



## Western Heights Uniting Church

31 Douglass Street, Herne Hill, 3218.

(03) 5229 2681

Email: office@whuc.com.au

Website: www.whuc.com.au



*Loving God: Growing Together, Partnering Community, Sharing Faith*

WESTERN HEIGHTS UNITING CHURCH

# March 2015 Newsletter

## March at a Glance

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Sunday 1st	8.45am	Traditional Worship
	10.15am	Worship
Wednesday 4th	1.15pm	Mission Outreach
Sunday 8th	10.00am	Café Church
Tuesday 10th	1.00pm	Senior Retirees Outing
Friday 13th	7.00pm	KFG—Mini Golf Night
Sunday 15th	10.00am	Worship & Congregational Lunch
	2.00pm	Songs of Praise
Tuesday 17th	2.00pm	Midweek Communion
	6.30pm	Friends from Vines
Wednesday 18th	7.00pm	Ministry Teams Meeting
Saturday 21st	7.30pm	Friendship Club
Sunday 22nd	10.00am	Worship
	1.00pm	Messy Church @ WestFEST 2015
Saturday 28th	6.00pm	Congregational Annual Meeting
Sunday 29th	10.00am	Worship

## March Preaching Plan

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### **Western Heights Services:**

Sunday 1st	8.45am	Michele Hardy	
	10.15am	Michele Hardy	
Sunday 8th	10.00am	Rev. Isabel Greenall	Café Church in the Horizons Room
Sunday 15th	10.00am	Rev. Isabel Greenall	All Together Service & Communion
Tuesday 17th	2.00pm	Rev. Isabel Greenall	Midweek communion
Sunday 22nd	10.00am	Rev. Isabel Greenall	
	1.00pm	Messy Church	
Sunday 29th	10.00am	Rev. Isabel Greenall	

### **Other Services:**

Thursday 5th	Rev Isabel Greenall	Nangatta & Murray Lodge
Sunday 15th	Michele Hardy	Lara
Tuesday 24th	Audrey Kateena	Vincentian Village 3.00pm

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## Western Heights Mission Outreach 2015

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Wednesday 4th March 2015

Outing to Geelong Gardens Tea House

Afternoon tea at own cost

Meet in Church Car Park 1.15pm for car pool

Dorothy Matthews - 5278 9491



### Senior Retirees Outing

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The first of the Senior Retirees afternoons for 2015 will be held on **Tuesday 10th March**.

We will be going to Eastern Beach for an outdoors afternoon as well as a tour of

the foreshore and city. Keep this date in your diary for a **1.00pm** pickup.

Graeme & Michele Hardy

## KFG (Kids Friendship Group)

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Mini Golf Night

In Horizons Room

Friday 13th March, 2015

7pm—8.30pm

\$3.00

Bring some cardboard boxes

RSVP to Karen by Thursday 12th March

Karen.morgan1968@hotmail.com or 0404435261

## Friends from Vines

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“All Things Green”

Tuesday 17th March, 2015

6.30pm in the Horizons Room.

Cost \$7

All ladies welcome

Joan 5241 5683

## Café Church @ Western Heights

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10-11:15am Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March

Horizons Room

One of our goals is to be a church that provides a variety of worship styles. With this in mind, the Worship & Music Ministry Team has decided to trial “Café Church” during 2015. Café Church has been around for some years now and is usually approached in two different ways. One is to use the premises of an already worshipping community, which either intentionally engages this worshipping community in a different style of worship or meets at an alternative time more conducive to engaging with the broader community. The other is to use a public space in a café, restaurant, or bar to engage with the broader community and potentially grow a new faith community/church. This would be an example of another of our goals: partnering community.

In the main, Café Church aims to provide an inclusive, informal, accepting and welcoming space for everybody. It is a “growing together” type sacred space, revolving around open discussion, creative expression, prayer and alternative approaches to worship. If you’d like to read about a Café Church based in inner city Melbourne go to [http://www.cafechurch.org/about\\_us](http://www.cafechurch.org/about_us)

Our Café Church on Sun 8<sup>th</sup> March will be from 10am in the Horizons Room and will be over brunch. Please feel free to bring a friend with you to check it out! Food and drink provided.



## Western Heights Friendship Club

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Please note that we will be meeting

on Saturday, 21st March, 2015

in the Horizons Room at 7.30pm

Where we will enjoy a ride on the Orient Express from London to Istanbul

This dvd shows not only the outstanding scenery along the way, but also the history of this magnificent train.

