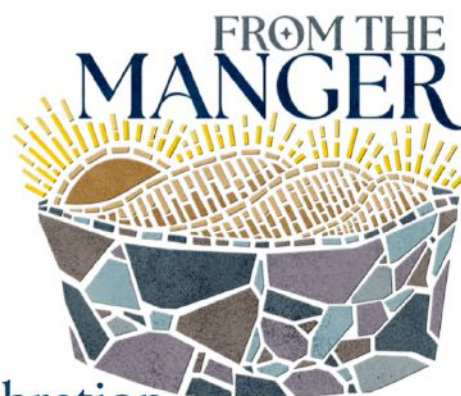




Welcome.

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

Come and share in the Celebration of Christmas



1 December - 10am Worship
11.30am Annual Christmas Luncheon
(Bookings for lunch essential)

8 December - 10am Worship
11.30am Multicultural Christmas Celebration
(Bookings for lunch essential)

10 December - 8pm Remembrance Service

15 December - 10am Nativity Worship

22 December - 10am Carol Service

24 December - 7pm Family Christmas Eve Service

25 December - 8.30am & 10am Christmas Day Services

Join us here or go to www.gwuc.org.au/live to watch online

All are Welcome

What's On...

Our usual services & events...

8.30 **Contemplative** *incl. Holy Communion each week*

10am **Worship (+live broadcast)**
*incl. Sunday Squad Kids Program
Holy Communion - 1st Sunday*

1pm **Indonesian Fellowship**
*4th Sunday of each month
incl. Holy Communion*

5pm **FEAST (Friends Eating And Sharing Together)** *Please bring a plate of food to share*

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

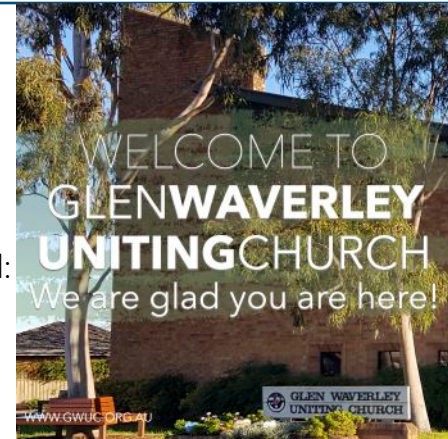
Uniting Church Glen Waverley
BSB: 033 052
Account Number: 92 2198

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, Seniors and All Ages!



2024 Annual Christmas Lunch

Sunday 1 December
12pm - 2pm

An Invitation to young and old to attend the Glen Waverley Uniting Church Annual Christmas Lunch

Let's gather together to celebrate Christmas at a sit-down meal together in the hall.

The meal will consist of chicken (1/4 for adults and 1/8 for seniors and children) with potato, vegetables, gravy, dessert, soft drink, tea or coffee.

Bookings are essential as seating is limited.

Forms available from office counter, or contact the office for an email copy.

Please return completed form to:

Judith & Warren Greenwood, Laurel & John Muir,
or the church office by Sunday 24 November 2024

Any queries, please call the office on 9560 3580

COST: Adults \$16, Seniors \$14,
Children (Primary School) \$6



2024 FETE

This year's fete was a great success! Together we raised a total of

\$21,701.49!

It shows what our congregation can achieve when we take on a task together. The fete provided the chance for us all, whatever our association with the church, to enthusiastically work together to carry out the many jobs required, and to get to know each other better. How blessed we are to be part of such a caring community.

This year the funds raised will go to Asylum Seeker Program, Education Support; Choir of Hope, providing support through music; Kids under Cover, Scholarship Program; Uniting World, Fiji Disaster Readiness Climate Change Program; and GWUC Welfare, aid for local families.

Thank you to everyone for your support of this event. We look forward to seeing you at our 2025 Fete on Saturday 18 October!

GWUC Fete Committee.



God's servant fits the Bill

By Marina Williams

text reprinted from *Crosslight Magazine*, 6 August 2024

Celebrating 80 years of ministry, Rev Bill Morgan says he is living an extraordinary life, and one devoted to God, family and community.

An unwavering faith has provided the spiritual anchor and strength to guide him through more than a century of life, witnessing immense changes in the world – two world wars, global pandemics, economic depression, myriad technological advances, as well as personal triumphs and tragedies – with compassion, wisdom and dedication to service.

Ordained in the Presbyterian Church in Malvern on April 24, 1944, Bill was a Minister at churches in South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania.

At the union of the Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian churches in 1977 he became a member of the Uniting Church.

In 1984, Bill retired from active ministry, serving in a pastoral capacity for the next 20 years.

In recognition of his 80th anniversary of ordination, a Service of Thanksgiving was held at Glen Waverley Uniting Church on June 2, with Bill joined by his three children, Heather, John and Libby, and extended family.

“Faith is not static,” the 108-year-old says, reflecting on his longevity of service.

“In many ways it’s undefinable, (but) it grows out of experiences.

