



ST. STEPHENS DIARY OCTOBER 2026

No. 233

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



*179 Melbourne Rd
Williamstown
Phone 0468 365 434*

OCTOBER Worship Services

- 4th 9.30am Rev. Juliette Maua'i
11th 9.30am led by Rev. Juliette Maua'i
18th 9.30am led by Rev. Juliette Maua'i
 Service of Holy Communion
25th 9.30am led by Sunday School Team
 All-Age Service

COMING EVENTS

THURSDAY 8th OCTOBER

SOUP & SANDWICH FUNDRAISER

FOR NEPAL – ACT FOR PEACE INITIATIVE

12.15pm in St. Stephens Meeting Room



SATURDAY 17th October 8.30 – 12.30
PLANT & GARAGE SALE

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 RAISER for NEPAL
St. Stephens Williamstown



SUPPORT ACT FOR PEACE
AID FOR NEPAL

Soup and Sandwich lunch

THURSDAY 8th October 12.15pm

**\$10 entry Pre-lunch entertainment with
the Ukulele Group in the Church from
11.15am**

**Please RSVP to Jodie by phone, sms or when you next
see her.**

ACT FOR PEACE

An urgent invitation to stand with communities in Nepal

Calling on churches and individuals to donate

**At this devastating time, we're inviting churches across
Australia to pray for the people of Nepal and stand
alongside communities as they respond and recover.**

**Thousands of households need urgent assistance, including
emergency shelter, food, clean drinking water, sanitation and
hygiene supplies, healthcare and protection. MORE**

DONATION INFO:

<https://actforpeace.org.au/how-to-help-give/give-now/nepal/>

COMMUNITY GRANTS AVAILABLE - Any good ideas?

Hi St Stephens UCA,

Our office and Tim Watts MP are inviting local community organisations to express interest in the Stronger Communities Programme – Round 10. The program provides grants for community projects that strengthen and benefit local communities across the Gellibrand electorate, and we'd love to hear about the project your club or group may have in mind.

Round 10 offers grants of between \$2,500 and \$20,000 for small capital and infrastructure projects — think upgrades to community facilities and equipment, accessibility and inclusion improvements, energy-efficiency measures, or projects supporting veterans, First Nations communities, and newly arrived residents. Projects need to be located in the Gellibrand electorate and completed by 31 March 2028, and your organisation will need to be an incorporated not-for-profit (or similar eligible entity) with an ABN.

Please speak with a Church Council member if you have any good ideas for St. Stephens that may be eligible for funding so that it can be added to the agenda for our meeting on October 15 .

Fund Raising and Responsible Recycling



Have you been saving your bottles and cans for this St. Stephens fundraiser. When you make a delivery scan the barcode to that funds will go direct to St.

Stephens All helps to pay the bills!

THURSDAY MORNING TEA 10am

Last Thursday we celebrated Mark Young's birthday with a cake and singing "Happy Birthday" along with the usual savoury biscuits, scones with jam and cream etc. A wonderful time of conversation and hospitality and a time to celebrate the joyful times.

All welcome 10am



Wednesday Walkers



It's so great to get out now that the weather is warming up and what a delight to stroll down our local streets where spring growth has taken off in the gardens and flowers are blooming. What a joy to walk down Peel Street, and in the eucalypts and one particular garden a cacophony of bird conversation greets one. The parrots are so colourful and having a great feast on the tasty treats provided by the homeowner.

Walking through the Power House Park and along the Strand

is always a joy. We are so fortunate to live in such a beautiful place.

Leaving from 4 Bunbury Street at 9.30am. Routes suited to all walkers. Dogs too!



ST. STEPHENS CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Council Chairperson

Contact Heather Russell 93976405

Diary: Deadline for November Diary is **Sunday 25th October**

Forward items to elainepeck412@gmail.com

Next Church Council meeting: **12.30pm Thursday 15th October**

Your weekly offering to the Church

can be made on-line to BSB 633-000 A/C NO. 1252-34211



Good wishes and warm blessings for all our readers, especially those who are far away and unable to share with the Church Community on a regular basis. We look forward to seeing you whenever you can join us.



HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Barbara Campbell, Rosa Thompson,
Arthur Liebert, Iris Whitehurst, Melva
Marshall, Gabe Martin,
Ella Russell, Destry Whitcher, Sofia Roberts,
Philip Bratby, Tracey Buckley

PLANT & GARAGE SALE REPORT

The customers were out and about early again at the September Garage Sale.

