and plants. If we can't use them, we can usually find a good home for them elsewhere.
- » get a plot in the Garden. We have a waitlist but the wait is worthwhile.
- » come along to our events. Each year we have experts come to share their gardening knowledge.
- » help out at our working bees. If you can't make it on these occasions, then just pop in another time and do some weeding.
- » give us your ideas. What about a talk from Greta Thunberg? How good is that?

The Community Garden is open 365 days of the year, er, make that 366, it's a leap year. So there's no excuse for not getting involved in some way in 2020.

Kay Pentland and Glynis Ramsay



OUR NEWEST AND YOUNGEST MEMBER!

Amelia Mae Pinkerton, born 31st December 2019 weighing just over 3.5kg.

Another daughter to David and Leila, baby sister to Mia.

Welcome young lady! We look forward to meeting you in person.



2020 STITCHES

On the first Saturday of the month, you will find the Murrumbeena Knitting and Craft Circle meeting in the foyer between 2pm and 5pm. People bring a variety of crafts, mostly knitting, but there are also people who crochet, sew, write, sketch and people who just come and sit to enjoy the company and conversation. In a few months there will be a call-out for knitted/crocheted items that would be welcomed by those who have lost everything in the bushfires so our group will be whipping up needed items. Not only do members of our group knit for charity, we are also a collection point of items created by other groups. It would be encouraging if members of the congregation could contribute in some way, either by letting your friends and family know that we are a collection point, or by donating yarn (preferably 8-ply) that sits lingering in your or your family's cupboards at home. Of course, you are also warmly invited to join the group; in fact, it would be rather a blessing if you did, especially if you would like to learn to knit or to crochet.

Glynis Ramsay & Deidre Colbert

*The yarn forms the stitches,
the knitting forges the friendships,
the craft links generations.*

When we engage in fibre arts, we are creating something, but we're also participating in historic traditions tens of thousands of years old. We are not only making art for our souls and for future generations, we are embodying the work of our ancestors.

This chair has been embellished by the girls and guys who attend the Murrumbeena Knitting and Craft Circle as a visual thank you to the Murrumbeena Uniting Church for providing us with a meeting place.

December 2019



LADIES IN FELLOWSHIP TOGETHER (LIFT)

The Lift Woman's group has been catching up for a year on a Saturday morning each month at a local coffee shop, the group offers an informal robust discussion but also a theme that members can participate in.



Themes have been about individuals we admire in the community and these people were not always famous, readings and discussion of individual who have worked with people or communities through social support.

We also brought along a photo or a piece of interest that reflected a memory to the participant.

We look forward to 2020 and welcome all who wish to be involved in a discussion and friendship.

Mary-Lou Keur

FRIENDSHIP FELLAS

As its name implies, Friendship Fellas is a group of friends with an emphasis on fun and socialisation. This is through two scheduled events each month (a breakfast and a dinner) so that members come to know each other and "follow the threads" of their lives and events. Mid-week events are also organised from time to time, to encourage

members to get out and about and broaden their horizons. In 2019, these included museums, the State Library, movie/cinema mornings, and Scienceworks.

The breakfasts are held on the second Saturday of each month, at Cafe Del Mar in Carnegie. The dinners alternate between the fourth Tuesday of the month, with a "home-cooked meal" (by Geoff Edwards and often assisted by Bruce Robinson) and the fourth Tuesday of the month at a commercial venue, always with varied cuisine. The actual dates are published in the MUC MAG.

For our December dinner, which was held at the church, Geoff asked the Fellas to bring a musical instrument. The photo shows the fun we had.

*Roger McCowan and
Geoff Edwards*



MUC Friendship Fellas Show Band

(We show up but we can't play)

L-R: Geoff Edwards, Reg Bright, John White, Doug Faram, David Robinson, Neville Wight, Bruce Robinson, Greg Pressey, Barry Hunt, John Leever, Peter Barnes and Roger McCowan. Christmas, 2019. Photo: Margaret Edwards.

WHY WE SAY IT

Following from the column in the December 2019 - January 2020 edition of the MUC MAG, here is another everyday expression that has a religious heritage.

PLEASE

The first evidence of the custom of saying 'please' as a basic form of courtesy goes back only to 1622, six years after Shakespeare's death. At its source, this simple expression of good manners had a religious connotation.

Originally it was used to express the hopeful expectation that one's action or desire was going to please God, to give Him pleasure. When someone asked for a favour or suggested that he might do one himself, he humbly qualified his request or offer by adding that it should or would only be done 'if it pleases you'. This primary meaning of the phrase is retained by its French version, *s'il vous plait*.

Frequent use shortened the saying until all that was left of it was our present-day 'please'. Now totally divorced from its indigenous religious context, the expression is used quite routinely, in a stereotyped and really meaningless way, just as people, on being introduced, ask 'How do you do?' - but would regard as a real bore anyone who, in reply, might tell them how he really is!

