



KENMORE UNITING CHURCH

*Serving our God and community
with Heart, Mind and Soul*



REFLECTIONS

September 2025
Volume 25 Issue 8

FROM DAVID'S DESK

Hi all. I see there was another Superman movie released recently. It would have been interesting to see how this version of Superman was portrayed, but then again when it comes to superheroes my favourite, by a country mile, is Batman. This is because ... well that's for another time. Towards the end of the 2012 "The Dark Knight Rises" movie (part 3 of Christopher Nolan's trilogy of Batman's life), Commissioner Gordon is giving a Eulogy for Bruce Wayne / Batman (oops, spoiler alert!) who they believe has died giving his life to save Gotham City. Gordon says, "It is a far, far better thing that I do, than I have ever done; it is a far, far better rest that I go to than I have ever known." These are the closing lines that Charles Dickens puts on the lips of Sydney Carton in his book *A Tale of Two Cities* as he prepares to sacrifice his life (oops, spoiler alert!).

It is a powerful and poignant scene that Dickens paints. Carton takes the place of Charles Darnay, who has been sentenced to die during the French Revolution. Carton's life has been one of regret and wasted opportunities and brokenness. Carton chooses to die so that not only Darnay will live but, significantly, so will Lucie, the woman that both men love. His is a redeeming story – these last two sentences echo the peace and purpose in a love that gives itself away. His death bears fruit in the lives of others. His death, as does the apparent death of Bruce Wayne, plants a seed of hope and renewal in the lives of others.

What might we be called to surrender, 'to die to', 'to bury', in order that new life appears? Whether that be individually or as a congregation? In John 12:24, Jesus says, *"Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."*

Jesus says this within the context of his approaching death. V23: "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified." He is teaching about discipleship.

Jesus invites us to a life that isn't centred on holding tight to what we have, but on opening ourselves to what God might grow through us. To have the courage to look beyond ourselves—toward actions that sow hope, renewal, and fruitfulness. Jesus says that journey starts with trusting that even in dying to what must end, new life will emerge. "Unless a grain of wheat falls..."



May God's peace go with you and before you.
Rev. David



The Season of Creation begins on 1st September and thus coincides with start of Spring. The theme this year is “Peace with Creation”. It is an opportunity to reflect on what we believe about God’s gift of Creation.

Mikenzie Ling reflects on finding peace in our place within creation.

When I was younger, I would sneak outside after everyone in the house was asleep and I would lay in the dew, staring at the stars and feeling the cool damp air down to the very bottom of my lungs. I would wake up in the twilight and go sit on our back fence with my feet brushing the tops of the paddock grass as the dawn would seep in through the mist and hoarfrost.

At barely 16-years-old then, I would often feel exhausted, old and unable to fully catch my breath. I was in a season where trauma, grief, and addiction were deep undercurrents sweeping and pulling at my family, and I didn’t know how to control or contain it. So, I would slip outside and just watch, as all the life around and above and below me never ceased to thrum and dance in time with rhythms of rest that seemed so much deeper than the tide waters I was treading.

I would go out there just to ‘be’, and to meet with God. And I would feel huge, and I would feel tiny, and I would feel...just the right size again.

Because the dew drops do have a father. Because the hoarfrost does come forth from its mother. And because we, like all these created things, are watched over, known and sustained by Creator God. The verses in Job 38 and 39 are rich reminders that we are simply one part within a kinship of creation. It is in the humility of recognising we are not above the rest of creation, but rather nestled within it and nourished alongside it, that we are able to embrace and rest in the peace of our Creator’s sovereignty; a loving-kindness which unties our ropes and sets us free, despite the commotions in life, to wander the hills laughing and searching for green things.

I keep those little moments from when I was younger stored away in my heart, like tiny smooth pebbles collected as keepsakes. They are reminders that God always answers out of the whirlwind but often is using a still small voice, the one that we can better discern and rest under when we are quietened and settled within our place amongst created kin.

Now that I am older, I go outside when no one is awake and I stare at the stars. I feel tiny, and I feel huge, and I feel just the right size. I go to meet God, and I always find peace.

