

Toorak Uniting Church

Update 02 December 2018

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Phone: 9829 0300
Sunday services 9am & 10.15am

Still Thinking — Coming and Becoming — Christopher Page



Today is the first Sunday in Advent. Advent as a liturgical season of the church years is probably lost on many because it is eclipsed by Christmas. While we all complain about Christmas carols being played from mid-November in the shopping centres and supermarkets we visit, nevertheless there remains a “magic” about the Christmas event. In my experience that comes from my childhood. I loved Christmas and have memories of trying to sleep Christmas Eve excited with anticipation of what I would get for Christmas. Oh dear, it really was more about getting than giving.

The word Advent means coming. In the classic sense it is a time of waiting with anticipation and reflection of the coming feast of the Nativity – the birth of the child who will be named by his followers as Messiah. Advent like Lent reminds us that everything important must be preceded by a period of creating waiting – a time of personal reflection so that we enter more fully into the celebration before us.

So what do we reflect on in Advent? During Lent recently I decided to stray from the traditional giving up chocolate etc (although I never have been one for denying myself.) Rather I decided I would do something different and write a poem on each of the 40 days of Lent. I think I ended up with about 24 poems. I turned off the inner critic and just wrote a stream of consciousness about whatever was in front of me at the time. It was a very good experience. I reflected on life, death, seasons, people and the natural world. The poems were not for public consumption, but a personal journey through the Lenten terrain.

Advent is equally a time of reflection and inner contemplation. A preparation for the coming of the feast of the Nativity.

Christopher

Come Celebrate Christmas with us!

December 9

10:15am Nine Lessons & Carols

Christmas Eve

6:00pm Carols in the Courtyard

8:00pm Christmas Concert
Saint-Saëns Christmas Oratorio

Christmas Day

10:15am Family worship



Summer Sundays

10:15am (30 Dec.-27 Jan.)

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**Morning Group Christmas Party
TODAY 5-7pm at the Beggs' home.**

TEM Advent service TONIGHT, 7pm
at St Peter's. Rev Dr Page preaching.

Next Sun, 9 Dec: 10.15am service of
Nine Lessons & Carols. A whole church
family service followed by a special
morning tea! **No 9am service.**
Contributions needed! Carrlo, Barbara
& Jaki would welcome any contributions
of Christmas themed sweets for the
morning tea.

On Friday Dec. 7 at
9.30am the chil-
dren of JMK will
stage their annual
end of year Christ-
mas Concert in the



church. Angels and kings, shepherds
and the joy of happy little singers will
surround the nativity scene, and enter-
tain their audience! All welcome.

In our thoughts and prayers:

The family of Barrie Lade who died on
Thu. 29/11. Barrie was a much loved
member and CC leader of this church .
Patricia Begg and Chris.

Andrew Blackburn and Jean following
Andrew's bone marrow transplant.
Ray Northrop.

Emily Karakatsanis (18) undergoing
treatment here & trial drug therapies in
the USA for an extremely rare illness.
Please pray for her healing. Emily's
mother will be married at TUC shortly.

TUC Office Summer Hours:

CLOSED 22 December 2018-
06 January 2019

OPEN Tue. & Thu. Only,
07-31 January 2019

OPEN Mon. to Fri. from
1 February 2019

TUC's Hospitality Weekend

Friday 29 – Sunday 31 March 2019

Following the successful mystery pair-
ing of hosts & guests at simple meals
in private homes during Hospitality
Weekends in 2016 & 2017, another op-
portunity to meet other members of the
Congregation will be held in March
2019. This is a special time for com-
panionship & getting to know members
of the congregation. You can either
host a meal (or afternoon tea) or just
be a guest; or do both! In Feb. there
will be invitations available for those
who wish to host
and those who
wish to be a guest.



**Don't miss out! Note the dates in
your new 2019 diary & calendar now.**

Missing tablecloths: 1 round, self-
patterned, white & 1 small, square,
plain white. Please return to the Office.

The Pamela Brown Handbell Choir will perform for JMC on Wed. 5 Dec. in the Faichney Room from approx. 2.00-2.45pm. Congregation welcome.



Diary Dates

Sun 02 Dec	5-7pm	Morning Group Christmas Party	Beggs' home
Sun 02 Dec	7.00pm	Toorak Ecumenical Advent Service	St Peter's
Sun 09 Dec	10.15am	WCF Service of Nine Lessons and Carols	<u>NO 9am</u>
Fri 21 Dec	4.00pm	Office closes for Christmas period	
Mon 24 Dec	6.00pm	Christmas Eve Family Carols in the Courtyard	
Mon 24 Dec	8.00pm	Concert: Saint-Saëns Christmas Oratorio	Church
Tue 25 Dec	10.15am	Christmas Day Family Worship	Church
Summer Sundays		30 December—27 January: 10.15am service only	
Tue 07 Jan	9.30am	Office re-opens Tuesdays & Thursdays only	
Fri 01 Feb	9.30am	Office re-opens Monday-Friday	

