

Toorak Uniting Church

Update: 13 December, 2015

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Still thinking—A knock on the head—by Christopher Page



Well I am still thinking even after having 16 staples in my head. I am recovering well and am very grateful for the many well-wisher cards both Anne and I have received. I have a large haematoma on the left side of my head but I have been assured by the experts that it will recede in the next few weeks.

My real disappointment is missing Christmas at TUC. We have built a strong programme over the last few years and it is such a pleasure to be a part of it. But it pays to be reminded that life does not always travel in straight lines, nor is it as predictable as we sometimes think. My first spiritual director said to me many years ago, “Chris, the day you realize that life is neither fair nor controllable is the day you step into maturity.”

Those in the Buddhist tradition could teach us much about this. The more we are attracted to the outcomes of our own choosing the greater we suffer. For many in the Christian tradition this is counter intuitive. We spend much of our life and energy constructing a purposeful life that will meet particular requirements.

But more recent Christian wisdom has encouraged us to let go of our desired outcomes and embrace what life has to offer us. I have always found, Shannon L. Alder’s wisdom helpful. She once said, “Before you can live, a part of you has to die. You have to let go of what could have been, how you should have acted and what you wish you would have said differently. You have to accept that you can’t change the past experiences, opinions of others at that moment in time or outcomes from their choices or yours. When you finally recognize that truth then you will understand the true meaning of forgiveness of yourself and others. From this point you will finally be free.”

Welcome to Toorak Uniting Church

We welcome all people irrespective of race, religion, political views, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, or age. Wherever you are on your faith journey, wherever you have come from and wherever you are going to; whatever you believe, whatever you do not believe, you are welcome here at Toorak Uniting Church.

Please come and join us after the service for fellowship and a cup of tea or coffee.

We warmly welcome Rev Wal Baker, who is leading our service today.

Sunday 24 Jan. @ 9.30am

Special music service. Visiting musicians from Denmark, Dorte Zielke (trumpet) and Søren Johannsen (organ), will play excerpts from Bach's St Matthew Passion, while religious paintings by Dane Arne Haugen Sørensen are projected onto a screen.

TUC's Email address & Website

Please note that our email address and website have changed. Please update your contacts to reflect our new email as: office@toorakuc.org.au and the website as www.toorakuc.org.au

A message from Lois Walker

My greetings to everybody. I am swimming every day and feeling very well, but my eyes have reached the stage where I can't read or write. So please—accept this as a Christmas card to all the congregation. Best wishes, Lois.

Planned Giving Envelopes for 2016 are available at the back of the Church after this morning's service. Please pick up your set. If you would like to join the Planned Giving Stewardship Programme of TUC, please contact Stan Laugher on 9813 5242 or email stanlaugher@acslink.net.au.

In our thoughts and prayers:

Rev. Christopher Page, recovering from a head injury, and Anne. Christopher is being medically monitored and he and Anne are very grateful for all your good wishes and cards.

Glenda Benness who has been unwell.

Kinross: CAFÉ OPEN TODAY!

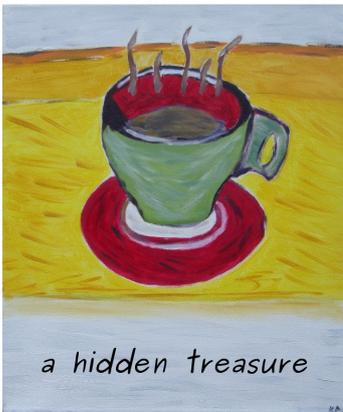
➤ *Corner of our Eden* by Tea Ercoles on until Wed. 15 Dec. All works for sale.

➤ 2016: Angela Abbott's *For the Beauty of the Earth* exhibition is a retrospective of her long painting career, featuring new work inspired by TiS Hymn 137.

➤ Thank you to everyone who attended our End of Year Morning Tea. Congratulations to Raffle winners: Angela Abbott and Lynne Kells.

➤ Henry Dobson and Jan Prislín-Planinc

both head overseas to work and travel. We wish them well and thank them for their contribution to the cultural life of Kinross and TUC. For Studio enquiries please call 9829 0340.



TUC Worship Program for Summer 2015 / 2016

20 Dec.	Advent 4	10.15am communion service
24 Dec.	Christmas Eve	6.30pm Family Carols in the Courtyard 8.00pm Christmas Eve Music Service Camille Saint-Saëns <i>Christmas Oratorio</i>
25 Dec.	Christmas Day	**10.00am** Christmas Worship Service
27 Dec.		Summer worship series begins: 9.30am service each Sunday 27 Dec 2015—31 Jan 2016
03 Jan.		9.30am service includes combined Stonnington UCA churches
24 Jan.		9.30am Special Music service with visiting Danish musicians
06 Feb.		Regular 9.00am and 10.15am services recommence for 2016.

TUC Office closed 25 Dec.—26 Jan. inclusive.

Kinross Arts Centre closed 19 Dec.—26 Jan. inclusive.

Visiting preachers:

20 Dec.	10.15am	Coralie Ling
24 Dec.	6.30pm & 8.00pm	Morag Thorne
25 Dec.	10.00am	Jim Donaldson
27 Dec.	9.30am	Jim Donaldson
03 Jan.	9.30am	Mary Williams
10 Jan.	9.30am	Mary Williams
17 Jan.	9.30am	John Edwards
24 Jan.	9.30am	John Edwards
31 Jan.	9.30am	Wal Baker
07 Feb.	9.00am & 10.15am	Peter Beale
14 Feb.	9.00am & 10.15am	Peter Beale

