

Charman Uniting Church
News Letter
18th October 2026 Vol 7 No 37 Pentecost 21



Charman Uniting Church members are excited about what lies ahead after the redevelopment of the church. Image: Alan Moyle

Charman congregation CELEBRATES OPENING

A significant redevelopment of Charman Uniting Church in Cheltenham was celebrated last month, opening an exciting new chapter for the congregation.

By Andrew Humphries

While an official reopening last month marked the completion of a major renovation of Charman Uniting Church, minister Rev Greg Fry believes it's just the start of an exciting journey for the congregation.

The congregation celebrated the opening of the church's revamped headquarters in Cheltenham at a ceremony on September 20.

Charman Uniting Church represents the coming together of four distinct congregations from Cheltenham, Mentone, Herald Street and Black Rock.

Herald Street Uniting Church and Cheltenham Methodist Church formed a joint Cheltenham Church Council in 2000. The Cheltenham and Mentone congregations began worship together in 2014, before joining together with the Black Rock congregation in 2023, after a strong bond was formed during a period when the Black Rock congregation hosted them as construction work took place on the Charman Road church.

As part of the transition, the mission centre at Black Rock was sold, marking a new chapter as the combined congregations held their inaugural worship service at the Charman Road site in May this year.

The redevelopment at Charman Road has created a unique opportunity to have restored and relocated significant stained glass from the Black Rock church building to the new mission centre, blending new features, refurbished elements and cherished existing pieces to achieve a versatile, multi-functional space.

Greg says the result is a place of worship which holds particular significance for congregation members.

He says while there was an option to knock the existing two buildings down and begin a new development from scratch, he is glad the congregation's decision was to repurpose those existing buildings.

"The redevelopment using the existing buildings has allowed us to go on a journey and grow into a new future," Greg says.

"It's a journey based around dwelling, discerning and exploring, and redeveloping the old buildings allowed us to grow into seeing what the buildings could be in the future.

"I think that whole process has actually shaped us, and having a mix of the old and new allows us to celebrate our history and the flexibility to move into the future.

"I don't know that we would have had that insight if we were designing a new building from scratch."

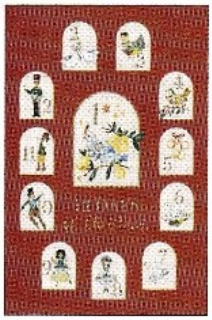
Greg says the new headquarters now offer a place of connection for people in the community.



Charman Uniting Church minister Rev Greg Fry, Moderator Rev Salesi Faupula, pastor Di Paterson and Presbytery of Port Phillip East chairperson David Higham at the opening on September 20. Image: Alan Moyle

Let Christmas wishes support those in need.

Your purchase helps people in crisis this Christmas.



12 Days of Christmas

$15 per pack of 10

Sentiment: May the festive season bring only happiness and joy to you and your loved ones.



Australian Native Flora (Mixed Pack 1)

$15 per pack of 10

Native Flora sentiment: May you have a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year.
Floral Joy sentiment: May the joy and peace of Christmas be yours throughout the year.



Christmas Stockings

$15 per pack of 10

Sentiment: Wishing you a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year.

Nativity (Mixed Pack 2)

$15 per pack of 10

Nativity Sentiment: May joy be yours during the season of goodwill and may the New Year bring grace and peace.

Nativity Bible Verse: 'And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.' John 1:14

Three Kings Sentiment: May joy be your gift at Christmas and may hope and love be your treasures in the New Year.
Three Kings Bible Verse: 'From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.' John 1:16





Peace Dove

$15 per pack of 10

Sentiment: May happiness be yours during the season of goodwill and may the new year bring peace and joy to you and your loved ones.

New premium gift tags

$8 per pack of 10. All with strings attached. Size: 90mm x 55mm.



Gift Tag 1
Love Peace Joy



Gift Tag 2
Peace Dove



Gift Tag 3
Merry Christmas



Gift Tag 4
Kookaburra Wreath

Call us
1800 668 426 (opt 5)

Visit
unitingvictas.org.au /christmas-cards

All prices are inclusive of postage and handling.

Uniting is the community services organisation of the Uniting Church in Victoria and Tasmania.

REGISTERED CHARITY

Uniting

A Tribute to Our Amazing Minister



Pastor Di Paterson Our Amazing Minister (OAM) has created a different definition of "Short Term Supply" when she joined us in 2016

First, every three months a request for an extension was sent to Presbytery for the next three months. That process was extended to every 6 months, then 12 months and then in the end we were told "not to bother". Hence after 10 years how blessed we are to have this amazing person guiding us and sharing our lives.

