

# PRESBYTERY PORT PHILLIP WEST

## NOVEMBER 5TH 2020— NEWSLETTER NO.19



## Worship without Walls

Rev. Linley Liersch

We are experiencing a liminal space (in-between space) in many churches at the moment. While some of the smaller rural congregations have recommenced worship. Many other congregations are taking their time to make the decisions about how to safely go back to worship. Some waiting until after Christmas.

The delightful dilemma that may be stalling us is: 'how do we keep on-line worship and start up face to face worship'? All of us appreciated the extra people attending worship on-line. How else do we reach out them? The odds are that these people attending worship on-line will never cross the church doorstep. So I am encouraging you to think about outside worship.

What if this December and January you plan a series of outside worship. The numbers you are able to gather outside are larger. More COVID regulations friendly (in some places restricting outside worship to the grounds of the church). I wonder if people attending on-line might be more likely to accept an invitation to attend outside worship? So you are creating a further intentional liminal space with the purpose of making contact with people who attended worship on-line.

The problem with this idea is that if we ask the 'church goers' if they want to meet outside, they may think of all the reasons it is a bad idea eg. Weather, ability to hear, seating etc. It is hard for me not to agree with you one hundred percent there are hurdles to outside worship. But there are many great reasons for outside worship too.

1. An opportunity to engage with God in the great outdoors can be a powerful and moving experience in your life and you will remember it a life time.
2. Trying to make contact with people from on-line worship.
3. Engage more actively in taking the life of the congregation into the broader community.
4. Celebrate the, COVID experience, of 'life as a congregation without a building'.
5. Intentionally focussing on different worship styles.
6. Begin to understand what our use of the buildings mean to us; the role they have in shaping us, enabling us or restricting our congregational life.

**This year we have understood that worship without walls can be a God send!** (See page 4 Ideas)



## Outdoor Worship

# Mental Health Matters

**Rev Fiona Bottcher [Deacon]**

Some years ago, I was asked to tell a story, impromptu, that painted a picture of my future ministry. I took a deep breath:

*"People are gathered around a fireplace. They sit in a circle; the red warmth of the flames reflects on their faces. They break bread. They tell stories. The breeze weaves around them, gently brushing their cheeks. God's spirit touching skin and filling lungs and hearts".*

In the small garden of the Sunshine Adult Acute Psychiatric Unit, we gather around an outdoor picnic setting, secured to a block of concrete. We share stories and some share a ciggie. The warmth of the sun touches skin through the cracks in the shade cloth. The gentle breeze moves hair and cigarette ashes.

"Oh! Look at that gorgeous little bird!" Sally\* suddenly exclaims, and we all turn to look at the New Holland Honeyeater foraging in a banksia bush nearby. "I think it's come for you Sal" says Nick\* gently, "I think it wants you to know that God is near you". We are all silent for a moment, watching the delicate little bird feeding. "I think you might be right" Sally replies softly.

(\*Names changed to protect the identity of all individuals involved.)



(Photo: Bush Church)

## The Lego Challenge is back!

**Our theme this time is Advent**



Week 1 – Christ the King – Based around the reading: Matthew 25: 31-46

Week 2 – Advent 1 – Based around the reading: Matthew 13:24-37

Week 3 - Advent 2 – Based around the reading: Matthew 1: 1-8

Week 4 - Advent 3 – Based around the reading: Luke 1:46b-55

Week 5 – Advent 4 - Based around the reading: Luke 2:1-20

It is hoped that entries can be used across the presbytery to assist with illustration for worship services and other church activities. To achieve this, entries need to be in by the Thursday prior to the relevant Sunday.

