

M U C

Magazine

The News and Views of the
Murrumbeena Uniting Church



To make Christ known by preaching the
gospel in word and deed

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The Uniting Church in Australia
MURRUMBEENA UNITING CHURCH

August – September 2023

MINISTRY TEAM

REV. JAY ROBINSON

Minister

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0410 465 836



CHURCH COUNCIL



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**Alison Campbell
Rate**

0438 569 690



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Greg Pressey



Warren Cramer



Rachel Dart

Minutes
Secretary



**Sharon
Pereira**



**Dave
Robinson**

Correspondence
Secretary

USEFUL LINKS ON THE INTERNET

As well as our own website at
<https://www.murrumbeenauniting.org.au/> you might find the
following links of interest (if you haven't already).

Live stream of 10:00am Worship and Service:

facebook.com/murrumbeenauniting/

Recorded Service (view anytime on YouTube)

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-v0xIBPkGfZJcOl062yCjg/>

ORGANISATIONS AND GROUPS

Community Garden

Knitting and Craft Circle

Murrumbeena Connect

Adult Fellowship

Friendship Fellas (Men's
Group)

LIFT (Women's Group)

THE CHURCH

Adult Bible Studies

Pastoral Care

Worship Band

Lending Library

YOUNG ADULTS (18-35)

Sonder Collective

Sunday Brunch

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Countdown to Christmas

FEAST (Families Eating And
Sharing Together)

SHARON PEREIRA

Culture of Safety contact person
9568 8177

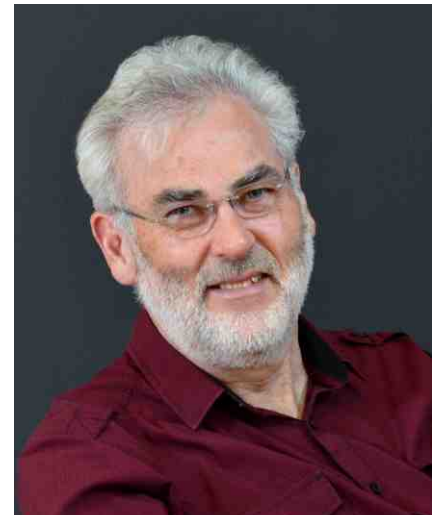


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POSITION VACANT

THE POSITION OF MUC MAG EDITOR AND PUBLISHER IS NOW VACANT

Any member of the congregation who is interested in becoming the Editor is invited to contact the Church Council.



Welcome to this edition of the *MUC MAG*. May the peace of the Lord be with you. This edition is the very last one that I will be doing. In the mid 1980s I took over publishing the monthly newsletter for St David's Glenhuntly when the previous editor sadly passed away unexpectedly. When St David's became part of the Parish of Koornang along with St Giles, Neerim Road and Tara Grove, Anne Don (who was editor for the St Giles quarterly newsletter), John Hewitt (who was editor for the bi-monthly Neerim Road newsletter) and I collaborated to produce the *Koornang Koinonia* magazine three times a year for several years. With changes of ministers and leadership, priorities changed and the *Koornang Koinonia* lapsed for a period until Jay became our minister. Jay was strongly of the opinion that a congregation needs a periodical newsletter/magazine, as a means to allow everyone to know what is going on, so I took on publishing the *Koornang Koinonia* until our name change to Murrumbreena Uniting Church, at which time the magazine became the *MUC MAG*, published every second month.

By now, most of you know that I have made a decision to step away from the Uniting Church in Australia, in the hope of finding a church and congregation where I can better continue my faith journey and development. In part, this explains why the position of Editor is now vacant.

Although I shall be leaving, I have many friends amongst the congregation of the Murrumbreena Uniting Church, so will keep in touch from time to time. I also offer to assist anyone taking on the Editorship role with tips and techniques I have learned over the years of Desktop Publishing.

Grow your faith, and may the Lord Almighty keep you in His eternal care.

Roger McCowan

PUZZLES

A slightly different puzzle for this edition! I have created anagrams of suburb names in and around the church's area as below, for people to unscramble:

ACE REIGN
MUM RUN A BEER
ON DORM
I DUEL CALF
NIGHT BRO
HOT DANCES

O MOB BRAIN
A LEAD RAM
LIKE A HOG
BEGIN THE L
LEARN VM
A SHORT BUN
LE HUGE DASH
HIT THE G
THEN GULLY N
ELSE NW TRICK
NO MICK NO

DAVE RAN LEG
LOW DOE
LID TASK
HAT ON MP
MASH AND GRIN
HANDING LUTE

*Christina Linforth-
Barker*

Answers on page 4.

FROM THE MINISTER

Welcome to this edition of the MUC Mag, Roger's final edition as editor. Change is always a challenge; you've heard me say that more than once and unfortunately it's true.

Over the last two months we've had a bit of change happening. We've commissioned new leaders in our Church Council, our Elders group and our Congregational Representatives. We've had a different focus as we explore our mission and just what God could be calling us into next. We have Ann van Leerdam wandering around, asking questions and challenging us to think a little differently as well as the news of leadership changes in the Presbytery resulting in our Life and Witness consultation not going as we had hoped.