Mikenzie Ling is a Wiradjuri woman from Narromine (NSW) and the First Peoples Engagement and Strategy Consultant for the Uniting Church Synod of NSW & ACT. Mikenzie also serves as a consultant with the World Council of Churches for Indigenous Peoples in the Southern Hemisphere.

This reflection is from the Season of Creation Bible Study Series, 'All Things New – Faith, Creation, and the Wider Story of God'. Download our study here - www.commongrace.org.au/season_of_creation_bible_study

Creation Prayer

Bless us, God our Father,
The immense beauty of the universe
is an expression of your love for us.
The earth in its freshness
The trees and plants in all their grandeur,
Allow us to cherish the beauty of life – in the person and in nature,
Bequeathed by the stewardship of our ancestors.

Renew us, Lord Jesus,
In whom all things are renewed by the
grandeur of your saving grace.
You taught us love in all its fullness,
Teach us to be active stewards of your creation –
Defending the rights of our people,
Protecting our mountains, lands, trees and animals,
Renewing what we have lost through our sinfulness.

Empower us, Holy Spirit.
To embrace the prophetic life of stewardship,
Rejecting all forms of abuse in our environment,
Inspiring a cleaner and sustainable future for our children,
Developing innovative solutions to address environmental
degradation and climate change.
As we care for the gift of our existence,
We care too, for our world.

Br. Tagoy Jaazeal, Jakosalem OAR, Philippines.

Laudato Si' Movement Prayer Book.

PROPERTY REPORT – MATT caught in the act.

Matt finalised the new strong hardwood benches for the seats, plus installed the new steps outside the small kitchen in the church.



Blair tried out the new hose and sprinkler system he's installed outside the Touchstones Room and watered the freshened up the bromeliad bed done the week before. (Not in his Sunday best.)



BLAIR on the job

PLANTBURST





Thanks to helpers on Refreshed - Jenny and her team, Di, Leigh, Sally & Arini with Jordan, John and David helping on the pick-up run on Friday as well.

Also, thanks to Paul Ryan from the Patten Park Native Nursery run by volunteers, who gave advice and donated plants to us. Good to see his dog wandering happily around, lead trailing.



The Kenmore State High School Stage Band really lifted the energy and did a great job of two sets with a break to eat their sausages in between. Thanks to their teachers who brought in the drums etc on Thursday and supported them. So good to hear their teachers speak about them so warmly.

Andrew started the day setting up marquees etc and then discovered a roster of helpers for him was forgotten, so he manned the BBQ with little break, but a couple of folk took pity on him as the High School band lined up. A great effort all day.



Thanks to John, Jenny and Coralie, who looked after the credit card sales. Coralie is still sorting expenses.



The Raffles were popular and were well-deserved when Brenda won a great range of garden items from Mitre 10 and Jenny a voucher for Brookfield Gardens. Caroline and others looked after indoor plants and Juana, Sruti and Leonie sold botanical cards.



Sadly, we have no photos of Gill & Chelsea who presided expertly over the High Tea and did lots of cooking beforehand. Thanks too to the sandwich providers.



Ben, Liz and Marion were ready for customers on the history table and Cr Greg Adermann called in to hear the band and chat with Margot, Lester and Joycelyn and others down in the CC. (Sorry, Lester still has eyes but a reflection interfered.) Dr Christian Rowan called in briefly late in the day en route from a Moggill event to River Fire.



Wendy demonstrated how to use a new kind of worm farm to round off the day. See the Refreshed item for a bit more detail on our first ever PlantBurst!



MUSICLOVERS

Over 30 attended last month's warm and entertaining concert from the Serenata Singers.

Many were inspired by

hearing a choir of people as old as the audience singing with enjoyment and enthusiasm. The rendition of a different setting of Ave Maria was particularly moving and beautiful.

THURSDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER – 10AM

On this occasion we will be welcoming **Dexterous Digits Duo** who comprise the talents of Cassandra D'Arcy on mandolin/violin and James Lloyd on classical guitar. They met while playing in the Brisbane City Pops Orchestra where Cassandra plays cello and James plays guitar and percussion instruments.



