



Uniting Church in Australia
Western Australia

Issue 77
December 2022

Revive

a fresh perspective on faith, church and life



Reflections on Advent and Christmas

Susy Thomas | Hannes Halgryn
Roy Alexander Surjanegara

Tips to make a sweet Christmas platter

Amanda Badenhorst



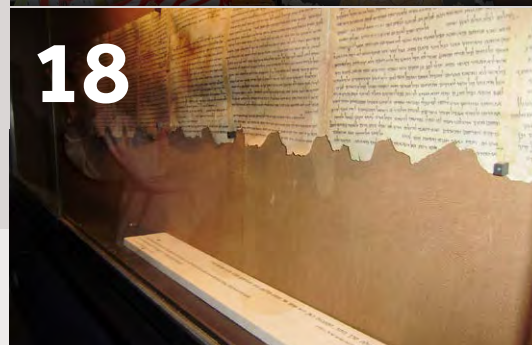
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Advent 2022

One of the joys I have long cherished was, newly married, going to live in London where I enjoyed many happy times having my three children there - but also sad times, when we lost our young son at an age when life beckoned all before him. A poignant encounter.

My other joy was developing a deep affinity with English literature, perhaps no more so than in the novels of Charles Dickens, many of which were weaved into the fabric of the very streets we called home.

With the season of Advent before us, and with it, the anticipation of the coming of God's Light to the world, in these strange, if not bewildering times - I have been drawn once more to Dickens' book, *A Tale of Two Cities*, and its powerful opening lines:

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us..." - Para.1, Chapter 1

Dickens was contrasting the relative calmness of London, against the turmoil of Paris in the advent of the French Revolution. Yet his words evoke striking similarities to the contemporary devastation of war in

Eastern Europe, in contrast to the relative undisturbed calmness in much of the West.

By any standard of measurement this decade of the 2020s has been full of twists and turns, the like of which the world has not experienced in any of our lifetimes, accompanied by an increasing sense of disconnect from the lived reality of others, which has also been present in the life of the church.

Throughout my Moderatorial term over these past three Advent seasons, we have lived through the various contrasting phases of the COVID-19 epidemic, including shut-down and isolation; then in 2022 becoming frightened and unwilling spectators of the European descent into chaos, death and destruction.

In the midst of such emotional weariness, I am again drawn to the verse from Paul's Letter to the Romans which I chose as my overall theme for the triennium: *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."* - **Romans 15:13**

It is only through such hope that we can begin to give content to the vision of the Prophet of whom Isaiah proclaimed so long ago: *"For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named*



Susy Thomas
Moderator, Uniting Church WA

Wonderful Counsellor, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." - **Isaiah 9:6**

What should be the vision we share with others in this season of Advent?

We know that as a church we have been tasked to take special care of those who do not, or cannot, cry out, but who wait quietly in hope. To uphold the powerless who suffer abuse; the lonely; those who wander homeless amongst us, unnoticed; those who bear old burdens, a silent grief, or an unvoiced fear.

This is the special news of the Light of Advent, namely that the One who comes, also grants power to abolish the daily death of self so many bear. In so doing, we will again bear witness to the flickering flame of God's coming Advent light, granting once more the gift the world craves beyond anything else: Hope!

Advent blessings to you all!

Susy Thomas
Moderator, Uniting Church WA

Moderator's Diary

December 2022

- 11 December *Christmas - A Story of Love* worship together and celebration at Wesley College
- 17 December *YouthCARE Together 22 - Family Christmas Festival* at Claremont Showgrounds
- 22 December Uniting Church Centre closes at 5.00pm

January 2023

- 3 January Uniting Church Centre opens at 9.00am
- 29 January Merredin Uniting Church's 101 Year celebration

February 2023

- 7 February Meeting with Uniting WA's Co-Chief Executive Officers, Michael Chester and Jen Park
- 13 February Uniting Church WA Synod Standing Committee meeting

March 2023

- 9 March Methodist Ladies' College Principal, Rebecca Clarke's commissioning

Welcome to our last edition of Revive magazine in 2022, issuing during Advent and before Christmas.

As I contemplate the stories and pictures in this edition, I find them quite beautiful - in virtue, in language, in aesthetics, in colour, and in a combined humanity that in its thinking, creating and action is constantly shaping the world, in a magnificent way.

A contemporary philosopher once wrote, "Like the pleasure of friendship, the pleasure in beauty is curious: it aims to understand its object, and to value what it finds." While the statement was written of architectural and artistic aesthetics, it has application here too. It means that when we have the inner capacity to see beauty in a person or thing - fascination is borne, leading to curiosity, and ultimately to a journey of seeking and appreciating its value. Our bestowing of beauty, gives the item or person a spiritual significance, rather than simply a utilitarian function.

I hope that as you read this *Revive*, you will feel and experience this same wonder about the many wonderful people and communities within and around it, and that their stories become beautiful to you.

Tracey Paul
Guest Editor



With special thanks to:

The editors, contributors, facilitators, graphic designer and printer of Revive magazine in 2022:

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Thank you to all who read Revive magazine. We appreciate your compliments and also your feedback and suggestions for improvement.

5 minutes with...

Amanda Badenhorst

Amanda Badenhorst is the Presbytery Support Administrator at the Uniting Church Centre. In this article, she shares about life, the secret of working for the Uniting Church WA, and her passion for all things food.



Amanda Badenhorst

So where do I begin, other than the beginning!

My journey with the Uniting Church WA started on 29 January 2012 when I was inducted into my role by attending a Safe Church workshop held at Applecross Uniting Church. I can tell you that this was unique and quite unlike any of my 'first day on the job' experiences ever! The workshop was very insightful, but I also remember feeling totally overwhelmed and wondering "how am I ever going to remember all this information." There was so much to learn and know.

Fast forward ten years and I am happy to say that I am still here and that I have retained most of that information and also learnt a lot more. I really enjoy my position as Presbytery Support Administrator and I can confidently say that not only has it taken me at least seven years to get to know everyone in the wider church community, but also that a lot of people now know who I am and what I do here.

Yet, it has not all been work, work and work. Emigrating from South Africa in 2006 with my husband, Daniel, and my two adult children, Letitia (who married in 2018) and Nico - I am now the grandmother of two beautiful little boys, Raykin and Anakin. Back then, Australia was the first-ever international country that I had travelled to, and also my first time on a plane! Since then, I have flown many times - back and forth to South Africa; overseas to Singapore, Dubai,

Vietnam, Bali and New Zealand; and nationally to Cairns, Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane.

In 2010, my husband and son, together with the husband and son of our good friends, undertook a charity bike ride from Perth to Brisbane. They cycled 100km each day for 10 days, staying over each evening in a different town along the way, with our respective families travelling alongside them. We arrived in Brisbane only a week before the Queensland floods. We still reminisce about how very blessed we were to have crossed the Nullarbor without incident and to have experienced this beautiful country from a different vantage point.

