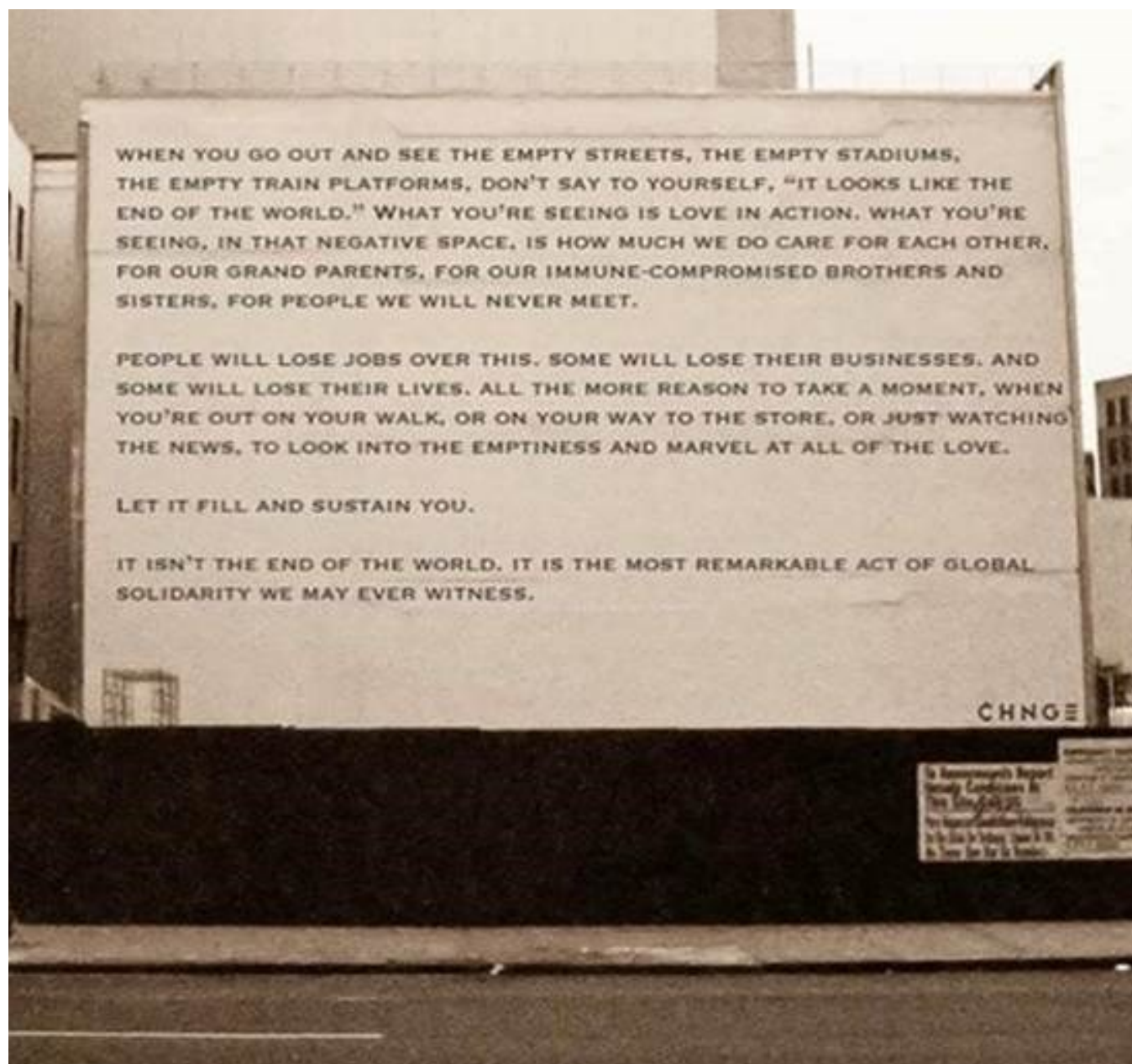




KINDRED SPIRITS

Magazine of the Glenroy & Pascoe Vale Uniting Churches

EASTER 2020



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BOOKS OF THE BIBLE PUZZLE.....

There are 30 books of Bible in this paragraph. Can you find them? This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much; he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving; she brews a cup of to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalised. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new record. The local paper, the Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that the puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "The books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight." Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember there is no need for a mad exodus, there really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found. God bless.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR MINISTER

Thinking about suffering in the midst of a pandemic.