*From the book 'Thank God I'm an Atheist', by
Dr. Rudolph Blasch*

The following Church Library books may prove helpful and of interest to those wishing to explore Mark's Gospel, from which our current Bible readings in morning worship services come.

ST. MARK

Books on Mark, covering both the writer and the gospel text:

- No. 900 Barclay, W. *Daily Study Bible - Mark*
- No. 1056 Barclay, W. *The Master's Men*
- No. 817 Penman, D. *The Parables of Jesus on the Way to the Cross*
- No. 23 Neil, W. *One Volume Bible Commentary*
- No. 1299 *NIV Compact Bible Commentary*
- No. 1076 *The Abingdon Bible Commentary*

BIBLE TRANSLATIONS

There is a variety of Bible Translations, including:

- No. 90 *Revised Standard Version*
- No. 112 *Jerusalem (New Testament)*
- No. 132 *Good News Australia (New Testament)*
- No. 170 *Good News for Modern Man*
- No. 538 *Moffatt's New Testament*
- No. 542 *New English Bible*
- No. 822 *The NIV Study Bible*
- No. 984 *The Living Bible Paraphrased*
- No. 1027 *New Living Translation*
- No. 1201 *The Message*

RELATED SUBJECT CATEGORIES

Books with the following subject headings, most located in those areas on the shelves (some on the top shelf):

LIFE OF CHRIST PALESTINE

LIFE AND TIMES

On the Life and Times of the New Testament:

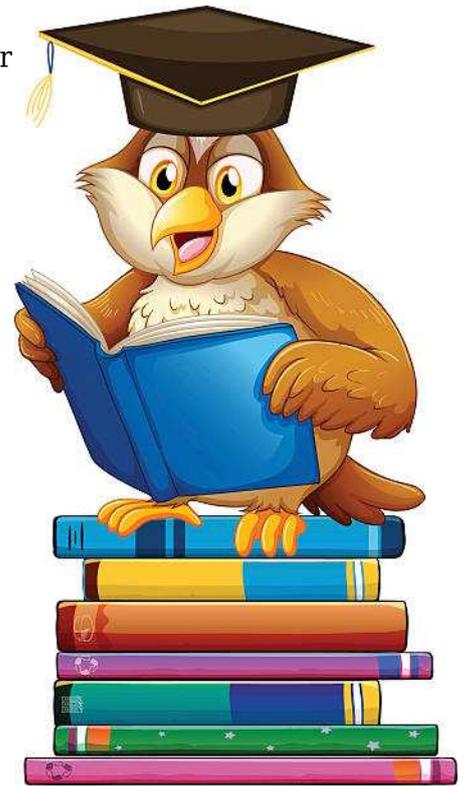
- No. 1088 *Everyday Life in New Testament Times*
- No. 1006 *The Feasts of the Lord*
- No. 73 *Plants of the Bible*
- No. 1228 *Birds of the Bible*

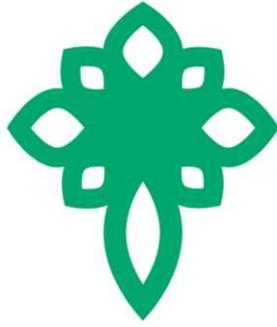
BIBLE - GENERAL

Under the subject heading BIBLE are some books relating to the 'making', 'reading' and 'understanding' of the Bible, a *Who's Who in the Bible* and *Mysteries of the Bible*.

You are welcome to explore the shelf for these and other titles, or ask for help in locating them. They can be borrowed immediately (if available) or booked/reserved on the appropriate card, for a later date.

Anne Don





easter services

HOLY WEEK

MONDAY 6 • 7:30PM

TUESDAY 7 • 7:30PM

WEDNESDAY 8 • 7:30PM

MAUNDY THURSDAY

THURSDAY 9 • 7:30PM

GOOD FRIDAY

FRIDAY 10 • 9:30AM

easter sunday

APRIL 12 • 10AM

MURRUMBEENA UNITING CHURCH

117 MURRUMBEENA ROAD

ALL WELCOME

CONTACTS

On pages 18 & 19, the calendar of Murrumbeena Uniting Church's events is listed. The contact details for the various groups that host these events are given below.

Murrumbeena Community Garden

Kay Pentland

Glynis Ramsay 0407 506 662

Knitting and Craft Circle

Glynis Ramsay 0407 506 662

Friendship Fellas

Roger McCowan 0439 711 381

Geoff Edwards 0409 568 206

Lending Library

Anne Don 9578 4217

LIFT

Mary-Lou Keur 0409 937 727

Roz Franklin 0403 762 695

mainly music

9568 8177

Sonder Collective

Kelly Skilton 0432 714 758

Thursday Pancake Drop-In

Pam Wight 0459 226 070

Murrumbeena Uniting Afternoon Fellowship Group

Anne Don 9578 4217

Women's Bible Study

Alison Campbell Rate

0438 569 690

Youth Band

David Robinson 0439 610 960

PANCAKES DROP-IN

The L plates have gone and in their place I'm wearing my P plates. I have learnt a lot over the past year and while I may be a year older my spirit keeps growing younger.

