



Toorak Uniting Church

Update: 15 May 2016



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Still Thinking: The Bamboo and the Oak Tree by Christopher Page



“Once there were two men who found themselves in the open air confronted by an oncoming storm. Perplexed as to where they would shelter and avoid the force of the wind and rain they each decided on a different course.

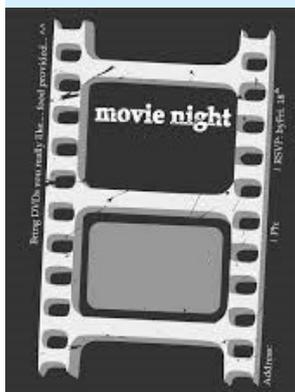
The first man saw a large old oak tree in the distance. He headed for the tree and sheltered under its branches. The second man observed a thick bamboo grove. He high tailed it to seek shelter in among the strong shards of Bamboo. The wind and the rain became more fierce than each man had expected. The first lashed himself to the oak tree while the second man tied himself to the bamboo.

The wind howled and rain pelted down; so furious was the storm that the old oak tree was uprooted and sadly crushed the man sheltering there. The second man while bruised and battered by the torrent, swayed and bent with the movement of the bamboo. The wind and rain abated and the man survived.”

The story does have a twin message. There are times in life when strength and stability, like the oak tree are necessary. But there are also times when we need flexibility to “go with the flow” or to adapt to new and changing conditions. Presently, the Christian Church needs the second, the flexibility of the shards of bamboo. Standing firm as we always have, like an oak tree, will not give us the opportunity to experience a new way of Christian faith in our world.

The old saying is adapt or die. That may sound rather harsh, but history has shown us the truth of those words. Yet most importantly, change is something that comes from within. We need the capacity and encouragement to change our minds, our hearts and our lives. Viktor E. Frankl, the Austrian psychiatrist and holocaust survivor said, “When we are no longer able to change a situation - we are challenged to change ourselves.” I think it is almost always about inner change. That’s the message of the Christian gospel. St Paul in his letter to the church at Rome wrote, “Don’t be shaped by the world around you, but may your mind be transformed and renewed so that you may discern what is good, acceptable and the perfect way of God. (Romans 12:2)

TUC Film Night next Sunday!



We warmly invite all congregation members (and friends of the congregation, as well as new friends) to TUC's first youth-led movie night and discussion. We will be screening the film *Electrick Children* (written and directed by Rebecca Thomas, who was nominated for the Someone to Watch Award at the 2013 Independent Spirit Awards) in the Faichney Room on Sunday May 22, with tea and coffee being offered from 5pm and a 5:30 show time. There will be pizza served after the movie, followed by a group discussion about the film, how it resonated with you and how you see it as connected (or not connected) to your faith.

While this is a youth-led event, we hope that people of all ages and backgrounds will be keen to attend, to both experience the film and offer their thoughts and perspectives in the discussion afterwards. If you're not sure whether the film or the event as a whole is for you, feel free to talk to Anna Field, Kristen Field, McKenzie Duncan, or Chris Page to get a better idea of what the film is like and what we're hoping to achieve with this inaugural event. We'd also love to hear what you'd like

Diary Dates

Sun	15 May	2.00pm	Organ Concert—Peter Collins	Church
Thu	19 May	10.00am	Morning Group	Faichney Room
Sun	22 May	5.00pm	TUC Film Night	Faichney Room
Sun	22 May	7.00pm	Trinity Sunday Ecumenical Service	St John's
Tue	24 May	evening	Dance Class Formal night	Hall
Wed	25 May	evening	Dance Class Formal night	Hall
Sun	29 May	11.45am	After Church Discussion	Faichney Room

Time for Fellowship

Morning Coffee on May 30, at 11:00 am.

All welcome. Details from Lenore N. or Jean A.

Retreat *Attention to the Heart and Soul*. June 4th & 5th.

Contemplation, Meditation, Centering Prayer.

At the Centre for Ecology and Spirituality, Glenburn.

Brochure in the foyer, please see Chris Page for more information.



TODAY's morning tea after the 10.15 service will be held in in Kinross House, followed by an icon demonstration and talk by Byzantine School of Iconography director Anna Prifti. 11.30-1.00. All welcome. Gold coin donation.

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

After Church Discussion

May 29th @ 11.45am

Our Affirmations and Attributes



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.

BRINGING JESUS TO PRISONERS

Rev Paul Gill, formerly of St Phillips, was a chaplain in WA prisons for 10 years. His new book *Opening The Doors : A Prison Chaplain's Life On The Inside* shows us what being in prison is really like – both for the prisoners and the chaplain.

During the time when Paul Gill was struggling to get this book published, he felt God speaking to him saying, *“This is a good thing you are doing. You are giving a voice to the most disadvantaged in society – prisoners.”*

With such encouragement, he stepped out in faith. The result was a book filled with real accounts of prison life, observations about our prison system and examples of how Jesus is moving in the lives of prisoners.

Creatively designed, presented in colour and selling at \$24.95, *Opening The Doors : A Prison Chaplain's Life On The Inside* is available from the Koorong website. <https://www.koorong.com/search/product/opening-the-doors-paul-gill/9780994396105.jhtml> .



U3A Stonnington provides ongoing learning for older people in Stonnington and nearby suburbs. Skilled informal tuition is provided, with no exams, tests or assignments. All activities, from syllabus setting, to lecturing, to setting out the chairs, are carried out by volunteers. U3A Stonnington is a member of the international U3A network, a self-help organization begun in France in the 1970s. The year is divided into two semesters with a new program each semester. All course sessions are held at Orrong Road unless stated otherwise. A Newsletter, Course List, and Enrolment Form are published in January and June.

We are open for enquiries from 10 am to 1 pm Monday to Friday, but closed on all Public Holidays.



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Phone 9500 1288 - messages can be left out of hours. Fax 9500 0838. You can also use the website's [Contact us](#) form to leave a message.

U3A Stonnington is three doors from High Street at 578 Orrong Road, Armadale. Public transport:

- Bus 220 in Orrong Road
- Tram 6 in High Street
- Tram 72 in Malvern Road
- Train to Toorak and Armadale Stations

U3A
STONNINGTON
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE