

BEAUMARIS UNITING CHURCH

ST. MARTIN'S

IN THE LIGHT



ST. MARTIN'S BEAUMARIS UNITING CHURCH

MARCH 2016

SEASON OF HOPE

(An edited version of a n address given on the 24th of January 2016 by Nick Toovey

What do we hope for this year internationally, nationally, locally and personally? As the holiday season comes to a sad and unwelcome close we cast our thoughts to returning to the routine and regularity of our daily lives, post Christmas, post New Year's celebrations and now post the Australia Day weekend.

After four weeks away holidaying in Vietnam and Cambodia, Suzy and I are feeling the jolt of being home again, Melbourne nomads that we are, whilst our new house is being built.

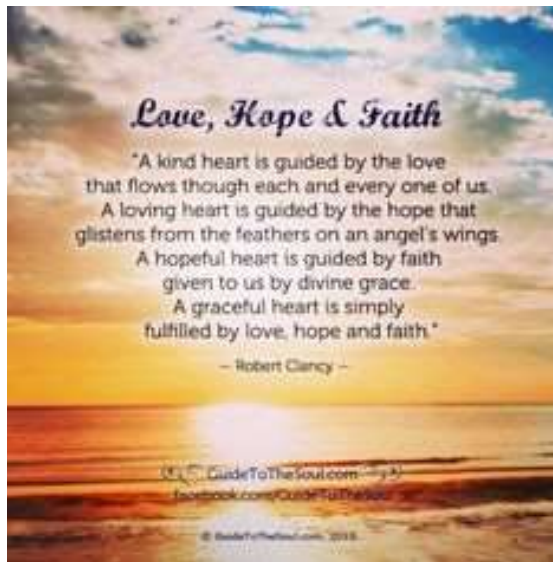
Things we hope for have ,a kind of energy and momentum to them don't they? This is like the "fierce urgency of now "as Martin Luther King announced during the Civil Rights Campaign . Barak Obama also used this phrase in his impassioned powerful and hopefully persuasive gun control speech recently. His speech was full of hope –that Congress might see the wisdom of his reforms and save just a few lives lost to guns in the U.S this year. Just like Martin Luther King, his dreams are full of urgent hope too. This is the season of hope.

For all the worthy and important things we hope for and in all these things we hope might happen in the future, it is as a Christian community and as a community of faith that we hope IN our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

We have hope in his redeeming love that the world might be made whole again . That broken lives might be mended . That the sick might be healed. That the world might find peace. We have hope in the power of prayer. We have hope in God' love for his creation and that we can do all things through Him who strengthens us .

We particularly have hope in the direction God is calling us as a Church at St Martins this year as we seek a new Minister. We are keen to know God's purpose for us, and how we might be led to witness to that purpose, particularly in our missions and service to the community.

We need to be open hearted to this call and respond with hope, faith and love, however we are called to serve him. For what is required of us? Micah tell us " To love mercy, seek justice and walk humbly with our God" We can only do this when we have hope in our hearts. And wings on our heels" for this is the Olympic season of hope.



IN THIS ISSUE

Page 1

Love, Hope & Faith quote by Robert Clancy.

Page 2

Christmas Dinner.

The Empty Christmas Tree

Farewelling Trish Graham

Page 3

Service of Carol's and Readings.

Woody's World Concert.

Page 4

Reflection on Spirituality in Vietnam and Cambodia

Page 5

Shrove Tuesday-Pancake day.

Remembering others.

'No Name in the street " flyer

Page 6

Hymn - May this New Year.

Liberty and Faith.

Page 7

Liberty and Faith

From the Treasurer.

Page 8

Red Cross January Visit. AGM date & reports.

Deep Spring.

Synod 2016.

Friday Morning Discussion group.

Ladies coffee chat & knit group.

Palm Sunday-Choral Service.

Profile Task group.

Finding a Minister workshop

**HOPE IS CONFIDENCE
HOPE IS DETERMINATION
HOPE IS COURAGE AND FAITH
IS THE ULTIMATED EXPRESSION OF HOPE**

Christmas Dinner - Friday 4th December

As always the Christmas dinner was a very happy event. It was attended by nearly sixty people. The evening finished with a great carol sing along. A special thank you to the organisers, especially Wendy Hinde, and pianist for the Carols, Jeanette Barklamb. Ken McClure presented gifts of thanks to Wendy Hinde and Alison Davies for their hard work in organising the fete at St Martins in November 2015.

