



Issue No. 203

April 2022



Walking on Country together

Alison Overeem and the deadly Leprena team hosted Rev. Denise Liersch, Moderator of the VicTas Synod, and other ministry leaders recently at the Fanny Cochrane Smith Church in Nicholl's Rivulet for a day of *Walking on Country* together. Linton Burgess (above) welcomed everyone with traditional dance and smoking cleansing ceremony, and cultural educator Trish Hodge provided fascinating insights into the traditional and continuing uses of the wide range of productive plants on the site, and in the wider Tasmanian landscape.

As we continue walking together as First and Second Peoples, following Christ and seeking community, compassion and justice for all creation, your community can reach out and invite the Leprena team to build relationships, to assist in coordinating cultural education for recognition and reconciliation.

For more information see:

- Leprena, UAICC/Congress Tasmania: <https://www.facebook.com/leprenauaicctas/>
- Fanny's Legacy and Fanny's Church: <https://www.theorb.tas.gov.au/connection-to-country/fannyschurch>
- Nita Education: <https://nita.education/> (*nita* means *brother*, learning as brothers and sisters together)

New Hymn
for Easter

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I've attached a new Easter hymn, which I've written this year, for the Easter edition of "Uniting Tasmania".

Worship leaders and congregations wishing to use this hymn in worship may do so freely, with acknowledgement.

Best wishes,

Bob (Faser)

Hymn: "Mary from Magdala"

(Tune: "*Battle Hymn of the Republic*")

Mary from Magdala and her friends walked before dawn
to Jesus' tomb, while feeling sad, and low, and woebegone.

They found the tomb was empty. Angels told them he was gone
on the Resurrection Day.

Glory, glory, alleluia! Glory, glory, alleluia!

Glory, glory, alleluia for the Resurrection Day!

They went to tell the others (some disciples who were male)
who discounted their report and spurned it as "an idle tale",
at least 'till Jesus joined them in their midst and said "All hail!"
on the Resurrection Day.

Glory, glory, alleluia! Glory, glory, alleluia!

Glory, glory, alleluia for the Resurrection Day!

(continued ...)

To the village of Emmaus, two disciples walked with dread.
They were followers of Jesus, but believed that he was dead,
until they recognised him in the Breaking of the Bread
on the Resurrection Day.

Glory, glory, alleluia! Glory, glory, alleluia!

Glory, glory, alleluia for the Resurrection Day!

Thomas couldn't manage to embrace what he had heard
'till he saw the risen Jesus, and his spirit then was stirred.
He packed his bags for India to share the joyful word
of the Resurrection Day.

Glory, glory, alleluia! Glory, glory, alleluia!

Glory, glory, alleluia for the Resurrection Day!

In succeeding years, the saints their celebrations bring:
Wesley, Tutu, Nightingale, and Martin Luther King!
Flynn, MacKillop, Knopwood: help Australian regions sing
of the Resurrection Day!

Glory, glory, alleluia! Glory, glory, alleluia!

