



Uniting Tasmania

Issue No. 222 | February 2024



Two Tasmanian Uniting Church members have been recognised in recent awards.

Helen Geard was made a Member of the Order of Australia in the General Division for significant service to youth and the community.

According to Crosslight Helen was awarded for her “...contribution to Girl Guides Australia, Girl Guides Tasmania, the Royal Agricultural Society of Tasmania, Rural Youth Tasmania, and Landcare...” as well as for her strong work within the Uniting Church.

Helen thanked family, friends, fellow volunteers, staff at various organisations, and work colleagues.

Thanks to:

<https://crosslight.org.au/2024/01/29/helen-leads-list-of-honours/>

<https://www.gg.gov.au/helen-geard-am>

Reverend James Colville AM, the founder of Colony 47 was awarded 2024 Tasmanian Senior Australian of the Year.

According to Australian of the Year website the drop in centre at 47 Davey street offered welcome and help to “...many young people, older people, Indigenous Australians, the lonely, hungry and unemployed.

James believed those struggling with rejection had a lot to give with the right support – they just needed non-judgemental assistance, acceptance and respect.

Fifty years on, not for profit Colony 47 continues to deliver programs for Tasmanians in need...”.

Thanks to:

<https://cms.australianoftheyear.org.au/recipients/rev-erend-james-colville-am>

Photos : Helen - Crosslight; Jim - Aust of Yr site



Violet Haysom is the 2023 recipient of the Uniting Church Micah 6:8 Award. Violet is pictured above with Rohan Pryor who congratulated Violet on behalf of the Presbytery of Tasmania.

The Micah 6:8 Award is presented to a student at Scotch Oakburn College in Year 9 or 10 who has a focus on justice, compassion, loyalty and love.

Ben Marsland, Deputy Principal of the College, says of Violet that she, "...is a Year 10 student at Scotch Oakburn College. She is caring, compassionate, organised and diligent with a great sense of social justice and she lives out the College values in all respects.

**"...and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?"**

Micah 6:8

Lent and Easter Resources

Lent Event - see page 4

[Surprising Hope](https://www.commongrace.org.au/surprising_hope) study series from Common Grace. Weekly and daily updates by email and social media. Sign up required.

https://www.commongrace.org.au/surprising_hope

[Following Jesus for a World Restored](https://www.tearfund.org.au/following-jesus-for-a-world-restored) is a devotional series exploring what it means to join God's work of restoration in a world longing for hope and justice from Tearfund Australia. Sign up required.

<https://www.tearfund.org.au/following-jesus-for-a-world-restored-lent-2024>

[The Historical Jesus](http://www.crossanclass.com/) has lectures by John Dominic Crossan and livestream Q&A sessions with various scholars. Register and donation base from \$0.

<http://www.crossanclass.com/>

Garratt Publishing sponsor a Virtual Lent Series on Zoom with scholars from the Catholic Church. More information at <https://www.garrattpublishing.com.au/blog/post/virtual-lent-series-2024/> Sign up required.

Find more at:

<https://victas.uca.org.au/weekly-worship/>

GROW CHURCH COUNCILS

A good set of **governance resources** is available online from the Presbytery of Sydney. The next two resources are listed there.

Governance Resource Book is a very worthwhile resource for the whole Church Council, including a good section on Consensus in meetings – which is the process for the Chairperson to attend to in particular, but also useful for all council members to understand and participate in.

7 Habits Of Highly Effective Church Council Chairs is a good discussion resource, and includes a 90 minute session plan for a whole council. Use this resource to focus on the role of chairperson. The links embedded in the resource are broken, so use these:

[UCA Manual for Meetings \(2009\), particularly section 4.6](#)

[UCA Regulations \(2018\), including section 3.8](#)

The recent eLM publication “Meeting Together” is a useful resource for Councils, Groups and Committees in the UCA: <https://victas.uca.org.au/pr esbytery-elm-ministers/>

Effective leadership by the local Church Council is essential for the ministry and mission of the local congregation in the wider community. In the Uniting Church, God calls women and men to share in leadership, together providing oversight – ‘government’ (Basis of Union Par. 15) or ‘governance’ (the more common language today) – to ensure we respond to God’s call with care and responsibility. Good governance is an important part of overseeing the worship, witness and service of our congregations.



