

## Dreaming on the winds of Change

Rev. Trevor Bassett (PM Pastoral Leadership & Education)



Albert Einstein said that 'Imagination is more important than Knowledge'. I wonder how much time we let our imagination and dreaming to inform us or to allow us to see more possibilities. It has been said in the church that we suffer from WADITW (We've always done it that way). **Sometimes it does us good to do a bit of dreaming and really use our imagination to help us think about the future of the church.**



Three years ago, the Presbytery of Western Victoria embarked on a cruise to engage together in an exercise to see what the Presbytery might look like from 2019 onwards. Significant outcomes were achieved on the cruise.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> December the Presbytery gathered again to think about then issues facing the church, many of which could not have been foreseen 3 years ago. **This time we sailed on the Winds of Change.** The image of St Columba heading off into the unknown on the winds of the Spirit was our inspiration. This was day one of a 2-day event, the second day will be held early in 2022.

Our day on the Winds of Change was facilitated by the Rev Dr Jenny Byrnes. 46 members of the Presbytery gathered together in Stawell to see where the winds would take us.

To help us in preparation members of Presbytery we asked to reflect on a four page document prepared by the Presbytery Leadership Team that outlined some of the challenges ahead, some of the wisdom of the Basis of Union and some thoughts on our current reality.

We arrived at 5 broad topics that we decided to focus on:

*Who we are.*

*Community – looking outwards.*

*Community – the Presbytery as community.*

*Resourcing – Property/green/fit for purpose*

*Resourcing – People – education, leadership*

When we meet again early in 2022 we hope that we will be heading into these broader topics and that we will be able to reimagine how as church we can move forward with confidence as God's people with a vision that is clear. **We hope that as Presbytery we can inspire and love our congregations. We are sailing on the Winds of Change and where the Spirit leads us is the adventure offered to us, should we choose to accept it.**

## North Wind is tossing the Leaves...



# JUSTUPDATE

## ACT WITH JUSTICE IN MIND

### Christians United for Afghanistan - Uniting Church Support

The Uniting Church has joined other Christians in Australia calling for urgent action by signing onto the call for *Christians United for Afghanistan*. This call joins your own Christian voice to the sector wide calls, and asks our Australian Government to follow the lead of Canada, in offering 20,000 additional resettlement places for refugees fleeing Afghanistan, to provide security for Afghani's in Australia on temporary protection visas or in detention, and to increase our humanitarian aid for refugees and asylum seekers in the region.

[You can read more and sign the petition by clicking this link.](#)

[A toolkit for Churches to engage with Congregations is also available, click here.](#)

The National Council of Churches through the Australian Refugee Taskforce is also [calling for assistance](#) with a letter writing action.

### Uniting Faith & Family Camp - March 11th—14th 2022

#### Strong Spirit Story: Pay attention. Be astonished. Tell about it!

Spring boarding from Mary Oliver's "Instructions for living a life",  
Family Camp 2022 is all about strengthening our practices, exploring our spirit, and sharing our stories.

*How can we further build our faith practices?*

*Why should we investigate our faith stories?*

*What are the ways we can share these with those around us?*

All this and more at the 2022 Family Camp! Venue t.b.a.

Registration: Em Chandler [emchandler6@gmail.com](mailto:emchandler6@gmail.com) 0424 578 153 for further information.

**Do you worry about the families in  
your congregations not being  
supported in their faith journey?**

Then sponsor them to one of these great  
camps...

More Info: [Intergenerational – Presbytery of Port  
Phillip West \(ucappw.org.au\)](#)



PRESBYTERY  
OF  
PORT  
PHILLIP  
WEST

### Messy Church Camp

## HEROES



**March 11th - 14th 2022**

**Acacia Campsite—Halls Gap**

*Arts and Crafts, Games & Sports,  
Bible stories, Bush walks... for All-Ages.*

Promo Video: [UYC Messy Church Camp Promo Video - YouTube](#)

Camp Form: [docx \(ucappw.org.au\)](#)

Send registration to:

Email: [Linley.liersch@ppw.victas.uca.org.au](mailto:Linley.liersch@ppw.victas.uca.org.au)

Post: Messy Church Camp, c/- Horsham Uniting Church,  
10 Pynsent St. Horsham VIC 3400

**Links on Back Page  
'Education Events'**

**FEB 2022**



**DEVELOPING A  
+ CULTURE OF WELCOMING +**

**Online Workshops**

**Churches will:**

- ✦ Develop their own Welcoming Pathway.
- ✦ Learn the typical process of how people come to faith.
- ✦ Understand why ongoing inclusion is the key.
- ✦ Improve entry points into their church.

