

Charman Uniting Church

News Letter

25th October 2026 Vol 7 No 38 Pentecost 22

Whilst one church has buildings only a few months old, a nearby church is celebrating 165 years of existence



By Andrew Humphries

For 165 years, the current Heatherton-Dingley Uniting Church building has sat proudly on the corner of Kingston and Old Dandenong roads in Heatherton. Heatherton is located on the traditional lands of the Bunurong (Boonwurrung) people of the Kulin Nation, who have a deep, enduring spiritual and cultural connection to the area's waterways and land.

The building has been there so long that it's often referred to simply as the 'little white church on the corner'. As its congregation celebrates the 165th anniversary, members take great pride in recognising and celebrating the church's historic and long-standing connection to the Heatherton area. In April last year, that connection was also recognised with confirmation from the Dingley Village Historical Society that the church is the area's oldest building and has been in continual use as a place of worship since its construction in 1861. "The church has been … supporting the community with a variety of activities since its construction," the historical society said. "It is a valuable asset to the community that needs to be preserved for future generations."

Heatherton-Dingley congregation member Bob Lorraine has been instrumental in organising celebrations marking the anniversary, but admits there is no guarantee there will be another major celebration in 35 years. While 200 years of worship in the one building would be quite an achievement, Bob says that will only happen if new faces become part of the congregation.

Like many congregations, the age of many of its members means planning for the future is often a fraught process. "We generally get between 20 and 25 people to a service," Bob says. "We have lost 19 people in the last year and so we're looking towards this 165th anniversary celebration as a way of generating renewed interest in what we do. "We're certainly very proud of the church's long history of being a place of worship and our hope is that there will still be a congregation around in 35 years to celebrate its 200th anniversary."

While 1861 marked the construction of the current church, its birth can actually be traced back to 1859, before Heatherton was known by that name. At that time Methodist churches had been established for some years in Brighton, Moorabbin and Cheltenham, when a Mr Laver found the need for a centre of worship in Kingstown, as it was then known.

The home of a Mr Henderson was used for the first services before Mr Laver opened his own home for worship. A grant of two acres of land was obtained and the church's foundation stone was laid by Rev Padwick in 1861 for a building to be constructed on the corner of Kingston and Old Dandenong roads. The church was built free of charge by Mr Laver, a stonemason, with materials carted from a quarry in Dingley by teams of bullocks.

A building committee was formed to obtain funds for completion of the work and the church opened free of debt. In 1909, a timber church was built next to the original building to create more space for worship activities.



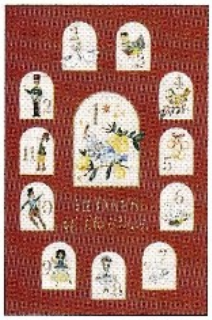
Crosslight acknowledges the Dingley Village Historical Society for resources on the church's history.

Read more in CROSSLIGHT ->

CROSSLIGHT

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

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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

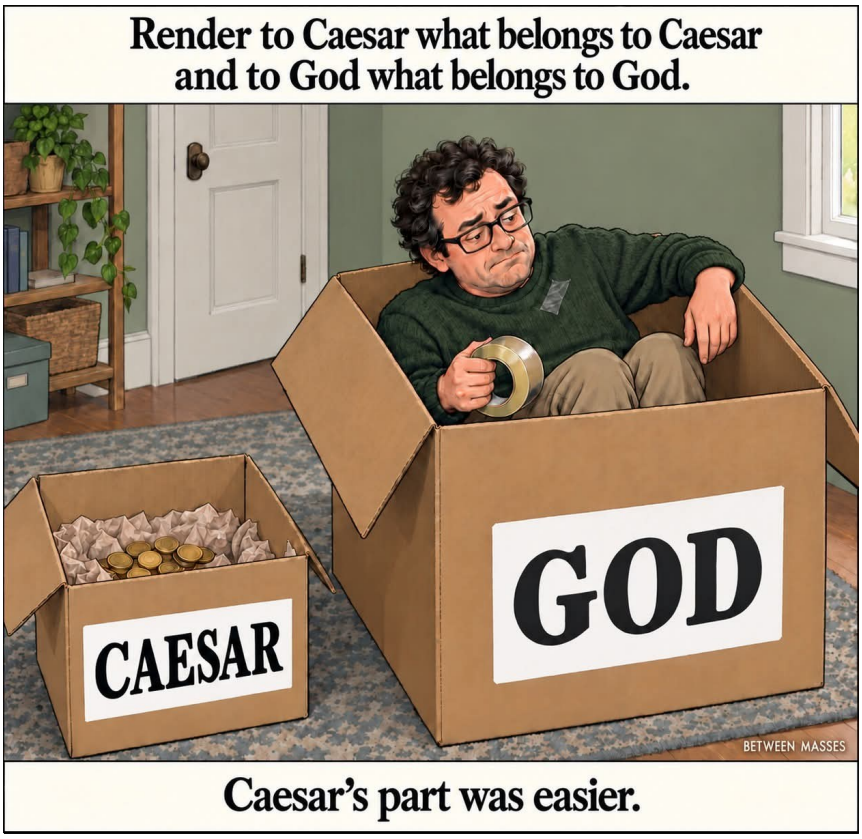
Uniting

Our Outdoor deck a Success

For the first time last Sunday we were able to use our new outdoor deck for coffee and chat. Rated a huge success, the new servery window a big hit!







Further to Greg's sermon last Sunday .....



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



Peter Aumann & Family
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..

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER GROUP

The next meeting of the Charman Contemplative Prayer will be held at **11am this Wednesday October 28th.** Meetings for the rest of the year will be held on the fourth Wednesday - November 25th and December 23rd.

All are welcome to come to this time of silent prayer interspersed with simple Taize song and Scripture sentences. Contact Joan, 0421 844 946 if more information needed

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 – "Therefore give to Caesar …" Rev Greg Fry 18th 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.



Music hath charms …. …