At the moment we are acutely aware of the suffering and the disruption to millions of lives that is occurring because of COVID 19.

But we are also aware that while the extent of this is perhaps unprecedented such outbreaks are not. Over the centuries there have been many viruses (Ebola, SARS, the “black death” etc) that have caused great pain and loss. As we live through this I want to explore the nature of our suffering. To be human is to suffer, and it seems to me that when we think about suffering we need to make distinctions. We need to recognize that not all suffering comes from the same source, and this becomes important when we try to understand it and respond to it.

I realize that I am attempting something very big here in a small space but I think it’s worth trying. There is, of course, much more to be said. It seems to me that most people would agree on two main sources of our suffering, and Christians would add a third. Let me start with that one.

First, for Christians, there is the suffering that may come to us as we seek first the Kingdom of God. This is the suffering that we see in Jesus’ story. He suffers rejection, betrayal, and death on the cross because he is faithful to the call of his heavenly Father. As Paul writes he “walked the path of obedience all the way to death”. (Philippians 2:8)

And when Jesus calls us to take up our cross he is talking about bearing this cost, the cost of what might come as we follow him. Not each and every experience of suffering is our cross, but what we might experience as we seek to be faithful disciples, as we seek to put God first, love our neighbours and even our enemies. Loving will always make us vulnerable.

For many people in history, and throughout our world today, this cost has been extreme. They have lost their lives, been imprisoned, persecuted and excluded from society. For people like us, there can be rejection, misunderstanding, perhaps discrimination, and the message from many that we are deluded, and out of touch with reality.

We respond to this kind of suffering by trusting ourselves to God, and believing that as we bear the cost of discipleship, God will be at work in and through our lives, shaping in us a more Jesus-like character, and leading us into a deeper faith, a wider hope, and a more inclusive love.

Second, there is the suffering that comes from the destructive action of human beings (what Christians would call sin). One minutes attention to the world in which we live shows example after example of what damage human violence, greed, anger, lust, cruelty, and selfishness does in the lives of others. Wars, injustice, racism, sexism, etc. etc. wreak havoc in the human community. We know that human beings have a great capacity to inflict great suffering on their fellows.

We will not accept this kind of suffering. This is an affront to God, and we will respond with a cry of protest, “This is not how it should be!” As a human family, at our best, we will welcome and support laws, and other responses, that limit the damage and protect the vulnerable; we will look for justice; we will work to ensure that the earth’s resources are fairly shared; we will strive for peace. And as Christians we will continue to pray. “Your Kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven”.

And third, there is the suffering that comes to creatures who live in THIS kind of creation. The creation of which we are a part is weird and wonderful, ordered and messy, nurturing and dangerous, reliable and risky. As well as human sin we also contend with viruses, disease, earthquakes, fires, floods, wild weather, and dangerous creatures. What are we to make of this “creation suffering”. One Christian response has been to argue that all the negative elements in the world are the result of human sin. That the “fall” of human beings impacted on the whole world. No sin, then no earthquakes or disease. No sin, then a perfect creation.

.../continued on page 4

A MESSAGE FROM OUR MINISTER—*CONTINUED*

However, while acknowledging the impact of sin, and the ways that sin can damage the wider creation (e.g. the self-centeredness of human beings that contributes to climate change), the bible tells us that creation as it comes from the hand of God is “good”. It doesn’t tell us that creation is perfect or finished in one go. “Good” here means, good for the purposes that God has for what God has made. “Good” means God says, “Yes, this is what I had in mind”. We can affirm a “good” creation, and yet find in that creation, the possibility of suffering.

Think of our own lives. We are creatures. We are born, live our lives, grow old, and our lives come to an end. On the journey we experience great blessing and joy, we experience many gifts, but as well as what other people might do to us, we experience disease and frailty, we suffer from diabetes, cardio-vascular disease, cancers of many different kinds — and things such as the corona virus. These things are part of a “good”, but not perfect createdness.

I think it is helpful here to listen to the scientists. They tell us that the earth has a long history, and that before the appearance of human beings, the unfolding and developing earth was marked by processes that contained within them the possibility of things like earthquake and disease. These processes continue in and around us, and, for example, the very process of cell division that leads to life, has within it, the possibility of cancer. I’m trying to say here that creation is something of a “package deal” – weird AND wonderful, ordered AND messy, nurturing AND dangerous, reliable AND risky. Good but not perfect. Good but not finished or complete. A risky messy creation with deep and difficult suffering, but also a creation in which we find an astounding flourishing of life in all its incredible diversity; a creation in which we also find freedom, compassion, community and love; a creation in which we find creatures (us) who can know and love their creator, creatures who can worship and pray.

