

Charman Uniting Church

News Letter

11th October 2026 Vol 7 No 36 Pentecost 20

Music to our ears - 75 years on



By Andrew Humphries

In 1951 Robert Menzies was Prime Minister, Australia, New Zealand and the United States signed the Anzus Treaty and we celebrated the 50th anniversary of Federation.

It was also the year a nervous 15-year-old girl began playing the organat Bordertown Methodist Church's worship services. Seventy-five years later, Judy Grimm continues to play the instrument she fell in love with as a child, and is the musical heart of Drysdale Uniting Church services. Yet none of it would have happened without a conversation the then 11-year-old had with her father.

While the organ held plenty of appeal for Judy at that age, she wasn't so keen on the type of music involved when practising, and that's when her dad stepped in. "I remember I had a deep and meaningful conversation with him about whether I wanted to continue learning how to play," Judy recalls. "I said yes I did, but only if I could learn to play hymns." The rest, as they say, is history and, in 1951 at the age of 15, Judy began playing at evening services at Bordertown before also taking on morning services the following year.

Perhaps modestly, Judy doesn't see anything particularly impressive about someone so young playing in front of a congregation. "In those days lots of people went to church and many people learnt to play the piano, so a 15-year-old organist wasn't that unusual," Judy says. "I don't think my age even came into it. "I do recall being nervous, though, before that first time I played because I wanted to do it well."

Judy says she has played at hundreds of weddings and funerals over the years, and at worship services in many different churches, even Cairns in Far North Queensland while on holiday with her husband Keith one year. "Wherever we went on holiday we always went to church and, this particular Sunday, we were on holiday in Cairns when the minister's wife asked me to play," she says. "I've certainly had quite an interesting time as an organist over the years."

Judy and Keith moved from Bordertown to Clifton Springs in 1992, having discovered the area two years earlier when visiting during Keith's role as District Governor with Rotary, and she has been one of the organists at Drysdale Uniting Church ever since. One of Judy's highlights as an organist was a visit to the Methodist Central Hall next to Westminster Abbey in London and an opportunity to have a chat with the organist after the service.





She also takes great pride in the fact she played at the large service in Bordertown in 1977 marking the formation of the Uniting Church in Australia. “That was a wonderful event with all of the churches from the district gathered in the town hall and a choir of about 50 people from the various Methodist churches in the area singing while I played,” Judy recalls. “I can remember the occasion vividly, even down to describing exactly what I wore that day.”

So what is it that brings Judy so much joy when she sits in front of the organ to play? “I just love the act of worship through music and I always try to play things that are appropriate to the theme of each service,” she says. “I still get a great deal of pleasure out of it, although I know I can’t play as well now as I used to.” The key, she says, is playing some of the more traditional and well-known hymns and sacred music.

For many years she loved practising and playing with the Drysdale choir. “I have never aspired to play anything I felt was beyond me, but there is plenty of nice music that can be played,” Judy says. While she turned 90 in February, Judy plans to continue playing at Drysdale Uniting Church on an occasional basis. “I haven’t actually said I will retire yet, and I do still play on the first Sunday of each month,” she says.

“The congregation has always been appreciative of what I do, so hopefully I can continue for some time yet.”

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CROSSLIGHT



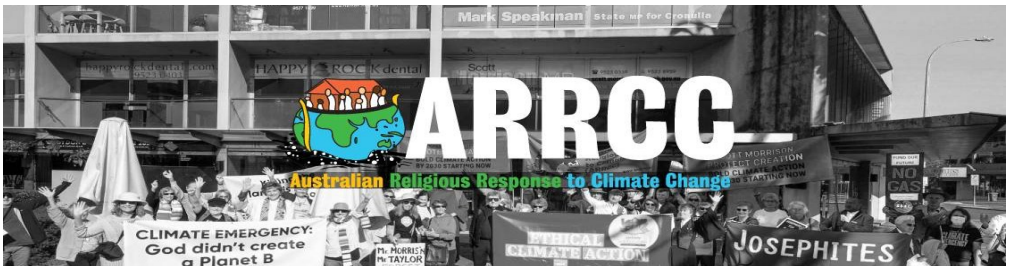


Welcome to our new friend Chase who will be sharing her violin talents with us as we come to church -
Thank you Chase for this delightful musical welcome



WOW!

What a day of faith action on climate change!



