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Minister: Rev Kim Cain

# MESSAGE

## August 2023

### MINISTERIAL MEANDERINGS

There is a distant memory: I was about fifteen and my grandmother was complaining about everything changing. "Why can't they just wait for all the old people to die before they change everything?" We know life doesn't work that way. But the little incident does show how difficult it is to undertake change, and to adjust to changes in the things we once took for granted.

Not all change is good – but it is definitely here for good. It's part of our human condition to desire difference and novelty. It has always been so, even though the pace of change is sometimes remarkable.

And whilst I might have been incredulous, even as a young teenager, that "Nan" could come to such a point of wisdom that she didn't even know was radical and prescient. She said she didn't trust those big electricity wires – meaning the big pylons carrying power cables across the countryside. "It's just not natural," she opined. "It will make someone sick." On this one she was, perhaps more right than she imagined: we now know that the days of fossil fuel-based power is limited - and associated electrical towers marching from coal burning power stations is a thing of the past. That sort of power generation is making the world sick. [Though new power lines will be marching out of coastal and rural transmitting stations – which is irritating some rural folk.] But making the change is difficult, and has some cost somewhere.

Churches, of course also face change – they always have. The development of ideas, deep reflection and social changes has an impact.

At the moment we are facing change in leaving Covid behind. Like so many in our community we were holding things together. That is now past. It is now time for us to go for growth: to rebuild, reconnect and re-shape our future.

Of course, we acknowledge our past and inform our future by our learning, but we also need to be on the lookout for new possibilities. This is about building a base for a future as the world continues to change around us.

So, we move forward in faith with a Christ who goes before us, a pioneer and perfecter of our faith. (Hebrews: 12:2). We don't wait for death to change us; we change as a part of being alive.

Grace and peace, Kim



## Church Council Update

The key items Church Council has been working on include the following:

**Moving St Leonard's from 'maintenance' to 'growth'** – The release of the Ministry and Mission Strategy on 7 May 2023 provides us with a basis for moving St Leonard's from a 'maintenance' position during Covid to a 'growth' scenario. Over the Covid years, we were largely in a holding pattern due to the impacts of lockdowns and the reluctance of people to go out. Now that period has passed Council is keen to support Kim to focus on outreach activities designed to attract new people and encourage greater engagement between St Leonard's and the local Bayside community. This is likely to include greater social media engagement to better connect with locals and to promote the wonderful qualities of our St Leonard's congregation. We are seeking to implement a variety of actions to do this more effectively and we are keen for your input; so please provide any thoughts you have to any Council member.



Café church on a Sunday evening.

**Recommencement of the development project** – We are very pleased to advise you that the development project is finally moving forward again. We have now formally re-engaged our architects Atelier Wagner and have also engaged independent Project Managers AKPS who are together gathering speed and preparing the design and documentation package over the next couple of months. All feedback provided by congregation members at the Information Session in April has been provided to Atelier Wagner for consideration and detailed responses have been sought on key issues. We are planning to have focus group discussions with some congregation members to work through specific issues over coming months. We will share outcomes with the broader congregation in due course. Timeframes involve: architects will complete the design in the next couple of months; then various UCA approvals in September-October. We plan to tender the work in October-November so we can appoint a builder in December. Construction would then commence in January with completion by around October 2024. Please contact me at any time if you wish to discuss any matters related to the development project.

**Clean-up has commenced** – Now that the project timeline is better known we need to tidy up our site and clean out unwanted items. That has commenced this week with some tidy up of the two key storage rooms, the music/IT storage room behind the vestry and the storage room behind the stage. The hard rubbish has been stacked on Wolseley Grove and Bayside Council will probably have removed it before you read this article.

**Memorial rose garden** – As the project is scheduled to commence in January, we need to prepare for the relocation of the memorial rose garden and the ashes interred in the garden. A committee is being formed to plan and coordinate the relocation process in a carefully planned and sensitive way. Please contact Kim if you wish to be involved.



