



Kingsway

A MAGAZINE OF GLEN WAVERLEY UNITING CHURCH

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...

10am **Worship (+live broadcast)**

incl. Sunday Squad Kids
& Teen Programs

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 **Patchwork & Craft Group**

2.00pm **Leisure Time**

8.00pm **Badminton**

TUESDAY

10.00am **The Hub**

10.00am **Playgroup**

2.00pm **Mindful Meditation Zoom**

WEDNESDAY

8.00pm **Free Spirit**

THURSDAY

11.15am **English Conversation
Class**

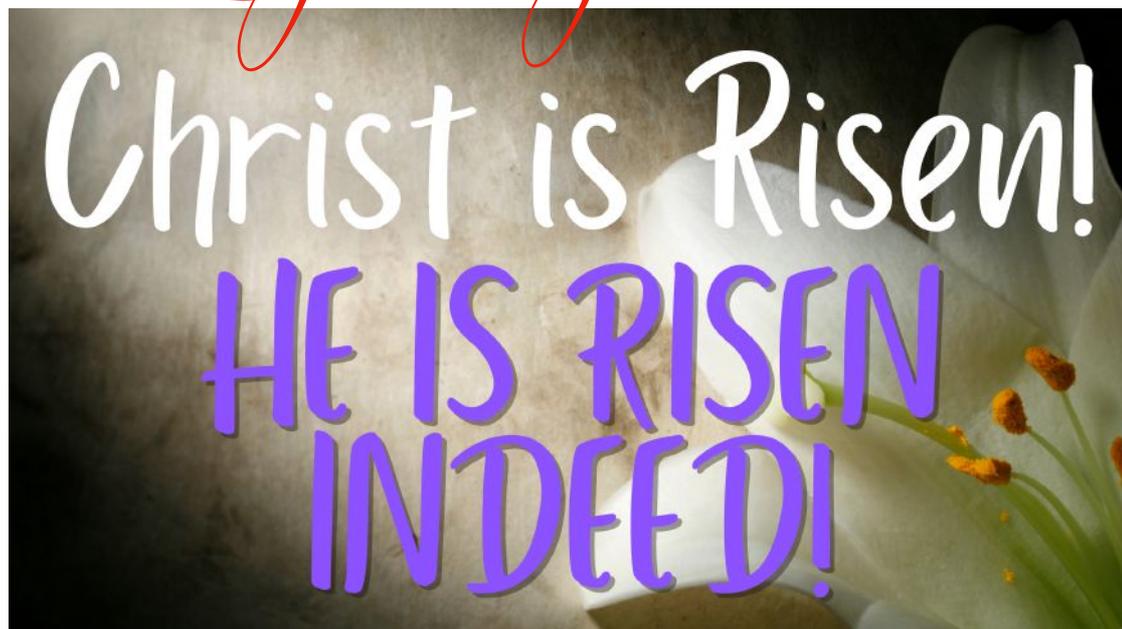
8.00pm **Badminton**

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.



Remember me...

Our remembrance of Christ dying on the cross and being resurrected days later was greatly enhanced at Easter through the wonderful services and symbolic gestures. No more so that the placement of ribbons on the cross during the Easter period.

The **Blue** ribbons reminded us of water & baptism, as a symbol of joining Jesus' call to love the world and begin our discipleship journey with Him; **Red** to remind us of the suffering of Jesus on the cross; **Green** for Palm Sunday, joining the crowd crying, "Hosanna, save us now!"; and **White & Yellow** ribbons as a sign of our prayers, and in remembrance of Jesus and the love that is poured out for us.

Olive branches, feathers and stones also represented our remembrances and prayers this Easter.



"Kingsway" 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).

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, Families, Youth,
Young Adults, Seniors and All Ages!



This Is Your Life

Di Paterson (Pastoral Care Worker)

I was born a long time ago.

I am the youngest child of Joyce and Eric Turner.

Yarraville was where I grew up, when it was a blue-collar area.

We were children of, not just our parents, but of the community.

We didn't have a car but we lived close to the train line, a bus line and a tram.

My mum's sister and her family lived next door.