From Margaret Bode and our Social Justice Group -

"I want to say a huge thank you to everyone who helped make yesterday (6th October) happen. We had an amazingly successful day and I think everyone involved should take a moment to appreciate just how significant it has been"
Tejopala - Australian Religious response to Climate Change

Amongst the many achievements of the day were an open letter to the Prime Minister signed by 80 senior Australian faith leaders across Australia and a media coverage of more than 150 items with a combined reach of more than 22 million people. This included TV and radio coverage in many states. The day in pictures -



Wesley Uniting Perth



St Michaels Uniting Melbourne



St Johns Cathedral Brisbane



Rabi Jonathan Newcastle



Guru Nanak Temple Cairns

ARRCC is a multi-faith, member-based organisation of people from around Australia who are committed to taking action on climate change. We believe that as people dedicated to the common good, inspired by our beliefs and energized by our spirituality, people of all faiths at the forefront of creating a safe climate. While celebrating the uniqueness of our different traditions, we stand together in working for an ecologically and socially sustainable future. Learn more at Who We Are - ARRCC

We've had a number of requests for Gail Yarldey's (*Joan Lum's niece)* delicious Ginger & Pistachio Slice - so Here it is!

Thank you Gail for this delightful additive to our morning tea!

BISCUITS & SLICES

Ginger & Pistachio Slice

BASE:

1 cup raw unsalted Pistachio nuts (shelled)
125g butter
1 packet vanilla wine biscuits *(I use Arnotts Marie biscuits)*
1 cup coconut
50g finely chopped crystallised ginger *(I increase this to 75g)*
1 teaspoon ground ginger
½ can sweetened condensed milk



ICING:

2 cups icing sugar
80g softened butter
2 tablespoons golden syrup
2 teaspoons ground ginger
2 tablespoons milk

To make the base:

Lightly toast pistachio nuts on a tray in a 180C oven for 5 minutes then chop coarsely.
Set aside ½ for topping.
Melt butter & cool.
Crush wine biscuits with a rolling pin
Mix all ingredients then press the mixture into a sponge roll tin lined with baking paper. Refrigerate until firm.

To make the icing:

Beat all ingredients together until smooth & creamy.
Spread over chilled base then sprinkle with reserved pistachios.
Refrigerate to firm the icing then, using the paper lift the whole block out and cut into squares.



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

Sunday 4th	Pentecost 19	Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9 12-20 Is 5:1-7	Psalm 19 Psalm 80:7-15	Philippians 3:4b-14	Matthew 21:33-46
Sunday 11th	Pentecost 20	Exodus 32:1-14	Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23	Philippians l 4:1-9	Matthew 22:1-14
Sunday 18th	Pentecost 21	Exodus 33:12-23	Psalm 99	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10	Matthew 22:15-22
Sunday 25th	Pentecost 22	Deuteronomy 34:1-12	Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17	1 Thessalonians 2:1-8	Matthew 22:34-46

We pray for all in need especially -

Prayers of the People



Alannah and children Sophie, Harvey and Austin
Peter & Rubia
Lyn's family—*friend of Costellos*
Matilda
Cec Bartholomeusz
Robyn
Pat
Adie & Ally
Katherine's cousin David & Family
Tina, friend of Joan Wood
Phillip (Barbara's nephew)
Anne-Maree, Andrew and their daughter, Rachel
Maria
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
Barry
Adrian
Gloria, Samson & Family
Mark
Joyce Carpenter
Andrew
Bronwyn
Teresa
June and Grace Fairbank

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

~ DINE OUT GROUP ~

Our next dine out will be at 6:30pm on Tuesday October 20th at Little Italy (Zero) in Mentone.
Please let Joan Lum (0437 307 066) know if you are interested in attending.
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 South-land, **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 do-nate 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 Life Maps of God are Right" Rev Greg Fry
4th October 2026

*Click on image or **HERE** to view*



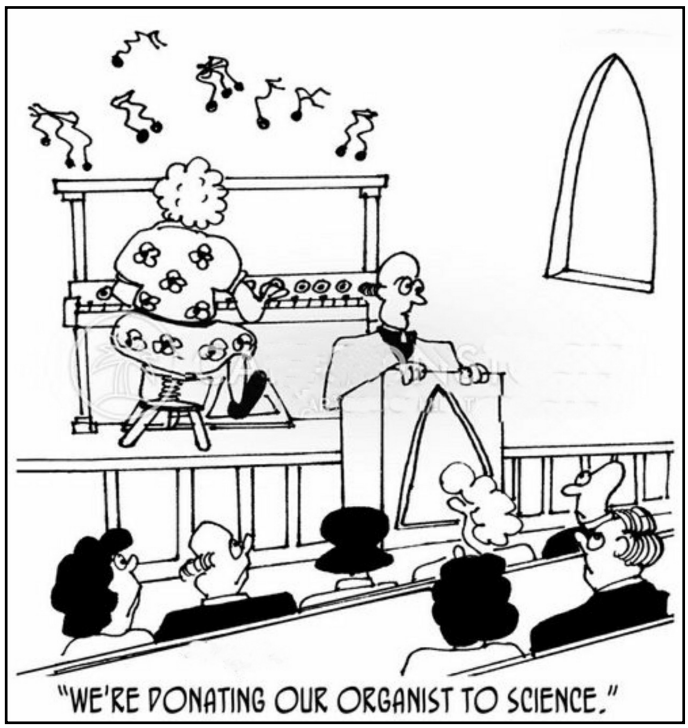
Church on the Internet - Sunday 10am *(virtual doors open 9:45 am)*



