



Uniting Church in Australia
Western Australia

Issue 68
March 2020

Revive

a fresh perspective on faith, church and life



Good Sammy's
Business
Start-up Awards

Ministry into
the unknown

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Revive is published quarterly for the Uniting Church WA.

The Uniting Church WA acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands and waters on which we live and work. *Revive* is produced at the Uniting Church Centre, which sits on the lands of the Wadjuk Nyungar people. We pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge the Nyungar people as the sovereign First Peoples of this place.

Opinions expressed in *Revive* do not necessarily reflect those of the editor, or the policies of the Uniting Church.

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The contribution deadline for the June 2020 edition is 16 April.

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Visit
Revive
Magazine
online

revivemagazine.org.au



Printed at Vanguard Press
Uniting Church in Australia, Western Australia
GPO Box M952, Perth WA 6843



It's been a huge summer for Australia.

Living in Perth, I've been untouched by this season's bushfires – apart from watching one in some scrub near our house, and breathing the smoke coming into the city from fires in nearby regions.

I've watched the situation play out online though. The devastation of lives lost, wildlife, livestock and properties burnt out. Then came the political outcry, and the concerns of climate change right on our doorstep.

When I was a kid, climate change seemed like this far off problem that my children or grandchildren would have to deal with. I learnt about how to reduce, reuse and recycle, and my mum and stepdad were pretty good role models for caring for the planet.

But now, here I am, in my 30s, seeing the country I call home show clear and present signs of a huge problem that we need to deal with today. And of course, the effects of climate change have been felt around the world for years, including in the Pacific where people have been calling us to act.

Years of drought and hotter, dryer summers are not just slightly creeping in anymore. Climate change is not a problem for some future generation to deal with. It's here, and frankly, it's scary.

I realise my life is not completely environmentally clean and that I benefit from a wealth of luxuries available to me and my family. But to be honest, I think this approach needs to be bigger than just doing what I can in the home. I can buy from bulk food stores, try to use less household energy and switch to solid shampoo bars for my hair, but the reality is, we need systemic change on a large scale.

I'm not an expert in this field, but I'm willing to listen to those who are. And they're telling us to act now.

We need a detailed plan that allows a transition to renewable energy. I understand this is no easy task, but it's necessary and worth it. The Uniting Church WA has recently signed the RenewWA statement, which calls on the WA State Government for reliable jobs, renewable energy and a safe future for all. You can read it at revivemagazine.org.au.

Our feature this edition looks at how the Uniting Church has been supporting those who've been affected by bushfires around the country. After the fires have gone out, Uniting Church members, congregations, chaplains, agencies and representatives are there to walk alongside people as they begin to rebuild their lives. Flick to page 16 to find out more.

Heather Dowling, Editor

5 minutes with...

Kate Leaney



Kate Leaney (centre) at Star St Uniting Church celebrating their decision to allow same gender marriages in their church.

Sunday 8 March is International Women's Day. This year, Kate Leaney, Social Justice Officer at the Uniting Church WA, takes 5 minutes with us to reflect, and share some of her inspirations and passions.

Which women inspire you the most and why?

Wawira Njiru: She is the founder and CEO of Food for Education, a not for profit organisation in Kenya currently feeding 10 000 kids a day, and is already planning to scale to feeding 100 000 children per day this year. In the midst of that, she's still somehow a really down to earth and present friend and she inspires my life and work greatly.

Tarana Burke: The founder of the #MeToo movement (before it resurged as a hashtag!) and a fierce civil rights activist – her vision for the Me Too movement to be "part of a collective vision to see a world free of sexual violence" is extremely powerful.

What issue that affects women breaks your heart the most and what would you like to change?

In Australia, one in three women experience physical violence in their lifetime – the fact that this is so prevalent, and has been for so long, is heartbreaking. Obviously what I want to change is for that number to be zero!

But at the very least, to see women believed when they disclose abuse, to see more vocal advocates calling for change, and for people to be working together proactively to counter this injustice and change the trend – so our daughters and granddaughters aren't telling the same story.

What are you most passionate about at the moment?

Social.Justice.Church: Being part of a community where my faith and heart for justice intersect is really important to me. I'm passionate about continuing to cultivate a space where that's possible for others, too – no matter their sexuality, gender, race, ability, background or life circumstance. It's a growing community that is unapologetically affirming, and driven to counter injustice; working towards a renewed world where all people have equal opportunity to thrive.

Social.Justice.Church meets at 6.00pm on the second Sunday of the month, at Uniting Church in the City, Wesley Perth. Join their Facebook group to find out more.

Tell us some good news that's happening in your world?

One of the best parts of my role is working with emerging leaders who have lived experience of seeking asylum in Australia, and who are the most incredible advocates. I learn so much every day we work together and I know that they'll be continuing to lead movements well into the future.

What would be your superpower?

Teleportation! Then visiting family and friends all over the world would be easy!



Kate Leaney fundraising for bushfire relief at the multi-faith community event, Perth Unites for Bushfire Relief.

The cross at the core

Many years ago I was invited to speak to a group of students at an art college. The meeting was arranged by one of the art lecturers who thought art students should be aware of some of the ways Christianity had influenced the arts over many centuries.

Most of the students were Marxists, materialists or agnostics. I gave a short address and then engaged in a 'question time.' After some vigorous debate I was asked what was core or central to Christian belief and practice. All I could think of was two words "the cross".

There are of course many ways to answer this question. I might have said, "God is love", or "following Christ" or "loving God, neighbour and self" or "embracing the Kingdom of God".

Christian faith is multifaceted and sometimes it's not helpful to try and reduce Christianity to a single focus or definition. However, I continue to remain convinced that at the very core, the very heart of Christianity, is the cross. I have held on to this conviction because in Leon Morris' words "the cross dominates the New Testament".

Paul puts it this way in 1 Corinthians 15: "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for your sins, in accordance with the Scriptures, he was buried and raised on the third day."

Moreover, in the life and teachings of Jesus we see the same emphasis and focus on the cross. In a confrontation with Peter (Matthew 16), the protective disciple wants Jesus to avoid or bypass the cross. Jesus in response makes it very clear that his mission and ministry are centred on the cross. There is no gospel, no good news apart from the cross.

Indeed, the cross transforms everything. The message and mission of the early church was unambiguous, Jesus had died and Jesus was risen from the dead. This seismic truth became the underlining theme of baptism and Holy Communion.

The suffering and triumph of Christ was the strong chorus line of their praise and proclamation. The cross opens up many windows for us to see the depth of God's love, the depravity of human sin, the holiness of God's grace, the extravagance of God's forgiveness and the rich hope eternal life.



Rev Steve Francis with Carol Mitchell, Justice, Ecology and Development Office at the Catholic Archdiocese of Perth, at the RenewWA launch in Cottesloe this February. The Uniting Church WA has joined others in signing a statement calling on the State Government for renewable energy in WA. Visit revivemagazine.org.au for more.

If we miss the message of the cross we miss out on what is most glorious and life changing to our faith. We are at our core a community that sits beneath the cross and is humbled, renewed and empowered by what God did there.

Easter is coming soon. May we all find the time and space to make the cross core to our being.

Rev Steve Francis, Moderator of the Uniting Church WA

Moderator's Diary

March

1 March	Induction of Pastor Lindsay Ginn, Bush Chaplain Remote Area Ministry, Goldfields Patrol, at Kalgoorlie Boulder Uniting church
7-8 March	Preaching at Merredin Uniting Church
12-15 March	Assembly Standing Committee meeting in Sydney
21-27 March	Moderator's Meeting in Melbourne
29 March	Preaching at Maylands-Mt Lawley Uniting Church
31 March	St Stephen's School Carramar Thanksgiving Service

April

1 April	YouthCARE AGM
2-3 April	Remote Area Bush Chaplains Retreat in New Norcia

5 April	Preaching at Toodyay Uniting Church
17 April	Uniting Church in Australia President's Dinner at St Stephen's School
18 April	President of the Uniting Church in Australia's Table Luncheon at Wesley College
19 April	Preaching at Uniting Church in the City Wesley Perth 150th Anniversary, morning worship
20 April	Synod Standing Committee meeting
25 April	Anzac Day Service at Kings Park
29 April	YouthCARE Board Meeting

May

1-3 May	YouthCARE Board Retreat
9-10 May	Messy Church
17 May	Preaching at Rockingham Uniting Church
24 May	Preaching at Waterman's Bay Uniting Church

Thank you for a Christmas that was Merry and Bright

From the team at UnitingCare West

It's always easier to cope with the Christmas season when there is someone to walk beside you.

This year, UnitingCare West and the Uniting Church community walked alongside more than 2 000 Western Australians, providing the help and material assistance to ease the stress and difficulty many families feel throughout the season.