The seasons have changed, we've moved into Winter and are watching to see just what the weather will be like as we enter into a time of predicted El Nino, not to mention the impacts that climate change may have on things around.

The other change that is before us the referendum that is coming later in the year. I know this subject is a highly emotive one and that a number of us have very strong feelings about this, not necessarily the same feelings so I'm not going any further than recognising that it is part of the change around us. Change is

something that happens to us every day, it's something we need to deal with and not let it fill us with stress and anxiety.

All of that being said, there is one thing that doesn't change. The love and presence of God in our lives and this world. When we spent time in exploring Incarnational Mission - Working With, Working For, Being For and Being With, for me the underlying concept was "incarnation". This is the story we hear at Christmas time, the coming of God through the person of Jesus Christ to be with us. This desire of God to be in relationship with us has not changed since creation. No matter what we may have done to distance ourselves from God, God is always seeking ways of re-connection with us. Time after time covenants have been made, and broken by us, and made again. It is the promise and presence of Christ that was the final covenant, the one that no matter what we did would never be broken. I don't know about you, but for me that is amazingly comforting to know that I am loved, wanted, forgiven, cherished, known and inspired by this relationship with God. And I have to remind you that that goes for you too!

I give thanks for change, but I also give thanks for the permanence of God's presence in our lives and the world around

us. So in that giving thanks, I give thanks for all that Roger has given to us at Murrumbena, I give thanks for all the leaders who step up from time to time when needed, I give thanks for the care and love we show each other, and I give thanks for the challenges that are before us that we will face together and with God standing beside us.

On the journey with you all..

Jay



PUZZLE SOLUTION

CARNEGIE
MURRUMBEENA
ORMOND
CAULFIELD
BRIGHTON
CHADSTONE
MOORABBIN
ARMADALE

OAKLEIGH
BENTLEIGH
MALVERN
ASHBURTON
HUGHESDALE
HIGHETT
GLENHUNTLY
ELSTERNWICK

MCKINNON
GARDENVALE
ELWOOD
ST KILDA
HAMPTON
SANDRINGHAM
HUNTINGDALE

READINGS FOR AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2023

This period takes us through our Bumper-Sticker Theology series, giving thanks for the congregations that came together to make up Murrumbeena UC and then into our usual Narrative Lectionary series.

I have chosen some different readings for the beginning of our Narrative Lectionary, and you'll notice that we will take some time to include the Psalms in our worship as well as some of the stories or narratives that are missed in the set lectionary.

September and October have us spending a bit more time with David as he becomes the King that Israel looks both towards and back to.

6 August	Everything happens for a reason Giving thanks for St David's	Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 Romans 8:28-39
13 August	Jesus loves you but I'm his favourite Giving thanks for Tara Grove	Acts 10:34-55, 44-48
20 August	Giving thanks for who we are now Special service with guest preacher Rev Al Macrae	
27 August	God helps those that help themselves	Mark 10:35-45, Psalm 121
3 Sept	When God closes a door, God often opens a window	Acts 16:4-15
10 Sept	David is anointed	1 Samuel 16:1-14, Psalm 51:10-14
17 Sept	David defeats Goliath	1 Samuel 17: [1a, 4-11, 19-23] 32-49, Psalm 20
24 Sept	David becomes king over all Israel	2 Samuel [5:1-5, 9-10]; 6: 1-5[13-22], Psalm 24, Psalm 150
1 October	God's promise to David concerning his heir	2 Samuel 7:1-17, Psalm 89:20-37

CONTACTS FOR GROUPS

On page 2 is the list of current organisations and groups, whilst on page 11 is the calendar of events, many of which involve these groups. Listed below are the contact details for the facilitators of each of these organisations and groups. Contact them if you would like to know more about the events.

Friendship Fellas

Geoff Edwards
0409 568 206

F.E.A.S.T.

Jay Robinson
0410 465 836

Murrumbeena Community Garden

Kay Pentland
Glynis Ramsay
0407 506 662

Knitting and Craft Circle

Glynis Ramsay
0407 506 662

LIFT

Mary-Lou Keur
0409 937 727
Roz Franklin
0403 762 695

Murrumbeena Connect

Ann van Leerdam
9568 8177

Lending Library

Anne Don
9578 4217

Murrumbeena Uniting Afternoon Fellowship Group

Anne Don
9578 4217

Women's Bible Study

Alison Campbell Rate
0438 569 690

SAFE CHURCH TRAINING

The Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and Tasmania makes the following commitment:

- » All children who are involved in any of the Uniting Church's activities, services, events or programs have a right to feel and be safe. The Uniting Church in Australia is committed to provide safe environments where children are cared for, respected, nurtured and sustained.
- » We have zero tolerance of all forms of child abuse and will do all in our power to safeguard children from abuse.
- » The Church commits itself to the creation and maintenance of a child-safe culture to ensure the care, protection and safety of all children engaging with the Church in any of its entities.
- » Abuse thrives on secrecy. To prevent child abuse across the Church, we are committed to providing clear leadership and open and transparent governance to combat secrecy.
- » The Church clearly affirms its commitment to upholding the law. This includes the requirement to report abuse to the appropriate authorities.
- » We are committed to the cultural safety of all First Nations people, including children and young people.

