

# *Monthly update*

## *The Uniting Church in Australia*

### **St Luke's Congregation, Highton**

November 2021



It is hard to believe but Christmas is nearly upon us and 2021 is nearly at an end. When you look back over this last year what stands out for you? Perhaps you find yourself calling to mind sad and difficult times.

The trials caused by the pandemic have been legion. Isolation has been one consequence of the pandemic that has touched many. Not only have people been isolated at home and disconnected from their communities, but those who have been hospitalised or in nursing homes have been unable to have in-person visitors for months. (I am not criticising the restrictions, just naming the pain.)

And what about all the changes that we have had to get used to? Who would have thought two years ago that you would have to scan-in every time you went into a shop?

Even the ending of restrictions involves changes: I have heard people expressing discomfort about going outside for the first time in months without a mask, because wearing a mask had been the norm.

Research<sup>[1]</sup> has shown that the impact of many changes accumulates and can lead to stress induced illnesses, so we need to make sure we look after ourselves and others.

And, of course, as we look back on the year, we are conscious of the many folk who have suffered ill health and we especially remember the precious ones who have died. One person commented to me that there were so many candles lit at the All-Saints Day service: each candle representing a person who had died.

Office administrator: Robyn Hodge.

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

(The All-Saints Day service and all our videoed services are retained on the Congregation's YouTube Channel.)

But I do not want to only dwell on the challenges of this last year. What have been the highlights for you of 2021, both personally and as part of the St Luke's Congregation?

From my perspective, one of the highlights of the year for St Luke's, with long-term implications for the Congregation, has been the visioning process facilitated by Dr. Srebrenka Kunek.

I have also enjoyed the opportunities that we have had to be together "in-person." We have come to recognise what a special gift it is to gather as the people of God.

At Christmas we celebrate the coming of God into the world in the person of Jesus ... the one who Matthew names "Emmanuel" which means God is with us. The good news is that in the year past and the year ahead this remains true, "God is with us." Let us give thanks for this good news and indeed the good news that there is nowhere in this world where God is not!

*Paul Stephens, Minister in placement*

[1] H. Thomas Holmes and Richard H. Rahe, "The Social Readjustment Rating Scale", *Journal of Psychosomatic Research* 11, no. 2, (August 1967): 213-18. Quoted in [Manage Your Stress \(savior.org.github.io\)](#)

## Readings for the Month

	<i>1st Reading</i>	<i>Psalm</i>	<i>2nd Reading</i>	<i>Gospel</i>
<b>Nov 14</b> Pentecost week 25	1 Sam 1:4-20	Ps 16	Heb 10:11-14, 19-25	Mk 13:1-8
<b>Nov 21</b> Christ the King	2 Sam 23:1-7	Ps 132:1-12	Rev 1:4b-8	Jn 18:33-37
<b>Nov 28</b> 1st Sun of Advent	Jer 33:14-126	Ps 25:1-10	1 Thes 3:9-13	Lk 21:25-36
<b>Dec 5</b> 2nd Sun of Advent	Bar 5:1-9	Lk 1:68-79	Phil 1:3-11	Lk 3:1-6

## Diary

- Sat 13/11 1.30 - 3.30pm Geelong Repair Cafe-Highton
- Tues 16/11 10:00 - 12:00 Church Office open
- Wed 17/11 8 - 8.15am Weekly prayer time over Zoom. Contact [info@stlukesuca.org.au](mailto:info@stlukesuca.org.au) for details
- Wed 17/11 7 - 8.30pm Church Council on Zoom
- Sun 21/11 9:30am Worship Service (double jabbed); 11:00am Worship Service (anyone)
- Tues 23/11 5:30 - 6:30pm Environment Action Group
- Wed 24/11 2 - 3.30pm Coffee & Chat @ Brioche

# Congregation News

## St Luke's Collectibles: Garage Sale & Community Market Day

**Friday 19 November, 1pm to 4pm**

**Saturday 20 Nov, 9am to 12 noon: Community Market Day**

Since the commencement of our Collectibles initiative in February this year which raises funds towards our Refugee Ministry, our members and community have trodden the roadmap into the Chapel each month. Primarily to enjoy the feast of collectible items we have on display.

Last month **Cottage by The Sea** set up a trading table to raise urgently needed funds. Indeed they did, selling out almost all their stock of jams, pickles, sauces, etc.

