InSpire

NEWSLETTER OF THE STONNINGTON COMMUNITY UNITING CHURCH

Vol. 11, no 3 **April 2025**

With a Voice of Singing (see page 11)

InSpiring

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

My Grandmother's Blessing

At the age of 17 I left home to live with my grandmother. There was a good deal of tension between my father and me. We both needed some space from each other, so going to live with my grandmother was a good move for both of us.

My grandmother welcomed me into her home. She had lived alone since my grandfather's death a couple of years earlier. I remember arriving that night and realizing that the greatest blessing she could give me was not just a safe place to live, but her unconditional, non-judgmental love. My grandmother had a remarkable ability to love both her son (my father) and her grandson, not to take sides nor show favouritism.

I can only now understand how that is possible through my relationship with my own grandchildren. We know that we have a different kind of relationship with our own offspring from what we have with our grandchildren. And the two relationships are not in competition with each other. I can't define what that difference is, it is something intuited and experienced. It is sensed and felt rather than analysed and explained. Archbishop of Perth Peter Carnley wrote in an article I read many years ago, "You love your children, but you fall in love with your grandchildren."

I still have a very clear image in my mind of my grandmother and I remember many of her simple and unsophisticated (to my adolescent mind) ways. For example, she could never understand why I would go jogging after work when I could get the same exercise by cleaning the house, doing the washing or digging the gardening. She never left the breakfast table before finishing her second pot of tea. She didn't own a car and preferred to walk or take the bus. She didn't go to high school, but could manage a household and make pumpkin scones better that Flo Bjelke-Petersen. She accepted human foibles and family failures preferring to laugh at them rather than judging them. When she received the old age pension, she felt wealthy because she knew how to live within her means. When she discovered that her next-door neighbour was both homosexual and a cross dresser she said, "Well, boys will be boys," to which my 16-year-old sister replied, "Oh! Nan, I don't think boys should be girls."

The most abiding images we have of the nature of God don't come primarily from the Bible, theology or preachers. They come from our intimate experiences in childhood. D. W. Winnicott, a British paediatrician and psychoanalyst, believed that the newborn's first mirror is from a reading of their mother's eyes and face and significant care givers in their life. These early experiences, will later become the personal images of God they will carry for the rest of their lives. *(Adapted from D.W. Winnicott Primal-page.com)*

This is both a bane and a blessing. While we recognise that the notion of God is beyond all our images and ideas, we know that our "theological" understandings are shaped and formed by our earliest experiences. While Christian theology has often emphasised the primary image of God as Father, and this for many is helpful, yet for others it is problematic. There are of course, many ways we imagine the Divine and the strongest image for me, is my grandmother.

Indigenous cultures have often recognised grandmothers in a pivotal role, shaping the values, beliefs, and traditions of children and their communities. Grandmothers can be the keepers of ancient knowledge, the storytellers, the healers, and the guides to future generations. Their wisdom is not just a collection of words; it is a living tapestry woven from experiences, observations, and a deeper understanding of the natural world. *(Adapted from Indigenous-grandmothers-wisdom-teachings)*

My grandmother died in her sleep at the age of 91. She died as she lived with little fuss preferring to slip away quietly. She gave me and all her grandchildren both the memory and experience of unconditional love. Without thought or pretence she modelled an image of God as loving, compassionate, lively, humane and hopeful. That was my grandmother's blessing.

Christopher

World Day of Prayer 2025

The Cook Islands

Theme: 'I Made You Wonderful' Psalm 139:14

Rev Dr Julie Hall welcomed everyone to the 2025 World Day of Prayer (WDP) worship service. She gave a special welcome to the members of the Cook Islands community, the McKinnon Secondary College Senior Singers, their pianist/conductor Ms Blanka West and Ms Zoe Daniel, MP for Goldstein.

This beautiful and well attended service at Bentleigh Uniting Church on Friday 7th March was led by Rev Dr Julie Hall, with members from local churches participating.