The unprecedented demand for UnitingCare West's support services through November and December could easily have become overwhelming if not for our Uniting Church community. Together, we supported Western Australians who are doing it tough.

The generosity of congregations and individuals was inspiring. Many donated to UnitingCare West's Christmas Appeal and provided support through collections of food and gifts. Each and every year the spirit of Christmas is warmly demonstrated, and our long-term supporters are immensely appreciated.

Our Uniting Church WA schools collected a mountain of food and packed beautiful hampers to make Christmas Day a joy for many families. Some schools personalised the hampers and included notes of hope, while St Stephen's School packed backpacks



Herve Carre, St Andrew's Uniting Church member, with Christmas Appeal volunteers from Keystart Homeloanes.

full of school supplies as well as food hampers. Special thanks go to Presbyterian Ladies' College (PLC) and to Methodist Ladies' College (MLC) for their generous financial support of our Christmas Appeal.

We would also like to acknowledge our principal Christmas Appeal partner, Target Australia, as well as the businesses and other schools who so generously made us the focus of their Christmas giving. To Explore Curtin, who hosted a Christmas Wish Tree, and to all those who returned a Christmas gift tag with a special Christmas message to share as part of our Christmas Appeal, our grateful thanks.

Finally, our special thanks go to St Andrew's Uniting Church in East Perth, without whom we could not

have collected, stored and packed over 800 Christmas Hampers. Alan Mackenzie and Helen Williams were a great support and we thank them and the congregation for their patience as we took over the garage and kitchen.

In particular, it is with immense gratitude that we thank St Andrew's Uniting Church member, Herve Carre. Herve uncomplainingly opened up for our deliveries and was there every day helping to pack and distribute the hampers which made so much difference to many families. We could not have successfully completed this mammoth task without Herve.

On behalf of all those we serve, UnitingCare West thanks you for walking beside us this Christmas.



Brittany learned confidence and equestrian skills during her time at Merredin Uniting Church's Ride for Life program.

To everything there is a season

Kevin Tengvall, founder of the Ride for Life program of Merredin Uniting Church, shares his reflections on the program, as the mission comes to a close.

Ride for life was started in 2010 as a mission of Merredin Uniting Church. The idea came to me after talking to a work colleague who challenged me by asking why I wasn't doing any ministry with kids.

Which led me to question: what could I do? And how could I do it?

After a while I decided to use my passion for horses and concern for young people, put the two together, and Ride for Life was started in March 2010 under the auspices of our congregation.

Ride for Life was a program aimed at teaching young people life skills, aggression management, respect, perseverance, problem solving and

social skills, through learning equestrian skills, by working with peers in their group, as well as volunteers, and of course, our wonderful horses.

All horse riders understand the healing power of a horse, and their innate ability to teach us humility, patience, achievement, and love; and that is what we hoped to share with those young people.

Some of the kids lacked confidence, but over time their confidence grew. Every day, cleaning yards came first.

The program ran for eight years with two programs a year until in 2019, when we took a year off due to my ill health. As my health hasn't improved enough for me to keep going, it was decided with a heavy heart that we wouldn't restart.

We have had approximately 70 kids in our program and have used about 25 different horses, mules and donkeys.

We have had a myriad of trainers, helpers and prayer warriors who, without their service, Ride for Life wouldn't have been the success that it undoubtedly was.

Ride for Life really was a mission; an outreach of the church. Not only did we see its effect on the students, but also on their families and all of us who volunteered their service every weekend in May and March over the eight years it was run.

I was, and still am, humbled at the response to the call to my fellow Christians and local horse riders to help in any way they could. Their help was nothing short of inspiring.

You all know who you are and what you did to make Ride for Life the huge success that it was, and like everything, "There is a time for every purpose under Heaven" and so it was a time to end.

Thank you Lord and all your servants who answered your call in any way they could.



Our backyard

Deep Listening Festival: Growing strong together

Wendy Hendry

On Friday 5 and Saturday 6 June, Margaret River Uniting Church will host its third Deep Listening Festival – a weekend of storytelling, art, music, discussion and workshops.

The theme for 2020 is 'Growing Strong Together'. Organisers have been encouraged by the positive response from our first two events and look forward to building on these experiences to bring people

another thought provoking, meaningful, community-based event. This year the timing has been shifted to a winter event, which will take place to coincide with the Nyungar season of Makuru.

Deep Listening Festival invites people to step outside their normal busy schedule to engage, connect and listen. Through a diverse range of speakers, workshop presenters, musicians and artists, the weekend event is an opportunity to hear wonderful stories to inspire and

enrich people's understanding of themselves and the community around them.

Margaret River Uniting Church see this event as an opportunity to be inspired, develop understanding and empathy of the journey of others, and build a more inclusive community. It also provides the opportunity for a number of community groups to come together in one place, to network and feel supported.



Akram Azimi

This year's keynote speaker is Akram Azimi.

From seeking refuge in Australia from war-torn Afghanistan as a child, to then attaining a triple major degree and pushing himself to be a dedicated mentor to young Australians, Akram was awarded the 2013 Young Australian of the Year. He will be joining a list of inspiring speakers and presenters for this year's festival, including Ginn Fourie, local author and founder of the Forgiveness Project and Brielle Hunt winner of ABC Heywire award for young people.

Organisers also look forward to key involvement from the

Undalup Association and with Wadandi/Pibulum Custodian Iszaac (Waalitj) Webb. A highlight of their involvement will be an early evening session on the Saturday of Aboriginal Storytelling of astrology, after a meal around the fire pit (or indoors if you prefer).

Tickets to this unique event are available online at margaretriveruniting.com/deep-listening-festival.

Ticket sales are limited to 100, so secure your tickets now!

To find out more, and stay up to-date with news as it arises follow Deep Listening Festival on Facebook.



The Uniting Church WA Ministry Expo, held in August 2019, showcased different types of ministry in the Uniting Church WA and encouraged people to consider undertaking a Period of Discernment. Over 40 people attended the event.

Exciting growth in POD program

Heather Dowling

This year, for the first time in a long time, the Uniting Church WA has seen a jump in the number of people undertaking a Period of Discernment (POD). From just six people at the beginning of 2019, there are now 14 people who have entered the POD program.

A Period of Discernment with the Uniting Church WA is an opportunity for members to explore where their call from God might be leading them. While it is necessary to undertake a POD to begin candidacy for ministry in the Uniting Church, people may enter the program for a range of other reasons.

It is a year-long journey of reflection on God's call.

Rev Dr Anne Wright, Director of Education and Formation for the Uniting Church WA, said people undertake a POD for many reasons.

"A Period of Discernment is at least a year's commitment to engaging in intentional conversation and some study to explore your ministry future – but also to explore your own future," Anne said.

"You can do it at any point in life. It's suitable for anybody in the Uniting Church.

"The idea is that it's an open-ended thing, it's not just funnelling people



to becoming candidates [for ministry], although of course we need candidates."

With church membership in decline, and recognising the need to shake things up, Anne said people who move from a POD into ministry training will be learning new ways of doing church – or Fresh Expressions.

"We need people who will be interested in starting something new and doing a regeneration or fresh expressions of the church. So we need to find the people who are a little bit different, a little bit quirky perhaps who may also be able to do something really different to help us move forward.

"Most of the work will be helping small congregations grow Fresh Expressions of ministry – and we

have got to be there and got to be doing this. This is not an optional extra, this is something every ministry agent needs to be able to do in some measure."

After a successful campaign to promote ministry in the Uniting Church WA, the Commission for Education for Discipleship and Leadership (CEDAL), now also have five candidates for ordained ministry, four people in training as pastors, and two people training as lay preachers – as well as the 14 people undertaking a Period of Discernment.

To find out more about entering a Period of Discernment with the Uniting Church WA, or to learn more about ministry courses, contact the CEDAL team on 9260 9800 or email cedal@wa.uca.org.au.

Minna Sanders (right) with her mum, Natalie, and horse, Bullet. Minna won a Good Sammy Business Start-up Award, helping to get her pyrography woodworking business off the ground.

A girl and her horse: Minna's Creations

Heather Dowling

I've never met anyone who loves horses as much as Minna Sanders. And from this love of horses, a beautiful endeavour has grown.

Minna, having just finished Year 12 at Seton Catholic College, recently won a Good Sammy Business Start-up Award. This bubbly, passionate teenager was one of six recipients who received a cash grant to go towards setting up her own business.

Good Samaritan Enterprises (previously Good Samaritan Industries), is a Uniting Church WA agency providing employment options for people living with disability. They're lovingly known throughout WA for their 'Good Sammy' op-shops, but they also provide a range of services helping people find meaningful employment.