So come along and enjoy our friendship in a relaxed atmosphere.

## Purpose → Goals → Actions

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During March everyone is invited to participate in a process to develop the goals that we decided upon last year into actions. This is where the rubber hits the road and things get interesting. What are we already doing that we think should continue? What do we want to develop further? What ideas do we have that we want to bring to birth? What do we think should stop? Your input is very important as together we discern the ways forward.

### How you can be involved

1. Two different workshops will be offered during March to dream big. You can choose to attend one or both depending on your interest in the topics. The two workshops will be repeated so there is opportunity to attend during the day or the evening. A big thankyou to Gary Ekkel, Sandra Neville, Judith Oke, and Heather Rookes for agreeing to facilitate these workshops!
2. Over the coming weeks there will be a “graffiti wall” set up in The Horizons Room where anyone associated with Western Heights is invited to add their ideas. Please encourage anyone to write up their ideas!

For more info please speak with anyone on the Future Church Facilitation Group (Roger Dingle, Isabel Greenall, Annette Chidzey, Peter Morgan)

## Messy Church @ WestFEST 2015

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WestFEST is a free community arts festival on Sunday 22nd March 1-6pm at West Park, on the corner of Pakington & Autumn Streets, Geelong West.

There will be hands on activities, a handmade market, live music by local artists, food & drink, and lots of community groups. WestFEST has an ethos of being local, sustainable and inclusive.

This year Messy Church will join the party at WestFEST. Messy Church will be offering four all age activities based around the theme of Peace.



We look forward to this day partnering the community. Come along and join in the fun!

## Cadel Evans Great Ocean Road Ride

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Over the weekend of 31<sup>st</sup> Jan-1<sup>st</sup> Feb the Western Heights Uniting Tennis Club provided support to the riders of the inaugural Cadel Evans Ride. The Club provided 20 people and raised over \$1000 to go toward paying for the resurfacing of the tennis courts. It was excellent that the 20 people included members of the tennis club and members of the congregation. An example of the “**partnering community**” aspect of our Purpose Statement. This will be an annual event so keep it in mind for next year. Your help would be greatly appreciated!

## Major Strategic Review Survey for the Synod of Vic-Tas

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What do you personally value?

What is your experience of the current values and behaviours within the Church?

What is your opinion on the values and behaviours the Church should be demonstrating?

The Major Strategic Review (MSR) is conducting an online survey to tell us more about the Uniting Church’s (within Victoria and Tasmania) existing and desired culture: through the lens of the Church’s values and behaviours.

We are inviting all those involved with any aspect of the Church to participate in the survey. It will be available online for three weeks from 11 February to 6 March 2015.

**Survey link:** <https://survey.valuescentre.com/gabby>

**User name:** uca

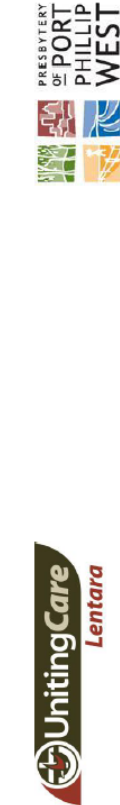
**Password:** values

People are asked to participate as individuals not to provide a collective response from a council of the Church or group/organisation. All responses will be confidential and anonymous, as we will only receive an aggregate set of data from the external organisation hosting the survey. It will take 15-20mins to complete.

Paper copies are available for people who have difficulties with internet access and can be found on the kitchenette bench.

Your participation is valuable – it will help support the development of future strategic planning, training and leadership programs.





### Out Into the Cold – Where to Now?

Lentara UnitingCare, the Uniting Church in Australia Presbytery of Port Phillip West, the Royal District Nursing Service Homeless Persons Program and Yarra Housing present a one-day conference, 'Out Into the Cold – Where to Now?'

This conference brings together people working to support the reintegration of offenders into the community after their release from prison. It will focus on the role of the community in assisting people with successful community reintegration.