How do we respond to this creation suffering. In Genesis 1:28 the bible speaks about human beings “subduing” the creation. This means, working with the creation, continuing to bring order out of disorder. So we will celebrate and support the work of scientists, engineers, medical researchers etc – all those whose skills give us vaccines, heart transplants and by-passes, medical equipment of all kinds, medications and treatments for our ailments. We will think about where we build our houses, how we protect ourselves against fire and flood; we will work to feed the hungry and shelter the homeless. We will go to our medical appointments, have our X-rays, take our tablets, and trust our surgeons. We will thank God for all the things that bring order out of disorder.

The question, “Why THIS kind of creation?” Is a very big question. But for people of faith, this risky messy creation IS the place where God is working out God’s loving purposes which can be difficult to understand, and will always be greater than we can imagine. And as we live in this kind of creation, with all its mystery, with all the questions we might have, we can trust ourselves to the God we meet in Jesus. **For in Jesus we see: A God** whose creative Spirit is constantly present in the messiness.

A God who enters into the brokenness and suffering, who suffers with us and for us, who works within creation to bless and renew. **A God** who in the resurrection, declares the promise of a new heaven and new earth, a new creation. **A God** who forgives, calls us his daughters and sons, gives us a new community of hope, and empowers us to be part of God’s purposes in the world.

As St Paul puts it: I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God....(and will) be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now, and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. (From Romans 8)

Lynden Broadstock

TALLANGATTA 2040 (by Philip Grant)

In case you don't know I grew up in Tallangatta in North Eastern Victoria, my mother lives there. You might have seen Tallangatta on the news during the recent fire emergency in the North East. It was the closest town to the fires that didn't burn, a lot of reporters recorded their fire stories there.

When we visited Mum in February the local Neighbourhood House and Health Service hosted visitors from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and other local organisations. The visitors brought a movie by Australian filmmaker Damon Gameau, called '2040'. The movie looks forward to when Damon's young daughter will be entering the workforce in the year 2040 and what Australia will be like. That is only the very beginning of the movie because Damon's main concern is 'what can we do in 2020 that will make life better in 2040'.

Damon travelled to Bangladesh and spoke to people who have set up microgrid power networks. One household or business installs solar power panels and connects to a device that records power flow. This then enables neighbours to connect to the device and buy power from the solar panels. The result is that this money stays in the community and can be used locally.

Microgrids are being set up across Victoria. Moreland Energy Foundation, RMIT, Jemena, Allume Energy and Ovida are working to develop microgrids for multi-tenanted buildings in Melbourne.

Damon spoke to a farmer from western NSW, Colin Seis, who converted from modern farming methods (ploughing, fertiliser, herbicides, and pesticides) to "pasture farming" using seed drill and no chemicals. A crop, such as oats is planted using a seed drill after sheep have been fattened on the previously harvested crop and native grasses. The sheep break up the ground, without ploughing and provide natural fertiliser with less weeds and pests. The richer (chemical-free) soil stores more carbon and contains many more microorganisms. Australians are invited to support farmers to convert to pasture farming through an Not for Profit called Carbon8. See "Pasture Cropping: A Regenerative Solution from Down Under" for a more detailed explanation of the method at the website www.thesolutionsjournal.com/

A lot of salmon is raised in Tasmania, but we are now seeing some of the problems caused by the intensive methods. If kelp is grown under and around salmon pens, it can reduce the waste and produce a useful product. Kelp is used in many products: toothpastes, shampoos, salad dressings, puddings, cakes, dairy products, frozen foods, and even pharmaceuticals. Kelp forests maintain a delicate balance in order to support a diverse range of sea creatures (and store carbon).

Damon visited Brian Von Herzen and the University of Tasmania project team and saw baby kelp (bred in the lab) growing on test lines at the field site. Marine permaculture is a regenerative solution that sequesters carbon and restores balance to our oceans. The '2040' producers teamed up with the Intrepid Foundation, the University of Tasmania and the Climate Foundation to launch Australia's first seaweed platform in Storm Bay near Hobart.

