



Welcome.
 Glen Waverley Uniting Church is a faithful, Christ-centered community
 that meets God and shares in that unconditional love.

What's On...

Our usual services & events...

- 8am **Contemplative** *incl. Holy Communion*
- 9.15am **Interactive (+live broadcast)** *incl. Holy Communion - 1st Sunday*
- 11am **Traditional (+live broadcast)** *incl. Holy Communion - 3rd Sunday*
OR
- 10am **Combined Worship (+live broadcast)**
- 1pm **Indonesian Fellowship**
- 5pm **Creative Worship**

- MONDAY
- 10.00am **GOMERS**
 - 10.00am **Playgroup**
 - 10.00am **Craft Group**
 - 2.00pm **Leisure Time**
 - 8.00pm **Badminton**

- TUESDAY
- 10.00am **The Hub**
 - 10.00am **Playgroup**
 - 2.00pm **Mindful Meditation**

- WEDNESDAY
- 8.00pm **Free Spirit**

- THURSDAY
- 11.15am **English Conversation Class**
 - 8.00pm **Badminton**

- FRIDAY
- 9.30am **Choir of Hope**
 - 7.00pm/Youth

Please note: not all events are held each week - please contact the church office for details.

GWUC Westpac Bank Account

Uniting Church Glen Waverley
 BSB: 033 052
 Account Number: 92 2198

Ministerial Musings | Ps Di Paterson



As I sit to write this musing, we are in the middle of a heat wave, almost as if Summer has come very late this year. The organisers have wisely cancelled the Moomba parade and there are many other activities that have been cancelled due to the heat. This time last year I was in Adelaide and I must say that I am glad that I am not there this weekend. We talk a lot about the weather, what we might or might not do, and for many, there are plans to take a break over Easter and head away for the last, perhaps, of the good weather.

As we move through Lent towards the pain of the cross, we start to reflect on the love that caused Jesus to sacrifice His life so that we might have a closer and more relevant relationship with God. The reading that I had the joy of preaching on today, (the 4th Sunday in Lent) was John 3:16 - 'For God so loved the world that he gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life.' God loved the world so much, that God gave Jesus. A free gift, we don't have to pay for this gift, we don't even have to earn this gift, we just have to believe in Jesus. That's amazing grace, that God gave freely, out of God's amazing love and grace.

Verse 17 tells us, that Jesus did not come into the world to condemn the world but so that the world through Him might be saved. Jesus came to save, to redeem, to give us new life, and give us a chance to begin again because of Jesus' death and resurrection. In Jesus we are not condemned because we are living under the grace of God. A God who offers us love and grace unconditionally, all we need to do is believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

So, we are not condemned, we have this gift that we don't have to pay for, if we did pay for it, it wouldn't be a gift, a gift is something given in love, and this gift of life with God is just that, a

gift that keeps on giving right through our time on earth and into our future in eternity with God. Sometimes it is hard for us to accept such a wonderful gift, many times we think that we have to earn our way to heaven by doing good works. This is not the case as the gift of life is free.

The fact is that if you love someone, you are delighted to do things for them, to support them and care for them. That is how we can respond to God's love, by doing bits and pieces to make a difference in our families, our community and in our world, not because we might get a higher cloud but because we are responding, in love to the love of God. The works we do, in response to God's love help to enhance our relationship with God.

We are 2/3 of the way through the season of Lent, a time when we look at who we are as faithful people and who we are in God. It is a time of searching ourselves as we move towards the torture of the cross and the victory of the resurrection. We also begin to understand that the cross would be pointless if we did not have the resurrection; praise God, we know how the story ends. We know that in a couple of weeks the Lenten journey will end but we need to remember that we are not there yet, but we are close. We need to remember the act of grace and love that led Jesus to the cross to die for my sin, for your sin and for the sin of the world.

God Loved the world so much that he gave..... everything, God held nothing back.

Our response is to love God, to embrace the gift of life in Jesus, a free gift, the gift of life in the Holy Spirit, a free gift, given in love by our amazing and gracious God.

God loved the world so muchhow will you respond?

Glen Waverley Uniting Church PLAYGROUP

10:00am - 12:00pm
Every Tuesday morning



- From Babies to 4yo
- Parents & Children
- Fun and social activities
- Friendly and inclusive

For more information contact
the GWUC office at 9560 3580
or office@gwuc.org.au

- Our Playgroups are run by a team of experienced volunteers who are familiar with the Uniting Church Safe Church requirements.
- Our mission is to provide a safe, welcoming place of Christian hospitality where children can interact, mothers can make new friends and find support.
- As we are a playgroup all children must be supervised by a parent or other carer for the entire time.