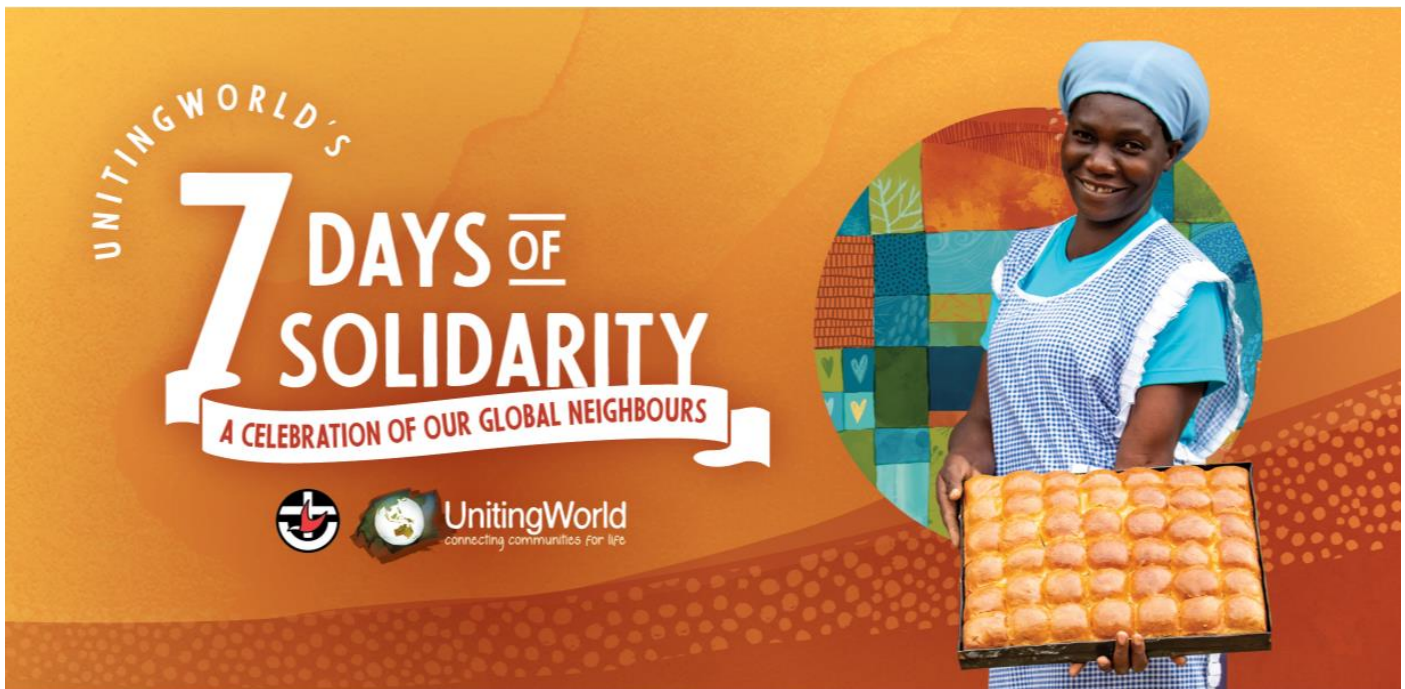
Glory, glory, alleluia for the Resurrection Day!

Celebrate God's victory, for all creation won.
Celebrate the Spirit, the Creator, and the Son:
the Trinity of Love, profoundly Three, profoundly One,
this Resurrection Day!

Glory, glory, alleluia! Glory, glory, alleluia!

Glory, glory, alleluia for the Resurrection Day!

Celebrate God's work in the world!



UnitingWorld's 'Seven Days of Solidarity' is a week of inspiring stories of Christians at work in some of the world's most challenging places. Get your congregation on board and celebrate over two Sundays, with a launch video, a new worship song and video, impact stories, actions, prayers, a sermon and easy ways to support the work in giving.

Go to this site for resources and further information:

<https://donate.unitingworld.org.au/7dos>

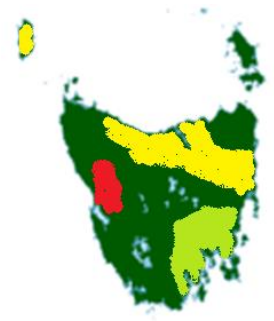
Uniting World are celebrating Seven Days of Solidarity from 27 March to 3 April, but you can choose any time that works for you or your church.



Reconfiguration of Presbytery staff roles

The recent meeting of the Presbytery of Tasmania approved reconfiguration of the Presbytery Minister staff roles, including a more **regional resourcing focus** for Rev Denise Savage and Rev Hoon You, and election of Rohan Pryor as Presbytery Chairperson for the Presbytery component of the Synod Liaison Minister placement.

From 1 April 2022, Denise will be Presbytery Resource Minister for the Southern region. Hoon will be the Presbytery Resource Minister for the Northern region and Presbytery eLM Minister (PeM) for Tasmania. The approximate north and south regions with Uniting Church communities and properties are shown on the map. Liaison with Frontier Services for the 'bush chaplaincy' ministry placement on the West Coast is part of Rohan's responsibilities as SLM (Tas.).



The Presbytery Ministry team work together with other Presbytery leaders (the three Presbytery committees and Presbytery meetings in council) and other UCA staff to implement the Presbytery's strategic focus:

to enable / empower / assist congregations & faith communities to thrive, and to utilise resources well for God's mission.