**THE EMPTY CHRISTMAS TREE**

On Sunday 6th December, St Martins' members generously donated Christmas presents to be distributed by Hanover Services (an arm of UCA) to needy families.

The beautifully decorated tree was surrounded by presents for all ages.

At this service we farewelled Rev David Henderson who was with us for 3 months.

At the end of the service over morning tea, Jenny Small presented with David a small token of our appreciation for all his work with us.

FAREWELLING TRISH GRAHAM

It was with heavy hearts that the Church Council accepted the resignation of Trish Graham (pictured above) as a member of St Martin's Uniting Church.

Trish has been a wonderful creative force in our congregation and showed great care towards other members. Trish has been very well supported by her husband David. David was particularly helpful on the BBQ stall at last year's fete.

Trish has been a member for 22 years, 16 of which she was an elder and also represented our congregation at Presbytery. As an Elder she exercised her role with thoughtfulness, diligence and compassion. She assisted in worship and also led worship. Trish was a hospital Chaplain at Epworth before retiring.

We are grateful for her contribution and the fellowship we shared with her and are sad to lose both her and David.

Service of Carols and Readings

On Sunday 13th December our singers swelled to 22 voices with the addition of several friends and family members. With a group of seven readers they took us through the Christmas story with a delight of carols and readings. Our thanks go to all the singers and readers particularly the friends and family from outside the parish who augmented our singers.

A special thank you to Geoff Hinde for his patient and inspiring leadership of our music and to Tanya Chaves our accompanist for the rehearsals and the service.



WOODY'S WORLD CONCERT

'Woody's World' performed a concert on Friday 22nd January in the St Martin's Church Hall.

The **Woody's World show was highly interactive and great fun** for all those who attended, with great songs, puppets and snake handling. Concert goers were asked to wear striped socks to the show. Woody's World: is a place where alley-cats sing and dance, mice invite you in for tea and farm animals gather for a bush-dance.

The performers captivated the children and adults attending and even the antics of Woody and his performing friends.

It was great to see the hall filled with so many children and their parents and grandparents.



REFLECTION ON SPIRITUALITY IN VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Nick and I spent a month over Christmas and New Year travelling through Vietnam and Cambodia. Before leaving we were not sure what we would find in the way of Christmas being celebrated in predominantly Buddhist Countries. We spent Christmas in Vietnam and found visitors from Christian countries are well catered for. Not only are there non religious symbols of Christmas such as Christmas trees and Santa Clauses but there were many Nativity scenes, not only found in Churches but outside business and homes in all areas of Vietnam that we visited.

Vietnam seems to be a very spiritual country. This is because most Vietnamese are Buddhist and also engage in Ancestor worship, where they set up small temples and shrines to their deceased male ancestors. In all parts of Vietnam there are Temples and Pagodas usually attached to a Buddhist Monastery. Though there would be a shrine displaying a Buddha or an Ancestor with food and money offerings, there was a real presence of something more than yourself and a reverence and respect for both their religion and their ancestors.

All Buddhist homes have some form of shrine and though Vietnam is a communist country, Buddhism seems to coexist very happily alongside the communist regime. The Vietnamese for many centuries and still today build ornate and decorative Temples, Shrines and Pagodas to their ancestors as well a Buddha. Ancestral shrines are looked after by a designated male elder in the family. Whenever we visited an Ancestral Shrine we saw offerings of food, flowers, money and there was also the opportunity to light some incense and show respect by removing any hat, shoes and taking a simple bow at the altar.

During our visits to Pagodas, Shrines or Buddhist temples I always felt that these places were very special. There was a peace and calmness present which had very spiritual overtones. Nick and I were fortunate to visit the serene and stunning pagoda “the Tu Hieu Pagoda about five km from Hue in central Vietnam. There was an abundance of tranquillity at this Pagoda as it was not accessible by tourist coach. At the entrance to this Pagoda was a tranquil pool which you walked past to enter this peaceful oasis. In one part of the complex there was a magnificent large bell which I am sure is rung. On this bell were the following word inscribed”



We found that in all places we visited there was a Church even in the mountain villages and rice fields area of Vietnam near the Chinese border and in the town of Sapa. We even saw one in a busy street near our hotel in Saigon. Amongst the frantic pace of life in Vietnam and Cambodia there is a calmness. As Buddhists they pray for good health and success to Buddha as well as prayers for their ancestors. In every work place there is a Buddhist Shrine where offerings are given and prayers recited.