“It’s a feeling, it’s an attitude, it’s a belief, with all of those things wrapped up, and faith inspires you to go on.

“As Christians and members of the Church, we are here to commend God to others, so that they may find the same joy, peace and purpose we do.”

Of his father’s career, John says it’s likely he has led more than 6000 services, and officiated at countless weddings, including for family.

“He married his children and some of his grandchildren, and it’s something very special that we hold dear,” John says.

With eight grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren, Bill is proud of his achievements but also humble.

“I enjoy people, enjoy reading and sharing experiences,” he says.

“It’s wonderful to connect with people and I’m extremely grateful that at 108 I can carry on a conversation like this one, although I don’t like any fuss, I prefer to talk about God and faith than myself.”

Family played a formative role in shaping Bill’s strong character and values.



Born on October 23, 1915 in Melbourne’s inner west, Bill grew up in a working-class family of five boys and one girl.

“My parents were Scottish, and believed in values,” he says proudly.

Bill fondly recalls a home filled with much love, patience and laughter, with many family trips to the football on Saturdays to watch Footscray.

“I missed the Grand Final win in 1954 as I was officiating at a wedding, so I was very excited that John took me to the grand final in 2016 and we saw them win,” Bill says.

Education was equally important, with Bill attending Scotch College in Melbourne, becoming school captain in 1935.

He excelled at sport, captained the rowing team and played in the 1st XVIII.

He later played rugby for Victoria while studying for the ministry at Melbourne University.

“It was a happy childhood, we did things together, we learnt to disagree with each other and, yet, stay fixed as a family, and that was an influence later in my life, because I could very often draw on some of those experiences,” Bill says.

He says his Mum nurtured engagement with the church and he vividly remembers a comment to his eldest brother, Jim, following an argument.

“He was going to church, and Mum said to him ‘I hope you come home a better boy than when you left’,” Bill recalls.

“What a wonderful way to look at church. Whether you had an argument, church makes you better.”

Their loving example instilled perseverance that carried Bill through life’s challenges, including the death of his parents, his siblings and two wives – Joan, the mother of his children, in 1957, and Jessie, who he met and married later in life, in 2011.

Bill radiates a contagious enthusiasm for life, as well as independence, only recently moving into an aged-care facility.

“He finally thought he was old enough to move in,” daughter Libby says.

Equally quick with the quip, Bill adds: “Although I’m not sure this is the last chapter or the epilogue.”

His secret to shepherding congregations for 80 years is actively listening to peoples’ struggles.

“You’ve got to learn to listen to people ... stop, listen and see what their difficulties are,” Bill says.

Describing it as an “unforgettable experience”, he remains most proud of leading the Ormond congregation “to buy a piece of land alongside the church to build Kirkside, an aged-care place for 15 people”.

“He built a congregation willing to accept leadership,” John says.

“He was pleased that he was respected and always showed compassion.”

Living a values-led life brings opportunity for the faithful to serve others and uplift communities for generations, says Bill, even in a changing world and Church.

“Always remember the vows you made when you became a member of the church and honour them through thick and thin,” he says.

“Ministers will come and go, but the congregation remains. You stand fast.”

His advice to ministers is equally simple.

“Remember, it’s not a job, it’s a calling from God to serve people in all situations of life, in all conditions of life ... it’s a great opportunity.”

Although mobility issues are limiting his physical activities (he stopped playing golf at 95), Bill remains busy, joyfully declaring “it’s still nice to be alive”.

“I have always tried to stay active and look after my health,” he says.

“While I’m not able to walk as well as I used to, or run or play football anymore, I still enjoy getting out and about when I can.

“I am off to play carpet bowls this afternoon.

“Even though I can’t see as well as I used to, I’m relying on God to help guide the bowl.”



Congratulations
Bill on 80 Years of Ordination

This Is Your Life - Ian Ferguson

With the disruption to the beginning of my ministry here at GWUC by an unexpected heart attack, you and I have not had as much opportunity to get to know one another as might otherwise have been the case.

And so, here are some things about me that you might not yet know.

My family heritage is Kiwi. My parents were both born in Aotearoa New Zealand and I was raised there, in Wellington, for the first 10 years of my life. I was not born there, however. My father is a NZ Presbyterian Minister and academic theologian, who in the year of my birth, 1964, was completing his PhD at Cambridge University. My mother, a high school language teacher, flew me home to New Zealand 4 months after my birth there. Dad joined us later after submitting his thesis. This convoluted story of origins means that I am a triple citizen - British by birth, New Zealander by descent, and Australian by choice!

My parents moved to Sydney in 1975 for my father to become the inaugural principal of the United Theological College, the Uniting Church ministerial training institution in NSW. He held that position for nearly 20 years before going back to New Zealand to conclude his ministry in an Auckland congregation. My mother worked at various high schools as a

German teacher, most notably MLC Sydney for many years. After retiring from teaching she continued working for the teachers union well into her 70s. They are now both retired and living in Auckland.

