



# Kairos



## News in and around Camberwell Uniting Church

Volume 5 Number 5

December 2012

### From the Minister's Desk

Friends in God's family, Warmest  
Greetings!!



### No Room in the Inn - Christmas and what it means for us today.

The familiar version of the Christmas story, told in Luke's gospel includes the setting for the birth in a stable, because - the story says, there was 'no room for them in the inn.' Underneath what must have been Luke's intention to provide a cute nativity setting, with scope for children's pageants including all the farmyard animals, there was in fact a deeply subversive theological point.

Luke sees Jesus, even from his beginning, as one who turns upside down the worlds' power. So the one named son of God, prince of peace and saviour is born in the most humble circumstances and goes on to question the powerful and raise up the lowly. The point is the action, not so much the characters in the birth story. So in the true spirit of Christmas some issues about the most-lowly in our society; the ones we seem to have no room for in our collective inn.

The Federal Government has decided to withhold support services and appropriate visa status from asylum seekers proven to be refugees. The Uniting Church has expressed

profound concern at this. UnitingJustice

described the application of the Federal Government's No-Advantage Test as "a cruel policy of punishment". Confirmed refugees will now not be issued with a permanent Protection visa until such a time that they would have been resettled in Australia had they undergone regional processing.

Under the Minister's application of the No-Advantage Test, refugees will remain on bridging visas indefinitely with no right to work and only basic accommodation assistance and limited financial support. This is nothing short of forced destitution, it will see asylum seekers living in dire poverty with chronic health issues. Also, the suggestion that people awaiting processing in the community could be shipped off to Nauru or Manus at any moment is unspeakably cruel, it will inflict further damage on vulnerable people.

Our wider Church is a long-standing supporter of onshore processing of asylum seekers, with access to adequate services, including healthcare and education. How can we claim to be a decent and civilized country when we knowingly sending children to the malaria-infested Manus Island? No lives are being saved through these policies.

The indefinite detention of refugees who receive a negative security assessment has left 59 men, women and children in legal limbo. We

see vulnerable people, who have been determined to be refugees given a potential life sentence in detention facilities that are known to cause serious negative physical and mental health issues. It is almost inconceivable that a civilized country like Australia would indefinitely detain six children and their parents.

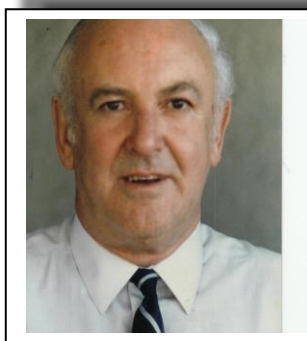
Why is there no room in our inn and how can we let it stay that way? The story of a baby born in a stable has some sharp applications for us today and I'm convinced that we need to speak up on these basic issues of justice and humanity.

At a time when we focus on celebrations and family, we pray for those who have had to flee their homes, mourn loved ones, seen their communities torn apart and had to beg for help. When we remember the story of Jesus nativity and join in the gift giving of the season; may we recall that his parents had to beg for a room and when there was none, the hospitality of a stable was given. We pray that our rich and enlightened society might find a way to do better with those who beg for our help.

As always at this time of year we support the work of the Christmas Bowl and look to share some hope more widely around our often troubled world.

May the grace of God the great giver, inspire us to generosity.  
Peace and Blessings, Ian

## Alan Reid - Ruth Akie



Many people still mourn Alan's death and miss his help and conversation.

As was detailed at the service of thanksgiving for his life, **Alan**

**made an enormous contribution to many activities outside of Camberwell – Palestine, Psychology, and the local Presbytery of the Uniting Church and much more.**

I want to draw attention to his local work. Alan was chairperson of the Canterbury Family Centre –formerly **Canterbury Babies Home**. He was also chair of **Camcare** that assists with welfare in Camberwell.

He was on the board of **Trading Partners** that imported goods from third world countries.

Alan was available for anyone in the community who sought **counselling** - always free of charge. His vestry door was open on Thursday mornings.

With Jan's help, he organized many dinners to help people from the congregation and on the **"fringes" to socialize at their home.**

As our minister he organised a **Book Club** and a **Men's Group** that ran for about 12 years.