Nick, our son David and I were fortunate to visit the major Catholic Cathedrals in Hanoi, Hue and Saigon. Whilst in Saigon Nick and I attended an English Mass at Notre Dame, the main Catholic cathedral. This was attended by hundreds of other tourists and surprisingly the service was very similar to our own. We both found the service a moving and spiritual experience. Heading to Cambodia we found the temples and monasteries to be extremely ornate but that wonderful sense of peace was still there.



Visiting the Angkor What Temple complex and other historic sites in the UNESCO World Heritage listed site we were in awe of what had been achieved by the ancient architects and builders. These sites were surrounded by forests and when walking through the temples you felt that they exuded stillness and calmness though there were many tourists visiting. Again there was the sense of something more powerful and greater than ourselves.—SUZY TOOVEY

SHROVE TUESDAY-PANCAKE DAY

On Tuesday 9th February, Shrove Tuesday was celebrated at St Martins by supporting Uniting Care's Pancake Day and having pancakes for dessert with tea and coffee. A wonderful group of helpers in the kitchen cooked up delicious pancakes with toppings such as strawberries and ice-cream and well as a yummy container of apple and cinnamon provided by Alison Davies which was appreciated by all.

It was great to see members of St Michaels and All Angels, including their Minister attending, as well as some nearby neighbours. It is always lovely to have members of the Watkins' family return to St Martins' and share pancakes with us. Many thanks again to Wendy Hinde and her band of wonderful helpers in the kitchen. Thanks also to John Tillett who again collected money and handed out tickets.

REMEMBERING OTHERS

Please keep the following in your prayers, Elsie Joseph, Elsie Barker, Alan and Sylvia Parry, Jean Patterson, Jeanette Gillingham and anyone else you know who is unwell or would benefit from our prayers Also keep our Black Rock brothers and sisters in our prayers.

Pray for those members on the Joint Nominating Committee as they prepare a profile for discernment of a part time Minister for us.

FLOWER ARRANGING.

If you would like to do a special arrangement one Sunday to mark the passing of a loved one, see Ros Morris.



The Most Compelling Short Play Ever Written About the Easter Story

**NO NAME
IN THE
STREET**

a play by Edward Murch

Sunday 13 March 5.00pm
St Agnes Anglican Church
35 Arkaringa Crescent, Black Rock

Sunday 20 March 5.30pm
All Souls Anglican Church
48 Bay Road, Sandringham

Tickets \$10.00 including Supper
Plus a complementary glass of champagne
Enquiries: Chris 9589 6867 or Jacquie 9583 0993

HYMN *May this New Year* [Tune TIS 161]

1 May this new year our ears no more be filled
 With the account of fellow mortals killed;
 Forbid it mighty God, and peace restore;
 May such convulsions shake the earth no more.
 2 Hasten the happy times when war shall cease,
 And every nation rest in perfect peace;
 When superstition shall be done away,
 And Christ shall reign with universal sway;
 3 When the whole earth the Gospel will receive,
 And distant nations shall on Christ believe;
 When every kingdom shall learn war no more,
 And peace extend itself from shore to shore.

Thomas Marsom 1743-1815 [New Year's Day 1794]

We sang this hymn on January 3rd as part of the service conducted by Rev David Beswick. Below is the story, provided by David, about the background of the hymn and author.