The three bible readings were from Psalm 139.

Allan Clark was the organist for the hymns that included 'Now thank we all our God' and 'In Christ there is no east or west'.

During the service the McKinnon Secondary College Senior Singers also sang the WDP featured song 'Wonderfully Made' composed by Ruru Maeva of the Cook Islands especially for the 2025 WDP and *'Magnum Mysterium' composed by Ai Diem Le. Both were an absolute delight.

A member of the Cook Islands community spoke about his country and was then joined by his wife and son who together sang a hymn, unaccompanied in Cook Islands Māori. From the applause received this was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The Bible Society's Cook Islands Project was described in a short video.

We prayed for the members of The Temple Society Australia, who have accepted the role of coordinating the 2026 WDP Service, when we will gather to pray with the Christian women of Nigeria.

The service concluded with the singing of the traditional WDP closing hymn 'The day you gave us, Lord is ended'.

A delicious morning tea was served.

*Magnum Mysterium was composed after the style of the famous composer, 12th Century German Benedictine nun, Hildegard von Bingen

Organist, Allan Clark with minister Rev Dr Julie Hall

McKinnon Secondary College Senior Singers

Cook Islands Produce on display at Bentleigh Uniting Church

The Stonnington East World Day of Prayer Committee has not met for several years, with the result that the ecumenical World Day of Prayer service, held on Friday 7th March this year, was not celebrated in any of the churches within Stonnington East.

I decided to attend a service closer to my home, so I went to St. Luke's Uniting Church in Essex Road, Mount Waverley. The Minister, Rev James Douglas, welcomed the visitors to the church and informed the congregation that the service had come from Christian women of the Cook Islands in the Pacific. Rev Douglas led the earlier part of the service, which was followed by several women reading sections of the service, including Bible readings, prayers and life stories of 3 Cook Island women.

Our speaker was a young Cook Island woman who has been studying theology in Australia. She gave us a very informative description of the main islands which form her country. Each island has its own unique qualities and people and she described their differences in some detail. She invited the congregation, after the service, to inspect the display of Cook Island art and crafts, food and clothing, which was on a stand at the rear of the church.

We were informed that we will be praying with the women of Nigeria in 2026 and the service in Mount Waverley will be at Holy Family Catholic Church.

Our service ended with the singing of the wonderful hymn – always sung at the end of the World Day of Prayer service – "The day you gave us, Lord, has ended".

Jan Riches

HORIZONS -Local and Beyond

Taking inspiration from Donald's Op Shop with a difference

Maria Sandbach

The old saying "one thing leads to another" certainly applies to my recent social encounter with Alison McEwen in Doncaster; which resulted in my visit to her passion project, an Op Shop with a difference, located in the heartland of Victoria's wheat belt.

Operating under the auspices of the registered charity "Horizons Local and Beyond Inc" (Horizons), the Look First Op Shop is based in the charming 1884 National Bank building at 68 Woods Street, Donald.

The founding of the Op Shop was inspired by Alison and her husband Ian's 1999 trip to Ukraine. While the objective of their trip was to gain insight into farming in Ukraine, it was the country's grinding poverty directly related to the dissolution of the USSR in 1991 which left an indelible impression.

On their return they determined to make a difference and began collecting second hand clothing, bikes and sewing machines in a shed on their farm. Assisted by volunteers from their local church, and subject to complex logistical arrangements, they sent the first 20-foot shipping container filled with essential items to Ukraine in 2001. Approximately nine shipping containers and ten trips to Ukraine later, this project has evolved into the Look First Op Shop which now focuses on selling pre-loved goods to the public. The funds raised are then applied to ongoing projects locally and overseas, with a particular focus on humanitarian aid to Ukraine.

Horizons' approach shifted in about 2010 when it became apparent that in Ukraine essential items were no longer scarce and there was a greater need for targeted funding rather than actual goods. In particular, prospective tertiary students from low-income Christian families were severely disadvantaged. Consequently, Look First Op Shop funds have been directed to supporting tertiary students, which has a ripple effect, benefiting both their families and communities. Since the beginning of this particular project, approximately $300,000 has been sent to Ukraine and 35 students have received support.