UPDATE ON ELECTION DAY FAIR



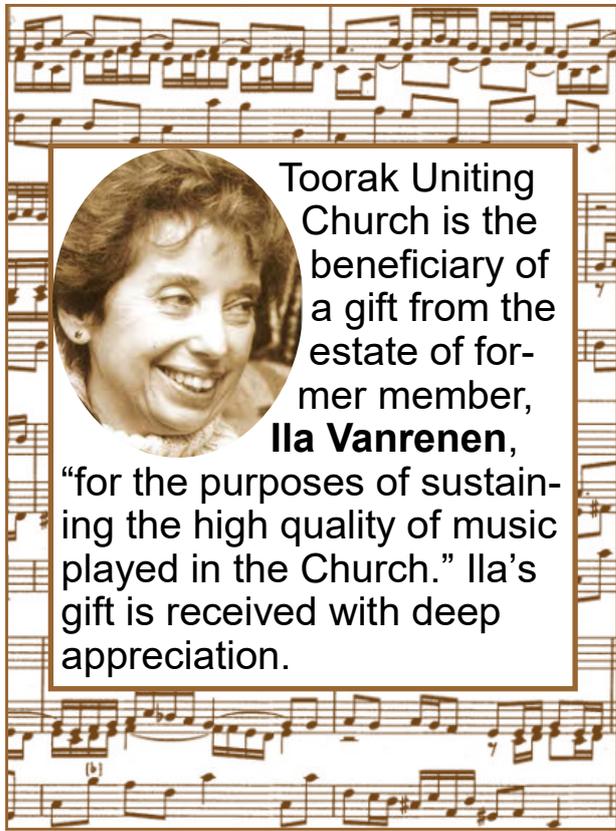
Well the weather was not particularly kind to us this time but I am pleased to advise that we still had a very successful Fair. We were able to encourage 1570 voters to spend some time and money at the Fair with a total of \$5,688 being raised across all the stalls - despite voters tending not to linger in the absence of sunshine. Activity across all stalls was slower than the last (Federal) election when we had a sunny day and plenty of people enjoying lunch on the lawn. However, the cakes and preserves still sold out as they always do and sales at the other stalls were surprisingly good. A stall by stall breakdown of takings is as follows:

Cakes and preserves	\$2,275	Bric-a-brac and craft	\$ 893
2nd hand books	\$1,317	Sausage sizzle	\$1,203

Michael Kenihan and I would like to thank our children, their partners and friends and our partners for stepping up and putting in a long day in front of the line of voters. We also wish to acknowledge the contribution of the congregation in donating baked goods, books, bric-a-brac, umbrellas, gazebos and time in order to make the stalls, stock them with items for sale and pack everything up. We also want to acknowledge being able to call on the TUC staff to assist in the lead up to the Fair. The Fair continues to be very much a team effort with everyone's assistance and support being worthwhile and essential in making the Fair such a success. This time we ensured the church was open and inviting to voters who wanted to see inside the church. With the assistance of Pamela Wilson and Jennifer Chou we were able to ensure visitors had the benefit of a guidebook to the beautiful windows and the opportunity to hear music made by Jennifer Chou and the choir. We were pleased to see that a steady number of voters took this opportunity to see inside the church and spend some time away from the voting. Finally we want to thank the café for opening in support of the Fair as well as providing fabulous donuts for those who wanted to vote and eat on the run. The coffee was appreciated as was the haven of the café for a quiet bite to eat when the voting rush made it a little hectic on the stalls.

Best Regards, Jon Sennitt and Michael Kenihan

TUC's 10.15 **door duty team** is in need of a few more volunteers. Health issues, family & travel commitments mean our numbers are dwindling. If you can spare 2-8 Sunday mornings a year please consider this. It isn't complicated, plenty of training & support will be provided, & duty swaps are possible if needed. Please contact Jenny to find out more. 0400 800 471 | 9819 2636, or jstewardson@i.net.au



Toorak Uniting Church is the beneficiary of a gift from the estate of former member, **Ila Vanrenen**, "for the purposes of sustaining the high quality of music played in the Church." Ila's gift is received with deep appreciation.



Stained glass windows—self-guided tour booklet available in the western porch entrance to borrow. Tour for a fascinating journey into the lives & contributions made by members of the congregation to this church. ~P Wilson

For supporters of TUC using **Planned Giving Envelopes**, your 2019 envelopes are now available at the rear of the Church. For more info. on how to support TUC & its programmes, please contact Stan: 9813 5242 | 0427 401 299 | stanlaugher@acslink.net.au



Save your Stamps!

Saving used stamps is probably the easiest outreach you can do! Just tear the stamp off the envelope, leaving plenty of paper around it, & pop it in a bag/box.

We will collect them at TUC, & take them to the Uniting Church Fellowship Fund (alias Sammy Stamp), where dedicated volunteers will sort them.

So far this year, they have made a massive \$37,000 from sales, which will be distributed, via grants, to Uniting Church projects.

Please start collecting, & bring your stamps to TUC from February 2019.

Thank you very much!

German Baroque Christmas Sun 9 Dec, 2.30pm. St Oswald's Anglican Church, 100 High St, Glen Iris. Counter tenor Maximilian Riebl, lutenist Samantha Cohen & keyboardist Calvin Bowman. Music: Bach, Schutz & Buxtehude, Bach's Christmas Oratorio, & German Baroque cantatas. Tickets: \$30, Conc \$25, Students \$10 at the door. Money raised will provide ongoing support to music & Kids Hope programs in local schools, indigenous groups, Anglicare/Mission House, & the Community Welcome Garden.

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 TUC. Please come and join us after the service for fellowship and a cup of tea or coffee. TUC has been a proud member of the Toorak Ecumenical Movement since signing the Ecumenical Agreement in 1980. We pray for our partner churches: St Peter's Roman Catholic Church, St John's Anglican Church and the Swedish Church.