Denise and Hoon will now focus on resourcing ministry and mission in each region:

- assist each congregation or faith community – in its own context for ministry and mission – to thrive in worship, witness, service and discipleship formation
- provide oversight, guidance, resourcing and support to local ministry leadership teams (lay leaders and any ordained/recognised ministers if present)
- provide pastoral care oversight for UCA Ministers in placement, in conjunction with the PRC
- encourage mission development: experimentation, innovation, new initiatives, pilot projects, missional outreach, discernment of local community assets, needs and opportunities
- facilitate collaborative ways of working, communication and planning across the Church
- link local leaders to relevant resources, networks, and staff to encourage initiative and local responsibility for growing the Church
- assist local leaders in fulfilling the Church's legal, ethical and social obligations
- engage with Presbytery and Synod oversight committees to maintain strategic focus.

Rohan will take on responsibility as the elected Presbytery Chairperson for two years, as part of the Synod Liaison Minister placement with agreement of the PSC:

Synod Liaison Minister	Presbytery Chairperson
Strategic leadership working with the Presbytery Ministry team and Councils of the Church	Coordinate/chair meetings of the Presbytery and Presbytery Standing Committee
Presbytery Minister team leader, and manager of the Tasmanian Office including staff and budget	Oversee any complaint and discipline processes, in conjunction with the Pastoral Relations Committee
Coordinate administration, participate in Synod and Presbytery events, link with congregations	Coordinate liturgical events of the Presbytery, in conjunction with other Presbytery leaders
Tasmania/Victorian link between Synod offices and staff, member of Synod's Senior Leadership Team	Represent the Presbytery in forums and committees of the VicTas Synod

If you have questions about the new structure and roles, please contact Denise, Hoon or Rohan

Pilgrim Theological College Study Hubs

Hubs:

What are they,
how do they work,
and would one work for you?

Pilgrim prides itself on providing students with a multitude of options for study, including theological study hubs.

A study hub is guided by a minister or theologically trained leader, with content from a Pilgrim College subject. The subject can be taken by students either for credit towards a qualification, or via audit for general learning purposes. The unit is chosen in collaboration with the college to ensure that it's suitable for hub-style learning and for the students involved

Study hubs allow you and other local students to study a subject in your own safe, comfortable space, under the guidance of a minister or other theologically trained leader who you already know.

It also gives you the flexibility to set the tone of learning for your own individual group.

A hub could be based at your local church in the morning, online with coffee, or at someone's house with wine and cheese one evening a week.

The range of Pilgrim subjects available means you can choose a subject matter that is of interest to the whole group.

Plus, it's fantastic continuing education for the minister - Sandy Brodine, who leads the Banyule Hub, says; "We all grow together as a community. It's not new content for me, but there's always something that connects with what we are doing now more directly, or in different ways."

If you're a previous student who's interested in studying more but haven't been able to find the time, or a minister or leader looking for ways to further develop

their congregations theological knowledge, then a hub could be a fantastic option!

To find out more, [contact us](#), or keep reading for testimonials from current study hub students.

Hub Testimonials

David Landis-Morse

Banyule Theological Hub

"I've been a part of the Banyule Theological Hub since 2017 and initially I just thought it would be an opportunity to brush up on some of the finer points of my belief. Instead I found myself drawn deeper into the rich world of theological ponderings and questioning. The opportunity to re-examine my faith in my mid-fifties wasn't something I had originally considered but I became more and more interested in looking at why I believed what I did, to the extent that I came home one day from talking to one of my lecturers and said to my wife Robyn "I think I've just enrolled in my Masters".