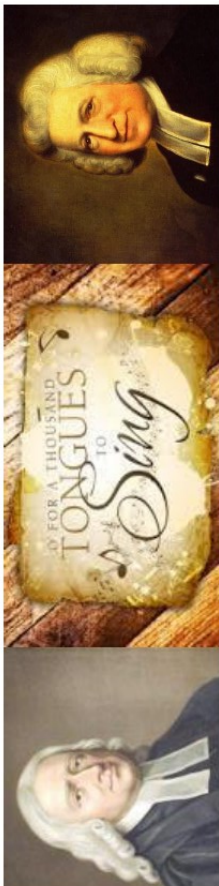
Key conference objectives include:

- Gaining a clear understanding of service delivery need and service provision gaps;
- Sharing best practice wisdom, including best practice frameworks;
- Developing collaborative service provider partnerships to strengthen service delivery; and
- Setting in place clear strategies for client advocacy at a systemic level.

The conference has a mix of keynote and workshop presentations, covering a broad range of topics including housing, employment, family support and through-care.

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Tuesday 24 March 2015</b>
<b>Time:</b>	<b>9.30am – 4.00pm</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Hoppers Crossing Uniting Church 235 Derrimut Road, Hoppers Crossing, VIC, 3029</b>
<b>Cost:</b>	<b>\$15.00 per head (cash payable on the day)</b>
<b>Registrations Close:</b>	<b>Wednesday 18 March 2015</b>
<b>Email Registration:</b>	<b><a href="mailto:communaljustice@lentarauc.org.au">communaljustice@lentarauc.org.au</a></b>
<b>Keynote Presentation:</b>	<b>Professor Chris Trotter, Monash University</b>

Professor Chris Trotter worked for many years as a practitioner and manager in juvenile justice and adult corrections prior to his appointment to Monash University in 1991. He has undertaken many research projects and published widely on the subject of effective practice with involuntary clients particularly those in the criminal justice system. He has an international reputation for his work particularly in relation to pro-social modelling and his book *Working with Involuntary Clients*, about to be published in its third edition, has sold widely around the world and is published in German, Japanese and Chinese translation. Dr Trotter is the Director of Monash Criminal Justice Research Consortium and is currently engaged in numerous research projects including projects on working with families in youth justice, effective practice with young offenders, aging offenders and planning for children of offenders.



# WESLEY HYMN FEST &

## Light Tea

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2015 - 2.30pm**

Western Heights Uniting Church  
Douglass Street, Herne Hill

A service of inspiration  
followed by fellowship over food

Admission by ticket only  
**Donation: \$15 per person**

### Contact

**Barry:** 5241 7073 *Plan now to come*  
**Jenice:** 5278 3135 *tickets available mid-March*



## The Saga of Saki

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In 2010 I was invited to lecture in Public Health in the Southern Highlands of Papua & New Guinea by Bishop Waitege of the United Church of PNG.

Two days before Christmas (2014) I was contacted by the Bishop as his son Saki was having two or three fits a day – his medicines now not effective, he had been diagnosed in April 2012 by CAT scan in Port Moresby to have a brain tumour for which they were unable to operate.

Networking with friends it was arranged for a Townsville neurosurgeon to see Saki. Saki and his dad flew to Port Moresby and after many phone calls and e-mails to consulates etc, a passport for a lad with no date of birth was obtained in two days. The visa for Australia was a different matter! With E-mails, phone calls and aid from politicians it still took twenty two days to obtain a semi urgent medical visa.

Flight from Port Moresby to Cairns, bus on to Townsville and they arrived on a Thursday evening. Hosting and care was given by the Townsville Central Uniting Church under leadership of Rev Bruce Cornish.

Remarkably a MRI of brain was done at noon Friday ( No appointments for a week !) still don't know how this was arranged. The neurosurgeon ( Mr Eric Guazzo ) saw Saki on Monday and said “no brain tumour, a congenital vascular malformation and surgery contraindicated”. New antiepileptic medication prescribed ( not available in PNG ) but members of the Townsville church supplied Saki with six months supply. He was reviewed in five days and then flew home and we have now heard is doing well.

Praise God for the teamwork that enabled this to happen. Prayer and financial support came from Church folk of Geelong and Townsville, some community organisations and individuals.

Rejoice with me in a mission outreach of the family of Christ.

Barry Edwards



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## Rt. Hon. Malcom Fraser in Geelong

Come and hear Rt. Hon. Malcolm Fraser AC CH speak about his new book on Australia's foreign policy, and other current controversial issues such as the Asylum Seeker Policy, and the 99-year lease attack on the NT Land Rights Act!

Date: Thursday, 26 March, 2015

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Place: Wesley Uniting Church, Yarra Street, Geelong.

