



# TRANSCEND

APRIL  
2018

Ascot Vale Uniting Church Newsletter

60 Maribyrnong Road, Moonee Ponds

Services: Sundays at 10am

## Worship Services & Themes- 10 am Sundays

April 1 (Easter Day) Bible readings: Psalm 118:1-2 & 14-24;  
1 Corinthians 15:1-11  
Mark 16:1-8  
Theme: "A Handle On Hope"

April 8 Readings: Psalm 133; John 20:19-31  
Theme: "A Person Like Us"

April 15: Readings: Psalm 4 and Luke 24:36-48  
Theme: "Get Real"

April 22 Readings: Psalm 23; Acts 4:5-12; John 10:11-18  
Theme: "Security Blankets"

April 29 Rev. Mark Dunn



Rev. Ian Collings

Reverend Ian Collings will be our Supply Minister until June 30th.  
He will be taking our Sunday Services and providing one day a week pastoral care.

## SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION AFTER THE SERVICE ON March 25th.



The meeting was held as part of the process of selecting a new minister.

Rev. Rose Broadstock, the Presbytery Mission Development Strategist lead the discussion. She explained that we had to choose either a traditional minister (ie one with a role similar to Ron's) or one to work on Regeneration Ministry.

Rose provided us with a number of examples of what is being done in Regeneration Ministry in our Presbytery.

After considerable discussion it was decided that a vote should be taken.

The result was strongly in favour of a traditional minister.

## Church contact phone numbers and emails

Reverend Ian Collings:	0417 359 346	revian33@gmail.com
Church Council Chairperson, Michael Long:	0406 028 508	michaelphotoman@gmail.com
Church Council Secretary, Dorothy Howes:	0432 397 359	dorothyshowes@hotmail.com
Church Officer/Property Manager, Candace Elliott:	0434 491 271	mloqueen@hotmail.com

Ascot Vale Uniting is a safe place for all people to worship regardless of age, race, creed, gender, cultural background, or sexual orientation

# Dates for your Diary

Friday March 30 - Sunday Apr 15 - School Holidays  
Sunday April 1st: Easter Sunday 10am  
Sunday April 1st: End of Daylight Saving—Turn clocks back 1 hour  
Monday April 2nd: Easter Public holiday  
Wednesday April 11th: Church Council Meeting  
Sunday April 13th: Kids Church Resumes  
Wednesday April 25th: Anzac Day  
Saturday April 28th: Quiz Night 6pm at church  
Sunday April 29th: Harvest Swap after service  
Sunday May 6th: Annual General Meeting after service  
Wednesday May 9th: Church Council Meeting



***Our next 'Fish and Chip' Social Night will be a Quiz Night on Saturday April 28th from 6pm***

Bring something for dinner (needn't be fish and chips) and have a relaxing social night with friends.

## ASCOT VALE UNITING CHURCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 2018

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday May 6th after the service.

Please join us for the latest news and reports on the progress of our church.

## Kid's Uniting

We have a modern Sunday school program. Our teacher Fiona provides a program featuring yoga and guided meditation, and learning about key Biblical stories in a supportive and creative environment.

**Kid's Uniting resumes for term two: 10am, Sunday April 15th.**

## Harvest Swap

**The next Harvest Swap will be on Sunday April 29th following the service.**

Bring along plants or anything else related to gardening to swap or share.

Come and meet people who share an interest in growing plants.

Get advice from some of the more experienced growers.



## Men's Group

All men are welcome

**Ascot Vale Uniting has a Men's Group that meets regularly to share a meal and discuss issues pertinent to men.**

**Details of next meeting TBA.**

## Can you help?

We can always use donations of kitchen, cleaning and morning tea supplies.

eg Fair-trade ground coffee, tea, long-life milk, sugar, biscuits and washing up materials

Thanks go to the people who wash tea towels.

## A season of change - Candace



2018 has been an unusual year for me so far and the last six months have been full of changes in my church life and in my personal life. Now everyone knows that ultimately change is good--I'm sure you know the idioms "a change is as good as a rest" or "out with the old, in with the new" or the more negative sounding "go back to square one" or "go back to the drawing board". However, change is hard and most people, when they get to a certain age, like things to stay *just* the way they are. I hadn't considered myself to be one of those types of people until things started to happen in my world.

