

Monthly update

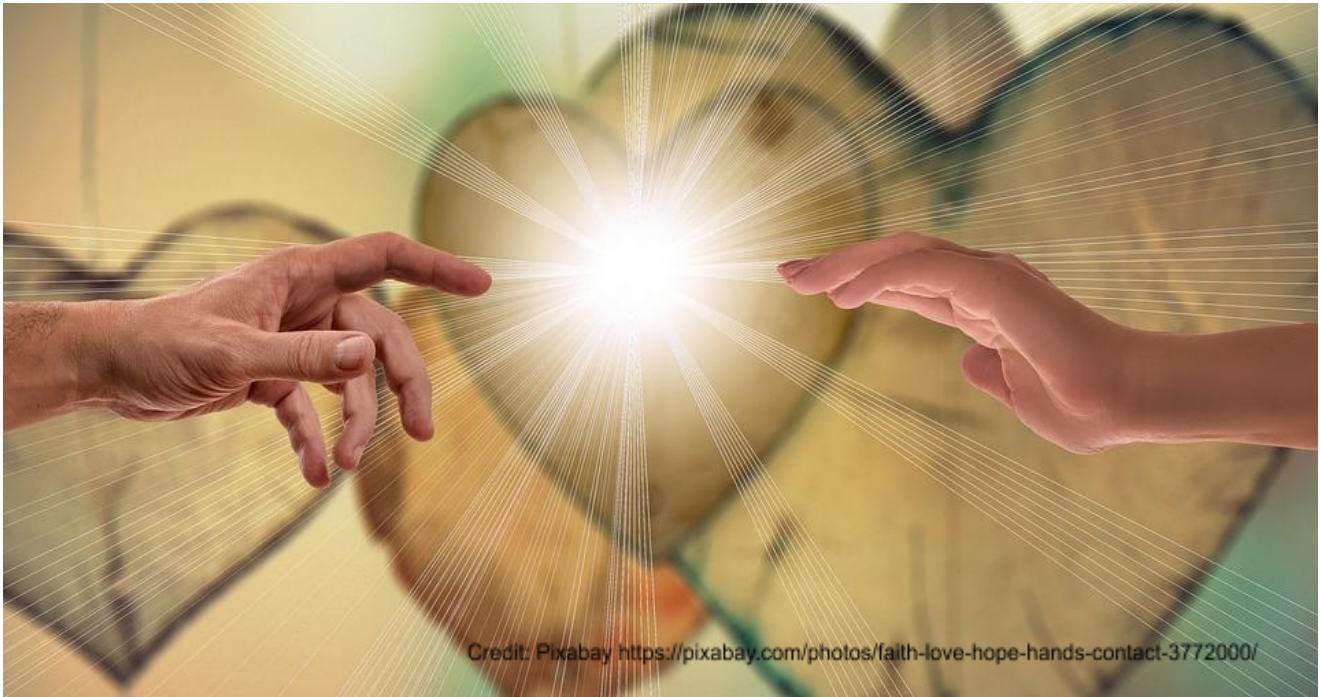
The Uniting Church in Australia

St Luke's Congregation, Highton

June 2021



True Love



Credit: Pixabay <https://pixabay.com/photos/faith-love-hope-hands-contact-3772000/>

I am writing this note on May 28th, the first day of a planned seven-day lockdown in Victoria. It is amazing how things can change so quickly in these days of COVID-19 and that knowledge leaves us all with a sense of uncertainty about what the days ahead will bring.

Added to that, recent days have been difficult for many with the death of a number of people associated with the Congregation.

Yesterday I had the privilege of leading the funeral for Frances Crawford. Amongst the readings she chose for the service was 1 Corinthians 13 a text often read at weddings because of its emphasis on the nature of true love.

But as I thought about this passage, I realised how apt it was for a funeral and indeed how it conveys a message of hope to us all in difficult times.

In this chapter Paul tells the Christians at Corinth, and us, that gifts like prophecy and knowledge will end, but love never ends.

Office administrator: Robyn Hodge.

Office open hours: Tuesdays and Fridays, 9:30am–12:30pm

In fact, as he underlines at the end of the passage, in the end three things abide ... three things are eternal ... faith, hope and love ... and the greatest of these is love.

And this is true because love is of the very nature of God.

God is love; and God's love is indeed eternal.

As we discover in the person of Jesus, this God of love is not a distant force but is close ... offering peace and healing. God is right here with us in the shadow of all that is dark and threatening in life.

And to this good news is added the hope that comes from the knowing that the love that is at the heart of God cannot be overcome by any other force or power in the universe ... it is even more powerful than death itself as was declared at Easter in the resurrection of Jesus.

“And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.”

Paul Stephens.

Readings for the month

You might wish to use these references to reflect on the readings for each Sunday of June.

