

Beyond 2020 Vision

A publication of Morialta Uniting Church

October 2026

Welcome to our October edition!

Colin Cargill, editor and Helena Begg, publisher

In this edition Rev Sandy Boyce poses the question “Is there room for surprise?” and Sam Gould ponders the meaning of “servant-leaders.” Rev Dr Raymond Minniecon argues why “Indigenous Australians deserve respect.”

We also bring an update from Anne B and June on their travels, as well as the usual news items from MUC. Enjoy!

The deadline for the November Vision will be 30th October. We'd love to have your input! Either drop your item in to the church office, or call Colin on 0427 122 106 or email him at snout-n-about@bigpond.com

Is there room for surprise?

Adapted from a post by Rev Sandy Boyce

Have you ever had the experience of trying to please someone who simply couldn't be pleased?

That's the image Jesus paints in Matthew 11:16-17 – “We played the flute for you, and you did not dance. We sang a funeral song, and you did not mourn.”

John the Baptist came fasting, living simply, calling people to repentance. They said he had a demon. Jesus came eating and drinking, celebrating with ordinary people, sharing meals with tax collectors and sinners. They called him a glutton and a drunkard (Matthew 11:19).

It wasn't that John and Jesus got it right or wrong, the problem was that the religious leaders had already decided what God and holiness should sound and act like – what kind of Messiah they would recognise.

And because their expectations had become fixed, they could recognise neither the prophet who mourned, who shouted, who lamented, who railed, nor the Messiah who celebrated.

God stood before the religious leaders twice. Twice they missed him.

Had the religious leaders just stopped listening and simply got on with the practices of their tradition. Perhaps that's one of the greatest spiritual dangers any of us face. A kind of empty religion when we go through the motions, but not expecting the divine to speak with us. We become so certain of our own understanding that we leave no room for divine intervention to surprise us. When Jesus speaks about those who would not join in with what God is doing, he was not criticising ignorance. He was criticising closed minds.

And perhaps that's why, only a few verses later, he prays, “I thank you, Father... because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and revealed them to infants.” He is celebrating teachability – those who know they don't know everything. Those who remain curious. Those humble enough to believe that someone else might reveal a truth they have yet to discover.

Good morning Morialta family!

From Anne B and June

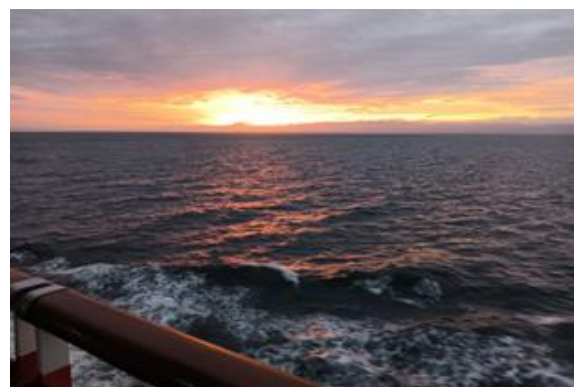
We have finally made land after having to dodge several nasty weather systems including Choi Wan, a typhoon off the east coast of Japan. This has meant that we have missed a number of ports including not being able to see the whales and bears in Alaska.... 😞

But!!!! we are finally landing in Kobe to visit Kyoto.

Then, instead of our other scheduled stops, we are stopping in Kochi, Kagoshima and Beppu, all on islands south of Honshu, to stay away from Choi Wan's winds.

Not what we planned, but certainly an adventure!!!!

Cheers June and Anne xx



Morning sunrise

Anne and June will be back with us in mid-October.

Thank you to Rev. Dr. Peter Trudinger for being our part-time supply minister during Anne and June's holiday!

Servant-leader

Adapted from "Open Christianity" by Sam Gould

Servant leadership focuses primarily on the growth and well-being of people and the communities to which they belong. While traditional leadership generally involves the accumulation and exercise of power by one at the "top of the pyramid," servant leadership is different. The servant-leader shares power, puts the needs of others first and helps people develop and perform as highly valued members of the group. (from "An Open Christianity" by Sam Gould).

