



# Western Heights Uniting Church

31 Douglass Street, Herne Hill, 3218.

(03) 5229 2681

Email: office@whuc.com.au



Loving God: Growing Together, Partnering Community, Sharing Faith

WESTERN HEIGHTS UNITING CHURCH

## APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER

### SAFE CHURCH

Western Heights Uniting Church is committed to the safety, protection and well-being of all children and young people from all forms of abuse and neglect. We will make every effort to provide an environment of safety and support. All key leaders have completed a Working With Children Check. Western Heights UC has adopted the Synod "Keeping Children Safe" policy.

### April at a Glance

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Wednesday 2nd 12.00pm	Lenten Studies
Saturday 5th 9.30am	Shared Community Garden Working Bee
Sunday 6th 10.00am	<b>Daylight Savings Ends</b> Worship—Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i-Vaeluaga
Wednesday 9th 12.00pm	Lenten Studies
Saturday 12th 9.00am	Easter Market
Sunday 13th 10.00am	Palm Sunday—Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i-Vaeluaga
Wednesday 16th 7.00pm	Church Council Meeting
Thursday 17th 5.30pm	Maundy Thursday—Dinner
	7.00pm Tenebrae Service
Friday 18th 9.30am	Good Friday Service
Sunday 20th 10.00am	Easter Sunday—Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i-Vaeluaga Communion
Friday 25th	ANZAC Day—Office closed
Sunday 27th 10:00am	Worship—Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i-Vaeluaga



### 2025 Lenten Studies

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Come along as we continue the Lenten Studies starting with a shared lunch at **12.00pm.**

**Wednesday 2nd & 9th April.**

Please bring a plate to share and join us as we explore Lent.

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## Shared Community Garden News

The community garden provides an opportunity to engage with others in a relaxed atmosphere. Our vision is that the wider community will find a place of safety and support as we grow vegetables and relationships together.

### NEXT WORKING BEE

**SATURDAY 5th April 9.30 – 11AM**

Come when you can, leave when you have to.

Refreshments provided

The **Community Garden Task group** meets regularly to develop further ideas for engaging the community, discuss tasks in the garden and plan future planting and harvesting.

## Wondering Where Our Recycling Goes?

The combined Eco groups of WHUC, St Lukes, Wesley (and others) are taking a bus trip to a recycling plant in Laverton on **Tuesday April 29th**. There are likely to be some free spaces on the bus so please let Lynda know if you are interested in joining us!

## Sacrededge

We would very much appreciate your support for the ongoing vision of the festival and to enable us to continue to be a voice for the sacrededge, nurturing the human story with love and humility. Would you consider being a Donor for this year's festival? I encourage you to consider if you might donate \$100, \$200, \$500 or if you have the means \$1000 or more to this year's festival. Details of how to arrange a donation can be found below.

You can learn more about the Sacrededge Festival and see the evolving line up for this year at

<https://unitingqueenscliff.org.au/sacrededge-festival/>

Direct Transfer:

NAB

Account Name: Queenscliff Point Lonsdale Uniting Church

BSB: 083-825

Account Number: 515 966 867

Description: Sacrededge 2025 Donor

Cheques: Queenscliff-Point Lonsdale Uniting Church, 48 Gellibrand Street, Queenscliff 3225.

EFTPOS: via Vestry Shop Op Shop (open daily 10.30am - 4.30pm)

## Friday Fun Night

**Crazy Whist Night**

**11th April 2025 - 6.00pm**

**It is very easy to learn how to play and as we change tables it is a good opportunity to mix with others in a safe setting.**

**Bring food to share.**



## Summary of Church Council Minutes of 19th February 2025 .

- Devotions by Temukisa, Loving God - the “Ministry of Noticing” -challenging us to notice and actively care for others .
- The ability of our equipment to live stream a service into our worship space has now been confirmed. Additionally the sound system has been fitted with new speakers to improve sound quality. .
- Lynda Scott will be asking for more people to up-skill to operate the data and sound systems .
- An information board detailing Easter services has been erected at the front of the church. .
- Church Council agreed that for Temukisa’s 6 week long service leave/annual leave, we would cover our own ministry needs internally rather than apply for a presbytery supply minister. .
- The congregational secretary will purchase sympathy cards as required and be reimbursed by the treasurer. .
- Each of the “Kite flying” groups will be asked to provide a written report on their progress to the next CC meeting.
- In the event that we cannot fulfil the IT role for funerals, the funeral director will be asked to provide a suitable person. .
- The CC of St Lukes have requested an informal meeting with WHUC CC. Date to be decided. .
- A summary of the recent survey will be distributed.

