



# ST. STEPHENS DIARY APRIL 2026



*179 Melbourne Rd  
Williamstown  
Phone 0468 365 434*

**No. 227**

**MINISTER:** Rev. Juliette Maua'i  
**PHONE:** 0456 690 291

## **APRIL Worship Services**

2<sup>nd</sup> 7.30pm Maundy Thursday

3<sup>rd</sup> 9.30am Good Friday Service

5<sup>th</sup> 9.30am led by Rev. Juliette Maua'i **EASTER DAY**

Service of Holy Communion

12<sup>th</sup> 9.30am led by Rev. Juliette Maua'i

19<sup>th</sup> 9.30am led by Rev. Juliette Maua'i

Service of Holy Communion

26<sup>th</sup> 9.30am All-Age

## **COMING EVENTS**

### **April Plant & Garage Sale**

**Saturday 18th April 8.30am to 12noon**

### **St. Stephens Uniting Church**

**Our Vision:** St. Stephens Uniting Church

is a growing, active Christian influence in our community and welcoming to all people.

**Our Mission:** Led by the Holy Spirit,

our mission is to empower people to love

one another, and be a visible Christian presence within the community

### **Fund Raising and Responsible Recycling**



Scan your barcode at the machine

Please scan this code when you visit the CMD Depot – Racecourse Rd to return your *10c deposit* bottles, cans and containers. Your donation will go straight to St. Stephens account.

### **THURSDAY MORNING TEA**

Ted is enthusiastic every Thursday morning – up at the crack of dawn to make his fluffy scones.

Thursday morning teas are not just about the great spread, more importantly the conversations, fellowship and developing friendships.

Come along and join the fun.

## ST. STEPHENS CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Announcements: Contact Heather Russell 93976405

Diary: Deadline for May Diary is Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup>

Worship Committee meets Thursday 7/5 at 12.30pm

Next Church Council meeting: 12.30pm Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April

### Your weekly offering to the Church

can be made on-line to

BSB 633-000 A/C NO. 1252-34211



## News from the Ukulele Group

### Back to Basics – Beginner Ukuleles

There will be a break over Easter and the School Holidays. Further information re Term 2 can be obtained from Jodie 0487 263 717

### Easter Services

**7.30pm Thursday 2/4**

Maundy Thursday Service

9.30am Friday 18/4

Good Friday Service

6.30am Sunday 5/4

Ecumenical Dawn Service

at Time-ball Tower

9.30am Sunday 5/4

Easter Day Celebration of Holy Communion



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

TO ALL OUR

ST. STEPHENS FRIENDS HAVING A BIRTHDAY IN APRIL including:

**Mike Butcher, Debbi Barnes,**

**Peter Kofoed, Bev Roberts,**

**Maya Johnson, Zara Johnson,**

**Joan Rae, Reni Basile,**

**Audrey Hamilton-Gould,**

**Armindo D'Oliveira, Samuel Kofoed,**

**Theodore Hillier**



## PICKLE BALL IN THE HALL

Are you interested in playing pickle ball?



**PICKLEBALL**

It is a fun game – a bit like bat tennis.

Try it out – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April at 10am

Contact Jodie for more information 0487 263 717

## **GARAGE SALE REPORT**

It was a lovely Autumn day with a crisp start, then turning out to be a glorious morning. The church grounds were looking lovely, thanks to Armindo's regular grass cutting.

It was great to see our regular customers and to welcome some new ones. Not as many as we would have wished but some large purchases helped to boost funds raised to \$461.50 with many customers making use of on-line payments.

Many thanks to our consistent, enthusiastic sales team, to everyone who set up stalls and those around to pack up again.

## **Gold Rush!**

Martin and Anne were pleased to announce to the congregation that the broken gold necklace rescued by Laura, amongst the garage sale jewellery, was worth more than expected – over \$400 in fact.

Martin also reminded congregation members to be mindful of what they do with their old gold jewellery. This certainly got people talking and hopefully checking out the trinket boxes at home. A few bits here and there, all pooled together, could add up to an ounce or two of gold which might be converted to cash - a good fundraiser!!

## **Congregation AGM    Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May**

Please send your Annual Report to Elaine by 30/4/26.

Retiring Church Council Members: Peter Kofoed, Heather Russell, Elaine Peck, Rosemary Wray & Janet Howie.

## **Sunday Worship**

Our regular Sunday morning worship continued during March, with Rev. Juliette delivering thoughtful and gentle services in the lead up to Easter.

**On 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday**, it was lovely to have our service led by Matthew Julius, Church Engagement Officer, employed by Synod and working largely with **Uniting**. He informed us of some of the ways **Uniting** is changing its way of delivering welfare to those in need, emphasising the need for co-operation and inclusivity for recipients. Matthew, a member of Northcote Uniting Church, (and of the younger generation) was a vibrant leader, encouraging congregation participation - having members step up to do prayers, readings and add input into his inclusive service. Matt led the singing of "Amazing Grace" on his banjo.