News from September Church Council Meeting

- **Budget process:** The preparation of our budget for 2027 is well under way. Teams and groups will have received requests for input, to be returned to the co-treasurers by 15th October. Once the budget is finalised and approved by Council, it will be presented at the **Meeting of the Congregation on December 6th** for final approval.
- Our **Merry Magill Market** will be held on **Saturday November 21st** from 9am to noon. This year we intend to have all activity focused in the hall and foyer. Cakes, Plants, Gift Boxes of Love, Gifts and Crafts, Books, Morning Tea and Sausage sizzle will make up the stalls this year. If you can help with any of the stalls, please talk to Helena or Bruce.
- We are participating in the **National Church Life Survey** again this year. Our church activity survey has already been completed and submitted and we have now received paper copies of the individual survey. We plan to complete these at morning tea on 11th October, but you can also complete them online, if you prefer, at <https://attendersurvey.ncls.au?ccode=UA462101>
- **Synod Strategic Plan 2026-2030:** Synod describes the plan as "designed to guide the work of the Synod and, through our interconnectedness, be a resource to support Presbytery and Congregation mission planning". Council plans to work through the report. You can read the full document at https://sa.uca.org.au/filestore/synodmeet/2026/Synod_Strategic_Plan_2026-2030_v1.pdf
- **Grants:** We are delighted to have been successful with two recent grant applications.

We have received a federal grant of \$1050, which will be spent to improve our use of electronic payments at Morialta.

We have also received a grant of \$15,000 from Uniting Foundation to:

1. Build collaborative relationships with the UC congregations in Orreroo and Maitland as full participants in this project.
2. Foster greater understanding, empathy and fellowship between rural and urban congregations and across our diverse contexts and theological perspectives.
3. Identify and buy a parcel of audio-visual equipment which can be packaged for easy transport by car from Morialta to the collaborating churches in order to set up a shared livestream of a worship service and build personal relationships.
4. Help the collaborating congregations establish reliable internet connectivity for the shared services and for accessing livestreams on other occasions.
5. Develop appropriate skills in the collaborating congregations in order to maintain and further develop the model.

Friendship Group

From Linda Johnson

Fifteen people from our Friendship Group went to the Dutch Café on OG Road Klemzig and enjoyed a delicious lunch – or only had a dessert – plus coffee or drinks. It was all delicious and very filling.

Everyone seemed happy with their meals and there was talk of people even making a return visit. I even saw people shopping in the supermarket buying their Dutch biscuits/cakes and the shop out the front buying eggs and fresh honey!

The scenery and the memorabilia were out of this world and the mural made you feel you were in Amsterdam/Holland.

The group will meet again on Thursday 15th October at MUC. We will have someone from The City of Adelaide Clipper Ship giving us a talk.





Pam Johnson

1939 - 2026

The story of an amazing woman with a remarkable gift. A gift that was shared freely and generously with all those she touched – especially through music.

Pam was born on 21st of September 1939 to Mary and Bert Brook in the Mount Barker Hospital and her early life was in a loving family home at Kanmantoo.

As she was 8 and 10 years younger than her brothers, Pam spent a lot of time finding ways to entertain herself. Her little terrier named Tuffy, endured many hours of tea parties in a high chair and long walks, dressed in baby clothes in her doll's pram.

Her father was an avid reader, and instilled this passion in her from an early age. Pam attended the local 12 student school in Kanmantoo situated across the creek from her home. She commenced piano lessons at a young age with her piano teacher, Miss Mary Jenner in Nairn, who encourage Pam's gift of music.

One of Pam's fond recollections of her early years was singing, as a 5-year-old, "When I grow too old to dream" to the American troops stationed in the area. Pam was very good at entertaining even then.

When Pam was around 12 years old, the family moved to 84 Mannum Road, Murray Bridge. This was around the same time as another family who had moved off the farm in the Murray Mallee also came to the town with three children in tow. The oldest, Kelvin, was also 12 years old.

Pam commenced secondary education at Murray Bridge high school and attended the local Murray Bridge Methodist church. She completed school in year 11 and began her first job as a stenographer at FJ Cawte, Murray Bridge. Shortly after she moved to the Savings Bank of South Australia. Pam really wanted to be a nurse but, as her father had passed away when she was 16, her plans changed.