In 2019, I took a leap of faith and started my own weekend business, Sweet & Salty Grazing (WA). Three years on, it has flourished and keeps me out of mischief over the weekends. In addition to my administration work - my love of food (and not just eating it, by the way), has proved to be advantageous for the Church. On many an occasion, my colleague and dear friend, Maree Kemp (Executive Assistant to the Moderator and Secretariat) and I team up to take care of catering for office meetings, staff events and special celebrations, including ministry milestones, morning teas, high teas, staff welcomes and farewells. We take great pleasure in planning and making an event special and

memorable. It's fun making speciality cakes and delicacies, decorating the room and tables, and then getting to enjoy it with my colleagues and friends at work.

I take this opportunity to wish you all a blessed Christmas and New Year.



Reflections at Christmas



With Christmas approaching, Rev Roy Alexander Surjanegara and Rev Hannes Halgryn reflect on the events surrounding the birth of Jesus; what it meant then, and what it means for us today. In the spirit of our inter-cultural church, the reflections are written in the languages of Bahasa Indonesia and Afrikaans, with their English translations adjacent.

"... maka pulanglah mereka ke negerinya melalui jalan lain."

Matius 2:12b

Jalan Lain

Betapa kagetnya Herodes ketika serombongan orang Majus menghadap kepadanya di Yerusalem. "Dimanakah Dia, raja orang Yahudi yang baru dilahirkan itu? Kami telah melihat bintang-Nya di Timur dan kami datang untuk menyembah Dia," demikian tanya para Majus. Dalam kecemasannya, Herodes mengumpulkan semua imam kepala dan ahli Taurat, mencari petunjuk dimana kiranya raja yang lahir itu berada. "Di Betlehem di tanah Yudea, demikianlah tertulis dalam kitab nabi," demikian jawab para pemuka agama. Dengan diam-diam Herodes memanggil kembali orang-orang majus itu, menanyakan perihal bintang yang mereka lihat. Lebih dari itu, kini ia memberi perintah kepada mereka: "Pergi dan selidikilah dengan seksama hal-hal mengenai Anak itu dan segera sesudah kamu menemukan Dia, kabarkanlah kepadaku..." Dengan kata-kata manis, "akupun ingin datang menyembah Dia," Herodes melepas kepergian para majus.

Seperti orang majus yang datang kepada Herodes di Yerusalem, akal sehat kita cenderung membawa kita mendekat pada pusat-pusat kekuasaan. Disanalah kita akan dapat bertanya dan menemukan pertolongan. Tanpa mereka sadari, yang sebaliknya yang terjadi: mereka dimanfaatkan dan dimanipulasi. Betapa mengherankan, ketika para majus, imam kepala, dan ahli Taurat semua merasa melakukan hal yang benar untuk tujuan yang benar, namun tanpa menyadari bahwa semua sekedar diperalat dalam sebuah permainan kepentingan para penguasa.

Namun di tengah konspirasi politik dunia, tuntunan ilahi tetaplah nyata. Bintang bersinar terang menuntun para majus sehingga akhirnya mereka dapat sujud menyembah Anak itu di rumah-Nya. Dalam mimpi, mereka diperingatkan akan rancangan jahat Herodes, sehingga pulanglah mereka melalui jalan lain. Gereja saat ini berada di tengah dunia yang sepertinya semakin tidak menentu akibat kepentingan politik dan agenda-agenda kekuasaan. Peperangan, keserakahan, ketidak-adilan, pementingan diri, dan banyak lagi, Namun kiranya kita tidak hilang pengharapan, karena dalam Natal ada pertolongan Tuhan yang mengingatkan umat-Nya terhadap manipulasi 'Herodes masa kini' dan menuntun kita melanjutkan perjalanan melalui jalan lain. Bersediakah anda menempuh jalan yang berbeda?



Rev Roy Alexander Surjanegara

"... they left for their own country by another road."

Matthew 2:12

Another Road

Shocked was Herod when a group of Magi came to him in Jerusalem. "Where is the child who has been born King of the Jews?" the Magi asked. Herod was frightened, so he gathered all the chief priests and scribes asking for clues about this Messiah. "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet," they answered. Herod then called for the Magi, but this time in secret. Trying to know the exact time when the star had appeared, but also to task them with a mission: "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." And then Herod sent them away.

Just like the Magi going to Herod in Jerusalem, our common sense often leads us to get close to the centre of power in our quest for salvation. We hope that in this palace, there will be information; and that from the king, we will get help. Not realising that the opposite is often the case. Isn't it terrifying to read how the Magi, the chief priests, and the scribes of the people, are all convinced that they are doing the right thing with the right intention! But they were all manipulated and used in a game of power in the interest of the authority.

Nevertheless, divine guidance still lead the Magi. The star they saw lead them to Jesus, and, in their dreams, they were warned of Herod's malicious plan - so they decided to leave by another road! Perhaps this is the context we are in right now. Today, as churches, we are in the midst of a global political power play of war, greed, injustice, and much more. Let us not lose hope - because in Christmas, God exposes Herod's crime and leads God's people safely home by another road. Are you willing to take that other road?

Rev Roy Alexander Surjanegara is the Minister at GKI Perth Uniting Church in Mosman Park, an Indonesian congregation and ministry of the Uniting Church in Australia, Presbytery of Western Australia.

Reflections at Christmas



Die Hoop van Kersfees

Elke jaar vier mense van regoor die wêreld, Christene sowel as nie-Christene, Kersfees. Vir Christene is die betekenis van Kersdag se oorsprong, die nag toe God se lig van hoop deur die geboorte van die Christuskind in hierdie wêreld deurgebreek het. Alhoewel Kersfees jaarliks op 25 Desember gevier word, kan ons nie met sekerheid sê wat die presiese dag of datum van hierdie geskiedkundige gebuertenis was nie.

Die feestlikhede rondom 25 Desember kan egter wel teruggevoer word na 'n antieke tradisie bekend as die Fees van die Lig, 'n fees wat jaarliks in die hartjie van die winter gevier is in die noordelike halfrond. Met hul beperkte begrip van die skepping, het die mense van ouds 'n bewustheid gehad dat wanneer die wêreld op sy donkerste en koudste was, die hoop van lente en lewe gebore is op winter sonstilstanddag, wat op 25 Desember gevier is.

Christene het egter van vroegs af 'n dieper betekenis in hierdie feesvieringe geïdentifiseer. Vir hulle was dit simbolies van God se lig wat in Jesus Christus deur die duisternis van hierdie wêreld gebreek het om hoop aan mense te bring wat vasgevang was in die bevrore greep van wanhoop en sonde. In Jesus het God versoening en hoop gebied, met die belofte om eendag hierdie gebroke wêreld weer ten volle te herstel.

Die eerste hoofstuk van die evangelie van Johannes beskryf dit pragtig: "In die begin was die Woord, en die Woord was by God, en die Woord was God ... in Hom was lewe en die lewe was die lig van die mense. En die Woord het vlees geword en onder ons gewoon - en ons het sy heerlikheid aanskou, 'n heerlikheid soos van die Eniggeborene wat van die Vader kom - vol van genade en waarheid."

Mag ons weer vanjaar te midde van die wêreld se feesvieringe, in die eeue-oue tradisie van vroeë Christene, getuig van die lig van God wat selfs in die donkerste tye hernude hoop bied.



