



Toorak Uniting Church

Update 10 July 2016



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Still thinking: Holding it gently — Christopher Page

Fr Anthony deMello an Indian Jesuit tells the following story:



A young novice priest complained to the novice master that Br Joseph always went to sleep during early morning prayers. Irritated by Br Joseph's lack of attention he asked the master what he should do about it. "Take his head and put it on your lap so that he is more comfortable," replied the master.

The story reminds me that our ministry should be judged by how we "hold" one another. I think sometimes there is not enough gentleness in our expression of our Christian faith. We can hold our beliefs with a clenched fist or with an open hand. We can be judgmental of those within our congregation or we can be hospitable and forgiving. Perhaps we should hold our faith, beliefs and each other the same way we would hold a small bird in our hand, gently yet firmly.

Some years ago Anne and I were in Margaret River. While there we stayed at a small farmhouse about four kilometres from the centre of the town. On the morning after we arrived we sat on the verandah and watched the small blue wrens hopping and flittering on the grass in front of us. Seeing these little birds dancing with delight was a beautiful sight. When a crow or larger bird would appear they would run and hide under a large grass tree, when the danger was gone out they came to resume their daily activities.

It is not surprising that one of the most persistent metaphors for the Spirit of God and for the spiritual life in the Bible and religious literature is the bird. The image of flight and the sheer beauty and gracefulness of birds captures our imaginations and can lift our souls when we are pressed down heavily with worry. The words of Jesus in Matthew 6:26 draw their power from the world of birds, *"Consider the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns and yet your heavenly father feeds them. Are you not of more value than them?"* Of course in one sense we are not more valuable than the birds of the air. We actually need them more than they need us. But the point is that by observing these wonderful

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.

creatures the worries in our lives can be minimalised and we can hear a “sermon” more eloquent than one from the greatest of human preachers.

Emily Dickenson has reflected on the image of the bird in her poem “HOPE”

*Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul,
And sings the tune--without the words,
And never stops at all,

And sweetest in the gale is heard;
And sore must be the storm
That could abash the little bird
That kept so many warm.

I've heard it in the chillest land,
And on the strangest sea;
Yet, never, in extremity,
It asked a crumb of me.*

Update on Outcome of TUC Election Day Fete.

Once again the weather was kind to us and only one brief shower marred an otherwise rain free day. Total financial results were down on the last Federal Election with \$5,233 being raised from the stalls.

We always knew the time of year and the cold weather would have an impact on the number of people prepared to linger and browse after voting. However, we still sold out of cakes and preserves, did well on the sale of 2nd hand books and sold the same number of snags as previously.

Sales were lower across bric a brac, craft & sewing and busking as people failed to linger due to the cold weather. Feedback received is that we possibly could have sold more produce at the cakes and preserves stall as people were looking for more sweet cakes, biscuits and jams. The electoral commission have also confirmed total voters through the booth was 500 lower than the last election due to an increase in pre and postal voting.

Many thanks to all who donated ingredients and made produce for sale, who donated items, who lent us umbrellas and gazebos, who gave their time assisting with setting up, who worked on the stalls and last but not least, helped with the packing up after we called it a day at about 3:30pm.

It was a long day for many of us but once again a worthwhile fund raising event for TUC.

Cakes & Jams stall: Lyn McAlister would like to warmly thank everyone who contributed delicious jams chutneys, cakes and biscuits as well as those who gave their time and energy to help on the day. It all contributed to a very good result.

WANTED: Good quality, modern children's clothes, toys, books, sporting goods, etc to assist a young couple about to become foster parents to children whose ages will range from 1-16 years. As they do not have children of their own, this couple would be extremely grateful for help setting up their home to welcome and share with young people. Donations via Kimberly in the Office. **Thank you!**

2016 Congregation Directory

Forms are available at the rear of the Church today.

If you wish to be included in the latest edition of the Directory, please **complete a form or notify the office via email**—even if your contact details have not changed. Thanks.



Defibrillator Familiarisation Sessions



TUC has recently acquired an Automated External Defibrillator for use in cardiac emergencies.

Gary Percy, Director of Beauregard First Aid, is providing three AED familiarisation sessions which you are welcome to attend.

The sessions are not expected to last longer than an hour.

TODAY, 10 July at 9.45am and 11.15am in the Hall

Wednesday 13 July at 3.00pm in the Wettenhall Room

Gary will cover how to respond in such emergencies, performing CPR, when and how to use the defibrillator and the recording of incident information.

We hope you are able to attend one of these valuable sessions.

Diary Dates

Mon	11 Jul	10.30am	Drop in card day	Faichney Room
Tue	12 Jul	3.00pm	Property Committee	Wettenhall Room
Wed	13 Jul	6.00pm	JMK AGM	Faichney Room
Thu	14 Jul	7.30pm	Finance Committee	Faichney Room
Sun	17 Jul	11.45am	Interment—Anne Parratt	Memorial Garden
Fri	22 Jul	7.30pm	Patricia Begg China travels lecture	Faichney Room
Thu	11 Aug	7.45pm	Toorak Ecumenical Council	TUC



The topic for our next Fellowship Morning Coffee discussion is "Obsolete Expressions". So 'put your thinking caps on'! Please join us on 25 July at 11.00am in the Faichney Room.

Kinross

Indelible is the next upcoming exhibition. Presented by Anita Traynor Fine Art this exhibition features paintings by young Australian artist, Laura Matthews. Opens on Thursday 21st July at 6pm - 8pm. Drinks and Q & A with the artist. All welcome. On display until August 5th. Please come over and meet Anita Traynor who will be assisting at Kinross on weekday mornings.

Cafe

The Cafe will re-open with warmth and flair tomorrow!

Music Service: next Sunday, 17 July at 10:15am

Bach Cantata "Ich habe genug" (I have enough) BWV 82 by J.S. Bach

Guest Soloists: Allegra Giagu (Mezzo-Soprano), Anne Gilby (Oboe)

The cantata "Ich habe genug" was among Bach's favorites, he revisited it on at least three further occasions, revising the scoring and transposing the music for different voice types. The gospel for the Feast which the cantata was written for, taken from Luke - "And there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ." The cantata contains three arias: a poignant gravely beautiful movement that treats the end of Simeon's long life with a mixture of melancholy and resignation; a profound lullaby both for the death of Simeon but also for the sleeping Christ child; and the third is a joyous and triumph aria.

Lady White Memorial Organ Recital: Sunday, 14 August at 2:00pm

An all Bach recital by Paul Dean (London):

Fantasia & Fugue in G minor (BWV 542)

"Herr Jesu Christ, dich uns zu wend" (BWV 655)

"O Mensch, bewein dein Sünde groß" (BWV 659)

Trio Sonata V (BWV 529)

"Allein Gott in der Hoh sei Ehr" (BWV 662)

Prelude & Fugue in E minor "The Wedge" (BWV 548)

Paul Dean is the Director of Music at St Michael's Church, Highgate and Deputy Director of Music at 'The Hall', Hampstead – one of the leading boys' preparatory schools in London. He's had considerable success in international competitions over the years, winning the Third International Organ Competition in Biarritz, the 1997 Royal College of Organists Performer of the Year Competition and the First International Organ Competition in Warsaw. In 2009 he undertook his first solo concert tour of Australia to critical acclaim and is delighted to be back making a return visit!

TICKETS AVAILABLE at <https://www.trybooking.com/LNVX> or

<http://www.toorakuc.org.au/music-sermons/concerts/>