



Toorak Uniting Church

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office@toorakuc.org.au
www.toorakuc.org.au

Phone: 9829 0300
Sunday services 9am & 10.15am



Still Thinking: Moving House — Christopher Page

Many will know that Anne and I have sold our house in Doncaster East and we are moving into the Gardiner manse near the corner of Malvern and Burke Rds. The morning and evening commute will be less tiresome but more importantly, we will be in the Stonnington community and closer to TUC. We are looking forward to taking advantage of being closer in particular so that we are able to offer hospitality to those at TUC. But before that happens we need to move! Not a pleasant experience, nevertheless something that must be done to bring about the change we are looking for. So Anne and I are away from TUC this weekend as we begin the packing and preparation for our move.

Like some in the congregation I have moved a lot in my life. My first 17 years was spent in the same house, 91 Lindwall St. Upper Mt Gravatt in Brisbane. But then came the moving. When I was 21 I was living in Canterbury Rd next to Toorak Village. Then back to Brisbane to study for the ministry. After graduating I was called to Canterbury Baptist Church on the corner of Canterbury and Balwyn Rds. After four years with my wife and three children I headed for Ontario Canada. Ten years later we returned to Melbourne.

And there were moves in-between those life markers. To be honest moving was more exciting when I was younger. I am sure it is natural to want to settle down in one place as we get older. Moving to another suburb or another country has a twofold effect on our lives. First, there is an uncomfortable destabilization. Significant change in our lives is seldom easy. As physical human beings we seek what some have called, homeostasis. That is, “keeping things constant”. The word comes from two Greek words: 'homeo,' meaning 'similar,' and 'stasis,' meaning 'stable.' A more formal definition of homeostasis is a characteristic of a system that regulates its internal environment and tends to maintain a stable, relatively constant condition of properties. Homeostasis is used most often in relation to our body's capacity to seek and maintain balance and equilibrium within our internal environment, even when faced with external changes. Moving house disturbs that balance and equilibrium and that can be uncomfortable.

But obviously we are always in a state of change and the only way forward comes when we are challenged to disrupt our need for stability. Without a willingness to face uncertainty and insecurity, we will stagnate and atrophy. Of course we don't need to move house to face change in our lives. Those opportunities come to us just from the living of each day. And it is in daily life that we can experience the benefits of being open to change.

Our new address is 253A Burke Rd Glen Iris. A place and home for Anne and myself to continue our journey in life and faith.

Special Event Fri. 2 Dec. 2.30-4.30pm ADVENT OPEN HOUSE. Be sure to book for this opportunity to visit a lovely 1879 home in Toorak and view a rare ceramic collection accompanied by a gourmet afternoon tea and open garden. This event would make a great Christmas gift for a friend or family member. All funds raised contribute to the Cultural and Outreach Program at Kinross Arts Centre in 2017. Tickets from Kinross or via Try Booking: <https://trybooking.com/NRAL>.

The **Kinross Studio Artists** will show their recent work from Dec. 1-16. Opening Sun. 4 Dec. 3-5pm. Please come and see what's being made in our Studio Program. Items range from paintings to contemporary jewellery.



This morning we welcome Mary Williams as she leads our worship. A member of the Civil Celebrants

Graduate Association, Mary holds a Theology degree from Melbourne College of Divinity. From her website, *“To recognise what is happening to us, and pause to do so, is to make the moment significant.”*

~ Dorothy McRae-McMahon

In our thoughts and prayers:

The people of the USA—that unity might transcend division.

End of year Celebration and Thank You Morning Tea, Thu. 8 Dec. 10.30am-12pm in the Hodges Gallery. Morning tea, entertainment, raffle prizes and the fellowship of Kinross supporters.

Food for Friends—Fri. Dec. 2 - Sun. Dec. 11 An Ecumenical Community Project. This appeal is divided into two-hour shifts. Two volunteers per shift attend the Hawksburn Safeway and Toorak Village Woolworths supermarkets to accept customers’ donated grocery items. It usually collects over \$40,000 worth of groceries distributed to front-line charities such as Uniting Church Connections. We would very much appreciate it if you could volunteer your time for one or more shifts:

Woolworths Toorak Village

Fri 2 Dec	9am -11am	11am -1pm	1pm - 3pm	3 pm - 5pm	5 pm - 7pm	7pm - 9pm
Sun 4 Dec			12pm -2pm	2pm - 4pm	4pm - 6pm	6pm - 8pm
Wed 7 Dec	9am -11am	11am -1pm	1pm - 3pm	3 pm - 5pm	5 pm - 7pm	7pm - 9pm
Sat 10 Dec			1pm - 3pm	3 pm - 5pm	5 pm - 7pm	

Safeway Hawksburn

Sat 3 Dec	9am -11am	11am -1pm				
Mon 5 Dec	9am -11am	11am -1pm	1pm - 3pm	3 pm - 5pm	5 pm - 7pm	7pm - 9pm
Thu 8 Dec	9am -11am	11am -1pm	1pm - 3pm	3 pm - 5pm	5 pm - 7pm	7pm - 9pm
Sat 10 Dec	9am -11am	11am -1pm				

We also need drivers to transport the groceries from Hawksburn to TUC at 12:00pm, 4:00pm and before the end of the day’s collecting period.

