



# ST. STEPHENS DIARY JULY 2026

**No. 230**

**MINISTER:** Rev. Juliette Maua'i

**PHONE:** 0456 690 291



*179 Melbourne Rd  
Williamstown  
Phone 0468 365 434*

## **JULY    Worship Services**

- 5<sup>th</sup>    9.30am Rev. Juliette Maua'i  
12<sup>th</sup>   9.30am led by Rev. Juliette Maua'i  
        Baptism of Oliver Mitchell  
19<sup>st</sup>   9.30am led by Rev. Juliette Maua'i  
        Service of Holy Communion  
26<sup>th</sup>   9.30am All-Age  
        led by Debbi, Ted & Sunday School Team

## **COMING EVENTS**

Don't Miss.....



**SATURDAY 4<sup>th</sup> JULY 10am-2pm**

**Winter Sale in the Hall**

**Plants and all things Floral**

**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.

**A major fundraising event for**

**St. Stephens**

**WINTER SALE IN THE HALL**

**PLANTS & ALL THINGS FLORAL**

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July**

**10am-2pm**

**Entry by gold coin donation**



Plants, Books, Fabrics, Chinaware, Household goods, Artworks, Jigsaws, etc. etc.

Please phone Iris if you are able to volunteer to assist with setting up, selling, packing up etc.; or if you have floral items you wish to donate. 9397 7695

## **Fund Raising and Responsible Recycling**



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 10am**

Everyone is welcome to come along for a cuppa, a chat and to share scones with jam and cream and other tasty treats.

## **ST. STEPHENS CONTACT INFORMATION**

Church Announcements:

Contact Heather Russell 93976405

Diary: Deadline for August Diary is **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July**.

Next Church Council meeting:

**12.30pm Thursday 16th July**

**Your weekly offering to the Church**

can be made on-line to

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



Warm winter wishes to all readers who are unable to meet with the church family at the present time.

To anyone experiencing ill-health we wish you a speedy recovery and to those of you who have sadness and loss in your lives we send loving greetings.



**THURSDAY MUSIC/UKULELE GROUP**

Although the days are cold, the atmosphere in the church is warm with enthusiasm and goodwill when the musicians gather in anticipation of another hour and a half of hearty playing and singing.

Our play list is growing each day, and our music books are full to overflowing. A performance is definitely coming up soon.

Our close-knit community has been deeply saddened by the passing of John Reed, (ukulele player Evelyn's husband). Although John never actually joined our group, when calling in to collect Evelyn, he would love to sing along with us, especially the "Elvis" numbers. Our sincere condolences are extended to Evelyn and her family.

## **CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT**

We pleased to welcome Laura as a new member at our June Church Council meeting and look forward to the insights and inspirations she has to offer.

The carpet in the meeting rooms is to be cleaned, (maybe best to wait until spring comes to avoid muddy footmarks?). This operation requires a certain amount

of furniture removal from the rooms so some assistance will be required.

We are so grateful to Armindo d' Olivera who so is so diligent about mowing the lawns around the church. Joyce has been advocating for a safer crossing for Melbourne Road, and we hope the powers-that-be may respond favourably in the not too distant future.

### **All-Age Worship**



The Sunday School team of Iris and Reni together with Rosa, Damon, Gabe and James had worked all of June to get ready for our All-Age Worship on the 28<sup>th</sup>. They learned songs, prepared prayers and an order of service and planned activities on the theme of “Welcoming”.

The congregation enjoyed singing the songs that they had chosen and as always the activities were a good time for a chat and sharing while carrying out the tasks set for us. Reni prepared and shared a



thoughtful reflection”  
from the heart”  
concerning the pain  
associated with  
feeling alienated  
from our friends and

loved ones when we hold onto our fixed opinions. When we listen with love to others and offer them a safe and welcoming space we share the kind of love that Jesus preached.

## Happy Birthday

greetings to all readers having a JULY birthday including:



Kirsten Craggs,  
Lesley Musiel,  
J.J. Tautala'aso,  
Elise Hamilton-Gould  
& Rev. Juliette Maua'i

## **BETHLEHEM INSTITUTE FOR PEACE & JUSTICE**

**With apologies to Sue Lindsay who provided this information for the June Diary. The Conversations are still available on the youtube links:**

**The Bethlehem Institute for Peace and Justice**, an institute of Bethlehem Bible College is holding a conference over two weekends, 30<sup>th</sup> May and 6<sup>th</sup> June. You can hear the recording of the discussions from Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May ( Palestinian time) on

[Day 1 of Christ at the Checkpoint Conversations:  
Kingdom Ethics in a Violent World](https://youtube.com/live/A265B9DrKTs?feature=share)

<https://youtube.com/live/A265B9DrKTs?feature=share>

After Gaza, what does it mean to follow Jesus in this violent world. How should Christians respond to this devastation. These are questions Palestinian Christians have been wrestling with for generations, a morally urgent conversation, this conference is about sharing their experience to find a more faithful way.