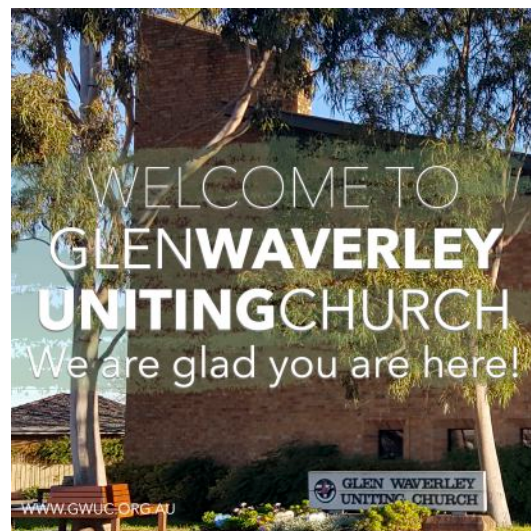
Are you NEW to
Glen Waverley
Uniting Church?

At this link <https://gwuc.org.au/im-new/> you will find:

- What we stand for
- Who's Who
- Worship Times
- Finding Us
- Groups

We have activities for:

- Children and Families
- Youth and Young Adults
- All Ages
- Seniors



GLEN WAVERLEY UNITING CHURCH ADULT FELLOWSHIP - UCAF

*Join us for morning tea followed
by devotions and a guest speaker*

1st Tuesday of each month @ 10am



GOMER^S

**- GRUMPY OLD MEN &
EARLY RETIREES**

10am every Monday

Join us for coffee and a chat!

CONGREGATIONAL OUTREACH PROJECTS (COP) IN 2024

It's time to start planning for COP2024.

Our annual church fete raises substantial funds through the generous and faithful work of our whole congregation. These funds are then distributed to projects which benefit people outside of our own congregation through our Congregational Outreach Projects.

This year, the newly re-formed Outreach & Social Justice Mission Group, with the approval of Church Council, has simplified and updated the Congregational Outreach Project selection process.

Members of the congregation are **warmly invited to propose projects** which they feel are worthy of our fete funds and which meet the GWUC assessment criteria. Applications for local, national and international** projects are all eligible.

The assessment criteria and process will be similar to those applied previously.

Applications will open on 2 April and close on 26 May 2024.

In recent years, the congregation has found it difficult to appoint a Congregational Outreach Project selection committee. From 2024, the COP Selection Panel will be drawn from those members of the Outreach and Social Justice Mission Group without involvement or connection with any of the submitted projects. In practice, this has been happening for some years.

The COP selection panel will assess applications and have recommendations ready to present to the congregation by early July. These recommendations will be presented to a

meeting of the congregation in July or August. In the event that there are insufficient suitable congregational outreach project applications from the congregation, the selection panel will be permitted to recommend one or more Uniting Church of Australia Outreach services (e.g. UnitingWorld, Frontier Services, our local welfare program) which meet Glen Waverley Uniting Church selection criteria.

The COP process, including the application form to be used, may be found at

<http://wiki.gwuc.org.au/gwuc/CopProjects2024>

The COP assessment criteria may be found at <http://wiki.gwuc.org.au/gwuc/CopAssessmentCriteria>.

Hard copies of these will be available at the church office after March 12.

For those who are interested, GWUC's overall COP procedure is defined in detail at <http://wiki.gwuc.org.au/gwuc/CopOverallProcedure>.

**For those contemplating proposing an international project, please note that there are additional due diligence and reporting requirements. They support the Church in meeting the [External Conduct Standards](#) set by the Australian Charities Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and ensure that any international activities and giving goes to reputable organisations, maximising the impact that it may have for the intended recipients.

If you have any questions about the COP process, ask John Snare, chair of congregation (john.snare@bigpond.com), or Margaret Fraser, chair of the Outreach & Social Justice Mission Group (marjanfraser@gmail.com).

Jacob's Song



Many of you will know Jacob Davey...
he is in the band and Free Spirit,
and can play piano and guitar and sing
(maybe not all 3 at once but often 2 at once!).
Jacob is a quiet achiever but did you know that among
his many talents he is an accomplished composer?

Jacob has shared one of his pieces -

Composition 4 for us to enjoy.