Liberty and faith**Thomas Marsom's hymn *May this new year***

The hymn *May this new year* was written on New Years Day 1794 by an ancestor of one of the early settlers of Melbourne. The manuscript was brought to Melbourne in 1848 by a great granddaughter of the author. It was created in the time of the revolutionary wars with France, the time we remember as the reign of terror when the King and Queen of France went with many others to the guillotine; but it was a time when the principles of liberty and justice were being tested, and the world was never the same again. Thomas Marsom saw this, and felt strongly about it, for he belonged to a family that had struggled in the past for liberty. They were amongst the founders of the Baptist Church in England. His great grandfather was founder of the Baptist Church at Luton at the time following the English Civil War when it was a crime to preach without a license. In the sixteen-seventies he was in prison with John Bunyan for preaching outside the established Church. Bunyan gave him the manuscript of *The Pilgrim's Progress* to read - and he advised him to publish it!

The non-conformist traditions of the Reformation in England and Scotland, together with those of Holland and other parts of Northern Europe were the crucible of civil liberties in Western civilization, now shared with much of the rest of the world, and the younger Thomas Marsom who wrote our hymn 200 years ago, saw the same at stake in the events then taking place across the channel in France. So he wrote in criticism of the kings of the nations which had combined against the new government of France:

The potsherds of the earth together strive
 Against a Nation, and they would deprive
 Them of that form of government they choose;
 Which Government say they - we do refuse.
 We will appoint a Government for you,
 And your Equality we will subdue.
 Thus all together join to arms they fly
 to raise the drooping head of monarchy.

He then went on to bemoan the tragic loss of life – “thousands perish at ambition’s shrine” - and after warning of God's judgment he offered his prayer for peace in verses which we will sing today. That desire for peace is still with us as children of God, and so is the sense of justice and took the form of a servant. He then went on to bemoan the tragic loss of life – “thousands perish at ambition’s shrine” - and after warning of God's judgment he offered his prayer for peace in verses which we will sing today. That desire for peace is still with us as children of God, and so is the sense of justice and took the form of a servant.

When the great grand-daughter of the author Thomas Marsom arrived in the raw new village of Melbourne in 1848 bringing two unpublished volumes of Marsom's poems with her, she and her husband were met by her brother-in-law Richard Heales, who a few years later became an early member of the colonial Parliament of Victoria. He was a tradesman, and seeing himself as a workers representative, some 40 years before the Australian Labour Party was formed, he promoted a bill to provide for the payment of members of Parliament arguing that otherwise ordinary working people would not be able to take part in Government. It was some years before his bill was passed, at about the time he became Premier in the 1860s. He served for only about a year as head of government but he made a major contribution to the advancement of education and land reform. The town of Healesville is named after him. The Puritan traditions of liberty were established in this land by families such as this.

LIBERTY AND FAITH- This article was included by Philip Stewart.

So the sacred is related to the secular, the flesh and to the spirit, the transformation of the culture to commitment in faith to God and his kingdom. It is a messy business, we can always be wrong and yet we run the risk, to follow the way, the light and the life of the Word that was made flesh. So it was with the life of Jesus of Nazareth, the cosmic Christ, who emptied himself and took the form of a servant.

'From the Treasurer'**Fête Report**

Please see the attached summary of total proceeds broken down by stall and total net proceeds for the 6 November 2015 fête held at St Martin's. To clear \$6,000 in net proceeds was a very pleasing result given the new format of the fête and a significant number of expenses involved in advertising and adequately stocking the offerings for the food hall. A total of \$630 of cash donations was received pre, on and post the fête. A further \$500 worth of expenses was donated by the fête convenors.

The lucky dip stall proceeds were not included in this total as these were retained by Black Rock UC. A further \$400 of the net proceeds was forwarded to Black Rock in recognition of their contribution to the event.

A warm thank you to all who contributed their time and talents to make the fête a success. May we build on the fellowship displayed at this event and what we learnt in the process. May we also look forward to holding another fête in 2016 and for further opportunities to enhance relationships with the playgroup, kinder, calisthenics and others who were involved in the fête.