The award has been a huge asset for Minna, who will use the grant for advertising and supplies for her micro business – Minna's Creations.

She is now well on her way to getting her pyrography woodwork into the market.

As well as horses, Minna's second passion is art, which she found a pleasant distraction from the pressures of school. Living with autism, she was supported by her school and the Education Support Centre; but art – specifically wood burning – became a useful and fun way of getting through tiresome classes.

"When I got bored during class and I didn't want to interrupt my teacher from teaching all my classmates, I would just grab one of the school burners out and I would burn some scrap pieces of wood," she said.

"I couldn't be bothered to do more woodworking stuff, and I just

played around. It developed from me mucking around and just doing something so I looked busy and I dunno, that's just how it started out."

Her wood burning art is achieved by sketching an outline of a design onto wood with carbon paper, usually which Minna has drawn from a photograph, and then using a pyrography machine to burn the artwork into the surface of the wood. Minna's grandfather, Allan Perkins, has also helped out with some of the woodworking process of the products.

Minna's horse, Bullet, is a regular star in her work.

Bullet came to Minna as a four-year-old Standardbred horse with a challenging past. He was originally trained as a Pacer in competitive

horseracing, but one day decided he'd had enough: he lay down at the starting gate, refusing to race.

In the industry, he was rejected. But for Minna, he would soon be her best friend.

Before he came to Minna, Bullet sustained an injury from his leg straps being on for too long, and being pulled too tight. But soon enough, the pair met and have been riding together ever since.

"We've been partnered up for like, five years now," Minna said. "He was four when we first got him, and he's nine and going on ten this year! Gees!

"That horse! We've had a cowboy hat on him, he's had Star Wars on him, and he's been plaited up so many times when we've been playing around," she laughed.

Not only has riding Bullet been a favourite pastime for Minna, but having him around has helped her through some pretty dark times. Growing up with high functioning autism has been hard, not so much from the disorder itself, but from

bullying she received throughout school and misconceptions from others around what having autism actually means.

Minna said that living with autism is just normal life to her.

"It doesn't really mean anything to me," she said. "The thing with people with autism is, we just think what we think is somewhat normal, and when we're told this is what autism is, we're like, 'is that really what it is?'"

"Every person with autism is very different."

She does admit she has had some challenges though.

"It's made, for me, English really hard; I'm not a very good speller. I know a lot of people say that, but during school time if you gave me a test and you didn't have a scribe there for me I would mentally shut down. I would be like, 'I aint doing this, bye, I'm out'.

Minna has loved horses her whole life, but when she got Bullet, during high school, he became a positive influence for her. He helped fulfil her passion for horses, and also gave her a whole lot of purpose.

"He's something that keeps me going in life," she said.

"I have done self-harming in the past and he was one of those things that had stopped me. I have had suicidal thoughts.

"One of the things that has stopped me is: where would Bullet go; who would be the one to ride him; what would happen to him?

"He's one thing that I can have consistency with. And my mum.

"He is actually quite a loving horse. Not every horse will let you just walk up to them and hug them, some will run away and some might think 'I don't like you, I don't want you near me', or something like that."

When her two passions collide, Minna creates beautiful works of art.



Minna's 'Citrus Girl' chopping board won first place at the Perth Royal Show.

Profile

Her work has won numerous awards, including the Senior Award (Years 10, 11 and 12) for Materials and Design at Seton Catholic College; a saddle rack adorned with an image of herself and Bullet won second place in the Woodwork category at the Perth Royal Show; and a chopping board decorated with an anime (another love of Minna's) 'Citrus Girl' won first prize in the Citrus themed event, also at the Perth Royal Show.

And of course, now the Good Sammy Business Start-up Award, which will help turn her passion into an income.

One of her teachers in the Education Support Unit at Seton Catholic College, Jenny Young, suggested Minna could apply for the award, which led her closer to getting her business off the ground.

When her two passions collide, Minna creates beautiful works of art.

Minna said winning this award will be a great help to achieve independence after high school. She's looking forward to working towards not having to rely on her parents for an income, and said that having the opportunity to work at home and at her own pace is invaluable for her.

She's also excited to be able to develop as an artist – recognising this as a lifelong process.

Minna's work merges practical wood items with artistic flair. She's made shelves, a horse saddle rack and numerous chopping boards, all adorned with stunning wood burning art.



Minna uses a wood burning machine to make beautiful functional pieces of art.



Minna Sanders (centre) accepting her Good Sammy Start-up Business Award at Good Sammy Enterprises, Canning Vale, in December last year.



Minna also enjoys anime drawing, with Copic Markers.

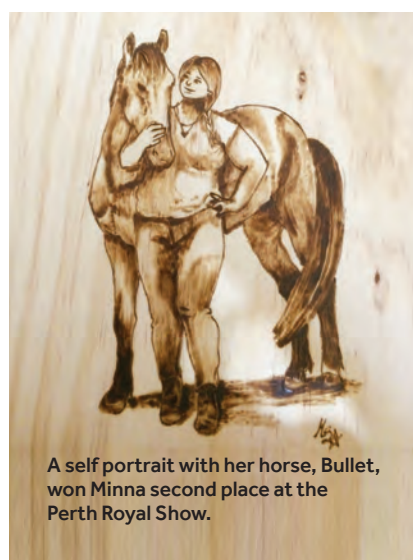
And her niche in the horse riding community isn't lost on her.

"It's a form of art, but it's art that's meant to be enjoyed," Minna said. "Especially in the horse community, we are willing to pay a lot of money for our horse stuff! Which is an automatic bonus that I know what sort of area I'm trying to put myself into."

"Because I've got my own horse I can also channel what I know and what I love into developing this sort of wood burning business aimed at 'horse type' people. But I do want to try and branch out and I feel like I'm still a beginner in drawing."

"I'm still developing my own style."

To check out Minna's work, or to inquire about purchasing, follow her on Facebook at 'Minna's Creations – Pyrography & Paint'.



A self portrait with her horse, Bullet, won Minna second place at the Perth Royal Show.

The Good Sammy Business Start-up Awards are a new category of award given out at the Good Sammy International Day of People with a Disability celebrations, held in December. The awards are sponsored by Santos.

"The six young people who receive the Santos Good Sammy Business Start-up Award are the first winners in this inaugural category," said Melanie Kiely, CEO of Good Sammy Enterprises.

"We believe that everyone regardless of physical ability, should have the opportunity to leverage their skills and make a meaningful contribution including by starting their own business. We are very proud of all their ideas and achievements and look forward to seeing them thrive – driven by their entrepreneurial spirit and a passion for their work."

"International Day of People with a Disability is an important day of celebration at Good Sammy Enterprises as we recognise all

the people who are supported by Good Sammy Enterprises to find meaningful employment. Awarding scholarships is just one of the many ways we support clients and students in the pursuit of their working goals."

Good Samaritan Enterprises has been invested in creating employment opportunities for people with a disability in Western Australia for 60 years, with a focus on reuse and recycling. With the help of 284 volunteers and 556 employees, they employ over 272 people with disabilities and have supported 787 people to achieve new heights in their working careers and to accomplish personal goals.

To read more about the award and some of the other recipients, visit revivemagazine.org.au/2019/12/10/business-start-up-awards-create-career-opportunities

For more information about Good Samaritan Enterprises and the services they offer, visit goodsamaritan.com.au

Faith in action



Thanks to Pioneer Ministry, a church in Cornwall, UK, is flourishing after the building was made available to local skateboarders and surfers. A skate ramp has been installed inside the church, which attracted 200 young church-goers to its worshipping community over Easter last year.

Ministry unknown into the

Heather Dowling

Rev Simon Goddard, a Baptist minister from Fresh Expressions UK, will be visiting Perth to share his experiences and knowledge in pioneering ministry and church leadership.

Simon will be a keynote speaker at two events in March: The Pioneer Ministry Gathering; and Tools for Resilient Church Leadership in Changing Contexts, which will also feature Rev Dr Adam McIntosh, the Associate Director of Mission (Pastoral Care) for the Uniting Church Queensland, and Peter Kenyon, from the Bank of IDEAS.

Brought to you by the Uniting Church WA's Thrive Mission Committee, these events will encourage those attending to explore Pioneer Ministry, while sharing their own experiences and learning from each other.

As the name suggests, Pioneer Ministry is all about heading into new territory in Christian ministry.

We know the church is declining and that it needs to start doing things differently, and Pioneer Ministry is right in the midst of that.

Pioneer Ministry, Simon said, is people getting out there amongst the community, connecting with people, and connecting with God – who is already at work in that community.

