

# Cheltenham - Mentone Uniting Church

## News Letter

Vol 2 No 31 24th October 2021



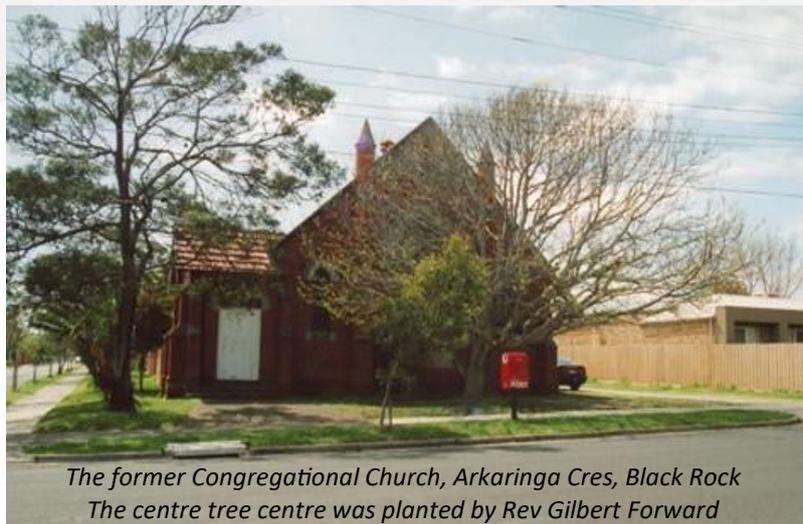
### An Enduring Link ..

In 1890 a Congregational Church began in Arkaringa Cres, Black Rock, the first protestant church in the area. Through many testing years that followed the congregation expressed their faith in regular church attendance and community activities. In 1977 it became part of the Black Rock Uniting Church in Balcombe Rd.

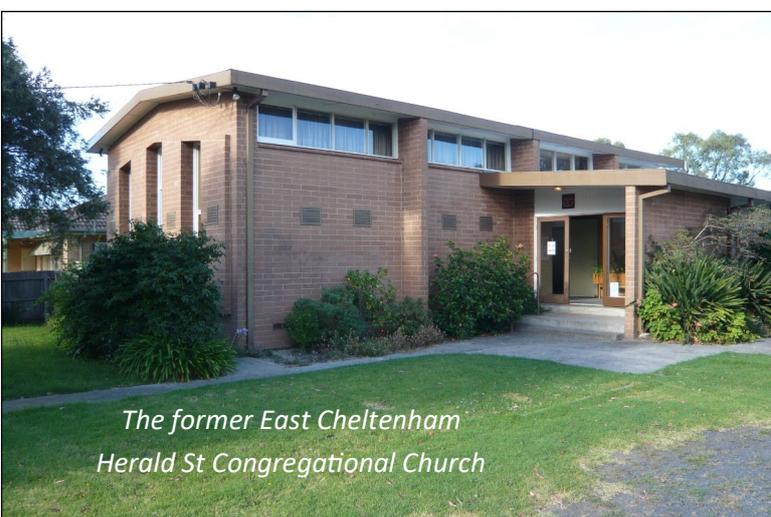
Meanwhile, by the 1950s, nearby suburbs of Mentone & Cheltenham were expanding as market gardens in Cheltenham, and racing precincts in Mentone became new housing estates to cater for the expanding population of young families needing homes.

Early in 1962 the Congregational Union decided, in consultation with other churches in nearby suburbs, including Black Rock, to purchase several blocks of land in East Cheltenham, using money held in trust from the sale of an earlier church in Collingwood. A new church was born – early services were held in homes, in the local primary school, and later a garage built with voluntary labour. Donations from other churches provided the necessities for the church to function. Next came the Manse – a good size home for the times which included a large room used as a church & meeting room for several years. Support from Black Rock was invaluable.

In 1963, Rev Allan Searle was inducted into the joint Pastorate of Black Rock & Cheltenham. Working bees were a regular feature, and there were many shared social events & plenty of fundraising. The names of the Munsters, the Odgers and the Parrys from Black Rock are still remembered. The two congregations shared a monthly newsletter (the Ark-Herald) for several years, and a church building was eventually built in Cheltenham. The Searles moved to South Australia in late 1968, and Rev Warnock Lowry began a 10 year term, initially with both churches, but soon the growing Cheltenham area needed fulltime attention, and the churches separated. Social and informal connections continued for some time & then came union in 1977 when connections changed again.