Admission: Free

Sponsored by the Geelong Inter-Church Social Justice Network

Inquiries: Ian Yule 0419140013

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## Palm Sunday Walk for Justice for Refugees

The Palm Sunday Walk for Justice for Refugees was a huge success in 2014 with over 8,000 people turning up to show their support in Melbourne alone! Mark your calendars to join this year for our second Walk for Justice in 2015 on Sunday 29 March meeting at the State Library, 328 Swanston st, Melb. Music will start at 1.30pm and speeches from 2pm. The walk will then proceed down to Queen Victoria Gardens - opposite the NGV on St Kilda Road, this is about 1 kilometre, where there will be further speeches and some activities.

Train leaves Nth Geelong 11:54am and arrives Southern Cross 12:53pm OR the next one leaving 12:54pm and arriving 1:53pm.

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## Secretary Church Council

We are still seeking and inviting interested persons to fulfil the role of Secretary to the Church Council. In the short term, the Secretary's duties are being rotated amongst Council Members, which is not satisfactory in the overall Governance of the Council.

INTERESTED!! - Please contact Chair—Rodger Marsden (0419 717 774) and discuss how you may be able to assist by becoming a member of the team.





## Uniting Church in Australia Assembly

### Media Release

#### Free the Children – End the Abuse

The Uniting Church in Australia is calling for the immediate release of all children and their families from Australian-run immigration detention centres, after the publication today of a shocking report by the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC).

The damning report, *The Forgotten Children*, is the largest survey of children in detention ever conducted anywhere in the world. It details brutal and damaging treatment on Nauru and Christmas Island. In the 15 months to March 2014 there were 233 recorded assaults involving children and 33 incidents of reported sexual assault.

"Australia's state-sanctioned abuse of children must end," said Uniting Church President, Rev. Prof. Andrew Dutney.

"The level of mental distress and long-term harm suffered by children as a direct result of their detention is appalling. These children are losing the most important years for their growth and development and some will be scarred for life by their experiences.

"For the sake of the children, to protect them from further harm, the Government must release the children and their families, including those from Nauru, into the community," said Rev. Prof. Dutney.

Rev. Elenie Poulos, National Director of UnitingJustice Australia, says the findings of the Report are a national disgrace.

"The Report describes how children are woken every day at 11pm and 5am by guards shining a torch light in their faces as they conduct head counts. Children are being toilet trained in filthy conditions," said Rev. Poulos.

"On Christmas Island, families live in shipping containers with no room to sit or play. The children are surrounded by adults who themselves are suffering shockingly high rates of mental illness, including severe depression and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Dozens of children with physical disabilities and mental illness have received inadequate care and 100 children on Christmas Island had no education for over one year. Over 30% of children and parents interviewed described themselves as 'always sad and crying'.

"A family in which both parents and their child are profoundly deaf were denied hearing aids for seven months, so the parents couldn't hear the cries of their child," said Rev. Poulos.

"Australia is the only country in the world which imprisons children as the first, preferred option yet both the Government and Opposition have admitted that the imprisonment of children serves no 'deterrent' purpose.

"These children and their families need to be released immediately," said Rev. Poulos.

12 February 2015

Queenscliff Uniting Church, Hesse Street, Queenscliff



Wednesday, 4 March at 7:30pm



Premiere Screening of the Documentary

# ARE YOU A PILGRIM? *¿eres usted un peregrino?*



Winner of Gold Remi Award  
at **47th (2014) WorldFest-Houston, TX**  
Independent International Film Festival

Produced by: **Gian D. Ceccato, Alan Mendelshon**

Filmed & directed by: **Gian D. Ceccato**

Written by: **Alan Mendelshon**

Original music by: **Andrea Da Cortà**

Music performed by: **Pina Sabatini, Sandro del Duca and Andrea Da Cortà**

**Kay Therese Jones**, a participant in the film, will be at the show for the introduction.

Retired engineer Gian D. Ceccato at 71 years walked from Saint-Jean-Pied de Port, France to the shrine of Santiago de Compostela, Spain tomb of the apostle James. The film is the story of a journey which has changed him forever. Not only did he discover his own spiritual being, but just as important he was overwhelmed by how the people he met instilled in him faith in humanity.