So while Pancake Drop-In still sounds the same, looks the same and to all intents and purposes is the same special ministry of the church which began many years ago, it may have a few new aspects.

MUC has every reason to sense it is fulfilling God's command to go out into the 'highways and byways' and invite the people into the banquet, because if you saw the food prepared and served by Bruce Robinson and Gayle Howard each Thursday morning then you would to say our guests are being treated to a feast, lovingly assisted and served by Marg Edwards, Glenda Leigh and newcomer Lyn Mitchell. Marg also assists me in leading the morning.

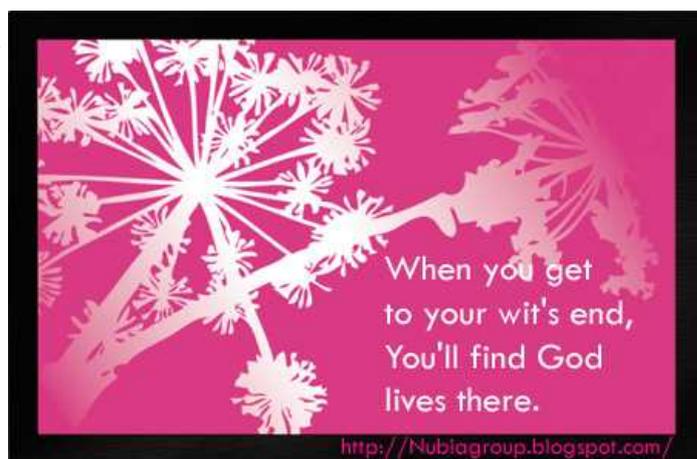
Every leader brings his/her own style to the morning. That means the topics I choose for our chat time are ones that I'm very interested in. E.g. our first morning back on February 13th the topic is 'Relationships'. It will tie in with Valentine's Day but will go much deeper into God's love for everyone, meaning no-one is left out. Sadly in our world today many people are disadvantaged, left out, on the margins, homeless, friendless and this could mean some of our guests. It's not a teaching time from me but a time where everyone is encouraged to share their opinion or their experience. Listening to what someone has to say is an important way to let them know they are valued. Our minister Jay Robinson adds to this by sharing in a time called 'Jay's Say', and she encourages people to talk too.

This year it suits me to set up the hall on a Wednesday evening providing it is free to do so, and any help to move tables and chairs would be gratefully received. I plan to spend from 7:30 to 8:00 p.m. praying for our people and the program, and would love others to join me. Then at 8:00 I will set up. If you're able to help please let me know.

Finally our starting time wasn't clearly defined last year. This year we will say "come on Thursdays at 9:45 for a 10:00am start. The program will run until 11:00am and close at 11:15, but I will be happy to stay on for a chat with anyone who might wish to do so."

If you know someone who might benefit from joining us on a Thursday morning please bring them along for a 'look/see'. Also if you are free to come and sit at one of the tables and just chat as someone who belongs to the church befriending someone who doesn't, you would be most welcome. It's a privilege to serve others in this way.

Pam Wight



DON'T BE AFRAID OF THE WILDERNESS

"On the margins of society, an encounter with self and truth is inevitable. Out of the Rabinals have emerged people who are very clear about who they are, where life is, and what their destiny should be. These are people determined to speak the truth to the centres of privilege and control. In facing death they have found life; on the cross of dehumanised existence, they are embracing resurrection." **

On reading the above paragraph from a commentary based on Ched Myer's "Binding the Strong Man": A Political Reading of Mark's Story of Jesus [Orbis 1988] I asked myself "how have I emerged from my privileged, white, middle-class, educated upbringing compared to these suffering, deprived, coloured people?

Before I answer that question I must ask another question, "How have I emerged from a life of attending white, middle-class Church?

There was a time when I would never ask these kinds of questions. Church was very much part of my life and who was I to question God's institution! I was even too timid to question my confirmation as a teenager. It was more important for me to conform because at that time in my life I didn't know who I really was, I just wanted to be accepted. But times have changed and while God has allowed me to "wander in the wilderness" these past 40 years my attitudes, opinions and lifestyle have been seriously challenged and I'm not quite so unwilling to be different.