I am the oldest child of my parents - I have two sisters and a brother and a foster sister who lived with our family for many years. They live scattered around various parts of Australia and New Zealand. I am the only member of my family in Victoria.

When I was 10 years old (the year we moved to Australia), I asked my parents if they would take me to ballet classes with my sisters. Somewhat bemused, they agreed, and thus my first consuming passion and vocation began. I very quickly decided that I wanted to be a ballet dancer. For years I attended multiple weekly classes after school and on weekends and eventually auditioned for the Australian Ballet School (ABS, the premier ballet training institution in the country). I got in and after finishing high school I left home and moved from Sydney to Melbourne to follow my dream. This huge upheaval in my life did not provide a smooth road to ballet stardom! My body failed to cope with the demands of full time training and I developed a serious foot injury which required surgery. The resulting hiatus led me to question my path. I had always been interested in modern

Glen Waverley Uniting Church
Corner Bogong Avenue & Kingsway

CHRISTMAS PHOTOS AT THE HUB

TUESDAY 26TH
NOVEMBER
10AM - 12PM



COME ALONG TO THE HUB AT GLEN WAVERLEY UNITING CHURCH AND BE A PART OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY!

DRESS UP AS MARY, JOSEPH, SHEPHERDS, WISE PEOPLE OR ANGELS AND HAVE YOUR PHOTO TAKEN AS PART OF THE NATIVITY.

Celebrate the real reason for Christmas - the birth of Jesus.

Children, grandchildren, parents and grandparents are welcome!

Photos taken on the day will be available for collection on Tuesday 3 December between 10am and 12 noon.



dance and was beginning to feel that the rarified air of the ballet world risked becoming suffocating for me. I decided to leave the ABS at the end of my first year there and move to the Victorian College of the Arts which had more of a focus on modern dance training.

I thrived there and went on to work in a number of professional dance companies, including the West Australian Ballet Company and Danceworks, a small modern dance company based in Melbourne. It was there that I met dancer and choreographer, Beth Shelton. We danced together for a couple of years before realising that we wanted to spend the rest of our lives together! Before that happened I spent a year dancing in London and New York. I returned to be with Beth and we married in 1991. At the time, Beth was the artistic director of Danceworks.

When our first child, Brenna, was born, Beth resigned from the company and began retraining as a psychologist. Simultaneously, I began exploring my call to ministry.

I still love dancing, I am formed by dance, I am a dancer. But I came to see the theatre world as a dead end for me. I wanted to integrate my faith and spirituality more closely with my artistic creativity, and so I re-immersed myself in the church of my childhood, finding a home and a new vocation there.

I have served God in the Uniting Church in 4 different placements, all in Melbourne: Montrose, Beaumaris and Black Rock, Brunswick and now Glen Waverley.

Our children, Brenna and Alex, often stay with us here in the manse and you may well see them around. Brenna lives in Preston with her husband and one year old daughter. She is a social worker at Uniting Regen working as an Alcohol and Other Drugs addiction counsellor. Alex lives with his partner and their border collie in Balnarring. He is training to be a psychologist like his mother while working as a NDIS Behaviour Support Practitioner.

My interests and hobbies include: cooking, watching prestige TV (recent favourites: Severance, Andor), reading Sci Fi and Fantasy novels (recent favourites: Children of Time by Adrian Tchaikovsky, The Book of Love by Kelly Link), listening to political and pop culture podcasts, photography, bushwalking (favourite place: Wilsons Promontory), birdwatching (favourite bird, Eastern Spinebill).

And dancing. I am part of a community that meets weekly to dance together in a form called Contact Improvisation (although sadly this has been on hold since my heart attack - I'm hoping to return soon).

GLEN WAVERLEY
UNITING CHURCH
CORNER BOGONG AVENUE
& KINGSWAY

CHRISTMAS

Morning Tea

AT THE HUB

THURSDAY 5 DECEMBER

10am - 12pm
ALL WELCOME!

Donations welcome for needy families in our Community

Groups of 10 or more, please call 9560 3580

Sunday Nights 5pm

A casual place to share Faith, Food and Fellowship.

All Ages Welcome!

Friends Eating And Sharing Together

Please bring a plate of food to share.

- FEAST SCREEN**
We watch a movie then have a short discussion after the movie
- FEAST REFLECT**
A bible study linking the scriptures to our everyday life
- FEAST SHARE**
A time to share our faith, testimonies, stories, prayers, laughs and concerns
- FEAST TALKS**
A talk or discussion about a current issue within our community
- FEAST SERVES**
An opportunity to serve the community
- FEAST CREATE**
exploring faith through food, art and creativity

Emissions and Environmental Enhancement Projects at Glen Waverley Uniting Church

This summary forms part of the papers for the Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday 24 November. The Chair of the Property Committee will present more information of the recommended projects, planning and activity. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions.