**Defibrillator has been purchased** – Church Council has approved and installed a new defibrillator unit in the passageway opposite the Meeting Room. This central location has been selected to allow best access from all parts of the church complex. As part of the purchase, we have access to a training session for up to 10 people. Please contact Wendy or Peter if your group would like to have a representative at the training session.

Peter Hunkin Church Council Chair

**CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY @ St Leonard's**

**Movie night**

On the 29th June, St Leonard's had a special holiday movie night with pop-corn, fairy floss and icy poles. Nine children and three mums, booked to see the movie 'Blueback'. On the following Sunday some of the artwork and ideas from the movie were shared with the congregation.

'Blueback' is a story of the beauty and wonder of sea creatures in Western Australia, in particular a friendly Giant Groper named Blueback. The theme for the Sunday worship was 'Following God through Conflict with Courage'.

This related well with the ideas from the movie, as the children in the movie needed courage to care for the marine environment in the face of exploitation and over-fishing. Two prayers were written by the group asking God for courage to care and protect our wonderful world. Thanks to Viv and Murray for hosting this special event.



**Abigail, Genevieve, Finley and Abigail with their Blueback artwork.**

**St Leonard's Playgroup**

Playgroup meets on a Tuesday from 10am to 12 noon in the hall. Parents, grandparents and carer's join together for a fun time.



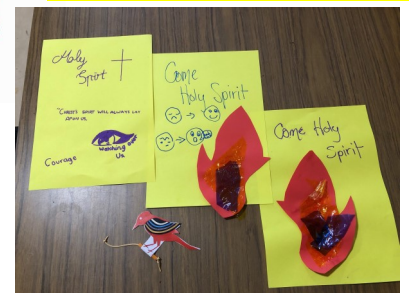
**Nancy and Emma create masterpieces with finger-painting.**



**Others have fun with the dried oats and the race track, learning to play alongside each other.**



**Pentecost was celebrated at Messy Church with Struan, Ellidh and Beau making flying birds.**



## St Leonard's Environmental Action in Faith

### Please Leave Your Shoes at the Door

Taking your shoes off at the door is for some people a normal cultural practice and for others a polite gesture to prevent leaving footprints through another person's home. We don't want to give our hosts extra cleaning work to do nor to leave muddy prints as evidence of our visit. Similarly, the environmental damage or evidence of our existence on this earth, is often referred to as our carbon footprint and we are being urged to try to leave things as tidy as possible for those who follow.



Last week we were host to Year 4 students from St Leonard's. They came to learn about the church and how we respond to needs that we identify in the community. I was invited to talk about the LEAF group and it was good to reflect upon the things we have already done so far to reduce our consumption levels and therefore our carbon footprint.

These are some of the things our St Leonard's church has done so far:

#### **We adopted a policy of avoiding single use items.**

Where possible, we've stopped using disposable plates and cups at church gatherings. It means we have to do more dishes, but we're sending less to landfill. We're also not handing out weekly pew sheets, many of which were left behind.

#### **We've changed the way our waste is collected in the building.**

There used to be just one big bin in the kitchen and the hall that everything went into. Now we've separated food waste, recycling and landfill and are encouraging all the building users to do the same.

#### **We've made some changes to the buildings.**

The toilet lights are controlled by sensor switches. The heaters for the meeting room are on a timed switch which goes off after two hours. The hot water urn is turned off when nobody is here. We've removed all gas appliances and moved to electric. Renovations to the flat have stopped drafts and changed the heating and cooking appliances.

A recent meter reading has shown that all of this is starting to have an effect. Our electricity consumption has reduced by 30% compared to the same time last year. (That's in addition to a 100% reduction in gas consumption!)

It's wonderful to see this evidence that the changes made so far are reducing our carbon footprint. There is still much to be done and some of that will be achieved by the changes to come with the building project.