However, Pam enjoyed life in Murray Bridge becoming an excellent softball and netball player, and participating in the numerous social occasions available in country towns.

She was also regularly playing the organ at church and continuing her piano lessons with Miss Ruby Blake, completing her associate in music, Australia and taking on students.

Church youth group also had another attraction in the form of a 6 foot 2, blonde haired, baritone footy player that she would ask to come and 'practice his singing' after church on Sundays. Pam and Kel were drawn to each other from the very beginning and their courtship blossomed until Kel said "Is it all right if we get married?"

They were married at Murray Bridge Methodist church on 14th October 1961. Her brother, Noel, walked her down the aisle and her other brother Reverend Dean Brook officiated the service.

Pam and Kel's first home was in Naracoorte, where Alison was born in August 1962 at Mt Gambier hospital. Naracoorte was followed by Kalangadoo, then Penola where Merideth was born. Pam embraced country town life and immersed herself in church, sports and social activities.

The family moved to Adelaide in the late 60s where Brenton was born in April 1967 at Toorak Gardens.

Once at Magill, Pam was able to connect with the local area, and her piano playing was embraced by many, especially the local Magill Methodist church. This marked the beginning of an over 40-year association with the parish.

In 1974 the family moved to a beautiful brand new 4-bedroom home at 2 Alcheringa Drive Rostrevor. Pam then joined Hartley College, now the Magill campus of Adelaide University, as a lecturer's secretary in the Educational Psychology department. Pam's skills with typing were excellent and her typing speed was incredible.

In 1975 Magill Methodist church acquired a new organ which was installed following major renovations to the inside of the church. Pam then became the primary organist and so began her very long tenure as organist and shortly after, music director, of this church.

Magill Methodist/Uniting and subsequently Morialta Uniting became part of Pam's life as she not only immersed herself in the music, but in church fellowship, coffee corner, fundraising at fetes and markets and anything else she was asked to do.

Away from church, Pam was involved in 'The Gilbert and Sullivan Society', 'The Marie Clarke Singers', ballet and calisthenics classes, weddings and funerals. Berry's Funerals often requested Pam as she would usually make herself available at short notice.

Pam was also involved in community service, supporting Kel at Kiwanis and joining the Adelaide Pioneer View Club, including serving as president.

Family was very important to Pam and she basked in the joy of seeing her children marry, welcome her 9 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

Despite her increasing health issues Pam consistently greeted everyone with a smile and an acknowledgement of "Thank you, Thank you." Pam's presence always did light up the room and even during her years at Helping Hand, she became a much-loved resident.

Thank you for being the music in our lives.

The complete musician (from the editor)

One Sunday morning, while our little 'band' was playing, Pam demonstrated both her musical talent and her multi-tasking skills. The west transept door had been left open and a light breeze was blowing our music sheets, making it hard for us less skilled musicians. At the end of one verse Pam jumped up from the piano, closed the door and continued playing without seeming to miss a note. Pam was an enthusiastic 'encourager' and a very dear friend. She could also pick a flat note at 40 paces!

Indigenous Australians deserve respect

Adapted from a post by Rev Dr [Raymond Minniecon](#) shared by Rev Rosemary Carter

While Indigenous Australians did not develop technologies in the same form as industrial European societies, they developed sophisticated and complex systems of kinship relationships, land management, agriculture and food production, navigation, astronomy, engineering, medicine, trade, art, law, and environmental knowledge suited to this continent over tens of thousands of years.

They survived and adapted to, as well as understood, cared for, and sustained one of the most difficult environments on the planet for millennia. They built complex societies long before Europeans arrived. Their knowledge is vital and continues to matter now – especially in fire management, ecology, conservation, culture, language, and science.

A culture is not measured solely by whether it copied European inventions. Different societies developed different tools in response to different contexts, different places, different needs, different resources, and different ways of living. A wheel is not a moral benchmark. Nor is boiling water.

Aboriginal culture and language deserve to be taught because it is part of this country's past, present, and future. Indigenous Australians deserve respect because Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people deserve respect. They do not need to first satisfy a narrow, prejudiced definition of "achievement".