Rev Hannes Halgryn

The Hope of Christmas

Every year people from all over the world, Christians and non-Christians alike, celebrate Christmas. For Christians, the significance of Christmas Day is rooted in that night when God's light of hope shone through the birth of the Christ Child into this world. Although we celebrate it each year on 25 December, we do not know exactly the precise day or year of this historical event.

The festivities surrounding 25 December can be traced back to the Festival of Light which, since ancient times, was celebrated in the middle of winter by people living in the Northern Hemisphere. With their limited understanding of creation, they still knew that when the world was at its darkest and coldest and all seemed dead and lost - that the hope of Spring was born with the return of the light on winter solstice day, celebrated on 25 December.

From early on, Christians identified a deeper meaning in these celebrations. In Jesus Christ, God's light broke through the darkness of this world, bringing hope to people caught in the frozen grip of sin and despair. Through Jesus, God offered reconciliation and hope, with the promise to one day fully restore this broken world again.

The first chapter of the Gospel of John describes this beautifully: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... in him was life and the life was the light of all people. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth... From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace."

May we again this year, amidst the festivities of this world, in the age-old tradition of early Christianity, testify to the light of God that offers renewed hope even in the darkest of times.

Rev Hannes Halgryn is the Associate General Secretary (Strategy) at the Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of Western Australia.

C & E's are welcome



Rob Douglas

There are apparently still a lot of C & E's in the world.

What are C & E's? They are the people who only go to church at Christmas and Easter.

NCLS Research, a leading research body, recently reaffirmed that Christmas and Easter remain important points of contact between churches and their surrounding communities. This is in line with findings from its Australian Community Service survey of 2018 which reported that one in five Australians had attended a Christmas service during the year.

On its website, NCLS Research states: "The most common connections for Australians who identify as Christian, but do not frequently attend church were Christmas (17%), a regular church service (12%) and Easter (11%). Small numbers of people from religions other than Christianity had attended an Easter service (10%) or a Christmas service (9%)."

So, what is it about Christmas and Easter that causes people who don't go to church at other times

of the year to turn up and celebrate these important Christian festivals?

I would guess that it has a fair bit to do with family. Families get together at Christmas in particular, and if grandparents invite their children and grandchildren to join them at church – the latter will probably go along, just to do the right thing for Nanna and Pop.

And what does this mean for churches? I have heard some Christians getting on the bandwagon of saying Christmas has its roots in Pagan ceremonies, so the church should not be making such a big event of it after all. Or they argue that the true meaning of Christmas is lost in all the celebrations and marketing. I reckon it is time to get over our self-righteousness and just enjoy the season.

But if people are making the effort to come to church at Christmas, even if just to keep family happy, then the church should make the most of this opportunity. Let us make the effort to go back to the

Bible and to discover what Christmas is all about and share the story that sparked this Christian tradition in the first place.

Christmas lights, trees, reindeers, baubles and parties all add to the joy of the season and I would not want to stop that. But if people are turning up to church at Christmas - for whatever reason - they need to find out about the hope that comes as a result of the birth of Jesus.

Welcome your visitors, celebrate the season with them and take the time to remind them of the words of the angels: "Don't be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people."

Rev Rob Douglas is Presbytery Minister (Mission) at the Uniting Church Centre.





Music and the church



John van den Berg

Music and song is an important part of worship in church. Singing and praising God in one voice energises the congregation and charges the atmosphere. Sometimes the music fits so seamlessly into the worship that we may not really notice who is playing it and what is being played. When we do, we may be surprised by the diversity of music and instruments in and across our churches.

Larger churches often have a pipe organ, occasionally even more than one in the case of cathedrals. They may also have a director of music, an organist or two, and a large, professional choir. Next to the organ, there is normally a grand piano or an upright piano for hymn accompaniment.

Smaller churches make do with smaller musical instruments. Years ago, that might have been a pedal

harmonium or an American reed organ, a smaller pipe organ or a piano. Quite often, these churches also had a small choir present at some services, to sing an anthem or music for a special occasion, with practice sessions held beforehand.

These days 'praise bands' are more popular with younger people and in contemporary worship. Various types of guitars, drums and keyboards deliver the sound. The band may perform in a semi-enclosed area or out in the open, depending on the size and acoustics of the worship centre. There is usually one or more singers, more vocal engagement with the audience, and often more movement to the music by all.

It is amazing what can be done with modern digital keyboards. They come with a large number of different built-in instruments that can be selected at will. And if that's not enough, most of them have MIDI - a musical instrument digital interface which allows the keyboard to be used with computer programs, including, for instance,

the Hauptwerk system. With the latter, the keyboard can be used just as a keyboard - or, amazingly, as part of a whole organ, with recorded/sampled sounds from many organs around the world.

Despite all these options, it is important to remember that music played in church should always aim to enhance our worship of God - be it in a more customary style with traditional instruments, or in contemporary fashion with a praise band, singers and a range of other instrumentalists.

I would be keen to know what kind of music and instruments are being played in your church; what you like about it and what you don't; what works and what doesn't? Send your thoughts to me and maybe we can get a wider conversation going on this topic. My email is bergs@inet.net.au. I look forward to hearing from you.

John van den Berg is a member of Kardinya Uniting Church. He plays the pipe organ and other musical instruments.

St Aidan's celebrates with music

Ron Banks

An audience of around 70 filled St Aidan's Uniting Church on Sunday 25 September for a concert held as part of the church's celebrations for its re-opening after an extensive restoration program.

Experienced organist and pianist, Tim Chapman, was joined by talented, young cellist, Emma Hadi, for a program of organ and piano works by romantic composers, Gounod, Mendelssohn, Elgar, Fauré and Saint-Saëns.

Tim switched between the piano for the romantic compositions performed with Miss Hadi - and the newly-restored organ for some rousing anthems such as Jeremiah Clarke's *Trumpet Voluntary*.

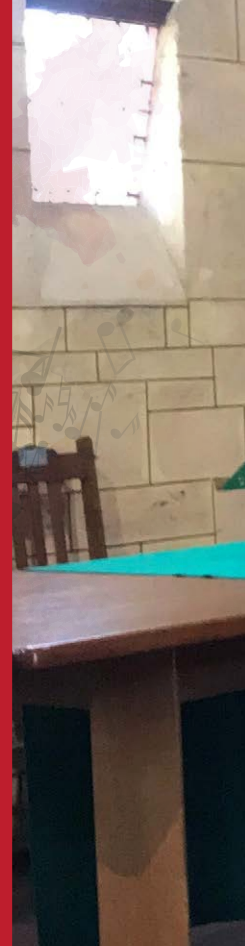
A regular organist at St Aidan's services, Tim is a former director of music at St Hilda's, one of many music teaching posts he has held.

Miss Hadi is a current student at The University of Western Australia and in 2020 was awarded the Subject Exhibition for Music ATAR. She has competed in numerous festivals and competitions.

St Aidan's organ was the first pipe organ built in WA and the first of five instruments built by Robert Cecil Clifton when he was a clerk in the survey office of the Lands Department. Clifton was only 21 at the time he began making organs in 1875. After its completion in 1878, the organ was originally installed in St John's Anglican Church, Fremantle, where Clifton was organist and choirmaster.

The organ was then moved around various churches, until in 1911, it was substantially rebuilt and sold to the Claremont Presbyterian Church which is now St Aidan's.