The news of Ron's pending departure was as big a surprise to me as it was to all of us. I joined the church just before the fire, and not much before Ron himself.

At the time that I found out about Ron's pending departure to Coburg, I didn't feel a sense of loss, but approached the coming change rationally knowing that it was almost his time to go and anyway, he would be starting a new challenge and gaining full time employment that we were unable to provide.

Then came news that Dina was also leaving us, and the realisation that we would soon be in unfamiliar territory started to become apparent.

Approximately one week after that, I learned that the funding that had enabled me to work at the University as a researcher for the last 15 years had unexpectedly dried up. I tried for a few months to find alternate sources of funding to continue my work but to no avail. I also applied for another scientific position, and although I got an interview, the job was not offered to me. Wow! I had been doing scientific research since 1990, and being a scientist was such a part of my identity that I felt my world had fallen apart.

During this time of uncertainty, I felt a calling to leadership to support AVUC through the changes and so when approached by church council to take on a new role as church officer/property manager I agreed. I feel passionately that we all need to work together and look after each other, especially during this time when we do not have a minister.

So what do I do as church officer/property manager?

My roles include:

Looking after building users, arranging annual licensing agreements, ensuring harmony among tenants, maintaining the key register, overseeing cleanliness of the building and property and dealing with maintenance problems as they arise. I also have financial responsibilities such as paying bills, reimbursing people, recording offerings, maintaining lists of payments, and lots of other annual administrative tasks.

Ultimately I aim to work two half days a week at the church, possibly Mondays and Thursdays but as much of the organisational work I am doing requires internet, I am working often from home.

If anyone needs to contact me, please phone me on 0434 491 271 or email me at [mloqueen@hotmail.com](mailto:mloqueen@hotmail.com). Once I get settled in I will post my hours for everyone to see.

I am so glad that I am on this journey of change with my AVUC family.

*"If it's challenging you, testing you, and pushing you...it's helping you become more of who you're meant to be." --Mandy Hale*



*Sincere thanks to Candace for taking on this crucial role. When you see what she has listed above it is clear that each and every one of us must give her all of the support and help that she needs. As she said, "We must look after each other", and so we must also look after Candace as she undertakes this service for us and our church.*

R.W.

## RON'S INDUCTION INTO COBURG UNITING CHURCH

A large number of our church members attended the service at the Cogurg Uniting Church on Friday March 23rd.

The service was conducted by the Presbytery Chairperson Rev. Bruce Watson supported by a large number of representatives from churches in the Presbytery. The preacher was Rev. Mark Dunn. The service was followed by a supper and social get together.



## A Family Prayer:

This version of the Lord's Prayer was said by the congregation at the Uniting Church in Queenscliff, where we worshipped recently. I found it uplifting and thought-provoking, and thought you might be interested too.

Dorothy

Eternal spirit,  
Earth-Maker, Pain-Bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all;

Loving God is whom is heaven,  
The hallowing of your name echoes through  
the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by the  
peoples of the earth!

Your heavenly will be done by all created  
beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another,  
forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that  
is love,

now and forever. Amen.



## Guerrilla gratefulness

Our church's plumbago, in a raised feature bed, was rampaging out of control. Mowing the lawns, I would eye it off for action and then run out of steam. Suddenly, one Sunday it was gone and the next day some lovely new plants were enjoying being admired by the arriving congregants.

Later, along came some mulch and the bed was picture-perfect. "It wasn't me," was my response to the enquiring. A 'guerrilla gardener' had been at work.

You know the signs. The dust under the pews disappears or the silverware is polished. The kitchen cupboards have a wipe out and tidy up. Cobwebs vanish, hymnbooks are straightened, light bulbs are changed and noticeboards updated.

Guerrillas are at work. Perhaps you are one. I, for one, am grateful for such quiet thoughtfulness.

### Reflection

*Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10*

Ian Menzies UCA Victas Pew Sheet



**FINICAL HOME IMPROVEMENT**  
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www.finicalhomes.com.au

Our church friend Hamid (Harry) has set up his own home improvement business.