Week 1 entries are due in by 5pm on Thursday the 19th of November

Week 2 entries are due in by 5pm on Thursday the 26th of November

Week 3 entries are due in by 5pm on Thursday the 3rd of December

Week 4 entries are due in by 5pm on Thursday the 10th of December

Week 5 entries are due in by 5pm on Thursday the 17th of December

Just post your entries on this [Regenerating the Church Facebook page](#) for all to see. [Jeanne](#)



# 9 minutes @ 9

*PPW Presbytery Ministers pledging to pray with you twice a day...*

We pray for

- ◇ Officials in South Australia dealing with their Covid outbreak
- ◇ People who are still too scared to venture out of their homes
- ◇ Ministers and churches as they begin to open their doors for worship again
- ◇ Uni and school students for their end of year exams
- ◇ Families still separated by border closures
- ◇ People who are isolated as groups and clubs are still not open

Loving and Compassionate God, we pray that your love, mercy and strength be with all these people and Holy Spirit come and sustain them with your power.

**Narelle Collas**

## SYNOD COVID links

Recovery Action Plan Check List  
FAQ's Vic Regional & Metro Melbourne  
Church Facilities reopening Check List  
Visitor Contact Logs  
Cleaning Info Sheets

<https://victas.uca.org.au/all-you-need-to-know-answers-to-your-frequently-asked-questions/> Check Regularly!



## PPW POSTCARD

Thanks Altona Meadows Laverton UCA for this encouragement idea: Cards with chocolates - "I know life is not a **picnic** at the moment. I know we will **dream** of a time when we can get out of lockdown. Hopefully **tomorrow** will bring some relief. Remember to take some **timeout** for yourself. During this time I hope friendship and love have been a true **life saver** and that this little gift gives you an **extra boost**."



Regenerating  
the Church

## Questionnaire

**Attention presbytery members and church leadership**

Here is the survey link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/D3PNX9X>

The survey will close on 30 November 2020

## PPW

**Presbytery in Council**

**NEW DATE November 28th**



# Regenerating the Church: Worship Outdoors

Rev. Linley Liersch (PPW Mission Development Strategist &

Date	Bible Reading	Theme	Outdoor Worship Ideas (Nature & Carpark Ideas)
Nov 29th	Mark 13:24-37	The Son of Man  The Fig Tree	Sun rise worship—speak about the symbols of night, sun and clouds from the reading. Carpark: Buy a fig tree and plant it somewhere in the church garden.
Dec 6th	Mark 1:1-8	The Preaching of John the Baptist	Down by the river side or Lake. Carpark: Create a river with 10m long blue cloth or tarp.
Dec13th	John 1:6-8,19-28	The Message of John the Baptist	Down by the River side or Lake Carpark: talk about the best and worst message you got during COVID.
Dec 20th	Luke 1:26-38	The Annunciation & Magnificat	Have a Social Justice Expo. Based on themes in Magnificat. Create a large map of the world talk about places in need.
Dec 25th	Luke 2:1-10	The Nativity and Shepherds	Worship in a sheep field / football oval. Carpark: Put large nativity scene in pea straw bales (Mulch the church garden).
Dec 27th	Luke 2:21-40	Jesus presented in the Temple	In front of your own church or a town Hall building. Story tell the Bible reading.
Jan 3rd  Jan 6th	Matt 2:1-11 Arrival of the Magi		Barn / Park Worship OR animal farm. Carpark: Bring your pet to Church day. OR Advent Labyrinths on following the stars that point to God. Put Manger and baby in the middle.
Jan 10th	Mark1:4-11	I baptise with water	Down by the river side or Lake. Carpark: Fire pit and Water bowl.
Jan 17th	John 1:43-51	Call of Phillip and Nathanael.	Plan a progressive worship. Booklet might act as a tour guide book. With worship stops, prayers , questions and a chorus.
Jan 24th	Mark 1: 14-20	Call of 4 Fishermen	Pier, Bay or beach. Watch the fisherman, What does it teach you about the bible reading. Carpark: Everyone fish with rods and magnet lures and fish with paperclips.
Jan 31st	Mark 1:21-28	Healing of man in Temple	Worship in Café /Carpark. Faith in public spaces, does it make us uncomfortable?

# Try outdoor worship this Christmas....



Divide your nativity set up into 3 scenes, put around the carpark to tell the Christmas story...