My Dad worked for the Tax Office as an accountant.

We had an ice chest and the ice man used to deliver ice.

We had a copper for the washing, no hot water service, a wood fired stove for the cooking and a fireplace for the heating in the lounge room, but everything happened in the warm kitchen.

The schools I attended were Yarraville West Primary and Footscray High.

I joined Brownies at 9 years and started a lifelong love of the Girl Guide Movement.

I was awarded my Queen's Guide and got to go to Government House to get my certificate. After Guides came Rangers. I learnt to row fishing boats and we also did a bit of sailing. I got my Bronze Medallion so that I could be a lifesaver and went on many amazing camps including an interstate trip to Perth in the late 60s. I also auditioned for the Scout Gang Show and had 7 wonderful years in the Gang. We performed the show at the Palais Theatre at that time, and I met my husband in the wings, back stage at the Palais.

I have been a Brownie Leader, Guide Leader, Ranger Leader and Guide Leader Trainer. I was on the State Council of Guides Victoria for 15 years and have run on site faith-based activities at a number of International Camps as well as working as a Camp Chaplain. I have been in the Guides Victoria Dragon boat team, winning the Victorian Women's Trophy. I am still involved with Guides as Resource Leader and a Trefoil Guild Member.

I had to go to work after Secondary School. I sat the Federal Government Entrance Exam. I passed and was offered a job. In between time I interviewed for a job in a Laboratory at Davis Coop, makers of Exacto and Bradmill products to name a few. I took the lab job, as a trainee textile colour matcher, because they offered me a 1a week more than the Government. You might remember the pre-fade brushed denim jeans in the 60s; I

developed the material to save thousands of metres of blotchy denim.

After 3 years I went to Invicta Blankets and Carpets and was there 5 years and developed the colours for shag pile carpets. After I was married, I worked at Yorkshire Chemicals, developing printing paste for the amateur screen printers and dying party hose with brown legs and multi coloured pants. After that I got a job closer to home at Minster Carpets and was there until I had my first child.

My Dad encouraged me, much to Mum's disgust, to buy a motor bike which I rode for 6 years until I got cleaned up by a car on Geelong Road, on my way home from work.

I vowed that I would never ride again but years later we joined the Classic Bike Club and I only recently sold my 1957 Triumph Tiger Cub.

I married my husband, a printer, at Bayview Road Methodists, in 1973. We bought a house and moved to Springvale South and started a family. We have 3 children, a daughter Kim, who is married to Mark and is the mother of my 2 eldest grandsons, a son Craig, who is married to Naomi and the father of my 2 younger grandsons. My youngest son, Shane, lives and works in Canada. I have 6 grandsons.

As a child, I went to Sunday School, Christian Endeavour and Church at the Methodist Church in Yarraville. I was a Comrade and a Sunday School Teacher. I became a member of the Heatherhill

Uniting Church in 1980. I became more involved with the Church through the Young Wives group. I taught Sunday School and was involved in organising Activity Days for our young people during the School Holidays. I have also worked with the young people in a small but enthusiastic Youth Group and Bible Study group. I was an Elder and a Church Councillor.

When my kids went to school, I was on the Parent's Support Group, the School Council and I helped manage the canteen. One day, the Special Needs Teacher asked if I would be willing to help out for a couple of weeks with a fairly challenging Integration Child. I said yes and 17 years later I retired from the department to concentrate on ministry.

I loved my job as an Integration Aide and worked with some amazing, challenging, difficult and worthwhile children. I was angry recently when Pauline Hanson talked about autistic children being taken out of mainstream school. Some of my



Ministerial Quotes

most amazing students were Autistic Children. I was a qualified Aust swim Teacher and taught dozens of kids to swim over the years. It was a challenging decision to give up my job with the kids but God wouldn't go away and so I resigned from the department in 2007.

I grew up in the Church but in the 90s I got a bit angry with God. I have learned to not look over your shoulder when you are running away from God, because that's when you run into Him.