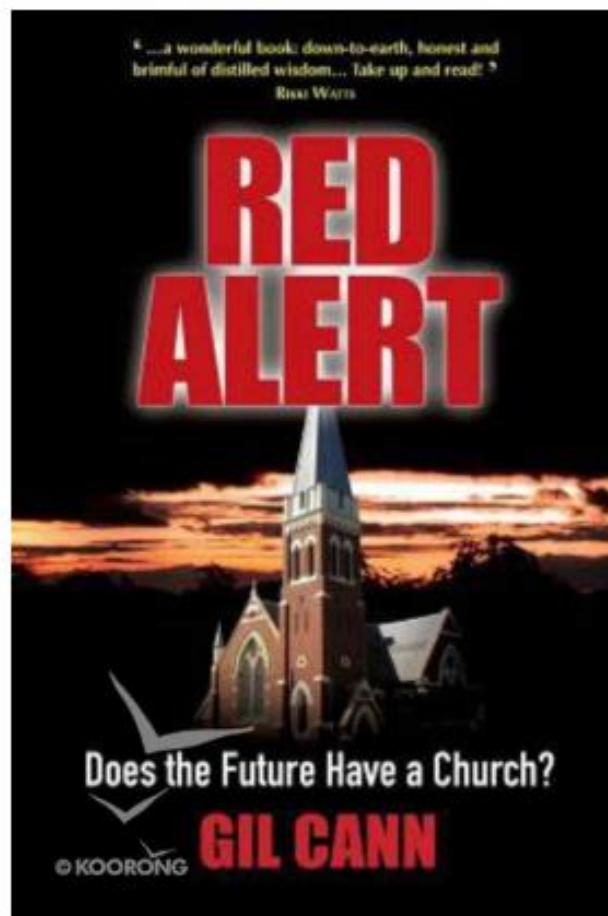
We met (pre-Covid) in the Sycamore Tree - a cafe attached to the Banyule Network in Heidelberg - for a meal and a tutorial run by Sandy Bodine, in conjunction with a lecturer from Pilgrim College - usually remotely, to unpack various subjects that are on offer from Pilgrim. The opportunity to learn with others and incorporate lessons into our shared worship in the Network has been invaluable. I've found the chance to continue incorporating my faith and life has been immeasurably enriched by the teaching offered via the Banyule Hub."

Paul Minty

Banyule Theological Hub

"Our theology hub at Banyule is a great way to get deeper into matters of faith and big issues alongside significant people in my local church. As a bonus we get to study with top-notch university teachers who always manage to make their topics interesting and accessible but never dumbed-down or prescriptive. Through our hub I have worked through questions that have been bugging me for years, without becoming disconnected from my local faith community. I am also confident that I am learning good quality theology and building discernment skills that will help me follow Jesus in the real world for years to come."

RED ALERT – Does the Future Have a Church?



In this book Gil explores the effects of a rapidly changing culture and what it means for today's churches. In the process he explains the church's current crises of confidence and refreshingly points to changes we can make in attitudes and practice that will allow us to be an effective agent for the gospel in a new age...and the advice offered is doable!

Gil identifies some of the issues involved in churches moving from maintenance to mission. He strongly urges congregations to see the role of the minister to be "equippers of God's people for service." Many churches still see church as an event to be conducted rather than a people to be equipped.

Read this book to see how your church can be empowered to become an effective agent for the gospel and our changing society.

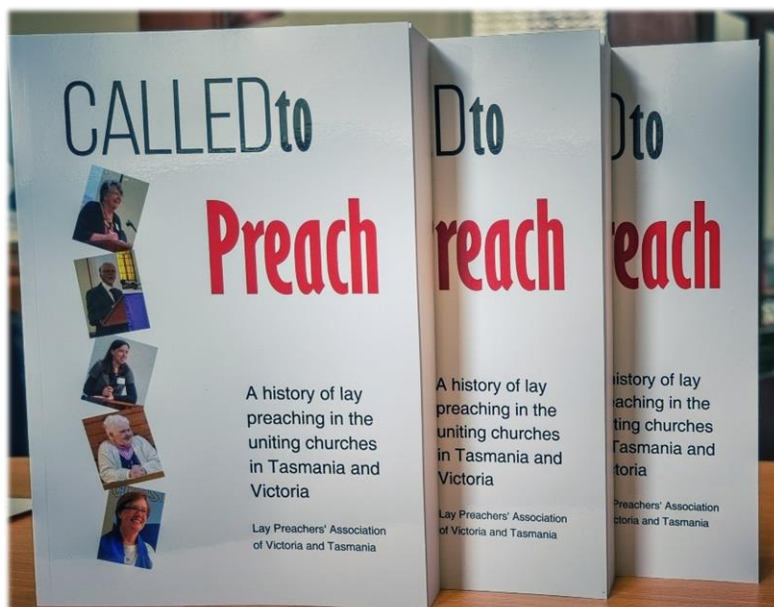
Margaret Wilson, Launceston South Esk

For more information see Gil Cann's website: <https://www.gilcann.com/>
Available for purchase through [BookDespositary](#), [Koorong](#) and [Booktopia](#).



