

St Leonard's Uniting Church February 2023

2 Wolseley Grove

Brighton Beach 3186

Tel: 9592 9333

contactstleonards@gmail.com

www.stleonards.org.au

Minister: Rev Kim Cain

Ministerial Meandering

The lady was telling me that it felt like she was living with a “permanent hangover” after going through Covid. Even though she never caught the virus, she had this overwhelming sense of lethargy and fatigue.

Interestingly, she put it down to having nothing to do: ‘the government was paying me money, but I had lost my old busy life. I felt like a fraud. And I can’t get a sense of life back.’

I guess we all have different stories to tell through similar situations, but isn’t it interesting that in some way being busy is a status symbol for many of us? That in our western world, unless we are busy we feel we are not truly successful?

That is, of course, until we can’t keep running any more: our hospitals, nursing homes and emergency service agencies are wilting under the stress of loss of personnel making their jobs a continual race to get things done. And so staff are resigning.

Both pre and post Covid the reality is, affluent societies the world over are time poor societies. We have more labour saving devices, more home deliveries of everything from meals to footwear, and yet we are as busy as ever. Until you’re not. Until you can’t run anymore.

If we are always on the move we have less time to think, less time to be caring, less capacity to explore wisdom about life - unless it is a ten step-self-help book or an eight minute video-blog.

Finding ways to ‘do’ and ‘be’ in some balanced way is integral to us living an authentic life.

Of course you would expect me to say ‘dropping into worship’ sometime is the answer. But life is not that simple (though yes, everyone is welcome to worship!). Ministers and priests can be just as time-hacked as anyone else.

There is no simple answer to any of this – especially when society pushes us to be quick. I read the other day of people complaining about how slow our trams are today compared to thirty years ago!

Maybe, starting with a question to ourselves: ‘how fast do I really want to run?’ will help. And from there try to make some decisions about what’s stopping us from slowing down. Or, at least, owning your own pace.

Unfortunately, some do not get a choice due to circumstances of life. This is where a helpful community, like a church, can be supportive in more ways than we think. Being available to ask, listen and carry a concern may be really helpful – but, ironically, we need time and space to do that, too.

Grace and peace,

Kim



St Leonard's MESSAGE



CO-CREATORS

OUR THEME OVER SEVERAL WEEKS BEGINNING JANUARY 31



Co-Creators with God

Over the next few months our worship at St. Leonard's will reflect the theme of all of us being '**Co-Creators**' with God.

This implies that within us there is a creative spirit, or an energy, that is the God-given gift for us to share in and shape life as part of our humanity.

For us this leads into:

- **Sharing creatively in creation for the care of the planet;**
- **sharing God's desire for human fulfilment and authenticity as we do our work and live our lives;**
- **and being creative participants in finding and living out 'peace and justice', 'truth and spirit' in the world.**

This liberating concept of being 'Co-Creators with God' will filter into our worship, prayers and actions as we move into the future.

Kim

St. Leonard's Uniting Church Monthly Worship Cycle 2023

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH: WorshipOne 10.00am - organ/music + variety

SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH :

Modern Liturgical, Holy Communion 10.00am - organ music
New Wave Evening, 5.00pm - band music

THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH:

New Wave Classic 10.00 am - band music

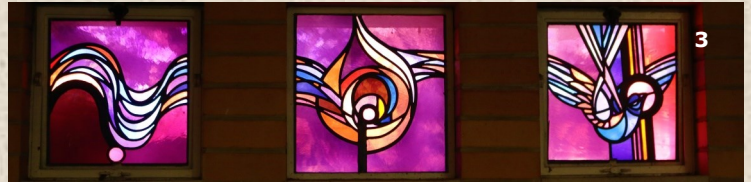
FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH:

Modern Liturgical 10.00am - featuring music, art, vision
Messy Church, 5.00pm- children's craft, food, song

FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH:

Contemporary worship 10.00am - something different!

St Leonard's MESSAGE



Holiday reflections from LEAF



MAKING ART FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

“No one will protect what they don’t care about; and no one will care about what they have never experienced.” - David Attenborough

Our unifying mission is to fill the world with inspiring public art that spreads messages of love, equality, conservation and hope. As public sculpture artists and wildlife activists, our method is to put wildlife front and centre in cities across the planet, making unforgettable experiences and recreating connections with the wild world. We aim to inspire a community that passionately works for change and unity so we can all live in a better world tomorrow. (1)

From Australia and the UK, Gillie and Marc portray a strong new definition of public art, spreading messages of love, equality, and conservation. Art galleries and public sites in over 250 cities of the world display their art, and they are well recognised with many notable awards such as the Chianciano Biennale in Italy.

The artists are best known for their beloved characters, Rabbitwoman and Dogman, who tell the autobiographical tale of two opposites coming together to become best friends and soul mates. The Rabbit and the Dog stand for diversity and acceptance through love. They reflect the lives of the artists sharing the same values yet coming from different faith traditions - Gillie is Catholic and Marc, Jewish.

Gillie and Marc believe art is a powerful platform for change. As well as their recurring theme of acceptance and love in the shared life of the rabbit and dog; their art portrays the magnificence of the natural world, and the necessity of preserving it – ‘for we are it, and it is us’.