The role of the Chairperson is to lead the Church Council (and sometimes also the Congregation). This is a challenging and rewarding leadership role in service of God through the Church, alongside other leaders. The chairperson’s role is to ensure continued focus on the important and strategic matters and the meeting process, rather than the smaller details of particular issues. The chairperson’s role is more than only the process of guiding a particular meeting – and yet less than being the chief operating officer for the local church.

Rotating the role of chairing Church Council meetings can lead to a lack of clarity and continuity in strategically setting the agenda for council meetings and following through the actions, a lack of focus on the meeting process and key priorities for the council’s attention (sustained time, effort and focus), and a lack of understanding of the UCA regulations and wider process requirements. It is too easy for the content and details of a meeting to overwhelm the agenda (e.g. it’s easy for a Council to spend a lot of time on small matters like choosing a paint colours, rather than long-range strategic mission planning for growth and effective mission, however these are locally understood).

LENT EVENT

Lent Event 14 Feb to 28 Mar

UnitingWorld is challenging us to take 40 days of faithful action for God's creation this Lent.

In the face of the climate crisis, commit to action – Personal change, Practical support, Political advocacy – for the world we want to see: hopeful, peaceful, life in abundance for all.

Heaps of resources are available for individuals and church groups – find out more at

www.lentevent.com.au



UNITING CPE THE JOHN PAVER CENTRE

SUPERVISED PASTORAL
EDUCATION UNIT
AUGUST-DECEMBER 2024



INQUIRIES

Andy Calder, Centre Director, Uniting CPE – the John Paver Centre
Centre for Theology and Ministry, 29 College Crescent, Parkville, 3052.
Telephone: 0417 562 556 Email: andy.calder@victas.uca.org.au



It is almost 20 years since I became an Accredited Lay Preacher. I look back over this time and my development over that period of time.

I started back attending worship services at the end of 1995 after a gap of many years. In the early 2000's I started to have thoughts about starting to do some form of study – but was not sure what sort of study. I had looked at some options and thought that was not what I wanted to do. Many months later a poster appeared on the noticeboard at church. One of the many questions on this poster was “Do you want to know more about the Bible?”. My thought was “yes” and so I contacted Coolamon College and starting doing some of their courses - one at a time. At about the same time I started going to the monthly worship services at Eskleigh (a home for adult disabled persons) to assist with the singing and putting the hymn books on the right pages for the residents.

A couple of years later the Minister for Longford needed to step back from some of her roles to take on Chairperson for the Presbytery of Tasmania. My response was “I suppose I could do the occasional Bible reading or maybe a talk here and there”. This got interpreted very differently. The minister thought I was volunteering to take over the Eskleigh worship services. After some discussion and much



encouragement I did take over the Eskleigh worship services and had other members of the congregation coming in to assist and support me.

About six months later (and I still do not know why I had this discussion), I asked the Minister what the difference was between a worship service at Eskleigh and one at Longford. The answer was along the lines of – there are a few more prayers and the talk is longer. After thinking about this, I said that I could probably do them if the congregation needed an extra worship leader here and there. Next thing I know I am being presented to the Church Council for consideration as a Lay Preacher in Training. Again, not quite what I had in mind, however this request was accepted by Church Council.

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I started to lead worship services at Longford – with the help, support, and encouragement of experienced worship leaders within the congregation. I received feedback that was positive and constructive. The feedback was often put in terms of “did you consider doing ... this way instead” or “you said... did you mean ...”. This feedback helped me to continue my development. My studies through Coolamon continued even though the name of the college changed and is currently Uniting College in Adelaide. Imagine the discovery that I had already completed three of the six units required to become a Lay Preacher.

It was probably about 18 months later that it was time to start having my services evaluated by others. A daunting process as someone was sitting in the congregation and writing throughout the service. These people were Ordained Ministers and some I had not met before that worship service. After each of these services the person talked to me – positive and constructive development comments meaning that I knew what I had done well and what areas I could improve further on into the future.

The time came for me to become accredited as a Lay Preacher. It was part of a worship service at Longford. It was at an extremely busy and emotional time for me. I had had a full day meeting the day before as Treasurer for the Tasmanian Lace Guild and was flying out of the state the next day to attend my Grandmother’s funeral. It was also a time for me to reflect on what I had achieved not only in my studies but also in gaining the confidence to lead a worship service not only at Eskleigh but in the Longford church building – a large historic church.