What this looks like for us here at Murrumbeena UC is that all our leaders and people of responsibility have a current Working With Children's Check, have agreed to abide by the Code of Conduct outlined by the UCA, and have undertaken Safe Church training every three years. We also have an appointed Culture of Safety contact person - Sharon Pereira.

COVID19 threw a few spanners in the works which resulted in the updated Safe Church Training being delayed. As a whole church we should undertake this training so that we are all aware of what a Safe Church environment looks and feels like.

There are options to complete this training online and if that is the way you would prefer to do the training then please see Jay for details of how you can do this.

But not all of us are able to access online training and so Jay will offer this training in person on Sunday 13th August following our worship service. Jay expects this training to take no longer than an hour, or an hour and 15 minutes. So, we need you there and you will not have to undertake this training for another three years.

This is important for us, for the church and is one of the requirements of the Royal Commission into Child Sexual Abuse. Many of these recommendations have become law so we need to do this training.



Murrumbeena Uniting Church

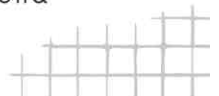
AUG | 13th | 2023

11.30am

117 Murrumbeena Road, Murrumbeena



Uniting Church in Australia



REPORT OF PRESBYTERY MEETING

Held on Wednesday 21st June, 2023 via Zoom.

The meeting commenced with singing, a bible reading and prayer in Fijian which was interesting.

We heard about the amalgamations of the St Columbia's Noble Park and the Keysborough Samoan congregations, and also the Black Rock & Cheltenham-Mentone congregations, both of which have been very successful.

The Disability Action Plan was introduced by Kelly Skilton and we watched a short video. This was followed by the formation of break-out groups which discussed the inclusiveness of people with disabilities within our respective congregations.

Duncan Turuva was presented as a candidate for Ministry of the Word following a period of Discernment. He addressed the meeting. Members voted on his acceptance to proceed to Ordination as Minister of the Word.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

The Presbytery Minister Craig Mitchell, who has been assisting MUC with our vision for the future, has requested early release from his position as Presbytery Minister. This came as quite a shock. He does not want to be contacted. Robin Yang is stepping in as a Supply Minister for the Presbytery.

MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER

[Matthew 21:13; Isaiah 56:7; Jeremiah 7:11; Psalm 93:5; Matthew 2:5; Mark 11:17; Luke 19:46; John 15:25]

Scripture tells us to pray "without ceasing... at all times... in everything... continually". [1 Thessalonians 5:17-18, Ephesians 6:18, Philippians 4:6 and Hebrews 13:15]

Prayer should pervade every aspect of our lives. So, it should come as no surprise that prayer should permeate the activities of the Church.

Please feel most welcome to come along a bit earlier on Sunday morning and to pray with us. The chapel will be open for prayer at 9.30am until 9.50am each Sunday morning.

Prayer is simply communicating with God, and it can take many different forms. We want you to feel comfortable and we understand that not everyone feels comfortable to pray out loud or in front of others. Here are a few ideas that may help!

- » You can come along but pray silently, that is okay.
- » We will have a prayer book with set prayers in it and you can read out a set prayer if you prefer.
- » You might like to write down a prayer on paper (you don't have to share it if you don't want to).
- » You might like to communicate with God through drawing a picture (once again, you don't have to share it if you don't want to).
- » Alternatively, you might have a scripture verse or something that you have read that you choose to share with the group, or a prayer request that you want to bring to the group.
- » There will also be a sensory box with objects and pictures, to be used as prayer aids - to inspire and help you get into that 'zone'!

So please, don't be afraid. We would love to have you join us and we really aren't that scary .

Children and visitors are also welcome!

SONGS OF INSPIRATION

Leighmoor – Coatesville – Murrumbidgee Uniting Churches present.....



Songs of inspiration

A celebration of God's grace through songs, music and performance.

Songs of inspiration will feature music, song and performance celebrating God's grace. We'll share in contemporary, original and classic music led by musicians, singers and performers from Leighmoor, Coatesville and Murrumbidgee. Sit, reflect and feel free of course, to sing boldly along to great music of worship.

This is an LCM combined music event:

Sunday 4 June 2023 – 1.00pm

Coatesville Uniting Church

(1050 North Road, Benteigh East)

Cnr Mackie and North Roads, Benteigh East

This event will include refreshments.



On Sunday 4th June, Coatesville Uniting Church hosted a 'Songs of Inspiration' afternoon. Shown here are some of the photos that were taken during that event.

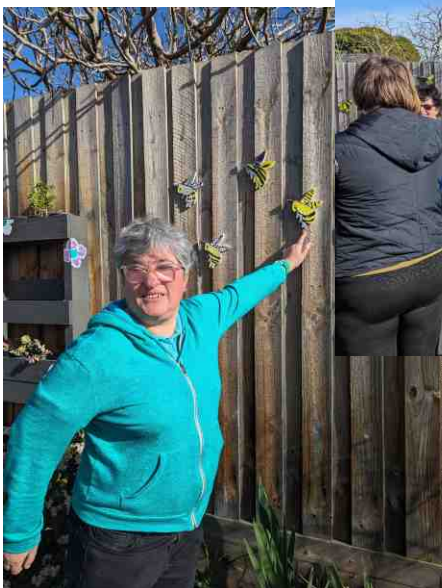


26th May saw the Drop In group be part of the biggest morning tea campaign to fight cancer. We had a number of extra guests as well as some very yummy food. Gayle outdid herself (which is not at all surprising).