The 2023 Synod of Victoria and Tasmania meeting resolved that "all sections of the UCA Victoria and Tasmania were to aim for zero emissions by 2040". In response, the Glen Waverley Uniting Church Property Committee, with approval from the Finance Committee, Treasurer, and Church Council, formed a project team to recommend steps to help the congregation achieve zero emissions (or as close as possible) by 2040.

These recommendations are designed to ensure responsible stewardship of physical resources and remain within the financial capabilities of the congregation.

This document summarises the proposed projects, with further details available in the full report from the Project Team. If you would like a copy of the full report, please contact the Church Office.

The project team recommends moving forward with these projects because:

- They benefit the environment and are financially responsible.

- They provide positive outcomes for the Glen Waverley Uniting Church.

- They address the Synod resolution.

The proposed projects are scheduled to be implemented over time until 2040, with a total estimated cost of approximately \$100,000. Many projects will be funded through the church's regular annual property budgets and rental income. Some projects may pay for themselves over time due to savings on energy costs, while others may require capital outlay without direct financial returns but will significantly reduce emissions. Our purpose is to replace and update on a needs basis as items require replacement

Church Council has accepted the report, requested that it be communicated across our Congregation and Property Committee and Treasurer (Finance Committee) have been authorised to determine project sequence based on GWUC financial abilities as demonstrated by timely business cases.

Recommended Projects

Worship Complex

1. Installation of solar batteries to the worship complex solar array.

It is expected that Installation of solar batteries would lift the effective use of our solar generation in any full year from currently around 40% to approximately 70% plus annually.

Estimated cost: initially \$20,000 to \$25,000, but fully recovered over a defined period with energy cost savings. We do not wish to put electricity back to the grid, we want and need to use the maximum in our facilities.

When: 2025

Funding: It is proposed that this project be funded in the same way the solar panels were funded, that is, via the estimated annual savings. There would be a "loan" of congregational funds from our reserves, which would be "repaid" annually.

2. Replacing the remaining incandescent and fluorescent lighting with LED lighting.

Around half of our existing lighting is already LED (both Internal and External), but there is opportunity to replace the remaining units with low cost, lower power consumption LED units. This project has two parts: the hall, and the rest of the worship complex.

Hall

Estimated cost: initially \$2,500 - \$3,000 but offset over time with lower energy costs.

When: As soon as a hoist becomes available.

Funding: Financing to be from either special project funds and/or Deferred Maintenance 2024/2025.

Rest of the worship complex

Estimated Cost: initially \$3,500 but offset over time with lower energy costs.

When: As soon as possible.

Funding: Financing to be from 2024 and 2025 annual budgets, the Future Fund, or other alternatives at the Treasurers discretion.

3. Hall Heating

The existing 8 x 1500-watt radiator heating uses a lot of electricity. There is no cooling for the hall. This project will replace the existing radiator heating with reverse cycle air conditioning that is much more efficient and will provide cooling as well as heating.

Estimated Cost: initially \$12,000 - \$15,000

When: 2028/2029 budget year.

Funding: Possible grants to be investigated.

4. Reducing reliance on gas

The worship complex has four gas appliances: rooms 1/2/3 have gas heaters, and there is a gas cooktop in the kitchen. This project involves removal of the existing gas heaters and replacement of the old and obsolete air conditioners in rooms 2 and 3 with new reverse cycle air conditioners that provide heating and cooling. It is not proposed to change the gas cooktop in the kitchen until it fails or 2040, and the recommended project does not include the kitchen gas cooktop.

Estimated Cost: \$2,900. There would be energy savings and emission reductions by this project. It is believed that 90% of current gas usage is heater related and the savings are quantifiable and will be reflected in the Business Case presented by Properties.

When: 2025. This is considered a priority project.

Funding: 2025 property budget or Deferred Maintenance.

Manses 15/17/19 Southdown Ave

1. Gas heating replacement - 15/17/19 Southdown Ave.

All manses have gas central heating. It is recommended that a special project team be established to perform a detailed analysis of available options and get detailed quotes on this project recommendation. It is recommended that existing arrangement continue until the heater units fail.

Estimated cost: \$42,000 (3 x \$14,000). There are no cost savings to the congregation. Savings will accrue to the people using the Manses. The Business Case will define the costs etc.

When: As and when the existing units fail or by 2040

Funding: Either from Deferred Maintenance reserve as and when the existing units fail or special funding if prior to failure.

2. Adding batteries to 15/17 Southdown Ave existing solar array

15/17 Southdown Ave have 5.0 kW and 7.5 kW solar arrays, respectively. Batteries could be added to these manses at an

estimated cost of \$8,000 to \$10,000 each. If approved to proceed, this should be investigated in greater detail as a separate project.

Estimated cost: \$16,000 - \$20,000 (2 x \$8,000 - \$10,000).

When: 2030/2035 or sooner if the opportunity or need arises.

Funding: Options for funding need further consideration. It is possible that special purpose fund-raising within the congregation may be needed.

