



Uniting Church in Australia
SEACLIFF WEEKLY NEWS

Sunday 26th March 2017

Lent 4

Lent Event Project

This week's **Lent Event focus** project is "***Jesus the Redeemer – Training Christian Leaders in China***".

It's the fastest growing church in the world — and we're part of it. Every week in China, for the last thirty years, a worshipping community has either been newly built or re-opened.

The story of the church in China is one of redemption. Closed and largely silenced during the Cultural Revolution, the growth of the church since then has much to teach us about God's work in the world today. What are the powerful personal stories of transformation told by Chinese Christians that call others to faith? How did the Church grow from one million to 38 million in just thirty years? And how does it manage such a huge number of followers with only 3800 ordained ministers?

These are the questions the Uniting Church in Australia is seeking to answer in partnership with the China Christian Council, a relationship that was formalised 3 years ago in a historic agreement between our two Churches. We aim to support the training of desperately needed pastors, as well as learn from the vitality of this growing community of faith. "*This is a mutual relationship but it came at the direct request of the Church in China.*" says Project Manager Rev Dr Ji Zhang.

"The Church has huge needs — it's mostly lay—led with a total of 40,000 staff altogether. Most leaders have few theological qualifications, hold responsibility for congregations of hundreds of thousands and are attempting to train and teach 38 million followers. Supporting them to develop full leadership capacity is so vital — they are the fastest growing Christian community in the world and as the Christian centre moves from the West to the East, the need to equip a church with theological skills for the 21st century is critical. We are supporting the 12th Theological PhD Student in the entire country!

We're also supporting students at the National Seminary who'll work in remote communities caring for the elderly, vulnerable people and children who have been orphaned by the recent changes in Chinese society that have seen so many move to the cities looking for work. Donations to Lent Event this year are contributing to the leadership of the largest, most dynamic church in the world. Christianity may be losing influence in many parts of the West, but its shape and form are being decided right now in churches in Asia and Africa. The Uniting Church in Australia has a seat at the table through our relationship with the China Christian Council and your gift allows us not only to help shape young leaders, but to learn from the passionate witness of people in the Chinese Church. We learn from their experience as the spirit of God revitalises the church after decades spent underground.

Peter

Welcome to Seacliff Uniting Church!

If you are new to the area, visiting friends or family, or on a holiday, to you we extend a warm welcome, and invite you to share fully in worship and fellowship.

Our Minister is Peter Moss ☎ 8381 2943

This Week at Seacliff

TakeUs2

6 pm. Sunday 2nd April

What's News

TakeUs2

Next Sunday come along for a trip to the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador and the Antarctic. Enjoy the usual format of a light meal starting at 6 pm, some pictures and stories and, hopefully, be going home by 9pm. Your friends are welcome.

Geoff, Bev, Ian and Fay

Cogs "n" Coffee

The ride last Wednesday was into town and back too Maxwells for coffee which seemed to go well, with eight riders involved.

Next week's ride will be to catch the 9.00am train from Seacliff to Seaford and then ride back along the coast to vines trail with coffee in Old Reynella.

Brian

Baby boomers 70th Birthday Party

There will be a brief meeting this morning after Soapbox to make further plans for our party on June 24th. If you have ideas and would like to be involved, please stay for this meeting. David

SPIT ROAST on 29th April, 2017 - For the Diary

Yes, we are planning another SPIT ROAST and it will cost \$25.00 per person. We have 80 tickets to be sold and if you want to set up tables of 8, this can be arranged. If you are interested in coming, tickets are available but you can book a space by speaking to Von or John Bollinger. The money raised will be going partly to the Church Mission Project and Maintenance of church buildings. Love to see you all there..

Beyond Seacliff

Invitation to a Book Launch "Our Mob - God's Story"

5 April, 5.30PM ANZAC Hall, Prince Alfred College, Kent Town.

Our Mob, God's Story is an art book with a difference, with more than 115 works in an exciting variety of styles and stories by over 65 established and emerging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists. They share their faith in paintings inspired by Bible verses and stories, from Creation to the Crucifixion In an age when knowledge of the Bible seems to be fading, many Indigenous Australians claim it as an important game changer in their lives. Among the 73 per cent of Indigenous Australians who claim Christianity as their faith — more than the general population — Max Conlon, artist and Christian minister from Murgon, Queensland, is not atypical.

Max is one of 66 artists representing 41 language groups who have contributed their stories and their artwork to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Bible Society Australia, the oldest continuous organisation in the country.

The book represents an important shift in the thinking of Bible Society, which since its early days has been primarily devoted to distributing copies of the Bible and "spreading the word".

But as Bible Society Australia chief executive Greg Clarke admits, the languages of the heart are different for different people.

For Indigenous Australians, he says, pictorial forms of communication are embedded in their traditional art.

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Worship Leader for Today : Rev Peter Moss

Lectionary: March 26 2017 **LENT 4** 1 Sm 16:1-13; Ps 23;
Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41.

Reminder for Stewards 2.4.2017

Pearl Wood

Pauline Galliford

Welcome to our Church.

There are a few things you need to know especially if you are a visitor.

Fire exits are marked. Please take note. In the case of an emergency evacuation please gather on the Western Lawns under the Pine Tree.

St John First Aid Kit - on top of the pigeon holes up from the ramp.

Toilets are available through the door front right of the Worship Area or out through the turn around point on the ramp.

Morning tea is held after the service – we hope you will join with us.

Children normally leave for the children's programme after the children's talk during the Service. More information is available from the Steward's Table and displays scattered around "The Middle Hall".

Items for the Newsletter

Please email items to.

[deandixon7@bigpond.co](mailto:deandixon7@bigpond.com)

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churchoffice@adam.com.au

by 9.30am on Wednesdays. If you do not have access to email, please phone or call in at the church office and it will be forwarded for you.

Contact Details – Peter Moss

Peter is at the office in Wheatland House - Tuesdays, Fridays, and usually Wednesday or Thursday mornings; Office : 8296 1517. If he's not in the office, you are welcome to ring him at home and leave a message if he's not there. Home : 8381 2943 Email: peter.moss.534@gmail.com

Church Office Information

Open Thursday and Friday

9.30am – 12.30pm

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