## A personal tribute to Alan Reid

Alan Reid was our minister of the word for 11 years (1987-1998). He was larger than life and Jan (his wife) was a great influence on him and on us! He came with lots of new ideas and proceeded to implement them bringing new life and interesting times to Camberwell Uniting Church!

But he will be remembered more, I think, for his great capacity for Pastoral Care and for returning to Camberwell in his retirement where he hosted a Men's Group, a Theological Book group, was the Stewardship recorder and edited Kairos (our church newspaper). Big shoes to fill indeed!

Alan's passion for peace and justice was enormous and the work he and Jan did for the Christians in Palestine was just amazing.

After providing hospitality and meals to many of the congregation (thankyou also Jan) for those years, CUC has been able to repay some of this kindness since Alan had been ill and especially since Jan died. Many of us have visited regularly always taking some tasty morsels!

On a personal note, he was partial to my lasagne and apple pikelets. I will miss these visits greatly. He always challenged us to think deeply about faith and life in general but never failed to be interested in our families and our lives. Vale Alan, Fiona Ensor

## Alan at Camberwell, South Camberwell & South Hawthorn

Alan came to the Camberwell Parish in June 1987 – the only minister in a 3 congregation 2 ministerial placement parish. During the first 8 months he willingly lead worship at South Hawthorn at 9.00 am and then either Camberwell or South Camberwell at 10.00. He then shared ministry for 3 years with Christine

Phillips and then for only a matter of months with Barbara Barrett from the time of her induction until her death.

Alan supported and farewelled the 5 families who left the Camberwell congregation to help build up South Hawthorn. He also supported the setting up of ECOS. at South Hawthorn. It was during Alan's time in Camberwell that the South Camberwell congregation closed and South Hawthorn and Camberwell dissolved the parish to become separate autonomous congregations. Ruth Crawley

## Kairos

**Kairos** is the Greek word meaning "time", that is, those times which are turning points demanding decision while the opportunity remains. Although it refers primarily to the coming of Christ it may also refer to the present time in the life of our congregation.

The revival of '**Kairos**' as our newspaper began in 2008, with **Alan Reid** as our editor. Alan spent many hours reading and researching for items, and also 'cajoling' us into making contributions for Kairos. We acknowledge Alan's work in ensuring that we were all informed and connected through Kairos, and were able to share in the life of the wider Uniting Church and our local congregation through its publication. For this we say 'thank you Alan'.

**Coming soon...**

## Messy Church

The theme for **August** was the **Moses** story. This is a huge story and a challenge to convey it in the time allowed including the craft activities and the celebration!



With Margery's inspiration, there was a wonderful array of activities illustrating "Baby in the Bulrushes", the 10 plagues, pyramid construction, the parting of the Red sea and a "sea" of blue streamers through which to enter the hall.

The story was beautifully told in the celebration by Elizabeth with Ian showing clips from a cartoon version of Moses life. Lots of fun, lots of people enjoying fellowship and food!



**Joshua and the walls of Jericho** were the topic for **September**. Margery organized a 'gathering activity' for the first time. The children together made large flowers and decorated a sign showing the way to the Promised Land hence getting to know each other better.

Many other exciting activities followed, including making horns to blow and decorating boxes to build a wall in the church. This represented the



walls which had surrounded Jericho and was one of the obstacles the Jewish people faced on their journey to the Promised Land. Ian led the march around the wall (as Joshua did in

the Bible), horns blaring and the wall came tumbling down.

## Christmas Services

**Dec 16. 7:30 pm - Ecumenical Carols**  
@ OLV, Burke Rd

**24. 8:00 pm - Carols & Story**

**25. 9:30 am - Family Christmas Celebration**

Camberwell Uniting Church Office: 9882 7441



*Peace and good will to all!  
Join us here to celebrate  
the light of Christ born in our world*



How did the walls fall down????



This was followed by Ian's reflection. He talked about overcoming obstacles with God's help.

The theme for October was **The Lost Sheep**. The children started the afternoon with a getting to know game of hiding Cecil the sheep in the church. The children responded very well to this, then into the hall for the activities.



There was painting, making magnets and icing biscuits which were all sheep! An activity that also was very popular was making bracelets with your name on it to remind us that we are all individuals and as such special to God.

The Celebration centred on the lost sheep and how he was found and there were rejoicing and singing fun songs. The meal was Shepherd's pie of course, as well as Cottage Garden pie (for vegetarians) and sheep iced biscuits and cake!