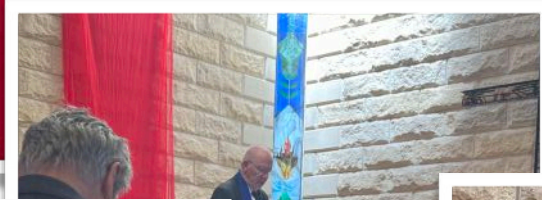
<https://youtu.be/cXJNPlnH-vQ>.

Thanks Jacob!

If you would like a printed copy of Jacob's composition please contact
the GWUC office office@gwuc.org.au or Jacob jacobdavey92@gmail.com



Welcome Rev Ian Ferguson to Glen Waverley Uniting Church



Pacific Island Ministry

Many of you will remember Glen Waverley Uniting Church supporting financially the Kiribati community (a south pacific island) that enabled them to purchase Birthing Kits that were distributed at no cost to them, that has saved many lives of women and girls in the remote atolls. This project was initiated by members of our partner church at Johnstonville - Wendy and Peter Flahive <https://www.bkfa.org.au/kiribati-pilot-project/> - and was a COP recipient mentored by Bobbie Rooks. Over 200 kits were wrapped, packed, transported and distributed, and 12 women were trained to help these women use the kits. It was a wonderful and practical outreach.



The team is extending this outreach in 2024

and plan to provide the same Birthing Kits now to women and girls of the **Solomon Islands**. This project requires them to raise \$4,000 for the kits **prior to June 2024** and it will again be managed and overseen by the Birthing Kit Association (Aust). It is an exciting extension to the successful original project.

Unfortunately, the timing of our Fete and COP outcomes does not meet the urgent need of the project for these funds, and so Church Council has approved placing this request before you now. Church Council Secretary - David Morgan has verified that this group is a valid registered charity.

If you feel this is something that is important to you please go to the Birthing Kit Foundation (Australia) and make a direct donation. Their site can be found at <https://www.bkfa.org.au>

When donating, it is important to indicate that the funds are for **the Pilot Project in the Solomon Islands - June 2024**. If you have any problems, please give them a call.

Unfortunately, funds cannot be processed via the GWUC Church Office.

Thank you for considering this important project that we know will help save the lives of mothers and babies in some very remote communities where they have no trained mid-wives.

A tale from... the Children's Court

by Anne Newton

Sunday

I was very aware of Rev Chris's theme on Sunday 25 February about How do we serve God? I had been especially focused on this message as I had been writing the Prayers of the People for the 11am service in the days before Sunday. By the next morning my Monday routine of attending the Children's Court in the city had overtaken Sunday's focus.

Monday

I am a volunteer with the Court Network. This role involves speaking to people involved in the court proceedings who sit in the waiting area for their cases to be heard.

We networkers provide a listening ear, simple information about the court and the offer of something to drink. We have a filing cabinet drawer filled with giant tins of instant coffee and milo plus boxes of teabags along with packets of long life milk and sachets of sugar. Given that court users often wait for several hours to be called into court, our hot drinks and cups of cold water are a staple of our role.

This Monday I made my usual offer of coffee etc to one young woman in the waiting area. She was disheveled and the smell around her indicated she was in urgent need of a wash and her clothes likewise. She accepted a coffee: white with four sugars.

I returned shortly after with a paper cup of hot sweet coffee. I did not have an opportunity to speak to her because a number of legal people came up to speak with her so I quickly withdrew. (We volunteers know our place.)

Much, much, later, as I was leaving the court a formally dressed woman stopped me and thanked me for giving this young client a cup of coffee. She went on to explain that the "mum" had initiated this court action for the return of her baby because her child had been taken from her at birth by Child Protection staff. But because the mum was drug addicted and had never actually taken care of the baby, it was extremely unlikely the magistrate would allow the little one to be given into her care.

It seemed the legal representatives from both sides, the Child Protection unit and the woman in front of me (who was from Legal Aid) had talked to the mum at length about the impasse. Eventually it had become apparent that the mum realised the magistrate would not agree to her application for the return of her child but her actual motivation for the request was to provide factual evidence to her child (in the future) that she had fought for her or him.

I was emotionally confronted at this enormity.

When the matter had come before the court the magistrate was understanding, finding that even though the child would not be placed in her care, the written outcome would emphasise the mother's love for her child and her desire to undertake care.

The legal woman in front of me said simply "I am going to give my kids an extra kiss tonight."