A project to commemorate 150 years of the Local/Lay Preachers' Association

Published by the Synod Lay Preachers' Association of Victoria and Tasmania
in association with the Uniting Church Historical Society ISBN 978-0-9807168-7-0



Called to Preach

A history of lay
preaching in the uniting churches in Tasmania and Victoria

This is the readable story of the origins and development of lay preaching from the early settlement of Van Diemen's Land to modern Victoria and Tasmania, describing events and people who helped shape lay preaching; with an historical review of the Lay Preachers' Association from 1869.

Authors:

Barry Brown, Alastair Davison, Cheryl Griffin, Glen O'Brien, Daryl Pedler, Robert Renton, and D'Arcy Wood, with a Foreword by the Moderator, Rev Denise Liersch



In this book... We hear of adaptation to changing circumstances, of being responsive to the call of God and the needs of the community as they were perceived at the time. And along the way, we hear something of what we might learn, not just of other people and their stories from the past, but of where we've come from and what has formed us: of who we are and how we might move into the future.

Chapters:

 [including a conversation with Arthur Tonkin]

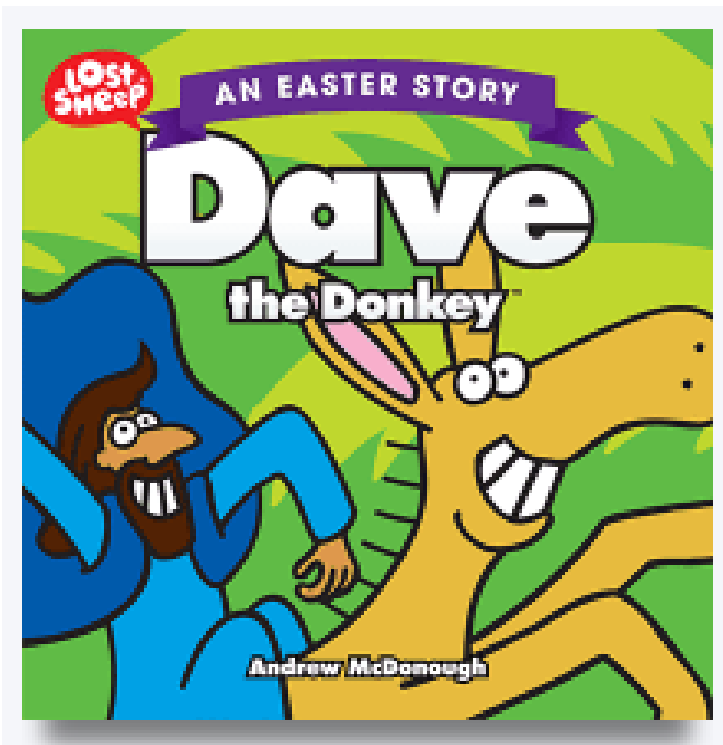
Lay preaching in historical perspective; Methodist Lay Preaching in Tasmania and Victoria, 1820– 1902; Methodist lay preaching in the Victoria-Tasmania Conference 1902–1977; Congregational and Presbyterian Lay Preaching; The Basis of Union and Lay Preaching; Lay Preaching in the Uniting Church, 1977 to the present; After the call to preach, what then?; An association of local preachers; Information from the Lay Preacher questionnaire; Observations, comments, challenges.

Price \$25 [add \$9 if posted] 300 pages including Foreword, Preface, Glossary, Index of names.

Available now through the Uniting Church Presbytery of Tasmania Office on 03 6331 9784 or email tas.office@victas.uca.org.au



Lost Sheep have teamed up with Bible Society Australia to print a stack of Dave the Donkey mini-Books, as part of their *Jesus: All about Life* campaign! FREE BOOKS for your church to give away in your community! Sign up and Bible Society Australia will be in contact to make sure you get a nice big box of Dave the Donkey books. What are you waiting for? Sign up to *Jesus: All about Life* now.