Horizons acknowledges that there are many deserving calls on its funds and apart from the Ukraine, it has contributed to overseas projects from Samoa to Niger. Nor is it heedless of the old saying "charity begins at home" and it has made generous donations to projects in the Wimmera, including to the district hospital. Horizons recognises the reality that tangible outcomes within the local community encourage and motivate prospective volunteers.

Currently a team of around 15 volunteers from Donald and surrounds continues working together to keep the Look First Op Shop running. In Ukraine the management and administration of the donated funds is overseen by an English-speaking university lecturer who is a member of the Baptist Church. Updates are provided to Friends of Horizons via a regular newsletter and financial reporting is in line with the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission.

Horizons' endeavours began well before Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine, and of course the need is now greater than ever.

While the Look First OP Shop is based on the "tried and true" op shop model and has a genuine vintage vibe, enhanced by being housed in a heritage building, it is a pragmatic, dynamic

organisation responding to 21st Century problems and issues. This was an inspiring encounter and my subsequent excursion highlighted the role of a church in the community. Horizons' initiative and enterprise turns the old saying "opportunity knocks" on its head, in that it went knocking for opportunity.

Maria Sandbach

PROFILE: Zhuoran Wei

Zhuoran Wei has been coming to church for some months and has been helping on the audio set up roster. He is a master's student in Media and Communication at Monash University Caulfield. I caught up with Zhuoran after church on Sunday 16 March. Here is an edited version of our conversation.

Z: My name is Wei Zhuoran. Wei is my surname, and my given name is Zhuoran.

A: Where do you come from, Zhuoran?

Z: I'm from Xinjiang Province in the Northwest of China. I was born and grew up in Urumchi, the capital city. But I went to Xiamen University of Technology in Fujian province in the Southeast. I studied Education Theory, and graduated as a Bachelor of Teaching Chinese as a Second Language.

A: How Interesting! Have you had any practical experience of teaching Chinese?

Z: Yes; for an internship, I taught some international students from South East Asian countries. Their background language was Vietnamese.

A: When you taught them Chinese, what kind of textbooks did you use?

Z: We used textbooks that the university provided, and we also got them to do some case studies to help them in their study of business Chinese. They did a project using their Chinese in the community interviewing people and getting information.

A: Have you ever taught Chinese to English-speaking people?

Z: No, not yet.

A: When did you come to Australia?

Z: In September last year.

A: And I think you started coming to this church about October? What made you come to the church?

Z: First, I want to have connection with the people in the society; since I just came here alone, I wanted to meet people.

A: And you've been coming regularly, so what do you think of our church?

Z: I think coming to the church I can connect with people, feel the love and friendship.

A: Did you ever go to church in China?

Z: No, but when I was in middle school, I lived in the United States for one year, and I went to church then.

A: Whereabouts in the United States?
Z: In Lawrence, Kansas.

A: So you were well prepared for your Australian study abroad because you already had that experience.
Z: Yes, but it's many years ago, almost 10 years ago.

A: May I ask how old you are now?

Z: Twenty-two.

A: What made you study abroad in the United States?

Z: My mother is a university professor and she went to Kansas University as a researcher for one year. Kansas University is located in Lawrence.

A: So you were accompanying your mother on her sabbatical and you had that year in the school. How interesting. I guess you had already started studying English before you went to the United States? Was it challenging when you got there? Could you fit in easily?

Z: I started to learn English when I was an elementary school student. I found it quite difficult but I worked very hard on it.

A: What is your mother's academic field?

Z: She's a professor of Linguistics, actually Lexicography.

A: So she's also very expert in English, and she obviously stimulated your English study, and that helped your motivation to improve your English. And your father, what's his field?

Z: He teaches English in a local college of engineering. He hasn't studied abroad.
A: When you went to church in Lawrence with your mother, what kind of church was that?