After the film screening there were several local speakers. One speaker told us that 'Totally Renewable Yackandandah' aims to power the town with 100% renewable energy by 2022. They have connected three microgrids with 75kW of solar panels and 36 kWh of batteries — see www.totallyrenewableyack.org.au

TALLANGATTA 2040CONTINUED

Two DELWP employees, who introduced the film, told us that DELWP will support a sustainability project that Tallangatta chooses. They introduced a local former DELWP employee who has been appointed to represent the town and chaired an open discussion of what Tallangatta wants and needs from a project.

Another speaker spoke about a Tallangatta community garden project to bring the community together (several local people have been working on the plan for many years). The CEO of Tallangatta Health Service told us that the Hospital Board considers the community garden will enhance the health of the town and so has loaned a paddock for the project.

The film '2040' is available at JB HiFi. Please see: www.whatsyour2040.com/#



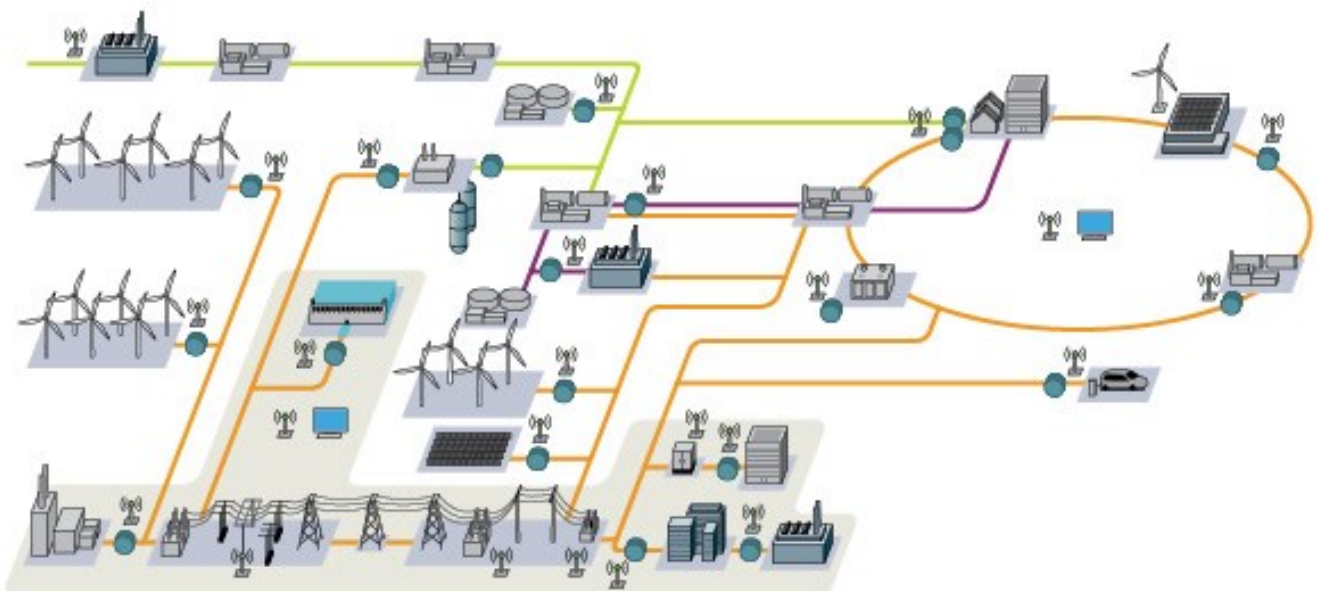
WHAT IS A MICROGRID?

Most people in Australia are connected to the main electricity grid and their power is generated from a large centralised station — usually coal-fired. The electricity is then distributed through things like power lines that are connected to homes and businesses.

At its simplest, a microgrid is a small, freestanding grid — anything from a couple of buildings to a whole town or suburb.

There are two different kinds of microgrids:

- Isolated Microgrids, which aren't connected to the main grid, would typically be found in rural and remote areas
- Grid-connected Microgrids, like the ones at Yackandandah, that both generate their own power but can also sell or buy from the main grid



KENT ROAD NEWS

May the Blessings of Easter be with you and your loved ones, wishing you all a Holy, happy and safe Easter full of loving gratitude to our dear Saviour.

Sad that we won't be celebrating this Easter in our beautiful churches but there are many church services on the Internet and on our phones that can be enjoyed these days. Sadly our Lenten Studies led by Lynden had to be cancelled too, and they were proving to be very well received and enjoyed by all who could attend.

Congratulations to Rose and Lynden on the safe arrival of their first Grandchild and we pray that you had a great special birthday Lynden.