Both musicians have something in common as teachers. Cassandra teaches at her Dexterous Digits

Music School, all the stringed instruments plus piano and recorder. James on the other hand has directed the Brisbane Spanish Guitar Centre since 1976 with the aim of creating both competent players and good teachers. Cassandra also plays viola in the Indooroopilly Chamber Orchestra and violin with the Bribie Island Orchestra. James has an interest in arranging music for guitar groups, leading to using the Dexterous Digits Duo to explore music of all styles and periods.

Come along and enjoy music and fellowship over morning tea as well.

My friend can't stop singing Frank Sinatra and Bing Crosby songs.

He's been diagnosed with crooner virus.

COOL & CLASSIC



Tango Enigmático *Sunday 19th October, 2pm*

Discover the dynamic energy and vibrant music of Tango Enigmático. This ensemble breathes new life into the rich tradition of Argentinian tango, blending familiar dance rhythms with innovative contemporary compositions. They feature renowned composers from Argentina, Australia, and beyond, including the legendary Astor Piazzolla.

Tango Enigmático's performances bring together passion and pain, flirtation and fire, nostalgia and nonsense.

With violin, double bass, and piano, their music will transport you to the lively streets of Buenos Aires and beyond. Experience the passion and soul of tango from every corner of the globe with Tango Enigmático.

**Camille Barry (violin), Cara Tran (piano) &
Chloe Ann Williamson (double bass)**

REFRESHED NEWS – AUGUST

As the weather has started to warm up, we have been bringing out our spring/summer clothing. In order to make room, we have reduced all winter clothing to half price. We have had some good sales in the last two weeks, but there is still quite a lot remaining, so for those of you heading to the Northern Hemisphere for holidays, now is the time to grab a bargain.

One particular standout is a stylish lambskin black jacket: it is very light weight and could be worn nearly all year round, even in Brisbane.

We have some lovely new “collectables”. The Bohemian glass vase and lady figurine are really special.



There is also a 9ct gold necklace with small cross (with tiny diamond) that would make a lovely gift. These are all valuable items, but very reasonably priced for our Refreshed customers.

Preparation for PlantBurst was a big focus throughout August. Our volunteers diligently set aside suitable planters and containers to pass on to the gardening/potting people. “From little things big things grow” has certainly been evident in this initiative. Just three years ago Brenda, single-handedly, took on the management of a “plant stall” to enhance the Refreshed offerings for ArtBurst. The next year, she was ably assisted by Sue, and this year a few more recruits were added to help them on the day. Every year it gets bigger and better!

Apart from the hard work and expertise of these two wonderful ladies (who, between them potted nearly 200 plants!), we are blessed to have so many congregation members and relatives and friends of Refreshed who donated lots



of glorious plants. I know we raised more than \$1,000 through plant sales on Saturday, and Sunday (after church). We have sold \$200+ more this week through Refreshed. So, well done, and THANK YOU to Brenda and Sue, and all those who donated plants and helped us achieve such success!

Lots of plants still remain and are now HALF PRICE. We are also prepared to negotiate a price for bulk purchases.



Even though the remaining pot plants are an attractive addition to the church, someone has to care for them until they find homes. As I have a brown thumb, they will not last long under my care. So, please help us out and save the plants.
Jenny.



140th ANNIVERSARY This year is the 140th Anniversary of the Pioneer Church building and we have taken this opportunity to display some information at PlantBurst and to sell some of the digital versions of the History book written for the Centenary of the Pioneer Church 40 years ago.



If any of you meet up with new people moving into the district, do let them know about *Tell the Next Generation* in an easy-to-read digital format on CD for just \$10. If their computer does not accept CDs as a source, it is easy to send the script and pictures to their email address. This would bring over \$400 to the church, so please help us to promote this.

THINKING ABOUT CHRISTMAS?

Church Council has been doing some advance planning for Christmas with the Blue Service in place, a special end-of-year interaction with the Kindy and the Refreshed Carols and Readings service and more under way.

