

# The Westerly



PPW& PWV Newsletter No.32 – 26th May 2022



## Seasons of Church Life

Rev. Narelle Collas [PPW Presbytery Minister]

### *What is your Favourite season? why?*

**Our church life obviously has seasons!** In line with the presbytery vision of 'Winds of Change' and our current metaphor of the presbytery as a community garden.

As you might know I like veggie gardening. At the end of April all my tomatoes were looking sad. "Lots of fruit still on the vines" was the comment from someone in my household, about why was I pulling them out. I had looked at the weather and could feel the change of season. I could have left them in but they wouldn't have produced much more fruit. I needed room to put in my winter crops – the garlic needed to be planted. So I took the green fruit on the vine and hung them in a dark place. Days later I found that they had ripened.

Fruit ripening off the vine is like a church not having a building, and finding they can grow. A time to plant a time to pluck up what is planted. In Ecclesiastes 3, Solomon reminds us that there is a season for everything; we will experience both good and bad. In verses 2-8, he lists things that contrast each other– birth/death, plant/pluck-up, kill/heal, break/heal, weep/laugh, mourn/dance, cast stones/gather stones, embrace/refrain, seek/loose, keep/throw away, tear/sew, silence/speak, love/hate, war/peace.

God acknowledges that we may experience seasons of great abundance or great loss. We can experience great joy or great pain. But the beautiful thing of all is this: None of these seasons or experiences is wasted; God can use everything we experience and make it beautiful. (Ecclesiastes 3:11)

### *What season is your patch in our community garden in?*

We have found that there is a lot of angst in our congregations about change and the future. There is a despondency, a fear of change and what will happen, will I have to change? At Presbytery meeting two weeks ago we had a congregation who had the courage to say – our time is over – we wish to close. The presentation was beautiful, lots about what they had done as a people of God and very little about the building and property. They are now talking about their legacy and how they can create new growth elsewhere.

No matter what season you're in; whether it is lack or abundance, we need to remember that God is with us. Jesus loves you and everything you experience is meant to grow you closer to God and advance God's kingdom. Often our fears are all about ourselves yet if we continue to turn to Jesus and his promise that God's kingdom is near then our fears can be put into perspective with God's eternal view.

**No matter what season you're in; our challenge is to cling tight to Jesus, allow the Holy Spirit to guide and strengthen us. There is a time for everything.**

**Autumn Leave fall like the Spirit's Fire at Pentecost**

# Mental Health Matters

REV. FI BOTTCER (DEACON AT SUNSHINE MENTAL HEALTH)

Wow, what a week! With all the anticipation and excitement, or dread and anxiety, that comes with an election and change of government. And now, again, we wait. Like the anticipation of the falling leaves of autumn, and the inevitability of winter, we wait, hoping for new life.

Meanwhile there is still COVID, climate crisis, inequality, and hard decisions to be made.

And so many of us are – still - exhausted.

So many in our communities are feeling frustrated and tired while negotiating “church business” in uncertain times. And those frustrations easily turn into criticism and blame towards the committees, councils and presbytery that struggle alongside us. It’s as if, deep in our own weariness, we forget that those we feel are letting us down are weary too. That in this time of turmoil and anticipation, we are all doing our best.

**The apostle Paul impresses us to “above all clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.” Colossians 3:14-15**

And when loving is hard: “Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible” ~ Dalai Lama.



## Preaching as story

**Preachers as  
Midwives of the  
Story**

**With Rev Deacon  
Denise Savage**

**Wednesday June 1, 2022**



From the Editor: Rev. Linley Liersch

Hope you enjoy our Autumnal edition of The Westerly! Talking about the seasons of life, church and ministry. So educational events about preaching and burnout seem apt as well. A time for silence and a time to preach. A time for work and a time for burnout (prevention)

Always happy to receive your stories, poems, book reviews, photos, Messy Church tips and theological reflections from across both our presbyteries. [Linley.Liersch@ppw.victas.uca.org.au](mailto:Linley.Liersch@ppw.victas.uca.org.au).

# Burnout

If you are a pastoral supervisor, spiritual director, chaplain, minister or pastoral carer, come to this experimental and reflective day. Improve your understanding of burnout and self-care, so you can better assess and support your ministry practice.

## Special Guest speaker **Gordon Parker**

Author of: 'Burnout, a guide to identifying burnout and pathways to recovery'.

Professor Gordon Parker AO is Scientia Professor of Psychiatry, University of NSW. He was founder of the Black Dog Institute, and Director of the Division of Psychiatry at Prince of Wales and Prince Henry Hospitals. In 2018 he was a finalist for NSW Senior Australian of the Year. He has published 20 books and over 1000 scientific papers.

## with **Marcel Koper**

Accredited Mental Health Social Worker, counsellor, supervisor and teacher.

## **Julie McDonald**

Art therapist, counsellor and supervisor.

## **Joan Wright Howie**

Uniting Church minister, spiritual director, pastoral supervisor and teacher.