We were privileged to hold the World Day of Prayer at Kent Rd. in March. Zimbabwe was the country supported and prayed for with \$300 raised to help this very poor country.

Shirley and Merv. Foster are extending their stay at their son Andrew's home, Bumble Brook Farm at Candelo, in the Southern Highlands. N.S.W. We send our love and wish them a safe and happy Easter, enjoy your stay with your lovely Grandchildren. What a great way to spend self isolation.

In a few weeks Eric Rundle will be moving up to Kangaroo Flats, Bendigo and we will be very sorry to say farewell to Eric as he has been a part of our church family for many years. Spending time in our Sunday School as a child and now a member. We wish Eric happiness and God's blessings as he finds a new church and makes new friends.



‘Once a man was asked, ‘what did you gain by regularly praying to God?’ The man replied, ‘nothing... but let me tell you what I lost: Anger, ego, greed, depression, insecurity, and fear of death.’ Sometimes, the answer to our prayers is not gaining but losing; which ultimately is the gain.”



A Boy asked his Father:- Dad what is the size of GOD?

Then the Father looked up at the Sky and saw a Plane and asked his Son:- What is the size of this Plane?

The Boy replied:- it is very small. I can hardly see it. Then, the father took him to the airport and as they approached a plane, he asked: - Now, my Son, how big is this Plane? The boy replied:- Wow dad, it's huge! Then the father told him:- GOD's size depends on how close or far you are to him. The closer you are to him, the Greater and Greater he will be in your life!

GOD AND ST FRANCIS—HOW GREEN IS YOUR GRASS...

GOD: Frank, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there on the planet? What happened to the dandelions, violets, milkweeds and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long-lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honey bees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colours by now. But, all I see are these green rectangles.

ST. FRANCIS: It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites! They started calling your flowers 'weeds' and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

GOD: Grass? But, it's so boring. It's not colourful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds and bees; only grubs and worms. It's sensitive to temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?

ST. FRANCIS: Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

GOD: The spring rains and warm weather probably make grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy.

ST. FRANCIS: Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it, sometimes twice a week.

GOD: They cut it? Do they then bale it like hay?

ST. FRANCIS: Not exactly, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

GOD: They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

ST. FRANCIS: No, Sir, just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

GOD: Now, let me get this straight. They fertilize grass so it will grow. And, when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

ST. FRANCIS: Yes, Sir.

GOD: These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

ST. FRANCIS: You aren't going to believe this, Lord. When the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay money to water it, so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

GOD: What nonsense. At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn, they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. It's a natural cycle of life.

ST. FRANCIS: You better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

GOD: No!? What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter to keep the soil moist and loose?

ST. FRANCIS: After throwing away the leaves, they go out and buy something which they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

GOD: And where do they get this mulch?

ST. FRANCIS: They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch.

GOD: Enough! I don't want to think about this anymore. St. Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?

ST. CATHERINE: 'Dumb and Dumber', Lord. It's a story about.....

GOD: Never mind, I think I just heard the whole story from St. Francis.

SOUTHERN SNIPPETS

The period of Lent this year has been like no other (at least in recent memory) and the usual individual determination of ‘what to give up for Lent’ has been somewhat taken out of our hands — as Government responses to the spread of Coronavirus Covid-19 have required all of us to “give up” many things we’ve previously taken for granted.

However, the 2020 year started off in a more regular fashion with the annual church council meeting and our newly consolidated single congregation annual meeting. The monthly men’s dinners at the Pascoe Vale RSL, Communion services at Dorothy Impey and UCAF group events re-started in February—but like, Sunday worship, are all currently now on hold until further notice.

Westgate Flicks had a very good crowd of over 30 people for its first screening in February, which was the 1950 comedy ‘Harvey’ (starring James Stewart) but, by the screening date of our second movie ‘The Desert Song’ on 18 March, worrying Government and other advices and directives were starting to abound and, with much social distancing and cautionary measures, a small group of 13 people only enjoyed the movie! As with all other group activities, the Flicks is now on hold until further notice.

As far as we are aware, our church family are as well health-wise as they might otherwise be—but please especially remember Helen Tatam, Len Taylor and Geoff Anderson (our hymn sing-along organist) in your prayers as they have all had recent health concerns.

Despite these uncertain and unsettling times — please try to stay positive. Lynden is providing weekly devotions and these, together with other information, is being delivered by email or by letter box drop. If anyone is not receiving the weekly information, and would like to, please email secpvaleuca@bigpond.com or phone Chris on 0408 649 055 and this will be rectified.