He is an experienced painter and is able to carry out most handyman repair work.

We wish Hamid success in his new business.

If you have a job to be done give him a call or chat to him at church. 0450 122 355



Anzac Day goes beyond the anniversary of the landing on Gallipoli in 1915.

It is the day on which we remember all Australians who served and died in war and on operational service past and present.

The spirit of Anzac, with its qualities of courage, mateship, and sacrifice, continues to have meaning and relevance for our sense of national identity.

The table opposite acknowledges the many servicemen and service-women who have died in the service of their country.

We should also think of the many more who were wounded or returned home damaged by post-traumatic shock.

There has been hardly any time since Federation that Australia has not been involved in conflict overseas.

**WE SHOULD REMEMBER THEM**

Conflict	Dates	Number of deaths
Sudan	1885	9
South Africa	1899 -1902	588
China	1900 -1901	6
First World War	1914 -1921	61,532
Second World War	1939 -1947	39,652
Australia (North Queensland Coast, bomb and mine clearance)	1947-50	4
Japan (Occupation Force)	1947-52	3
Papua and New Guinea	1947-75	13
Middle East	1948	1
Berlin Airlift	1948-49	1
Malayan Emergency	1948 -1960	39
Kashmir (United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan)	1948-85	1
Korean War	1950 -1953	340
Malta	1952-55	3
Korean War (Ceasefire monitoring)	1953-57	16
Southeast Asia (SEATO)	1955-75	7
Indonesian Confrontation	1962 -1966	21
Malay Peninsula	1964 -1966	2
Vietnam War	1962 -1975	521
Thailand	1965 -1968	2
Irian Jaya Operation	1976-81	1
Western Sahara (MINURSO)	1991-94	1
Somalia	1992 -1994	1
Bougainville	1997-2003	1
East Timor	1999 -2003	2
East Timor (Operation Astute)	1999-2013	2
Afghanistan	2001 to present	42
Iraq	2003 -2009	2
Solomon Island (RAMSI)	2003-13	1
Indonesia (Operation Sumatra Assist)	2005	9
Fiji	2006	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>102,825</b>

## Our congregation has adopted the Synod's policy: Keeping Children Safe

We aim to keep children in the Church safe from harm. We:

- provide physical environments that are clean, well-maintained and free from hazards
- conduct activities that are appropriate for the age and abilities of the child
- screen the people who want to work with children and provide those approved with ongoing training, oversight and support
- model appropriate behaviour, including spoken word, engagement in social media and physical actions, at all times
- encourage people to speak up, raise concerns and provide feedback. This helps us to know when

## They need our help!



On 12 February, Tonga was hit by Cyclone Gita, the strongest storm it's seen in 60 years, with at least 70% of the population affected and 1400 families without homes. There was massive damage to buildings and infrastructure, but fortunately minimal reports of injuries or death. Still children and adults are deeply traumatised. Electricity is yet to be restored and communications are limited. Everyone is fully occupied with clearing up rubbish and making assessments of the repair and rebuilding work required.

Beyond the immediate need for clean water and housing displaced people, food will be a challenge, as the crops are just devastated.

The main part of Nuku'alofa seems to have fared the worst, and schools have been particularly hard hit. It is important to repair and rebuild so that children can get back to school as soon as possible.

UNITING WORLD a relief agency of the Uniting Church is providing wide ranging support to assist with the recovery work.



Donations can be made through the following website.

<https://www.unitingworld.org.au/cyclone-gita-appeal/>

This is also the cause that Dorothy has supported during Lentevent where she has sought sponsorship for giving up cheese and butter during Lent.

You can still assist her in supporting the work of UnitingWorld in providing relief for the victims of Cyclone Gita and helping the Pacific Islands become better able to cope with cyclones.

You can make donations directly to Dorothy on or before Easter Sunday.



Dorothy invited others to join her at the Palm Sunday Walk for Justice for Refugees

## TO ACT JUSTLY AND TO LOVE MERCY... (Micah 6:8)

That is all that we are asking of our politicians, many of whom claim to be Christian, in their treatment of asylum seekers.

