



TRANSCEND

JULY
2018

Ascot Vale Uniting Church Newsletter

60 Maribyrnong Road, Moonee Ponds
Services: Sundays at 10am

MINISTERS TAKING SERVICES JULY - AUGUST

July	1:	Mark Dunn
July	8:	Mark Dunn
July	15:	Evelyn Payne
July	22:	Matt Julius
July	29:	Evelyn Payne
Aug	5:	Mark Dunn

FOR YOUR DIARY

NAIDOC Week - Sunday July 8 - 15
 School Term 3 commences Monday July 16
 "Fish & Chip" Social Night: Saturday July 28th from 6pm
 Harvest Swap: After Service July 29th
 Saturday Nov 24 - State Election - Sausage sizzle



An opportunity to SHARE OUR BLESSINGS:

Winter has arrived, and our government has decided to make things even harder for asylum seekers already in Australia, by cutting off the already-low support payments they had been receiving. So it seems a good time for us to show that in spite of this, many Australians do care, and want to make newcomers to our country welcome.

So we are again holding a **Collection of goods** for an **asylum-seeker support** organisation. This time, I'm suggesting we donate to the Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project (BASP). We can then add our gifts to those being collected by Grandmothers Against Detention of Children (Maribyrnong Branch), of which I'm a member.

BASP has asked in particular for the following items:

- Sugar, flour and cooking oil;
- Canned tomatoes, fruit, tuna, red kidney beans, corn and peas;
- Long-life milk, tea and coffee, cheese, honey, noodles, dates;
- Gladwrap, tinfoil, clothes pegs;
- Sweet and savoury biscuits, snacks for school lunches;
- Salt and pepper, spices (coriander, cinnamon, ginger);
- Shampoo, conditioner, shaving cream, shavers, and toothpaste.

A basket has been placed at the front of the church for your donations of these or other suitable items. Our church also has a number of items to contribute.

Dorothy Howes

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



Many thanks to the very talented Rachel and Clara and their friend Georgia who performed a play during the service on June 17



We have been fortunate to have Guest Ministers Evelyn Payne and Mark Dunn conducting services.



To Peter Scott

★HAPPY★
BIRTHDAY!



WHAT IS BASP?

The Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project was founded 20 years ago by Sister Brigid Arthur. It is based in Albert Park, and its inspiration is the words of Jesus: "I was a stranger and you took me in..."

Sister Brigid and her fellow Co-ordinator state "The Project aims to

- Provide hospitality and practical support for people seeking asylum
- Actively network with like-minded individuals and groups who are working for justice for asylum seekers
- Promote advocacy for the rights of asylum seekers
- Raise awareness of asylum seeker issues and concerns through a range of activities.

Their activities include helping asylum seekers in the community find paid work, negotiating volunteer positions for some, and arranging accommodation for others with willing families and individuals, almost all of whom report how satisfying this is.

Anyone who can suggest possibilities for volunteer or paid work for an asylum seeker, or could offer a home to a family or single person, could contact BASP on 9696 2107, or at barthur@basp.org.au

WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO?

Our Government has recently announced changes which will **deprive 12,000 people** seeking asylum of vital services, and **of any kind of financial support**.

Many people are already surviving only on emergency handouts from various charities, which are already stretched to the limit.

Of course it is good to encourage people to seek work, but how can someone (however well-qualified in their own country) who has had no experience in Australia, and who has not had the time or help needed to master English, possibly find a job in the 3-week period before their allowance is cut off?

The Australian Churches Refugee Taskforce foresees that as a result of this government decision "**the level of destitution is going to increase to unprecedented levels**".

The Taskforce are asking us to sign and send a slip of paper expressing our deep concern, and urging the government "**to continue essential financial support ... until a person is able to secure employment**".

The leaflet further explaining the situation, and which has the slip to sign attached, will be available after church in the next weeks. **Please take, sign and send one of these to the Prime Minister.**

There is a section headed "I further believe that..." PLEASE WRITE SOMETHING IN THIS SPACE! It could be

- All people are entitled to the necessities of life
 - People in danger of torture or persecution have a right to seek asylum in another country - they should not be punished for doing so
 - Australia is a rich country - we can well afford to welcome refugees
 - Asylum seekers have been an asset to Australia in the past – we are depriving ourselves of their intelligence and skills by rejecting them
 - Most of us were "refugees" from somewhere else originally – whether political or economic
- OR anything else you feel is appropriate.

As followers of Christ, and ordinary decent people, we must stop the those who govern in our name from treating so cruelly people who seek our help.

Thank you, Dorothy Howes

CAN YOU HELP?

There's still lots to do in and around the church and garden. If you can spare a bit of time to help please have a talk with Candace.

The Church is open for activities every day between 9:30 and 12pm so you won't need a key. Best days are Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays as they are the least busy.

So that Learningland teachers and other building users know you are from the church, please put on a nametag.

SINCERE THANKS to those who have been coming along to do odd jobs in the church and garden.

Barbara and Candace recently weeded the garden bed under the Crepe Myrtle and planted it with succulents. **Thank you!!**



WORDS OF WISDOM ...

"Kindness, goodness and universal basic human rights are my religion" (Mohamad Didashi, Muslim and protester against human rights abuses in Iran).

"...If we discriminate on the basis of race or tribe or ethnicity, then the fragile bonds of civilisation will fray" (Barack Obama).

"...Last week she made us delicious dumplings...We took her to the You Yangs and she said she really loved it...Her bike riding is going really well...We really enjoy her company ...She has made a garden of flowers and they are just starting to flower." (Couple hosting a young asylum seeker woman from Tibet).