We now have 2 families who have come to Messy Church because of the sign Ian puts up in the week before Messy Church. That is exciting and rewarding as is seeing children coming again who cannot wait for Messy Church to start.

Our numbers are increasing steadily even though it is early days. I think Margery's wonderful craft activities are a highlight. Seeing

all ages interact and get to know each other is an absolute joy.

We celebrated 2 birthdays-Messy Church's 1<sup>st</sup> birthday and Jesus' birthday this month! What a wonderful celebration with lots of children and adults. There were fantastic activities for everyone.

For the gathering activity everyone made a beautiful golden crown. Then one could make an advent calendar, a manger for the baby Jesus, a Nativity scene and marshmallow Christmas puddings to mention some of the activities! The hall was decorated with streamers and balloons.



In the Celebration we had a beautifully illustrated Christmas story (told by Fiona), Christmas music and then Ian's reflection which reminded us of the real meaning of Christmas and what is really important in our lives.



To finish off our last Messy Church for 2012 we had star shaped hamburgers and a Birthday



(chocolate) cake wonderfully decorated with the Nativity scene. Thanks Alex!

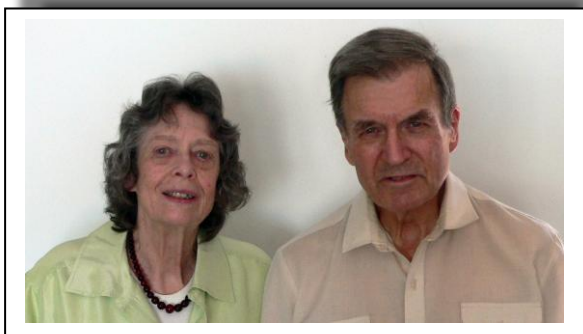
Messy Church WILL continue in 2013, fourth Sunday of the month, so thanks to all those who have contributed and those who have come along in 2012.

Fiona Ensor



## People

### Helen & Trevor Barnard



Music has played a major part in both the lives of **Helen and Trevor Barnard**.

**Kairos**

For some years **Helen** sang with **The (Melbourne) Tudor Choristers**, and was a pioneer in importing **Early Music instruments** during the 1960s and 1970s, trading directly with leading European artisans. Once, when she was entertaining two East German representatives, it was noticeable that each was acting as minder for the other!

She has also had a long association with Christian meditation, and served as National Secretary of the Christian Meditation Network in Australia. For a few years she ran a **weekly meditation group** here at the Camberwell Uniting Church.

Helen retains a life-long interest in all things Chinese; whilst Trevor is a devoted supporter of English Premier League soccer team, Fulham, where he was born.

A highlight of **Trevor's** earlier years was making the first stereo recording of the **Arthur Bliss Piano Concerto at London's Abbey Road Studios**, one month before the Beatles recorded their first hit *Love Me Do* there. **He later taught** for four years at one of the leading US music schools, the **New England Conservatory in Boston**.

Now in semi-retirement, Trevor lectured at tertiary level in Melbourne for many years and fulfilled numerous concert, radio and TV engagements. In addition to a number of international CDs and journal articles he recently made internet video promos for his two books that are published in the US.

Helen and Trevor are both Honorary Life Members of the Camberwell Music Society.

## News from Church Council

At Council meetings in August and October we spent some time discussing '**The shape of worship and our contributions**'. We considered the changes that have occurred in the form of worship in our lifetime. There is now much greater variety in the way services are conducted, reflecting more closely the way our society operates. So there is greater informality, more emphasis on the visual, the pattern is non-hierarchical, inclusive, and interactive and there is often a more meditative spirituality. These newer elements in worship

**December 2012**

all have ancient links – they all have a part in Christian tradition.

We discussed the greater involvement of the congregation particularly in the life of our church. The use of visual materials, music, prayer, drama, meditation and group discussions were considered in some detail as ways of creating greater movement and involvement within the service.

At our November meeting we **looked at ways we talk about church**, what we consider to be the main characteristics of our Camberwell UC community – who we are and what we do. We discussed how we would talk to others, outside our church, about our church and concluded that we all need to find conversational opportunities to do this.