*The former Congregational Church, Arkaringa Cres, Black Rock  
The centre tree centre was planted by Rev Gilbert Forward*



*The former East Cheltenham  
Herald St Congregational Church*

The wheel of life has turned again, and the testing time of the Covid Pandemic and building changes has seen the Cheltenham (with Mentone) and Black Rock Uniting communities worshipping together at the Balcombe Rd building, with a couple of original members from the 1960s continuing the much earlier link.

*Recollections from Helen  
Cole and Dawn Odgers*



### Your Weekly Offering

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

**Envelopes:** You may do this by putting your pledge in the envelopes and bring them to church.

**Direct Debit:** (include your envelope number if applicable)

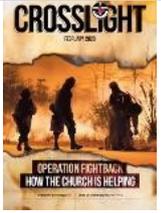
Payee "Uniting Church in Australia Cheltenham Mentone Parish Council", BSB 06 3119, Account Number 1014 1206



## Bible Readings for October 24th Pentecost 22 (the readings used in our service may differ slightly)

Job 42:1-6,10-17 Psalm 34:1-8,(19-22) Hebrews 7:23-28 Mark 10:46-52

CROSSLIGHT is available on the internet - click on the following link or the CROSSLIGHT image to view online. [www.crosslight.org.au](http://www.crosslight.org.au)



Print copies of CROSSLIGHT usually available at the entrance of the Black Rock Uniting Church. Latest CROSSLIGHT now available from David Vine, 4 Jemma Ct. Cheltenham 9583 7373.

### Prayers of the People

We pray especially for -

Margaret Bryan  
Robert (Joan Wright's brother)  
Pete, Bruce & Valda (friends of Jo-ann & David)  
Anita and Rod  
Barb Loosemore  
Isobel Churchward  
Gloria Sampson & Family

Stuart as he struggles with addiction  
Janine and June Bartholomeusz (Jenny & Cec thank you for your prayers)  
Audrey Fewster  
Margaret's neighbour Joan  
Grace Fairbank

Gemma and Teresa  
Heather (daughter of close friend of Graeme & Joan)  
Tina and her two teenage sons (also friends of Graeme & Joan)  
Susan Bartell  
Bronwyn



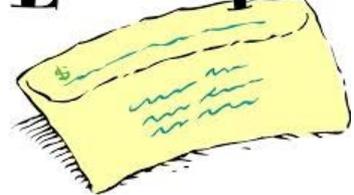
A reminder that for a number of reasons our present Planned Giving Envelope system will conclude at the end of October when this year's envelopes run out.

If you have been using this system please return any remaining envelopes to David Vine.

If you wish to continue with giving envelopes please let us know and we will arrange our own printing of envelopes for you.

Our thanks to those who have participated in the present scheme for many years.

## Offering Envelopes



## Church on the Internet - Sunday 10am (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/85247373230?pwd=WIM2UHJEemFWS3RScnNqM3puaGdZdz09>

Otherwise open Zoom and enter the following - **Meeting ID: 852 4737 3230** **Passcode: 836844**

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

The above link and meeting details apply for all our services until the **December 26th 2021**.



## Videos on the Internet



**NEW** YouTube Channel; Follow this link or click on the YouTube logo

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCH-y4pZ\\_f\\_lezegzNZi6nnQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCH-y4pZ_f_lezegzNZi6nnQ)  
to view selected sermons and service preludes



