



Toorak Uniting Church

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Re-Thinking: The Family at War by Christopher Page

I am the first male in my family for four generations who has not gone to war. My great-grandfather was in the British army in South Africa. He fought in the Boer War and I have his service medals listing the battles in which he fought. My grandfather enlisted in 1941 at the age of 39 to fight in World War II. He spent eighteen months in Bougainville. As a child I asked him what it was like to be in the war in New Guinea. All I remember him saying was that it was very boring and that he didn't have a dry pair of socks for eighteen months. His brothers had all, at some point in their lives, been in the army.

My father joined the Navy in 1950 and served in the Korean War on the Tribal Class Destroyer HMAS Arunta. For two years he was stationed in Japan, and I was four years old when he returned to live permanently in Australia. During that time my mother, sister and I lived with my father's parents. My father had been away for so long that I called my grandfather "Dad" and continued calling him Dad until his death. My father's brother was also in the navy for several years.

The closest I came to enlistment was in 1972 when I was twenty years of age and there was National Conscription to support the Vietnam War. I recall the day the lottery of birthdays was announced on the radio. I was working as a cadet land surveyor in Queensland, and I listened as the birth dates of those who were called up were read out. They began in January and picking the dates from a lottery machine moved toward my birthday, April 10. As it got closer I could feel myself holding my breath. I was pretty sure I didn't want to fight in Vietnam. It wasn't that I was so politically aware of the situation; I suspect for me it was more personal. I had no desire to subject myself to the military way of life. I had had a brief time in my school's Army Cadet Corp and that was disastrous. The lottery passed my birthday and I breathed a sigh of relief.

Since then I have reflected on my understanding of war as a Christian minister. I am not a pacifist; I do believe there is a time for resisting violence with violence. However, I suspect that violence is used far too often when wisdom demands diplomacy and peaceful strategies. It is also imperative that we take seriously Jesus' command to "love your enemy." By that I think he means to love them before you get to the stage of violence. If we loved our enemies around the world now, maybe we would not have to go to war later. And of course, at the most practical level, war causes irreparable damage on human and non-human levels.

That's why we say, "Lest we Forget." The reason I remember and celebrate ANZAC Day is so that I will **not** forget the cost of war. It is a way to respect those who have died and support those who have lost loved ones, and to imagine a world without violence.

Following the remembrance service at 10:15am **TODAY**, all are welcome to join in a **special morning tea** in the Faichney room.

Kinross Special Events:

April 30 Ceilidh tickets still available. Please bring your friends. You don't need to dance as the Ceilidh band is first class and worth the price of the ticket. If you are coming bring some cash as there will be drinks to buy and we have great prizes to be raffled. Tickets can be purchased at the Kinross Office or online at www.trybooking.com/KOTE. Enquiries to Nina Mumford.

Ceilidh Program:

4-5.45pm: Music, Dancing and Song with MC Colin MacLeod and Dance Caller Matthew Robertson and his Ceilidh Band

5.45-6.30pm: Light Refreshments (Scottish Fare); Raffle Tickets

6.30-8pm Music, Dancing, Raffle Announcement; Final Dance (Strip the Willow)
Proudly supported by The House of Scotland & Rob's British & Irish Butchery & Colin Macleod - Celtic Fiddle Guru

Diary Dates

| | | | |
|------------|-------------|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Tue 26 Apr | 10.00am | Funeral—Anne Parratt | Church |
| Wed 27 Apr | 6.30 / 7.45 | Hand Bell rehearsal | Wettenhall Rm |
| Sat 30 Apr | 4-8pm | Kinross fundraising Scottish Dance | Hall |
| Sun 01 May | 11.45am | After-church discussion | Faichney Rm |
| Mon 02 May | 11.00am | Fellowship Coffee | Faichney Rm |
| Wed 04 Apr | 6.30 / 7.45 | Hand Bell rehearsal | Wettenhall Rm |
| Wed 04 Apr | 8.00pm | Finance Committee | Minister's Annex |
| Fri 06 May | 4.00pm | IT Committee | Office Annex |
| Mon 09 May | 10.30am | Drop in Card Day | Faichney Room |
| Tue 10 May | 12.00pm | Prayers for Christian Unity | Church |
| Wed 11 May | 10.00pm | Elders Meeting | Wettenhall Rm |
| Wed 11 May | 12.00pm | Prayers for Christian Unity | Swedish Church |
| Wed 11 Apr | 6.30 / 7.45 | Hand Bell rehearsal | Wettenhall Rm |
| Thu 12 May | 12.00pm | Prayers for Christian Unity | St John's |
| Thu 12 May | 12.00pm | Toorak Ecumenical Movement | St John's |
| Fri 13 May | 12.00pm | Prayers for Christian Unity | St Peter's |
| Sun 15 May | 2.00pm | Organ Concert—Peter Collins | Church |
| Sun 15 May | 7.00pm | TEM Pentecost Service | |

Peter Collins Memorial Organ Recital

Sunday 15 May 2016, 2pm

Toorak Uniting Church

Colin Andrews (USA)

Jennifer Chou (Melbourne)

Works for 4 hands including Variations on an Easter Theme by John Rutter, works by Bach, Bonnet, Bruhns, Tomkins and others

Organ recital tickets available on www.trybooking.com/KWIG

Time for Fellowship

Due to public holidays, the next 2 Fellowship Morning Coffee dates are:

May 02 and May 30, at 11:00 am. Everyone welcome.

Details from Lenore N. or Jean A.



Kinross Exhibitions:

Tempering the Iconic

Organised by the Byzantine Art School of Melbourne the exhibition features icons

made by the school's lead teacher, Anna Prifti and her students.



After-Church discussion Sunday, May 1 from 11:45am -12:30pm. The Nicene Creed is a profession of faith widely used in Christian liturgy. It was originally adopted in the city of Nicaea (present day Iznik, Turkey) by the First Council of Nicaea in 325AD. The discussion will focus on its relevance for today.

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.



HIGH LINE
active

Physiotherapy Exercise

www.highlineactive.com.au
Ph: 0409998967



**New Clinical exercise classes
with a Physiotherapist**
have begun at TUC.

Within each class, exercises are adapted to your specific medical and musculoskeletal needs.

Classes may be suitable as rehabilitation following illness or surgery.

Health fund rebates may apply as this program is delivered under the guidance of a Physiotherapist.

Tuesday mornings 9.30, 10.30 & 11.30am &
Thursday afternoons 1.00, 2.00 & 3.00pm.

**Please call Nicole for more details:
0409 998 967.**

“STAY FIT & WELL FOR A GREAT LIFE “

Strength Circuit // Complete Barre // Balance

Physiotherapy exercise | Small Groups | 45mins

Strength Circuit:

Increase your strength and conditioning safely with a mix of body weight, free weights and band strengthening.

Complete Barre:

Integrates elements of Pilates, dance, cardio and strength training to increase flexibility, stamina and dynamic stability.

Balance:

Gain a more solid footing through a combination of leg strength, flexibility and balance challenge.

Within each class exercises are adapted to your specific medical and musculoskeletal needs. Classes may be suitable as rehabilitation following illness or surgery.

Health fund rebates apply as this program is delivered under the guidance of a Physiotherapist.

Location:

Classes run at Toorak Uniting Church (TUC)
603 Toorak Road, Toorak 3142
