

The **CHRISTMAS BOWL** appeal of Act for Peace, the international aid agency of the **National Council of Churches in Australia**, is encouraging us all to give generously this year. Envelopes are on the front table. See Mary if you would like further information re donating.

We respectfully acknowledge the Yalukit Willam clan of the Boon Wurrung. We pay our respects to their Elders and community past and present. We acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to this land.

Date	December 17	December 24	December 31
<i>Worship Assistance</i>	Mary	Andrej	Beverley
<i>Welcome at door</i>	Maureen	Beverley	Simon
<i>Pre-Service Prayer</i>	Brian	Simon	Mary
<i>Flowers</i>	Maureen	Andrej&Petka	Mary
<i>Coffee</i>	Randall	Maureen	Andrej&Petka
<i>Music</i>	Desleigh, Laura Andrej		

Church

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Engagement Hub

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VISION STATEMENT:

As a community of faith, the St Kilda Uniting Church Parish Mission strives to do what is just, to show constant love and to walk humbly with God.

NEWSLETTER DETAILS:

Desleigh Kent is the editor of the Newsletter. **Contributions are welcome and can be sent to her at desleighk@ozemail.com.au**

If you would like to be part of a growing congregational email list (and receive a full colour copy of the church newsletter in pdf format), please contact Rob Hess at Robert.Hess@vu.edu.au



**St Kilda Uniting Church
Parish Mission**

NEWSLETTER

Volume 52, Issue 45

Sunday, 17 December 2017

You are most welcome to the service today. Rev David Pargeter will lead our worship. Please stay afterwards for morning tea.

Bible Readings: John 1: 6 - 28 pg. 1169

From David:

The 101 Drama group has been rehearsing for a short production of the Dickens' novel *A Christmas Carol*. A one-off performance for the Christmas break up next week. They have done a great job of collapsing one of Dickens' most popular stories into a powerful 5 minute drama that ends with the words "Ebenezer Scrooge, you're a good man"

***A Christmas Carol* is a 'conversion' story - hard-hearted miser becomes a generous benefactor.**

Published 174 years ago *A Christmas Carol* was an instant bestseller. People of Queen Victoria's era called it "a new gospel," and reading it became a sacred ritual enabling the 'real' Christmas to materialise. However, *A Christmas Carol's* timelessness hides the fact that it was very much the product of a particular period in the history of the British Empire as well as a reflection of Dickens' own life experience. Dickens' originally wanted to put a spotlight on a specific issue of his day.

The 'project' began as a pamphlet for distribution on the streets of London. He planned on calling it, "An Appeal to the People of England on behalf of the Poor Man's Child."

But just a few days later, he decided instead to humanise his arguments in a story, with a central character of pitiable depth. So what might have been just a brief angry shot, instead became a story which touched readers around the world and for 174 years. A story which still speaks to us today.

How a society treats its children, Dickens' believed, is the true test of that society's moral worth.

On Friday, the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse tabled its report and recommendations to parliament. Let's hope they do something with it that honours the testimonies of the thousands of survivors who for the first time have been listened to and taken seriously.

May they have peace this Christmas as well as hope. **David**

Songs/Hymns

TiS 640. Kneels at the feet of his friends

Search me O God

Search me, O God,
and know my anxious heart.
Behind me and before me,
you lay your hand upon me.

Where might I hide
to flee your tender touch?
No darkness or the ocean
hides me from your devotion.

***You know my every need:
you know my thoughts,
my joy, my crying.
God, your wisdom ways
surround me at my birth,
my dying.***

Woven by you
deep in my mother's womb;
that moment of conception
you knew my life's direction.

Search me, O God,
and purify my ways.
O teach me love surpassing,
guide me in all that's lasting. **Chorus**

Search me, O God,
and know my anxious heart.
Behind me and before me,
you lay your hand upon me.

Words: Leigh Newton. Music: Leigh Newton based on
Beethoven - La Pathetique

Said Judas to Mary

Said Judas to Mary, "Now what will
you do
with your ointment so rich and rare?"
"I'll pour it all over the feet of the
Lord,
and I'll wipe it away with my
hair," she said,
"I'll wipe it away with my hair."

"Oh Mary, O Mary, O think of the
poor.
This ointment, it could have been
sold;

and think of the blanket and think of
the bread
you could buy with the silver and
gold," he said,
'You could buy with silver and old.'

"The poor of the world are my body,"
he said,
"to the end of the world they shall be.
The bread and the blanket you give to
the poor
you'll know you have given to me.
he said,
" You'll know you have given to me."

Words Sydney Carter © 1964 Stainer & Bell, Ltd

TiS: 268. Joy to the World

NOTICES

**CAROL SERVICE. There will be a
Carol Service here at the church on
Thursday December 21st at
6.30pm. All welcome and bring
family/friends and a plate of food**

**SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE
Sunday 24th December – worship at
10.30am. A quiet space in a time of
busyness**

**CHRISTMAS DAY There will be a
Christmas Day service here at the
church at 9.30am.**

**Also on Thursday 21st December
from 8 – 9pm an ECUMENICAL
PRAYER and RECONCILIATION
SERVICE St Kilda Baptist Church
Pakington Street, St Kilda. This is a**

special time to come together with
other faith communities in our area
to reflect on ways we can work
towards a more peaceful world.

**NEW WEBSITE!!!!Our new
website was quietly turned on last
Wednesday and it's fantastic.
Thanks to Darren and Melissa who
started the ball rolling, then thanks
to Andrej for the time spent
upgrading and adding many new
features. It looks terrific.**

We would like to extend our
sympathy to **Rob Hess, Sally,
Robert and Erica.** Rob's sister died
a week ago in Adelaide. Funeral was
last Monday.

**Our congratulations to our young
ones who have finished exams and
some even who have finished
school! Go well and good wishes.**

**POETRY and FAITH. The next
meeting will be here at the church on
Wednesday February 7th at
6.30pm. Please talk to David if you
would like attend. All welcome.**

**163 TABLE CONVERSATION
Sharing Food – Sharing Ideas. The
next Table Conversation will be on
Tuesday February 13th at 6.15pm**
The speaker will be Vicky from
Space2b Social Design just down the
road at 144 Chapel Street. Please
RSVP to Janet: 0417 670 132