



### Church Life - A National Approach

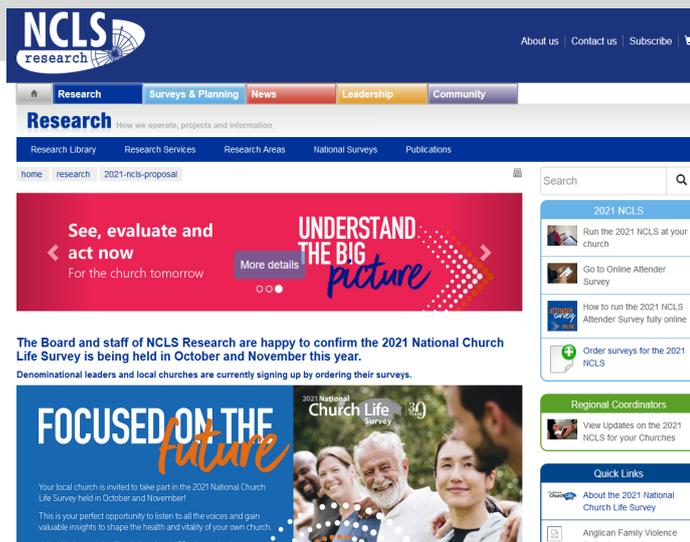
There is no doubt that COVID-19 has changed the landscape with just about everything we do, from how we shop, how we pay our bills, how we travel and even how we 'do church'. Thank goodness for Zoom and its equivalents that we have been able to stay connected via the digital medium.

But COVID has some lasting problems, not the least of which is our building project at Cheltenham and future direction of church in general. With uncertainties of costs, labour and supply, COVID is causing us delays in the building project, thus making our job of church planning very difficult, AND when the building is complete, with the ever changing social landscape, what will be our mission and outreach goals then? If only we could see into the future -

The "National Church Life Survey Research" is a joint venture started by church mission agencies in the early 1990s to study Australian spirituality, church health, effective and sustainable leadership, and the connections between church and community. The most well known five-yearly project is called the *National Church Life Survey*, which has had millions of participants. Co-operating denominations, including Catholics, Anglicans and Protestants, are a network for sharing practical resources to help churches and communities.

It is an outstanding example of co-operation across denominations and traditions. Participants in the 2016 *National Church Life Survey* included more than 20 Christian denominations, 3000 local churches, around 260 000 adult attenders (aged 15+) and 10,000 child attenders (8 to 14 yrs) plus around 6 000 leaders (lay and clergy)

**"Focused on the Future", the 2021 Survey has been extended until the end of February and will be a valuable tool in determining how we move forward at Cheltenham and Black Rock.**

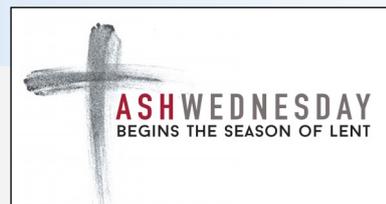


To this end we urge as many of you as possible to take part in the Survey. It should take no more than 20 minutes of your time (*I did it in 10 minutes*). Online is very easy— go to this website (*or click on the image above*) <https://attendersurvey.ncls.org.au/> and enter this Local Church Code **UA2B1201** (*Black Rock members should also use this Code*)

Otherwise I have a good supply of the good old 'pen and paper' survey forms available at Church (*which have the Local Church Code already filled in for you*).

### Ash Wednesday Service at Black Rock

There will be an Ash Wednesday Service on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 11:30 am at the Black Rock Uniting Church. It will also be on Zoom - details to follow.



**WEEKLY OFFERINGS:** Thanks to everyone who have continued to make their weekly offering.  
**Envelopes:** If you wish your offering to be specifically for Cheltenham, please place it in an envelope marked "Cheltenham" and place it in the offering bowl at church.  
**Direct Debit:** Cheltenham / Mentone members note that direct payments can now be made to our new Westpac account at **Southland The account number is 664 881 and the BSB number is 033 358**  
Payee "Uniting Church in Australia Cheltenham Mentone Parish Council"  
The former Commonwealth Bank - BSB 06 3119, Account Number 1014 1206 - is still active for the time being.  
**Cheltenham-Mentone Members:** Please bear in mind that although we are worshipping at Black Rock, the expenses of gas, electricity, water, insurance and maintenance are still ongoing at Cheltenham.

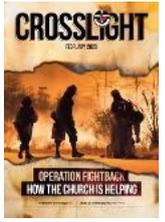


## Bible Readings for February 20th Epiphany 7 *(the readings used in our service may differ slightly)*

Genesis 45:3-11, 15 Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 Luke 6:27-38

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 Jedda Crt. Cheltenham 9583 7373.