Acknowledgement of Country

A perspective

We acknowledge the Kaurna people – Kaurna Meyunna - traditional custodians of the Kaurna Yerta (Kaurna country / Adelaide Plains). From Crystal Brook in the north to Cape Jervis in the south, from the Mount Lofty Ranges to the sea.

To all Kaurna people who have cared for Yerta (land) for 65,000+ years.

Niina Marni Kaurna Meyunna - we are on your Country.

We thank you. We respect you.

Always was, always will be Kaurna Country.

Country is not about the WHOLE of Australia! It's about the particular part of Australia. When will people realise that???

Language: Kaurna Warra

Niina Marni = Hello / How are you

Kaurna Yerta = Kaurna Country

Tarndanya = Adelaide



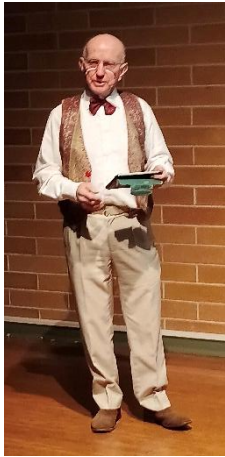
Food for Life Campaign

The World Council of Churches' Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance, has been running a Food for Life Campaign. There is also an advocacy resource for congregations outlining 10 principles for how we should relate to food. The ten principles are:

- Give thanks for the food you eat.
- Eat food grown as close as possible to where you live.
- Strive for all people to have knowledge about, and access to, affordable, nutritious food.
- Eat mindfully and in moderation.
- Do not waste food.
- Be grateful to those who grow and prepare food for your table.
- Support fair wages for farmworkers, farmers and food workers.
- Reduce the environmental damage of land, water and air from food production and the food system.
- Protect the biodiversity of seeds, soils, ecosystems and the cultures of food producers. Rejoice and share the sacred gift of food with all.

Over 70% of the world's food is produced by small-holder farmers and, disturbingly, many people involved in the production of food globally, including the food we eat, are subjected to exploitation and abuse. Australia is not immune to the exploitation of people working on farms that produce our food. By being vigilant in where we shop, and asking questions when the source or origin of food is unclear, we can all help to make food production more sustainable.





Around the world in 80 minutes

Wow – what a feast of music, song and dance – all without leaving home, or at least the MUC Hall!

After a tasty lunch on Sunday 13th September, Chris Ayles climbed into the pilot's seat and steered our course through Europe, Asia and North America before crossing the equator to South America, Africa and Oceania, landing us safely back in Australia.

Thanks to all those who joined us, and special thanks to those who sorted through 'YouTube' videos, pieced the chosen clips together, projected the final product with sound, prepared and served lunch and cleaned up in the kitchen. MUC's bank balance is \$700 higher as a result of our musical adventure.

Well done everyone!



A special thank you!

From Joan Wagner

On a cold, wintry day on 27th September, after a meaningful worship service, we moved into the hall to receive a warm, welcoming tea. This was to honour "Volunteers" and "International day for older persons". On picking up our cuppas, we were met with a huge plate of goodies.

The Pastoral Care Team, with helpers, presented everyone with a plate of delicious homemade scones, slices plus cream puffs. Rhonda gave to all a lovely card 'Honouring hearts that serve'.

On behalf of all of us, 'Thank you' so much to this team for your loving blessing! I recall some ministers saying that if you can no longer volunteer, you can do something so valuable - you can pray!

In this, on behalf of the Pastoral team, Bruce provides us regularly with up-to-date details of our church family, sickness, sorrows etc. so that all can be aware and pray.

What a great church to belong to!

The Kym Purling Trio concert

The Morialta Uniting Church was filled to overflowing with music and people on the afternoon of Sunday 4th October. Kym Purling on piano, Tim Bowen on base and Jackson Mack on percussion gave an audience of around 160 'fans' a wonderful afternoon of music. Kym and Tim are old hands and are well known to many of us, but the younger Jackson Mack almost outshone them both. What a talent!

The music was followed by a delicious afternoon tea in the hall with much chatter and laughter and a chance to take home a raffle prize. The event raised around \$1800 for our church.