3. Adding solar panels and batteries to 19 Southdown Ave.

19 Southdown Ave has no solar arrays. This project would be a standard installation of a solar array and battery. The project team do not see this as a priority, but it is listed as a future "to do" project. It is recommended that we wait until the picture becomes clearer on solar and battery options available to the community.

Estimated cost: \$10,000 - \$14,000.

When: 2030/2035.

Funding: Options for funding need further consideration. It is possible that special purpose fund-raising within the congregation may be needed.

4. Hot Water

15 Southdown Ave. has a heat pump electric boosted hot water system. 17 Southdown Ave. manse has a gas boosted solar hot water system. 19 Southdown Ave. has an all-gas hot water system. This project has two separate parts for 17 and 19 Southdown Ave. It involves removal of the existing gas-dependent hot water systems and replacing them with systems like that used in 15 Southdown Ave. These projects will have similar costs but will be done at different times depending on when the existing systems fails and will have different emissions impacts. It is recommended that existing arrangements continue until the hot water units fail.

17 Southdown Ave

Estimated cost: \$4,000 - \$5,000.

When: when existing unit fails or 2030/2031 whichever is earlier.

Funding: funded from Deferred Maintenance Reserves that exist for this purpose.

19 Southdown Ave

Estimated cost: \$4,000 - \$5,000.

When: when existing unit fails or 2030/2031 whichever is earlier.

Funding: funded from Deferred Maintenance Reserves that exist for this purpose.

Glen Waverley Uniting Church

Budget 2025

We are now close to finalising our budget for 2025.

We have adopted processes similar to the previous several years, with a review of all revenue and expenditure sources and finance committee has made adjustments to reflect areas of change to reflect new or discontinued programmes, to also account for the movement of people, through a variety of situations and circumstances into and from our Congregation.

There are then discussions and reviews of our giving programmes and major expenditure outcomes with all key groups and our Ministerial team.

We have been through five iterations of these processes between September and through October/ early November and submitted the last version to the various groups and their leadership to seek their input via amendments and then agreement and support. These are returned with suggestions which are overseen by our treasurer and then entered into our accounting software (Xero) by Joanne to determine the resultant Profit and Loss account activities and outcomes for the plan year 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025.

Philosophically we seek to run a balanced Budget. That has been a challenge over several years as our giving and rental income has failed to match the expenditures budgeted for.

For the Financial Year 2025 we are again budgeting for a deficit of \$12,000.

Your Finance Committee is comfortable to submit the following summary of our Budget reflecting these figures.

The Full Budget with the individual lines will go to Church Council following the presentation to the Congregation meeting on Sunday 24th November 2024.

Finance Committee has approved and recommended the adoption on Tuesday 12th November 2024.

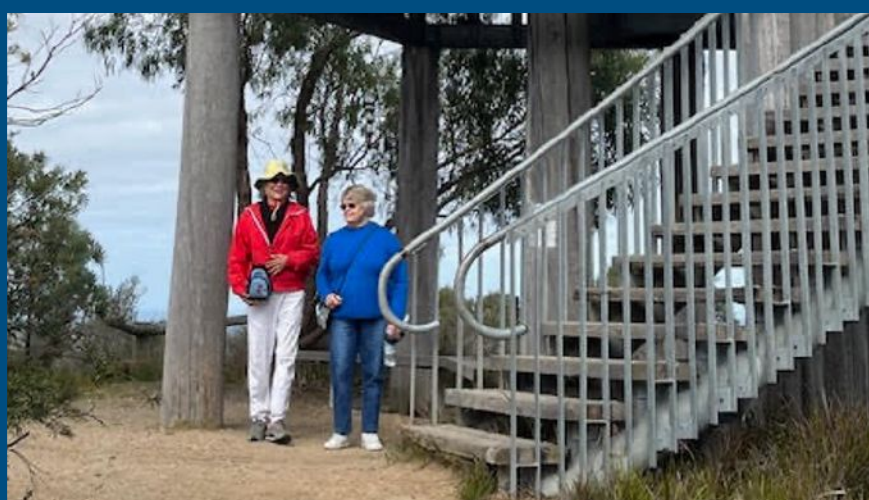
Glen Waverley Uniting Church remains in a sound financial position with a Balance Sheet reflecting solid Cashflow, significant Investments and a strong Equity framework which has been accumulated through the assiduous contributions over many years.

Our Treasurer, Ken Coutts will be pleased to answer any queries or take in suggestions.

GWUC Third Saturday Walkers



If you enjoy short walks followed by coffee and cake, why not join the GWUC Third Saturday Walkers group. Contact third-saturday-walkers@googlegroups.com to be placed on the email list to become informed about upcoming walks.