Tuesday

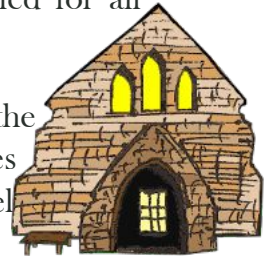
The next morning brought the thought: "even a cup of cold water" (Matthew 10:42). In 2024 even a paper cup of sweet instant coffee may help - a little.



THE LITTLE LAMB'S EASTER GIFT

ONCE UPON A TIME, in a peaceful meadow, there lived a little lamb named Lily. Lily was known for her soft, white wool and her gentle spirit. One bright and sunny morning, as Easter approached, Lily overheard the older sheep talking about a special message that Easter carried for all Christians.

Curious and excited, Lily decided to embark on an adventure to discover the true meaning of Easter. She hopped through the meadow, her tiny hooves making a soft patter on the grass, until she reached a charming little chapel nestled in the heart of the woods.



Inside the chapel, Lily met a wise old rabbit named Benjamin, who greeted her with a warm smile. Benjamin explained to Lily that Easter wasn't just about colourful eggs and sweet treats but carried a much deeper message of hope, love, and new beginnings.



As Lily listened intently, Benjamin shared the story of Jesus, the greatest gift of love, who sacrificed himself for all of humanity. Lily's heart swelled with warmth as she understood the significance of Easter - it was a celebration of life, forgiveness, and the promise of eternal joy.



Inspired by the story, Lily wanted to do something special for her friends in the meadow. She gathered vibrant flowers and created beautiful bouquets, carefully tying them with colorful ribbons. Lily then went around, sharing these gifts with all the animals, spreading joy and love just like the message of Easter.

As Lily shared her Easter bouquets, she explained the story she had learned from Benjamin. The animals in the meadow listened with wonder, grateful for the little lamb who brought not only flowers but also a message of hope.

On Easter morning, the meadow was filled with the sweet fragrance of Lily's bouquets, and the animals gathered together to celebrate. They thanked Lily for sharing the Easter message, and in return, they presented her with a crown made of flowers to honor her kind heart.

From that day forward, the meadow animals remembered the true meaning of Easter, thanks to Lily's thoughtful and loving gesture.

And every year, they gathered to share the story and exchange flowers, cherishing the message of hope and renewal that Easter brought to their hearts.

And so, the little lamb named Lily became a symbol of Easter joy in the meadow, reminding everyone that love and kindness were the greatest gifts of all.



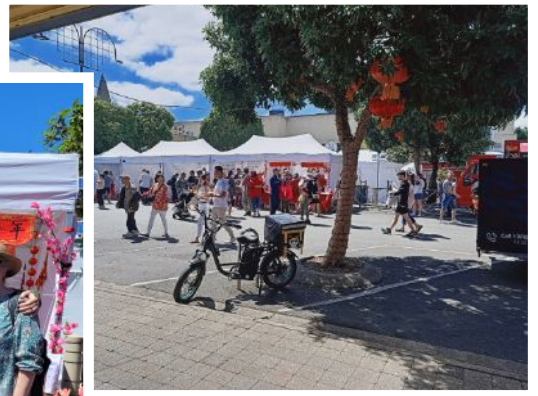


GLEN WAVERLEY LUNAR NEW YEAR

CELEBRATION AND LANTERN
FESTIVAL ON KINGSWAY

18 FEBRUARY 2024
11AM - 9PM

YEAR OF THE DRAGON



Community Outreach at the Glen Waverley Lunar New Year Festival, 18th February 2024





Proceeds to support the work of Glen Waverley Uniting Church

Used books for adults and kids
二手書出售

Book Sale

Saturday 24 Feb
8:30am-4:00pm



Grand Total: \$7654.99

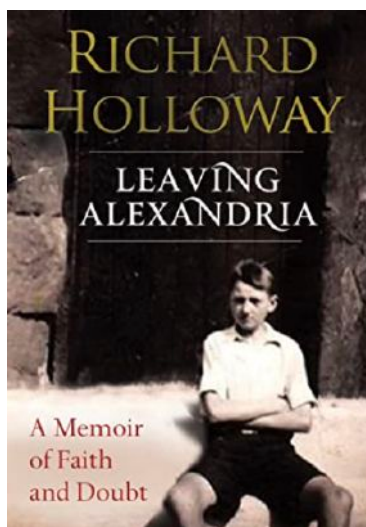
...another successful Book Sale - raising a record amount!
If you missed it, the next Book Sale will be at the Annual Fete on October 19th 2024.