Please also use your prayer diaries to not only pray for one another but also to keep in contact — telephone contact is one thing that is not being discouraged...

A BIT OF HUMOUR IN THE CURRENT DIFFICULT TIMES....

I love our panicked country
A land of empty shelves
Where everyone is hunting
For toilet paper elves

The pasta aisle is empty
The oats and Wheatbix gone
What has happened to this country?
When knives come out... forlorn...

We are the lucky country
Or so they used to say,
But when Aussie takes on Aussie
Over dunny paper, who will pay?

The Virus has us running
For hand sanitiser and masks
But what about the Aussie way
Looking out for each other I ask?

Bring back my Aussie homeland
Where when in fire or in flood
We stand by one another
We fight hand and hand in mud.

Stop heading to the shops
And buying everything in sight
Remember you’re an Aussie
And keep your community tight...

UCAF GROUP.....

President: Jean Kyte
Secretary: Marj Sproat



Our meetings are “usually” held on the second Tuesday of each month at 1.00 pm at the Pascoe Vale South Church, with speakers from 1.30pm.

However, as with almost all group activities, these are on hold until further notice.

Our year started with the Dedication Service on Tuesday 11 February led by Lynden and followed by a BYO lunch—and in March,

Lynden joined us again as our speaker.

Whilst we don’t know when our meetings may be able to restart—we have a visitor from the Royal Flying Doctor Service, as well as a sing-along with Shirley & Ken Kendall, lined up. Amongst other things, for future meetings.

Marj Sproat

Traditional Easter Biscuits (& not a bunny in sight)

Ingredients

3 cups (450g) plain flour
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
225g salted butter, at room temperature
1 cup (220g) caster sugar, plus 2 tablespoons extra to sprinkle
2 eggs
3/4 cup (110g) currants
Finely grated zest of 1 lemon



Method

1. Sift the flour and spices into a bowl. In a separate bowl, beat butter and sugar with electric beaters until thick and pale, then add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Fold in the flour mixture in two batches, then stir in currants and zest. Shape into a disc, enclose in plastic wrap and chill for at least two hours.
2. Line two baking trays with baking paper.
3. Divide dough into 4 portions. Roll out one portion to 4-5mm thick (keep remaining dough covered and chilled), then cut with a fluted 6cm round biscuit cutter and place on the trays. Repeat with remaining dough, re-rolling the trimmings to make about 40 biscuits. Chill for a further 15 minutes.
4. Preheat the oven to 180°C.
5. Sprinkle biscuits with extra sugar. Bake for 10 minutes until firm to touch but still pale. (Rotate trays halfway through baking, if necessary, to ensure even cooking.) Cool on trays for 5 minutes, then transfer to a rack to cool completely. The biscuits will keep in an airtight container for 3 days.

JOAN'S JOTTINGS

Lots of things I could write about but they are too depressing. We must do all we can to try and help stem the virus without making us too bored.

I always seem to write about myself and I am doing that again. At least it may make you laugh!

I was at the church photocopying and had the last three pages on the top of the lid, I lifted the lid to remove the previous page and, of course, those on the lid fell down between the back of the copier and the wall. Not enough room to get them out so I had the bright idea to get a broom out of the cupboard and try to prise them out. Opened the cupboard door and four brooms fell out. One hit me on the head. One fell on the table and one hit the two hole punch knocking it onto the floor. The back of the punch came off and it looked like there had been a wedding with all the confetti sized bits of paper on the floor. I didn't laugh at the time but I can see the funny side of it now. I did manage to get the pages out from behind the copier.

Two days later I made myself a coffee and sat back in my recliner chair to enjoy a drink. Never go to sleep sitting in a chair drinking coffee—not a good feeling. It was still hot but not hot enough to burn. Only glad it ended up on me and not my brand new carpet!

Not sure if I do stupid things or if I am just plain stupid. I had another spill a few days later. I have now learned, after having a mouthful of coffee, to put the mug down...

The other day looking down the death notices I came across a very funny one:

"No flowers by request — please bring toilet paper".

Among my papers I found this Christian Endeavour Pledge. I signed it in 1943. I was amused at the final paragraph. Perhaps some people at Munro Street may have been glad of it. I'm not the best singer—may be loud but not too tuneful.



Too many people use their religion as they do a bus—they ride on it only when its going their way. True religion can be both a steering wheel and brakes, it can guide you along the right road and stop you at the wrong one!