Thanks to all those who helped out – the AV team, the ticket sellers and checkers, the furniture movers, the raffle organiser and those who cooked and served food, made and served tea and coffee and helped clean up after the guests had finally left.



Light in the Stillness – our next concert

On Sunday 1st November we will have the "Illumina Voice Choir" with their "Hand Chime Ensemble" as an added attraction. The choir is conducted by Glenda Lynelle with Helen Angove as the accompanist.

The concert starts at 2.00pm, followed by afternoon tea, in the Morialta Uniting Church – 26 Chapel St Magill.

Tickets are \$30 (children under 12 free) and are available on Trybooking at <https://www.trybooking.com/DQNTU> and through the church office.

Please put this event in your diary and watch the Newsletter for more details!

How lucky we are to have so many talented musicians willing to share their performances with us at Morialta!
Please share the information with friends and neighbours and encourage them to join us for the next concert.

The final days

Adapted from ABC Compass Program

The Sisters of Charity in New York have vowed to make the plight of vulnerable immigrants and their children part of their final mission before the order closes or “comes to fulfilment” as they call it. In 2023, they made the bold decision to close because they hadn’t received any vocations or recruits in the last 25 years.

There are now just 123 sisters left, and the average age is 86. They first moved to Manhattan in 1817 and their founder — Elizabeth Ann Seton — is America’s first-born saint.

The Sisters of Charity of New York will transfer to the University of Mount Saint Vincent, the college they founded, as the order approaches its final “fulfilment”.

In 1857, they moved to a 75-acre estate in The Bronx on the Hudson River. This property is under a land trust and will be given to the University of Mount Saint Vincent — a college the sisters founded and currently help fund to the tune of \$40 million a year.

Mother Superior, Sister Donna says their work has always been rooted in faith – “It’s God’s work”, - even as the congregation now prepares to close after more than 200 years of service.

The many ministries – from a farm producing tonnes of food for the needy to social housing blocks in Manhattan – are now part of a plan to transfer much of it to the lay people in the community to ensure they continue on after the sisters are gone.

Sister Donna has watched 94 of her fellow sisters die, but she isn’t sad about the next stage in the journey. “We’ve had a good life. We’ve had over 200 years of being able to serve the people, especially in New York, but other places too. So, if you have hope, it’s not sad ... don’t cry because it’s over. Smile because it happened, because we have a lot of good stories and a lot of good memories.”



Photo - Compass ABC

Editor’s note

The sisters wear tops emblazoned with “Holy Trouble Makers” while carrying banners which read either “Get in Trouble – Good Trouble – Necessary Trouble” or “Get in Trouble – Holy Trouble – Gospel Rooted Trouble”.

Maybe it’s time to be a trouble maker!

Does ‘RU OK?’ improve mental health?

Adapted from an article by Nicole Black, David Johnston and Johannes Kunz, Monash University and Lachan Deer, The University of Melbourne – published in the Conversation.

R UOK? Day is Australia’s most recognisable mental health campaign, and a familiar part of workplace morning teas, school assemblies and social media feeds.

But does it actually improve mental health? A new study suggests it does. Interestingly the improvement in mental wellbeing was largest among men aged 25–49.

The campaign asks Australians to follow four steps:

- ask someone whether they’re OK
- listen with an open mind
- encourage them to take action if needed
- check in with them over the next couple of weeks.

The authors used nine years (2011-2019) of data drawn from across the Australian population to examine if the campaign changed outcomes.

One encouraging finding was that RU OK? Day does appear to improve mental wellbeing. There was a measurable increase in people’s self-assessed mental wellbeing, in that people felt slightly more calm, energetic, happy and full of life, and slightly less down in the dumps.

As this was an average across the whole population, including many people who had no direct contact with the campaign, the improvement among people who took part in an RU OK? conversation was probably much larger.

The effect was strongest for men aged 25 to 49 – the increase in their mental wellbeing was twice as large. This is important because middle-aged men are among the least likely to seek help for mental health problems, and they are disproportionately represented in Australia’s suicide statistics.

Being asked “Are you OK?” by a colleague or friend, or getting together with others to talk openly about mental health, may reduce feelings of isolation. It may also signal that it is socially acceptable to acknowledge when you are struggling and increase people’s sense that they have someone to turn to for support.