One of our Friday Group who cannot be with us this year gave us each a copy of the book *Leaving Alexandria*. It is a brilliant book by a man who have experienced Christian faith in many forms. It is well worth reading if only to help us contemplate our faith.

Born in 1933, Richard Holloway grew up in a nominally Christian family in Alexandria near Glasgow, at an early age he became involved in the local Anglican church and developed a strong faith built around the rites and practices of the Anglican church. At the tender age of 14 he was selected to train as an Anglican monk in a monastery in England. The book opens with him visiting the cemetery of the now closed monastery and reminiscing over the graves of his old tutors, long past all having lived their single, celibate lives within the sacred walls with the firm conviction that marriage showed a weakness. During his annual holidays back home, he worked on some farms and became friendly with a young lady (probably no more than a kiss and a cuddle) but for years he felt a strong guilt about the event. He admits at one stage having an attraction to another priest. He left the monastery and became a priest spending quite a bit of time in social work in the deprived areas of Glasgow. He progressed in the priesthood with a strong devotion to the rituals of what he calls the Anglo-Catholic church, it almost seems that the Anglican church is more Catholic than the Roman church. He spent several years in Edinburgh and gives an interesting look at the traditional church there. He spent some time in the United States and during that time he met and fell in love with a young lady but the old guilt gnawed away at him; having serious

LEAVING ALEXANDRIA



second thoughts, then marrying and finally finding the joys of marriage and family. In his time in the US he spent a few years in Boston (claimed to be the Gay capital of the US) and during the AIDS epidemic and from his work with the victims he developed a greater compassion for the victims and the gay community in general seeing them as fellow humans not as evil doers. He also was deeply impressed by the involvement of women in the church in the US. At one stage he dabbled in Pentecostal and evangelical groups but felt they were superficial. He also had problems with the fundamentalists. He studied other religions which widened his faith. Upon returning to Britain he had various appointments, one being Oxford and in his final position he was appointed Bishop of Edinburgh. In returning to Britain, he brought back with him many changes; in one of his writings he said he was "comfortably uncomfortable". It was a time

when the Anglican church was going through a serious upheaval, there was the problem of ordination of women that wouldn't go away, and the gay revolution among other things.

He describes his attendances at the Lambeth conferences which occurs every ten years. He enjoyed the first but not the second, the subject of ordination of women and gays were the major argument and was tearing the church apart. It was a time of despair for him, he could not accept that half the population was unfit for office in the church, he could not accept that people's personal preferences made them "evil in the sight of God". As an act of defiance as they made their way up the Thames on a boat he threw his Mitre into the river as a token of dissent. He wrote many articles and quite a few books several of which enraged many in the church hierarchy. At the time some Anglican bishops and priest left the church and joined the Roman church.

In 2000 it came to a head and at some churches where he visited some of the "pillars" of the local churches would not speak to him and refused to shake his hand as they left the service. Many called for him to be sacked which he withstood but eventually he resigned as Bishop of Edinburgh. He left the church for a time and "retired"; but has come back but with his gentle zeal. If you would like to see a little more of him Google "Richard Holloway" there are several short podcasts they are well worth watching and most of them are only 5-10 minutes and may make you think about your faith and other faiths. We have several copies available and would be happy to **LEND** them to anyone wishing to read the book.

*Bill Norquay
on behalf of the Friday Q group*

Badminton & Table Tennis

Monday & Thursday

8pm to 10pm

No bookings required

\$3 per session



Email Safety

Email is a great way for us to keep in touch, and it is widely used within our congregation. However, there are villains out there who abuse our trusting nature. Recently, some members of the congregation have received scam messages, apparently, but not really, from people they know and trust.

Did you know that the sender of email is not necessarily the person or organisation named at the top of an email?

Did you know that if you reply to an email, it will not necessarily go to the person you think it will?

Did you know that a common way of defrauding people is to convince them to click on an unsafe link in an email or text message?

Here are some simple things you can do to protect yourself.

1. If an email apparently from someone you know seems a bit strange, don't trust it. Ring them up and check (but don't use a phone number in the email; find their phone number some other way).
2. If you are not expecting an email from someone, don't click on a link in the email.
3. Similarly, don't click on links in SMS messages.
4. If an email out of the blue asks you to send money or gift cards, don't; it's almost certainly a scam.
5. Turn on, or enable, two-factor authentication on your email account; in fact on all accounts you have for services delivered over the internet. If you need help, your internet service provider such as Telstra can help if you contact their help or customer service people.