**Palm Sunday** with our young ones, Rev. Juliette and Ros Harris, was a wonderful service of celebration, contemplation and reflection. Iris set the scene with the reading from Matthew 21:1-11, then Iris and Reni led the parade of members, young and older, carrying their palm fronds as we sang the song "Hosanna"

Dylan and Rosa did a fantastic job with their readings.

Ros delivered a thoughtful reflection asking the question "what did Jesus do", and encouraging us to walk the path to Easter with renewed strength and wonder. We were pleased to be able to welcome Ros, as the delivery of her reflection was a the

final component of her Lay Ministry Training. We wish Ros well with her future Ministry and look forward to seeing her again at St. Stephens.

### **LENTEN STUDIES**

Our Lenten Studies group though small in number, gave those who attended a good opportunity to share their thoughts in a safe space.

Led by Rev. Juliette, we were asked “who are the Jews”. We explored passages in the Old and New Testament referencing God’s covenants established with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as they journeyed under God’s guidance to new lands, experiencing opposition and persecution by leaders and armies of a myriad kingdoms established in those areas.

There were no tidy conclusions to our deliberations and all of us expressed our dismay and horror at the carnage occurring in the Middle East at the present time. Thank you to Rev. Juliette for her guidance and patience.

### **ST. STEPHENS THURSDAY MUSIC**

There is always a bit of a buzz of excitement in the air as we come together for our regular Thursday morning of music therapy. There is much laughter, chatter and times of quiet as we think about our fellow participants who are unable to be with us due to illness or other concerns.

If you happened to be up at the church on Thursday morning recently you may have heard a few new songs coming from the Music Group. The year started off with gusto when the words and ukulele chords for “Sweet Caroline” was distributed to participants. It is going to prove one of our very popular songs I feel. “You’ve got a friend in me” is also coming up on the play list.

New participants always welcome.

### **St. Stephens Tennis Club A.G.M.**

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April, 1pm 4 Bunbury Street Newport

Afternoon Tea provided.

St. Stephens Tennis Club membership is open to all individuals and families.

Organised Social Tennis occurs on Tuesday morning 9.15am, Thursday 8.30am or Saturday 1pm.

### **Wednesday Walkers**



Enjoy the autumn weather, with good company & gentle exercise

New walkers always welcome.

More info? ring Jodie 0487 263 717

### **Feast for freedom \$1500 raised for Asylum Seekers Resource Centre Thank you from Sue Lindsay**

Thank you so much for supporting the Asylum Seekers Support Centre. Your help will be much appreciated.

The winning recipe from the day was the one from Gaza, Musakhan Rolls. I thought you may like to try this at home. Warm greetings ,

### **Musakhan Rolls**

*Musakhan is a traditional Palestinian dish, this is a modern variation.*

Cook 400g chicken in water with 3 cloves, 3 bay leaves, 15g whole black peppercorns, 1 cinnamon stick, 3 cardamon pods.

Cook 400g onions in in olive oil . Add 5 tbsp sumac, ¼ cup lemon juice, 1tsp salt.

Combine cooked shredded chicken with the cooked onion.

Add this mixture to the edge of a sheet of mountain bread and roll up. Seal the edge with paste of flour and water. Repeat to make 8 rolls.

Brush each roll lightly with olive oil.

Bake at 180 degrees for 10-12 minutes. (or toast each side on a dry pan.)

Sprinkle with chopped parsley and serve with yoghurt cucumber dip.

**Warm and loving greetings are extended to all St. Stephens friends who are unwell at the moment, and also to any of you who are unable to be with us at present for any reason.**



**May Easter blessings rest upon you.**

**Electra Street Uniting Church** is organising a group booking for a piano concert performance by Arul Verty, a musically gifted Electra Street youth.

The concert will be held 4 pm on 26 April at **45 Downstairs** (45 Flinders Lane, Melbourne 3000) and forms part of the **Melbourne Mozart Project** within the **Melbourne Chamber Music Festival**. It promises to be a wonderful evening of chamber music, bringing together talented young pianists and outstanding professional string musicians. Arul will have the privilege of performing alongside a world-class string quartet, featuring acclaimed artists such as **Josephine Vains (cello)**, **Sofija Kirstinova (violin)**, and **Karoline Henbest (viola)**. Their musicianship and experience will make this a truly special musical collaboration. To get your ticket, transfer \$43 to our Church account. Write "Arul's Concert" in the description of the transfer.

The account details: Bank: Westpac BSB 033 100

Account No:218147 Williamstown Uniting Church-Electra St

Ref. Your name

When you have transferred the \$43 per person send me an email to confirm that you transferred the money to the Church account. I, Jan, will buy all the tickets together on 14 April and we will all go into the venue together on 26 April at an agreed time before 4 pm.