



Toorak Uniting Church

Update 16 December 2018

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www.toorakuc.org.au

Phone: 9829 0300
Sunday services 9am & 10.15am



Still Thinking — Christmas — Christopher Page

The bells of waiting Advent ring,
The Tortoise stove is lit again
And lamp-oil light across the night
Has caught the streaks of winter rain
In many a stained-glass window sheen
From Crimson Lake to Hookers Green.

The holly in the windy hedge
And round the Manor House the yew
Will soon be stripped to deck the ledge,
The altar, font and arch and pew,
So that the villagers can say
'The church looks nice' on Christmas Day.

Provincial Public Houses blaze,
Corporation tramcars clang,
On lighted tenements I gaze,
Where paper decorations hang,
And bunting in the red Town Hall
Says 'Merry Christmas to you all'.

And London shops on Christmas Eve
Are strung with silver bells and flowers
As hurrying clerks the City leave
To pigeon-haunted classic towers,
And marbled clouds go scudding by
The many-steeped London sky.

And girls in slacks remember Dad,
And oafish louts remember Mum,
And sleepless children's hearts are glad.
And Christmas-morning bells say 'Come!'
Even to shining ones who dwell
Safe in the Dorchester Hotel.

And is it true,
This most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,
A Baby in an ox's stall?
The Maker of the stars and sea
Become a Child on earth for me?

And is it true ? For if it is,
No loving fingers tying strings
Around those tissued fripperies,
The sweet and silly Christmas things,
Bath salts and inexpensive scent
And hideous tie so kindly meant,

No love that in a family dwells,
No carolling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this single Truth compare -
That God was man in Palestine
And lives today in Bread and Wine.

by John Betjeman

In our thoughts and prayers:

John Edwards' partner, Anne Binmore, recovering from surgery for a leg injury.
Josh Brown, as he heads off to China for a month.

Lucy Lewis settling into life in Brisbane.

The VCE students who've just received their exam results.

Vicky and James Clayton, after Helen & Ken were interred in the Memorial Garden on Friday, 14 Dec., the first anniversary of Helen's death.

Patricia Begg and Chris.

Andrew Blackburn and Jean.

Ray Northrop.

Emily Karakatsanis (18) who has an extremely rare illness. Please pray for her healing and for a bone marrow match in anticipation of a transplant.

PRAYERS FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Ecumenical services, open to everyone with prayers for the visible unity of Christians. **10am, last Thu. of the month, Feb-Nov.** 30minute services followed by refreshments and a chat.

Dates for 2019:

February 28 St John's Anglican

World Day of Prayer - Friday March 1 @ 2pm - Swedish Church. Country: Slovenia
Theme: "Come - Everything is Ready"

March 6 *Ash Wednesday*

March 28 Toorak Uniting

April 19 GOOD FRIDAY WALK - starting at St John's @ 11.30am finishing at TUC. (Refreshments provided)

April 25 Anzac Day—No Service

May 30 St Peter's Church

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity -

Sun. June 2 - Pentecost June 9

Prayers at St. John's - Thu. June 6, @ noon, followed by Lunch

June 27 St John's Church

July 25 Toorak Uniting

August 29 Swedish Church

September 26 St Peter's

October 31 St John's

November 28 Toorak Uniting

John Macrae Centre seeks volunteer help for lunchtime washing up between 12noon & 2pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays. If you can help, please call 9829 0320.

TUC Office Summer Hours:

CLOSED 22 December 2018-6 January 2019

OPEN Tue. & Thu. Only, 7-31 January 2019

OPEN Mon. to Fri. from 1 February 2019

Kinross House Summer Hours:

Closed after Fri. 14 December 2018

Open (TBC)

Manse Café Summer Hours:

Closed after Fri. 21 December 2018

Open Mon. 14 January 2019

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.

A green china plate was left at the Page's. Please collect from the office.

Music Services:

24 December: The TUC Choir and instrumental ensemble will present the Christmas Oratorio by Saint-Saëns on Christmas Eve. Prelude music starts at 7.45pm with solos by harpist Megan Reeve and cellist Joshua Dema.

21 January 2019:

Guest musicians duo Dorthe Zielke (Trumpet) and Søren Johansen (Organ) will perform during the 10.15am service. A 30 minute recital will commence immediately after



the service which will be followed by morning tea. The duo visited TUC two years ago and performed a music service with paintings and music. They are returning this time with a very different program including excerpts from symphonies and operas.

2019 Concerts:

2019 will mark the **40th anniversary** of the installation and inauguration of the TUC pipe organ. A series of 5 concerts are planned. Our TUC Soloists and Justin Jacobs (piano) will kick start the series on **Sunday 24 February** with a spectacular concert with opera excerpts, duets, trios, quartets, and their showy pieces that you won't hear at all on a Sunday service. Please save the date now in your diaries and come to support the TUC music team.

Come Celebrate Christmas with us!

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.)

www.toorakuc.org.au

This year's last call for used stamps

Please remember to keep them and drop them off at the church or office in February. Over the 40 years' history of the volunteer group in the city Synod Office collecting, collating and selling used stamps from people like us, an amazing \$980,000 has been distributed for our UCA Community Service and church projects!! If you'd like to read more, this month's Crosslight has an article on Sammy Stamp on p4.



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

Diary Dates

Fri	21 Dec	4.00pm	Office closes for Christmas period (also Kinross & Café)
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	08 Jan	9.30am	Office re-opens Tuesdays & Thursdays only
Mon	14 Jan	(TBC)	Café re-opens
Fri	01 Feb	9.30am	Office re-opens Monday-Friday



The Pamela Brown Handbell Choir participated and performed on Sat. 1 Dec. at the Sabbath Service of the Wantirna Seventh Day Adventist Church. On Wed. 5 Dec, the group performed again for the John Macrae Centre to wish the centre members and staff a Happy Christmas. The group is now recruiting for 2019. Please speak with Jennifer Chou if you want to join. The group rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 6.30pm to 7.30pm during school term times. Absolutely no experience or musical ability is required, however a good sense of rhythm is necessary. ~Jennifer Chou

Thank you to our congregational members who, during the past year, have come 20 minutes early to welcome visitors (and our own folk) to the 10.15am church services. As there will be no "official" welcomers during January, I hope you will **all** be particularly aware of newcomers, and welcoming to them. A happy and peaceful Christmastide to you all ~ June DeVere



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!



COME TO THE STABLE

At East Kew Uniting Church
142 Normanby Road, Kew East

Free family Christmas fun for all ages
Friday 21st December 5-7pm

Meet the baby animals
Donkey rides
Christmas Craft
Story telling
Face painting
Sausage sizzle
Dressing up
Photos with Mary & Joseph





Finishing with carol singing in the church at 6:30pm
With all Directions Choir

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.