"To contrast it between what you might call an inherited model of church, where you have your service, your preaching and invite people to come to church, this is much more about people going to a group of people or to a community, living amongst that community, making friendship, loving and serving, listening to the needs of that community, and the

church growing in the midst of that community.

"It's about contextually relevant churches emerging amongst groups of people."

Rather than trying to convince people why they should join the church, Pioneer Ministry would see the church going to the people, to be part of the community first.

"It's a different approach to church planting. In church planting there's a model in mind, whereas pioneering doesn't have a model in mind," Simon said.

"One of the phrases in pioneering is about seeing what God is doing amongst a group of people and joining in."

One of the benefits of taking up a Pioneer Ministry is that it is not necessarily something an ordained

minister needs to lead. Simon said that all it really needs is people who are willing to get out there and try something new, and be willing to measure success in new ways.

"There are people that are particularly called to be a bit more of a risk taker, but one of the things we found in the UK is that most of the people engaged in pioneer ministry are lay people. A lot of people within our churches say 'oh, I can do something.'

"One of the things that defines pioneering is a spirit of experimentation. Some things work and some things won't."

During the National Pioneer Gathering, the Thrive Mission Committee will also be launching the Godsend Australia app. Already in use in the UK, this app will be customised for an Australian audience.

The app was developed as a training and discipleship tool, both for people who are undertaking Pioneer Ministries, and those who are new to faith.

"It could be used by individuals who are starting to pioneer, to reflect on what they might do," Simon said.

"It's also useful for discipleship, so if people are coming to faith within a fresh expression then this helps them to work out what a fresh expression is, and what church is."

Simon is passionate about meeting people where they're at, and sharing his message with others wanting to do the same.

"One of the things that defines pioneering is a spirit of experimentation. Some things work and some things won't."

"I'm passionate about Jesus, and I want to share that with others, but I think we need to do that in a relevant way. Some of the ways that we do church doesn't do the message that we have any justice.

"My passion is for the people that aren't in church. If we're going to connect with those people, and we believe the message that we have is appropriate and relevant for

those people, then we need to communicate it in ways that are relevant.

"The challenge is, the people who are in church like it the way it is. We've got this huge missing generation of millennials.

"Unless we do things differently, the church as it is, is really challenged. I think the church as it is will change anyway, but we need to be less concerned about ourselves and more concerned about the people who aren't in church.

"And that might mean that we need to change. We might need to do things that are unfamiliar."

The National Pioneer Ministry Gathering will be held from Thursday 26 to Sunday 29 March, at Trinity on Hampden, Perth.

Tools for Resilient Church Leadership in Changing Contexts will be held from Sunday 29 March to Wednesday 1 April in Bunbury.

For more information on these events, contact Rev Greg Ross, Chair of the Uniting Church WA Thrive Mission Committee, at revgregross@internode.on.net.



Hope and recovery this bushfire season

Heather Dowling

This summer's bushfire season has left Australia damaged and sore.

In true community spirit, we've also seen some amazing stories of people coming together to volunteer their time, donate their money, and support each other in harsh times of need.

The Uniting Church in Australia has been, and continues to, provide a range of support for people and communities affected by devastating bushfires around the country – both in crisis care and long-term recovery.

In the first 11 days of 2020, 63 Uniting Church chaplains were engaged at 36 bushfire crisis centres. Together they volunteered 1 677 hours of chaplaincy with people directly affected by the fires, some of them experiencing the worst days of their lives.

Rev Dr Stephen Robinson is the Assembly Disaster Recovery Officer for the Uniting Church in Australia. His role in this bushfire season has been to work with Uniting Church disaster response co-ordinators in each Synod to provide support and resources.

He is also the Co-ordinator of the Disaster Recovery Chaplaincy Network in NSW, an ecumenical network.

"That role in particular is extremely busy because for every evacuation centre, recovery centre or disaster assistance point, they've wanted chaplains from our network," he said.

"And this particular emergency has been way more than ever could have been imagined, let alone experienced, before in the state's history.

"The most centres we'd opened in the ten years before this, perhaps ever, would have been about five evacuation centres. During this last fire emergency, we've had over 15 centres, in five different major locations."

Stephen said chaplains in this network have provided amazing support for people in the initial stages of bushfire coming through a community.

"The chaplains themselves in Victoria, New South Wales, and also in the Adelaide hills, they've been engaged in evacuation centres and recovery centres. They come alongside people – and so many of them have lost everything they own.

"One chaplain said it's not unusual to talk to 20 people in a day who've

lost all that they own. So that's the level of the intensity of the work they're doing.

"There are other agencies like Red Cross who are on the ground in those centres too, but the most distressed and most upset people tend to be passed on to our chaplains.


"There is an enormous level of need in terms of calming and mental health care. In the very intensity of it there were not enough mental health workers, so quite often chaplains will stand in that space – and do a very good job, mainly in calming, grounding, and supporting.

"Sometimes it's information that people need, or connection with people. Or it might be just getting hold of medication."

Stephen said that as well as this general crisis support, the chaplains in this network also support people as they journey through realising all they have lost.

"Another important function of the chaplains is that they help people to comprehend the loss and go beside them in the grieving," he said.

"We've had people on the ground as people go back to walk through the ruins; to be alongside them to talk. We are part of all those outreach things that happen after these fires.



Just south of Norseman, WA, roads have been blackened from bushfires.

"That's a really important role because it's not so much about talking to people, though we're open to listening to what they have to say, it's more about just being beside them in a pastoral presence.

"There's been so many houses lost and also stock. Farmers have had to shoot most of their stock, and the devastation, not only of having gone through a very big drought where they're trying to keep these poor animals alive – and they've just about gone broke doing that – now what's left has been burnt out.

"It's a terrible situation. These chaplaincies are really important in the church being relevant to people."

Chaplains also support ministers in locally affected areas and help resource them on how to support their local communities.

Locally, Pastor Lindsay Ginn, the newly commissioned Uniting Church WA Bush Chaplain in the Remote Area Ministry, Goldfields Patrol, began his role in January this year. He immediately travelled to the Esperance region to meet people who have been affected by bushfires there, and consider where he will focus his support.

"My role for this trip was just basically to get to know my area," he said. "It was my first trip down to Esperance, so it was good to see these little towns and to start meeting people. I want to get to know the locals and find out where the need is and where we can help."

While no houses or lives in that area were lost, he said some towns were surrounded by fires. The smoke and ash from the fires seeped into some water tanks, turning the water black and tarnishing the taste.

"The first place that I stopped at was Kambalda, which is about 50kms south of Kalgoorlie. I spoke to one of the business people there. She still seemed quite traumatised by it, almost as if I had reminded her of a nightmare, which I guess it was.

"She said she would never want to see anything like that again, it was very frightening. They could see the thick smoke coming towards the little township of Kambalda. Thankfully it didn't reach there, and she was extremely grateful that all the community helped in stopping it.

"Another gentleman I spoke to in Norseman said that on one particular day the whole town was surrounded by smoke and fires burning on each side.

"The worst one was coming from the south and it was really placing the town in a lot of danger, so people were preparing to evacuate and get out of there. But then the wind changed direction just in time and blew it all away, which they are very thankful for.

"We're not talking little fires, these were massive fires. I could see as I

was driving down all the black from where the fire had come up to the road and crossed the road."

Lindsay said the community in these areas is doing well and working together to get their lives back on their feet.

"I will certainly have my ears open and I'll be making more enquiries to see where the need is," he said.

"I'll be travelling this highway quite regularly, so I will keep checking in on how they're doing and establishing contact there."

The Uniting Church in Australia National Disaster Relief Fund is available for people to donate to, and for Uniting Church congregations and communities to access to provide support within their communities. The fund also helps to resource the National Disaster Recovery Officer, to deploy ministry agents to disaster zones, contribute to long-term recovery projects, and provides direct support to community members affected by disaster.

Rev Dr Stephen Robinson said it's important to be in it for the long haul. Ongoing support is vital, as recovering from bushfires of this scale will be a long process, possibly covering a number of years.

"When it's out of the newspaper and everyone goes home and there's another crisis that's on the TV or the radio, people forget about the ones that are left behind that still haven't got their house cleaned up or another one built," Stephen said. "And it takes months or years.

"The danger is that we go with the news cycle and are only conscious of the needs of people right now.

"The recovery is actually the difficult and awkward thing to try and resource. That's why we make a real effort to make sure that the church stays in there with people.

"We want to stay there for the long run as much as we can."

The Uniting Church WA also has a Disaster Relief Fund available for this purpose. While, at the time of going to print, WA has been less affected than our eastern states this year, the fund is available for support if the need arises.