Gillie and Marc have a special spiritual connection to the world and can be called ‘eco-warriors’. Gillie grew up in Zambia. When only eight years old she was greatly distressed seeing an elephant brutally shot. From that early time, she dedicated her life and work to protecting Earth’s endangered animals. As a young man, Marc became committed to wild-life conservation on a trip to Tanzania to see the chimpanzees. He gained a deep appreciation of the interconnectivity of life and the importance of protecting the delicate balance of nature.

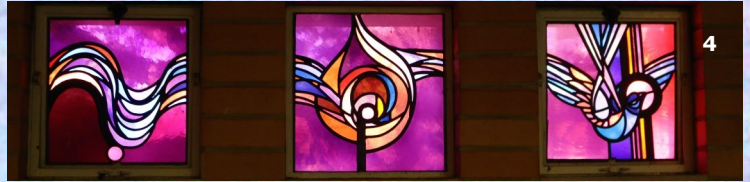
Their art has raised hundreds of thousands in donations through their project - Love The Last⁽²⁾; this project supports many wildlife charities and causes.

(1) <https://gillieandmarc.com>

(2) <https://lovethelast.com>



St Leonard's MESSAGE



Caritas

We finished our gatherings last year with further Bible studies from Luke's Gospel, then a festive feast in Vivienne's home. Following the appeal to St Leonard's congregation, we collected a wonderful array of childrens' Christmas toys, which were delivered to Prahran Mission, for families in need in their area.



Christmas toys collected

Meetings in 2023 will mostly be on the 2nd and 4th Thursday mornings of the month, commencing 9th February. Venues will be in the church news-sheet the previous week, ladies of all ages welcome.

Lyn Greenall



Heather Forbes and
Lyn Greenall delivered
the toys to Prahran
Mission

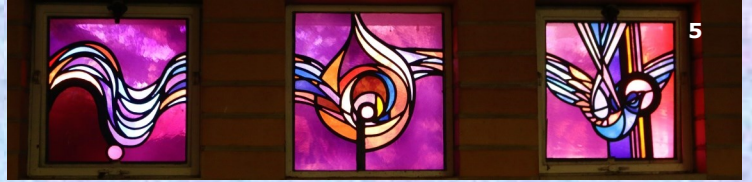
Friends of Outreach



Before Christmas a happy group met in the home of Edmee and John Cudmore for carol singing and a delicious Christmas afternoon tea.

The next meeting will be held on Monday the 27th of February at 2pm, at the home of Lorraine Tyler, 1/11 Bent Street, Brighton. All most welcome.

St Leonard's MESSAGE



January Morning Tea at Wendy's



It was a happy group who gathered at Wendy's house after church on Sunday 15th January.

It was an opportunity to catch up after the Christmas break as well as to wish Diana Todner well for her move to Glen Iris.



Wedding Bells



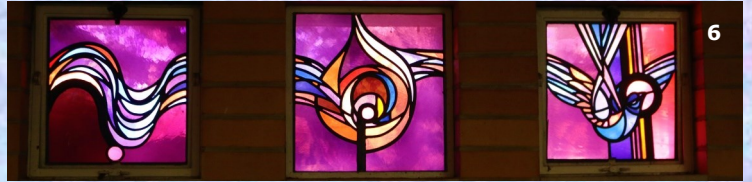
Grace Kingsford was a beautiful bride when she married Tom Goodwin on Saturday 14th January 2023.

Grace, daughter of Virginia and Andrew Kingsford, has come through our youth program, been a member of the band and a very popular Sunday School teacher.

We wish Grace and Tom much happiness together.



St Leonard's
MESSAGE



St. Leonard's

PLAYGROUP

For pre-school kids and their carers

TUESDAYS 10.00 TO 12.00

During school term times.



*Come play, make crafts, sing songs
and listen to stories!*

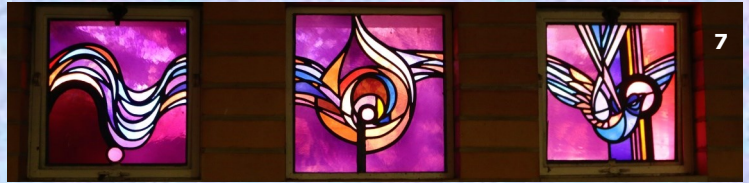


St Leonard's

UNITING CHURCH BRIGHTON BEACH
CORNER NEW STREET AND WOLSELEY GROVE

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St Leonard's
MESSAGE



Christmas at St Leonard's



A sparkling Christmas eve service.



Kim giving the children's talk on Christmas day.

Christmas Day celebrations

A beautiful Nativity scene created by Amanda Fraser and Barry Schofield enhanced our Christmas worship.



First Messy Church for the year is on Sunday 26th of February, Messy Church is held in the hall on the 4th Sunday of each month. It is a fun time for both young and old, if you would like to be involved contact Frank Griffiths 0413 720 602





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Our **webpage** is www.stleonards.org.au

Our **YouTube** channel is https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9CcPZAoAYjj_VCsZEexlg

Our **Facebook** group is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/113607279517/>

Our public **Facebook** page is <https://www.facebook.com/St.LeonardsUCA/>

Our **Instagram** page is <https://www.instagram.com/stleonardsuca/> You will need to request to follow this page.



FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE
IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH
IN CARE FOR THE EARTH
IN DIVERSITY

Items for the next edition of *The Message* should be submitted to contactstleonards@gmail.com by **Sunday 19th March 2023**, clearly marked "For the Message".