

Glen Waverley

Uniting Church

Welcome

GWUC is a faithful, Christ-centred community that meets God and shares that unconditional love: meet_god@anytime.with.us

SUNDAY PREACHING PLAN - January 2015

Time	January 4 Christmas 2	January 11 Baptism of Jesus	January 18 Epiphany 2	January 25 Epiphany 3
8.00 am				
9.15 am				
11.00 am				
4.30 pm				
7.00 pm				
Lectionary	Jeremiah 31:7-14 Psalm 147:12-20 Ephesians 3:1-14 John 1:(1-9), 10-18	Genesis 1:1-5 Psalm 29 Acts 19:1-7 Mark 1:4-11	1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20) Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 John 1:43-51	Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Psalm 2:5-12 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 Mark 1:14-20
Liturgical Colour	White	White	Green	Green

DECEMBER

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

8 December	10.15am 4pm	Leisure Time Christmas Party NewView Submissions Close
11 December	10am-12noon	Christmas Morning Tea at The Hub
14 December	2.30pm	Celebrate Christmas with Carols
17 December	5pm	Last Day for Empty Christmas Tree Gifts
21 December	9.15am 11.00am 12.30pm 7.30pm	Service of Release for Belinda Clear Christmas Choral Celebration and Service of Release for Belinda Clear Munch With A Bunch Christmas Lunch Carols on Kingsway
24 December	7.30pm 11pm	Christmas Eve Family Service Christmas Eve Service
25 December	8.30am 10am	Christmas Day Service Christmas Day Service
28 December	10am	Combined Service



continued ...

Sometimes, Lord,
I wish you'd tell me more.
Prepare me.
Or warn me of the storm to come,
So I could grab a spiritual umbrella and stay dry.

But then I realise
I know all I need to know.
And that's the fact
that you know all my needs.
And, wet or dry,
in calm or storm,
you're in it with me.
And that's enough,
Just for today.



All Leisure Time Volunteers are invited to share in the Christmas Morning Tea and Entertainment

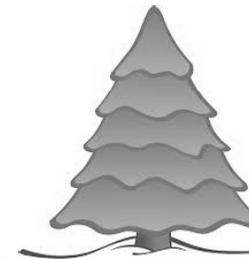
at 10.15am

on Monday 8 December

in the Church Hall.

The Leisure Time Committee sincerely hopes to see you at this special time with the guests.

You are also invited to our brief Christmas service on the same day at 1.30pm in the Church.



YOURS GIFTS are invited for
our **EMPTY**
CHRISTMAS TREE

Gifts for children, teenagers, mums and dads are needed. Food also welcome.

Please do not wrap your present.

All the gifts will be given to CARE Broadmeadows, and to some families from our own church community.

So that gifts can be distributed in time for Christmas, please leave your gift by WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 17.



The Christian Church in the World

UK Christian School - Closure for Maintaining Biblical Values? Trinity Christian School faces closure for not upholding 'British Values'. To comply with new regulations it must 'actively' promote other faiths, for example, by inviting Muslim imams to lead assembly. Also, according to the Equality Act 2010 it cannot promote a 'particular lifestyle' or say 'certain lifestyles are wrong'. The school has been officially notified it 'does not meet the new requirements' and accordingly should be closed. It seems Victoria may face a similar situation with Labor confirming that, if elected, it will rewrite equal opportunity laws to remove religious exemptions so that religious institutions - including Christian schools - will not be permitted to have only staff who uphold their beliefs and values. They may even be obliged to promote and display 'diversity' regarding religion and sexual orientation. Please pray.

Sudan Exposed. Due to a serious security breach, minutes of a 31 August meeting of Sudan's most senior defence and intelligence personnel have been leaked. Now verified as authentic, they expose the belligerent and genocidal nature of the regime in Khartoum. The regime's support for various Islamic jihadist groups is confirmed and Iran is lauded as 'our biggest ally in the region'. Critically, the officials discuss the need to destroy crops growing in South Kordofan so as to starve the Nuba people into submission. They also discuss plans to 'infiltrate and empty the [refugee] camps' in South Sudan so the regime might then recruit the refugees as fighters. Yida Camp in Unity State is run by Samaritan's Purse and is home to many thousands of displaced, mostly Christian Nuba. Please pray.

From Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletin

May I share a thought, based on Matthew 6:31-34 from "No Strange Land", Prayers by Eddie Askew.

"It's easy talking, Lord about not being anxious.
Taking each day as it comes.
"No point in worrying", they say,
I'm not so sure of that.

I look at Joseph and his responsibilities.
A wife. New baby.
Away from home,
and pushed further by forces he could not control.
Did he have the same moments of panic that I have?
Bleak moments,
When it seems that nothing I know
Will help me through the day.



CHRISTMAS MORNING TEA



Come and join us for this special
Christmas Morning Tea on this our
last day at THE HUB for 2014

**Come with your family and friends
ALL AGES WELCOME**

Where: **THE HUB**
Glen Waverley Uniting Church
Cnr Bogong Avenue & Kingsway
Glen Waverley

When: **Thursday 11th December 2014**

Time: **10 am to 12 noon**

*Donations of small gifts to be given to those
less fortunate at this time of the year are welcome*

Please add your list to the name on the office counter if you are able to attend. We hope to see you there.

The Hub

Thank you very much to the many people who have supported The Hub in 2014. It's been a busy year with the many visitors to The Hub and our special morning teas.

The last day of The Hub for this year will be Thursday 11 December and we will resume on Tuesday 10 February, 2015.

“Happy Christmas” to everyone, from all at The Hub.

Faith Development Missional Group

The Faith Development Missional Group will convene a seminar in February 2015 titled “Talking to Children about Faith”. This will focus on how we convey the meaning of our Christian Faith to our children and grandchildren.

Look for further details early in the New Year.

Advance Notice - Book Sale

As part of the Church fundraising next year, we will be again holding a used book sale at the Church on Saturday February 28. Your donations of books will ensure that we are able to repeat last year's success, so please remember the date and start putting aside books that you have read.

For further information, see Sue Morgan.

City of Monash Golden Plate Award for 2014

GWUC kitchen has again received the highest possible score for its annual Food Safety Assessment and a copy of our certificate can be found next to the hot water unit in the kitchen.

As the weather warms up and the rate of spoilage increases, just a gentle reminder to put your food like sandwiches in the fridge until required. We also ask that the kitchen bins are emptied after your group's event, even if there is not much rubbish in them.

Thank you to everyone for helping to keep our kitchen safe, clean and tidy. Please speak to a member of the Careful Kitchen Crew if you would like more information on keeping your food safe for everyone to consume.



MMM Fundraising Building Project for 2014-2015.

Able to volunteer? Able to provide discounted trade rate or materials?

MMM Australia (a non-profit Christian organisation) exists to maintain or build facilities for churches, camp sites, orphanages, drug and alcohol rehabilitation centres, schools, hospitals and training centres.

MMM have purchased a property at 24 Springfield Road, Boronia and plan to build 3 units. At present there is an old house on the property which needs to be demolished. We need the help of volunteers and qualified trades who would be willing and able to give some time and expertise for demolition, excavation, construction and landscaping.

By supporting MMM Australia in this major fundraiser development, you will be empowering us to construct an MMM base and vocational training centre near Chiang Rai, Thailand.

For further information, please SMS, phone or email Rob Dux on either: Mobile - 0404 099 768, Office - 9837 270, Email - robd@mmm.org.au or Website - www.mmmbuild.org.au



GLEN WAVERLEY UNITING CHURCH

Ministry to Seniors



*Ding Dong
Merrily on High
In heaven the bells are ringing
Ding Dong
Verify the sky
Is riven with angels singing*

Celebrate Christmas with Carols

Sunday 14 December
2.30pm

Carol singing led by Free Spirit with cake
and shortbread to follow.