COVID 19 began at end of February 2020 and we at St Andrew's were:

- Sent "Morning and Evening Prayers during Isolation"
- Organised into Online services at Glen Waverley UC with Rev Neil Peters and Frank our IT guru, on 29 March 2020 just before Easter, celebrating Easter Sunday on 12 April 2020.
- Sent inspirational letters with amazing pics every Monday, Wednesday and Friday with funny beginnings like Marvellous Monday, Wacky Wednesday, Freaky Friday. Till in December 2020 we may have "a near normal Christmas". Then these letters became Wednesday letters from 2nd February 2022 to 29 April 2026
- Started on ZOOM 13 June 2021 with Cheltenham, but lockdown continued as did the Wednesday letters.
- Again, spoilt during this time with an Order of Service complete with an Early Word and Sermon to read which was sent to all through 2020 into early 2021.
- Cared for pastorally, within the strict guidelines, during COVID. Also, pre and post COVID we received and witnessed pastoral care from Pastor Di, who has made an art form out of Pastoral Care.
- At a rough estimate during this decade, except for Di's trips to Canada, Queensland and recently hospital for a new knee, 42 Orders of Service and 460 Weekly Letters were sent to a grateful congregation from our amazing and wonderful Short Term Supply Minister.



Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)

.. written with appreciation

CHURCHYARD MUSIC

A tourist is going through a Vienna Churchyard when he suddenly hears music. There is no one around, so he searches for the source.

He finds it coming from a grave with a headstone reading "Ludwig van Beethoven 1770 - 1827". He realises the music is Beethoven's 9th Symphony.

Puzzled, he leaves and returns next day only to find that the music is now Beethoven's 8th Symphony.. followed by the 7th Symphony then the 6th and so on.

Next day a crowd has gathered to hear this when the Grave Caretaker arrives and announces to the crowd - "I thought this would be obvious -

Beethoven's decomposing!"

(*thanks to Dawn Odgers for this groaner)*

A Christmas Consideration

This year we are considering a “Christmas Tree Festival” when we invite various community groups to ‘decorate a tree’ in our church. Much planning to be done but here are pictures from a similar annual event held at Holy Trinity Anglican, Balaclava













Some interesting designs including a “Holistic Jolly Holly” skeleton tree decorated by the “St Kilda Primary School Sick Bay”!



Right: The interior of Holy Trinity all decorated with Christmas trees



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 –
"Our God Is? " Pastor Di Paterson
11th October 2026

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



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

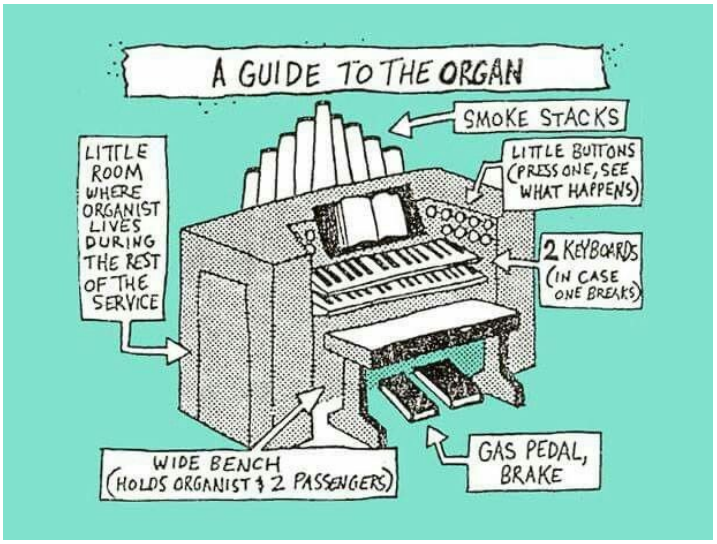


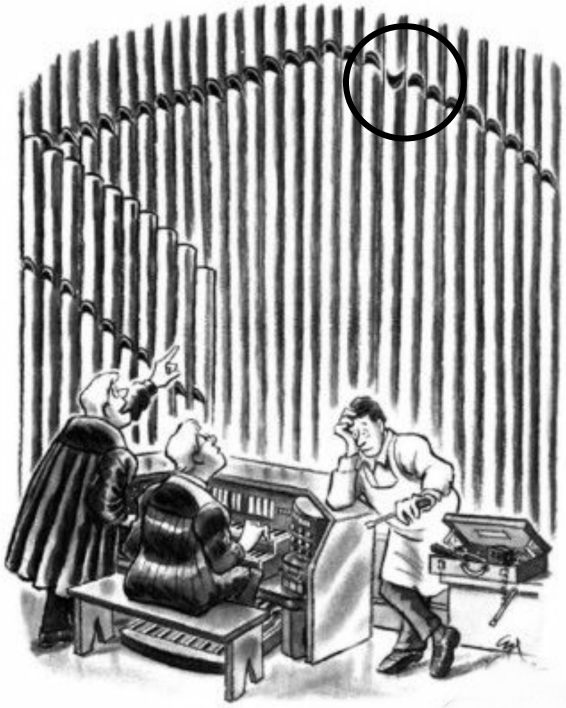
If you don't have Zoom on your computer/laptop/iPad/Smartphone, click on https://zoom.us/support/download
Then click on this link below or the "Sunday Church" image to join our Service
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82004410836?pwd=cU9RWlhVMm8wOUw0TStLV1EvNFdYdz09
Meeting ID: 820 0441 0836 Passcode: 665 784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



More organically speaking …. …







"There! That's the one."





I hate it when the organist is away on holiday!