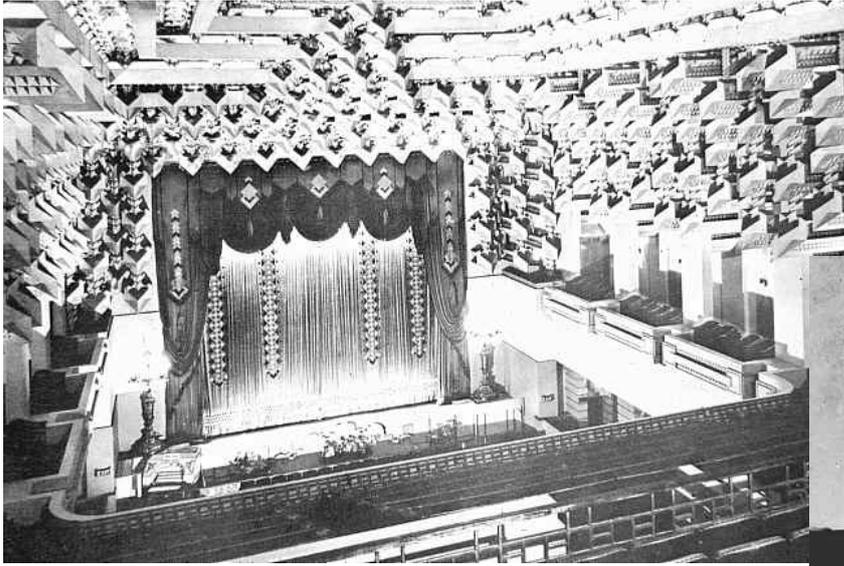
## Social Collection Department

**BayCISS** - collection of goods by Graeme & Joan Wood has recommenced. Leave goods with them at 66 Bernard St. Cheltenham, or call them (Graeme & Joan Wood) on 9555 0462 (BayCISS contact number 9555 9910)  
From BayCISS "Many thanks to all those who continue to drop off food parcels".

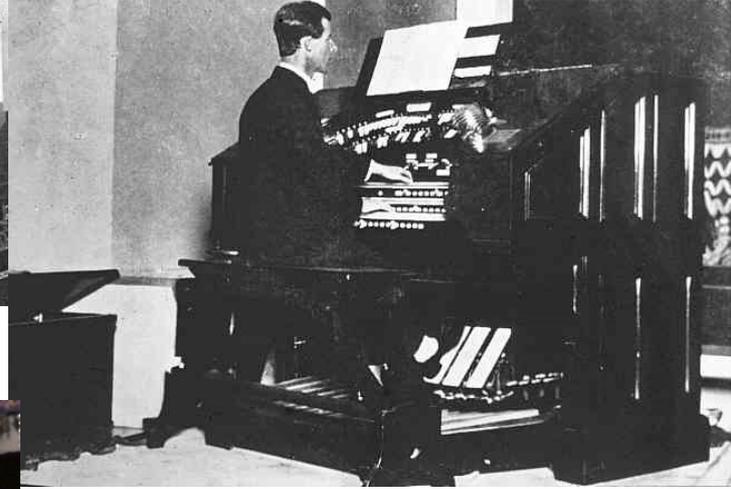
**Emerge** - Financial help is the best way to help - Cheques to - GPO Box 420 Melbourne VIC 3001 or donate via the website [www.emergesupport.org.au](http://www.emergesupport.org.au) Emerge welcomes vouchers for supermarkets or art materials which children could use at home - materials, pencils, colouring books etc. Margaret Bode is happy to take items to the Moorabbin office if you leave them at her home, 16 Monaco Street Parkdale.

# Eliza returns home ...

As per a previous email, it has been officially announced that the Wurlitzer organ which has resided in the Dendy Theatre, Brighton for the past 54 years will be returning to its original home in the Capitol Theatre, Swanston St, Melbourne. As I said on Facebook "Please Pardon the Personal Photographic Parade" but it is an important part of local history.



In 1924 the Capitol Theatre designed by Walter and Marion Burley-Griffin was Australia's first picture place with the largest Wurlitzer organ outside the USA, Master Organist Horace Weber at the console



Left: David Johnston and the first night of an organ in the Dendy Theatre, December 1961

Below: The first time he played a theatre pipe organ - Capitol Theatre 1962



In 1963 the Theatre Organ Society of Australia purchases the Capitol Wurlitzer and commences the massive task of removing it and later reinstalling it in the Dendy Theatre.



# Eliza returns home continued...



Left: From mohair jumper to boiler suit to dinner suit - David's first night on the Wurlitzer 1967



Right: Some of the 1.132 organ pipes behind the screen



Left: In 2013 Jo-ann Stenton instigates FODO (Friends Of the Dendy Organ) to specifically promote and raise money for the Dendy Wurlitzer



Right: Recording session Sunday 17th October, Professor Lisa French of RMIT University (on hand to officially announce the relocation of the Wurlitzer to the Capitol Theatre) rather startled by the sudden appearance of a young school boy dressed as he first heard the organ in the Capitol Theatre



Left: "Praise my soul the King of heaven" - David and concert MC (and fellow Old Haileyburian) Ian McLeod singing from the old school hymn book.

Right: A more sedate David announces the very last item to be heard on the Dendy organ - "The Dendy March" composed by English organist George Blackmore for the opening of the organ in 1967



"Eliza" - a nickname given to the Dendy Wurlitzer by American organist, Lyn Larsen after Eliza Dolittle of My Fair Lady fame - the common flower girl who was transformed into a beautiful lady, but would occasionally come out with something terrible - if you recall the scene at the Ascot races when Eliza disgraced herself!