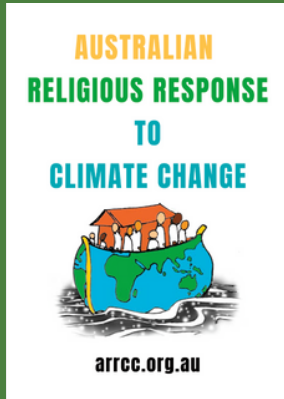
Many years later a neighbouring congregation was having trouble finding worship leaders. My name was suggested to them and I agreed to go to them and lead a worship service. I contacted the organist in advance and told her my choice of hymns. Her response was to ask me where the Offering was in the service and that they had a blessing hymn that they always used. Once more I had to stop and think about my preparation for a worship service. I have led one or two worship services at Westbury a year since that time. I have also been approached by a couple of other congregations to lead worship for them, most of which I could accept.

My development into being an Accredited Lay Preacher is probably unusual. I suggest that very few would have started by leading worship at a home for adult disabled persons. I also suggest that very few would go straight to leading a full worship service. I suspect that very few people had done half of the study units before starting a period as a Lay Preacher in Training. I also suspect that most Lay Preachers did not continue their studies after completing the study required to be a Lay Preacher, which is what I have done. I have one subject left to have a Bachelor of Ministry, not what I planned when I started.

For me, I look over the last 20 plus years and see a development from a person who had returned to attending worship services to being an Accredited Lay Preacher. This has been done with the support and encouragement of many others along the way. There have also been many God moments where the awareness not only of God with me but God leading me to help others to understand more about God.

Shirley Bowers

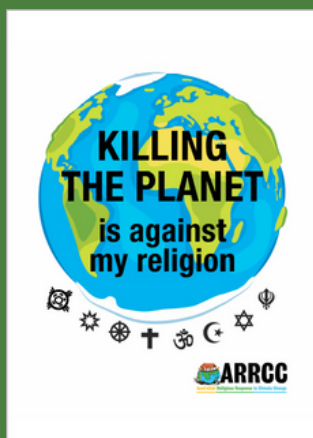
FAITHS FOR CLIMATE ACTION



How you can get involved:

The GreenFaith International network had launch calls around the world on January 30th. You can find more about the planned week of action (3-12 May) by clicking: www.greenfaith.org/faiths-for-climate-justice-2024/

[Click to Read More Actions and Climate Policy Positions](#)



The GreenFaith International Network is calling for a week global action. The Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC) is leading the activities here in Australia

Across the world, we are seeing unprecedented climate impacts and climate fueled storms, fires, droughts, and wars. Millions of people across the globe are being displaced and impacted. While the world is calling for an end to fossil fuels, a just transition to accessible, affordable, renewable energy for all, and for loss and damage for those most impacted, our governments are not doing nearly enough.

As grassroots, multi-faith people of conscience from many different faith and spiritual traditions, we know this is wrong, and that it's time to take action to call for the change we know is possible. That's why, on 3-12 May, people of faith around the world will be mobilizing for a week of action calling for an end to fossil fuels, a sustainable future, and a fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty.

How will we do it?

We're calling on major places of worship to do something big.

The exact form this will take is being negotiated but we are hoping that communities of Cathedrals and central Mosques, Temples, Synagogues and the like will be engaged in an event that is public-facing.

Making it very visible.

On the same day during the week of action. all drop a huge banner off the side of your building The main thing we're asking is that a number of major and well-known places of worship ·We're asking all other places of worship to put up a banner. Please check these out and order yours! We're aiming for 100 to 200 places of worship big or small nationwide.

Let's get a lot of these up during the week of action. There are designs already made at www.arrcc.org.au/banners

