

PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP WEST

30 April 2020



Certainty in Uncertain Times

Rev Narelle Collas

We all know that change is a part of life. Sometimes it's positive, and other times less so. But regardless of what form it comes in, you have a choice about how you respond. One of the biggest issues with change is dealing with uncertainty. Because there is no certainty about what will happen during a time of change, many people either try to control events or other people or they simply shut down.

I listened to a webinar the other day by Julie Masters on Future Crunch and she talked about some of the tensions; both positive and negative that we are all facing in these uncertain times.



- **Perfection vs Process**
We are all in this together and nobody is expecting perfection at the moment, this gives us great opportunities to try new things, to experiment, to trial things. As long as we tell people the processes that we are using they will be forgiving and accepting.
- **Efficiency vs adaptability**
Up until now efficiency has been the gold standard but now, we are being called to be adaptable, to embrace change.
- **Confidence vs Certainty**
What keeps organisations small is a focus on confidence, "we will do things when we feel sure or confident". The problem is that confidence never arrives. You get confidence when you show up and do something, when you try something new.
- **Apocalyptic vs catalytic - destructive vs propulsive**
How are you looking at things at the moment? Is it the end of the world or is this a time for things to be catalysed into new things? Which side do you want to spend your time and energy in?

How are you facing these uncertain times? How are you holding these tensions in place in your ministry context?

Having faith doesn't mean that we will not have uncertain times, but it does give us hope and hope is a very powerful thing. God is with us; we do not need to be afraid.

"So we say with confidence, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?' Remember your leaders, who spoke the Word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." – Hebrews 13:6-8 NIV

"The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." – Deuteronomy 31:8 NIV

Messy Church Matters!

Yes! Messy Church Matters – especially in Covid 19
Messy church, young families and intergenerational ministry.

Thursday May 7th 10:30am – 12noon

On **Thursday May 7th, from 10.30am to 12noon**, there will be a Presbytery wide Zoom conversation about helping our ministry with young families to flourish. All are welcome. We will be inviting you to start an intentional learning community on-line, looking at all things Messy Church and reaching young families and intergenerational ministry.

Hosted by Rev. Linley Liersch & Chris Barnett (eLM Intergenerational Ministry)

Ctrl + Click here to join on Zoom



9 minutes @ 9

In this difficult time of a World Pandemic, we pause to thank God for:

- ❖ The gift of newborn babies and the hope that new life brings.
- ❖ The gift of music and the many talents being shared during lockdown.
- ❖ The wonderful expressions of generosity happening in and around communities.
- ❖ The return to backyard gardens, home baking and spending time with family (even if it is on an electronic device).
- ❖ Sharing worship together in new ways that is reaching more people than we could have ever imagined.
- ❖ And finally, we thank you for those who continue to go to workplaces so that the rest of us have our needs cared for and can stay safe. In particular this week, we thank you for police officers.

If you would like to share your prayer points with us to be included in this weekly newsletter, please contact one of the ministry team.

Renewing IT Worship

Renewing worship with Information Technologies (IT), Using Social Media and Worship online.

May 7th from 4:30 to 6:30pm via Zoom

It will be a Presbytery wide conversation aimed at considering how to make IT in worship not just a short-term solution but a long-term necessity. Hoping that ministry Agents, your congregation's IT helpers, worship leaders and Church Councilors will all attend.

Mat Harry will give a statistical view on why people attend worship and the importance of making pathways for your 'viewers' to take up the path to discipleship.

Brian Spencer works in NE Victoria Presbytery as Education, Resources and Innovation support Worker. He has a great mix of IT skills and the vision for ministry and has great stories to tell! His worship is currently viewed by 250 people on Zoom and nearly the same again on Facebook.

This Zoom session will be recorded for 'Regenerating the Church' Website.

Host: Rev. Linley Liersch & Mat Harry (eLM New & Renewing Communities)

Guest: Brian Spencer

Ctrl + Click here to access the Zoom conversation.



Music and Worship

Rev Narelle Collas



Music has been such an important part of my life. I was a music teacher in primary and secondary schools for over 22 years. So, it is no wonder that I love singing and praising God in church. I also understand that for some people music is their least liked part of worship because they don't feel that they can sing well enough.