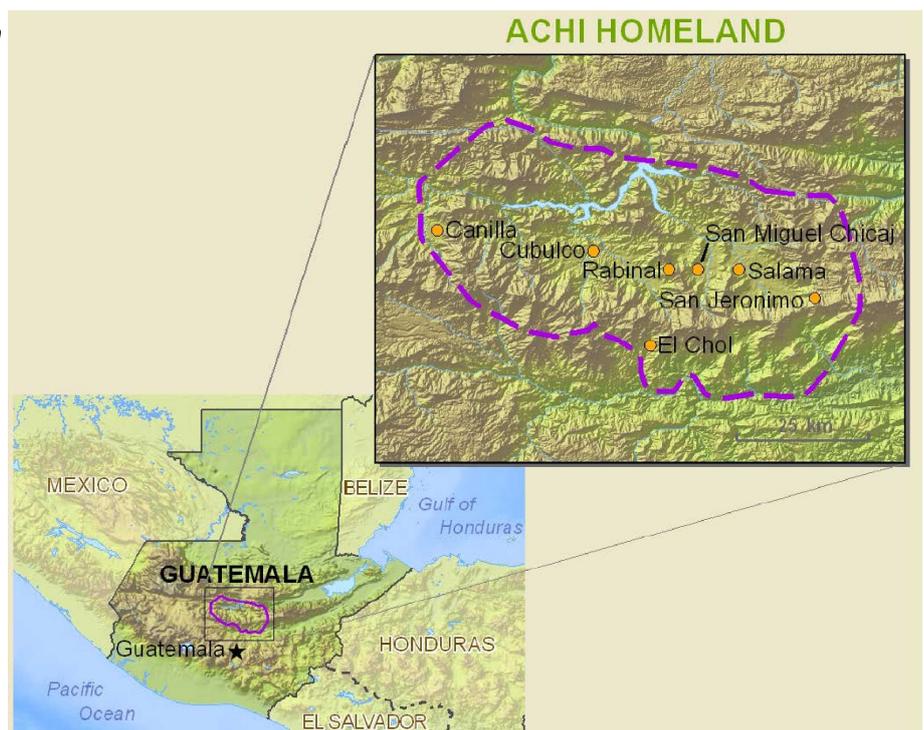
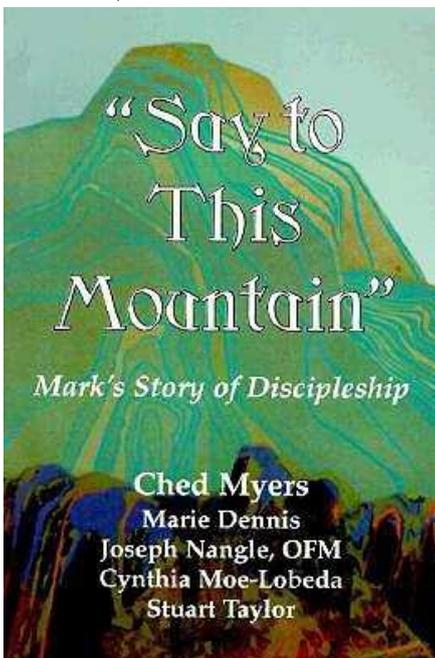
Another excerpt from the above commentary - "The messenger will appear in the wilderness" [MARK 1:3]. The scene at the cemetery in Rabinal gives new meaning to the word "wilderness". It is a place defined by its exclusion, a stark space between life and death, hope and hopelessness, spirit and flesh. It is a place to meet God. Located outside of the centres of political, economic, social, or cultural power. Rabinal represents the margins of our world, a wilderness place where the need for repentance is evident and a prophetic word is possible."

I'm happy to say I have emerged from the "wilderness" [40 years is a long time] and like the people of Rabinal I've become clear who I am; a woman whose personality thrives on truth and justice, so not nearly as conformist as I used to be. In fact I hope to see more change in the church in my lifetime. This challenges me not to live so comfortably. It also fuels my desire to be involved in church life with people on its margins. Which leads me to say, the wilderness isn't such a bad place after all, if you emerge having found your true self there.

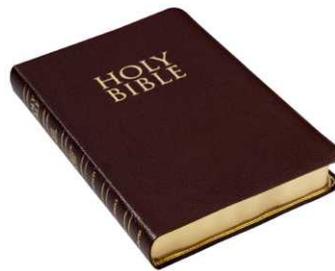
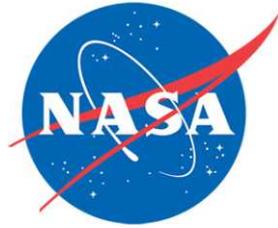
Just one more thing. If you don't want your comfortable evangelical faith in God to be nudged, don't read "Say to This Mountain" 'Mark's Story of Discipleship' by Ched Myers, supported by Marie Dennis, Joseph Nangle, OFM, Cynthia Moe-Lobed, Stuart Taylor [Orbis Books].

Pam Wight

* Rabinal refers to the pauper cemetery in Rabinal, Guatemala.