During June the Drop In group was visited by Rachel Mackay to invite us to be part of the Bees project. This meant that we got to paint some pre-cut wooden bees that would be placed in our community garden and other spaces to help decorate and encourage bees to come back to our gardens.

Rachel spent two Fridays with us, and we all had great fun painting and decorating our bees. And now they have been placed in the community garden behind our church as well as other places around the community. We've found some sunshine and headed outdoors to see if we could find the bees we had painted.

I wonder what our next project will be? Anyone have any requests?



20TH ANNIVERSARY OF COMING TOGETHER

In July and August of 2003, the momentous step of bringing the four local UCA congregations into one building began. Mind you, there were many many meetings, conversations, arguments, agreements, plans and dreaming that took place well prior to July 2003.

The process involved each congregation celebrating their community in a final worship at their usual place of worship and then one celebration again as they all came together in what was originally called Koornang Uniting Church and now Murrumbeena UC.

On Sunday 20th July 2003 the St Giles community gathered in their building for one last time before joining with everyone else. On Sunday 27th July 2003 it was Neerim Road's turn, Sunday 3 August 2003 was St David's and on Sunday 10th August 2003 Tara Grove met for the last time.

On Sunday 17th August 2003 all gathered again at the building that was to be known as Koornang Uniting Church, the building that was St Giles Presbyterian Church. Rev Alistair Macrae was the preacher, the choir sung, instruments of all sorts were played and the beginning of who we are now began.

We will celebrate all that took place over that time during July and August this year as we recognise that it is 20 years since this all took place. On Sunday 20th August 2023 we will gather to celebrate all that we are now and could be as we continue to be the church in this place and at this time. Rev Alistair Macrae has agreed to be our guest preacher for the day, Rev Anneke Oppewal will be present from the Presbytery and other guests have been invited. We will conclude this time with our special shared morning tea - so don't forget to bring something yummy to share.

With thanks to Anne Don who is the master of keeping our archives I want to share with you the mission and vision statements (see page 11) that were created for this joining together 20 years ago. I think this is a very important document to look back on, review where we are now and where we believe we are being called to next. Please take some time and reflect on this.



St Giles Church



Neerim Road Church



St David's Church



Inside Tara Grove Church

MISSION STATEMENT – KOORNANG UNITING CHURCH (NOW MURRUMBEENA UC)

VISION

A vibrant, joyful and supportive Christian community centred around the Koornang (Murrumbeena) Church, with well attended church services and active outreach programs ministering to the needs of identified groups in the community. A community where people are attracted to hear the Word of God (Micah 4:2), where their spiritual needs are met (Matthew 11:28,29; Philippians 4:19) and where there is a growing experience of life in all its fullness through Christ.

MISSION

Our mission is to make Christ known through the preaching of the Gospel in word and deed so that people will respond to God's saving love through commitment to Christ and growth in discipleship.

1. To provide a centre for worship, personal and spiritual growth, fellowship and support for all those associated with Koornang (Murrumbeena) Uniting Church.
 - » All activities will be based on biblical principles and will be designed to articulate the depth and richness of the Word.
 - » Specific programs will be presented to engage people of differing ages and interests.
 - » Worship and services will be more intentionally multicultural and will include and be enriched by the gifts of those who are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.
 - » Services and activities will include a vibrant musical component responding to the variety of people in the congregation.
 - » Groups providing for the study of the Bible and Christian faith will be held on a regular basis.
 - » Activities to express the prayer life of the congregation will be held regularly.
 - » Social activities will be held regularly to engage members of the congregation and the wider community.
2. To reach out to individuals and groups in the community at their point of need with a particular emphasis on:
 - » Ministry to the elderly, socially isolated and people from non-English speaking background
 - » Development and implementation of creative programs to engage younger adults
 - » Supporting the work of the Church elsewhere in Australia and overseas.

OBJECTIVES

(What measurable things do we want to achieve in the next 3-5 years?)

- » To have at least 250 members activity and regularly participating in Church activities.
- » To have at least 50% membership under 60 years of age
- » To have at least 20% of members from non Anglo (Saxon) backgrounds
- » To have at least 6 active community outreach programs in operation at any time.