Day 2

<https://youtube.com/live/aYRrPCPexAA?feature=share>

**WILLIAMSTOWN  
MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY**

**Preview Night for Seniors 7.30PM 30/7**

**Presents: NEWSIES JR. 30/7 – 9/8 2026**

**(They've delivered the papers. Now they're making headlines. You'll be doing flips for the rousing tale of Jack Kelly, a charismatic newsboy and leader of a band of young newsies I Manhattan)**

**ALTONA THEATRE 115 Civic Parade, ALTONA  
Special Seniors Preview offer: tickets \$25 can be  
purchased at the door on the night.**



## **BEGINNERS' UKULELE**

**Are having a break for school holidays and  
will resume at the NEW TIME 11am**

**WEDNESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> July at**

**4 Bunbury Street Newport. All welcome. Inquiries?**

**Ring Jodie 0487 263 717**



Christmas  
Bowl

# TOGETHER WE ACTED FOR PEACE

Thank you



27 March 2026

Dear friends at Williamstown St Stephens Uniting Church,

As I begin my role as CEO of Act for Peace, one of the first things I want to say is thank you. It is a privilege to step into this role and to witness the faithfulness of churches like yours who continue to stand together across denominations through the Christmas Bowl.

Your participation and generosity are part of a long and beautiful tradition of Christians across Australia responding to God's call to love our neighbours in practical and sacrificial ways.

The prophet Micah reminds us of what the Lord requires of us: "to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." In many ways, the Christmas Bowl is a lived expression of that calling; justice that restores dignity, mercy that strengthens communities, and humility that walks alongside local leaders. Thank you for being part of this simple but powerful act of kindness.

Over the past few months, the impact of your generosity has continued to unfold.

In Zimbabwe, local church and community leaders are working together to improve access to clean water and grow food throughout the year. Those locally led efforts are helping households feel more secure and reduce the risk of being forced from their homes.

In Jordan, families and young people are building small businesses, finding work and gaining practical skills. Parents are reporting greater stability at home, and children are remaining in school; signs of communities rebuilding with dignity and strength.

In Indonesia, neighbourhoods in flood-prone areas are leading their own disaster planning through setting up early warning systems and local response groups so that when floods come, families can recover more quickly, and children can get to school.

And in places such as Gaza and Ethiopia, where conflict continues to bring deep suffering, our trusted local partners are responding to urgent needs while standing alongside communities longing for a just and lasting peace.

This work is ongoing. The needs are real. But so too is the courage of local leaders, the resilience of families, and the faith that sustains them. Your support helps strengthen locally led action that prevents displacement, restores dignity, and builds peace with justice in some of the world's most fragile places.

Thank you for praying.  
Thank you for giving.  
Thank you for acting for peace.

With gratitude,

Andrew Hassett  
CEO | Act for Peace

0114214  
Jury



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ARN: 86 619 970 188 | [actforpeace.org.au](http://actforpeace.org.au)

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international humanitarian agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia.

**ACT FOR PEACE**  
COMMITTING JUSTICE TOGETHER  
THROUGH THE CHRISTMAS BOWL



National Council of  
Churches in Australia



## **VALE     JOAN RAE**

7.4.38 – 11.6.26

Our church community was deeply saddened when hearing of Joan's sudden passing. Joan was one of our very long established church members, having grown up in the North Williamstown Presbyterian

Church community. When Joan married Ian Rae, they were among the very first couples to be married in the new church building. Although after their marriage, Joan and Ian moved to the Eastern Suburbs and raised their two offspring – Anne and Stuart - they must have kept their happy memories of Williamstown alive and on Ian's retirement returned to become a part of the Williamstown community and a very welcome addition to St. Stephens church family.

Joan was a very kind and caring person and was committed to helping others. She showed great resilience in journeying to other countries with her young family, and was a very much appreciated grandmother to her three

grandsons, whom she travelled long distances to visit regularly.

Rest in peace,  
Joan.



**Michael Leung**

Love  
Love is born  
With a dark and troubled face  
When hope is dead  
And in the most unlikely place  
Love is born  
Love is always born.