For all the scientists out there, and for all the students who have a hard time convincing people regarding the truth of the Bible, here's something that shows God's awesome creation, and that He is still in control.



Did you know that the space program is busy proving that what has been called 'myth' in the Bible is true?

Mr. Harold Hill, President of the Curtis Engine Company in Baltimore, Maryland, and a consultant in the space program, relates the following development.

'I think one of the most amazing things that God has done for us today happened recently to our astronauts and space scientists at Green Belt, Maryland ...

They were checking out where the positions of the sun, moon, and planets would be 100 years and 1,000 years from now. We have to know this so we won't send up a satellite and have it bump into something later on in its orbits.

We have to lay out the orbits in terms of the life of the satellite and where the planets will be so the whole thing will not bog down.

They ran the computer measurement back and forth over the centuries, and it came to a halt. The computer stopped and put up a red signal, which meant that there was something wrong with either the information fed into it or with the results as compared to the standards.

They called in the service department to check it out, and they said, 'What's wrong?' Well, they found there is a day missing in space in elapsed time.

They scratched their heads and tore their hair out. There was no answer.

Finally a Christian man on the team said, 'You know, one time I was in Sunday School, and they talked about the sun standing still.' While they didn't believe him, they didn't have an answer either, so they said, 'Show us, '

He got a Bible and went to the book of Joshua where they found a pretty ridiculous statement for any one with 'common sense.'

There they found the Lord saying to Joshua,

'Fear them not, I have delivered them into thy hand; there shall not a man of them stand before Thee.'

Joshua was concerned because he was surrounded by the enemy! And if darkness fell, they would overpower them. So Joshua asked the Lord to make the sun stand still! That's right.... 'The sun

stood still and the moon stayed and lasted not to go down about a whole day!' (Joshua 10:12-13)

The astronauts and scientists said, there is the missing day! They checked the computers going back into the time it was written and found it was close but not close enough. The elapsed time that was missing back in Joshua's day was 23 hours and 20 minutes.. Not a whole day.

They read the Bible, and there it was about [approximately] a day. These little words in the Bible are important, but they were still in trouble because if you cannot account for 40 minutes, you'll still be in trouble 1000 years from now.

Forty minutes had to be found because it can be multiplied many times over in orbits. As the Christian employee thought about it, he remembered somewhere in the Bible where it said the sun went BACKWARDS.

The scientists told him he was out of his mind, but they got out the Book and read these words in 2 Kings that told of the following story: Hezekiah, on his death bed, was visited by the prophet Isaiah who told him that he was not going to die. Hezekiah asked for a sign as proof. Isaiah said 'Do you want the sun to go ahead 10 degrees?'

Hezekiah said, 'It is nothing for the sun to go ahead 10 degrees, but let the shadow return backward 10 degrees.' Isaiah spoke to the Lord, and the Lord brought the shadow ten degrees BACKWARD! Ten degrees is exactly 40 minutes!'

Twenty-three hours and 20 minutes in Joshua, plus 40 minutes in Second Kings make the missing day in the universe! Isn't it amazing?

References: Joshua 10:8, 12-13 and 2 Kings 20:9-11.

If God could do this then; how much more can he do for us today, if we only believe in His word.

Never be afraid to try something new.

All I have and all that I am is by the Grace of God!

Submitted by Venora Fidler

FULFILLING MESSIANIC PROPHECIES

The key fact that distinguishes Jesus from any other claimant prior to or since, is the number of prophecies in Jewish scriptures (the Old Testament of the Holy Bible) which refer to the Messiah, and Christ Jesus is the only one who fulfils them all!

The August/September 2019 edition of the *MUC MAG* listed the first 133 of the 365 prophecies. Here are the next few.

The following is a list of prophecies in the Jewish scriptures that Jesus fulfilled.