Fiona and I would like to thank you all for your moral and prayer support, as we attended and marched in the **Palm Sunday rally for Justice for Refugees.**

An estimated **10,000 + protesters** heard a number of excellent speakers from different faith groups and backgrounds. All called on the Government and Opposition to develop and put into practice humane and reasonable policies towards those people the Australian government, in our name, has incarcerated in shameful conditions offshore, or deprived of certainty and dignity in our community – people who have done exactly what we would have done if threatened with persecution, torture or death, as they have been. That is, we would escape to a safer place and entrust ourselves to the goodwill and compassion of the people there.

**Rev Tim Costello** (World Vision CEO) believes the increasing and deliberate malevolence shown by successive Australian governments towards asylum seekers can only be described as evil. He related how Uganda, which is accepting huge numbers of South Sudanese refugees, is granting them small plots of land so they can try to start their lives afresh. When he asked an official why Uganda is willing to be so generous, he was told "You see, we ourselves were once refugees". Tim speculated "what country could we expect to be generous to us, if we should ever be forced by circumstances to become refugees?"

**Rev Sharon Hollis**, Moderator of the Uniting Church in Victoria and Tasmania, also spoke particularly powerfully.

We marched around the Swanston, Bourke, Elizabeth and Latrobe Streets block, chanting slogans that pointed out that humane treatment of asylum seekers is a bi-partisan responsibility: **Malcolm Turnbull, end the violence; Bill Shorten, end the silence!** and that not only asylum seekers, but all Australians, lose out under the present system: **Money for health and education, not for refugee detention!**

Is this protest rally going to make any difference? My answer is, we have to keep trying everything we can. In the long run, **Australia's current asylum seeker policy is unsustainable, morally, politically and economically.** It has to end some time. Our task is to try to end the suffering it is inflicting sooner rather than later.

Thank you again for your support!

Dorothy

## AVUC ROSTER, MARCH to JUNE 3rd 2018

DATE	LEADER /COMMUNION	DUTY ELDER	COUNTING	MUSIC	WEL-COMER	READER	MORNING TEA
1 April Easter Day	Rev Ian /Angelika	Dorothy	Dorothy/Jean	Rob	Cally	Cally	Marycon/ Judy
8 April Family Service	Rev Ian	Noel	Noel/Jean	Dorothy	Ken	Ken	Ken/Jenny
15 April	Rev Ian	Michael	Michael/Jean	Julian	Michael	Marycon	Hamid/
22 April	Rev Ian	Dorothy	Robin/Barbara	Candace	Robin	Angelika	Chris/ Angelika
29 April Garden Swap	Rev Mark	Michael	Peter/Candace	Candace	Peter	Anneke	Anneke/ Francois
6 May Communion	Rev Ian /Dorothy	Noel	Noel/Judy	Rob	Judy	Noel	Dorothy/ Jean
13 May Family Service	Rev Ian	Dorothy	Michael/Jean	Dorothy	Michael	Michael	Marycon/ Judy
20 May	Rev Ian	Michael	Peter/Francois	Julian	Ken	Barbara	Ken/Jenny
27 May Garden Swap	Rev Eileen	Noel	Candace/Jean	Candace	Peter	Peter	Hamid/ Rashed
3 June Communion	TBA /Noel	Dorothy	Robin/Judy	Rob	Robin	Chris	Chris/ Angelika

### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We create a welcoming community that shows unconditional love by following the spirit and teachings of the historical Jesus.

We do this by:

- welcoming people in all circumstances, races, beliefs and gender preferences
- being caring, compassionate and kind to all
- striving for social justice through action
- caring for all creation and protecting the environment
- studying the teachings of Jesus Christ to expand our spiritual understanding and know God
- and honouring tradition within a more progressive and open form of worship service.

### Acknowledgement of Country



**We acknowledge and give thanks that the land on which our church building stands is country for which the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation are the traditional custodians.**

**We honour their elders past and present and commit ourselves to work for reconciliation and justice.**

*Transcend' is published on the first Sunday of each month except January. Articles, photos and other contributions are welcome.*

*Email them to the Editor, Robin Waltrowicz no later than the Wednesday before publication.*

*To receive a monthly copy of Transcend by email Contact: [avuniting@hotmail.com](mailto:avuniting@hotmail.com)*