



165 years of community

celebrated at Heatherton-Dingley Uniting Church

By Lukas Harry

150 people gathered on a sunny afternoon to celebrate 165 years of Heatherton-Dingley Uniting Church, marking the milestone with history, humour and a strong sense of community.

The event brought the past to life in an unexpected way, with proceedings hosted by Joseph Follett, one of the original builders of the church in 1861.

Not-so-fresh from the Brighton Cemetery where he has been since 1889, Follett “returned” to share stories from the church’s earliest days.

Alongside fellow builders Lavers the stonemason and Messrs Mills, Porter and Dunlop, Follett helped establish what is now the oldest building in the City of Kingston.



The celebration also imagined a visit from Abraham Lincoln, marking his 1861 inauguration with a reworked “Kingston Address,” a playful nod to history that ended with the line:

“that God’s Church which is of the people, by the people and for the people, shall not perish from this earth.”

Guest speakers, including representatives from the local orical society, local council and church leadership, reflected on the significance of preserving the building and its story.

A commemorative plaque was unveiled by the mayor alongside long-time parishioner Neil Burgess, recognising both the church’s history and the people who have sustained it across generations.



Music from the Kingston Music Club and a shared afternoon tea rounded out the celebration, giving members past and present a chance to connect.

After 165 years, the gathering was not just about looking back, but about recognising a community that continues to remain faithful.



Click [HERE](#) or on the image to watch the full video of the Celebrations

Sometimes the most meaningful moments happen when we least expect them

by Dennis Freeman
From Cornish College

‘During a visit to Chelsea Parkside Aged Care last year, our primary students sang for residents and shared small gifts. But for Cornish College Year 3 student Archie, something extra special happened.

By chance, he struck up a conversation with a resident named Gary, and the two quickly discovered they shared a love for the same baseball club, with both having played for the Cheltenham Rustlers Baseball Club at different times.

Archie was so moved by this unexpected connection that he shared this story at the next school assembly. And when students returned to sing Christmas carols, he brought Gary a surprise – a baseball cap from the club they both love.

The story doesn’t end there. Word spread, and now the club has reconnected with Gary to learn more about his history with the team.

It’s a lovely reminder of the power of kindness, conversation and community, and how moments across generations can spark unexpected joy.’



Gary and Archie

*Both articles reprinted from
NEWSBEAT... click on image at
right to read the full edition*

NEWSBEAT
NEWSLETTER FOR THE PORT
PHILLIP EAST PRESBYTERY



ORMOND LEARNING HUB PRESENTS

Service as Mission

*Living our theology
through community*

When Jesus calls us to love God and love our neighbour, he makes Diakonia (service) a relational bridge into God's mission. By caring for the marginalised, we embody Christ's ministry in the world. Community service is an integral part of the Uniting Church's history, mission, and vocation.



"Christ washes the disciple's feet" (2010), photographed by Rev Dr Ji Zhang at Beijing Theological Seminary, China

How much does Diakonia (service) shape how we understand ourselves as the Church?

Over six weeks, with speakers including Professor Johannes Eurich and Dr Tanja Schmidt - world-leading experts on building connections between church and community service - we will explore what it means to step outside the church building and see God's mission in the world.

- What is the theology of service that underpins the church's mission?
- How might we bear witness to Christ in the world through our actions?

Venue	Ormond Uniting Church, 264 Booran Rd, Ormond
Dates	Wednesdays, 1 July – 5 August 2026 (6 weeks)
Time	6:30pm – 8:30pm
Refreshments	Soup and bread, hot and cold beverages provided
Cost	\$75
Enquiries/Enrolments	0411 958 127 office@ormond.unitingchurch.org.au

Facilitators

- **Prof. Johannes Eurich**, Director of the Institute for the Study of Diaconia, the University of Heidelberg
- **Dr. Tanja Schmidt**, the Senior Pastor of the Protestant Parish of Leutershausen
- **Jessica Hateley-Browne**, Director of Mission, Uniting Victoria and Tasmania
- **Rev. Dr. Ji Zhang**, Minister, Ormond Uniting Church
- **Brad Denniston**, Ormond Learning Hub Facilitator and Lay Preacher