- 134 Psalms 97:9 His exaltation predicted Acts 1:11; Ephesians 1:20
- 135 Psalms 100:5 His character-Goodness Matthew 19:16,17
- 136 Psalms 102:1-11 The Suffering and Reproach of Calvary John 21:16-30
- 137 Psalms 102:16 Son of Man comes in Glory Luke 21:24, Revelation 12:5-10
- 138 Psalms 102:25-27 Messiah is the Pre-existent Son Hebrews 1:10-12
- 139 Psalms 109:4 Prays for His enemies Luke 23:34
- 140 Psalms 109:7,8 Another to succeed Judas Acts 1:16-20
- 141 Psalms 109:25 Ridiculed Matthew 27:39
- 142 Psalms 110:1 Son of David Matthew 22:43
- 143 Psalms 110:1 To ascend to the right-hand of the Father Mark 16:19
- 144 Psalms 110:1 David's son called Lord Matthew 22:44,45
- 145 Psalms 110:4 A priest after Melchizedek's order Hebrews 6:20
- 146 Psalms 112:4 His character-Compassionate, Gracious, et al Matthew 9:36
- 147 Psalms 118:17,18 Messiah's Resurrection assured Luke 24:5-7; 1 Corinthians 15:20
- 148 Psalms 118:22,23 The rejected stone is Head of the corner Matthew 21:42,43
- 149 Psalms 118:26a The Blessed One presented to Israel Matthew 21:9
- 150 Psalms 118:26b To come while Temple standing Matthew 21:12-15
- 151 Psalms 132:11 The Seed of David (the fruit of His Body) Luke 1:32
- 152 Psalms 138:1-6 The supremacy of David's Seed amazes kings Matthew 2:2-6
- 153 Psalms 147:3,6 The earthly ministry of Christ described Luke 4:18
- 154 Psalms 1:23 He will send the Spirit of God John 16:7
- 155 Proverbs 8:22-23 The Messiah would be from everlasting John 17:5
- 156 Proverbs 30:4 Declared to be the Son of God John 3:13, Romans 1:2-4, 10:6-9, 2 Peter 1:17
- 157 Song of Solomon 5:16 The altogether lovely One John 1:17
- 158 Isaiah 2:2-4 Repentance for the nations Luke 24:47
- 159 Isaiah 4:2 Messiah reigning
- 160 Isaiah 5:1-6 Son of God's vineyard: a parable of judgment
- 161 Isaiah 6:1 When Isaiah saw His glory John 12:40-41
- 162 Isaiah 6:9-10 Parables fall on deaf ears Matthew 13:13-15
- 163 Isaiah 6:9-12 Blinded to Christ and deaf to His words Acts 28:23-29
- 164 Isaiah 7:14 To be born of a virgin Luke 1:35
- 165 Isaiah 7:14 To be Emmanuel-God with us Matthew 1:18-23
- 166 Isaiah 8:8 Called Emmanuel Matthew 28:20
- 167 Isaiah 8:14 A stone of stumbling, a Rock of offense 1 Peter 2:8
- 168 Isaiah 9:1,2 His ministry to begin in Galilee Matthew 4:12-17
- 169 Isaiah 9:6 A child born-Humanity Luke 1:31
- 170 Isaiah 9:6 A Son given-Deity Luke 1:32; John 1:14; 1 Timothy 3:16
- 171 Isaiah 9:6 Declared to be the Son of God with power Romans 1:3,4

FULFILLING MESSIANIC PROPHECIES

172	Isaiah 9:6	The Wonderful One, Peleh	Luke 4:22
173	Isaiah 9:6	The Counsellor, Yaatz	Matthew 13:54
174	Isaiah 9:6	The Mighty God, El Gibor	Matthew 11:20
175	Isaiah 9:6	The Everlasting Father, Avi Adth	John 8:58
176	Isaiah 9:6	The Prince of Peace, Sar Shalom	John 16:33
177	Isaiah 9:7	To establish an everlasting kingdom	Luke 1:32-33
178	Isaiah 9:7	His Character-Just	John 5:30
179	Isaiah 9:7	No end to his Government, Throne, and Peace	Luke 1:32-33
180	Isaiah 11:1	Called a Nazarene-the Branch, Netzer	Matthew 2:23
181	Isaiah 11:1	A rod out of Jesse-Son of Jesse	Luke 3:23,32
182	Isaiah 11:2	The anointed One by the Spirit	Matthew 3:16,17
183	Isaiah 11:2	His Character-Wisdom, Understanding, et al	John 4:4-26
184	Isaiah 11:4	His Character-Truth	John 14:6
185	Isaiah 11:10	The Gentiles seek Him	John 12:18-21
186	Isaiah 12:2	Called Jesus-Yeshua (salvation)	Matthew 1:21
187	Isaiah 16:4,5	Reigning in mercy	Luke 1:31-33
188	Isaiah 22:21-25	Peg in a sure place	Revelation 3:7
189	Isaiah 25:8	The Resurrection predicted	I Corinthians 15:54
190	Isaiah 26:19	His power of Resurrection predicted	John 11:43,44
191	Isaiah 28:16	The Messiah is the precious corner stone	Acts 4:11,12
192	Isaiah 29:13	He indicated hypocritical obedience to His Word	Matthew 15:7-9
193	Isaiah 29:14	The wise are confounded by the Word	I Corinthians 1:18-31
194	Isaiah 32:2	A Refuge-A man shall be a hiding place	Matthew 23:37
195	Isaiah 33:22	Son of the Highest	Luke 1:32; 1 Timothy 1:17 6:15
196	Isaiah 35:4	He will come and save you	Matthew 1:21
197	Isaiah 35:5	To have a ministry of miracles	Matthew 11:4-6
198	Isaiah 40:3,4	Preceded by forerunner	John 1:23
199	Isaiah 40:9	"Behold your God."	John 1:36; 19:14
200	Isaiah 40:11	A shepherd-compassionate life-giver	John 10:10-18
201	Isaiah 42:1-4	The Servant-as a faithful, patient redeemer	Matthew 12:18-21
202	Isaiah 42:2	Meek and lowly	Matthew 11:28-30
203	Isaiah 42:3	He brings hope for the hopeless	John 4
204	Isaiah 42:4	The nations shall wait on His teachings	John 12:20-26
205	Isaiah 42:6	The Light (salvation) of the Gentiles	Luke 2:32
206	Isaiah 42:1,6	His is a Worldwide compassion	Matthew 28:19,20
207	Isaiah 42:7	Blind eyes opened	John 9:25-38
208	Isaiah 42:13-25	Messiah's actions at His second coming	Revelation
209	Isaiah 43:11	He is the only Saviour	Acts 4:12
210	Isaiah 44:3	He will send the Spirit of God	John 16:7,13
211	Isaiah 45:23	He will be the Judge.	John 5:22; Romans 14:11
212	Isaiah 48:12	The First and the Last	John 1:30; Revelation 1:8,17
213	Isaiah 48:17	He came as a Teacher	John 3:2

