



Birthdays are in the air

Congratulations to **Sybil Bond** on her recent 90th birthday! Unfortunately she wasn't able to be at church on that day, but via Zoom we were able to sing a rousing chorus of Happy Birthday. Well done Sybil, a faithful servant of our church.

Not to be outdone, on Wednesday 21st April **John Campbell** celebrated his **100th** birthday!

Also a faithful member of our church, John Selby Campbell was born on 21 April 1921. He had been attending our church since the age of 5 when coming to Cheltenham with his parents, visiting grandparents. He indicated it was not until the age of 14 that his family came to live in Cheltenham and then became part of the church family.

Around 18 years of age John became part of a young men's class led by John Allnutt on a Sunday afternoon. This activity came to a stop when John and others enlisted in the various war services from 1940 onwards.

John served in World War 2 at Tobruk as a Warrant Officer Second Class. His unit was known as the 2/3 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment (LAA). His regiment was involved in the Siege of Tobruk. By 10 April 1941 the German and Italian forces under the command of Lieutenant General Erwin Rommel had surrounded the Tobruk garrison which was being defended by British Commonwealth Forces, including more than 14,000 Australians under the command of Major General Morshead.

Fighting continued with heavy casualties until the Tobruk garrison was held. Finally on 7 December 1941 Rommel was forced to abandon the siege. This battle gave rise to the legend of the mighty "Rats of Tobruk." John's name was listed under the Australian Rats (A to K) (Source: The Rats of Tobruk Association). John Campbell recently attended the 80th Anniversary gathering of the Rats of Tobruk. John's name was also listed on the Church Honour Roll for 1939-45 War.

A Men's Society was formed in 1941 when 16 members, including John Campbell were present. It is known that there was an average of 20 for most of the meetings. The most significant contribution made by this group was their involvement in the "Bring out a Briton" campaign between 1963 and 1969. The church sponsored twelve families. This entailed finding suitable accommodation. The men carried out trade jobs, found and carried furniture. The Ladies Auxiliary took a leading role in providing curtains, bedding, etc. and filling the refrigerator and cupboards.

John was Secretary of the Cheltenham Methodist Sunday School in 1947-48.

He joined the Cheltenham Methodist Property Trust on 1 February 1952 and eventually became the Secretary, a position he held up until about the time of Church Union in 1977.

John also played an important part in the design and opening of the current church in 1965. John, and his late wife, Val provided a Prayer Desk as a gift to the Church.

(from notes he prepared for the 150th Anniversary Celebrations of our church on 12 September 2005, from Australian Army records and other sources)



John Campbell attending the recent 80th anniversary gathering of the Rats of Tobruk

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 when we restart Sunday services.

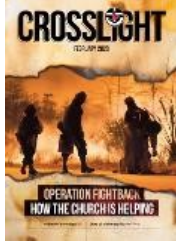
Direct Debit: (include your envelope number if applicable)

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



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** now available at the entrance of the Black Rock Uniting Church, not from the Manse verandah.



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** (*same as before*) and entering the above meeting details.
The above link and meeting details apply for all our services until the **April 25th 2021**.

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 on 9555 0463

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 take items to the Moorabbin office if you leave them at her home, 16 Monaco Street Parkdale.



Videos on the internet

We now have our own YouTube Channel. Click on the YouTube logo or <https://youtube.com/channel/UCPNMmOZcLZG12hSd9-HiJCQ> to view selected sermons and service preludes

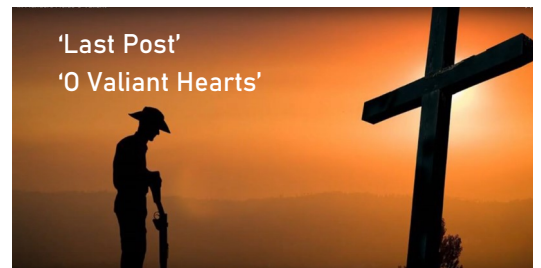


With **Anzac Day** approaching, may I suggest this video from last year -

Last Post/O Valiant hearts

<https://youtu.be/idLjCKrBpUo>

or click on the image ..



Prayers of the People

We pray especially for -

The Royal Family
Dawn's daughter Lynne
Barb Loosemoore
Bronwyn
Anita and Rod
Val and Peter
Alan & Joanne (*Family of Helen Cole*)

Jenny, Janine, Cec
and June Bartholomeusz
Audrey Fewster
Margaret's neighbour Joan
Gloria Sampson & Family
Grace Fairbank
Bruce & Valda (*friends of Jo-ann & David*)

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

Fear

Khalil Gibran

It is said that before entering the sea
a river trembles with fear.

She looks back at the path she has traveled,
from the peaks of the mountains,
the long winding road crossing forests and villages.

And in front of her,
she sees an ocean so vast,
that to enter
there seems nothing more than to disappear forever.

But there is no other way.
The river can not go back.

Nobody can go back.
To go back is impossible in existence.

The river needs to take the risk
of entering the ocean
because only then will fear disappear,
because that's where the river will know
it's not about disappearing into the ocean,
but of becoming the ocean.