2015 Fête Stall results

Stalls	Total sales (incl. post- Fête sales)	Stalls	Total sales (incl. post- Fête sales)
BBQ	602.4	Jumping Castle	130.10
Tea, Coffee, Soft drinks	210.10	Face Painting	100.75
Food Hall	761.4	Side Show	0
Total food and drinks	1,573.90	Total activities	230.85
Cakes	551.20	Plants	736.00
Produce	337.50	Trash and Treasure	469.85
Clothing & Linen	350.95	Raffle	150.00
Books	445.90	Donations received at Fete (incl. 3 x \$20 stall donations)	110.00
Craft	1,711.90	Other Cash Donations received (Pre and Post- Fete)	520.00
Toys	468.05	TOTAL (as banked)	7,656.10

Expenses paid/claimed	1,169.36
Share forwarded to St Andrew's UC, Black Rock	400.00

NET PROCEEDS**\$6,086.73****Some housekeeping matters**

The new *Beaumaris Uniting Church (St Martin's)* bank account was opened in October 2015 at the local Bendigo Bank at 32 East Concourse. There are three signatories in total (two to authorise each payment) and all bills are now paid on-line. (So, because we no longer write cheques - if you need reimbursement for expenses you will need to provide your bank account name, BSB and account number.)

We are still in the process of registering a change of name (from UCA Beaumaris Black Rock to Beaumaris Uniting Church) attached to the existing ABN.

For all treasurer related enquiries please email me at margaret@thorburn.id.au

RED CROSS JANUARY VISIT

Did you know St Martin's Uniting Church, Beaumaris has a new name??

For the last week in January, April, July and October we are now the Bayside Mobile Donor Centre.

Formerly at Cheltenham Church of Christ on Chesterville Road where they were known as the Cheltenham Mobile Donor Centre the Red Cross mobile blood bank were 'in residence' at St Martin's during the last week of January (ie Monday 25th to Friday 29th). The dates of the remaining visits planned for 2016 are Monday to Friday 25th - 29th April and July and 24th - 28th October.

We have negotiated a rent of \$1250 for each of the four weekly visits planned during the year. In preparation for their visit there was some last minute relocating of excess furniture and chattels from the hall and side rooms. We will need to do a mini-working bee prior to future visits, in order to minimise chances of flooding incidents, relocate excess furniture and to ensure a good level of presentation.

AGM date, reports

Council has decided that the AGM for our congregation will be following worship on Sunday 22nd May. Margaret will need reports from all Committees and Groups for inclusion in the Annual Report by the end of March.

Deep Spring

Mary Larson has retired from Deep Spring. She spent over 10 years counselling clients. We thank Mary for her wonderful work and wish Mary the very best for the future.

Synod 2016

Synod in Victoria is held approximately every 18 months. The Twelfth Meeting of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania, starts with opening worship, at 7.30 pm on Friday 3rd June 2016 at Wesley Church, Upper Lonsdale Street. Business sessions will be held at Box Hill Town Hall, Whitehorse Rd., Box Hill, commencing at 9.00 am on Saturday 4th June and running until the afternoon of Wednesday 8th June.

Friday morning discussion group

The Friday Morning group has met twice this year. This group meets on the first Friday in the month. Its first discussion was on "hope". Stimulating and engaging discussions occur on a wide range of topics. At times this will be replaced by an outing. The discussion group meets from 9.30 - 11.30, in the Menzies-Miller room. All welcome.

Ladies' coffee, chat and knit group (each 3rd Wednesday)

The ladies' chat group met for the first time this year on the 17th February. It will meet next on Wednesday 16th March from 1.30pm-3.30pm at St Martin's. All welcome. More information -Shirley Tillett (9589 1521).

Palm Sunday – Choral Service

Palm Sunday this year is on the 20th March. We will be having our customary choral service which tells the story of the last week on Christ's life in word and song. Two Choir rehearsals for this service have occurred with Tuesday 8th and Thursday 17th being the remaining ones. Anyone who enjoys singing is invited to join the choir for the occasion.

Profile task group

A task group to define the life and mission priorities of our congregation and to write a profile for our congregation has begun work. This group is the first step in seeking a minister for permanent placement. It is a preliminary step to appointing a JNC (Joint Nominating Committee) which is elected by the congregation and conducts the actual search for a minister. The membership of the profile group is Faye Green, Wendy Hinde, Carol Parker, Jenny Small and Philip Stewart.

Finding a minister – Workshop 28th February

The Rev Fiona Winn (Presbytery Minister for Mission and Services) led a workshop after worship on the 28th Feb attended by over 30 members. Fiona helped guide us through frank and open discussion, to come up with ideas and suggestions that would be useful in creating a profile of our congregation. Connection, community and worship were some of the suggestions describing our congregation.