Joan T

THE COST OF FURNISHING A HOME.....

(Almost 100 years ago)

350 to 356 ELIZABETH STREET

(Between Lonsdale & Latrobe Streets)

and Lonsdale Street, DANDENONG

(LATE OF ROYAL ARCADE)
1st FLOOR

Phones: Central 10599
Ascot 1372
Dandenong 170

Melbourne: 11-11 1924

Mr H. Jueber, Hausbau, Weis Coburg
Dr. to **H. A. MCKEE**

Modern Furniture, Carpets, Linoleums,
Blinds, Crockery, Glassware

HOUSE FURNISHER

STRICTLY NETT

Interest Charged on Overdue Accounts

261-282-359-370

1 4 ⁶ Maple Bedstead	9 10 -
1 4 ⁶ Hapok Set (Mats & Pillows)	4 10 -
1 6x4 Albwood Ext Table	8 15 -
1 5 ft " Sideboard	13 10 -
1 7 Pce Diningroom Suite	27 10 -
1 3 Pce Maple Bedroom Suite	35 - -
1 4 ⁶ Hapok Bolster	10 -
4 Hapok Chairs	10/9 2 3 -
10 2/3 yds 8/4 Linoleum	8/6 4 10 8
7 1/3 yds 8/4 " "	8/6 3 2 4
8 Pig Brn BP Roll Blinds so order	3 14 6
9 1/3 yds 8/4 Bedroom Linoleum	8/6 3 19 4
2 Hapok Chair	10/9 1 1 6
	117 16 4

6/9/24 Credit By Deposits as per receipts

5 - -
Bal £112 16 4

5 yds 7/4 Linoleum
1 yd 7/4 Linoleum

By Cheque 6/9 1 13 9
withd 19/11/24 6 0

2 Black Mohan Door Mats

114 16 1

1 Blue Bolster Set

186

115 12 7
3 12 6
119 6 7

ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS—SEE LUKE 24: 13-35

Luke's account of two of Jesus' followers walking to the village of Emmaus from Jerusalem after Jesus' resurrection, has inspired Christians in their walk of discipleship. Emmaus, some miles from Jerusalem, has been excavated and found to have been a very wealthy town. One of the two men, Cleopas, was thought to have been a wealthy man.

As the two men walked together on their journey in deep conversation concerning their lost hopes for Jerusalem, Jesus, unrecognised by them, joined them as a stranger on the road. In response to their story, Jesus reassured them of Israel's hope of future redemption by quoting numerous scriptural passages and promises from the prophets and psalms.

As evening approached they arrived at their destination, the two invited Jesus to stay and eat supper with them but once they had broken bread Jesus left them. They realised with joy and excitement with whom they had been walking and conversing. They said to one another "wasn't it like a fire burning in us when he talked to us on the road?" They got up at once and went back to Jerusalem where they found the others (v33).

My late husband, John, was the choir conductor at Glenroy Salvation Army. One of my favourite hymns they sang was entitled 'Jesus Himself drew near'. It began with the words, "I set out a pilgrim sad and alone to walk a lonely road, but with my companion walking, I never felt alone," followed by the chorus

*Jesus Himself drew near,
Alone on the road, oppressed by my load,
Jesus Himself drew near and walked with me.*

In the early 1990s, in our church our minister, Rev Joan Gilchrist, led a remembrance service for those who were mourning lost loved ones. Afterwards, I went for a long walk during which John's hymn above came to mind and filled me with assurance.

In 2002, through my cousin, Marj Foster, I met with a world-wide group of Christians. Entitled 'Emmaus', yearly camps called 'Walk to Emmaus' were held over three days in a country setting with talks, table discussion groups, and fellowship, to foster and equip leaders.

We are enduring an unprecedented time of isolation, grief and separation from our church family and worship, particularly at Easter.

May we remember that we each have rich fellowship 'in our walk' at Easter and always.

Judith Faulds



Cricket Explained

- You have two sides, one out in the field and one in.
- Each man that's in the side that's in the field goes out and when he's out comes in and the next man goes in until he's out.
- When a man goes out to go in, the men who are out try to get him out, and when he is out he goes in and the next man in goes out and goes in.
- When they are all out, the side that's out comes in and the side that's been in goes out and tries to get those coming in out.
- Sometimes there are men still in and not out.
- There are men called umpires who stay out all the time, and they decide when the men who are in are out.
- Depending on the weather and the light, the umpires can also send everybody in, no matter whether they're in or out.
- When both sides have been in and all the men are out (including those who are not out), then the game is finished.