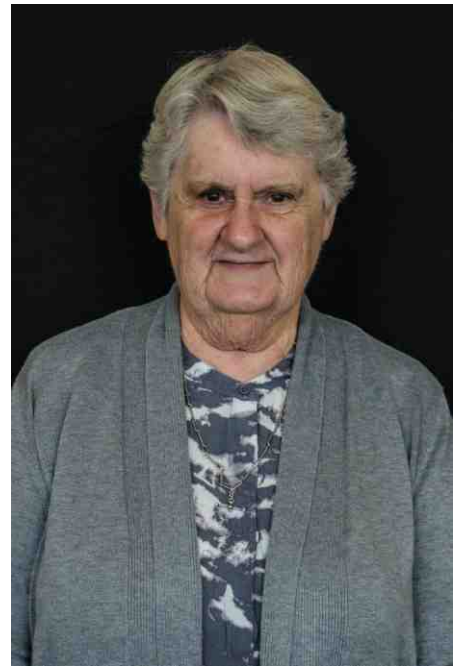
SIX DECADES IN LAY MINISTRY

MARGARET REID'S STORY

"Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord that you may fulfil it." Colossians 4:17

From its beginning in 1739 in England, the Methodist Church relied heavily on lay men and women to support the ordained (male) clergy in preaching and other activities. In Australia, from the 1800s, lay people appeared on the monthly preaching plans of most circuits (local church districts) with such titles as Helper, Local Preacher On Trial, Home Missioner, and Catechist. They were expected to undertake training, supervision, study and exams and to support themselves financially with paid secular work, but could be offered transport expenses, meals and accommodation where long distances were involved.

One Sunday morning in January 1960 Margaret led her first Worship Service as Local Preacher On Trial at Hillcrest, one of six churches in the Oakleigh circuit. Her own minister at Murrumbeena Methodist Church, Rev. Wilfred Manzoney, was in the congregation and wrote a critique on the Service. Margaret's family included several ordained and lay preachers and her parents were actively involved at Murrumbeena. This Church's strong Sunday School and Youth Groups offered young people the opportunity to gain leadership skills. Margaret had already taken a lead in music, devotions, and Bible class. Rev Manzoney encouraged her to pursue lay preaching.



More opportunities to preach followed – one at Huntingdale Public Hall where the pulpit was two upturned fruit cases covered with a rug. Making props for her children's talks suited Margaret's practical skills; she soon discovered how direct and unexpected the children's comments and answers could be. Then later that month her employer, the Bank of NSW, offered her a short-term transfer to Tasmania, which she accepted.

Margaret's first placement, which was at Burnie, lasted several months. The local Methodist Church welcomed her and she was included in the preaching plans for churches in the area, on presentation of a letter from Rev. Manzoney to Burnie's minister. After her transfer to Hobart, again with a letter of introduction, Newtown became her home church and she was listed on the lay preaching team as Helper, taking services every four to six weeks. Soon after her arrival, two Murrumbeena Methodist men of her age, newly ordained and married, were sent to Tasmania by Conference and she assisted in their circuits at times. Work also took her to Devonport – and preaching there. Churches in Newtown, Glenorchy, Sandy Bay and Huon Valley included Margaret on their rosters, one service a day usually. However one Lay Preachers' Sunday, after leaving Hobart early in the morning, she took three services in different parts of the Huon Valley, with lunch at a farm, before driving back to Hobart late that night after the evening service. Rev. Bruce Prewer, author of *Australian Psalms* and other books, was one Minister she assisted. Her green 1956 Ford Prefect was Margaret's main method of transport around Tasmania.

The 'short-term' transfer in fact continued for most of the 1960s. Margaret left Tasmania reluctantly, for she had made many life-long friends, become more understanding of life on the land and developed a love for Tasmania itself. She had gained experience in leading worship in a wide variety of congregations and was impressed by Newtown's community-minded church. The Hobart bushfires and collapse of the Bridge touched her personally.

Back in Melbourne, Margaret resumed work with the Bank, at Oakleigh Branch, reaching Assistant Manager's position before early retirement. She returned to Murrumbeena Methodist Church, joining Frank Cooney and Winfrey Edgoose on the Lay Preaching Roster for the Circuit. She particularly enjoyed leading worship at the Heatherton Church where her grandparents had been married.

Church union came early to Murrumbeena when St Giles Presbyterian Church agreed to the Methodist Church's request to form a Joint Parish in 1974/5, with Rev. Lex Pollock (St Giles) as Minister. By 1977 – the Uniting Church Inauguration – both churches were already combining committees and including lay preachers in shared Sunday services. The two churches became a single congregation at St Giles and were linked as a UC Parish with Tara Grove until 1997. For several early years Hughesdale

SIX DECADES IN LAY MINISTRY

(formerly Congregational) was included. Under Rev Lex Pollock and the ministers who followed, there were opportunities for all the lay preachers to lead worship from time to time.

Some of Margaret's lay preaching highlights from these decades include:

- » sharing worship with Lex during a congregational visit to Ernabella;
- » leaving home one foggy, cold Ministry Sunday morning to preach at Tynong and then Pakenham before lunch;
- » taking a service at Cheltenham for World Vision;
- » leading worship at Tara Grove and St Giles, with special music and reports, following two Conferences which Margaret and I attended part-time - the February 1991 7th Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Canberra and the January 1993 Australian Council of Churches Gathering at Hawkesbury NSW.

1997 saw the Inauguration of the four-church Parish of Koornang. In 2003, came the decision to become one congregation. Margaret and other Lay Preachers were included on Preaching Rosters during these years, particularly during the Closing Services in 2003, and then from time to time in the years and under the ministers since.