The organ's restoration this year is the latest in a series of maintenance and tuning programs carried out on a regular basis by Pipe Organs WA.







Help Good Sammy champion people with disability

Kane Blackman and staff at Good Sammy's recent Open Day, giving visitors a tour of its facilities in Canning Vale.

Kane Blackman

Good Sammy Enterprises was founded over 60 years ago as an agency of the Uniting Church Western Australia to provide employment and development opportunities for people with disability. That mission remains as important today as it was at our foundation.

Getting more people with disabilities into the workforce not only enhances their wellbeing,

but also creates opportunities for long-term economic growth and development, critical to Australia's ongoing prosperity.

Let me share a few facts with you:

- Over 2.1 million working-age Australians identify as having a disability, but only half are employed in the workforce.
- People with disability experience more underemployment compared to people without.
- Most people with disabilities can and do want to work more to have greater financial and social independence.

Good Sammy employs over 300 people with disability, which represents over 45% of its workforce. We provide our staff with training and development to help them achieve their employment goals within or outside *Good Sammy*.

There is a terrific culture at *Good Sammy*, built on the same core values of the Uniting Church, such as compassion, inclusion, accountability, integrity and creativity. To help us continue to achieve our mission, and to address the under-representation of people with disability in the workforce - we need your assistance.

Here are two simple ways that you can contribute and make an extraordinary difference:

- **Volunteer.** We welcome any contribution from people of all abilities. Our volunteers are of all ages and backgrounds. We are thrilled when they share with us how much they enjoy giving back, that volunteering gives them purpose, and how they love meeting new people and making firm friends. To

volunteer, email us today at volunteers@goodsammy.com.au

- **Containers.** Did you know that when you bring your containers to a *Good Sammy* operated refund point, we get paid to process your containers? At most of our retail stores, you can drop in a bag of containers or, alternatively, you can visit our cash drive-thru sites in Canning Vale and Wanneroo. We would encourage you to spread

the word and help *Good Sammy* on its mission to recycle 100 million containers.

There are plenty of other ways to contribute, so reach out if you want to know more or have another idea.

Thank you to the Uniting Church community in Western Australia for your support of *Good Sammy* and people with disability.

Kane Blackman is the Chief Executive Officer of Good Sammy Enterprises.





Prince (left) and a delighted customer!



Prince and fans.

Walmajarri artist collaborates with Australian designer

Hannah Campbell

Renowned Walmajarri artist and Juniper Guwardi Ngadu resident, John Prince Siddon has collaborated with one of Australia's most successful designers, Poppy Lissiman.

Worn by the Kardashians, Beyoncé, Bella Hadid, Margot Robbie, and celebrities all around the world, Poppy Lissiman bags recently became the canvas for Prince's artwork in a special collaboration.

"This was a very special project for me. I was inspired by the animals in the Kimberley and by the way they outrun bushfires. Each print carries a different story or meaning about our land, my people, and our animals," said Prince.

"The final product looks great, and I cannot believe that it is my art. I keep looking back at the bags and thinking that I want to do more. It makes me feel happy that I can continue to tell my story."

Since 2016, Prince has lived at Juniper Guwardi Ngadu, Fitzroy Crossing, and has his own special space where he spends his spare time creating detailed art significant to Western Australia and Walmajarri people.

"The staff at Guwardi Ngadu have always supported my art and love listening to my stories. It is my happy place."

Prince's art has been exhibited all over Australia and in the United States. His one wish is to continue painting as it brings back memories and lets him share his story.

Belinda Storer, Guwardi Ngadu Residential Manager, said her team supports Prince by creating areas within the home that allow him to continue with his artwork.

"Prince loves sharing the detail and progress of his art with all of us at Guwardi Ngadu. Everyone is intrigued with the connection his art has to his stories," said Belinda.

The collection is available on the Poppy Lissiman website, in the Art Gallery of Western Australia Design Store, and at the Mangkaja Arts Resource Agency - the Fitzroy Crossing arts centre where Prince works and where his father, Pompey Siddon, was a founding painter.

Juniper is an agency of the Uniting Church in Western Australia, and a provider of care, accommodation and support services for older Western Australians.



Disaster doesn't end when everyone goes home

Become an Outback Links volunteer and lend a hand

Frontier Services is an agency of the Uniting Church in Australia, providing a helping hand and a listening ear to people in remote and outback Australia.

Justin Ackland

More than one in four Australians live in rural and remote parts of the country. While challenges exist all year round, these areas are particularly vulnerable when disaster strikes. Events like Cyclone Seroja trigger a state of emergency lasting weeks, while a full recovery typically takes years.

Most of us can conjure up a romantic image of the bush in our mind's eye. We see the vast expanses of red dirt scattered with eucalyptus trees and coral shrubs. We hear about the close-knit country towns filled with warm-hearted people.

When things aren't going right for those who actually live there, this depiction fails to capture how hard and isolating life in the bush can be. For some, the serenity becomes an overwhelming silence. For others, natural disaster is an inevitable phase of life.

Frontier Services is Australia's oldest bush charity, supporting all people in rural and remote

Australia since 1912. Over the past two decades, it has welcomed thousands of Outback Links volunteers; a reserve of people committed to looking out for their distant neighbours in the bush.

The people who form this group come from all walks of life; high school teachers, retired engineers or stay-at-home parents, to name a few. What binds them together is their compassion and admiration for others doing it tough, and an understanding that sometimes people in the country cannot deal with a crisis alone.

"People living in rural and remote areas of Australia are often barely getting by. Sometimes what they need is a bit of a helping hand; someone showing they care. The practical support is amazing, but the presence of a friendly face can be truly life changing," explains Frontier Services National Programs Manager, Josh Peters.

In the last year, Outback Links volunteers have collectively devoted 20,000 hours to approximately one hundred different placements around Australia. Their impact has been immense, but it still only

scratches the surface of what is needed.

Thousands of people in Western Australia's Mid West region are still picking up the pieces from Cyclone Seroja, eighteen months after it first hit. The event has well and truly fallen from the news cycle, but much of the destruction to people's homes, businesses and entire communities remains. Things are still not as they were, nor will they be for years to come. They need help.

The Outback Links program exists for anyone wanting to show up for people out bush with nowhere else to go and no one else to turn to. When the dust has settled following catastrophic events like a cyclone, Frontier Services aims to be there with as many hands on deck as possible to hasten recovery. Volunteers are often called out to support homes and communities, months after a disaster has occurred.

You can register as an Outback Links volunteer by visiting the Frontier Services website, www.frontierservices.org or phoning 1300 787 247.



Anne Wright

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land 2023

The Dead Sea Scrolls.

Anne Wright

In February 2023, Rev Dr Anne Wright and Rev Dr Ian Robinson will lead a group of students from the United Theological College (UTC), together with other pilgrims, on a 2-week visit to the Holy Land. In this article, Anne describes the tour and some highlights and experiences to expect.

This tour was first planned for December 2020 but was understandably put on hold for one year, then two, and finally rescheduled for early 2023 after COVID-19 vaccines had become available and the pandemic was part of the 'new normal'. The original tour group has changed but the leaders, Rev Dr Ian Robinson (a lecturer in Missiology at UTC in Sydney, now retired) and myself remain, along with a small group of students travelling with us, and 25 or so others wanting to explore Israel, including Rev Charissa Suli, President-elect of the Uniting Church in Australia.

