



# Toorak Uniting Church Newsletter

## Update 3 December 2021

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Phone 9829 0300  
Sunday services 9:00 & 10:15am

### From Our Music Director in Hong Kong - Jennifer Chou

After leaving home exactly one month ago to see my mother in Hong Kong, my biggest concern today is the Australian border could close again and 14 days quarantine reimposed on all inbound travellers. In a place where I have no home, the possibility of unable to come home is constantly on my mind. My first two weeks of hotel quarantine in Hong Kong saw my self-discipline ability in a confined room without openable windows. The daily routine of eating 3 meals at fixed times, practicing only when daylight allowed, reading, sleeping, calling my mother twice a day at certain hour, all went like clockwork. In the second week, I also prepared my legs (for the outside world) again by doing walks in a loop inside the room with my backpack filled with books and my computer up to 10kg or so. While I must have practiced about 70 hours or so during that 14 days on a foldup keyboard, my first 14 days of freedom saw barely 2 hours of practice. I am grateful that I found my mother in a stable condition at home. Instead of calling her twice a day from the hotel room, I now visit her twice a day on most days. Her recent change of cancer doctor and medication saw her cancer progression (Stage 4) slow down. Meanwhile, we have been warned that things can change any day. Yesterday morning after church, she had a fall, which was the second time in a month. Fortunately the emergency department was unusually quiet, she suffered no bone damage, her wound was cleaned and she came back home with just 2 stitches on her jaw within 3 hours.



In a city where a room the size of my office at TUC is often the size of a living room for a family of 4 or more people, the room I am staying at the moment is about 5 square meters (the hotel room was 30 square meters). Unfortunately I have to move next week to a friend's place for 4 days, and that will conclude my free accommodation options, after that, I will move to an airbnb place until I come home in January. One day during my hotel quarantine, a former organ student from the time when she was studying in Melbourne came to deliver something to me. I asked her to wave at me from the street and to take a picture of the building because I had no idea what the building looked like. She sent me a few pictures. Looking at the one with myself standing at the window waving back, I saw the refugees stuck in accommodations in Melbourne waving for help from the windows

while the government would not do more for them. I might look like one of the refugees waving, but I was not a refugee here, it was just for 14 days, and I had the room all to myself, I can do whatever I wanted as long as I don't open the door apart from when being told to do so. I kept thinking of the refugees. I hope the government will show more kindness, compassion, and generosity towards people who genuinely need our help and acceptance.

Peace. Jennifer

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## Morning Group News

After 63 years of caring and supportive fellowship, service to, and beyond Toorak Uniting Church, as well as years of interesting and mind broadening speakers Morning Group has ceased to exist in its traditional form. Commencing in February 2022, (third Thursday at 10am), we will meet in the Manse cafe for coffee and fellowship.

At the meeting on Thursday November 18 we formally disbanded the group and divided the money in the bank account between TUC Outreach committee and Toorak Ecumenical Council Food for Friends appeal.

All the formalities necessary will be completed this week. We give thanks for the wonderful founding members and all the amazing contributions made by so many over the past 63 years. THANKS BE TO GOD  
*Anne Smith (Chairman) June De Vere (Deputy Chair) Lynette McAlister (Secretary) Chris Begg (Treasurer)*



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## Dear Toorak Ecumenical Churches

You are warmly invited to the 2021 *Advent Carols* and a *Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols*, featuring the Trinity College Choir, directed by Christopher Watson.

This year, the service will not be held in the Trinity College Chapel, as the organ will be undergoing restoration. Instead the service will be held at St John's Toorak, 86 Clendon Rd, Toorak, on Sunday 5 December at 5pm (followed by refreshments).

Please publicise this amongst your family and friends.

To book, go to this link: -<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/828807>.



## Kinross Art Centre News

Kinross is honoured to be showing a glimpse of the impressive "Begg Collection" of Ceramics dating from 400 BC to 2018 before it moves to their new home at the NGV. We invite you to view the exhibition between 25 November until 14 December on Mondays to Fridays between 10am to 3pm.

Book through Chris Begg on 0419 105 586 for a guided tour of the exhibition between 11am and 2pm on Nov 29, Dec 6 and 13 and Thursdays Nov 25, Dec 2 and 9 or by appointment. \$10 to be paid on the day (to help cover expenses)

### Volunteers Needed — 14 December, 2021

Your help would be appreciated. Please phone Pamela Wilson on 0400 577 271.

**Kinross will be open this Sunday 5 Dec from 11:15am to 1pm.**

**Please note only vaccinated patrons and volunteers will be permitted.**

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### Can you help?

Together with the 9 carols & lessons service December 19th, we are pleased to be finally having the opportunity to celebrate Chris Page's ministry at TUC with a special morning tea! Any offers of help with baking, both sweet or savoury, can be made to Jaki 0499 442 347 or via church office.



## Advent and Christmas Celebrations at Toorak Uniting Church

On Sunday 19 December, the congregations will come together at the 10:15am service to celebrate the Nine Lessons and Carols Service.

On Christmas Eve at 8pm, the music-worship celebration will see the full TUC choir and soloists joined by the Emjodore String Quartet and Issie Brown (flute) performing Richard Shephard's A Christmas Garland on "Greensleeves" and other beloved Christmas music. The Emjodore String Quartet will treat our congregation to the complete String Quartet in C minor by Luigi Boccherini as Prelude.

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### Food for Friends

In place of manning collection trollies at supermarkets, we ask you, please, to donate to:

**F for F The Toorak Ecumenical Fund**

**CBA Toorak, SB: 063 177 Acc: 1002 6147**

*(Note: no receipts can be issued).*

The money will be spent on food, delivered directly to the agencies. The need this year is great and our nominated charities will miss our usual large food donations. Please give generously and make this a bumper year.





# *Come Celebrate Christmas With Us*

## **Sunday December 19**

10:15am Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

## **Christmas Eve**

6:00pm Family Carols in the courtyard

8:00pm Christmas Concert:  
Richard Shephard's  
Christmas Garland

## **Christmas Day**

10:15am Family Service

## **Summer Sundays (26 Dec to 30 Jan)**

10:15am Family Service

*You'll be very welcome but  
must be double vaxxed*



## **December Diary Dates**

Tue	30 Nov	7:30pm	Study Group	Zoom
Sun	5 Dec	9:00am	Family Church Service	Rev. P Whitaker
Sun	5 Dec	10:15am	Morning Worship	Rev. P Whitaker
Sun	5 Dec	5:00pm	Nine Lessons and Carols	St Johns Toorak
Sun	5 Dec	11:15am	Begg Collection	Kinross Gallery
Tue	7 Dec	7:30pm	Combined Church Council & Management Team	Faichney Room
Sun	12 Dec	9:00am	Family Church Service	Rev. Wal Baker
Sun	12 Dec	10:15am	Morning Worship	Rev. Wal Baker
Sun	12 Dec	11:15am	Begg Collection	Kinross
Mon	13 Dec	9.30am	Pastoral Care Meeting	Faichney Room
Sun	19 Dec	10:15am	Nine Lessons and Carols	Rev. P Whitaker
			<i>Followed by morning tea for Rev. Dr Christopher Page</i>	
Sun	24 Dec	6.00pm	Family Carols	Court Yard
Fri	24 Dec	8:00pm	Christmas Eve	Rev. P Whitaker
Sat	25 Dec	10:15am	Christmas Day	Rev J Edwards
Sun	26 Dec	10:15am	Morning Worship	Rev J Edwards

## **The Begg Collection**

25th November to 14th December on Mondays to Fridays between 10am - 3pm