**June 24**  
9.30am - 4.30pm

**\$205** for full day  
All catering provided

**\$50** For the Gordon Parker zoom segment, 10am - 12pm June 24



**Register** Use the code **'Thrive22'** for 15% off, available until May 27 (only on bookings for full day)

Full day: <https://www.trybooking.com/BYYSY>

2hr Zoom: <https://www.trybooking.com/BYZZW>

**Venue: The Wellspring Centre 10 Y St Ashburton 3147**

A peaceful location to reflect on ourselves and those we work with

# GreenPower Guide for Congregations and Homes

Issued April 2022

Your average congregation or household only have a few pathways to address their carbon footprint, and that has traditionally been through [solar panels](#) or by reducing energy usage with an [energy audit](#). Thankfully, our world is becoming more environmentally conscious, and we now have a choice over where our energy comes from. Choosing GreenPower is a meaningful and accessible step we can take to revolutionise how we source our energy, and this guide will help you to do just that. Collectively, GreenPower has the capacity to make a compounding community impact on our energy sector by increasing the demand for renewable energy, and decreasing it for fossil fuels.

## What is GreenPower?

[GreenPower](#) is a national and Government accredited way to access renewable energy sourced through sun, wind and water infrastructure projects. You can access GreenPower through your existing electricity retailer, or by making the switch to a retailer that offers it. This doesn't happen automatically, and it's something you need to consciously choose through your retailer.

## What to consider before switching to GreenPower

If you're a long serving Treasurer in a Congregation, veteran homeowner or renter, you'll already know that not all energy retailers are the same. But if this is new to you, two things worth considering before switching to GreenPower are its cost and how a retailer sources its energy.

**Energy Source:** The following green electricity guide ranks green energy providers and indicates which providers source renewable electricity and what percentage of their supply is renewable.

Use the **Greenpeace Green Electricity Guide** if you are in either Victoria or Tasmania: <https://greenelectricityguide.org.au/>

**Cost:** When considering what is personally affordable, it's best to begin with an independent government energy retailer comparison.

Use the *Compare Energy* website if you are in Victoria: <https://compare.energy.vic.gov.au/>

St Vincent de Paul also keep a report on Victorian energy prices that is annually updated: [https://www.vinnies.org.au/icms\\_docs/330614\\_Victorian\\_Energy\\_Prices\\_January\\_2022.pdf](https://www.vinnies.org.au/icms_docs/330614_Victorian_Energy_Prices_January_2022.pdf)

## What is green washing?

Greenwashing is the term used to articulate the practice of business using climate conscious language to provide false impressions, or misleading information about product they sell. In the energy retail sector, this takes the form of telling customers that their business model is environmentally friendly when in reality it falls short. The JIM Cluster commends the **Greenpeace Green Electricity Guide** to you not only because it's the only resource available, but also because it has taken a considered approach of cutting through greenwashing and marketing spin. Their methodology is available online: <https://greenelectricityguide.org.au/report>

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<https://justact.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Installing-Solar-Panels-Advice-Sheet-Feb-2022.pdf>  
<https://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/energy-efficiency-and-reducing-emissions/in-a-business>  
<https://www.greenpower.gov.au/>



# How the Church's Songs Shape Us

Rev Dr D'Arcy Wood

*Rev. Dr. D'Arcy Wood will introduce hymns that enrich all Christian worship  
Hear invited choristers, accompanied by Bruce Macrae on grand piano*

**Sunday 12 June 2022 2.00pm**

**Stonnington Uniting Church**

**57-59 Burke Road Malvern East**

The Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian musical heritage has given all churches a rich resource for community singing

Dr Wood is a leader in church music in Australia

Celebrate this free event with the Uniting Church Historical Society

Register for Zoom link option by email: **ken.barelli@bigpond.com**

Enquiries: Ken Barelli – Mobile 0418 317 942



## CLIMATE ACTION CONGRATULATIONS TO BELLBRAE UCA

*We congratulate Bellbrae UC on their public declaration and thank the artist Michael Lambkin for his work.*



# Education Events

- May 29th**      **Visual Exegesis @ Centre for Theology and Ministry**  
1:30-4:30 pm      Rev. Sandy Brodine
- June 1st**      **Preaching as Story: Preachers as Midwives of the Story**  
7-9 pm      Rev. Denise Savage (Deacon)
- June 5th**      **Greater Geelong Pentecost Worship @ Wesley UCA**  
10 am      100 Yarra Street Geelong. Join this wider UCA worship.
- June 12th**      **How the Church's Song Shape Us**  
Rev. Dr. Darcy Wood, Choristers & Pianist Bruce Macrae
- June 19th**      **UCA 45th Birthday Celebrations**  
@ Williamstown Uniting Church - Electra St. Rev. Dr. D'Arcy Wood
- June 24th**      **Burnout @ Wellsprings Centre, Ashburton**  
9.30– 4.30pm      Gordon Parker, Marcel Koper, Julie McDonald, Joan Wright Howie
- June 30th,**      **Queer Theology Intensive @ Pilgrim College**  
**1st,4,5,6 July**      J Inkpen & Penny Jones      [Pilgrim Theological College Handbook 2022](#)



## Visual Exegesis

How visual mediums inform and converse with written Scripture

**With Rev Sandy Brodine**

Sunday May 29, 2022