To sign up go to:

<https://www.biblesociety.org.au/jesus-all-about-life/>

This 'n That

■ Have you read a **good book** lately that has extended your understanding of God, spirituality, theology, the Bible? Send us a review. Thanks to Margaret Wilson for reading Red Alert.

■ Reminder: Contractor and Consultant Safety Management – contractors must be pre-qualified and have completed the Linksafe online safety management induction before starting work at any UCA property.

■ For those who have been asking: The book Called to Preach looks at lay preaching in the uniting churches in Tasmania and Victoria. It only dwells on particular individuals as they played a part in the development of the craft of lay preaching. There is an idea to also eventually write a book that focuses more on lay preachers in Tasmania and Victoria so don't throw out any of the lovely photos and other archival material you may have about particular lay preachers.

■ Reminder: Volunteers are asked to complete an induction session on Linksafe which covers very basic safe church information and ethos of Uniting Church. Accreditation lasts for one year. Find this at <https://linksafe.com.au/uca/>

Praying for Everyone

- The people of the Ukraine and the people of Russia
- For congregations as they add Contractor Induction and Volunteer Induction to their to do lists
- For those who are isolating due to Covid 19 as a close contact or as people who have contracted the disease
- For those who continue to keep their local congregation open in difficult times
- For the journey that is Lent. For the journey that is our life of faith
- For those who have to juggle multiple roles and/or changing roles

Annual reminders for leaders in Congregations:

(this section is back by popular demand)

April:

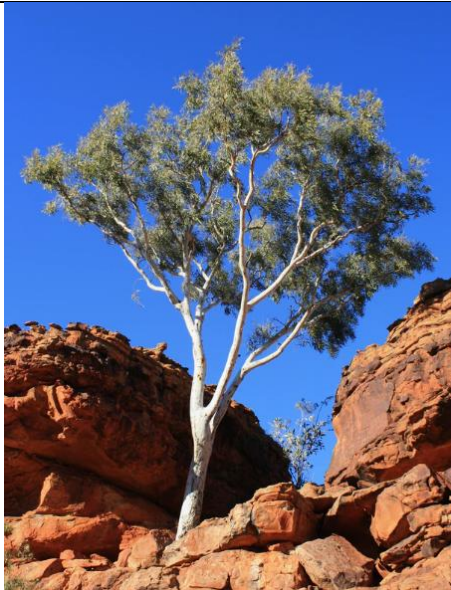
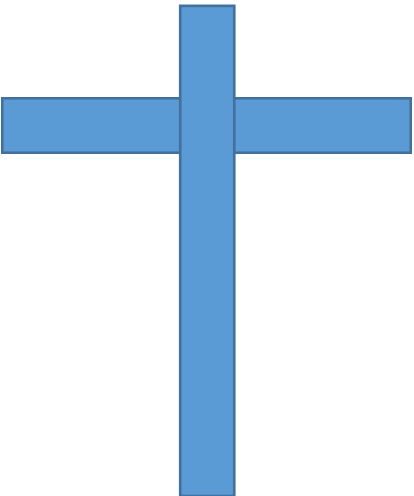

- Annual Reports (2 copies) including minister's report (if applicable), reports of various group activities, financial statements to be sent to UCA Tasmanian Office
- Do you have new people in leadership? Working With Vulnerable People cards must be sighted, details added to your list (full name, registration number, expiry date), and then congregation list updates sent to the UCA Tasmanian office.
- Review of Safe Church Policies, ensure Statement of Commitment is renewed.

What's On

April

Tue 5	10:00am	Pastoral Relations Committee
Tue 12	11:00am	Resource and Development Committee
Tue 26	11:00am	Resource and Development Committee
Thu 28	10:00am	Presbytery Standing Committee

Easter

Three Trees		
		
Eden	Easter	Revelation

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Presbytery of Tasmania website: <https://ucatas.org.au>

The map of Tasmania including King and Flinders Islands has been adapted from a Creative Commons file
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Australia_Tasmania_location_map_blank.svg