On property matters we have at last heard from **Boroondara Council**. The senior drainage engineer indicated that the Council **has allocated money in their 2012/13 budget** to undertake drainage work **to minimise or eliminate water flooding** onto our property from Reserve Road during heavy rain episodes. Manley Plumbing is in the process of refining their quotation for work to improve the ventilation under the Hall.

Obtaining a second quotation for the internal reconfiguration of the church has been a difficult task. However, a builder is inspecting the site early in December, so we would hope to present a firm quote to the congregation by February 2013.

We are also in the process of obtaining a quotation to bituminise the car park area behind the church and the vinyl floor covering in the small foyer of the Hall is soon to be replaced. Jenny Lawton and Ruth Crawley have tidied and rearranged the kitchen cupboards so that items are more accessible and Jenny is investigating the cost of steam cleaning the kitchen. Jenny is also gathering information on the price, size and brands of gas heaters appropriate for the Meeting Room.

In August we considered a request from Carolyn Harris about our policy when hiring the Hall for children's parties. Council agreed that the Hall will not be available for teenage parties i.e. ages 13 - 20. Beyond the age of 21 parties may be held with the proviso that there will be no alcohol present. The bond for parties will be raised to \$200.

Ruth Crawley has spent some time investigating the most cost effective way of dealing with a faulty heating and air conditioning unit in 'Illoura'. Council has decided that we will have the unit repaired rather than replaced at this stage. In October rental charges for 2013, including the flat, were reviewed and increased and we have agreed to fund Messy Church for the proposed 10 sessions in 2013. The Budget for 2013 will be presented to the congregation for consideration on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2013.

The second official Working Bee for the year was held on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October when Ian, Max and Carolyn worked very hard. It was noted that we need to develop a list of jobs which can be done by a few people at appropriate times rather than relying on people being available on a set date. This will be trialled in 2013.

Elaine Robinson

## News from CASS

At our final CASS meeting for 2012 we met **Oliver Chan, the new Community Engagement Officer for HMASP and Philippe Roussel who is the co-ordinator of 'Life without Barriers'**, the group who provide the carers for the young men living in 'Illoura'.

Since February 2011 when the first of the unaccompanied asylum seekers – boys under 18 from Afghanistan – moved into 'Illoura' there have been 34 who have shared this transitional accommodation. Of these young men, 24 have been granted permanent protection visas and have moved on into the community. Oliver tells us that 'Depending on their age and circumstances they have either moved into shared private rental accommodation, or in with a carer family, or into the refugee Minors Program.

At present, financial help is available for families or carers who foster Asylum Seekers less than 18 years old. For those over the age of 18 Centre Link benefits are available. Philippe told us that there are 10 carers linked to 'Illoura' to ensure that constant support is given. An activity worker comes at weekends. Carers come from the same ethnic background as the Asylum Seekers they supervise – **the residents in 'Illoura', are Hazara from Afghanistan as are their carers.**



**'Life without Barriers' is now involved with 11 houses** throughout Melbourne providing support through Melbourne Open Mission. They find that the young asylum seekers are committed to education, with many previously having very limited schooling, usually only at primary level. Attendance at an English Language School supports their learning of English and Work Experience is undertaken with large companies such as Woolworths, with the hope that jobs will be offered when the Asylum Seekers obtain their permanent visas.

Our September fund raising activity, the **Charity Auction** was a most enjoyable and successful occasion. The final sum raised (including donations from some who were unable to attend) was **\$3,380**. Two-thirds of this has been sent on to HMASP via Share and one-third retained for the 'Illoura' maintenance fund. Letters of thanks were sent to all the businesses who donated vouchers, goods or time to the Auction.

Sarah Thompson, the new Fund Raising and Communications Manager for HMASP, will be including an account of the auction – and possibly some of the other fundraising events we have held – in the next HMASP newsletter.

Our November activity has focused on the collection of gift vouchers (or money to purchase the same) for the **HMASP end-of-year party for their clients**. To date we have **\$450 to convert into vouchers** and more vouchers will be collected at the final meeting of Women of CUC who again are supporting this fundraising.

Throughout the year **Eric McKay and Harvey Sowerby** have provided invaluable practical assistance with maintenance problems at 'Illoura'. We are very grateful that they are so willing to use their expertise to carry out many repair and replacement tasks.