The weather was perfect for an early start and customers were keen to secure their bargains.

Iris and Laura had set up a great display of jewellery and haberdashery in the meeting rooms and as always we had a lovely array of plants for sale at the front of the church and ukulele players to entertain the customers and locals passing by. Welcome to Tammy, a new member of our Thursday music group, who brought her ukulele along to support Jodie and Ted. It is always good when one of our Garage Sale customers joins in to sing and play along with us too.

There were many enthusiastic conversations with regular and new customers who really seem to enjoy the welcome they receive when they visit St. Stephens property and meet the St. Stephens volunteers.

We missed having salesperson Peter Tee on board, but Peter was busy celebrating his 80th birthday. Congratulations and good wishes Peter.

Total sales for the day exceeded \$600 and a generous donation raised the amount to \$700+.

Our next Sale is on 17thOctober.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!!!!



Would you believe it? It's time to dust off those Christmas Folders because new songs are coming and practices are beginning for our

Annual Christmas Carol

Celebration to be held in the Church on

Sunday 13th December at 7.30pm

Everyone welcome to come along and help to make a joyful sound for the Christmas Season.

Thursday Evenings commencing 8th October at 7pm and Sunday 1pm commencing 11th October and further dates to be advised.

60th Anniversary Celebration

Congratulations and good wishes to Ray Iris Whitehurst who celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary early in September.



and

Beginners Ukulele



We had a break over the school holidays but will be back on again on Wednesday 7th October. A great space for learning and sharing – no pressure! Come to 4 Bunbury Street, 11am on Wednesday mornings. Ukuleles available for borrowing if you wish to give it a try. Very good for the brain and finger dexterity. More info? ring Jodie 0487 263 717

Thursday Morning Music



We are very much looking forward to our upcoming mini-performance on **Thursday 8th October**, hoping that St. Stephens Community will be supporting the Soup and Sandwich Fundraising Lunch and dropping by the church to join us in some community singing beforehand.

Last week we had almost a full complement of participants, ensuring that the singing was enthusiastic, joyful and ably supported by 16 ukuleles, Armino on the bongos, Joyce and George sharing piano numbers and Peter on the violin.

ALL-AGE WORSHIP

Reni and Iris planned the September All-Age Worship Service, our Bible reading for the day was telling the story of the escape of the Hebrew people following Moses through the desert and relying on God to supply their everyday needs. The message being that when we rely on God's promises we have enough.

We were entertained by Stephen Knight's very interesting recollections of growing up in Wales. Stephen was assisted by granddaughter Rosa who displayed the family Bible which has travelled many long miles from Wales to Australia.

We sang "When Israel was in Egypt's Land" and "Rivers of Babylon" both laments focusing on the cry of displaced communities. As always our young people showed confidence and maturity as they led the prayers of the day. There was a lot of discussion in our Activity Groups regarding the ongoing challenges that nations face in the present day, both through man-made and natural disasters.

“FINDING SOLACE.....”

A solo exhibition of the latest works from

Laura Power Davies

Small sculptures and stitched wall pieces

At TAR (The Art Room)

[138 Cowper Street, Footscray](#)

Saturday 10th October (Opening event)

to 13 November 2026

ARTIST TALK 7th November 2pm



Continuing the impetus from our Belonging by Design2025 conference, Interigen invites you to join us for a webinar where

we ask the question: What does it take to help neurodivergent young people and adults not just feel safe, but flourish in church?

Louise Gosbell will share a keynote considering this question and covering what this looks like in practice, then consider some concrete steps churches can take to help enable belonging and flourishing for neurodivergent kids and youth.

This will be followed by two conversations with practitioners: Angela Cook who will share what she has done to make her congregation more near-friendly since BBD 2025, and Kate Clough who has been growing a co-design strategy group with neurodivergent youth and young adults, planning discipleship events across a Uniting Church Presbytery.

Date: Tuesday 20th October 2026 Time: 7-9pm

Where: Online Cost: \$20 per person;

or gather a group of up to 5 people for \$90

This 2 hour webinar promises to inspire and encourage you on your journey to helping the neurodiverse people in your community find their voice, feel deeply included, and to thrive as followers of Jesus.

****Speak to Elaine if you wish to know how to register for the webinar.**