2025 Summary Budget

Receipts

Planned Giving	264,000	
Rental Income	90,000	
Other Income	111,850	
TOTAL RECEIPTS		465,850

Expenditure

Ministry Team Salaries	168,500	
Staff Salaries	103,000	
Mission & Service (PPEP)	48,000	
Property Expenses	103,500	
Worship Expenses	3,600	
GWUC Missional Groups	44,850	
Church Council	3,800	
Other Expenses	2,500	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		477,750

Net Surplus/Deficit	(11,900)
----------------------------	-----------------

 **Glen Waverley Uniting Church**
Corner Bogong Avenue & Kingsway, Glen Waverley

Didgeridoo, Korean
and Indonesian
Dance & Music,
and more...

Multicultural Christmas Celebration

SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER @ 11.30am

Followed by a shared meal
(Bookings for lunch essential
\$20 per person)

Please call 9560 3580
or email office@gwuc.org.au
for lunch bookings.

All Welcome



Glen Waverley Uniting Church - The Future Fund and Our Relationship

We have advised you on several occasions throughout the last 2 years that there have been significant changes to the processes and giving of gifts and making bequests in favour of GWUC.

We thank you for your involvement and generosity with Glen Waverley Uniting Church. We are fortunate to have wonderful facilities and staff through the determination, and contributions of our members, past and present.

Their hard work and gifts have made us financially strong and provided the buildings and equipment that we enjoy today.

Our Congregation has contributed through the provision of Donations, Gifts and Bequests to assist and support GWUC.

Recently there have been changes to how gifts and bequests are handled, and gifts using Bequests in terms of Wills and Estates are made. The Synod has recently announced significant changes to the provision of gifts, donations, and wills, so that any which included a tie to specific actions and obligations upon the Congregations will be managed centrally through Synod Secretariat.

We've produced several pieces of communications and will include a couple of brochures from Synod and Glen Waverley Uniting Church to update you on these changes.

Glen Waverley Uniting Church has established "The Future Fund" to manage all gifts, and bequests which come with no specific instructions and ties, where the funds can be applied in the ongoing function and operations through the planning and activities initiated and managed by Church Council.

The changes to gifts and Bequests which include specific ties and obligations upon GWUC through the Will and or Estate are detailed in the Synod Brochure which you will receive either via email or through the post over the next several weeks.

This information is designed to clarify the changes to our Congregation members, so that they and their family members can have confidence in taking decisions in their Wills and in making gifts to Glen Waverley Uniting Church.

We value the generosity of our congregation and their gifts, are respectful of your privacy and want to ensure that these significant changes are understood or explained.

There may be continuing questions, and we encourage you to discuss these issues with Ken Coutts, our Treasurer, in a private conversation. For specific financial advice, we recommend consulting with your financial advisor or Accountant.



Did you know?

What the Church Council does...

- Sharing with the Minister(s) in mission and in the pastoral care and spiritual oversight of the Congregation;
- Nurturing the members and adherents in their growth in grace;
- Making decisions in accordance with the Regulations concerning baptism, confirmation and membership, and the keeping and reviewing of the rolls of the Congregation;
- Assisting the Minister(s) in the conduct of worship and in the administration of the sacraments (many other members of Congregation also assist with this);
- Determining the time and place of services of public worship;
- Carrying out its functions in accordance with the Regulations concerning applicants for the specified ministries;
- Managing the financial affairs and the general administration of the Congregation including the reception, preparation and presentation of all necessary budgets, statements and reports and arranging for audit, presentation and examination of the accounts of all the funds of the Congregation (this responsibility is delegated to the Treasurer, who reports to Church Council);
- Managing and controlling property in accordance with the Regulations (this responsibility is delegated to the Property Manager, who reports to Church Council);
- Preparing and presenting to a meeting of the Congregation an annual report concerning the life and work of the Congregation including its worship, mission and service, and making recommendations with regard to the program for the ensuing year;
- Exercising oversight of the appointment of officers and leaders of Congregational missional groups (Faith, Outreach, The Hub and Inclusive Group) and functional committees (Property, Communication, Finance and People & Culture);
- Exercising oversight of the appointment and supervision of paid employees (excluding ministers): (this responsibility is delegated to the People and Culture Group, which reports to Church Council);
- Referral of matters to Presbytery as prescribed;
- Discipline of members;
- Carrying out its functions in relation to Ministers in-Association

Church Council meeting minutes can be viewed by clicking the following link:

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



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

**2025 Morning Tea's
at THE HUB**

SAVE THE DATES!

2nd April - Hot Cross Bun Morning Tea supporting The Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal

22nd or 29th May - Australia's Biggest Morning Tea (*date to be confirmed*) supporting Cancer Council Victoria

21st August - Special Morning Tea supporting Fight Parkinson's

30th October - Seniors' Morning Tea supporting Motor Neurone Research

4th December - Christmas Morning Tea supporting GWUC Welfare






We look forward to seeing you soon!

Honey



Money

Did You Know?