This month '**Days For Girls**' (selling mostly craft items), will hold their trading table.

Also our **Men's Shed** will be holding their annual **Garage Sale**, selling tools, furniture, electrical items and a well stocked garden table. Please drop off any garden plants/flowers that you can spare during the week.

Also for the first time, Shaghek has arranged for a 'newcomers' trading table on which a number of newcomers will bring food and handcrafts for display and sale.

We must not let time go by without our praise and thanks to the **Men's Shed** who have kindly provided shelving, tables and furnishings into the Chapel to enhance our Collectibles outreach.

We plan to hold our last Collectibles outreach for this year on the second weekend in December. Dates 10<sup>th</sup>. and 11<sup>th</sup>. December. This now gives you 2 opportunities for you to do your **Christmas shopping at St Luke's and help provide financial support to our Refugee Ministry.** [Nov 19/20 & Dec 10/11]

If the above dates are not suitable, then book a time with me for a private viewing.

**Make the most of COVID free restrictions and plan to visit our next Collectibles Opening. Shopping for birthdays and Christmas is wise thinking.**

**QR Code/Sign-In, and Masks Mandatory indoors.**

*Rae Anderson – Collectibles Co-Ordinator.*

*Mobile: 0413 888 884*

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## Outreach

A newcomer is to start his own business in Australia with the help of St Luke's Men's Shed and St Luke's Uniting Church - soooooo good!

The story begins.....

Reem, the wife of our new businessman, first touched base with St Luke's through the Sewing Group. Both newly arrived from Iraq, where Raad, although trained as a civil engineer, ran his own electrical business for 30 years.



It just so happened that our 'electrical testing and tagging' volunteer was retiring. Anything that is to be given away, sold or passed on 'of an electrical nature' by the Mission Outreach ministry team needs to be 'tested and tagged' beforehand.

The Repair Cafe purchased a PAT tester which is the instrument used in the T & T process. After discussion with Raad, who has been working at Covenant College in the maintenance area, the Men's Shed and the Church reached an agreement with him.

The course he needed to do was paid for by the Men's Shed and Raad will do the 'testing and tagging' we require on site as well as for the articles passed on. A WIN WIN situation!

Congratulations to all and best wishes to Raad in his new venture.



**Sue Anderson**

Mission Outreach Co-ordinator

## Pastoral Connections

### Jean Williams Celebrates

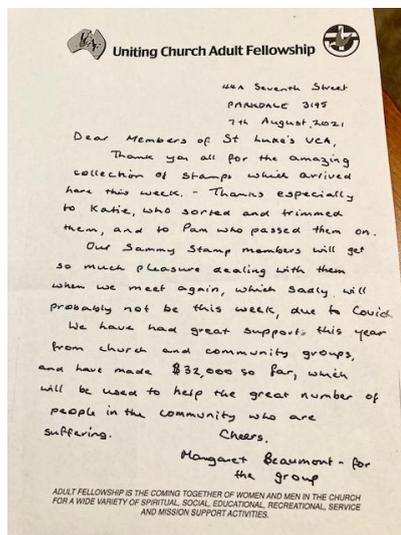


Jean is one of our wonderful 'Golden Oldies' who is presently a resident at The Belmont Age Care facility, where she enjoys the company of those who share her home.

Jean was the St. Luke's church historian and co-authored 'Steadfast Through Change', a detailed history of the growth of Highton and surrounding district and the establishment and influence of Christian witness on our current site. As part of that rich history, Jean faithfully recorded and managed our 'library' of banners, depicting many key stories and important events recorded in scripture.

Jean is pictured celebrating her 93rd birthday.

Below is a thank you note for the wonderful work done by our 'stamp collectors'.



(Click on the image to open it for easier reading).

**Pam Seller**

*Pastoral Connections*



**The Leprosy  
Mission**  
Australia

It is that time of the year for us to support the wonderful work done by the Leprosy mission.

Christmas Cards will be on sale until the 14th of November.  
Packets of 10 for \$12.

Please phone Valerie Grills on 0438139424 to place your order.



E-mail your notices to [news@stlukesuca.org.au](mailto:news@stlukesuca.org.au) by **27 October 21**. The monthly news is normally printed on the last Tuesday of the month and available for the congregation on the 1st Sunday.