At the suggestion of my minister, I started some Theological Studies and during that time felt a strong call into ministry. I started a period of discernment with the lovely Rev Dr Phyliss Gorfine who pushed me to candidate. I was endorsed by Presbytery to go to the selection conference. I was knocked back as a minister of the word but the conference affirmed my call to ministry. I was invited to do supply at Endeavour Hills and found that Ministry is like the air I breath, scares me witless but I felt very affirmed.

I am a bushwalker and I am in a bushwalking club called, the Bush Rangers as we are mainly old Girl Guides. Our group decided to walk the length of the Thames and I decided that I couldn't afford not to go. I made the decision to go into ministry on the Island of Iona. When we arrived on Iona, we went to Chapel and we sang, "The Summons", will you come and follow me if I but call your name. I was able to answer, "Yes God, I can do the stuff that is so hard, because You will guide me and give me the grace to do it." I came back, applied for the Ministry Worker role in the Chelsea Parish, and was astounded when I was successful.

I went there for 3 years and finished there after 9 years and shortly after that I became the supply minister at Black Rock, I am now the long-term supply Pastor at Black Rock. Just over 7 years ago I was appointed to Glen Waverley UC and am delighted to be part of the ministry team here.

I believe that I have had an amazing, varied and fulfilling life. I am so glad that I had a faith upbringing, but even gladder that I ran into God 28+ years ago and am so glad that I said "Yes" to follow the call into ministry. I am blessed to still be able to follow that call.

My passion for the people of the Church is to know the love and grace of God, to understand that the Holy Spirit is the wind beneath your wings. To care for people who cannot always get to Church but still need to feel part of the Church community. I am blessed to be able to bring the Word of God to a wide range of people, to walk with them in their good times and not so good times.

I believe that I have had an amazing life, wide roaming as a kid, learning great life skills in Guiding and the amazing opportunity to work in jobs that I love, learning skills that have enabled me to enjoy amazing activities, great family and friends that breathe life into each day.

I was surprised when 6 years ago I was awarded a Grey Kangaroo, the 3rd highest Australian award for service to Guiding. I was even more surprised when 4 years ago I was awarded an Order of Australia for service to youth through the Girl Guides and for service to the community through school and Church work.

It is amazing to think that I received these awards for having such fun, helping, shifting rubbish and cleaning toilets and hopefully making a difference in the lives of the people I have worked with.

I am blessed to still be sharing in God's love with the people of Black Rock and Glen Waverley, I have enjoyed the journey and wonder what the next exciting activity might be just around the corner.



Rev. Ian Ferguson

"If Isaiah, and Peter, and Jesus, and all the rest, are any guide, God's will for our lives, God's call for our lives, should highlight our inadequacy and move us to humility."

"It's not that fashionable to be humble, is it? Certainly not if you want power in the world!"



Rev. Chris Waddell

"If you don't have love or you don't show it to others, it is pointless. Love is a true superpower."



Glen Waverley Uniting Church HUB



Jeff, one of the guests at The Hub, showing Ian the portrait he painted of him.



Glen Waverley Uniting Church
Corner Bogong Avenue & Kingsway

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea

AT THE HUB
THURSDAY 22ND MAY
10AM - 12PM
ALL WELCOME!

Groups of 10 or more,
please call 9560 3580



Proudly supporting
Cancer Council Victoria



GLEN WAVERLEY UNITING CHURCH
CORNER BOGONG AVENUE & KINGSWAY

MUFFIN MORNING TEA AT THE HUB

Proudly supporting Fight Parkinson's

THURSDAY
21 AUGUST
10AM-12PM

ALL WELCOME!

GROUPS OF 10 OR MORE
PLEASE CALL 9560 3580



A welcoming and friendly place for people of all ages.

Tuesday 10am-12pm
(during school terms)

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

2025 Morning Tea's at THE HUB

SAVE THE DATES!

22nd May - Australia's Biggest Morning Tea 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!

The Wisdom of Welcome

The following article by Rev Dr Robert Johnson was published in the March edition of Newsbeat, the monthly newsletter from Port Phillip East Presbytery.

It is a timely reflection on the meaning and purpose of the Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome to Country in Australia today.

The article is re-printed here with the permission of Newsbeat and Rev Johnson.