Z: It's a community church, not a big one. I can't remember the name because it's many years ago.

A: And how are you finding your new course your study at Monash?

Z: The course is quite different from in China – there is a lot of self-learning time. But I hope I will get used to it pretty soon.

A: Yes, there is not as much time in the classroom with the teacher. So that means you don't have so much time with other students.

Z: I can communicate with other students when they hold events; they have some workshops that I attend, and there are a lot of chances to work with other students.

A: Do you feel you have any problems with study at the moment?

Z: I think I'm good for now.

A: Well, when it gets more challenging do reach out and let us know. We might be able to help if there are things you can't cope with or can't understand.

Z: I will.

A: Do you think your mother will visit you here sometime?

Z: Yes, I think she will visit me, probably next year.

A: Well, that'll be nice if we can meet her. How do you find living in the Ewing house?

Z: It's a nice place. It's the best place I can find in Caulfield East! I think I will stay here until I graduate.
A: How long will your course take? Two years full time?

Z: Yes, four semesters. I will do an internship in the last semester.

A: What kind of internship do you anticipate having?

Z: I haven't decided yet, but I will probably look for an internship with a media company.

A: How interesting. Well, thank you for talking with me today!

"AVALON CUPBOARD" BECOMES THE "AVALON BAG"

Last month's *InSpire* included an article on the proposed "Avalon Cupboard"; which was one of the outcomes of the 2024 SCUC Forum on Homelessness.

Consultation with Jane Lama (SCUC office) and Debbie Holmes (Avalon) has resulted in significant progress for this project.

We have decided to consolidate the items (which may be useful to any person seeking assistance), into a bag, not a cupboard. The bag has been prepared, and now lives in the Storage Cupboard in the Parish Centre.

In addition to a sleeping mat, sleeping bag, pillow and pillow case, the Avalon Bag also contains separate bags: one with non-perishable food; the other with warm socks, beanie and scarf.

Depending on the request, the whole bag can be given to a person, or both or either of the separate bags. Once the bag or bags have been given away, with Avalon's assistance, we will replace the donated items.

We are looking forward soon to receiving multiple copies of the Stonnington Council's 2025 edition of *Food and other help*. This publication is both in the form of a booklet and wallet card. It is a further resource that we can provide to people seeking help from the Church.

The Avalon Bag is another example of how our 2024 Forum has inspired a number of important ongoing community conversations and connections.

Maria Sandbach

ASRC Feast for Freedom

We will be holding the **Feast for Freedom** at our April lunch on Sunday 6th and you are invited to come along and support Asylum Seekers.

Feast for Freedom : Home

STONNINGTON COMMUNITY UNITING CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

Joyce Jenkin

Music for church services - The Ewing Singers will perform on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Different members of council have found leads to possible organists and these are being explored.

With the help of Debbie Holmes from the Avalon Centre, a bag containing a sleeping bag, mat, pillow, a small bag of non-perishable food and a small bag of utensils will be kept in the store room so that we are better able to respond to requests for help from homeless people.

We have a new person who has taken on the role of setting up for services, the after church gathering and first Sunday lunches.

Alison reported that the next forum will be held, probably in August, and the topic will be

Loneliness and Connectedness. Planning has begun.

There was considerable discussion of the proposal put forward by Margie Mitsikas to house two soon to be homeless refugees in the Manse while it is empty. The Uniting Church Property Committee was consulted but had reservations about the possibility. The Uniting Church Asylum Seeker Project and the Camberwell UC have been consulted for advice but their programs are not what this couple need. Council is very sympathetic to their plight but we are not sure that we know enough of the issues involved in make the Manse available to them.

SOMETHING FOR THE SPIRIT
Lorna Henry

In March we met for the first time this year, and it was a time of sharing thoughts of all kinds. Thoughts of concern, of celebration, of books and articles read -a wide range without a central theme. So, it's difficult to summarize our discussion(s).

