



The Journey of a Hymn

The year was 2017 - yes, almost 10 years ago. Plans to redevelop the Cheltenham and Mentone sites had been in the melting pot for at least a decade, but nothing had come to fruition.

Then at last some feasible plans had been given the green light to go ahead at Cheltenham. Such excitement! The plans included the upgrading of the existing church and hall and the complete redevelopment of the area of land in between the church and hall.

Initially it was thought the building could be done in stages with us staying in the church whilst building took place in the hall, then we could move to the hall whilst building took place in the church. And so in 2017 we moved all operations to the hall expecting building to commence 'very soon'.

Amongst our members was (*and still is*) the Rev Peter Aumann, a well known identity in both Presbyterian and Uniting Church circles. As well as being a much loved minister of the faith, Peter was very skilled writer of words of hymns, often set to familiar tunes. And so to add to our excitement the Rev Greg thought it prudent to ask Rev Peter to write a hymn especially for the opening of the new church buildings which would happen 'very soon'.

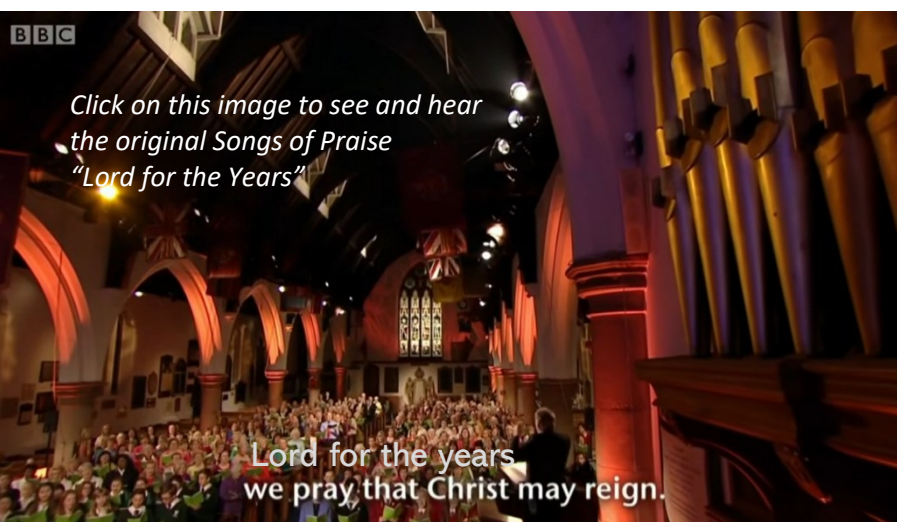
But alas, problem after problem beset us, too many to enumerate here, we began to wonder if we would ever see our new development. Meanwhile our ever faithful Rev Peter set about writing a new hymn which would be sung for the first time 'very soon'.

Then COVID struck and everything ground to a halt. Peter's hymn - well, sat somewhere. It was during COVID that we discovered the new format of "church on Zoom" with many different challenges. For COVID Jo-ann and I decided to remain in my place at Bunyip, a naturally isolated place. Jo-ann helping with Zoom and I using the new church Yamaha keyboard to produce some 80 hymn videos for everyone to sing on our Zoom worship services. The timing of worship also enabled us to watch the English "Songs of Praise" each Sunday after Zoom.

It was whilst watching Songs of Praise that we discovered a new (*to us*) hymn called "Lord for the Years" sung to a very fine inspirational 'anglican' tune which had reminisces of the Dam Busters theme - as British as roast beef and 'tatoes! I thought to myself "**we must learn that hymn sometime**".



Rev Peter Aumann



Click on this image to see and hear
the original Songs of Praise
"Lord for the Years"

Lord for the years
we pray that Christ may reign.

With COVID over and building operations back on board again, the challenge now was to get the building project over and done with as soon as possible. As mentioned, we thought that using one building whilst the other was being renovated was going to be the least disruptive way to get the job done. But it soon became apparent that the fastest way for the redevelopment to proceed would be to vacate Cheltenham property completely and give the builders 'open slather' with their work.

The problem now would be "where will we go?" Subsequently we joined the Black Rock Congregation whilst waiting for completion of building at Cheltenham which would be complete 'very soon'.