	<i>1st Reading</i>	<i>Psalm</i>	<i>2nd Reading</i>	<i>Gospel</i>
June 6 World Environment Day	Gen 1:1-31			
June 13 Pentecost week 3	1 Samuel 8:4-11	Ps. 20	2 Cor 5:6-10	Mark 4:26-34
June 20 Pentecost week 4	1 Sam 17	Ps 9:9-20	2 Cor 6:1-13	Mark 4:35-41
June 27 Pentecost week 5	2 Sam 1:1-27	Ps 130	2 Cor 8:7-15	Mark 5:21-43

Diary

Sat 12/6	1:30-3:30	Repair Cafe
Wed 16/6	7:00-8:30	Church Council Meeting
Sun 20/6	7:00-9:30	House Church
Wed 23/6	2:00-3:30	Coffee & Chat @ Brioche

Congregation News

St Luke's Collectibles Pop-Up

This year - March, April and May have been the months when Mission Outreach have trialled a Collectibles Pop-Up in the Chapel on 2 half days a month.

This is a time when you are invited to visit our Chapel and view the amazing range of items for sale. Sales are directed towards the support of Refugee and Asylum Seekers. If your cupboards are already full, do come for a visit simply to see our Mission Outreach in action.

Our next Pop-Up is planned for Friday afternoon 18th. June from 1pm to 4pm. and Saturday morning 19th. June from 9am to 12 noon. Important dates for your diary.

If you are not a shopper, then you may wish to donate any saleable items – helping to raise money for people in need. The Mission Outreach Ministry Team is thankful for all support of raising money for needy people.

Plan to visit our next Collectibles Opening day: 18/19 June.

Rae Anderson – Collectibles Co-Ordinator.



Mens' Shed

Garage Sale

A very successful Garage Sale was held in March and the following financial outcomes were achieved:

- Furniture \$1448
- Tools \$466.60
- Books & Paintings \$781.00
- Collectibles \$2350.60
- Plants \$124.30
- Excess St Luke's equipment \$100

Total income was \$5270.50 less advertising expenses of \$121 resulting in a profit of \$5149.50 which was allocated as per the following:

- Mens Shed \$1853 .60
- Refugee ministry \$3195.90
- St Luke's Resourcing Ministry Team \$100

A big "Thank You" to all the people who helped set-up and staff the Sales and also thank you to all the shoppers.

Life Memberships

At the recent AGM of St Luke's Mens Shed it was unanimously agreed to to bestow Life Memberships on Keith Shrimpton and Ian Pooley.

Convenor Geoff Boehm in proposing Keith and Ian for Life Membership noted how Keith initially proposed the concept of a Men's Shed in 2007 to the Mission Outreach Ministry Team who developed the idea and recommended it to Church Council who approved the proposal in Dec 2007. Keith was instrumental in

initiating various activities of the Shed and also was a key person in the obtaining of funds to expand the facilities. His expertise in woodworking has always been willingly shared with the members.

Ian has acted as Convenor for many years always being first on site to open the Shed and have the Urn boiling for morning tea as well as managing the finances and various developments that the Shed members have financed. He has also repaired many electrical items for distribution to refugee families.

Keith and Ian have been integral to the establishment and ongoing success of the Mens Shed.

Ken Anderson - Co-ordinator

Midweek Celebrations and News

Mid-week worship along with Sunday morning, House Church and Messy Church, forms part of the diverse range of worship styles offered at St. Luke's. We meet on the 2nd Thursday each month except for January. Services commence at 2 pm and are followed by fellowship during an afternoon tea of home-made biscuits, provided by members of the church community.

This year has been especially meaningful as we have regathered after a 12 month enforced break when the COVID 19 pandemic caused the suspension of all services at St. Luke's. As well as rejoicing in our return to regular worship, Mid-week has had a special celebration each month.

In February, we shared the 90th birthday of Val Tantau. Val and Bob are important members of our Thursday service and although ill health has prevented them from being as regular as they would have liked it was special that we could celebrate with Val.



In March we supported Uniting by holding a virtual pancake day. Those present were invited to make a donation to Uniting and take home a package of two mini, homemade pancakes as a token of appreciation of their donation. We did raise \$130.00 for the ongoing work of Uniting.



With the easing of COVID restrictions in April we were able to have Afternoon tea for the first time this year so we took the opportunity to celebrate Ian Allan's 90th birthday. Ian's family moved to Geelong in 1949 and Ian has been a valuable part of the St. Luke's community now for 72 years. He has held many leadership roles and is still contributing to various activities connected with St. Luke's.

At our service in May, we shared the opportunity to thank Peter Gill for his 18½ years as our 'lovable' Honey Man. Peter could be found in the foyer regularly on a Sundayselling honey in support of the Bushikori Clinic in Uganda. As a reminder, and in honour of Peter's dedication he was presented a giant bee to place in his garden. Thank you, Peter, from us and Bushikori, for your support.



Our Mid-week service is led by Rev. Paul Stephens and shares communion every second month. We welcome everyone who feels this may be the service for you.

E-mail your notices to news@stlukesuca.org.au by **27 June 21**. The monthly news is printed on the last Tuesday of the month and available for the congregation on the 1st Sunday.