**We continue to learn, to act and to educate ourselves about caring for the earth and each other. We'd love to see you all at the next LEAF Breakfast Meeting:**

#### **LEAF Breakfast Meeting**

You are once again invited to come along to a pre-service breakfast meeting hosted by the LEAF group on **Sunday August 6<sup>th</sup> at 8.45am**. This time we have invited a speaker to tell us about Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration. This simple, but incredibly effective program has helped restore trees, vegetation and life to degraded landscapes in Africa improving the production and resilience of local communities. It's an inspiring story and one which World Vision hopes to expand to many other parts of the world. It can also be one factor in helping to tackle climate change. Please RSVP to any of the LEAF group members (Lorraine, Viv, Helen and Kirsty). You are welcome to make a donation which we will give to the FMNR program.



## PEOPLE OF ST LEONARD'S

### **Congratulations Kate Jenkins OA.**

In the recent King's Birthday Honours Kate Jenkins was awarded the Order of Australia for distinguished service to human rights governance, advancing gender equity, promotion of inclusivity and to the law. Kate has served as Sex Discrimination Commissioner at the Australian Human Rights Commission. She has received a significant number of accolades including the 2023 Trailblazer Award, for her inspirational contribution to the advancement of women. Her landmark Jenkins report in 2020 "Respect@Work" examined the prevalence and impact of sexual harassment in Australian workplaces. Kate has been a strong advocate for a safe and inclusive workplace.



We congratulate Kate on her award which recognises the considerable commitment of herself, and husband Ken Lark and their family, as she has worked tirelessly to bring about change.



### **Church Office Administrator**

It was with regret that Church Council received the resignation of Jenny England from the position of Church Council Administrator at the end of June 2023. Jenny first commenced work in the Church Office in 2012 and 2013, and then returned in 2017. Apart from the break in 2020 when we were all in lockdown, amongst other things, Jenny has been the warm and efficient person behind all your telephone calls, emails and the production of this *Message*. Her genuine interest and concern for people, attention to detail, and flexibility has been valued by us all. We thank Jenny for her involvement at St Leonard's and our best wishes are with her, Simon, Scott and Maria. Jenny is pictured with a beautiful orchid, as a token of appreciation for her work at St Leonard's Church.

### **FRIENDS OF OUTREACH**

The next meeting will be held at 2pm on Monday, 28th August at the home of Lorraine Tyler, 11a Bent St. All are most welcome.

# St Leonard's MESSAGE August 2023



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## YOUR COFFEE CUP CHALLENGE FUNDS at WORK



For some time we have been asked for more information about some specific projects where the funds raised by our Coffee Cup Challenge go to. *Uniting* has advised me that a new project was being investigated in the Wodonga area and they would let me know when the many details had been worked out. We are pleased to release the information now, about one of these exciting projects.

For some years the Wodonga area has suffered severe drought, fires and floods and as a consequence there are a very substantial number of unemployed and homeless people, sleeping rough under bridges, couch surfing, living in sub standard accommodation etc.

*Uniting* is leading a new initiative from its Wodonga office named "The Ruffy Project" (as in sleeping "Rough") that will produce locally made swags to distribute to those sleeping rough. This initiative was driven by the inability to source essential items to meet the critical demand of those experiencing homelessness within the Goulburn North East region.

Beechworth Correctional Centre is in partnership with *Uniting*, giving and driving a sense of purpose to help the community by supporting the Ruffy Project. The Correctional Centre is currently repurposing an existing facility that will house sewing machines to commence the project. We hope to be fully set up and ready to commence making the first swags by the end of July. A volunteer has been sourced to assist teaching the prisoners the necessary sewing skills. Several meetings have been held so far and we are still working on finalising the Ruffy swag design, which is expected to advance as the prisoners consolidate the learned skills. We look forward to seeing the progression of the design to something a little more complex.

All the Funds raised by St Leonard's *Uniting* Brighton through our Church Coffee Cup Challenge have gone towards the purchase and delivery of the initial stock of canvas, mats, threads, etc for this very worthwhile project. As well as meeting local demand, this will potentially be able to supply enough swags for distribution through *Uniting* services in other regions across Victoria and Tasmania once it is up and running.