## Summary of Church Council Minutes of 19th March 2025 .

- Devotions by Glenn Chidzey .
- The suggestions from our church review have been collated and discussed. The results to be published in the monthly along with the numbers of people who made the suggestions. Hard copies to be made available. The suggestions will be actioned starting with the highest numbers .
- Three of our congregation members have been nominated to join Church Council.
- Kite flying progress will be presented to the congregation at the AGM .
- A meeting with the church council of St Lukes has been held. We found it useful to gain a greater understanding of their struggles and their missional work. Another meeting has been requested. .
- The ministers report confirmed that all services to be held while Temukisa is on long service leave (5/5-15/6) will be conducted by various church members or groups within our own church, with the exception of the combined Pentecost service and the Uniting Church’s birthday service.




**Easter Market**

**12TH APRIL  
9AM -2PM**

**WESTERN HEIGHTS UNITING CHURCH  
31 DOUGLASS STREET  
HERNE HILL**

**A GREAT FAMILY DAY OUT!**

**OVER 40 STALLS, FOOD VANS, GAMES,  
SCOTTISH DANCING, LIVE MUSIC.**



**Join us at  
the Uniting  
book sale.**

**Nothing over \$1  
Children's books  
\$0.50!**

Join us at our monthly book sale.

Held the first Friday and Saturday of  
each month at Uniting Grovedale,  
the Uniting book sale raises much  
needed funds for local services.

**Friday  
4<sup>th</sup> April  
&  
Saturday  
5<sup>th</sup> April  
10am - 2pm**

272 Torquay Rd, Grovedale  
(Corner Reserve and Torquay Roads)

**Uniting**

## POSSIBILITIES/OPPORTUNITIES NOTED IN THE CHURCH LIFE SURVEY

- WORSHIP.** Possibility of merging with another congregation (3)
- Form a working group to look at a our worship space with a view to reshaping it (2)
  - Move toward a more progressive Theology, less focus on ancient Biblical texts (2)
  - Old Testament readings not helpful, should not be read (2)
  - Utilise gifts in the congregation eg dramatic reading, puppets (1)
  - The quiet space under the balcony could be mentioned in the pew sheet (1)
  - Need more progressive Theology- too many words, too many ideas (1)
  - Old Testament reading- abusive language /theme (needs sensitivity) (1)
  - A more modern approach needed, that resonates with todays Christian values (1)
  - Table group discussions- less wordy (1)
  - No more group discussions during service (1)
  - Explore our faith in small groups instead of Sunday morning (1)
  - Occasional services such as: Tennis club; Grandparents bring grandchildren (1)
  - Worship is sometimes too long- cut the early word (1)

- MUSIC.** Choice of music is important for all to participate (3)
- Give musicians a greater say in music choices and arrangements to bring a level of vibrancy and diversity (2)
  - Collaboration with musicians for creative use of music (1)
  - Learning new songs (1)
  - Support young musicians (1)

### ***The Effects of Climate Change on Wildlife and Landscapes- how do we respond faithfully to the challenge?***

The Climate Action Group of the Geelong Climate Action Group of Uniting Churches is hosting a presentation and discussion led by a senior scientist who has devoted his career to conserving Nature.

Emeritus Prof Michael Clarke (see below) will share his understanding of some of the current challenges to the natural world posed by climate change and how he, as a Christian, sees this connecting with his faith and his responsibility to care for the planet.

The presentation will be followed by time for questions and discussion.

**Date and Time:** Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May, 7:15-9pm. Music and supper also provided.

**Venue:** Western Heights Uniting Church, 31 Douglass Street Herne Hill, 3218



### **Professor Michael Clarke**



Emeritus Professor Mike Clarke is a zoologist who has studied the ecology and conservation biology of birds, reptiles, mammals, fish and plants. He leads research at La Trobe University, along with his colleagues Profs Andrew Bennett and Jim Radford into the impact of fire on fauna. He also maintains an ongoing research interest in threatened species and threatening processes. He was the Convener of the Scientific Advisory Committee on the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act* to the Victorian Minister for the Environment for five years. In 2007 he was awarded the DL Serventy Medal by the Royal Australasian