"The world will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but by those who watch them without doing anything" (Albert Einstein).

"Peace and prosperity, tranquillity and security are only possible if these are enjoyed by all without discrimination" (Nelson Mandela).

A Reflection: "Let my children go", by David Rainbow

We're all refugees.

We all come from somewhere else.

We're all just passing through...

Australia is so much in need of these people, these refugees from Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq and elsewhere, for they bring...the depth of beauty that comes from deep suffering.

They bring themselves, and the great treasure that they are, to these shores. What an honour and a privilege it is for me, for us already here, that they come to us, to me. I welcome them with open arms.

This is not 'our' land.

We don't 'own' it.

We're all just passing through.



Who do I belong to? I belong to you as I do to me; strengthened by my plight, I vocalize a calling whispered from the heavens above.

I once was blind to worldly atrocities; I once was deaf to the cries of those in need.

Crippled by the indifference of materialistic values, I set my heart a course on a pilgrimage for truth guided by the Holy Spirit, on a journey of self-discovery.

Just as Moses sought the burning bush I too found my own, this giving tree spoke of a tone and journey that would lead all toward happiness and spiritual enlightenment.

Once I accepted that my voice was important, validations followed that my neighbours', my sister's and my brother's voices the world over were equally as important and valued.

The voice of the world became my guide and salvation was found in my hand, tongue and ear. I belong to your heart as I do to mine.

I belong in your pure conscious ideals as you do to mine. I belong in the heart of God as he does mine. I belong, you belong, we all belong and together we shall prevail; just and true.

Belief Equality Love Observance Nurturing Giving. Belong.

Russell Hawkins

UCAV Pew Sheet

A woman called her husband during the day and asked him to pick up some organic vegetables for that night's dinner on his way home. The husband arrived at the store and began to search all over for organic vegetables before finally asking the produce guy where they were. The produce guy didn't know what he was talking about, so the husband said: "These vegetables are for my wife. Have they been sprayed with poisonous chemicals?" To which the produce guy replied, "No, sir, you will have to do that yourself."

Mandala and Vision Board Workshop

- Fiona Prendergast

I will be introducing the concept of the Mandala. Mandala comes from the Sanskrit meaning Circle and represents wholeness.

We begin by sharing a meditation of self love. Where you become centred to you. The focus is solely on you and your creation.

We are all creative. There are no mistakes or rules. You do not have to be an artist to enjoy this form of expression as we continue to create. The Mandala encourages self-expression and your own unique creativity.

It brings with it a feeling of calm and relaxes the brain. Drawing a mandala helps you be in a state of Mindfulness.

For inner peace and being fully present to the moment experienced. They help centre you. Mindfulness focuses on the now. Leaving the past and unknown future at bay. This brings you to a place of now. Because this is all that we have.

You create the mandala you want, that in every respect is relevant to you.

The colouring of the Mandala is done on an intuitive level and is pertinent to you.

It can give birth to spiritual awareness. As you discover the Artist within and arrive at your own personal Mandala

I will also be introducing the concept of a Vision Board incorporating it with the Mandala on the page.

The requirement for a Vision Board is your intention.

Vision Boards bring your attention to what dreams you have and gives you stepping stones to achieve them. They are a visual representation of what is important to you and clarify the direction to be taken in your life.

The Mandala and Vision Board Workshop will be held at the church on: August 25th from 1.15pm until 4.15pm

The cost is \$35 Bookings essential Phone Fiona on 0404 346 924

AVUC ROSTER, July-September 2018.

Please make your own arrangements for any necessary exchange of dates.

	LEADER / COMMUNION	DUTY ELDER	MUSIC	COUNTING	READER	WELCOM- ER	MORNING TEA
1 July Communion Kids Uniting Holiday	Rev Mark Dunn Michael	Michael	Rob	Michael / Jean	Melita	Michael	Hamid / Marjan
8 July Family Service	Matt Julius	Dorothy	Dorothy	Chris / Dorothy	Angelika	Robin	Angelika / Jean
15 July Kids Uniting resume	Evelyn Payne	Noel	Candace	Candace/Barbara	Ken	Ken	Ken / Jenny
22 July	Matt Julius	Michael	Julian	Noel/ Jean	Anneke	Michael	Francois/ Anneke
29 July Garden Swap	Evelyn Payne	Barbara	Candace	Robin / Ken	Barbara	Robin	Chris / MaryCon
5 August Communion	Rev Mark Dunn Dorothy	Dorothy	Rob	Francois/ Judy	Angelika	Judy	Angelika / Barbara
12 August Family Service	Matt Julius	Noel	Dorothy	Dorothy / Jean	Cally	Cally	Hamid / Marjan
19 August	Evelyn Payne	Barbara	Candace	Candace/Barbara	Candace	Ken	MaryCon/ Jean
26 August Garden Swap	Evelyn Payne	Michael	Julian	Michael/Noel	MaryCon	Michael	Francois /Anneke
2 September Communion	Noel TBA	Noel	Rob	Candace/ Jean	Ken	Ken	Ken / Jenny
9 September Family Service	TBA	Dorothy	Dorothy	Dorothy/ Barbara	Cally	Cally	Judy / Jean
16 September	TBA	Dorothy	Candace	Robin/Chris	Chris	Robin	Chris / MaryCon
23 September Kids Uniting Holiday	TBA	Angelika	Julian	Francois/ Noel	Anneke	Judy	Hamid / Marjan
30 September Garden Swap	Rev Eileen Ray	Michael	Candace	Dorothy / Jean	Candace	Michael	Angelika / Barbara

*'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 at : avuniting@hotmail.com*