Rev David Jackson, Convenor of the Disaster Relief and Community Recovery Committee, said the committee hasn't had to respond to any disasters in WA related to bushfires yet this season, as the Government response, and response from other agencies such as the Red Cross and YouthCARE, have been adequate.

This fund, like the Assembly fund, is there for a long-term focus of recovery.

The Disaster Relief Fund has helped a number of WA communities after a disaster, including most recently Margaret River. After violent murders that shocked the region, Margaret River Uniting Church applied to the fund to engage a local artist in running a community building activity for the benefit of the whole town. They also ran a festival engaging with the community, The Deep Listening Festival.

When a disaster or crisis emerges in a community, the Disaster Relief and Community Recovery Committee contact the Uniting Church congregation in that location and offer peer support throughout the journey.

"Usually it's from that contact that people are made aware of the funds that could be available should they need it; for healing and help to that local community," David said.

"These disasters are not over and done with when everyone shuts up and everyone departs the scene. The people that are left behind are the ones to continue to recover from significant events."

In WA, people are also invited to take part in the Disaster Recovery Chaplaincy Training, which will be happening in May.

This ecumenical and interfaith training is being organised through the Council of Churches WA, and will be led by Rev Dr Stephen Robinson. In April last year, 51 people from WA Christian denominations around the state took part in the training, and David is hoping for another 50 people to become trained in this specialised type of chaplaincy, joining the WA Disaster Recovery Chaplaincy Network.

Once trained, these chaplains would be available to provide pastoral care in a disaster or emergency setting, should a situation arise. Their role is to stand alongside people, listen to them, attend to what is needed and refer people to further services.

"We're attentive to the individual needs within the framework of our experience as pastoral carers," David said. "So we would refer people that we would consider needing other professional assistance if that was required.



Disaster Relief Chaplains and members of Mogo Uniting Church, NSW, opened up their church and volunteered to host people who have been affected by bushfires. Pictured: Rev Yvonne, Pam, Faye, Bev and Chris.



In Batemans Bay, NSW, bushfires have been devastating to the land and properties.



"We know the land we're in and respect that and refer on anyone who we think will need particular professional assistance."

As the country begins to recover from this bushfire season, Stephen Robinson wants those who have not been impacted by the flames to know that their support and prayers are being felt.

"I would hope [people] wouldn't be overwhelmed by it, because I think the scale of this is so big it could be overrun with the grief and the size of it," he said.

"Know that there are lot of people who are really positively engaged in these things and they're really making a big difference. Know that their prayers are really important, and even words of support from one church to another is extremely helpful and can really lift spirits at the right time.

"Gifts of prayer or connection and money actually do make a difference.

"The Uniting Church is doing some amazing stuff and nationally has got a real name for engagement in the disaster recovery space."

How you can help

- Cash donations are preferred in a crisis, as there are often not enough resources to store and distribute donations of goods. You can help by donating to the Uniting Church in Australia National Disaster Relief Fund online at assembly.uca.org.au/national-disaster-relief-fund
- Donate to the Uniting Church WA Disaster Relief Fund, to support local communities after a crisis, by depositing funds to:
Account name: Uniting Church Investment Fund
BSB: 036-001
Account: 921789
Reference: WA Disaster Relief
- Target Australia and UnitingCare Australia have also teamed up for a bushfire appeal. Target have announced they will match donations dollar for dollar. Donations can be made in Target stores, or online at target.com.au/targetbushfirereliefappeal
- Disaster Recovery Chaplaincy Training will be held from Monday 25 to Thursday 28 May, at Noranda Uniting Church. Anyone in a pastoral caring role in the church, who has support from their denomination or faith body, can train to become a Disaster Recovery Chaplain, in preparation for disaster situations that may arise in WA.
For more information contact Rev David Jackson at de.jackson@bigpond.com.
- For those not involved in a pastoral care role with their church or faith body, volunteers are also required in a number of capacities, such as with the Red Cross, volunteer firefighters and many other community groups. There are lots of ways to help out where it's needed, so if this is your thing, find a group to connect with and get involved.



Softening our hearts and hardening our feet

John Berger is the new Executive Officer – Agencies, for the Uniting Church WA. He will be working with Uniting Church WA congregations and agencies to build relationships and share opportunities for connection and growth.

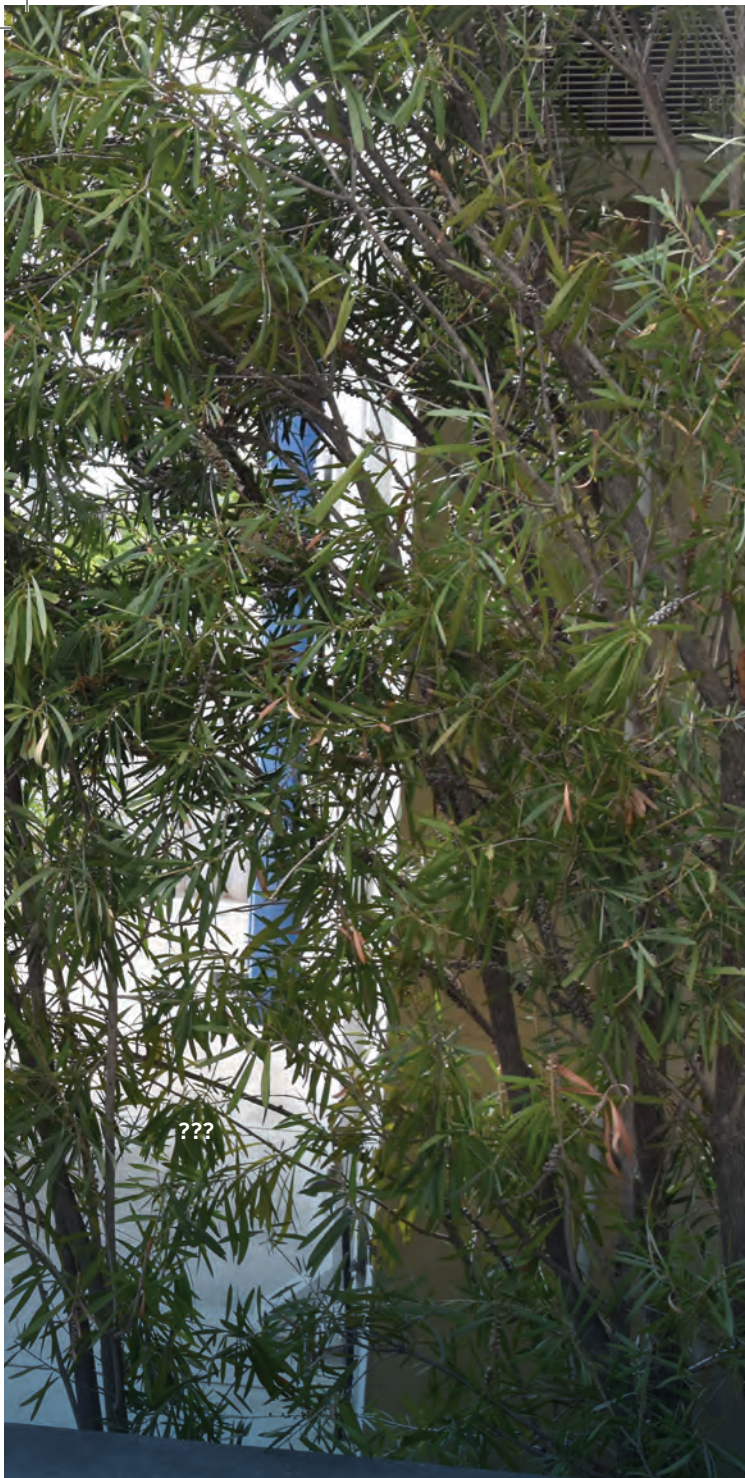
He has come to this role from being the CEO of St Bartholomew's House for six years. He is also currently the Chairperson of the End Homelessness WA Alliance, and a member at The Billabong Uniting Church.

The Christian life is a journey of parallels. At times there are great blessings and at times great challenges.

My life's work has very much reflected these parallels. God has taken me into some unique experiences and job roles over my career. However, at the core of this has been my resolve to keep God at the centre of it all.

I grew up in a working class and Christian family. From an early age, and with encouragement from fellow brother and sisters, I sensed the need to be led by the spirit.

I finished High School with straight As in Maths and Science, but found myself being called to work with people.