While RU OK? Day also encourages people who are struggling to seek professional support, records showed no increase in visits to a GP for a mental health treatment plan. Nor was there an increase in prescriptions filled for mental health-related medicines.

While this doesn’t mean that nobody sought help because of RU OK? Day, any individual responses were not large enough to be detected. Also, even when someone decides to seek professional help, the health-care system itself can create barriers.

However, the findings do suggest that peer-support campaigns can produce real psychological benefits. Encouraging people to check in with one another, listen and offer support can make a meaningful difference, especially for population groups unlikely to seek out help. Asking a simple question can help people feel more supported. But when the answer is “no”, the next step also needs to be within reach.

RU OK? Was part of our Community Day program in September.

Spring Time Jesus

by Joy Cowley – contributed by Rev Dr Peter Trudinger

You Springtime Jesus,
just as I'd settled down for winter,
you broke into my heart
and danced your love across it
in a mad excess of giving.
Just as I'd got comfortable
with bare branches and unfeeling,
just as my world was neatly black and white,
there you were, kicking up flowers
all over the place.

Springtime Jesus,
you laughed right through my words
and sang to me your melting song,
causing sap to fire my branches,
causing the flames of buds to flicker into green bonfires,
causing a windquake of blossom,
causing burstings, searings, breakings,
causing growth-pain, causing life.

Gift me with your laughter,
and, in the mystery of your Springtime,
show me the truth of the blossoming cross.



A prayer found in Chester Cathedral

Contributed by Michele Bennier

Give me a good digestion, Lord,
and also something to digest.
Give me a healthy body, Lord,
and sense to keep it at its best.
Give me a healthy mind, good Lord,
to keep the good and pure in sight;
Which seeing sin is not appalled,
but finds a way to set it right.
Give me a mind that is not bored,
that does not whimper, whine or sigh;
Don't let me worry overmuch
about the fussy thing called 'I'.
Give me a sense of humour, Lord,
and the grace to see a joke -
to get some happiness from life
and pass it on to other folk.



Be still and know that I am God - Psalm 46:10

Contributed by Helena Begg

John Greenleaf Whittier was one of the most celebrated American poets of the 19th century – an abolitionist, a journalist, and a lifelong Quaker. As a Quaker, he held corporate singing in worship to be a human addition that cluttered the direct relationship between the soul and God. Quaker meetings were held in silence, punctuated only by spoken ministry when the Spirit moved someone to speak. There was no organ. No choir. No hymns.

Whittier never wrote a hymn. But in 1872, he wrote a long poem called “The Brewing of Soma” a reference to an ancient Hindu intoxicating ritual drink used to induce religious ecstasy. The poem’s argument was pointed: that much of what passed for religious experience, including certain forms of enthusiastic worship, was not a genuine encounter with God but a kind of spiritual intoxication – emotionalism mistaken for the divine. He was criticising worship that used hymns.

Near the end of the poem, having named what worship was not, he wrote what he believed it should be – a passage of quiet, still, submissive prayer: “Dear Lord and Father of mankind, forgive our foolish ways...”. He was writing about Quaker stillness. About silence before God. About the stripping away of noise and excitement in favour of something quieter and deeper.

He died in 1892.

In 1906, English musician Hubert Parris set six stanzas of “The Brewing of Soma” to music – beginning with the lines *Dear Lord and Father of mankind*. The resulting hymn was included in hymnals of the Church of England and spread rapidly through Anglican worship.

“Be still, and know that I am God.” – Psalm 46:10

Words (and an invitation) from Wimala

Whether you're an elected Presbytery member, a church leader, or simply interested in the life and direction of our Presbytery, you are warmly invited to join in what promises to be an engaging and significant gathering at Broadview Uniting Church on the 17th October.

The day includes a message from Bart Breugler – Director of Biblical Studies at the Uniting College for Leadership and Theology; a thought-provoking call to action from Scott Litchfield - Mission Resourcing Team; and a UnitingCare overview from Mark Waters.

Contact either Bruce or Colin if you would like transport.