Ornithologists Union for his outstanding contribution to the scientific literature in ornithology. In 2010 he was an expert witness in fire ecology at the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission. He was the Head of the School of Life Sciences from 2011-2019. In 2014 his research on fire ecology with Prof Bennett was one of three finalists for a Eureka Prize in Environmental Research. In 2023 he was elected as a Fellow of Birdlife Australia, the highest award available in the discipline, for distinguished service to ornithology. He remains actively involved in research and ensuring conservation policy is based on the best available evidence. He recently served as a member of the Board of Directors of Parks Victoria for three and half years. He is a Fellow of ISCAST (Christianity and Science in Conversation). <https://scholars.latrobe.edu.au/mfclarke>



## MAINTENANCE AND CORRESPONDENCES.

Increased reporting to church meetings regarding church council meetings, financial status and other major happenings within the church (2)

More communication between existing groups in the church (1)

More congregational involvement in issues involving church life (1)

Consider replacing large round tables with lighter, easier to move options (1)

Let's look at the areas of future church life that we may not find easy, and consider where we can develop and grow eg a place in our survey where people can comment about what is missing or under developed (1)

It is unclear what money is available for mission (1)

The worship space is not looking its best (1)

## MISSION.

Have more morning teas with community groups- more sharing of our property (3)

We need to push on with our kite flying results (3)

The tennis club should have the opportunity to meet and get to know Temukisa. (1)

Expand the community gardens further into the local community (1)

The ideas raised have been listed in order of the number of people who raised them.

Church Council has discussed these possibilities and will start with those that have the highest numbers.

## Easter Message from Temukisa

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As we journey through the holy week 2025:

Find time to wonder and ponder as you see the unfolding of life through nature.

Find time to read and relax

Find time to pray and praise

Find time for laughter and joy

Find time for healing and hope

Enjoy the celebration of the fullness of life during this Holy Week.

### *Blessing of the Easter Garden*

Risen Christ,

as Mary Magdalene met YOU in the resurrection garden,

so may we meet you in this sacred space of birthing, growth and hope.

With you, we bless this garden,

the gardens around us, and the earth we care for.

Bless those who prepared this life giving garden, those who tend the community gardens of Western Heights Uniting Church and all who enjoy them.

Through the gifts you have given,

Inspire us to live the resurrection through our responsibility to the earth.

[adapted from Elizabeth Baxter]

Easter Blessings

Rev Temukisa Amituana'i-Vaeluaga

# Contact Details

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**Minister:** Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i – Vaeluaga  
0400 664 991

Temukisa's day off is **Monday** so please refrain from contacting her on this day.

**Church Council Chair:** Lynda Scott  
[lynda.r.scott@gmail.com](mailto:lynda.r.scott@gmail.com) 0435 050 958

**Property Co-ordinator:** Graeme Hardy  
[graeme.c.hardy@gmail.com](mailto:graeme.c.hardy@gmail.com) 0408 630 391

## Communications

**Administrator:** Jan Grigg 5229 5889

## Pastoral Care:

Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i – Vaeluaga  
0400 664 991

## WHUC Office:

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

## Parental/Guardian Permission

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In order for Western Heights to be a Safe Church, we are seeking the permission of parents or guardians to photograph or video their children during church services and other church-related activities. Permission forms are available at the back of the church. Please hand completed forms to the duty steward of the day.

## Light Globes & Batteries

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Did you know that light globes and batteries of any sort can be recycled? There is a box in the foyer near the stamps where you can leave them.

## Postage stamps

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Sammy Stamp is a part of the UCAF (Uniting Church Adult Fellowship) that collects postage stamps, sells them and then provides grants for small projects not covered in the Synod Budget. There is a box in the foyer for you to put your used stamps. If you could cut around your stamp leaving 5mm of paper that would be helpful.

## Future Monthly Newsletters

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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)

## Eco Group

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The Eco Group has started an Eco Books library, in the entry foyer. Please borrow books and if you have good books on the subject, you would be willing to share, see Bruce W.

## With Love To The World

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Used With Love to the World booklets can be left in the marked drawer in the recycling material box in the foyer.

## 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.

## Milk Bottle Tops

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We are collecting plastic **milk** bottle tops with St. Joseph's College. You can leave your milk bottle tops in the foyer for recycling.

## Uniting Church Safe Church Policies

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Access to key Safe Church policies is available on: [safechurch.ucavictas.org.au](http://safechurch.ucavictas.org.au)