### Prayers of the People



We pray especially for -

The families and friends of  
Shirley Morgan and Gail Hobbs  
Virginia *(Nan's friend)*  
Betty Kneen  
Dawn's daughter Carol  
Robert *(Joan Wright's brother)*  
Pete, Bruce & Valda *(friends of  
Jo-ann & David)*

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  
Susan Bartell  
Bronwyn  
Gloria Sampson & Family  
Barb Loosemore  
Isobel Churchward  
Anita and Rod

## 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.

## World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical Christian laywomen's initiative. It is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March and aims to bring together women of various races, cultures and traditions in a yearly common Day of Prayer. There will be a Celebration at the **Beumaris Uniting Church**, cnr Gibbs & Dalgetty Rds Beumaris on **Friday 4th March at 1:30pm**. QR check in, masks and vaccination required. We are checking for other celebrations in our area.



### World Day of Prayer 2022

England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Date and time: Friday 4th March 2022  
1.30 p.m.

Location: Beumaris Uniting church  
Cnr. Gibbs St. & Dalgetty Road,  
Beumaris

Contact: Wendy Hinds 0418 363 696  
Afternoon tea provided.  
Covid: QR. Masks. Vaccinated.

## Videos on the Internet



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

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCH-y4pZ\\_f\\_1ezegzNZi6nnQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCH-y4pZ_f_1ezegzNZi6nnQ)  
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

**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.

# Good Old Sammy Stamp!



## Covid can't stop us! Sammy Stamp report by Allan J Clark



Despite the pandemic, and due to the continued support of church and community groups, individuals and businesses around Victoria, Tasmania and indeed Australia we had another good annual sales result, whilst helping 14 causes with grants (previous year we gave seven).

Sales have reached about \$43,587 as of 14/12/2021 (in 2020 \$18,019).

Total sales since 1977 have now reached about \$1,058,243.

Thanks to the helpers from our pool of about 25 volunteers who come down to 15 Black Street, Brighton, to trim, sort and sell stamps, etc. thereby raising funds to support many worthy causes. Thanks particularly to Ian and Margaret Beaumont, Leon Pederick, Richard Hicks and Rob Turner for their time and energy.

Another thank you to Rev Dr Jenny Byrnes, our eLM Executive Officer and other church staff, particularly in the finance section, for their assistance during 2021.

Thanks also to Uniting Church Adult Fellowship, Presidents and Council for continued support. I should mention Helen Beeby who reports on our work monthly in *Net Work*, also John Black and the folk of Trinity Uniting Church for their continuing support in allowing us to use their facilities free of charge.

*Cont. on page 15*

**\*STOP PRESS** – On break-up-day, Thursday 16th December, the Sammy Stamp volunteers agreed to a grant of \$5,000 to the Loddon Mallee Presbytery to continue the Chaplain's Ministry at Bendigo Hospital. This brings the total of grants made for the year to a record \$58,000.

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*NetWork Magazine* February

Sammy Stamp has a million reasons to celebrate after licking a major milestone. Over its 45 years of operation, the Uniting Church Adult Fellowship (UCAF) fundraising group has amassed \$1 million from selling donated stamps.

Impressively, \$500,000 was raised in just the last 13 years. Sammy Stamp's Convenor Allan Clark thanked and acknowledged "the hundreds of volunteers and thousands of supporters all around Australia over the past 45 years who helped us reach this milestone."

Hopefully you have been saving your used stamps from Christmas - they can be brought to the Black Rock church or given to Helen Cole anytime.

Remember that old stamp collections are very welcome too. The Uniting Church volunteers are back sorting on a regular basis & last year, despite Covid, Sammy Stamps was able to provide \$58,000 in small grants to mostly local Uniting Church projects.

Enquiries - Helen Cole 8588 1789 .

*Our thanks to Helen Cole for this information*



Below is a list of grants approved during 2021. Total \$53,000. (2020 \$32,000).

- High Street UC, Frankston - for toilets Poeba, E. Timor. \$3,000
- Coburg UC – a community hall, Seghe Theological Seminary, Solomon Islands. \$5,000
- Mission Liaison Group – Transporting goods overseas. \$4,000
- Vanuatu Prevention of Blindness Project. \$2,000
- Sisters of Mercy – Supporting the Sisters in PNG working among local folk affected by COVID-19. \$5,000
- Swan Hill UC – for 'Welcome Nights' for refugee men. \$2,000
- Healesville UC – to increase milk supply for needy school children in Mali Saba, Kenya. \$5,000
- Frontier Services – Supporting Bush Chaplains in outback Australia. \$5,000
- Uniting VicTas – Warm Hearts, Transforming Lives. Winter Appeal. \$5,000
- Coordinate – workshop for Aboriginals to record scripture and songs in own languages in Gove, Northern Territory. \$5,000
- Glen Waverley UC – Welfare Program; food and pharmacy costs. \$3,000
- UnitingWorld – Clean water & toilets in PNG/Solomon Islands, disability support in Sri Lanka, empowering girls in India \$4,000
- Grandparents raising Grandchildren, Uniting Tasmania – Food vouchers for Mental Health Clients. \$2,000
- National Council of Churches Christmas Bowl – Assisting Syrian refugees in Jordan and Sri Lankan refugees in India. \$3,000

TOTAL \$53,000

Total of grants since 1977 - \$1,065,693