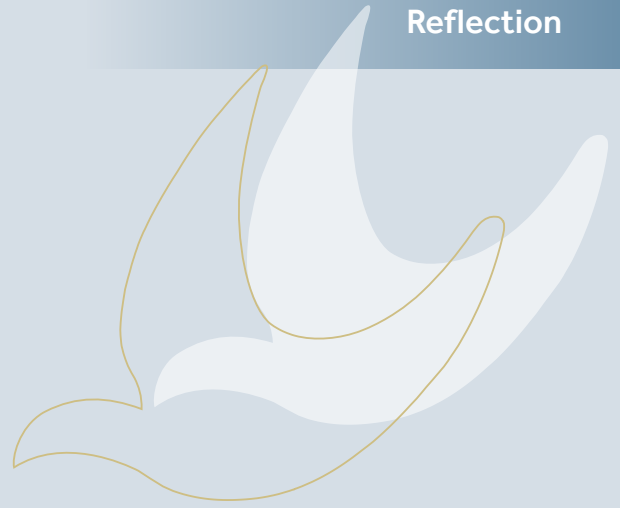


My family didn't cope with this – as this was not 'real' work. Real work would be doing a trade like my brothers or if I had to go to University – doing something like Engineering.

Despite this, I felt the calling to help others and found myself experiencing a deep peace about this decision. This has led me to a path of working with some of the most vulnerable people within our community in roles such as child protection and foster care, poverty and homelessness and ultimately as a Chief Executive Officer.

Despite all these experiences, one driving focus for me has been the voice of the people with lived experiences and my capacity to form

Reflection



relationships and journey together. I take heart from another fellow Christian writer who reflects on the journey of Jacki Pullinger who spoke about "softening your heart but hardening your feet".

And yet the trouble is, it's so easy to have a hard heart (compassion fatigue) and soft feet (taking the easy way out.)

As Christians, we are challenged to love the poor and seek justice. But, how do you love the poor? What is your reference point and what does that actually mean? And how do we harden our feet to respond to the injustice that we perpetuate in our society to allow poverty and homelessness to continue?

Why are we not outraged in a country as rich as Australia – why do we allow people to live on the margins and live without a home?

As Jackie Pullinger stated: "My message is always the same; it's how to get us sure enough of God's love, so we can go out and share it with the lost. Having tasted his love all I wanted to do was share it until I died."

So how does this influence me?

Firstly, I find myself listening deeply to the stories and lives of the people I work with. I respond to them as people (not clients), each with a unique story and show compassion (soft heart) to them.

Secondly, I challenge our world view and see that I am part of the problem – that I tolerate allowing people to suffer and remain in their circumstance such as homelessness. This is a tough call as I have to stand up and advocate for change. This has led to making many changes in the way I work and more recently has guided me to be part of a social movement to end homelessness in WA.

This journey has given me many great blessings while continuing to face many challenges. At the heart of it is my reminder to keep a soft heart, but hardening my feet to seek justice for those who often do not have a 'voice' in our community.

Perth Unites for bushfire relief

A Perth event bringing together various faith-based and community groups has raised \$25 000 for bushfire relief.

Perth Unites for Bushfire Relief was held on Monday 27 January in Hyde Park, Perth. The Uniting Church WA, through the Social Justice Commission, joined the City of Vincent, Perth Mosque, Buddhist Society of WA, Haka for Life, Corroboree for Life, Manup Tutangata and Muslim Aid Australia.

The event was a fantastic family day out, bringing together food, dancing, stalls, backyard cricket and cultural displays. The Uniting Church WA supported the event with a bouncy castle and henna tattoo stall, with all funds raised going towards Muslim Aid Australia and their bushfire relief efforts, providing store vouchers and food hampers to people affected.

Kate Leaney, Social Justice Officer for the Uniting Church WA, said that despite the heat, it was great to see people coming together to offer their support.

"Perth united in solidarity, gathering together to raise much needed funds," she said. "Despite the searing heat, our communities of different cultural and religious backgrounds all came together, giving generously to support our brothers and sisters affected by these devastating fires."

Shameema Kolia, Community Relations Manager at Muslim Aid Australia, said as well as raising funds, this event was a great way for different multicultural groups to come together for a common cause.

"It's about bringing people together," she said. "Often we hear a very divisive rhetoric in the media.

"I think we need to be able to show that diverse Australia that we talk



Muslim Aid Australia collected \$25 000 to go towards bushfire relief at the multi-faith community event, Perth Unites for Bushfire Relief.

about; that multiculturalism and diversity actually works and we can come together for very positive things and get to know each other and get to know that at the core we are all similar, we are all human beings and just bring back the humanity."

To find out more about Muslim Aid Australia's bushfire relief efforts visit maainternational.org.au/our-projects/emergency/emr-aus-bushfire-aid

To view more pictures from this event visit revivemagazine.org.au.

Art exhibition supports bushfire appeal

Heather Dowling



Willemina Foeken, member at Willetton Uniting Church, held an art exhibition and sale, raising over \$1500 for the Uniting Church in Australia Bushfire Appeal.

An art exhibition held at Willetton Uniting Church in February has raised over \$1500 for the Uniting Church in Australia National Disaster Relief Fund, supporting those impacted by bushfires around the country.

Willemina Foeken, artist and member of Willetton Uniting Church, held the exhibition in February, with a second one to be held from Sunday 8 to Thursday 19 March, at the Diamond & Jewellery

Centres of Australia (DJCA), 97c Flora Tce, North Beach, Perth.

Now retired, Willemina previously worked as a school art teacher. These days, she still teaches art, but to small groups of up to six people in her home studio. She has been passionate about drawing her whole life, and inspired by her environment.

"I'm always inspired by my surroundings, my environment," she said. "That can be bush, that can be still life. It might be because I've come back from the markets and I've got a whole pile of vegetables and I think 'oh wow look at those colours, aren't they just gorgeous'. It could be people.

"The subject matter is almost anything, and it's usually because it's been transformed by light or something. It's a really lovely thing the way light does that, it connects all these different objects together."

Over the years, Willemina has produced loads of art, which partly led her to holding this exhibition. She also has seen the news of the devastating bushfires, and felt this was one way she could help. Sixty percent of sales has been donated to the Disaster Relief Fund.

"Everybody's been very touched by these fires. They've been really horrendous, especially in the eastern states. You look at this and think 'wow I wish I could just do something'.

"I have a huge amount of work, so why not do this? I put 52 framed paintings into this exhibition, and you wouldn't know looking at my house inside, my walls are still chock-a-block full of work.

"I've still got stacks and the benefit might as well go to the fire relief, and when it goes through the Uniting Church, I know it'll get there."

To donate to the appeal, visit assembly.uca.org.au/national-disaster-relief-fund.

Uniting Church WA mourns two great losses

The Uniting Church WA is mourning two prominent leaders, with the passing of Rev Garlett AM in November 2019, and Rev Ken Williams in December.

Ken faithfully served as the 14th Moderator of the Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of Western between 2008 and 2011. Having officially retired in November 2011, he continued to serve in the role of Ex-Moderator until recently.

Prior to being elected Moderator, Ken served in congregational ministry with Uniting Church in the City, St Andrew's and Ross Memorial and Wellington Regional Mission including Harvey, Donnybrook and St Augustine's, Bunbury congregations, as well as Business Manager of the Uniting Church WA.

Ken's faithful, servant leadership was a gift he shared generously within the life of the Uniting

Church WA as well as nationally and internationally, and with the wider community.

He is remembered with great affection and will be deeply missed. A memorial service for Ken was held on Sunday 19 January at Uniting Church in the City, Wesley Perth.

Rev Garlett AM, a Ballardong Wadjuk man born in the Western Australian Wheatbelt town of Bruce Rock in 1957, enriched the lives of thousands of people during his service as a Uniting Church minister, both in the church and the wider community.

In 1995, Rev Garlett became the Chairperson of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) WA. He retired from active ministry in 2016.

During Rev Garlett's 25 years with UAICC, he touched the lives of many through conducting weddings, baptisms, funerals,



Rev Garlett -
Simon Stevens Photography

Rev Ken Williams

welcomes to country and congregational ministry and pastoral care. An exceptional element of his ministry was his use of Nyungar stories and traditions to help introduce many people to Jesus Christ.

A funeral and memorial service was held for Rev Garlett on Saturday 14 December at the Kellerberrin Memorial Town Hall.

Uniting Church Campsite bringing people together

Rev Greg Ross

Over the past few years, as minister at Bunbury St Augustine Uniting Church, we have welcomed more than 20 households from different parts of the world. They have found their spiritual home here, formed friendships, found work and social communities and added richly to both the church and city life of Bunbury.

We have also been the new home for people who have moved and become isolated because of relationship break downs within families, because they have been single by choice or are now isolated because of significant deaths.

In 2018, I discovered, more by accident than design, that many of these households have no other

close relations or friendships in Australia, or on this side of Australia, with whom they can spend significant times of our social and Christian year – Easter, Christmas and birthdays etc.