There was talk of the search for certainty among many people, the need to be sure what you believe and where you belong. Naturally there was talk of the changing world order, where we are seeing more hard-headedness and less compassion. Julia Baird's article was mentioned, in which she spoke of The Sin of Empathy; being compassionate is clearly not in line with some groups' or leaders' values.

That led to discussion of values being given to children in their early years. Are children today being given values of empathy, compassion, 'love'? Mention then of the English paediatrician and psychologist Donald Winnicott, who emphasised the critical importance for children of being held, being loved by the mother, by a trusted, loving constant in the child's life.

And then it ranged further over Anthony de Mello, of walking the Camino, and the importance of ritual and ceremonies in our lives. We talked of the Japanese tea ceremony.

The above attempt at a summary has been made using a few scrappy notes made during the discussion. At the time I didn't see the connections. Now the connecting thread seems to be that life is best when we love and are loved, we give and receive compassion, we feel safe, and we like to perform or take part in rituals and meaningful gatherings.

That does sound very like the gospel of love!

We will meet again in April, but please note, this month on the fourth Sunday. (The third Sunday is Easter Day, and not an ideal meeting time.) Again, we will bring our concerns or joys; something we have read that concerns us all, or any matter which we would like to talk about with the group.

The date for April is Sunday 27th, 5.00-7.00pm at 5 Vickery Street, East Malvern. And all are welcome.

LIBRARY NEWS
Faye Pattinson

Our next Book Chat will be on Thursday, 17th April at 10.30 am in the Margaret McKinnon Room and all are welcome, with or without a book to share. Tea and coffee will be served.

My son, David will speak about his book *Bees and Beekeeping in China prior to the 19th Century*. This is by popular demand as he spoke briefly about it on his visit last year but I was told I didn't give him enough time to expand on the topic!!

But of course, we will devote plenty of time to the books we have been reading and have to share.

A few more of the books discussed at our last Book Chat included:

"Foul Play" by Fiona McIntosh. Superstar footballer Luca Bruni is being blackmailed for a night of lust he swears he didn't participate in.except the ransom photo denies that. When

Detective Superintendent Jack Hawksworth learns that the cunning mastermind behind this crime has already swindled a dozen of the world's most highly prized male athletes, he is instructed to keep the situation from escalating and prevent a media frenzy.

"The Night tide" by Di Morissey. Di Morrissey returns to her roots with a heartfelt tale of secrets, mystery and community in an idyllic Sydney waterway, inspired by her childhood home of Pittwater. A secluded, peaceful and diverse waterside community faces turmoil as corporate greed threatens to undo generations of heritage and tradition. Meanwhile, in the city Dominic Cochrane is at a crossroads. He is made redundant and retreats to the quiet Sydney bay. Far from being the relaxing break he expected, Dom quickly becomes embroiled in a tragic family mystery.

"A fortunate Life" by Albert Facey. Despite enduring unimaginable hardships, Facey always saw his life as a fortunate one. A true classic of Australian literature, Facey's simply penned story offers a unique window onto the history of Australian life through the greater part of the twentieth century – the extraordinary journey of an ordinary man. *(A beautifully illustrated copy of this book is held in the church library).*

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY TABLE

Lencie Harding

The Op Table was covered with delicious things to buy on Sunday 16th March. It wasn't easy for the buyers to make their choice from the homemade cakes, slices, biscuits and not to mention Margie's pikelets and Michael's jams, available for sale at reasonable prices.

Treasurer Jan Riches has reported that an "absolutely wonderful" $293.50 was made from Sunday's takings, jam sales and donations, so that we now have a healthy balance in the account.

A significant sum of the money came from the sale of Michael Williams' jams. Thank you to Michael and to Jane Lama who usually collects the jam money and gives it to me for the cash box. This is very helpful as it often means that I don't have to provide the float for the Op Table.

Jan has suggested that we send a cheque for $400 to Uniting. I will write a letter to accompany the cheque saying that we would like the money to go towards supporting Uniting Prahran's Winter Breakfast Programme.