In the midst of this maelstrom Peter's new hymn went - well - somewhere into cyberspace. But It was during our sojourn at Black Rock and whilst thumbing through old emails that I made an incredible discovery -

I came across an email from Peter Aumann written several years earlier with his words for that hymn we were going to sing at the Cheltenham opening which would happen 'very soon'. I'd completely forgotten about these words. With the words came a couple of suggestions of well known tunes that would fit Peter's words. Imagine my double excitement when one of Peter's recommended tunes was "Lord for the Years", that stout British tune we heard for the first time on Songs of Praise! And imagine Peter's elation when I told him "it's a goer!"

Never one to rest on his laurels, Peter diligently went about refining the words, regularly consulting with our musicians to make sure the words fitted and ran smoothly. I'm somewhat reluctant to reproduce this final version of the hymn, correct as of today - but knowing Peter there could be improvements before next Sunday!

Thank you Peter for this magnificent effort!



1

Bright shining light, God from our crafted windows
see, how our land gleams in your rain and sun
Here we give thanks for love that calls to worship,
calls all our hearts to sing for you as one.

1/4



2

Sing songs of those who raised this House
of worshippers.
Tell now of ones who first came here to pray.
Praise for the inspiration that enabled us
our work and years, that brought God's
House to be.

2/4



3

Pray to be joined with Jesus in God's vision.
Pray with deep wonder, joy we all can share,
joined in our hopes, with wisdom, in God's
mission
to build a home for all from everywhere.

3/4



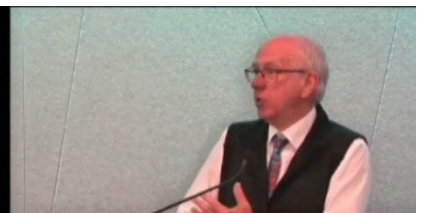
4

Wide open doors, love's welcome as we gather!
God, lead this church, build prayer and praise
as one!
Grateful and loving, our caring life will show
God, in this House, the good you yet will do.

4/4

Peter Aumann August 2026
Rewritten for the Dedication Service for the renovated Charman Church Cheltenham.

A congregational response for next Sunday...



We, the people of the Charman congregation,
consecrate ourselves anew to the ongoing journey.

Learning from Jesus
what it means to be faithful disciples,
on a journey of faith and unity,
guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit,
joining in Gods action in the world.
Making the way by walking.

YOU MAKE THE PATH BY WALKING

*You make the path by walking
As you travel on through life
With all its joys and sorrows
With all its trouble and strife*

*There is the path we as children
With parents showing the way
Influenced by many good people
As we learn and work and play*

*There is a new path we walk as a parent
Knowing little at the start
But we make our way in that one
With lots of love in our heart*

*You may have a difficult path to walk
When a loved one has passed away
There are many testing ups and downs
And surprises every day*

*On our lifetime walk as a Christian
We're still learning as we go
We walk alongside each other
It's better with others we know*

*A now there's another new path ahead
As we return to our church in May
But we know God has a plan for us
And He will show us the way*

Dawn Morrison May 2026

Inspired by a sermon of the same name by Rev Greg Fry

Our Social Justice Group have brought a number of issues to our attention.
See the document attached to this week's email or click [HERE](#) for all the details.

ethical
investing with purpose

Whistleblower protection and ethical standards following KPMG scandal
August 2026

Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!"
Mark 10:23

In short, when segments of the wealthy elite exempt themselves from social norms and disengage from broader society, they contribute to the fragmentation of society, sharpening the divide between the privileged few and the rest. Civic trust and social cohesion rely on shared values, norms, and a sense of mutual responsibility, so when elites remove themselves from the spaces where these rules apply, trust in institutions is eroded, and a sense of unfairness spreads.
Clive and Myra Hamilton, *The Privileged Few*, (2024)

ethical
investing with purpose

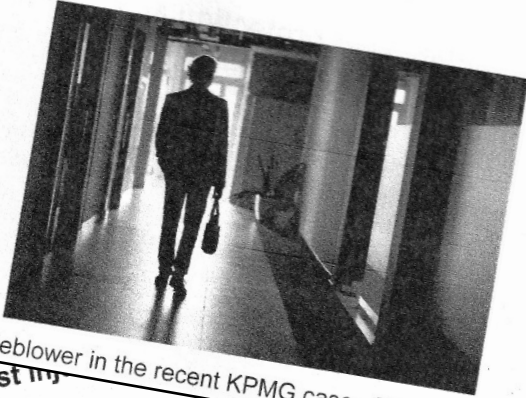
What You Can Do
Write polite and respectful letters to:
The Hon Michelle Rowland MP
Attorney-General
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Salutation: Dear Attorney General