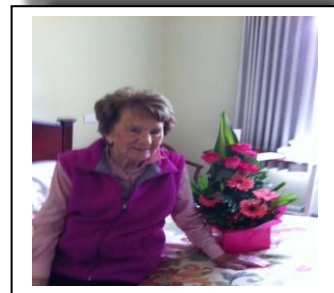
Thank you all for your continuing generosity throughout 2012 in supporting the work that Hotham Mission does through its Asylum Seeker Project, providing some measure of dignity and hope for people who otherwise have nothing.  
Elaine Robinson

## People

### Ruby Lawton

Ruby celebrated her 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday with her family at her new care facility. Ruby has moved from

Cresthaven Malvern, (low care facility) to Bupa Greensborough, (dementia specific unit). Ruby has settled in very well and the care from the staff is wonderful.



The family arrived with flowers and birthday cake and had a lovely afternoon in a private dining room set up with lemonade and pretty teacups. We then went for a walk in the gardens and watched the chooks wander around.

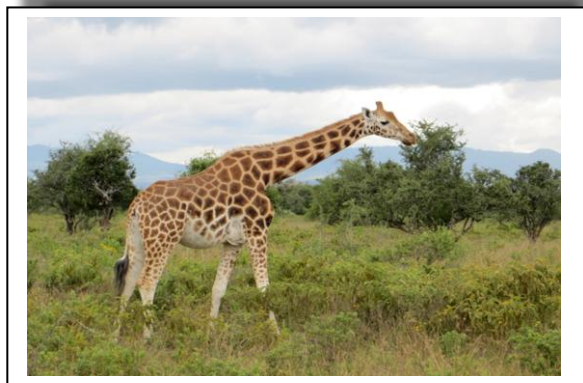
Ruby was in her favourite colour, pink, and the staff had done her hair and makeup for the occasion. Her granddaughter couldn't believe how well Ruby looked. It was a special afternoon.

Jewell Gardener

### African Holidays

During my recent trips to **Uganda and Kenya**, bird and mammal watching blended together to give fantastic experiences. Both countries have high mountain peaks, rainforest and sweeping grass plains

Driving in National Parks with your head out of the car roof provides close views of the **"Big Five"**. This gave me a chance to photograph at a safe range with my new camera with its zoom lens.



**Kenya** is certainly a nature paradise -I saw over **600 bird species and 60 different mammals**

In Uganda I was also fortunate to come close to the Mountain Gorillas.



**Africans live from the land using their natural resources** --often at the expense of the environment. With expanding population and the problem of Aids their plight is dire and help certainly needed. Friendly happy people greet you everywhere to provide a wonderful holiday for all.

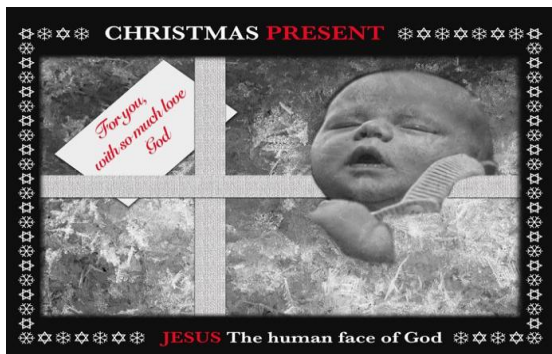
Ruth Akie

PS Thanks to Ian Brown who provided photography help -- as part of Cass Fundraising.

### A poem for the season Called to Watch

You call us to watch:  
as shepherds watched,  
and guarded their flocks;  
to watch as wise men watched,  
and saw a star.  
You call us to watch:  
yet knowing that in the Gethsemane  
of our own world,  
we will fall asleep.  
You call us to watch:  
Alert.  
Anticipating that unannounced hour,  
when your glory, O Christ,  
will be revealed.

Jeff Shrowder



# Help rebuild lives this Christmas

Please give today  
**FREECALL 1800 025 101**  
**[www.actforpeace.org.au](http://www.actforpeace.org.au)**

The Christmas Bowl is the Christmas Appeal of Act for Peace, the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia and a member of the global ACT Alliance. ABN 64 493 941 795



#### Ministry:

**Worship** 10.00 am

**Rev. Ian Brown** 0439 931 080

**Church Office:** Tuesday & Friday

**Phone** 9882-7441

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**Kairos:** It is ours and it depends on you sharing information of interest.

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