For most Lay Preachers, 'Lay Service' to their Church goes beyond preparation and leading Sunday worship. During her time at Murrumbidgee, Margaret has been involved with music (organ and piano), the original St Giles Lending Library (still in use) and the Encounter paper, and in preparing displays for special occasions. She led the World Vision Sponsorship Group and has been Treasurer for several church organisations. Until recently, she was a Church Council member and an Elder.

The scripture verse quoted at the start of this story has been an important source of inspiration and encouragement to Margaret in her life.

Anne Don

Written using information provided by Margaret, local church records, and *Called to Preach*.

MATTHEW 5:1-12, THE BEATITUDES

WHAT DO DIFFERENT BIBLES SAY ABOUT THE SAME STORY?

Source : Bible Gateway www.biblegateway.com

The Beatitudes are eight blessings recounted by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. Each is a proverb-like proclamation. Jesus names a group of people normally thought to be unfortunate and then pronounces them blessed.

Text from seven different Bibles is compared, together with brief information about each Bible follow.

King James Version - In 1604, King James I of England authorised that a new translation of the Bible into English be started. It was finished in 1611, just 85 years after the first translation of the New Testament into English appeared (Tyndale, 1526). The Authorised Version, or King James Version, quickly became the standard for English-speaking Protestants. Its flowing language and prose rhythm has had a profound influence on the literature of the past 400 years.

The Message - Language changes. New words are formed. Old words take on new meaning. There is a need in every generation to keep the language of the gospel message current, fresh, and understandable—the way it was for its very first readers. That is what The Message seeks to accomplish for contemporary readers. It is a version for our time—designed to be read by contemporary people in the same way as the original koin Greek and Hebrew manuscripts were savored by people thousands of years ago. The goal of The Message is to engage people in the reading process and help them understand what they read. This is not a study Bible, but rather "a reading Bible". The verse numbers, which are not in the original documents, have been left out of the print version to facilitate easy and enjoyable reading. The original books of the Bible were not written in formal language. The Message tries to recapture the Word in the words we use today.

J.B. Phillips New Testament - J.B. Phillips (1906-1982) was well-known within the Church of England

MATTHEW 5:1-12, THE BEATITUDES

for his commitment to making the message of truth relevant to today's world. Phillips' translation of the New Testament brings home the full force of the original message. The New Testament in Modern English was originally written for the benefit of Phillips' youth group; it was later published more widely in response to popular demand. The language is up-to-date and forceful, involving the reader in the dramatic events and powerful teaching of the New Testament. It brings home the message of Good News as it was first heard two thousand years ago.

The Voice - The Voice Bible is a different sort of translation. It combines the relative strengths of scholars who are experts in the original languages and modern writers, musicians, and poets who are skilled in their use of English, our target language. Our idea was to set up a collaborative process whereby scholars and writers could work together to create a translation that was faithful and accurate to the original languages while at the same time beautiful and readable to an English-speaking audience. In some cases scholars and writers worked closely together; in others they worked at some distance or even anonymously. Members of the translation team from Ecclesia Bible Society and Thomas Nelson coordinated the overall process.

Tree of Life Version - The Tree of Life Version (TLV) speaks with a decidedly Jewish-friendly voice—a voice like the Bible authors themselves—to recover the authentic context of the Bible and the Christian faith. Jesus's death and resurrection were not the beginning of a new religion but the fulfillment of the covenant God made with his chosen and called-out people. Yet other Bible translations lose the connection to the Jewish nature of the Bible. As a result, biblical books that were written to Jews, for Jews, and about Jews lose a critical element: their actual Jewish essence. Discover the rich meaning of the Bible with this faithful new translation that is accurate, readable, reverential, and true to the Hebrew roots of the Christian faith.

The Passion Translation - There is no such thing as a truly literal translation of the Bible, for there is not an equivalent language that perfectly conveys the meaning of the biblical text. It must be understood in its original cultural and linguistic settings. This problem is best addressed when we seek to transfer meaning, not merely words, from the original text to the receptor language. The purpose of the Passion Translation is to reintroduce the passion and fire of the Bible to the English reader. It doesn't merely convey the literal meaning of words. It expresses God's passion for people and his world by translating the original, life-changing message of God's Word for modern readers.

The Gospels for Hearers - The Greek word for "read" literally means "to know again". The translation of the Gospels has been created so that people may "know again" the stories and words of Jesus, to hear them clearly and with fresh perspective. The Gospels are to be read aloud. This is what they were written for originally and it is how they were translated.

Mat t 5	King James Version	The Message	J.B. Phillips New Testament	The Voice	Tree of Life Version	The Passion Translation	The Gospels for Hearers
1	And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:	When Jesus saw his ministry drawing huge crowds, he climbed a hillside. Those who were apprenticed to him, the committed, climbed with him.	When Jesus saw the vast crowds he went up the hill-side and after he sat down his disciples came to him.	Now when He saw the crowds, He went up on a mountain (as Moses had done before Him) and He sat down (as Jewish teachers of His day usually did). His disciples gathered around Him.	Now when Yeshua saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain. And after He sat down, His disciples came to Him.	One day Jesus saw a vast crowd of people gathering to hear him, so he went up the slope of a hill and saw down. With his followers and disciples spread over the hillside,	Seeing the crowds, he climbed up into the mountain. When he sat down, his disciples came to him.
2	And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,	Arriving at a quiet place, he sat down and taught his climbing companions. This is what he said:	Then he began his teaching by saying to them,	And He began to teach them	And He opened His mouth and began to teach them, saying.	Jesus began to teach them:	He cleared his throat and began to teach them:

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Apologies for the small size of the print in these two tables; it was difficult to fit them in.