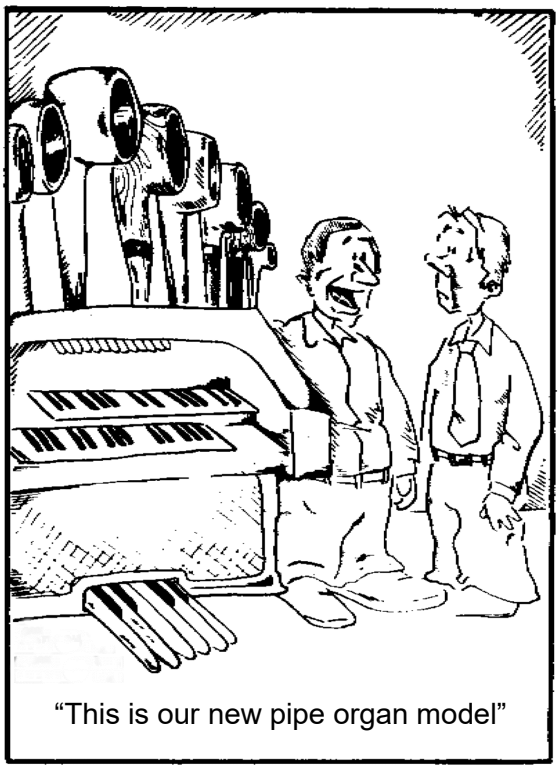
If you don't have Zoom on your computer/laptop/iPad/Smartphone, click on https://zoom.us/support/download
Then click on this link below or the "Sunday Church" image to join our Service
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82004410836?pwd=cU9RWlhVMm8wOUw0TStLV1EvNFdYdz09
Meeting ID: 820 0441 0836 Passcode: 665 784
You can also join us on your phone by dialling **03 7018 2005** and entering the above meeting details.

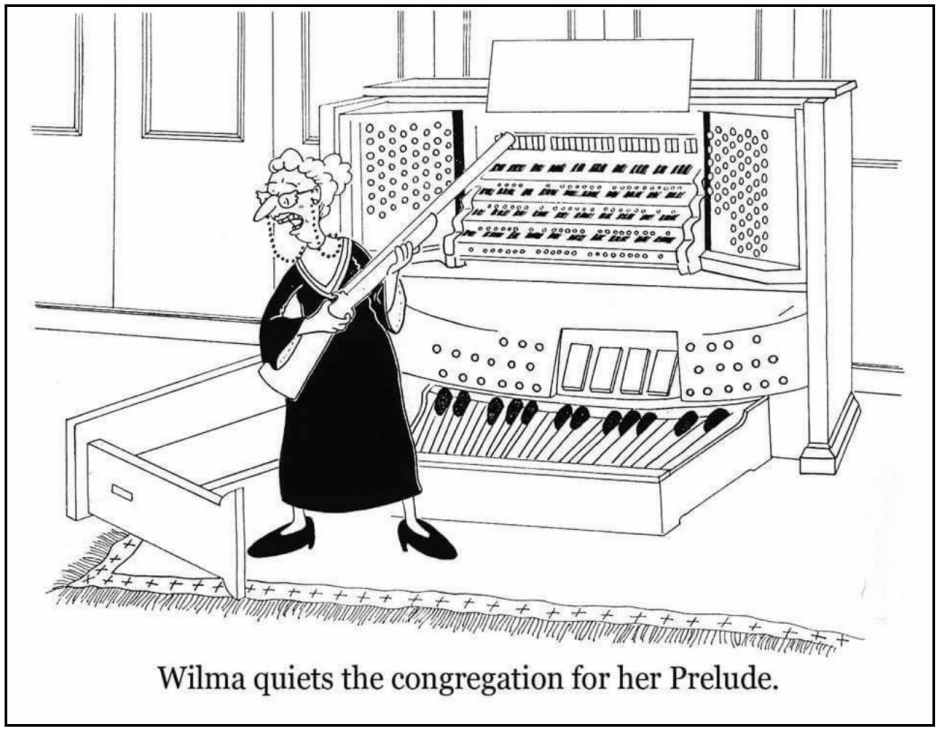


Organically speaking …. …






"This is our new pipe organ model"


Wilma quiets the congregation for her Prelude.