During Covid adding music to our online worship services for everyone to join in with has been difficult for many. We are including some resources for you that you may or may not know about.

Port Phillip West has

A Vimeo channel. Please [ctrl + click here](#) to access the site. There are a few videos uploaded with music and words done by people around the presbytery. If you have other recordings that can be shared, then please contact us so that we can include them on this channel.

A livestreaming license that covers congregations. Please [email Heather](#) for more info

St David's Newtown: have made recordings with their choir and organ. Contact [Rev Will Nicholas](#) by clicking on his name for more info.

Robin Mann: An Australian UCA songwriter has made his songs available for churches. [Ctrl + click here](#) to access Robins' website

Rev David McGregor, a UCA minister from QLD has a great site which has songs for each week of the lectionary as well as free to use recordings of his own music. [Ctrl + click here](#) to access David's' website.

Singing from the lectionary is a Facebook page where people often put up new songs or songs linked to the weekly lectionary. It is also linked to the lectionary song BlogSpot. [Please ctrl + click here](#) to access.

Virtual Choirs have been trending during this crisis. There is information about these and how to do them on the UCA VicTas website. Why not give it a try? [Please ctrl + click here](#) to access the information.

I can't wait!

For weeks I have heard people saying, "I just can't wait for things to be back to normal." I remember even saying that more than a few times myself. But as I've thought about our current situation I have realised how much I don't want things to go back to the way they were. Here are a few of my reasons...

♥ I hope that the next time a friend grabs me and pulls me in for a hug, I actually take the time to appreciate the gift of their presence and embrace.

♥ I hope that when school resumes and you are dropping your kids off, you take the time to thank the staff for the amazing gift that they give to your family.

♥ I hope that the next time I'm sitting in a crowded restaurant I take the time to look around at the smiling faces, loud voices and be more appreciative of the gift of community.

♥ I hope that when I am at the grocery store that I take a moment to acknowledge the necessities of life and the amazing people who work so hard to keep us supplied.

♥ I hope that I never again take for granted the ability to hop in the car and visit a friend, go to the beach, a restaurant or a movie, etc.

So, truth is, I don't want things to return to the way they once were. I hope and pray that we take the lessons and challenges of the past few weeks and create a new normal.

My goal is to appreciate more, love harder, and truly appreciate the daily abundance of blessings that were so easily overlooked just a few weeks ago. If someone tells you they love you, take it to heart!



Mental Health Matters

Rev Fiona Bottcher [Deacon]

A pastoral care colleague at Sunshine Hospital frames the work we do with the simple observation that humans need to have their suffering witnessed. People need to share their stories and know that their stories are heard and held.

Last week, Rev Jeanne Beale [Deacon] wrote about naming grief in these Corona times. From the loss of little things – the unravelled plans for holidays and kids' birthday parties - to the heavier losses of jobs, connections and safety.

People living with mental and chronic illness are often very familiar with these kinds of losses that come with a diagnosis. They grieve the loss of relationships, health, mobility, and sometimes independence.

On the road to Emmaus, Jesus came to the two disciples who were confused, scared and grieving and walked with them (Luke 24:15). I wonder how sharing our own grief stories, particularly with those who have lived with mental illness and chronic illness, may deepen our relationships and lead us towards healing.

During Easter, I shared a story that you can find here: <https://youtu.be/sjiQzUdXXes>

I invite you to share your stories with compassion, love and vulnerability as we walk together towards hope in new life.



The Great Bible Lego Challenge

This is the way it will work...

It starts on 2 May 2020. You are invited to form a team for the Presbytery Bible Lego Challenge. Your team can be a family group or other Lego enthusiasts that you are allowed to be with.

You can have no more than 4 people in your team. There are no restrictions on number of teams per ministry context, they just need an individual name. An example could be "Team Zero from East Geelong UCA."

Each week for 6 weeks a new Lego challenge will be issued for teams to complete – this will be posted on our Presbytery Facebook Page each Sunday - [Regenerating the Church – Port Phillip West Presbytery](#).

A full copy of the rules is available on our Facebook page

There will be prizes... so come aboard and join the fun.