FOSTERING HOPE



This is my Uniting Church

Sheffield Uniting Church

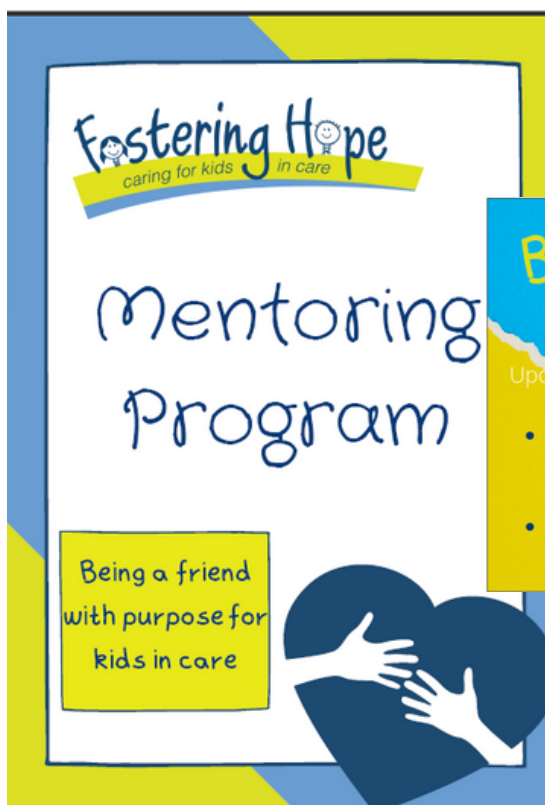
"Instead of a church focussing on Sunday worship, it has found a new lease of life, new direction, and new ways of serving, which has caught us by surprise."

The Assembly is running a series on local churches. Sheffield has been included in this series.

The five people at Sheffield are reimagining themselves into their community with relationships developed through an ecumenical worship service, the local hospice fundraising group, Kentish U3A, youth choir Mountain Echoes, a singing group of guest workers (The Kiribati Boys), and a mobile bistro.

Read more at:


<https://uniting.church/this-is-my-uniting-church-sheffield-uniting-church/>



Fostering Hope
caring for kids in care

Mentoring Program

Being a friend with purpose for kids in care



Become a mentor

Upcoming Mentor Training Days

- **Launceston on Saturday 2nd of March**
- **Hobart on Saturday 16th of March**

Fostering Hope
caring for kids in care



Become a mentor

Online Mentoring Information Sessions

- February 14th at 7pm
- February 27th at 12pm

Fostering Hope
caring for kids in care



Interested?

To find out more about becoming a mentor in Northern Tasmania get in touch with Anthea (anthea@fosteringhope.net.au) or go to our website www.fosteringhope.community/mentoring

Financially support the mentoring program

While the mentors are volunteers, it costs Fostering Hope to train and support the mentors, and your support will enable us to grow the number of kids in care we can support through mentoring.

You can give by going to our website or by giving directly to:
BSB: 017324
Account number: 312 784 385





[Image created by Ruth Suehle for opensource.com. This file is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.0 Generic license.]

It is easy to send a 'broadcast' email message to everyone you know, and to accidentally share their personal email address with everyone else. That is a breach of the Australian Privacy Principles.

The Uniting Church is committed to the [Australian Privacy Principles](https://www.oaic.gov.au/privacy/australian-privacy-principles), the legal requirements "which are the cornerstone of the privacy protection framework in the Privacy Act 1988. They apply to any organisation or agency the Privacy Act covers." (see <https://www.oaic.gov.au/privacy/australian-privacy-principles>), also the source of the image at right)

Local Uniting Church congregations as well as the Presbytery/Synod office collect personal information from members and regular attenders including phone numbers, email addresses and home addresses. The Uniting Church's Privacy Policy can be found at a link on the bottom of every page on the Synod website. How we use this information matters, both for privacy and safety.

There are legal requirements on the ways the Uniting Church collects, stores and uses personal information including email addresses. Local church leaders and Presbytery/Synod staff are expected to use information only for the purposes for which it was collected, and in 'safe'



ways that do not disclose personal information inappropriately. Data breaches likely to result in serious harm must be reported and the affected individuals notified.

While people included in a local church directory have agreed to receive relevant information from the Uniting Church, they have not agreed to have their contact details distributed to everyone else in a way that can easily be used by others for inappropriate purposes (such as spammers, scammers, hackers, viruses, viral marketing – or just adding to their email load). Key contact people whose email address or phone number are to be listed on a public website must agree to have those details made public.

Continued P10



Stephanie Alexander, Area Manager Tasmania, for Scripture Union asks us to:

Save the Date! – Schools Sunday is at the beginning of the new school year, 11th February 2024.

God is not confined to church, but goes with us to school (and wherever the rest of us go).

A digital resource booklet for either an intergenerational Sunday service or a short segment within a regular service can be obtained from the Tasmanian Office. Use what will best suit your congregation. Message, prayer and activity ideas are included.

Schools Sunday provides an opportunity for churches to pray for and support young people and the local school community at the start of a new school year.