-  The Honey Money project at GWUC has been donating funds for Uniting Church asylum seeker programs for many years. Thank you for your ongoing participation.
-  We purchase our delicious pure Australian honey at wholesale price from Archibald's Honey, a family owned business since 1920 (more at www.archibaldhoney.com.au). Due to their longstanding support, we have been able to maintain prices lower than the supermarkets.
-  One 27kg bucket of honey is bottled into 65 sterilised reusable glass jars, labelled and priced, in our church kitchen about every 3 months. We can increase this as needed.
-  The honey box is beside the kitchen servery. Just choose the jar/s you wish to buy, place your cash into the plastic bag provided and post the bag in the church letterbox or drop it into the office.
-  All proceeds from our honey sales are donated to the Uniting Church Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre (ASWC) to support individuals and families with a range of food security, social, advocacy, health, IT, English language and educational needs.

**Have you thought about using a jar of our lovely HONEY as a birthday present or as a gift to a neighbour or dinner host? Maybe you'd just like it on your toast!*

During the last 5 years, we have been privileged to donate over \$3000 to this cause. Thank you so much. Please return your honey bottles to the servery bench and remove labels if possible.

Margaret and David Fraser (who follow in the footsteps of UCAF and others)



Annette Wojak, Vida Foo and Margaret Fraser from our Outreach and Social Justice Mission Group visited the **Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre** in Brunswick during May to see their work and to build stronger connections.



We were shown over the facility and had an informative conversation with the manager Aimee Dare and community development worker, Art Borce about the needs of their clients and the services they provide.

They expressed their appreciation for the strong support of the GWUC congregation. Aimee went through a powerpoint presentation which she had prepared for our use.

If anyone would like us to email the 23-slide presentation to them for individual or group use, please contact the **Outreach & Social Justice Mission Group** on outreach@gwuc.org.au or through the church office.

Remembrance Service

Tuesday 10th
December
at 8pm

*Light refreshments
will be served
following the service*

Go to www.gwuc.org.au/live
to watch the live stream



*"There is a sacredness in
tears.
They are not the mark of
weakness, but of power.
They speak more
eloquently than
ten thousand tongues.
They are messengers of
overwhelming grief
...and unspeakable love."*

Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre

- Drop-in centre located in Brunswick for people seeking asylum in metro Melbourne
- We opened our doors 21 years ago
- Operates with a community development model emphasising **social supports** and programs designed to build **community connections** and **capacity building**

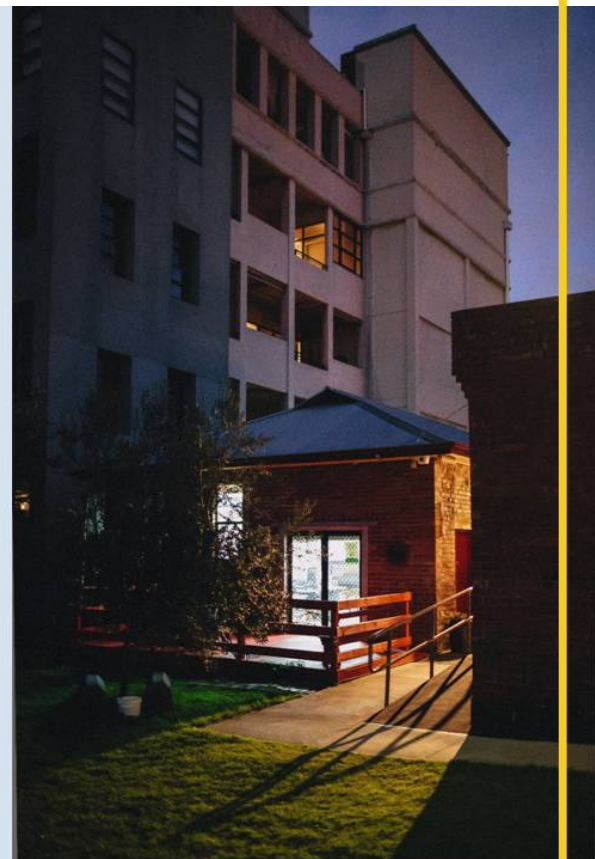
Eligibility:

- People seeking asylum on Bridging Visa A, C or E
- People on Temporary Protection Visas (TPV or SHEV)
- People already accessing who are granted a RoS or PR can access for 6 months post grant

Programs offered:

- English & Employment Support
- Social events including Saturday excursions & Women's Group
- Connections to QRASP
- Access to internet, phones & computers
- Community meals & Emergency Relief
- Individual support, assessments & referrals
- Information sessions

Uniting



WILL YOU LET YOURSELF BE FILLED?