[www.areyouapilgrim.com](http://www.areyouapilgrim.com)

# SacredEdge

*Spirituality in Diversity*

## Including:

- Welcome to Country & Smoking Ceremony
- Music Performances
- Interactive Art Space
- Keynote Speakers
- International Dinner
- Kid's Space
- Mindfulness Space

## Exploring:

- Living together in an enriching way.
- Newer and broader ideas about the sacred
- building inclusive community

## Focusing:

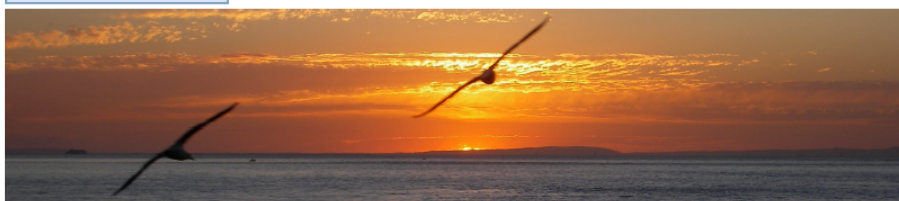
- Refugees
- Indigenous
- LGBTI
- Mindfulness
- Sustainability

a festival  
of arts, music,  
& spirituality  
Queenscliff Uniting Church  
1,2,3 May 2015

Festival Enquires: 52581986

Registration: 5258 2854  
[unitingqueenscliff@iinet.net.au](mailto:unitingqueenscliff@iinet.net.au)

[www.unitingqueenscliff.org.au](http://www.unitingqueenscliff.org.au)  
contemplation creativity compassion



## Earth Hour: The Lights-Off Event

Earth Hour started in 2007 as a lights-off event to raise awareness about climate change. It has grown to engage more than 162 countries and territories worldwide. Earth Hour is on Saturday, 28 March 2015 at 8:30 pm local time. Please consider turning your lights out then as a sign of your commitment to God's call to care for the environment.



## Songs of Praise

The **final** Songs of Praise for the year will be held on Sunday March 15th at 2pm, at the Norlane Church of Christ, 33 Eagle Parade, Norlane. All are welcome to attend this last time of praise.

## Future Monthly Newsletters

To be included in the Monthly Newsletter, please ensure your notices are at the church office by the **20<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month**. They can be dropped in to the office in a clearly marked envelope, or emailed to the office, at [office@whuc.com.au](mailto:office@whuc.com.au)

# Contact Details

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## Leadership Team:

<b>Minister:</b>	Rev. Isabel Greenall	<b>minister@whuc.com.au</b>	5250 5930
	Isabel's day off is <b>Monday</b> so please refrain from contacting her on this day.		0419 602006
<b>Church Administrator:</b>	John Matthews	<b>dotjohn1b@gmail.com</b>	5278 9491
<b>Children's Ministry Co-ordinator:</b>	Karen Morgan	<b>karen.morgan1968@hotmail.com</b>	5276 1042
<b>Pastoral Care Contact:</b>	Audrey Kateena	<b>Pastoral.Carer@gmail.com</b>	0435 064 088
<b>Church Council Chair:</b>	Rodger Marsden	<b>eagles@pipeline.com.au</b>	0419 717 774
<b>Property Co-ordinator</b>	Graeme Hardy	<b>graeme.c.hardy@gmail.com</b>	0408 630 391

## **Communications**

**Administrator:** Jan Grigg 5229 5889

## WHUC Office:

Phone: 5229 2681  
Office hours: Wed: 1.30pm - 3.30pm  
Fri : 9am – 1:00pm  
Office email: **office@whuc.com.au**  
Website: **www.whuc.com.au—under construction**  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/pages/Western-Heights-Uniting-Church/167518399975533](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Western-Heights-Uniting-Church/167518399975533)

## Vines Options:

81 Vines Road, Hamlyn Heights 5277 9461  
Opening Hours: Mon-Thurs 10am – 4pm  
Friday 10am – 1pm  
Closed Saturday & Sunday



Playgroups are held in the Horizons Room on: **Tuesday mornings and Friday mornings 9:30-11.30am.**

## **Pew Sheet**

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If anyone wishes to receive the Pew Sheet information by email each week, please give your name and email address to Jan in the office.

## **Aluminium Foil**

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The Leprosy Mission is able to raise funds from the sale of many forms of recycled aluminium foil and cans. Please assist this worthy cause by leaving your used foil in the appropriate box in the foyer.