Points to make in your letter:

- Express deep concern at the treatment of the whistleblower in the recent KPMG case of highly

Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA



Asking the Australian Government to advocate against the
inflicted on Palestinians
August 2026

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
Matthew 5:7-9

The Synod Just
advocating for
their security
to requests a

What You Can Do
Write polite and respectful letters to:
Senator The Hon. Penny Wong
Minister for Foreign Affairs
PO Box 6100
Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Salutation: Dear Minister

Points to make in your letter:

- Thank the Australian Government for establishing the International Peace Fund for

Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA



Credit: Anas Mohammed Shutterstock.com

Down Mentone Presbyterian/Uniting Memory Lane ..



Above: Mentone Coffee Palace (now Kilbreda Catholic Girls' College) where the Presbyterian Church was founded.
 Right: Original Mentone concept and original church hall
 Below: The original interior of the church



PIPE ORGAN DEDICATION

Eight hundred pipes in 14 ranks comprise a pipe organ which has been installed over the past three weeks in Davies Memorial Presbyterian Church, Venetia-st., Mentone.

It will be dedicated by the church minister, Rev. A. J. Haggie, at a service next Saturday at 3 p.m.

The organ was formerly in the Prahran Presbyterian Church, which has been demolished to make way for the Cairn Miller Institute conducted by the Mental Hygiene Depart-

The Mentone Presbyterian Church many years ago started a fund to purchase a pipe organ, but this had lapsed. However, the church seized the chance to buy Prahran's ment.

(Continued on Page 10)



● Trying his hand this week at the keyboard of the pipe organ just installed at Davies Memorial Presbyterian Church, Mentone, is church organist, Mr. James Cameron, while the minister, Rev. A. J. Haggie, looks on.

23/5/63

**PIPE ORGAN
DEDICATED**

Cheltenham, Mentone &
Black Rock congregations
now

Charman Uniting Church

313 Charman Road,
Cheltenham

You are cordially
invited to attend the

Grand Opening

of our newly Renovated Church buildings
Sunday, 20th September, 2026 at 2pm



The Cheltenham, Mentone and Black Rock congregations joyfully announce the Grand Opening of the newly renovated **Charman Uniting Church** buildings at 313 Charman Road, Cheltenham. We invite all members and friends of our Presbytery community to join us on **Sunday, 20 September 2026 at 2pm** as we celebrate this new chapter in our shared ministry and mission. It will be a wonderful opportunity to give thanks, reconnect, and look forward to the life that will grow in this renewed space.

Note: No 10am service on this day

Charman Memories....





Bible Readings September 2026 *(the readings used in our service may differ slightly)*

September 6th	Pentecost 15	Exodus 12:1-14	Psalm 149	Romans 13:8-14
September 13th	Pentecost 16	Exodus 14:19-31	Psalm 114 or Exodus 15: 1b-11, 20-21	Romans 14:1-12
September 20th	Pentecost 17	Exodus 16:2-15	Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45	Philippians 1:21-30
		John 3:10-4:11	Psalm 145:1-8	
September 27th	Pentecost 18	Exodus 17:1-7	Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16	Philippians 2:1-13

CROSSLIGHT is available on the internet - click on the following link or the CROSSLIGHT image to view online. www.crosslight.org.au Print copies of CROSSLIGHT are available at the entrance of the Charman Church.



Prayers of the People



Cec Bartholomeusz
Robyn
Pat
Adie & Ally
Katherine's cousin David & Family
Tina, friend of Joan Wood
Phillip (Barbara's nephew)
Barry
Adrian
Anne-Maree, Andrew and their daughter, Rachel
Maria

We pray for all in need especially -

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
Karen
Helen Cole

Gloria, Samson & Family
Mark
Margaret Walker
Joyce Carpenter
Andrew
Bronwyn
Teresa
June and Grace Fairbank

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

BayCISS Collection Contributions - change of delivery arrangements

Many thanks to those who continue to support BayCISS with donations. Goods especially non perishable food should be brought to the church where they will be distributed along with Family Life contributions

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"

SOCIAL COLLECTION DEPARTMENT:

BayCISS - Please bring your donations, especially non perishable food to the church and we will arrange for their distribution.

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 -

*"The Art of Letting Go" Rev
Greg Fry 13th September 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



"Let Us Build (Another) House"