All welcome.



Inclusive Community Report

Thank you for supporting our functions during this year. If you have any ideas or suggestions for functions in 2015 please let us know. I would like to thank the Inclusive Community committee members for their help this year. They have worked very hard and made sure that events have been successful.

Prayer Chain: If you have a prayer request and you don't want it placed on the weekly prayer list, we do have a prayer chain. All requests for prayer are kept confidential and are only passed onto chain members. We don't need to know why you are requesting prayer, just a name is fine. If you are interested please contact Heather in the office.

Munch with a Bunch: Christmas lunch will be held at the RSL on Sunday 21 December. Invitations will be out soon and will give you more details. This will be a busy day as we will be farewelling Belinda at the 9.15am Service.

English Classes: These classes continue to go well. Most weeks we have about 12 participants. As you begin to think about your commitments for 2015 we would love to hear from you if this is an activity that interests you. Our students are very enthusiastic and interacting with them is worthwhile and rewarding. Speak to Heather or Jan if you are interested.

Intergenerational Dinner: We had a dinner for all age groups, earlier in the year and it was very successful. We plan to have another early in 2015 (February or March). When we have settled on a date, we will advertise it in the bulletin.

Light Lunch: We had a light lunch after the 11am Service on Sunday 9 November, before the congregational meeting and a number of people attended. We will continue to have light lunches after the 11am services in 2015.

Medical Forms: Thanks to those who have filled out medical forms and handed them back to Heather. Some forms need updating so would you please see Heather in the Office or fill out a form, if you have not done so before.

Meeting: Our next Inclusive Community meeting will be on Tuesday 27 January at 10am in the Outer Vestry.

A Letter to the Congregation

Dear Friends,

Church Council met three times this month to discern in relation to Ministry Team make up. Alison has graciously agreed to continue as the Seniors Minister for another year. A team from Church Council will continue to meet in preparation for the January Council meeting.

Rev Judith Watkins was a guest speaker at the last Church Council meeting. Judith shared her insights from her role as Children and Family minister at Brighton Beach. Her approach is that children are the church of the present as well as the future. She spoke of equipping and resourcing families to discuss spirituality. Judith highlighted 'Children's Spirituality': "What it is" and "Why it matters".

Another team from Church Council and some members of Congregation will meet during late November and early December to consider a National Assembly discussion paper re: 'A Fresh Look at Eldership'. The team's response will be published on the Wiki.

Early next year Council will be working on the next steps in regard to the Organic Vision. Council were delighted with the Congregation's support for the Vision. I would like to add my personal thanks to all. It is now up to each and every member of Glen Waverley Uniting Church to action it.

Faith in action demands our response.
Embrace the hope to which Christ has called us.
Recognise Christ in friend and stranger,
and as Christ has been gracious to you,
so be gracious to those in need.
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I wish you all peace and joy during the Christmas season and into the New Year.

Blessings,

Helen Stewart - Chair of Church Council

New Kenya 2015 Calendar coming soon!



\$25 each - Great Christmas Present!

The New Kenya 2015 Calendar will be for sale in the foyer between the 9.15am and 11am Services all through December. There will also be some Kenana Knitters critters (Beautiful knitted soft toys, made in Kenya by a women's project) and some woven bags from the Gioto dumpsite for sale.

All proceeds go towards the work of Mission in Action Orphanage, Kanya. (Pre-order/Hold your calendars by emailing Kat Mann. katandjas@optusnet.com.au)



CHRISTMAS CARDS

- ❖ available now from the church office.
- ❖ Large variety
- ❖ Mixed packs
- ❖ \$7.00 - \$8.00 for pack of 10 cards
- ❖ Purchase of these cards helps support the work of UCA Share and the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation.
- ❖ Don't miss out. Buy your cards now.
- ❖ Cards also available each Sunday (in the foyer)