We start our journey from Sydney or Perth via Asia. On arrival in Tel Aviv in the morning, one quickly notices a few unique things – gum trees, imported from Australia for their drought resistant qualities, are a familiar sight; also the soil is very thin and only millimetres deep covering an ever-present rock.

The tour heads north to the Sea of Galilee, a vast freshwater body of some 53 kilometres circumference

and up to 43 metres depth. Located around the Sea are archeological sites such as: the town of Capernaum, the place of the *Loaves and Fish*, and the site for 'breakfast on the beach' [John 21]. Any site with historical potential usually has at least one church on it, so in one sense a tour of Israel is a tour of churches of various denominations, including different ones on either side of the Jordan River to cover the options for baptism.

At the northern border, it is possible from the Golan Heights, to view Syria and the devastation wreaked there from the civil war. The last time I visited, we overheard United Nations' peacekeepers talking about the plight of the Druze - a people with an ethno-Islamic religion who live on the border between Israel and Syria.

In the north, one can also visit Megiddo, an early archeological tell, potentially dating back to the reign of Solomon, and in which a large standing army could have been housed. Of note is the mountain overlooking the plain of Megiddo, a famed site of travel paths, crossing north and east, and known in the Book of Revelations as Armageddon. Its geographic location is focused on the belief that the line through Israel is the crossing point for all armed forces - Egyptian, Greek, Roman, Babylonian, Assyrian and British – and is essential for all who travel and conquer. Those who conquer this bridge of land between the desert and the ocean will conquer wealth

found on the far sides. Hence, Israel has been some of the most contested land throughout history.

The tour is steeped in history, some of it dating back to neolithic times and some to the Greco-Roman world, including also, amphitheatres and the Herodium - the last resting place of Herod the Great. And of course, there are also signs of crusades with castles and fortresses from the 15th Century. The Walls around Old Jerusalem were built during 1537-41 to keep out the Christian crusaders; this was during the reign of Suleiman the First and Islamic rule.

It is interesting to know that while the north of Israel is heavily farmed - the south, where the 9 million or so Israelis and 5.3 million Palestinians live, is mostly desert. Farming is often done with drip feed watering, together with plastic covers over each row of plants to ensure that no moisture is lost. Drifts of this plastic debris can be seen after every harvest.

In the south we visit the Dead Sea, the lowest body of water found on earth and also the most concentrated saline sea. We stop at Qumran, a site famous for the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls and the people that lived there as an ascetic Jewish community, steeped in law and mysticism. The Scrolls are on display at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem and the Jordan Museum in Amman, Jordan. Further south, we visit the mountainous mesa of Masada - King Herod's summer palace, complete with swimming

pools and internal cisterns. This place - according to Josephus, the ancient historian - was the last stand for the Jerusalem rebels against Rome in 73-74 AD, leading eventually to the death of nearly all of its over 900 inhabitants.

In the city of Jerusalem, one comes face to face not only with the Walls - but with the history of the Temple Mount as: the site of Abraham and the near sacrifice of Isaac, the site of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, and the place of the Dome of the Rock. Amongst all this wonder, is also the constant discomfort of being Jewish, Christian and Muslim altogether and all of us travelling across borders to the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem and back to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, the site that is recognised as the tomb of Jesus.

To cross into Bethlehem, one must pass through a point on the Israeli

West Bank barrier - a huge 9-metre-high concrete wall and fence of some 708 kilometres length. It was incrementally built by Israel from 2002 as a security measure and physical barrier between Palestinian areas in the West Bank and Israeli settlements on the other side.

The tour is affecting. One cannot come away from it without being confronted by the simultaneous experience of deep religion, stark political realities, and ultra-orthodox Jews, modern Israelis, devout Muslims, orthodox Christians and other denominations - all rubbing shoulders daily, and walking alongside young adults on armed patrol duties. On Friday some shops are closed for the Muslim holy day, on Saturday it is Shabbat, and on Sunday the Christians close their places of trade - someone is open every day! While approaching

the mountain designated as the place of the Sermon on the Mount, one hears patrol planes overhead, amidst the beautiful gardens, a large church and a peaceful setting.

The sights and experiences in this land will change the way you view its history; and it will certainly change the way you preach about the places where Jesus walked. It will also bring both the geography and the socio-politics into sharp view. You will find yourself changed. You will find your faith both challenged and charged - charged to pray and charged to know more about the history, the politics and the setting in which Christianity grew and now finds itself.

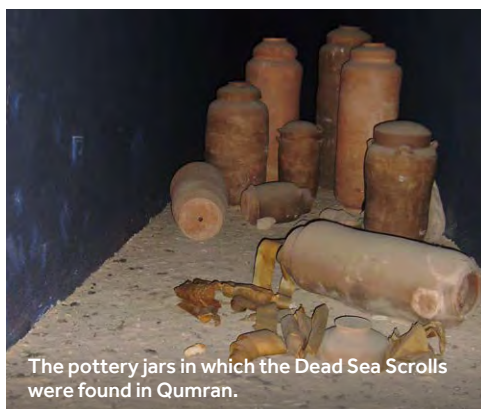
Rev Dr Anne Wright is the Director of Education and Formation for the Uniting Church WA and the Principal of Perth Theological Hall.



The Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Jerusalem



Qumran.



The pottery jars in which the Dead Sea Scrolls were found in Qumran.



Masada (a side view).



Dome of the Rock.



Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, Israel's official memorial to the victims of the Holocaust.



Would you like to support people in Perth who are doing it tough?

Uniting WA is looking for volunteers to assist at its *Tranby* Engagement Hub on Aberdeen Street in Perth.



Tranby is a support and referral service for adults who are experiencing homelessness in and around the City of Perth. It provides essential services such as showers and meals, as well as one-to-one, person-centred support that empowers people to access the services they need to take the first step on their journey out of homelessness.

Volunteers play a pivotal role in creating a warm and welcoming environment for service users, and are at the heart of the services provided at *Tranby*.

Tranby volunteer Monica says, "Being a volunteer at Uniting WA has given me more than I expected. It has taken me to a new part of the community that I

have never been to before. If you have the opportunity to do some volunteering, I encourage you to do it. There is nothing more rewarding than helping others to succeed."

Volunteers assist with tasks such as meal preparation, social support, cleaning and stock rotation, during shifts. There are several shifts available each day and Uniting WA is looking for volunteers who can make a regular commitment of two to three hours weekly, fortnightly, or monthly.

All volunteers receive a Uniting WA induction and orientation, as well as training in safe food handling and manual handling. Online learning options make training more accessible for those with a busy schedule.



If you are passionate about ending homelessness and eager to make change at a local level, visit <https://unitingwa.org.au/get-involved/volunteer/> or contact Volunteer Engagement Advisor, Elaine Healy, on phone 9355 9022 or email volunteers@unitingwa.org.au



Uniting WA is a community services organisation of the Uniting Church Western Australia.



Foothills St Martin's Uniting Church celebrating Pentecost.

A fundraising barbecue for Frontier Services.