Roger McCowan

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Sat, 1 Feb	9:00am - 10:30am	LIFT Women's Breakfast
	2:00pm - 5:00pm	Craft Group
Sun, 2 Feb	10:00am - 11:30am	Worship (Holy Communion)
	5:30pm - 7:00pm	Sonder Bushfire Fundraiser
Mon, 3 Feb	11:00am - 1:00pm	Women's Bible Study
	4:30pm - 5:30pm	Youth Band
Tue, 4 Feb	11:00am - 12:00pm	Mainly Music
	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Young Adults' Bible study
Wed, 5 Feb	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Church Council
Thu, 6 Feb	10:00am - 11:30am	Pancake Drop Ins
Fri, 7 Feb	10:00am - 12:00pm	Coffee 'n' Jay
	6:30pm - 7:30pm	Elders' Meeting
	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Youthies
Sat, 8 Feb	8:00am - 9:00am	Friendship Fellas' Breakfast
Sun, 9 Feb	10:00am - 11:30am	Worship
Mon, 10 Feb	4:30pm - 5:30pm	Youth Band
Tue, 11 Feb	11:00am - 12:00pm	Mainly Music
	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Young Adults' Bible study
Wed, 12 Feb	2:00pm - 4:00pm	Afternoon Fellowship Group
Thu, 13 Feb	10:00am - 11:30am	Pancake Drop Ins
	7:30pm - 9:30pm	Bible Study at Doug Faram's home
Fri, 14 Feb	10:00am - 12:00pm	Coffee 'n' Jay
	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Youthies
Sat, 15 Feb		
Sun, 16 Feb	10:00am - 11:30am	Worship
	5:30pm - 7:00pm	Sonder Collective
Mon, 17 Feb	11:00am - 1:00pm	Women's Bible Study
	4:30pm - 5:30pm	Youth Band
		Deadline for Annual Reports from groups
Tue, 18 Feb	11:00am - 12:00pm	Mainly Music
	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Young Adults' Bible study
Thu, 20 Feb	10:00am - 11:30am	Pancake Drop Ins
Fri, 21 Feb	10:00am - 12:00pm	Coffee 'n' Jay
	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Youthies
Sat, 22 Feb	9:00am - 10:30am	LIFT Women's Breakfast
Sun, 23 Feb	10:00am - 11:30am	Worship
	11:30am - 12:30pm	Library and Lunch
Mon, 24 Feb	4:30pm - 5:30pm	Youth Band
Tue, 25 Feb	11:00am - 12:00pm	Mainly Music
	5:45pm - 7:30pm	Friendship Fellas' Dinner
	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Young Adults' Bible study
Wed, 26 Feb		<i>Ash Wednesday</i>
Thu, 27 Feb	10:00am - 11:30am	Pancake Drop Ins
	7:30pm - 9:30pm	Bible Study at Doug Faram's home
Fri, 28 Feb	10:00am - 12:00pm	Coffee 'n' Jay
	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Youthies
Sat, 29 Feb		