Bible Readings April 2026

(the readings used in our service may differ slightly)

April 3rd	Good Friday	Isiah 52:13 – 53:12	Psalm 22	Hebrews 10:16-25 or 4:14-16; 5:7-9	John 18:1-19:42
April 5th	Easter Day	Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43	John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10
April 12th	Easter 2	Acts 2:14a, 22-32	Psalm 16	1 Peter 1:3-9	John 20:19-31
April 19th	Easter 3	Acts 2:14a, 36-41	Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19	1 Peter 1:17-23	Luke 24:13-35
April 26th	Easter 4	Acts 2:42-47	Psalm 23	1 Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10

Prayers of the People



Jo-ann on the loss of brother Ian
Tina, friend of Joan Wood
Nan on the loss of her brother
Phillip (Barbara's nephew)
Barry
Les
Adrian
Maria
Anne-Maree, Andrew and their
daughter, Rachel
Emily
Karen

Helen Cole
Gloria, Samson & Family
Jenny and Janine Bartholomeusz
Anita and Kingsley
Joyce Curnow
Stuart - addiction struggles
Helen & Earle Hosking
Grace & Van Rensberg
Joan's friends Robyn & Jemma
Kath Tondorf
Susan Hoskin

Mark
Mary
Margaret Walker
Joyce Carpenter
Andrew
Bronwyn
Teresa
Sybil Bond
June and Grace Fairbank

We give thanks for those whose prayers have been answered..

We pray for all in need especially -

"Dine Out Group"

Our next dine out will be on Tuesday 21 April at 6:30pm at Just Italy in Mentone.
Please let Joan Lum know if you are interested in attending. (0437 397 066)

ALL WELCOME



WEEKLY OFFERINGS: Thanks to everyone who have continued to make their weekly offering.

Direct Debit: Cheltenham / Mentone members note that direct payments can now be made to our Westpac account at Southland, **BSB number is 033 358, Account Number is 664 881** Payee "UCA Cheltenham Mentone Parish"

Although we are now the Charman Uniting Church, we expect banking arrangements to remain the same as before, for the rest of the year.

SOCIAL COLLECTION DEPARTMENT:

BayCISS - collection of goods by Graeme & Joan Wood has recommenced. Leave goods with them at 66 Bernard St. Cheltenham, or call them on 9555 0462

Emerge - Financial help is the best way to help - Cheques to - GPO Box 420 Melbourne VIC 3001 or donate via the website www.emergesupport.org.au
Emerge welcomes vouchers for supermarkets or art materials which children could use at home - materials, pencils, colouring books etc. Margaret Bode is happy to collect items if you leave them at her home, 16 Monaco Street Parkdale. **Donations in an envelope marked EMERGE may be left in the collection plate.**



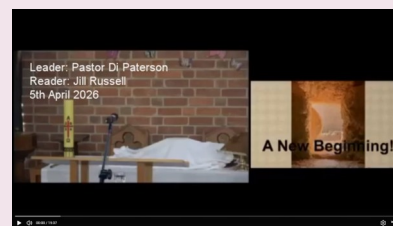
OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL:



Click on the YouTube logo to view a selection of **over 200** sermons and service preludes

*This week's video –
"A New Beginning" Pastor Di Paterson 5th April 2026*

Click on image or [HERE](#) to view



Church on the Internet - Sunday 10am (virtual doors open 9:45 am)



If you don't have Zoom on your computer/laptop/iPad/Smartphone, click on <https://zoom.us/support/download>

Then click on this link below or the "Sunday Church" image to join our Service

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82004410836?pwd=cU9RWlhVMm8wOUw0TStLV1EvNFdYdz09>

Meeting ID: 820 0441 0836 Passcode: 665 784

You can also join us on your phone by dialling **03 7018 2005** and entering the above meeting details.

Sunday Church
on Zoom



Life the way it is