Please add your name to the sign up board at church or contact Barbara McKinnon directly: 9885 3031 | 0405 987 890 | barbara.mckinnon@bigpond.com.

Half day retreat: TUC, Sat. 26 Nov. 9:30-10am refreshments. 10am-12:30pm reflection and discussion on the topic, "Seeing Advent with new eyes." An opportunity to hear how Christmas and the season of spiritual preparation before Christmas can impact on our lives and world around us. All welcome, No cost.



Thank you very much to all the members of the congregation who brought along a

plate to share for the Grandparents' Day special morning tea. There was a wonderful array of tempting treats savoured by all who attended. Thank you particularly to Christine Brown and Hilary Hall for all their work in the kitchen, to Lenore for laundering the table cloths and to Barbara for organising this lovely fellowship occasion.

Toorak Ecumenical Covenant

warmly invites you all to the Advent Service on Sunday 27th November at 7pm at St Peter's Church. Preacher: Rev Gunnar Olofsgard.

Wanted please: donations towards the purchase of some pots and plants for the newly enhanced courtyard area. Donate via Pamela, Nina, Jon or the Office. **Thanks!**

Fellowship Morning Coffee Mon. 28 Nov. at 10.30am in the Faichney Room. Please make a special effort to come because this will be our last gathering. ☹️ Discussion: "A Snake Story!"

Felicity Parkinson recently visited Padhar, India, and saw Stuti whom she helped almost 5 years ago, following separation from her conjoined twin sister. Joined at the chest and abdomen, twin Aradhana sadly died following the operation. Working at the time as an Occupational Therapist in India, Felicity and the carers she educated helped young Stuti learn to lie on her tummy, roll over, sit up, feed herself, and ultimately stand and walk. Following their recent reunion, Felicity is pleased to report that Stuti is doing very well and "apart from the defect in the centre of her chest, where her heart can be seen beating through where her sternum should be, Stuti's development has not been hindered by her unique start in life." Congratulations to Stuti, Felicity and the team of Indian and Australian surgeons who made this possible.



Drop-in Card Day on 12 Dec. has been **CANCELLED** and the group will not be continuing in 2017.

Sincere thanks to Jean Allison for providing this wonderful fellowship opportunity for such a long time and to all who have supported the group over the years.

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.

Call for Volunteers: Helen Harper is a friend of Nairn Taylor's from the 1970s/80s. Now in her late 70s, Helen recently had to move to Elsternwick after her home in Richmond was badly vandalised. With failing health and eyesight, Helen is looking for 2 volunteers—the first to help with reading paperwork, help filling out Tax Returns and applying for a Health Care Card. If available, the second would be physical in nature—to help move furniture and other items from Richmond to Elsternwick. If you are able (or know someone who is able) to assist, please contact Helen on 0416 653 267 or via email on helen.m.harper@hotmail.com



Sun. 4 Dec. John Macrae Centre

Presentation: All are welcome to an after-church coffee and illustrated talk by JMC Director, Katrina Szabo, and Chair Netta McArthur. Discover the variety of activities taking place each week, led by the talented staff, and find out about the new Uniting Single Agency Board structure.

Church Fundraising Stall!

Sunday 11 December.

Please purchase some of our delicious home made goodies.

Sunday 18 December, 3.30pm at TUC, Opera Su Presto presents *Les Liasons Misesérables*, starring TUC's very own Stephen Carolane! Supporting Music for David.

Users of church property (including rooms, tables, chairs, crockery, PA etc) must make arrangements through the Office. This also includes any requests of James please. This is especially important for managing multiple events on the church property, and critical at busy times in the TUC calendar.

Diary Dates

Sun	20 Nov	9 & 10.15	Mary Williams preaching	
Tue	22 Nov	2.00pm	Elders meeting	Wettenhall Room
Thu	24 Nov	10.00	Prayers for Christian Unity	St Peter's
Sat	26 Nov	10-12.30	Retreat "Seeing Advent with new eyes"	
Sun	27 Nov	9 & 10.15	Advent 1	Church
Sun	27 Dec	7.00pm	TEC Advent Service	St Peter's
Mon	28 Nov	10.30am	Final Fellowship Morning Coffee	Faichney Room
Fri	02 Dec	2.30-4.30	Kinross Advent House Opening	TBA
Sun	04 Dec	9 & 10.15	Advent 2	Church
Sun	04 Dec	11.30	JMC presentation	Faichney Room
Sun	11 Dec	9 & 10.15	Advent 3 & Communion (date change)	Church
Sun	18 Dec	9 & 10.15	Lessons and Carols service	Church
Sat	24 Dec	6.00pm	Family Carols in the Courtyard	Courtyard
Sat	24 Dec	8.00pm	Australian Christmas Carols Service	Church
Sun	25 Dec	10.00am	Christmas Day Service	Church

Services in January are at 9.30am.