

Warragul Uniting Church
KEEPING IN TOUCH No.10
Written on 14th July 2020

I am keen to hear of groups of people who are meeting to share the weekly services or just to have a 'cuppa'...especially with photos for KiT. Sometimes being restricted is difficult and can be lonely. Keeping in touch is so important. I wonder what new things you have discovered in you 'aleness'? Or what old things you have turned to and been amazed at what joy they bring to you. We have begun to sort through our photos on the computer...left it too long and it's a very big job. Just doing a bit at a time! Lots of laughter and memories and comments like...'I'd forgotten that', 'just look at this!!!', 'must print this and give a copy to...' and so on. Some pictures we did not remember...it's an adventure!

If you want to get out and about...please make that phone call to Tilley!!!

GARDEN WORKING BEE...SATURDAY 18TH JULY 2PM TILL 4PM...general clean up plus some specific tasks like the 'rabbit proof fence'. Tilly will bring biscuits and needs to know how many are coming so that she can make sure that she has enough. Please phone her on 5623 5959 if you are coming and bring your own 'thermos' or other drink so that the kitchen does not need to be used.

BBQ & JARS!!! How are your **JARS** going??? Remember the jam jars that could be filled up with coins, brought to the church and the money given to support Frontier Services? If your jar is full do you need a larger jar or another jar? We have not forgotten the Frontier Services BBQ...and when the time is right we will organize a BBQ or something else if the COVID 19 restrictions are still in place.

Weekly Printed Services. How fortunate are we to have three ministers working together to produce such great, encouraging, supportive, thought provoking, challenging, nurturing services each week. They connect us with each other, the people of the Shearwater Ministry area (Western part of South Gippsland) and many others in different parts of Victoria and even wider. Thanks to Eric Smith who makes the material more specific to Warragul, David who distributes the services to all on email and lots of others who hand deliver copies to others. The Church Council has decided to write to the ministers who produce this material expressing our thanks and appreciation of this part of their ministry.

COMMUNION. A number of people have said to me that they miss being able to gather together for worship and especially Communion. The Church Council met last night (Mon 13th) and has a plan!!! In the next few weeks we are going to be offering you the possibility of being part of a Communion Service through Zoom, or small groups (up to 20) meeting at the church. Eric and Des are exploring the possibilities and we will keep you informed...I hope to be able to give you some dates for this in next week's KiT.

COMMUNION BY ZOOM...all you need is a computer or smart phone, 'Zoom' software, speakers and a camera.

- 'Zoom' software can be downloaded onto your computer or phone...simply google 'Zoom' and follow the install instructions. This is free software.
 - Speakers, most computers have built in speakers. If your computer does not you can purchase speakers that plug into the computer. Smart phones have speakers. You need speakers so that you can hear what is being said in the service.
 - Camera, most recent computers have a built in camera and smart phones have a camera. The camera is so that you can be seen and you can see the others who are participating. When the service is organized you will be invited to 'join' the 'meeting' and this is a very simple exercise.
 - It's a bit like a video conference.
 - Each person would supply their own bread and juice/wine.

COMMUNION SERVICE...at the Church. At the moment a maximum of 20 people can attend and this will need to be organized carefully...more details next week...WATCH THIS SPACE!!!

SUPPLY MINISTRY

Following on-going consultation with the Rev Chris Meneilly, the Church Council decided '*because of the uncertainties concerning the proposed Supply Ministry that any arrangements that have been talked about be cancelled and that Supply Ministry does not proceed.*'

The Church Council also decided that the Secretary will write to the Rev Chris Meneilly informing him that the proposed period of Supply Ministry will not proceed because of the uncertainties surrounding Covid 19 and DHHS restrictions. The letter will express:

- the gratitude of the Church Council for his forbearance during this time when we have been attempting to arrange Supply Ministry,
- our concern that because of the uncertainty around Covid19 restrictions, we are unable to commit to a period of time where Supply Ministry is likely to be effective and efficient,
- his graciousness, openness and pastoral concern related to what seemed to be ever changing proposals for Supply Ministry.

PLAY GROUP... Due to COVID 19 the Play Group will remain closed until further notice. There are many enquiries from mothers about when it might recommence. Can you help? We need to have a small team to lead the weekly program and be responsible for setup and pack up. As part of planning for Play Group the Church Council invites people interested in this important ministry to volunteer to form a small working group to assess the needs of the program so that it might recommence when practicable. If you are interested please contact Des Parker ASAP.

CHILD SAFE... Each Church needs to make sure that Child Safe requirements are being met for all activities involving children. We need to have at least two people who are prepared to check that the Church records show that the Child Safe requirements are being met. We have not been doing this well as a congregation or a Church Council. If you are interested in volunteering or would like further information, please contact the Church Office.

Food for thought!!!

As part of the devotions at the Church Council meeting on Monday 13th July, John Currie reminded us that we have been and are still on a journey with COVID 19. There have been many changes and adjustments that we have had to make as we experienced lockdown, not being able to meet for worship, missing the fellowship that we appreciate when we meet together just to name two of these. This reminds us of many of the things that are important to us and we look forward to being part of them again. It also brings hope, a sense of excitement and a new appreciation of what is really valuable to us. We dip into the treasures of the past and also rethink what we have valued in the present. Sometimes we find that what we have valued needs to change. So we continue the journey in the safe hands of God.

VANUATU...from Tony Carson

The 'boys' have been able to stabilise themselves more so now and have greatly appreciated the support provided by church members. They remain here until such time as they can be repatriated. It is understood that both the Australian and Vanuatu Governments are now working on a repatriation strategy. However, bearing in mind the agricultural and horticultural industries are reliant upon these workers, any repatriated workers will need to be replaced. Many issues are in play as the economy in Vanuatu is decimated due to COVID 19 and Cyclone Harold; therefore those returning will be going back to no further income. At present the boys are sending money home each week, much of this money would otherwise have been saved for housing, children's education etc. As Virgin is no longer operating international flights it appears the money paid earlier by these boys is probably lost. An added complication is that passports for two years expire before the end of the year but we have been able to make contact with the Vanuatu High Commissioner to clarify what arrangements can be made to address the matter.

Peace and blessing,
Des Parker
Written on 14th July 2020

On behalf of the Extended Executive of the Church Council:

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