Another year gone by

At the close of yet another active year for many Uniting Church congregations, *Revive* asked four churches to give us a glimpse of their year - the highlights, the routine and the in-between.



Foothills St Martin's Uniting Church

St Martin's was the first new congregation formed after union, in 1977, of the Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational churches to become the Uniting Church. In 2005, St Martin's and Kalamunda Uniting Churches became linked which was a gift to both congregations. We now share Rev Sophia Lizares as our Minister. The Samoan Uniting Church Faith Community also worships at the church and is our 'sister congregation'.

Our op shop continues to operate three days a week and is more than a money raiser. In the last year, it provided resources to over 40 groups within the WA community. These included: a number of prisons, King Edward Memorial

Hospital, Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service, Darling Range Sports College, Good Sammy Enterprises, vets and animal havens.

Our café, *Marty's*, is open every Thursday. It operates as a community drop-in centre, particularly for people who are socially isolated. Bread, coffee and cake are provided free of charge.

Both the op shop and café operate with the help of an amazing group of volunteers from both the church and local community. For those involved, it provides a sense of purpose and belonging. A place is also reserved for the local *Days for Girls* group.

Our congregation takes seriously its financial commitment to the wider church and its mission. Contributions in the last year totalled over \$30,000 and went to many good causes, including: Timor-Leste, Frontier Services,

Mission and Service, Act for Peace's Christmas Bowl, the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress and chaplaincy contributions for YouthCARE.

We engaged ecumenically in our local area through several initiatives. One of those was hosting the *World Day of Prayer*, earlier this year in March.

We are a small congregation. Having said that we have great worship and fellowship. We celebrate communion weekly - this is important to us. As well, we believe hospitality is an important aspect of Christian life and we love our morning teas!

*Nely Watson, for,
Foothills St Martin's Uniting Church
57-59 Hale Road, Forrestfield.*



Café Church.



Thanksgiving for Animals service.



Little Book Display.

Maylands/Mount Lawley Uniting Church

During 2022, we worshipped together, as usual, on Sundays at 10.00am in our church in Mount Lawley. On one Sunday a month, we enjoyed *Café Church* instead - church with coffee, seated around tables in our church hall, family and friends most welcome in the relaxed space, and an opportunity for small group conversations, as part of the Minister's message.

In October, we celebrated five years of *Music and Play*. This musical playgroup is held on Tuesday mornings during school terms. A team of four or five members of the congregation, host children under school age along with their parents, grandparents or carers. Activities include: Bible stories, Christian songs, a sung grace, other stories, rhymes, songs and music instruments. The playgroup begins and ends with a prayer. The church also provides community and

pastoral care for all attending and invites them to other church events and services.

Our *Treasure Markets*, held on Saturday mornings four times a year, are going strong. Plants go on display in the courtyard and Devonshire teas and books are offered, as well as many other "treasures". More recently, we have added a plant swap and a *Little Book Display* for borrowing. The markets present a unique opportunity to welcome our neighbours into the church's worship and community space.

We hold our annual open-air *Thanksgiving for Animals* service in our courtyard in October. We have been doing this for three years now and it seems to be equally popular with both the humans and pets!

We love meeting new people at our church. We pray that through these community efforts, we are communicating the hospitality of God and that more will come and participate in our Friendship Group,

Gardening team, fortnightly Bible studies and our worship services and *Café Church*.

Rev Kim Francis
Maylands/Mount Lawley
Uniting Church
165 Railway Parade, Mount Lawley.





Members of South Mandurah Uniting Church enjoying a barbecue picnic.



South Mandurah Uniting Church

While the past year has had its challenges due to ongoing issues with COVID-19 and our church not having its own minister; it has also provided good opportunities for the South Mandurah Uniting Church (SMUC) congregation.

In addition to our wonderful in-house worship leaders and speakers, the Leadership Team (LT) has actively sought interesting guest speakers from a wide range of backgrounds to minister, educate and challenge the congregation. This year, Rev Luke Williams from The Billabong Uniting Church and members of his congregation joined with speakers from the SMUC to present a 7-week sermon series on the Book of Joshua. Their messages were delivered in person or via video link. As a result of very positive feedback from the congregation, the LT are now looking at new worship opportunities for 2023.

In the lead-up to Pentecost, SMUC participated in *The Prayer Room* for the first time. It was initially challenging for some members because it was new and different, but it was also very rewarding. It helped strengthen our focus on prayer within the church and has led to a growing Sunday pre-service prayer group. It was wonderful to be part of a multi-church activity with an emphasis on prayer and fellowship.

SMUC's fundraising focus is on our local community and we have supported a wide variety of groups, including: Foodbank, Frontier Services, Peel Community Kitchen, Mum's Cottage, Adult and Teen Challenge, Tear Australia, and YouthCARE. Part of our fundraising is raised through the collection of recyclables and bread tags. This Christmas, SMUC and another local church have collected toys for donation to parents who are imprisoned so that they have a gift to give their children.



Our special area for participating in The Prayer Room.

Fellowship, friendship and sharing are some of the cornerstones of our congregation. Our social calendar has had a number of memorable events including lunches, ladies' and men's coffee mornings, a film night and our very successful annual Christmas concert.

A survey of the congregation conducted by the Leadership Team showed our strengths to be our faithfulness, the quality of speakers, the Sunday service musicians and our hospitality. Our aim is to focus and expand on these strengths and seek to bring the Word of our Lord to a wider audience in 2023.

**South Mandurah Uniting Church
2-4 Rees Place, Wannanup WA.**



Pastor John Tomkins



Worshipping with the Tongan community.

St Luke's Carnarvon Uniting Church

A highlight of our year was welcoming a large number of Tongan friends to our worship service on Sunday 18 September.

Over the past few years, we have had a pattern of shared worship together on the third Sunday of each month, but for various reasons this had not been possible for a few months. This is why it was such a great pleasure to have an extra thirty worshippers, many of whom had just arrived from Tonga a few days earlier. We were also greatly blessed as they graced our worship with some heavenly Tongan harmonies! We look forward to resuming our monthly sharing with the Tongan community as we go forward.

During 2022, we had a number of travellers join us in worship - some

local and others from interstate. It was heartening for us to meet them and I hope they felt the same.

Our ongoing ministry and contact with people living in residential care continues weekly, along with wide-ranging practical (furniture and food) and pastoral support within the Carnarvon and Gascoyne community. Two weddings, including a double wedding(!) and a number of funerals have been conducted. Our ministry and connection continues with schools and emergency services.

We appreciate prayer for our congregation to grow and to continue to be used by God for God's glory.

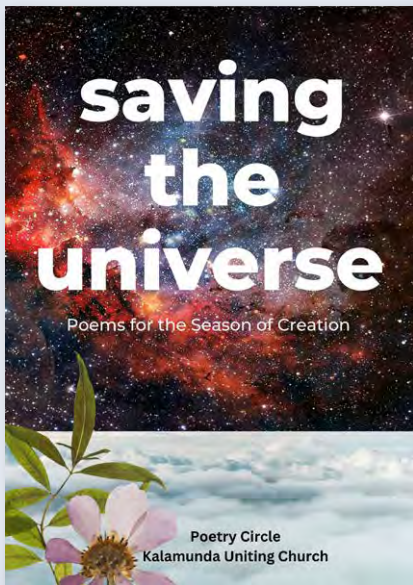
*Pastor John Tomkins, Bush Chaplain
St Luke's Carnarvon Uniting Church
30 Cleaver Street, Carnarvon WA.*

Poetry and the Season of Creation



Could poetry help us celebrate the *Season of Creation*? A group in the Perth hills discovered a rich vein of reflection by writing on the theme of creation.