Thank you to our treasurer Jan and to everyone who so generously supports the Fellowship Opportunity Table.

SAMMY STAMP

Lencie Harding

Thank you to everyone who has kindly saved their stamps for Sammy Stamp.

The following is Allan Clark's report for the April 2025 issue of the Uniting Church Adult Fellowship magazine *Net Work.*

The year progresses, as does Sammy Stamp. We have been very pleased with the generous donations of stamps etc. to sell this year. Among these were two late 19th century albums with accompanying 1897 Stamp Catalogue. The two albums have been taken to an auction house for sale.

Richard Hicks, one of the Sammy Stamp volunteers, says: "These lovely old 1897 Stanley Gibbons stamp albums were recently delivered to us. They contain a nice selection of Penny Blacks and blues and reds. These are some of the world's first adhesive stamps from 1840-1850. "One album contained Commonwealth Imperial countries. The other, all remaining countries; nothing newer than 1912 in both albums. Abacus Auction House has them now, to appear in their May catalogue to auction. The two old albums may raise $1500 - $2000.

Sales to the end of February have reached about $3,408 (same period last year $3,445).

We have approved two grants so far this year, $5,000 to Alice Springs Uniting Church to assist them to employ a Community Engagement Pastor.

The second was $1000 to Johnsonville (East of Bairnsdale) Uniting Church to make aprons into reproductive health education tools for health workers in the Solomon Islands and Samoa.

Allan Clark
Convenor

SCUC COMMUNITY FORUM 2025

The date for our Community Forum on the theme **LONELINESS AND CONNECTEDNESS** has been set for Sunday 24 August, 3.00pm in the Church. Please note this in your diary! For the success of this venture, we definitely need your involvement as attendees, as questioners, and as publicity agents!

If you are interested in being part of the planning process, please contact Alison or Joyce or Alan.

Confirmed panelists include Debbie Holmes of the Avalon Centre, and Kerri Anne Brussen of JoCare. We are in the process of locking in further panelists. The Forum will be similar in structure to the ABC's Q&A programme.

Alison Tokita

SINGING AT SCUC

If you drop in to the church office on a Wednesday morning, you will hear the dulcet tones of Yukari Echo, the Japanese Ladies' Choir. Yukari is Japanese for Eucalyptus, thus a metaphor for Australia. After warming up with scales and arpeggios, they divide into groups for soprano, mezzo soprano and alto to rehearse their parts, then break for morning tea. Last month, the mezzo ladies were on duty in the kitchen while the others caught up with the latest news in the hall (see page 1). They are currently preparing a programme for the annual Japan Festival at Box Hill Town Hall on May 25.

Meanwhile, the Ewing Choristers are back in action. We sang at the service on March 9, accompanied by Errol Fernando, and Errol kindly led us in practising again on the 23rd. Why? Because we are going to sing for Palm Sunday 13, and again on Easter Day, April 20. It is not too late to join our little group. The ranks are swelling each time we gather and there is still room, especially for tenors! Do we have any lady tenors, perhaps?!

We practise just before the service, no weekday practices. All voices welcome!

COMMON THREADS

Alison Tokita

At our third meeting for 2025 on March 27th, we celebrated Barbara's birthday with a luscious chocolate cake, and managed somehow to keep our knitting clean.

After the photo shot, we welcomed three more to the knit-in, including Faye Pattinson who enlightens us with her conversation and oversight. Thanks for dropping in, Faye!

Here is Joyce's lovely crocheted cot blanket which will go to KOGO.

Next meeting will be on Thursday 24th April at 10.00am. Time for Anzac biscuits again?

MONTHLY CAFÉ CATCH-UP
Tuesday 8 April from 2 pm
Venue: Mr Sister Café, 81 Waverley Road

This regular cosy catchup is the place for talking about all those things that can't be discussed at morning tea after church or in formal meetings. It is great place to get to know people in an informal setting. Now the days are getting cooler, we will be able to sit in the sun-drenched glassed-in area at the rear. The service is lovely and friendly.

Hope to see you there some time. Contact Alison if you need a lift.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

From Margie Mitsikas

My little talk on Sunday a week ago referring to a plea for help sent to all our church community previously, resulted in three people expressing concern for our refugee friends, and agreeing that the Manse should be used for this mission emergency. Could further details and an update of the couple's terrible situation result in a stronger response?

How are our asylum-seeking boat arrival refugee friends faring after 13 years of detention? The main change is, that after putting their belongings in storage they were informed by another phone call (at the 11th hour) that they would now NOT be moving to Govt.-provided motel accommodation for two weeks after vacating their community detention flat in two days' time, but could remain in the flat until near the end of April. Medical records in her hand, the Home Affairs officer who phoned them a few days earlier had told them that despite their ill health they MUST get jobs and inspect all potential private rentals. Does this sound fair?

The consequences of receiving a Bridging Visa E that takes them out of community detention has put them in an even more precarious position. To date, no organisation approached has a place available for them. Neither is medically fit to work - to earn money for rental accommodation or pay bills, and after 13 years of detention their health issues will not be a quick fix.

Referring to the brutal migration bills rammed through Parliament in November, 2024, Paul Power, CEO of the Refugee Council of Australia said:
"There is no doubt that the draconian measures in these laws will have a disastrous and long-term ripple effect on the Australian community. The government has tried to absolve itself of any responsibility, so again, it will fall to everyday Australians to support families forced apart by these laws, to monitor how people coerced to unknown places are faring, and to push for accountability and transparency where the government has failed."
If anyone has questions concerning Paul Power's comments, I can provide further documentation. If anyone feels the manse should be used temporarily as a mission outreach venue (meaning we might in the future have to house a new minister temporarily elsewhere, if our refugee friends still require a stable place to recover from required surgery), then sign my petition to Church Council. Yet to be written, but it's coming. Thank you for reading this note.

Margaret Mitsikas

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Thank you to Maria and Alan for your help with this issue!

Thanks to all for your contributions to the issue. Please keep sending me your news items and photos for *InSpire*. We also welcome letters and articles, so feel free to write about any topic of interest to you to share with our readers. *Letters to the Editor are also welcome.* And we can promote your events at no fee!

Deadline for the **May 2025** edition of *InSpire* is **Monday, 28 April.** Articles should be emailed to the Editor, Alison Tokita, at [redacted] where possible, or given in person.

ROSTERS APRIL 2025

STEWARDS:

Sunday 6th Heather Carter, Michael Williams & Doug Connell
Sunday 13th Kerrie Davies, Peter Grossman Terry Trewavas & Alan Sandbach
Sunday 20th Richard & Sue Nelson, Luke Leembruggen
Sunday 27th Graeme Lord, Jill & Barry Rogers & Alison Tokita

MORNING TEA:

Sunday 13th Alison Tokita & Bronwyn Wellings
Sunday 20th Kerrie Davies & Peter Grossman
Sunday 27th Clare Pilcher & Anne Page

CALENDAR APRIL 2025

SUNDAY 6TH	**11 AM**	**EUCHARIST & COMMUNITY LUNCH**
TUESDAY 8TH	**2.00 PM**	**CAFÉ CATCH UP AT MR SISTER CAFÉ 81 WAVERLEY RD**
SUNDAY 13th	**10.30 AM**	**PALM SUNDAY SERVICE**
THURSDAY 17TH	**10.30 AM** **6.30 PM**	**BOOK CHAT** **TENEBRAE SERVICE**
FRIDAY 18TH	**9.30 AM**	**GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE**
SUNDAY 20TH	**10.30 AM**	**EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE**
THURSDAY 24TH	**10.00AM**	**COMMON THREADS**
SUNDAY 27TH	**10.30 AM** **5.00 PM**	**CHURCH SERVICE** **SOMETHING FOR THE SPIRIT**