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Sun, 1 Mar	10:00am - 11:30am	Worship (Holy Communion)
	5:30pm - 7:00pm	Sonder Collective
Mon, 2 Mar	11:00am - 1:00pm	Women's Bible Study
	4:30pm - 5:30pm	Youth Band
Tue, 3 Mar	11:00am - 12:00pm	Mainly Music
	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Young Adults' Bible study
Wed, 4 Mar	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Church Council
Thu, 5 Mar	10:00am - 11:30am	Pancake Drop Ins
Fri, 6 Mar	10:00am - 12:00pm	Coffee 'n' Jay
	5:00pm - 8:00pm	Street Party
	6:30pm - 7:30pm	Elders' Meeting
Sat, 7 Mar	2:00pm - 4:00pm	Craft Group
Sun, 8 Mar	10:00am - 11:30am	Worship
Mon, 9 Mar	4:30pm - 5:30pm	Youth Band
Tue, 10 Mar	11:00am - 12:00pm	Mainly Music
	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Young Adults' Bible study
Wed, 11 Mar	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Claiming our Faith, Discussion series
Thu, 12 Mar	10:00am - 11:30am	Pancake Drop Ins
	7:30pm - 9:30pm	Bible Study at Doug Faram's home
Fri, 13 Mar	10:00am - 12:00pm	Coffee 'n' Jay
	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Youthies
Sat, 14 Mar	8:00am - 9:00am	Friendship Fellas' Breakfast
Sun, 15 Mar	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship
		Deadline for submission of articles for MUC Mag
	5:30pm - 7:00pm	Sonder Collective
Mon, 16 Mar	11:00am - 1:00pm	Women's Bible Study
	4:30pm - 5:30pm	Youth Band
Tue, 17 Mar	11:00am - 12:00pm	Mainly Music
	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Young Adults' Bible study
Wed, 18 Mar	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Claiming our Faith, Discussion series
Thu, 19 Mar	10:00am - 11:30am	Pancake Drop Ins
Fri, 20 Mar	10:00am - 12:00pm	Coffee 'n' Jay
	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Youthies
Sat, 21 Mar		
Sun, 22 Mar	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship
	11:15am - 12:00pm	Congregational Annual General Meeting
	12:00pm - 1:00pm	Library and Lunch
	5:45pm - 7:30pm	Friendship Fellas' Dinner
Mon, 23 Mar	4:30pm - 5:30pm	Youth Band
Tue, 24 Mar	11:00am - 12:00pm	Mainly Music
	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Young Adults' Bible study
Wed, 25 Mar	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Claiming our Faith, Discussion series
Thu, 26 Mar	10:00am - 11:30am	Pancake Drop Ins
	7:30pm - 9:30pm	Bible Study at Doug Faram's home
Fri, 27 Mar	10:00am - 12:00pm	Coffee 'n' Jay
	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Youthies
Sat, 28 Mar	9:00am - 10:30am	LIFT Women's Breakfast
Sun, 29 Mar	10:00am - 11:30am	Worship
Mon, 30 Mar	11:00am - 1:00pm	Women's Bible Study
Tue, 31 Mar	11:00am - 12:00pm	Mainly Music
	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Young Adults' Bible study
Wed, 1 Apr	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Claiming our Faith, Discussion series

THE ROSTERS

FEBRUARY 2020

Noticeboard: Pastoral Team

Vacuuming: Dave Robinson

	Welcomers / Take up offering	Sound Desk	Duty Elder --- Bible Reader	Prepare Communion	Communion Stewards	Count Offering	Morning Tea	Monthly Lunch Duty
2	Nancye F. Marg E.	Greg P.	Roger M. --- Anne D.	Doug F.	Roger M. Doug F. Peter B. Dave R.	Greg P.	Marg E.	N/A
9	Shaz S. Colin J.	Peter B.	Doug F. --- Jo P.	N/A	N/A	Jo P.	Pam W.	N/A.
1 6	Doug F. Geoff E.	Bruce R.	Anne D. --- Seneca A.	N/A	N/A	Roz F.	Glenda L.	N/A
2 3	Nancye F. Neville W.	Zen C.	Peter B. --- Blair C.	N/A	N/A	Colin J.	Shian C.	Marg E. Roz F.

MARCH 2020

Noticeboard: Pastoral Team

Vacuuming: Anil Kumar Kavuri

	Welcomers / Take up offering	Sound Desk	Duty Elder --- Bible Reader	Prepare Communion	Communion Stewards	Count Offering	Morning Tea	Monthly Lunch Duty
1	Shaz S. Geoff E.	Zen C.	Doug F. --- Margaret G.	Tai A.	Greg P. Dave R. Peter B. Geoff E.	Doug F.	Lyn M.	N/A
8	Nancye F. Angela Y.	Bruce R.	Peter B. --- Venora F.	N/A	N/A	Jo P.	Angela Y.	N/A
1 5	Colin J. Nancye F.	Greg P.	Dave R. --- Neville W.	N/A	N/A	Roger M.	Nick & Rachel D.	N/A
2 2	Seneca A. Tai A.	Peter B.	Peter B. --- Tai A.	N/A	N/A	Jo P.	Mary-Lou K.	Roz F. Alison R.
2 9	Nancye F. Neville W.	Bruce R.	Anne D. --- Lois B.	N/A	N/A	Margaret G.	Pam W.	N/A