Attributed (tenuously) to the Marylebone Cricket Club (of Lord's Cricket Ground fame)

Rugby Union Football—a local newspaper sports reporter wrote the following explanation of the rules for the benefit of a foreigner

- The fatter guys all run into each other, whilst the skinnier guys stand in a line watching them
- Eventually the fatter guys get tired and join in a group hug
- The ball then comes out of the back of this group hug and the skinnier guys kick it forwards and back for a while
- Then the fatter guys wake up and start running into each other again
- Every now and again the referee stops play because someone dropped the ball (the only thing you are not allowed to do—everything else appears to be OK)
- Sometimes one group pushes the other group 'over the line' and everyone hugs (and points are awarded)
- After 80 minutes the points are added up and New Zealand wins....

Courtesy of VicRoads Association Newsletter No 213

Religious Teachings—*young school children's responses to questions about the Old and New Testaments*

- Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was called Joan of Ark. Noah built an ark, which the animals come on to in pears
- Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day, but a ball of fire by night
- Moses led the Hebrews to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread which is bread without any ingredients
- The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the ten commandments
- The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple
- The seventh commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery

Courtesy of VicRoads Association Newsletter No 213—apparently the answers have not been modified or corrected in any way!

KID'S

PAGE

God is great – let us praise him!

Hello friends,

Have you ever wondered why we worship God? After all, if he's the King of all, why do we need to tell him that he's great?

Psalm 96 gives us some hints: because what God has done is so amazing we have to shout about it!

When we really know God, we want to tell him that he's brilliant – and we want to tell our friends about him too!

The Psalm continues with a request that the trees will sing for joy and the earth be glad. It's a great image to think about. The whole earth, plants, animals and people are happy because they can praise God for his greatness.

Can you praise God today for something? Love Barney

Jokes

How do trees get on the internet?
They log on!

How can you tell that the sea is friendly?
Because it waves!

Sing and praise his name. Day after day
announce, "The Lord has saved us!"

Tell every nation on earth, "The Lord is wonderful
and does marvellous things! The Lord is great
and deserves our greatest praise!

Psalm 96:2-4 (Contemporary English Version)

A lot of Psalms were
written by King David
- they were his response
to what was happening
in his life

**Father God, you have
created everything and
you are amazing! Thank
you that we can worship
you. Amen**

Search for God

Can you find these words, based on
Psalm 96, in our wordsearch?

- EARTH
- GOD
- GREAT
- LORD
- PRAISE
- SAVED
- SING
- WONDERFUL

P	R	A	I	S	E	N	Y	L
P	G	Y	R	O	P	C	U	S
E	R	L	O	R	D	F	W	I
A	E	A	L	V	R	M	D	N
R	A	V	I	E	H	V	F	G
T	T	E	S	A	V	E	D	V
H	G	N	V	C	E	P	R	Z
V	O	O	D	A	E	N	I	S
W	O	N	D	E	R	F	U	L

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Fri 10 Apr	Good Friday
Sat 11 Apr	Public Holiday
Sun 12 Apr	Easter Sunday
Mon 13 Apr	Public Holiday
Tue 14 Apr	School Term 2 begins
Sat 25 Apr	Public Holiday for Anzac Day
Sun 10 May	Mother's Day
Mon 8 Jun	Public Holiday for the Queen's Birthday
Sun 21 Jun	UCA Anniversary
Fri 26 Jun	School Term 2 ends
Mon 12 Jul	School Term 3 begins

When this is over

May we never again
Take for granted
A handshake with a stranger
Full shelves at the store
Conversations with the neighbours
A crowded theatre
Friday night out
The taste of communion
A routine check-up
The school rush each morning
Coffee with a friend
The stadium roaring
Each deep breath
A boring Tuesday
Life itself

When this ends
May we find
That we have become
More like the people
We wanted to be
We were called to be
We hoped to be
And may we stay
That way – better
For each other
Because of the worst

– Laura Kelly Fanucci

STANDARD WORSHIP TIMES & SERVICES

(when current restrictions are lifted)

Glenroy

Sundays at 9.00 am—Contact Faye on 9306 6104

Kent Road

1st & 3rd Sundays only at 10.30 am—Contact Shirley on 9355 7988

Pascoe Vale South (PVS)

2nd & 4th Sundays only at 10.30 am—Contact Chris on 0408 649 055