So the Church Council here booked and agreed to quietly make it known that the Uniting Church Campsite in Busselton would be available for ten days from 23 December to 2 January for any of those folk to come and share low-key Christmas and New Year's observances.

Over the ten days, seven households from Bunbury, Australind, Dalyellup, Perth and Wagin came to spend significant days and all are planning to return this Christmas New Year. All of those who came are telling us that this was the 'best Christmas or New Year ever!'



Campers enjoy a round of Uno during the Christmas and New Year camp, at the Uniting Church Campsite in Busselton.

They also tell us that as they share the positive experience they've had, the number attending this year will be at least doubled as they extend an invitation to others in the community whom they know are in a similar place.

Anniversary celebrations at Wesley

Rev Geoff Blyth

Uniting Church in the City (UCIC), Wesley Perth is celebrating the 150th anniversary of the historic building opened in 1870 on the corner of William and Hay Streets, Perth, this April.

The celebrations will also mark the 190th anniversary since the congregation had its beginnings in the Swan River Colony in 1830 with a party of Methodist settlers from Hull, England arriving and taking up residence. The Hardey family established themselves on the Maylands peninsula, building Tranby House and farm. They conducted the first Methodist service under a Jarrah Tree in Hay Street, Perth on Sunday 6 June 1830.

A day of celebration will begin with 10.00am morning worship on Sunday 19 April, with Dr Diedre Palmer, President of the Uniting Church in Australia as a special guest.

Rev Steve Francis, Moderator of the Uniting Church WA will be guest preacher. This will be followed by a lunch for the congregation with ticket entry required.

A Grand Celebration Service will be held in Wesley Church on Sunday 19 April, 3.00pm, with Dr Deidre Palmer, as guest preacher and Rev Steve Francis, bringing the greetings of the Synod.

Special music from the historic organ and Music Director, Angela Currie, an augmented Wesley Choir and instrumental addition of a Brass Quintet will be a feature. Afternoon tea in the church will complete the day of celebration.

So many people have had links with Uniting Church in the City, Wesley Perth over the years and all are invited to attend this Grand Celebration Service, on the theme 'With faith, hope and vision'.



In addition to our day of celebration, Diedre will host a 'President's Round Table Lunch' at Wesley College, South Perth, a Uniting Church WA school, on Saturday 18 April. Tickets are available from the Uniting Church Centre, call 9260 9800 for more information.

For more information about the UCIC celebrations, contact Rev Geoff Blyth on 9246 7783 or email gesb27@bigpond.net.au.



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Church morning teas are an important part of belonging to a Uniting Church community. Whether it's after Sunday morning worship, during a community event, or a supper after Bible study, time spent together over delicious slices, cakes, tea and coffee is time well spent!

This beauty was sent in by Cheryl Smith from Pinjarra Uniting Church. It was also featured in their church newsletter.

Serve this tasty crumble with cream or vanilla ice-cream for added goodness!

Have you got a favourite recipe? Send it in to revive@wa.uca.org.au or mail them to Revive magazine, GPO Box M952, Perth, 6843.

Who doesn't love an apple crumble?

Apple Crumble

Ingredients

3 or 4 green apples
 3/4 cup brown sugar
 1/2 cup plain flour
 3/4 cup rolled oats or muesli
 60g butter

Method

Preheat oven to 180° degrees.

Peel and core the apples, slice thinly and place apple into a buttered ovenproof dish.

To make the crumble topping, place sugar, flour and the oats or muesli into a mixing bowl.

Chop the butter into small pieces and add to the bowl.

Using your fingers, mix in butter until mixture is crumbly, then sprinkle it over the apples.

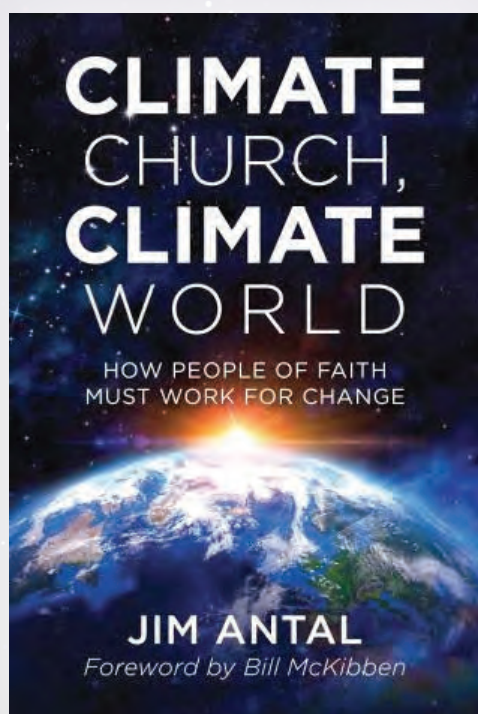
Bake for 35 minutes.

Climate Church Climate World:

How people of faith must work for change

by Rev Jim Antal, 2018, Rowman and Littlefield

Richard Smith



The national synod of the United Church of Christ, USA, passed a motion in 2017 that: "The climate crisis is the opportunity for which the Church was born."

Jim Antal's book opens with historian Lynn White's words from 1967: "More science and technology are not going to get us out of the present ecological crisis until we find a new religion or rethink our old one."

Antal argues that climate change is the greatest moral challenge humanity has ever faced because it multiplies all forms of global injustice: hunger, refugees, poverty, inequality, deadly viruses and war.

A compelling case is presented that it's time for the church to meet

this moral challenge, just as the church addressed previous moral challenges. He calls for the church to embrace a new vocation, so that future generations might live in harmony with God's creation and each other.

After describing how we have created the dangers our planet now faces, Antal urges the church to embrace a new vocation, one focused on collective, not individual, salvation and an expanded understanding of the Golden Rule. He suggests ways people of faith can reorient what they prize through new approaches to worship, preaching, witnessing, and other spiritual practices that honours creation, cultivates hope and motivates love for others into action.

SAINT JUDY

Directed by Sean Hanish, 2020,
Cannonball Productions

Maggie Johns

Saint Judy is a film based on real life events of lawyer, Judy Wood, who's thrown in the deep end in her first immigration law case. Her belief that the truth and doing what's right can overcome almost insurmountable obstacles to forever change asylum law in the United States of America, as well as the lives of those around her.

Judy represents an Afghani woman, Asefa Ashwari who's betrayed by her Tribal Leader father, persecuted by the Taliban for 'Crimes against God.' She faces the certainty of being murdered by her own brothers in an honour killing if her fight for asylum in the United States is unsuccessful, because she encouraged girls to think for themselves and to get an education by opening a school for girls in her village.

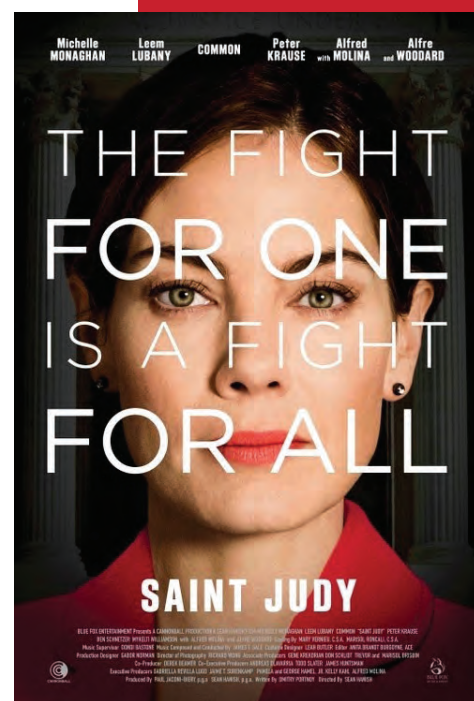
Saint Judy also takes the viewer on a journey into the drama of complex and heart-warming relationships with her son, ex-husband, boss,

employee, opposing counsel and clients. The film reminds the viewer that we're all human and most of us will rise to the challenge when the best is expected of us.

I watched *Saint Judy* at a personally difficult phase of my life having spent the last three years experiencing the Australian legal system for the first time. It's been an emotionally, financially and physically harrowing experience that's left me disillusioned, frustrated and understanding that we have a legal, rather than a justice, system. At stake for me, was and continues to be the safety of a courageous woman and her two vulnerable children.

I was riveted throughout *Saint Judy*, I cried and even had an occasional chuckle, but I also felt that kernel of hope that was almost snuffed out spark and re-energise me that we can all, individually and collectively, make a difference in our world.

I encourage you to take a couple of hours, immerse yourself in this drama and enjoy the soundtrack as you find your inspiration to make



your world that little bit brighter for the people in it. After all, for anyone who prays the Lord's Prayer, "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven", I pray that after watching this movie, you'll be inspired to work towards your own bit of heaven here and now.