*Uniting* will also be partnering with *Carevan*, a homeless service in Albury that provides swags and meals to the homeless. They will assist in sourcing further funding to ensure the sustainability and growth of the program as well as to help distribute The Ruffy Swags to homeless people in this region.

Well done St Leonard's and *Uniting*. If you know anybody who would like to participate in our Coffee Cup Challenge which starts again in October this year, please contact me.

*Barry Schofield. Coffee Cup Challenge convenor.*

*(m) 0428 387 230.*



## COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

### Walkers' Group

Judith Force led the April walk and writes: We met at Cheltenham Golf Club and walked through part of the cemetery seeing some of the graves of early settlers. Walking back through Cheltenham Park through the bush the tour leader took a wrong turn so the walk was a little further than planned! The group enjoyed a laugh and drinks at outside tables at the golf club before



returning home.

The May walk led by David & Elizabeth Stamp went along the Hampton cliffs. We began with a visit to the old submarine J7 resting in the waters of the Sandringham Yacht Club's marina. The boat was built in England in 1915 and at the time was the fastest submarine in the world. It was withdrawn from service in 1922 and after dismantling the hull was sunk as a breakwater in 1930. At the end of the walk along the cliff footpath we enjoyed refreshments and the view from the Yacht Club Bar.

In June, despite the chill factor, 17 walkers enjoyed the St Kilda beachfront on a sunny day. We started at the marina and continued past the Super Bowl, then traced "The Solar System" a series of sculptures which start with the Sun and then the 9 planets (including Pluto) all in scale with the sun. We noted the restaurant Donovans, the new Life Saving Clubhouse, the new Stokehouse restaurant, Sea baths, the Royal Yacht Squadron, and the statue of Captain Cook before turning back past the Palais and Luna Park and on to Acland Street. Our coffee stop was in the cosy comfort of "Iddy Biddy" in Blessington Street. Thank you to Marie and Stewart Warne for organising this lovely walk.

*David Greenall Co-ordinator*

## CARITAS

After Lenten studies and Easter, Caritas ladies considered early chapters of Genesis in relation to the Church Environment Group and climate change. The next session was a presentation and discussion of feminist thought during The Reformation in Europe. Further meetings involved studies of the lectionary Bible readings, aided by commentaries from "With Love to the World." Our last gathering for Term 2 was a discussion on "Worship", with visuals of visits to various Christian churches and denominations around the world.



During school holidays we enjoyed coffee by the fire at "Brown Cow" Café in Hampton, our final goodbye to Merri Lenné, who has moved to live in Canberra with family nearby. Merri has been an active member of Caritas for many years, and we wish her well in this new stage of life.

Our meetings are held in homes at 10.30am usually on the second and fourth Thursdays of school terms. Venues will be in the church news-sheet the previous week, ladies of all ages welcome.

*Lyn Greenall*



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Our **webpage** is [www.stleonards.org.au](http://www.stleonards.org.au)

Our **youtube** channel is [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9CcPZAoAYjj\\_VCszEexlg](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 the Instagram page.

Sharing food creates a moment for people to gather and chat with each other. The Feast day of the (Holy) Cup Cake on Sunday 9th July was such a happy occasion.

Since the return of regular Morning tea at church it is wonderful to see many interactions that would not happen otherwise. Thank you to all who are on the Morning Tea roster for providing this opportunity.



**FEAST DAY OF  
THE (HOLY) CUPCAKE**



St Leonard's  
UNITING CHURCH - BRIGHTON BEACH

St Leonard's Church is seeking an  
**Office Administrator.**

A great opportunity to put your skills to work in a casual,  
part-time role that is flexible, local and valued.  
Position description available at [www.stleonards.org.au](http://www.stleonards.org.au)

Items for the next edition of *The Message* should be submitted to  
[contactstleonards@gmail.com](mailto:contactstleonards@gmail.com) by **Sunday 17th September 2023**  
clearly marked "For the Message".