At Kalamunda Uniting Church, a regular group called *Creative Endeavour* meets to find encouragement and relationship through creative expressions, including poetry.



Ann Grylls, one of the poets in the *Poetry Circle*, wrote:

*I see stunning summer sunsets
Sinking slowly in the sky
Mist over paddocks at dawn
I thank God for their creation.*

Another poet, Elizabeth Bishop, had a darker vision:

*Land was untouched by
human hands
Hands arrived to clear its
bountiful treasures
Treasures that were secret and
hidden away
Away from big machines, diggers
and rock breakers
Breakers that broke its integrity.*

The natural world amazes us with its beauty, but increasingly we see evidences of its fragility. All this is grist to the poet's mill.

Recently, the *Poetry Circle* decided to present poems that had been written over the past month or so, on the theme of 'caring for creation'. Each person attending this event, was offered a handsome little photo-copied booklet with the grandiose title, "saving the universe". Poems ranged from "The Sky" to "Red leaves

from the Tallow Trees Fall" and "Salt Burn".

Naturally the group enjoyed reading their work. As well, the folk who gathered to celebrate with the poets not only admired their work, but indeed the wonders of creation and the need for its care. All acknowledged there is more work - much more work - to be done!

Geoffrey Lilburne
Kalamunda Uniting Church



Taize mingles with the city

Uniting Church in the City, Trinity, has resumed its church 'open days' from Monday to Thursday, during 11.00am to 2.00pm. Tracing its origins back to 1893, the church on St George's Terrace, is a beautiful, dimmed sanctuary amidst the bustle of the city. Curious passers-by can be seen popping their heads in for a quick look around the historic church, or stopping to say a quiet prayer, as they wander

through the parallel thoroughfare linking to St George's Terrace.

A Taize Service has recently started on Wednesdays from 12.30 to 1.20pm. Combining candlelight and beautiful harmonies, with the intermittent murmurs of the city drifting in - it is an enchanting, spiritual experience. Make sure to visit when you are next in the city.



Church Open - Monday to Thursday, 11.00am to 2.00pm
Taize Service - Wednesdays, 12.30 to 1.20pm

One stitch, many connections

In 1990 the Kalamunda Uniting Church moved to its new site and when no further fundraising was required, a group of ladies decided to "knit for people in need". *The Blanket Knitting Group* was then born.

Over the years many people have been involved, including church members, friends, family and neighbours. All who have heard about the project, have been inspired to help in some way to create the 8in by 8in squares which are assembled into colourful blankets. Each year has seen some 40 blankets distributed to nursing

homes, day care centres, Wesley Mission and Uniting WA. Some give wool that others knit, others assemble, others crochet the edges, others add the "love from Kalamunda Uniting Church" note to the completed blanket before it is delivered.

Just imagine the number of stitches in each blanket, each created with purposeful movements of hand and finger; now imagine the number of thoughts that have gone out for the person who may eventually use the blanket. Can we consider these thoughts as prayers for other people – people with a special need?

What began thirty years ago as a small idea has inspired and engaged many, many people in thoughtfulness for their neighbour.

Donna Kahl
Kalamunda Uniting Church



Appointments Farewells



Rev Dr Ian Tozer

Rev Dr Ian Tozer has been elected as the new leader of the Uniting Church WA. He will be installed as Moderator from 2023 to 2026 at the 47th Annual Meeting of the Synod of WA in September 2023.



Russell Bricknell

Appointed CEO of Juniper in September 2022.



Rev Mark Bell

Inducted as Minister of the Word at Willetton Uniting Church on 13 November 2022.

Farewell and thanks

Rev Dr David Ferguson - exited Presbytery Officer, Presbytery of WA.

Recent Anniversaries

Nedlands Uniting Church Hall – 100 years
 Frontier Services – 110 years
 Scotch College – 125 years
 Trinity Residential College - 20 Years



Sweet Christmas platters

With Christmas coming soon, Amanda Badenhorst of the Uniting Church Centre shares some useful catering tips for Christmas platters.

"Sweet Christmas platters are my festive favourite this year due to the colour, texture, variety and choice they give. They're an excellent option for small gatherings, morning tea, or to enjoy around the table after Christmas lunch. Children love them, as do adults. It is good fun foraging for your favourites."



Amanda Badenhorst

**We want to share your recipe!
If you have a recipe you'd like
to share, send it in to
revive@wa.uca.org.au.**



Tips to create an inviting platter:

1. Visualise your platter and plan its design and contents.
2. Identify or create a centre piece or focal point (eg a gingerbread house).
3. Arrange some pieces in symmetry to the focal point to give your platter structure and create building blocks around which to position other pieces.
4. Continue to build your platter. Start from the circumference and work inwards.
5. Position the larger pieces at the edge and the smaller ones towards the centre or focal point.
6. Don't let one confectionary item or colour dominate the presentation.
7. As it's a festive platter, include treats like Santa chocolates, star cookies and gingerbread confectionary.

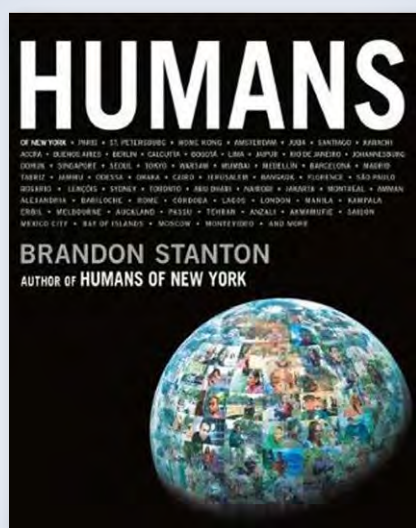
You can make your platter pieces at home or purchase them inexpensively in a supermarket or bakery. Use 'minis', not large pieces. Below are some suggestions.

Baklava * Brownies * Candy canes * Chocolate * Christmas cake squares/slices * Christmas star cookies * Cream puffs * Doughnuts * Freckles * Fudge squares * Gingerbread house * Gingerbread cookies or biscuits * Lamingtons * Liquorice allsorts * Macarons * Marshmallows * Meringue kisses * Mince pies * Pavlova bites * Peanut brittle * Rolled wafers * Rum balls * Santa chocolates * Shortbreads * Toffees *

Creating a balanced, attractive platter is an artform. It takes an eye for colour and design. If you're out to impress, it could be easier to have one made professionally. Otherwise, keep practicing until you master your own unique composition!

Humans of New York

By Brandon Stanton



Humans of New York (HONY) is by no means a new book on the market. In fact, there's some who even question if it should be called a book, or if the author should be described as a writer. This is because the collection of stories in it are drawn directly from the social media blogs of the same name on *Facebook* and *Instagram*. Many who follow HONY would already be familiar with its characters and photos online - yet looking at them in a book brings them closer. It's like looking at photos of friends whom you realise you don't know personally, but whose experiences have nevertheless become part of you.