MATTHEW 5:1-12, THE BEATITUDES

Mat t 5	King James Version	The Message	J.B. Phillips New Testament	The Voice	Tree of Life Version	The Passion Translation	The Gospels for Hearers
3	Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.	You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.	How happy are the humble-minded, for the kingdom of Heaven is theirs!	Blessed are the spiritually poor - the kingdom of heaven is theirs.	Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.	What wealth is offered to you when you feel your spiritual poverty! For there is no charge to enter the realm of heaven's kingdom.	Those who in spirit are utterly dependent on God are blessed because they comprise God's kingdom.
4	Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.	You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.	How happy are those who know what sorrow means for they will be given courage and comfort.	Blessed are those who mourn - they will be comforted.	Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.	What delight comes to you when you wait upon the Lord! For you will find what you long for.	Those who mourn are blessed because they are the ones who will be comforted.
5	Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.	You're blessed when you're content with just who you are - no more, no less. That's the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can't be bought.	Happy are those who claim nothing, for the whole earth will belong to them!	Blessed are the meek and gentle - they will inherit the earth.	Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.	What blessing comes to you when gentleness lives in you! For you will inherit the earth.	Those who are lowly are blessed because the earth is their inheritance.
6	Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.	You're blessed when you've worked up a good appetite for God. He's food and drink in the best meal you'll ever eat.	Happy are those who are hungry and thirsty for goodness, for they will be fully satisfied!	Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness - they will be filled.	Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.	How enriched you are when you crave righteousness! For you will be surrounded with fruitfulness.	They who are hungry for righteousness and thirsty for justice are blessed because they will be satisfied.
7	Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy	You're blessed when you care. At the moment of being "care-full", you find yourselves cared for.	Happy are the merciful, for they will have mercy shown to them!	Blessed are the merciful - they will be shown mercy.	Blessed are the merciful, for they shall be shown mercy.	How satisfied you are when you demonstrate tender mercy! For tender mercy will be demonstrated to you.	Those who show mercy are blessed because God will show them mercy.
8	Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.	You're blessed when you get your inside world - your mind and heart - put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.	Happy are the utterly sincere, for they will see God!	Blessed are those who are pure in heart - they will see God.	Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.	What bliss you experience when your heart is pure! For your eyes will open to see more and more of God.	They who are of clear and single heart are blessed because they will see God.
9	Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.	You're blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That's when you discover who you really are, and your place in God's family.	Happy are those who make peace, for they will be sons of God!	Blessed are the peacemakers - they will be called children of God.	Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.	How blessed you are when you make peace! For then your eyes will open to see more and more of God.	Those who do and make peace are blessed because they will be known as God's children.
10	Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.	You're blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God's kingdom.	Happy are those who have suffered persecution for the cause of goodness, for the kingdom of Heaven is theirs!	Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness - the kingdom of heaven is theirs.	Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.	How enriched you are when you bear the wounds of being persecuted for doing what is right! For that is when you experience the realm of heaven's kingdom.	Those who are persecuted because of righteousness are blessed because God's kingdom is theirs
11	Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.	Not only that - count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and they are uncomfortable.	"And what happiness will be yours when people blame you and ill-treat you and say all kinds of slanderous things against you for my sake!	And blessed are you, blessed are all of you, when people a you or denigrate you or tell lies about you on My account.	Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and say all kinds of evil against you, falsely, on account of Me.	How ecstatic you can be when people insult and persecute you and speak all kinds of cruel lies about you because of your love for me!	And you are blessed when people insult you, persecute you and say all kind of malicious things against you because of me.
12	Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.	You can be glad when that happens - give a cheer, even! - for though they don't like it, I do! And all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company. My prophets and witnesses have always gotten into this kind of trouble.	Be glad then, yes, be tremendously glad - for your reward in Heaven is magnificent. They persecuted the prophets before your time in exactly the same way.	But when this happens, rejoice. Be glad. Remember that God's prophets have been persecuted in the past. And know that in heaven, you have a great reward.	Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great! For in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.	So leap for joy - since your heavenly reward is great. For you are being rejected the same way the prophets were before you.	Be joyful, be glad, because your reward is great in heaven, for this is the way they treated the prophets before you.