**WEDNESDAY EVENINGS**  
7:30-8:30pm (4 Weeks)  
Commencing 2<sup>nd</sup> February.  
[Register for Wednesday by clicking here](#)

**THURSDAY AFTERNOONS**  
2-3pm (4 Weeks)  
Commencing 3<sup>rd</sup> February.  
[Register for Thursday by clicking here](#)

 Uniting Church in Australia  
SYDNEY OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

 equipping Leadership for Mission  
Priorities, Focus & Advocacy

## LOOKING FOR MUSIC TO RENEW THE CHRISTMAS GOOD NEWS

**Graeme Kendrick** UK Pastor whose music is already known to you, writer of 'Servant King'. Kendrick writes music that is moving, meaningful and with robust theology. Has an album called 'Dreaming of a Holy Night' which explores Luke's nativity story.

**Zechariah [Luke 1:5-25]**

[Winter Prayer \(How long O Lord\)](#)

**Mary [Luke 1:26-38]**

[What's to be done about Mary](#)

**Elizabeth and Mary [Luke 1:39 - 56]**

[Look what the Lord has done for me](#)

**The Birth & Shepherd [Luke 2: 1-20]**

[The new World has Come](#) (Maker to Manger)

[A Prince is born](#)

[Suddenly A Light](#) (Stars Appear—hearts yearn)

[The World Awakes](#)

[We've Seen A Light](#)

*Sheet music is free to download. By Linley.*

## JIM Christmas Resources and Gifts Peace for Palestine

With Christmas just around the corner, why not purchase products from Palestine. The [Palestinian Fair Trade Australia](#) have a new selection of gift boxes and hampers available and the [Palestine Centre for Peace](#) likewise have an excellent range of products sourced from Palestine. Or, chose to give Christmas gift that gives back and [Give a meaningful gift to friends and family](#). You can also contribute to addressing global poverty and supporting development through the National Council of Churches Act for Peace and visit [Act for Peace - NCCA](#) for appeals and resources this Christmas.



## PPW

### Regenerating the Church



#### Regenerating the Church

**Strategy [2022– 2026]** has been updated on the presbytery website, click [Strategy](#) tab. This four page easy to read strategy is there for congregations to [download](#) and circulate in your congregation or faith community. It names our vision, our purpose, our passion, our common story, our focus for the next 5 years and our hope. Agencies, Schools, Narana might like to read this document to see how they are included in the strategy and work with us to strengthen our relationships.





***Tea with Two Revs is a weekly lectionary podcast for the people in the pews, or even outside the doors!***

**Rev. Amanda Nichollas**

It began during the early weeks of lockdown season during 2020, when my neighbouring minister (Rev Ann Key) and I collaborated for a lot of the worship and other experiences for our two congregations. As our ideas flowed and our people gathered Will overheard us talking back and forth one day about the readings for the week and suggested we should create a podcast. After some time and wonderings whether he was serious or not, this podcast became an opportunity to

provide some asynchronous Bible study content for our members with a focus on what would be coming up in the lectionary for the upcoming Sunday. Rev Ann and I met faithfully via zoom to record our conversations about what we found interesting from the readings, with plenty of wondering questions and room for thinking about how it applies for us in our everyday walk with Jesus, not as preachers or pastors, but as followers and practitioners of the way. We recorded almost every week and I have some recordings we made which I didn't end up getting edited and online – so a back catalogue will grow with the missing weeks! Occasional we didn't publish an episode as navigating life during covid conditions wasn't always the easiest. The missing episodes were met with messages, emails and calls from people in the pews and outside the church. This was both humbling and delightful as we began to realise that a small organic initiative for our own members had much further reach than we anticipated. Since July 4<sup>th</sup> 2021 Rev Ann has been on long service leave and I have enjoyed the company, voices and wisdom of many colleagues in ministry (both lay and ordained). It has truly become a highlight of my week to sit across the virtual coffee table with cuppa in hand and speak about scripture, our understanding of God and deepening my own connection with Jesus. If you haven't already found us, **Tea With Two Revs is hosted on apple, spotify and soundcloud and growingfaithdownunder.org**. Why not join us for a cuppa sometime soon ☺



## *Tea with Two Revs*

# Education Events

Feb 2nd

**Developing a Culture of Welcome**

7:30—8:30 pm

**WEDNESDAY EVENINGS (4 Weeks) Commencing 2<sup>nd</sup> February**

Register:- [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEqcOGprD8tHdTW\\_oIWmiEcdvOIA0uJpGS](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join?from=addon&url=https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join?from=addon&url=https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEqcOGprD8tHdTW_oIWmiEcdvOIA0uJpGS)

Feb 3rd

**Developing a Culture of Welcome**

2—3 pm

**THURSDAY AFTERNOONS 2-3pm (4 Weeks) Commencing 3<sup>rd</sup> February**

Register:- [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZckc-qurDltG9wYKNggdroCscTA3LuVau6u](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join?from=addon&url=https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join?from=addon&url=https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZckc-qurDltG9wYKNggdroCscTA3LuVau6u)

March 5th

**Amplify Conference** (In person & On-Line at a Hub near you)

For Children, Youth and Family Ministry

Save the date!