The full Newsbeat article may be found on pg 12-13 at <https://ucapnep.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Newsbeat-Mar25-Printer-Friendly.pdf>

There is a lot of discussion - and some heated argument - about whether and why we should Acknowledge Country, and be Welcomed to Country.

I have friends that ask me, Why should I be welcomed into my own country? I am Australian - this is the only country I have. I have others who ask why we start each church service with an Acknowledgement of Country, where we acknowledge that we are on the land of the First Peoples of that area.

I have answers to those questions, and sometimes, but not always, I am listened to. Some of my friends' minds are made up, and they don't seem to be able to hear another perspective.

I love a good Welcome to Country, where we hear from an elder of the people whose land this has been for thousands of generations, following the tradition of welcoming people from other areas to their country.

Yes, I live here now too, as has my family for six or seven generations. I have no other country to go to. However, the original owners of this place didn't invite us to their country. We took the land with force, pushing the First People of that land onto the margins of society.

I greatly appreciate the fact that those First Peoples are generous enough in the face of their mistreatment to say, You are welcome in this place. Let us care for it together.

A Welcome to Country isn't something we should dilute into background noise as we scramble for a meat pie before kick-off at a footy match. It's a formal ceremony, and a great reminder of how we have come to be together in these spaces.

I think it's worth having a sensible discussion about how to protect the appropriate gravitas for the Welcome to Country, and preserve its meaning and power.

The other question is why we commence our gatherings, including our church services, with an Acknowledgement of Country.

Too often, this too can sound like a string of words we rattle off as a formality, without thinking too much about their meaning. That is a pity: I believe it's far more important to understand and mean what you say, which might help others to understand the people who have cared for this land for so long, and still celebrate their ties to it, and advocate for its just treatment.

A much bigger proportion of Australians now know whose land they stand on, and this is good.

At the start of worship, I actually think it is important to acknowledge first that this is God's place, and God placed the First Peoples of this land here. They too acknowledge a Great Creator Spirit, and that leads us into a much stronger acknowledgement when we begin on common ground, with that Great Creator Spirit, God, whom we both acknowledge, as we move toward our shared commitment to care for this land together.

The Uniting Church has a marvellous Preamble to its Constitution which is worth reading again and again. It reminds us that God was already in the land when the colonists arrived, and that God nurtured and sustained the First Peoples of this country. It commits us to a Covenantal relationship which is a foretaste of that coming reconciliation and renewal which is the end in view for the whole creation.

What do you think? I would love to hear people's views.

By Rev Dr Robert Johnson

For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."
Matthew 18:20



Children's Story

In a small, sunlit town in Australia, children had learned a secret: kindness could change the world. It wasn't magic, nor was it something they read about in books. It was something they practiced every day, in ways both small and big.

The children of the town, believed that kindness was a ripple in a pond – small, but capable of reaching far.

One morning, a group of kids from a school near the outback decided to start a project called *The Ripple Effect*. They started with simple acts—helping an elderly neighbour carry groceries, picking up rubbish, sharing their lunch with someone who forgot theirs. At first, it felt like no one was watching, but they didn't mind. They believed that each small act added to something bigger, even if no one saw it.

Soon, their acts of kindness spread. Children in other towns heard about them. One by one, schools across Australia began to join the movement. In Melbourne, a girl named Mia made a banner that said "Kindness is contagious!" and took it to her local park. In Brisbane, a group of boys started a "compliment chain," where they'd pass along kind words to everyone they met, from bus drivers to teachers.

What they didn't expect was how their kindness was catching on beyond their country. As news of their work spread around the world, children from different cultures began their own

kindness missions. In India, children handed out food to the homeless. In South Africa, kids taught others how to forgive, letting go of old hurts. Everywhere, kids were showing the world that peace could be found through kindness.

Months passed, and the world began to notice. Countries that had been fighting found their leaders talking about peace—not through military might or grand speeches, but through kindness. It wasn't just the children who were starting to change the world; adults were beginning to listen, too. And they learned that peace wasn't something that could be forced. It had to be grown, slowly, like a garden of hope, planted by those who believed in the power of love.