Saint Judy will have a limited cinema release in late May by Heritage Films. Watch the official trailer at movieschangepeople.com/titles/saint-judy

Comradery, mateship and the Australian way

Rev David Jackson

This Lenten season has provided much more significance for Christians to reflect on than in any other time in recent history due to the horrific and devastating bushfires that have enveloped our continent.

Support for the survivors of bushfires has come from many unlikely sources. Many wealthy benefactors, sports stars and stars of screen, stage and music have dug deep and donated vast sums to the recovery efforts in the affected communities and for individuals who have lost everything, their homes, memories and in some cases their livelihood. The generosity of people in Australia seems to know no bounds.

Lent is an English word meaning 'spring', which for us in the southern hemisphere is a little odd.

It is a six-week period of spiritual discipline before Easter. It was used as a period of training of candidates for baptism. It was such a duration as to ensure the candidates sincerity in their Christian profession. For those in the church, Lent is a time for fasting and study, prayer and humility – drawing us each back to our own time of preparation for our baptismal vows.

The period is for forty days, modelled on Jesus' fast in the wilderness in preparation for his earthly ministry. It enables the Christian to be centred on those

priorities needed for Christian service and ministry in the world.

Psalm 69:20 says, "Insults have broken my heart, and I am in despair. I looked for sympathy, but there was none, for comforters, but I found no one."

God working through the prophets becomes critical of faith communities that fail to live up to the values expected of them as the people of faith. The scriptures ask us whether our faith journey and that of our church is reflective of the path Jesus compels us to take. In the Psalm, the Greek word used for the word 'comforters' is 'paraclete'. In the new order under Christ, God bestows the Spirit on all at their baptism.

This same Greek word, Paraclete, is used in John 14:16 when Jesus says "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever."

There are a number of forms of activity of the Holy Spirit, but I want to single out one in particular: to stand beside those in need.

Disaster Recovery Chaplains have been busy for months providing much needed support to the survivors and first responders.

The Disaster Recovery Chaplaincy Network WA was inaugurated in April 2019 as a development from the training the Synod of WA had been doing for a number of years through the Disaster Relief and Community Recovery Working

Group. It was necessary to broaden the reach of Disaster Recovery Chaplaincy to include people of other denominations so the decision was taken to partner with the Council of Churches WA and offer the training to a wide range of denominations. Disaster Recovery Chaplaincy networks now exist in every state and territory in Australia and they have been heavily utilised during the bushfire season.

Disaster Recovery Chaplains serve the community through spiritual and religious ministry, by supporting the general wellbeing and morale of survivors and by offering support to the community by standing alongside people with all sorts of needs. They are the comforters (paracletes) who stand beside those in need.

The core of our national identity – what we call the Australian Way – is a belief in courage, mateship and a fair go. Loyalty to a friend figures strongly here: loyalty is shown to another when they rally in support of the other – the one who stands beside those they care about (paracletes).

Comradery and mateship also figure strongly here: the undeniable commitment to another we believe in, God and other people. It is a literal position – to stand beside those in need. The concept of standing with another represents the intrinsic Australian spirit.

It also directly correlates with that same commitment the scriptures tell us that we as churches need



to show the communities we live in, and that is to serve their community. It is also what the Holy Spirit calls us to do as Christians in the face of crisis.

By standing beside everyone in the community, particularly in times of disaster or emergency, we as the Christian church are genuinely serving God. For that reason, it is a calling that doesn't get much higher than that.

This Lenten season I encourage you to think and pray about how you may indeed stand beside those in need in our communities. Like the great benefactors who

have donated vast sums of money from their riches to help in Bushfire Assist, I encourage you as Christians to serve your communities by offering your time and support, and if you are called to undertake upskilling in Disaster Recovery Chaplaincy then take that opportunity when it presents itself.

Undertaking the training and being upskilled so that your ministry in the community can be enriched and enhanced, the community become more resilient and supported through times of tragedy. This will ensure the broken-hearted and despairing, those seeking sympathy

and comforters have someone to turn to in their need, thus fulfilling our great calling – to love God above all else and to love our neighbour.

To read more on the Uniting Church response during this bushfire season, flick to page 16.

For more information on taking part in Disaster Recovery Chaplaincy Training, contact David at de.jackson@bigpond.com.

Rev David Jackson is the convenor of the Uniting Church WA Disaster Relief and Community Recovery Committee.

The spice of life

Alison Dyall is a member of the Uniting Church WA International Partnership and Development Commission, formerly the UnitingWorld WA Commission. She recently returned from a trip to Timor Leste, where she has travelled a number of times. She shares some of her experiences with *Revive*.

Timor Leste: one of the fabulous 'spice islands' fought over by Europeans desperate to get their hands on the enormous wealth to be had by supplying the kitchens of the continent with such luxuries as pepper, cloves, cinnamon, ginger, turmeric... My goodness it's hard to imagine how bland the food must have been prior to the discovery of spices!

Travelling regularly to Timor Leste has been a bit like experimenting with spice in my life. As I've listened to the people, experienced the friendship, resilience, acceptance and deeply held religious beliefs.

Some of these experiences include being sprinkled with water from a fern leaf to appease the spirits of a sacred river before approaching it; climbing Mt Matebean, the place of the dead; and Mt Ramelau, the highest peak in Timor Leste, where the Catholic church has placed

a statue of Mary on the summit; hearing stories of healings and curses, miracles and sacrifices; and witnessing the confirmation of over 300 people at the cathedral in Baucau – where in Australia would you see that number of people being confirmed at one time?

All of these experiences in Timor Leste have made me stop and reconsider my own, once very conservative, protestant Christian beliefs.

Out of the capital of Dili there is some amazingly beautiful countryside. It's a rugged mountainous country with some well hidden rivers and waterfalls, caves and vistas, traditional villages and markets selling a wide variety of fruit, vegetables, livestock and coffee, often alongside lengths of the traditional woven cloth, 'tais'.

It's possible to see a demonstration of the weaving of tais by a group of war widows working in a village at the eastern end of the island. The weaving is done on a backstrap loom with the women sitting on the floor, bracing themselves against a couple of pegs driven into the ground, to produce the tightly

woven, multicoloured cloth used in most ceremonies.

Each district has its own unique designs which are learnt by heart and are recognisable by those in the know. For very special occasions, hand spun, locally dyed thread is used, while for more everyday occasions brightly coloured commercial cotton thread is favoured.

Another raft of experiences which has broadened and deepened and 'spiced up' my life has been working alongside a local grassroots, non-government organisation called The Good Crocodile Foundation or, Fundasoun Lafaek Diak (FLD) in Tetun, one of the local languages.

This organisation takes its name and motto from the East Timorese creation story of a boy and crocodile helping each other with their problems and thus establishing the island of Timor.

FLD operates in rural and remote areas of the Baucau district delivering health care and education where none is available, assisting farmers with diversifying crop production and providing scholarships for overseas health education.

I've been privileged to travel to some quite remote villages with the mobile health clinic and to see the enthusiasm they are greeted

with and the less than optimal conditions under which they work. It's certainly an eye-opener to see the joy and commitment of the Good Crocodile staff in serving their fellow Timorese.

The Uniting church WA has been supporting the Good Crocodile Foundation since its inception in 2005. Now, with new regulations required by the Australian Federal Government for supporting

overseas organisations, the Uniting Church WA International Partnerships and Development Commission and FLD have signed an agreement which will allow the Uniting Church WA to continue this support.

I always bring fresh spices back whenever I visit Timor Leste, which as well as spicing up my cooking remind me of spiced up spirituality.



A woman weaves traditional cloth, 'tais', in Timor Leste. Each district has their own unique and recognisable designs.



A mobile health clinic run by The Good Crocodile Foundation, set up in Samagia, a remote village out of Baucau.

A cross stands in fields in Uai-Oli, Timor Leste.

We're Uniting WA

Our foundation

Christ invites us to serve humanity by creating an inclusive, connected and just world.

Very soon, UnitingCare West will adopt the Uniting brand and become Uniting WA.

It's a new name and look, but we're retaining our heritage and our close connection with our Western Australian Uniting Church family.

Uniting



EDUCATION WITH Uniting Church Schools

Our seven independent schools provide education for over 8,000 students from Pre Kindergarten* to Year 12. They offer a variety of learning environments, from some of the oldest and best-known independent schools in WA to the more recently established colleges in new suburbs on the edge of the Perth metropolitan area. While these schools respect the faith diversity of all students, the story, values and practices of the Christian faith are expressed with integrity in order to nurture young lives for sound learning, faith, compassion and responsible service.



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* Not all schools offer Pre Kindergarten.