ROSTERS

AUGUST 2023

Noticeboard: Pastoral Team

Vacuuming: Greg Pressey

Date	Duty Elder	Sound-Desk/ vMix	Welcomers/ Offering	Bible Reader	Communion Stewards	Count Offering	Morning Tea	Special Morning Tea
6	Bruce R	Guillermo A Peter B	Carol F	Anne D	Peter B Bruce R	Colin J	Carol F	N/A
13	Anne D	Bruce R Guillermo A	Geoff E	Peter B	N/A	Roz F	Nick D Rachel D	N/A
20	Kerry G	Greg P Bruce R	Kerry G	Mary-Lou K	N/A	??	Sharon P	Bruce R Roz F
27	Bruce R	Peter B Greg P	Doug F	Venora F	N/A	Colin J	Molly	N/A

SEPTEMBER 2023

Noticeboard: Pastoral Team

Vacuuming: Geoff Edwards

Date	Duty Elder	Sound-Desk/ vMix	Welcomers/ Offering	Bible Reader	Communion Stewards	Count Offering	Morning Tea	Special Morning Tea
3	Nick D	Guillermo A Peter B	Marg E	Alison R	Greg P Nick D	Roz F	Carol F	N/A
10	Kerry G	Bruce R Guillermo A	Kerry G	Carol F	N/A	??	Nirsa	N/A
27	Anne D	Greg P Bruce R	Sharon P	Anne D	N/A	??	Nick D Rachel D	N/A
24	Bruce R	Peter B Greg P	Bruce R	Geoff E	N/A	Colin J	Phil K	Marg E

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Date	Time	Event
Tue, 1 Aug	10:15am - 11:15am	Women's Bible Study
Wed, 2 Aug	10:00am - 11:30am	Monthly Bible Study
Thu, 3 Aug	10:30am - 11:30am	Worship Service at Regis
	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Bible Study
Fri, 4 Aug	10:00am - 11:30am	Murrumbeena Connect Friday Program
Sat, 5 Aug	2:00pm - 5:00pm	Knitting and Craft Group
Sun, 6 Aug	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship (Holy Communion)
Wed, 9 Aug	7:15pm - 9:15pm	Church Council
Thu, 10 Aug	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Bible Study
Fri, 11 Aug	10:00am - 11:30am	Murrumbeena Connect Friday Program
Sat, 12 Aug	8:00am - 9:00am	Friendship Fellas' Breakfast
Sun, 13 Aug	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship
	11:30am - 12:30pm	Safe Church Training
Tue, 15 Aug	10:15am - 11:15am	Women's Bible Study
Thu, 17 Aug	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Bible Study
Fri, 18 Aug	10:00am - 11:30am	Murrumbeena Connect Friday Program
Sun, 20 Aug	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship (Celebrating 20 years)
	11:15am - 12:00pm	Special Morning Tea
Tue, 22 Aug	5:30pm - 7:00pm	Friendship Fellas' Dinner
Thu, 24 Aug	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Bible Study
Fri, 25 Aug	10:30am - 11:30am	Murrumbeena Connect Friday Program
Sat, 26 Aug	9:00am - 10:30am	LIFT Women's Breakfast
Sun, 27 Aug	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship
	11:15am - 12:00pm	Library
Tue, 29 Aug	10:15am - 11:15am	Women's Bible Study
Wed, 30 Aug	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Elders Meeting
Thu, 31 Aug	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Bible Study

Date	Time	Event
Fri, 1 Sep	10:30am - 11:30am	Murrumbeena Connect Friday Program
Sat, 2 Sep	2:00pm - 5:00pm	Knitting and Craft Group
Sun, 3 Sep	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship (Holy Communion)
Wed, 6 Sep	10:00am - 11:30am	Monthly Bible Study
Thu, 7 Sep	10:30am - 11:30am	Worship Service at Regis
	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Bible Study
Fri, 8 Sep	10:30am - 11:30am	Murrumbeena Connect Friday Program
Sat, 9 Sep	8:00am - 9:00am	Friendship Fellas' Breakfast
Sun, 10 Sep	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship
Tue, 12 Sep	10:15am - 11:15am	Women's Bible Study
Wed, 13 Sep	7:15pm - 9:15pm	Church Council
Thu, 14 Sep	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Bible Study
Fri, 15 Sep	10:00am - 11:30am	Murrumbeena Connect Friday Program
Sun, 17 Sep	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship
Thu, 21 Sep	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Bible Study
Fri, 22 Sep	10:30am - 11:30am	Murrumbeena Connect Friday Program
Sat, 23 Sep	9:00am - 10:30am	LIFT Women's Breakfast
	9:00am - 4:00pm	Working Bee
Sun, 24 Sep	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship
	11:15am - 12:00pm	Library and Special Morning Tea
Tue, 26 Sep	10:15am - 11:15am	Women's Bible Study
	5:30pm - 7:00pm	Friendship Fellas' Dinner
Wed, 27 Sep	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Elders Meeting
Thu, 28 Sep	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Bible Study
Fri, 29 Sep	10:30am - 11:30am	Murrumbeena Connect Friday Program
Sun, 1 Oct		Daylight Savings starts
	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship (Holy Communion)
Tue, 3 Oct	10:00am - 11:30am	Monthly Bible Study
Wed, 4 Oct	7:15pm - 9:15pm	Church Council
	10:30am - 11:30am	Worship Service at Regis
Thu, 5 Oct	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Bible Study
Fri, 6 Oct	10:30am - 11:30am	Murrumbeena Connect Friday Program
Sat, 7 Oct	2:00pm - 5:00pm	Knitting and Craft Group
Sun, 8 Oct	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship