

Monthly update

The Uniting Church in Australia

St Luke's Congregation, Highton

February 2023



Adding Flavour to life.

As part of the Sermon on the Mount Jesus said to his followers, and says to us, “You are the salt of the earth...” (Matthew 5:13).

As we discussed in worship on February 5th, common salt, Sodium Chloride, is such a useful compound. For millennia before the invention of the refrigerator it was used to preserve various foodstuffs. Salted beef anyone?

Salty water ... saline ... has healing properties and is used extensively in the medical world: everything from cleaning wounds to being injected to reverse dehydration. Salt is scattered on roads in the places where there is snow to decrease the freezing point of water and thus turn snow and ice into water. Salt is used in many chemical reactions. It is used to thicken shampoo. (If you ever make the mistake of tasting shampoo, you will find it is salty.)

Salt exists as crystals that can be mined from huge underground deposits or extracted by evaporation from the sea or other salty bodies of water. (This region, of course, had two major salt evaporation facilities: one at Avalon and the other at Point Henry. Both run by Cheetham Salt.) It is a bit of a wonder substance is good old salt.

And, of course, then there is salt's capacity to add flavour to food.

Now we know these days that too much salt can affect blood pressure, but that said, nearly every cook or chef on the SBS food channel adds common salt to savoury dishes. A little bit of salt can really bring out the flavour! Fish and chips need salt, don't they?

The people of God are called to be like salt to flavour the whole.

Jesus began his Sermon on the Mount, according to Matthew, with the Beatitudes which make clear that the most unusual people are blessed by God: the poor, the meek, those who mourn, the persecuted, the peacemakers.

The Beatitudes give us an insight into God's vision for the world, a vision that is so often completely at odds with human thinking. Seeking to live the way of the Beatitudes is to flavour the whole of life. It makes a difference!

This is not just a job just for public prophets like Father Bob or Rev. Tim Costello, or indeed just ministers and pastors. It is something that we are all called to do and can do.

Every one of us can make a difference. We can flavour the places we inhabit from our extended families to retirement villages, from schools to workplaces, from organisation for which we volunteer to sports club.

And we do not do this alone, as Paul reminds us, we have the Holy Spirit with us and we are blessed with the Spirit's gifts.

Just think about this, Jesus says to us: "You are the salt of the earth..."

Salt flavours a whole meal.

Salt can bring healing.

So can we!

Grace and peace.

Paul Stephens, Minister in Placement

Coming Up

Services:

Thursday 9/2	Mid-week Worship: Communion	1:30-3pm
Sunday 19/2	House Church@Kevin & Alison Ralph	6:30pm
Sunday 26/2	Special service: Rev. Tevita Holani will share something of his faith journey	

Lent (commences 22/2) We are planning to use some personal and group study resources during Lent which will also be used by other Uniting Churches in Geelong. (More details to come.)

Activities:

Friday 10/2	Messy Church Family Picnic@Balyang Sanctuary	5pm
Saturday 11/2	Geelong Repair Cafe - Highton	1 - 5pm
Tuesday 14/2	Contemplative Tuesdays for Climate Justice	11-11:30am
	See details in Church web calendar	
Friday 17/2	Sewing group	12 - 2:30pm
Friday 17/2	Collectibles Sale	12 - 4pm
Saturday 18/2	Collectibles sale@Chapel-Ground-Chapel	9 - 12pm
Wednesday 22/2	Coffee & Chat@ Rolling Pin Cafe, Mitre 10, Sth Geelong	1:30 - 3pm

St Luke's Church Council

Meeting held by Zoom on Wed, January 18.

- Mens' Shed MOU and grant application: currently with Synod services - following up.
- Kindergarten: No impost on congregation re proposed grant, currently with Presbytery/Synod
- Properties: Roslyn Rd - tenancy to continue until at least Sept 2023, Barrabool Rd - currently involved in sale process through Synod, person appointed to maintain property
- Safe Church training modules: relevant people to be advised re completion.
- Messy Church camp in March to be advertised, support provided for needy families
- Church Information booklet currently being updated
- Mission Outreach report presented: Paul congratulated on excellent work particularly in regard to the Tim Costello gambling reform evening and its aftermath.
- Worship Ministry: service to be held that reflects on our indigenous people
- Church Admin role: Catherine has commenced, volunteers being approached to be available in office on Tuesdays and Fridays
- Draft budget: Council agreed to take to Congregation meeting.
- Council leadership and membership: Paul and Kevin to form nomination committee
- Membership: Date to be organised for reception of new members

Mike Currie, Council Secretary

Congregation News

Mission Outreach

ST LUKE'S CHAPEL COLLECTIBLES

Hello readers. Since my last report about the busy life generated by our Collectibles, we have held 2 monthly open sale days, i.e. December and January. And now we look forward to our next open sale days.

Our next opening is: **FEBRUARY:** Friday 17th. Feb between 12 noon and 4.30pm.
Sat 18th. Feb between 9am and lunch time.

If these dates don't suit you why don't you tee up a time with Linda or myself to arrange your own private viewing at your convenience.

No doubt you will have noticed our fabulous new signage, if not – then look out for our new signs on our property notice boards during the week of 17th. Feb.

A message from our Treasurer confirms that during 2022 we raised over \$48,000 and I thank everyone for helping us make a difference towards enabling St Luke's to be a church that is attempting to live out God's mission in the community.

Call and visit the Chapel this month. We have tables loaded with gift ideas – whether for birthdays, weddings, for grand-children or simply a gift to share when visiting friends for a cuppa. While you are shopping, you will be surrounded by many items that will evoke your own memories from your parents and grand-parents era.

Until sold out, we proudly show off this month's unique collections:

1. A telephone collection.
2. Crystal salt/ pepper shaker collection.
3. Vintage dinner sets.
4. Fine china cup/saucer/plates.
5. Badge collection.
6. Australian pottery.
7. Wedgwood collection.
8. Tea spoon collection.



Website: stlukesuca.org.au **Email:** info@stlukesuca.org.au **Ph:** 5244 2997

9. Magnet collection.
10. Coloured glass ornaments and glassware.
11. Marble collection.

How can you help increase our saleable items? Firstly bring your invited friends to enjoy all that we do. Then, if you have any unwanted items in your house and you wish to declutter, why don't you think about passing them on to our Chapel Collectibles.

Linda Salamy & Rae Anderson, Collectibles Co-Ordinators

THE JOY OF VISITING A NEWCOMER FAMILY

On Monday morning I had the privilege of visiting Mahar and Patricia, two members of a Syrian family living in Roslyn Road. The family has only been in the country for four or five weeks after four years of living in virtual isolation in Syria. Leaving their home was a dangerous undertaking.

The friends they made in Syria have moved to Brisbane and one day they would like to visit. However, they are very impressed with the climate of Geelong.

Patricia, who is 18, has some English while Mahar will benefit from 'newcomer' English classes from Cultura. Patricia is hoping to go to Belmont High School to do Year 12 or Year 11 dependent on how her interview goes. Younger brother, Pierre, 17 will also attend Belmont High. Hopefully by the time you read this article, the young people will know when they'll start school.

Patricia has learnt her English in relatively 'quick time'. She has spent time watching television and YouTube discovering that there are many different types of English and ours is the hardest! I can understand that!

Syrian custom and culture is such that you can offend your hosts by not eating and drinking what they prepare for you. Consequently I had to eat and drink over my lunchtime capacity. Grateful thanks to Shaghek for being my interpreter. This family are wonderful people with a good sense of humour and I'm so pleased I've made this contact.

Please think about doing the same - it is a great privilege to visit the home or temporary home of newcomers.

A VISIT TO KHATOON

This past week one of our older 'newcomers' had her second cataract operation. Naturally she was feeling a little anxious and so a visit from Paul, Shaghek and I was arranged. Am unsure whether this was helpful or not - being inundated by the 3 Musketeers!?

Actually Khatoon was really pleased. She showered us with hospitality and Salam, working from home, was part of the conversation. Khatoon's English is not her strong suit so Shaghek and Salam were able to help Paul and I.

Khatoon is a strong Christian and she calls Paul 'father'. We shared a prayer and Bible reading in Arabic and English. Khatoon's operation was successful and she is now recovering well.

POST SCRIPT to both stories - neither family has had relatives affected by the earthquake that struck both Turkey and Syria.

Sue Anderson

Pastoral Connections

MESSY CHURCH FAMILY PICNIC

St. Luke's is holding a family picnic, sponsored by Messy Church, to celebrate the start of the year!

Date: Friday 10th February at 5pm.

Where: Balyang Sanctuary, 50 Marnock Road, Newtown

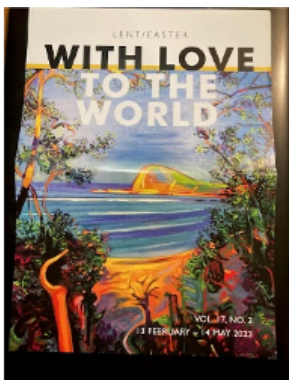
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It will be a time of renewing friendships, making new ones, having a chat and sharing life's stories. Bring your smile, a picnic dinner and something to sit on. We look forward to seeing you there.

The Messy Church Team

WITH LOVE TO THE WORLD



WITH LOVE TO THE WORLD is a Uniting Church daily devotional guide that provides context and background to the bible passages used during Sunday worship. Each of the daily reflections increases our knowledge and readiness in preparation for Sunday.

Rev. Paul uses WLW as part of his weekly preparation and there are currently several congregational members using this valuable resource. It is also a valuable guide for those who are unable to attend church because of ill health or changed circumstances.

There is a subscription fee of just \$24 annually. If you would like more information about this devotional guide or to receive a copy please contact Pam following worship or on 0407 557 933.

Dates for Coffee and Chat -2023

To be held at Rolling Pin Café at Faggs Mitre 10 ,
1-9 Barwon Terrace, South Geelong.

February 22nd- 1:30pm,

July 26th- 1:30pm

March 22nd – 1:30pm

August 23rd- 1:30pm

April 26th- 1:30pm

September 27th-1:30pm

May 24th- 1:30pm

October 25th- 1:30pm

June 28th- 1:30pm

November 22nd 1:30pm

Coffee and Chat Christmas Special- December 13th 1:30pm

Barbara and Joy

Website: stlukesuca.org.au **Email:** info@stlukesuca.org.au **Ph:** 5244 2997