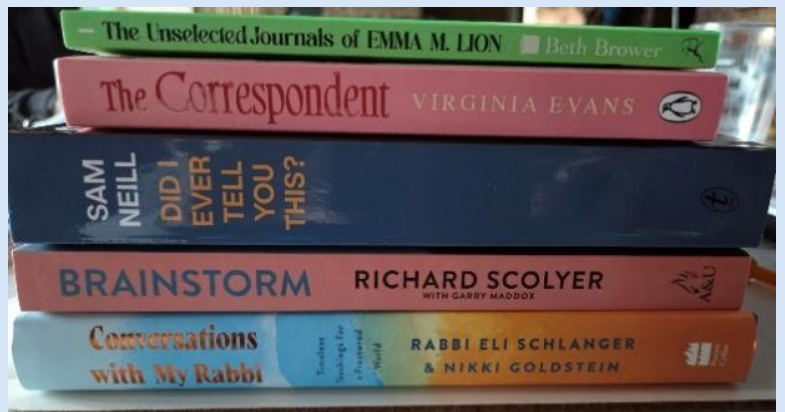
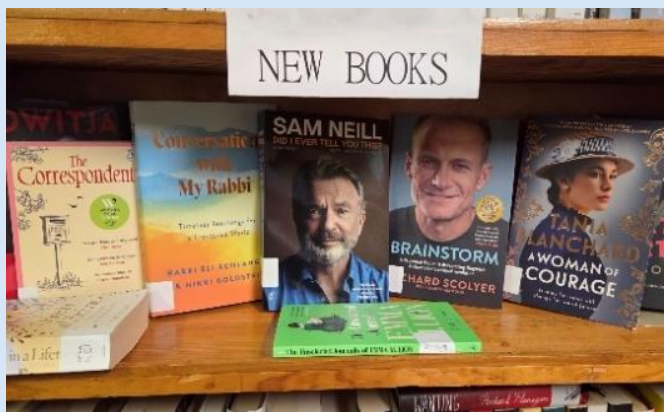
Ray, Chris, Pam and Margaret being 'molested' by a lion at 'Friendly Pho'



Members of MUC standing in front of a banner supporting the global multifaith call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty

Library News

You are invited to drop into the Church Library and browse the new books available for loan. Why not grab a cup of coffee (or tea) and take a moment to peruse the new editions?



Merry Magill Market 2026

Our annual major fundraiser for the year is scheduled for Saturday November 21st from 9am to noon, only about six weeks away. (That means that Christmas is only about 11 weeks from now!)

Coordinators are as listed below, so if you are able to offer help, or goods to sell, please let them know:

Plants: Chris Ayles

Morning tea: Lesley Tideman

Books: Miranda Clarke

Crafts and gifts: Helena Begg

Cakes, biscuits and goodies: Margaret Clogg and Joan Morrison

Sausage sizzle: Craig Mackenzie

Raffle: Linda Johnson

It takes a lot of people to make this a success, as well as a great community activity, so please consider how you can contribute, and talk to Bruce or Helena if you have questions.



Honey, call the bee vet!

Adapted from an article in *The New York Times* by Emily Anthes

Veterinarians are gingerly embracing the honeybee, a vital pollinator for agriculture but one that's in increasing danger.

At the University of Georgia's veterinary teaching hospital, students encounter dogs with dermatitis, horses with colic, diabetic cats, malnourished parrots, bleeding rabbits and wheezing snakes. Now they are adding the health of honey bees to their veterinary skills.

Honeybees are agricultural all-stars, pollinating roughly \$15 billion worth of crops – more than 130 types of fruit, vegetables and nuts – every year. They are also increasingly in danger,

plagued by parasites and pathogens and weakened by climate change, pesticides and malnutrition.

Mass die-offs are becoming commonplace; during the 2024 to 2025 season, the United States lost more than half of its managed honeybee colonies. If half of the nation's dogs – or cats or cows or horses or pigs – were to unexpectedly drop dead every winter, it would be an animal health emergency. Yet in beekeeping, it's basically called Wednesday. It's considered totally normal.

The honeybee medicine program at the University of Georgia gives honey bees a similar status to dogs, cats, horses, cows and pigs. Just one more species for a profession that can be truly referred to as "Comparative Doctors"!