Hospitality - Understanding - Belonging

A welcoming and friendly place for people of all ages.

Tuesday 10am-12pm
(during school terms)

- Drop in for a chat
- Have a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit
- Make new friends
- Have some time out in a relaxed welcoming space

2024 at THE HUB



Thursday 23 May
Australia's Biggest Morning Tea
supporting Cancer Council Victoria

Thursday 15 August
Special Morning Tea
supporting Fight Parkinson's



Thursday 24 October
Seniors' Morning Tea
supporting Motor Neurone
Research

Thursday 5 December
Christmas Morning Tea
supporting GWUC Welfare



We look forward to seeing you again
Groups of 10 or more - please call 9560 3580 to book

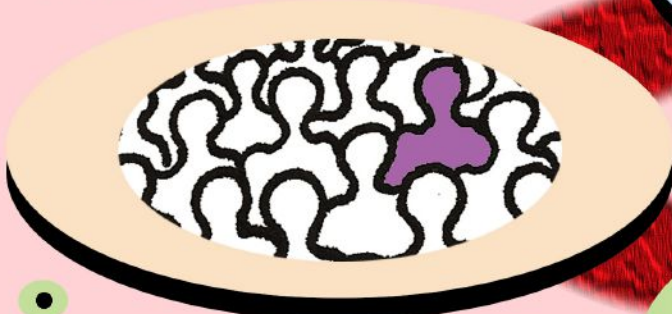
EASTER

Story

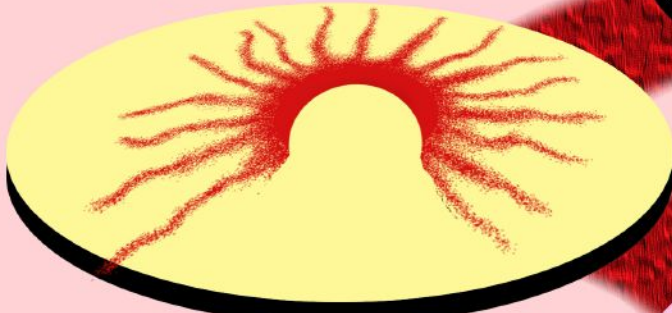
He is risen (Matthew 28:6)



- Judas betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. Matthew 26:14-16



- Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. Matthew 26: 36-39



- Jesus was crucified and died on the cross. John 19:30



- The angel told the women the tomb was empty; Jesus had risen! Matthew 28:5-7

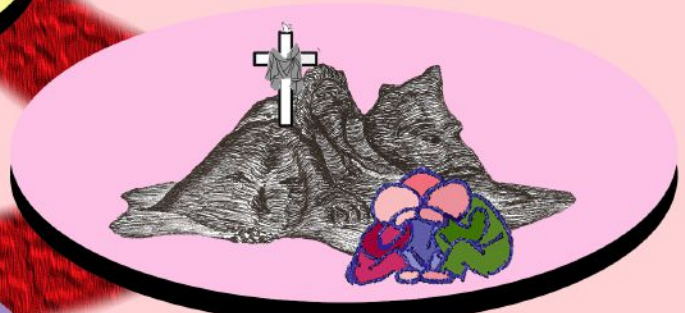
- Jesus rode on a donkey into Jerusalem. Matthew 21:1-7



- Jesus and his disciples have the Last Supper. Matthew 26:26-29



- The soldiers put a crown of thorns on Jesus' head. Matthew 27: 27-29



- An angel rolled away the stone at Jesus' tomb. Matthew 28:2



Join us for Easter

Holy Week Services
Mon-Wed
March 25, 26, 27 - 7.30pm

Maundy Thursday
March 28 - 7.30pm

Good Friday
March 29 - 9.30am

Easter Sunday
March 31 - 10am



All welcome
In person or online at www.gwuc.org.au/live

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Kingsway Magazine is a regular magazine of Glen Waverley Uniting Church. It is designed to provide a voice for the church community to share activities, thoughts, celebrations, stories and the faith journey, and will present to the church community the quiet achievers and achievements in the life of our church. "Kingsway" has a multi-generational, multi-cultural and missional focus and is designed to build community, lift the spirit and strengthen our faith. If you have an item, article or notice that you think will be just right for "Kingsway", please contact Joanne Boldiston (office@gwuc.org.au) or David Fraser (davidfraser60@gmail.com).