If the date is unsuitable, choose another day, early in the school year, that works better for you.



Continued from P8

If you send a ‘broadcast’ email message to everyone you know and include their personal email addresses, you share their personal information without their consent. That is breach of the privacy principles.

If a broadcast email message is to be appropriately sent to a group of Uniting Church people using information collected by the Church, the “Blind Carbon Copy” (BCC) field should normally be used so that privacy is maintained. Nobody included in the BCC field sees who else is included in the BCC field, ensuring privacy is preserved.

We do not make an electronic version of a local church or Presbytery directory available online for that reason, and we normally centralise and coordinate communication to our church community members through a central contact point (such as the Tasmanian office) so that we are not all ‘spamming’ each other with information that we think is important to share but about which others may have different views.

We hope this article assists in clarifying our shared responsibility in the Uniting Church for maintaining appropriate privacy as well as clear communications, without preventing appropriate and helpful communication through the Church networks. For more information, please contact the UCA Tasmanian Office staff:

email Tas.Office@victas.uca.org.au

or phone **6331 9784**.



Lay Preaching Studies

More than ever the church is relying on its lay leaders to take greater leadership in worship leadership. We do recognise that any person with a WWVP card can lead worship. If you are leading worship more than occasionally you should begin to consider lay preacher studies. If you are likely to need lay preaching in the next three years it is time to start talking about who offers the appropriate gifts and skills.

The courses are designed so the assessments are all on-line for your convenience, and you can self-pace your learning at home. Others prefer on-line tutorials and group chats to deepen their learning.

If you are not strong on IT skills work with another lay preacher, or ask a family/church member to set you up each week for tutorials or to submit assessments. Most assessments are short - about 200 words. It is about extending your thinking and reading in the areas of Old and New Testament; Theology and Christology; Worship and Preaching and Understanding the UCA. Some questions ask for personal reflections and can be submitted as written words, powerpoints, poetry, music or art. Others require sample prayers or devotions.

Experienced Lay Preachers can also do these units get the latest thinking in biblical and theological scholarship. Attendance can go towards 10 continuing Education points that you need every two years according to the Lay Preacher Association of VicTas (LPA).

There is a small cost of up to \$50 per subject

plus the purchase of any core texts you may need. Please ask your congregation or presbytery for help with fees if needed. Some books can also be borrowed from the CTM (Centre for Theology & Ministry) DML library (soft copies are also available) or Otira Book Club also at CTM. The LPA can assist.

Understanding the UCA, Session 1 2024 will be led by Mel Perkins-(to register)

<https://events.humanitix.com/understanding-the-uca-guxhe2kf> from Feb to June 2024, with 4 online tutorials; the tutorials are open to all participants, but compulsory for those undertaking Understanding the UCA for assessment. Cost \$40.

Exploring the Old Testament led by Linley Liersch - <https://events.humanitix.com/exploring-the-old-testament> (to register), Feb to May 2024, 10 online sessions, can be undertaken for assessment or not. Check to see if your Presbytery is setting up a local hub to work alongside the online sessions. Cost \$50 plus a textbook that can be purchased from CTM Resourcing.

Please contact Mel Perkins if you are interested mel.perkins@victas.uca.org.au. Training on the new online learning system is provided.

Exploring the New Testament (Second Semester) and Exploring Worship in the UCA (Third Semester/later in the year) will also be offered online in 2024. *Linley Liersch*

WHAT'S ON!

FEB, 2024

FEB 24 | 9.45am for 10am start
Presbytery Meeting: Bellerive

MAR 21 | Presbytery Standing Committee

MAR 05 | Pastoral Relations Committee

MAR 29 | to 1st APRIL Easter Break
Office Closed

MAR 11 | Public Holiday
Office Closed

MAR 12 | Resource & Development Committee

THE VOICE REFERENDUM A UNITING CHURCH REFLECTION

Rev Sharon Hollis, National President UCA

SUNDAY 3 MARCH 2024 AT 2.30PM

FREE EVENT AT:

Church of All Nations,
180 Palmerston Street, Carlton.

Or for a Zoom link, email:

ken.barelli@bigpond.com

For enquiries call Ken on

0418 317 942

VICTAS UNITING CHURCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY



MONTHLY CHECKLIST



Check items in Annual Maintenance Log Book.



Working with Vulnerable People registrations for all leaders are up to date.