One day, the children of Australia gathered together at a great festival in Glen Waverley. They had been invited by the United Nations, where a group of adults stood before them, thanking them for reminding the world what truly mattered. As the children held hands, they realized that what they had done wasn't just an Australian dream – it was a world dream. And it

had all started with one simple idea: Kindness could change everything.

And so, in the warmth of the Australian sun, the world was a little more peaceful, a little kinder, thanks to the children who believed.



"Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me."

DID YOU KNOW?

...the Glen Waverley Uniting Church has a cycling group? The bunch of cyclists go on a ride each Monday morning heading to a cafe for coffee, then riding back to Glen Waverley. You are more than welcome to dust off your old bike and join them.



OUTREACH & SOCIAL JUSTICE MISSION GROUP



Supporting and advocating for social justice projects outside of GWUC, including Congregational Outreach Projects, and encouraging members to pursue their outreach and social justice passions.

If you would like to join this happy team of people in outreach and social justice activities please contact Margaret Fraser at marjanfraser@gmail.com or the church office.

CONGREGATIONAL OUTREACH PROJECTS (COP) IN 2025

Please get involved in this exciting and rewarding GWUC initiative. Our COP program has a long history of making substantial donations to projects proposed by members of the congregation and we pray that 2025 will be an opportunity to continue that generosity.

The annual church fete held in October raises funds through the faithful teamwork of our congregation. The funds are then wholly distributed to projects which benefit people and communities outside of our own congregation.

Members of the congregation are **warmly invited to propose charities** which they feel are worthy of our fete funds and which meet the GWUC assessment criteria. Applications may be for local, national and international (if compliant*) projects.

COP 2025 Applications opened on 6 April and close on 25 May 2025 - only a few weeks to go!

- The electronic application form (preferred) may be downloaded from <https://wiki.gwuc.org.au/gwuc/OutreachSocialJustice?action=AttachFile&do=view&target=COPApplicationForm2025.docx>. Hard copies are available from the church office.
- COP Procedures and the Assessment Criteria should be considered when applying and can be found at <https://wiki.gwuc.org.au/gwuc/OutreachSocialJustice?action=AttachFile&do=view&target=COPProcedures2025.pdf>

The COP Selection Panel is drawn from members of the Outreach and Social Justice Mission Group without direct involvement with any of the submitted projects. The recommended projects will be announced in July.

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

Reverend Dr Daniel Sihombing's Ordination



Daniel was born and raised in Indonesia, where he gained his undergraduate degree in theology from South East Asia Bible Seminary and taught as sessional and guest lecturer at Amanat Agung Theological Seminary,



South East Asia Bible Seminary, Duta Wacana Christian University, and Jakarta Theological Seminary. Daniel's master and doctoral degrees are from the Protestant Theological University, Netherlands.

Daniel did a placement at GWUC and was a much loved member of our congregation for a period of time.

Congratulations Daniel from your GWUC family!



LUNAR NEW YEAR FESTIVAL

Each year members of GWUC reach out to the community at the Lunar New Year festival in the Kingsway by occupying a marquee where activities for the children are undertaken and information about our church is shared with adults, both in written form and through discussion.



Hope at the South Melbourne Hub

In South Melbourne the social housing units are set up for older people who have nowhere else to go, and so I (Alex Sangster) really wanted to connect with them. However I couldn't work out how to see them because it's all closed up and you need a swipe card to get in, so in the end I jumped the back fence that we share with them and started knocking on doors.

Because of that we began to meet our neighbours and now a whole lot of them attend church. We also run a mission meals project on a Thursday night, which started with just three people, and now we're up to a regular attendance of about 50 people, and wonderful things are happening as part of it.

There were a few weeks where different men were turning up at different times and then they all realised that they all lived in the same housing estate, and now they all come to the dinner together and they walk home together.

One of the guys that has started coming, and also occasionally comes to church, is Jewish and then another guy who comes quite regularly is Muslim, and so they have formed this incredible relationship and they come to church together.

So there's been lots of spirit moments that came about just by opening up the doors, jumping a fence or two and seeking out our neighbours.

{Extract from the Crosslight magazine, April 2024, "Hope and The Hub" article by Andrew Humphries}

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