Two weeks ago my colleague Robin Yang wrote about Placements committee and how difficult it is at the moment to find appropriate and life giving matches for both ministers looking for placements and placements looking for ministry agents. With more ministers retiring than ministers entering their first placement there is an issue of less ministers being available for placement across the Church. That however is not the only issue. The time fractions placements have been able to offer have been steadily and significantly reducing and full time placements becoming available are more the exception now than the rule. More and more ministers from thriving Culturally and Linguistically diverse Congregations are entering formation and looking for a placement within the wider Uniting Church, with little experience of the culture of the white anglo side of our Church and sometimes come with an accent or a theology that feels unfamiliar when they enter conversations with Joint Nominating Committee(JNC)'s. They are also, often, relatively young people with a family to support that will need full time employment, while the full time placements that are available will often be looking for people who will match their own demographic, which, if they are not Culturally & Linguistically Diverse (CALD)-ethnic specific congregations, more often than not, be white anglo.

If the Church were a business we would probably be 'rationalising' the many, small, part time placements in congregations, maybe sell a couple of buildings, and put some communities together to make up a placement that can afford to pay a full time stipend and take it from there. However, the Church is not a business and the many small communities that make up the Church are each in their own right unique, and, each for different and various reasons, important to those who gather in them as well as to the community around them that may be renting their buildings or benefit from their presence, availability and outreach for a whole host of possible reasons that make it difficult to just 'shut up shop and move somewhere else'.

So far these small, often very part time, congregations have been, in a vacancy, supported and cared for by retired ministers or lay pastors who lovingly bring their experience and expertise to bear. Many of those happily prepared to take the service most Sundays and help with pastoral care where needed and appropriate while lay people do the rest. However! With over 30 vacancies in the Presbytery and some of our retired ministers getting older, it has become harder and harder to find retired ministers or lay pastors that can look after these congregations. With the pressure on lay people in congregations increasing. (In CALD congregations a similar but different thing is happening with government visa regulations making it very hard to call a linguistically and culturally appropriate person

from outside Australia to one of our Churches here, but that is another story, better told another time).

Could these small, part time congregations not share a minister? Offering a minister a full time stipend and the congregations a full time person to support them in ministry? What may seem an obvious solution unfortunately will often cause more stress for both minister and lay people involved in the congregations that share ministry and leave everyone disgruntled and unhappy in many cases. The time of worship, the frequency and number of Church Council meetings, the difference in culture and priorities between congregations only some of the more obvious reasons why these combination ministries don't tend to always work.

Involving and training up more lay people would be a great way forward (the priesthood of all believers finally fully exercised) were it not that many of those lay people have been working their socks off for years already, at full capacity and aren't particularly keen to train for and take over the role the clergy used to fulfil in their community.

Just painting the situation in a few broad brushstrokes (there is more and it is a lot more complex than I have room to explain here) will hopefully have made you realise there are no easy, short cut solutions. There is nothing for it than to rethink the Church. But how?

As a Presbytery we are encouraging congregations to work together, share resources and support each other in ministry as much as is practicable. To get to know the neighbours and relax expectations about what we as a community or a Church are able to offer. To focus on the important stuff and perhaps ease on the not so important. To look for what is life giving and let go of what drains the life out of us. But still.... Where is this all going to go?

Two thousand years ago a couple of Jesus followers were meeting in an upstairs room. They didn't have a building they could call their own, they probably rented the space or got it for free from a friend that happened to have it available. Nobody had been trained or accredited and most of them probably had very little idea about starting an organisation or running a community or planning outreach or strategising their way forward. And yet it happened. In fits and starts, and over a very long time, a community took shape that carried the gospel over the space of two thousand years. I derive comfort from that thought, and encouragement.

What Jesus asked us was to love. To love God and to love one another. And continue to live the way he showed how into the future. Nothing more, nothing less. Don't be afraid, I will not leave you orphaned says Jesus, the Spirit will come and fill you with life and you will find a way into the future to live out the love I have commanded you to exercise among each other.

Will you let yourselves be filled?

Anneke Oppewal, Presbytery Minister Pastoral Care

THE MOONBEAM'S MISSION

'If I were like the sunshine,
So beautiful and bright,
A silver moonbeam whispered
One sultry summer night,

'Then I might shine in beauty
As he does all the day,
Instead of in the night-time,
When all is still and grey.

'For when the sun arises
The world is glad and fair;
The flowers shed forth their perfume,
The birds' songs fill the air.

'The children love the sunshine
It makes them laugh and play;
Oh, yes, it must be joyous
To shine all through the day!

"But now the world is silent,
Each bird is in its nest;
The flowers have closed their petals,
The children gone to rest.'

That night a little sufferer
Lay wakeful on her bed;
She watched the silver moonlight,
And with a smile she said:

"I'm glad the moon shines softly;
For when the sun is bright
They have to draw my curtains –
I cannot bear its light.'

And when the silver moonbeam
Heard what the sick child said,
It shone in sweet contentment
Upon the little bed.

And so with little children –
There's not a girl or boy
Who cannot bring to some one
A ray of love and joy.

The moonbeam had a mission
The sunshine could not do;
And there is work, dear children,
That must be done by you.

*[Emma Benstead,
Chatterbox No. XXXI, 1904]*



Badminton & Table Tennis

Monday & Thursday

8pm to 10pm

No bookings required

\$3 per session

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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).