There are so many touching stories on HONY. Jon from Harlem, and his former high school teacher, DiCo, who he says changed his life by encouraging him to be part of a debating team which went on to participate in the Harvard Tournament. Stephanie, the dancer, who HONY met by chance, struggling for breath against a railing, all while resplendent in a bright quilted coat with fur cuffs and a fur hat, and whose story has since gone viral. The Diallo brothers who arrived 'undocumented' in the USA from Guinea, and after untold obstacles, opened up a café selling their own Ginjan Bros brewed juice. And Paul, who is building what he calls, the largest photography library in Ghana and Africa, with the 30,000 books he has collected for years while living in America. (Note: On 1 November 2022, Paul's Dikan gallery opened in Accra). The list goes on and so does the inspiration. While the collection of stories originally started in New York, HONY has since visited South Africa, Rwanda, Pakistan, Iran, Mexico and other destinations for its stories.

The longer HONY stories of some 4-10 online posts, are often alternated with shorter paragraph stories and conversation quotes. As you read this wave of universal human communication, long and short, it gives you the impression that you are just one tiny speck in a vast global humanity which thinks, perceives, interprets and lives in unique ways, with the most common thread being that we are all human.

HONY was started by Brandon Stanton who worked as a bond trader in Chicago. After losing his job in 2010, Stanton decided to pursue what he loved - the heartbeat of the city, particularly New York, and taking photos of people. He lived in a single room, posting his photos on a website with no apparent result - until he decided to post them on *Facebook*. Even then, the response was slight until he started to accompany each photo with a conversational quote. He saw a spike on 11 December 2011 when he posted a photo of a woman clad from head to toe, in green - including green gloves, green shoes and green hair. Their conversation went like this:

"So do you do a different colour every day?"

"No, I used to go through different stages. But then I found that I was happiest when I was green, so I've been green for 15 years."

I find HONY fascinating and I never tire of this treasured book. Stanton's storytelling is innocently curious, visually compelling, embracing and dignifying of people, and infused with a positivity and inspiration of his own. It's my favourite and I always recommend it.

Tracey Paul





The Textile Museum in Albany

The story behind the photos

Bigger than Ben-Hur you say? Over 70 bridal dresses, some dating back to the 1880s; also vintage wear, funeral gowns and other church and period memorabilia. Hundreds of visitors over the years. Remarkable, perhaps - except it was never meant to be!

It all started when I set up a little display in the Uniting Church on Duke Street, Albany, during the time I was a church minister. The display was called *Hatches* (a dolly in a pram), *Matches* (a wedding dress I was given) and *Dispatches* (black formal clothing from the Albany Historical Society). The vintage wedding dress had been given to me earlier by a church friend. At the time, it occurred to me that it was too beautiful and too meaningful to just be forgotten in a storage closet and so I arranged to display it. From there, one donation led to another, resulting in one bridal gown becoming a museum of many! The Museum has been interchangeably described as a textile museum, a local history museum, a preservation of the past, a vintage bridal collection, and it truly is all of those and more. Yet, it is also a living museum of community, friendships and stories. The community who donates, visits and supports the Museum; the regulars who become friends of the Museum; and the stories of the gowns and the brides who are remembered into the present. Next to some bridal gowns is a photo of the bride wearing it on the day.

Donations of bibles, books, documents and dresses continue to come in - some related directly to the Church and some not so much. They matter not just because they are old, but because in their totality they build a picture of the Church as an important part of the history of Albany, and the whole Great Southern area.

I don't publicise the Museum, but others do. More recently, the *Southerly* magazine profiled it. It is also featured on the *Find Albany* website and the Western Australian Museum's *Collections* webpage for the South West.

Groups and individuals from far and wide visit, leading to many interesting social and pastoral conversations, including about the history depicted in the Museum and about the local area. My continued thanks to all who care and continue to support us.

Judy McKechnie

Curator: Uniting Church Albany Museum

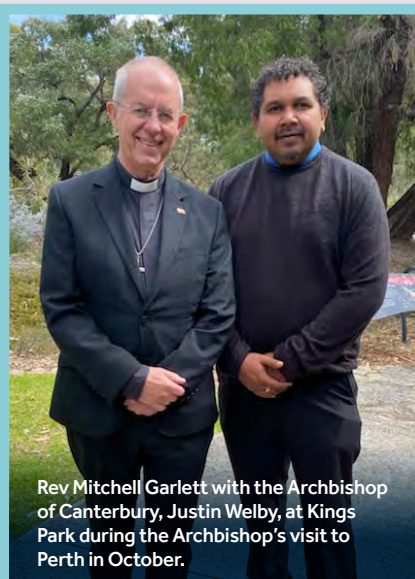
A snapshot of events in the life of the church



A sacred music performance by violinist, Hayden Wiseman, at Rockingham Uniting Church, in September.



The congregation of Capel Uniting Church recently gathered together for a luncheon to celebrate being able to meet-up in groups again after the years of the COVID-19 isolation.



Rev Mitchell Garlett with the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, at Kings Park during the Archbishop's visit to Perth in October.



Juniper craft group *Hugs and Stitches* gathers at Juniper Chrystal Halliday Retirement Living in Karrinyup. Since 2001, the group has met weekly and raised thousands of dollars from the proceeds of its craft for: King Edward Memorial Hospital, Care Bags, ShopFront, Breast Cancer WA, Shoulder to Shoulder – Women's Refuge, Brain Cancer Research, The Cancer Wellness Centre, Red Kite, The National Kidney Foundation, Radio Lollipop, Asthma Foundation and Meals by Mums.

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Uniting Church in Australia
Western Australia



EDUCATION WITH Uniting Church Schools

Our seven independent schools provide education for over 8,000 students from Pre Kindergarten* to Year 12. They offer a variety of learning environments, from some of the oldest and best-known independent schools in WA to the more recently established colleges in new suburbs on the edge of the Perth metropolitan area. While these schools respect the faith diversity of all students, the story, values and practices of the Christian faith are expressed with integrity in order to nurture young lives for sound learning, faith, compassion and responsible service.



Methodist Ladies' College
356 Stirling Hwy
Claremont WA 6010
T 08 9384 4000
mlc.wa.edu.au



Penrhos College
6 Morrison St
Como WA 6152
T 08 9368 9500
penrhos.wa.edu.au



Presbyterian Ladies' College
14 McNeil St
Peppermint Grove
WA 6011
T 08 9424 6444
plc.wa.edu.au



Scotch College
76 Shenton Rd
Swanbourne WA 6010
T 08 9383 6800
scotch.wa.edu.au



St Stephen's School
SITES: GOSNELL ONE ANOTHER
Campuses in
Duneraig and Carramar
T 08 9243 2108
ststephens.wa.edu.au



Tranby College
90 Arpenteur Dr
Baldivis WA 6171
T 08 9524 2424
tranby.wa.edu.au



Wesley College
Corner of Coode St
and Angelo St
South Perth WA 6151
T 08 9368 8000
wesley.wa.edu.au

* Not all schools offer Pre Kindergarten.