

Monthly update

The Uniting Church in Australia

St Luke's Congregation, Highton

February 2022



In several places in the New Testament the good news of Jesus Christ is described as a treasure. Jesus tells a parable about a treasure so valuable that a man buys the whole field in which it is hidden so he can be assured he gains it. (Matthew 13:44)

So, it is with the gospel ... it is a treasure beyond price. It offers life in all its fullness ... and it is offered as a gift.

Paul in his second letters to the Corinthians (4:5-7) writes about the light of Christ as a treasure and that we have this treasure in clay jars. By clay jars he means us. We are fragile clay jars, but no matter, as followers of Christ we are gifted with the treasure that is the light and life of Christ.

As church we are to pass this treasure on. It is not to be hoarded.

We believe that this treasure is a true blessing to us and being blessed by it, we are to pass it on so others will be blessed.

We have had too many funerals recently, but it has been very moving to hear about the lives of wonderful saints who have been part of Saint Luke's congregation and who have passed on in word and deed this treasure.

What a wonderful legacy they have left through their positive impact on the lives of so many others.

Office administrator: Robyn Hodge.

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

As we as a church continue to plan through the “Salt and Light project,” we are seeking to be open to how with the prompting of the Holy Spirit the congregation will continue to share this treasure with the Highton Community over the next decades.

I was looking recently at an up-to-date satellite photograph of the area that surrounds the church ... there are so many houses ... and so little in the way of open space or community infrastructure.

Surely this means there are opportunities for us a church blessed with treasure of the gospel.

Can I encourage you to pray about all this? How will we continue to share the good news in word and deed in the days ahead, and how should we develop the St Luke’s site to enable this?

Paul Stephens, Minister in placement

Readings for the Month

	<i>1st Reading</i>	<i>Psalm</i>	<i>2nd Reading</i>	<i>Gospel</i>
Feb 6, 2022 Epiphany 5	Is 6:1-6 (9-13)	Ps 138	1 Cor 15:1-11	Lk 5:1-11
Feb 13 Epiphany 6	Jer 17:5-10	Ps 1	1 Cor 15:12-20	Lk 6:17-26
Feb 20 Epiphany 7	Gen 45:3-11,15	Ps 37:1-11	1 Cor 15:35-38	Lk 6:27-38
Feb 27 Transfiguration	Ex 34:29-35	Ps 99	2 Cor 3:12-4:2	Lk 9:28-36 (37-43)

Diary

Wed 9/2	8 - 8.15am	Weekly Prayer time on Zoom
Thurs 10/2	2 - 3pm	Midweek worship
Sat 12/2	12noon - 5pm	Geelong Repair Cafe - Highton
Wed 16/2	8 - 8.15am	Weekly Prayer time on Zoom
Wed 16/2	7 8.30pm	Church Council meeting on Zoom
Tues 22/2	5:30 - 6:30pm	Environment Action Group
Wed 23/2	2 - 3.30pm	Coffee & Chat @ Brioche

Congregation News

St Luke's Collectibles: Last Year 2021 and This Year 2022

St Luke's Collectible sales had a bumper year last year. Initiated in Feb'21 with the desire to raise much needed funds to support our Mission Outreach, our monthly sales (open third weekend each month – Fri afternoon and Saturday morning) during the year raised a total of: \$12,218.00.

You may have asked 'How did we raise this money?' The simple answer is through people's generosity as they declutter and downsize their possessions. A simple phone call telling the story of our Refugee support and our associated needs has received a generous response from within St Luke's and our local Community.

Gifts of bedding, crockery, cutlery, cookware are placed into our Chapel Room waiting for use by needy Refugee families. Other Gifts of 'Collectible' items are placed on display into our Chapel in readiness for our monthly sale days.

January 2022 resulted in another pleasing sale weekend, raising \$911.00 Friendly people continue to return for a chat and/or a collectible bargain. We also boasted the use of an Eftpos machine, on loan from Geelong Lions (half the money raised was via the Eftpos facility). Thank you Geelong Lions.

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

Friday 18 February 1pm to 4pm: Collectibles

Sat 19 February 9am to 12 noon: Collectibles & Men's Shed Garage Sale & Community Market Day

The 1st Highton Scouts have been invited to take part by holding their fund-raiser table as a part of our community outreach.

If the above dates are not suitable for your visit, then book a time with me for a private viewing of a wide range of treasures and collectible items to be found in the Chapel.

COVID Marshalls will be on duty to ensure the operation of a safe and responsible Community Market. Plan to visit this month's Opening. QR Code/Sign-In, and Masks Mandatory indoors.

Rae Anderson – Collectibles Co-Ordinator.

Mobile: 0413 888 884

St Luke's Church Council Key Points

Meeting held 25 Jan 2022.

Attended: Paul Stephens, Barbara Murphy, Sue Anderson, Lachie Farran, Mike Currie, Shaghek Qassabyan, Robyn Hodge (Lloyd Walker by ether).

WANTED - A PERSON with some meeting experience to chair our St Luke's Church Council.
Payment: abundant blessings

COVID -OMICRON period

- Council is cognisant of the loneliness and anxiety prevalent and the desire to be able to meet again. Our prayers and thoughts are with all who are feeling this way.
- We are working to clarify how to do this in a Covid safe manner



- While there is no requirement to be vaccinated in the Church service, people still need to be vaccinated for morning tea. Proof will need to be checked. Resumption of morning tea is proposed in February. Stay tuned: Paul will advise.
- Messy Church: proposed meeting be held to decide about when to resume.

MISSION OUTREACH

- Sewing machines have been moved to stage area to provide more room in the Chapel for Collectibles and 'newcomer' household items
- Council resolved that pews on the stage are to be disposed of asap and chair bank type seating be purchased for use when required and allowed in the Worship centre

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

- Robyn will continue in this role in the short term - Term 1.
- During this time Council will be seeking to transition a person into this role: which includes administration, caring ministry and someone with our vision.

DREAMING BIG/SALT & LIGHT INITIATIVE: Next Steps

- A request for flyover graphics for church communication from architects is to be made - 3D enabling the visualisation of the plan
- A facilitator is required to bring people together over next 4-5 years

FINANCES

- Lachie Farran, our Treasurer, presented a draft budget for Church Council members to view, review and advise

If you or anybody you know could add their voice and ideas to the future of God's Church in this place please speak to any of the current council members

Sue Anderson (for Church Council)

Spotlight on our community partners

The Waurm Ponds Days for Girls chapter meets on a Wednesday fortnightly in the hall to sew reusable Feminine Hygiene Products for women and girls for whom menstruation can be a barrier to participation in education and community life. St Luke's hosts them at no cost as part of our mission to the community. Here's an update from Deb, their co-ordinator:

"The kits our Team made this year and were picked up by World Vision Canada went to Burundi, Africa. This is a landlocked country in the great Rift Valley bordering Rwanda. I have a soft spot for African countries as we spent 3 1/2 months travelling through parts of Africa in a Landrover Defender some 7 years ago and although we did not travel to Burundi we did part of the Rift Valley so we were very close. (Only a centimeter or two on the map)!! I am thrilled to think that our kits will be distributed there.

2021 has been another year that has had many challenges for so many of us, but we have still achieved some amazing things. A quick summary of the year for DfGAL

- Two new teams - Boort Vic, and Riverbend Qld
- One new team in training, Bendigo Vic
- Kits sent into the world for financial year 2020/2021 - 33,089 to 23 countries
- Kits sent into world since 1 July 2021 until now - 23,332 to 14 countries this includes 17,075 to World Vision Canada for Burundi.

- Thanks to Ann Gobby we now have access to beautiful underwear and colourful PUL
- Thanks to Lee Baker and the Camberwell Team, we can now have access to cut PUL for shields and carry pouches.
- Regional Briefings in Queensland (Townsville, Allora, Brisbane) and Victoria (Gippsland and Mildura)

We are also helping to establish teams in the island nations around us, Baucau in Timor-Leste (nearly Gold Certified), West Timor (Gold Certified just this month), Solomon Islands, Kiribati these teams will join our FijiWest Team. A big thank you to all the teams in these countries and a thank to all our Teams who are helping to mentor these Teams.

Our success is all thanks to all our amazing volunteers across the country and the world. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for what you do and also I want to thank all our amazing State Coordinators, State Sewing Specialists, our Board Members and other key volunteers who have stepped up to help us with our finances, child protection, training, resources, social media, communications, and our Liaison Officer who help us manage our distributions in PNG & Timor-Leste.

Our workshops for 2022 will resume on Wednesday January 19th, followed by February 2nd and 16th. I will let you know of further dates once they are finalized. I will be at the January workshop and will then be away for the next three, back mid March. During that time Deb Chapman will be organizing the Workshops."

If you would like to join the team in 2022, contact Deb via email: geelongwaurnpondsvic@daysforgirls.org.



E-mail your notices to news@stlukesuca.org.au by **3 March 22**. The monthly news is normally available for the congregation on the 1st Sunday.