BUT what can we do about a visual display inside the walkway glass? We realised that did attract attention when one sunny afternoon we saw the nose smudges and small fingerprints at child height on the glass. However, the manger scene is looking very tired, the Wise Men's paper clothes are torn and tattered and Joseph had to have fabric draped over his hand last year to cover some rather creepy missing fingers.

Help us to come up with something fresh that to tell a Christmas message for passing parents or visitors to the Community Centre in Advent.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

have already had their at-home meeting for September. The devotions are always a special time and lead into some very lively discussions. Earlier in August quite a few braved the cold and met at One Table again.



CHANNEL 7

Australians tied to child sex trade uncovered in 7NEWS SPOTLIGHT



Kevin Perry 13 September 2025

CHANNEL 7 TONIGHT
SUNDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER
At 9:00 PM
Documentary video taken
live on raids earlier this
year

QUILTABOUTS GIFTS STILL READY TO SELL

After many years serving the church with the sale of beautiful craftwork, winning prizes in shows, making quilts for raffles or gifts and banners for the sanctuary, Quiltabouts is unlikely to continue, at least in its current format, as Margot and Joycelyn are the only two still able to attend.

However, they have quite a stock of handy and attractive items still to sell. They are hoping to use the November MusicLovers when the French choir come to sing, who are usually excellent customers, especially of music themed items and Christmas tableware. This would be a way of raising some money on all their stock still available. (Just a few items showing here. The golden giraffe fabric is beautiful.)



If you would like a shopping bag, or perhaps a runner for your Christmas table or a gift, Margot and Joycelyn are still willing to make occasional items to order if you have some particular idea or size in mind. The small cloth bags make excellent gifts for little girls to carry their own special treasures or toys. Different styles are all light and easy to send overseas for any age.

WE ARE COMMUNITY

Happy Birthday especially to Stuart this Sunday followed quickly by Allan.

ON THE MOVE We have a few people holidaying in far places – Wendy and Rob in very cold places in Scandinavia, Rosemary H. happily visiting part of her family in the UK, but also looking forward to seeing her great-grand-daughter born since she left. The Loughreys will be heading off on another great road-trip across the Nullarbor to Perth and back, all in just over two weeks. We wish all of them happy and safe journeys.

SAD BUT THANKFUL is how we felt when we heard Vi Hall had passed away so peacefully on the 27th August, not long before her 93rd birthday. Her funeral here on Thursday 4th September was a warm and meaningful farewell to a lady of great faith and a joyous nature. Her family have given us the script of the eulogy given by Ian, which follows this section of Reflections. Her daughter Bronwyn arranged the large bunches of homely and cheerful flowers, which they gave to the church.

Those flowers continued spreading their brightness throughout PlantBurst as they appeared in different corners. Thanks to David and Andrew H. for moving the heavy vases around. Jenny played beautifully and at the refreshments it was great to see the ‘young’ people from the youth groups of the 80s and 90s catching up and having fellowship together again.

We are also grateful for the generous donation of \$1000 from the Morrisons, as well as the family arranging for the food from a friendly chef and requiring a minimum of assistance from the congregation, but to remember Vi.



VISIONARIES EXHIBITION

On the 7th August, the Touchstones groups and a couple of ring-ins went to the ACU gallery to see an exhibition from the Visionaries artists themed around the seasons of the church year. They had lunch on the outdoor tables near the student café and here are some of the Touchstones people grouped around their own joint entry comprising small pictures by each of them.



Some of them exhibited individual work as well, such as the striking painting *Sunset in the Western Suburbs* from Gwenda in a slightly different style from her usual work. Marion also exhibited individual work including the

installation representing three crosses which we had the privilege of showing in the sanctuary at Easter.

As nearly half the group are away for the next few weeks, Touchstones will be having a recess for a few weeks, but back in time to be creative for Christmas.



Wendy standing with her Sogetsu Ikebana arrangement for their exhibition in August, thought about and created with all the chaos of hospital visits and preparing for travelling overseas. The theme was Spaces and we wish Wendy and Rob some space for themselves on their trip.

Year 'C' Revised Common Lectionary (September, 2025)

Date 2025	1st Reading	Psalms	2nd Reading	Gospel	Colour
7 Sept Pent 13 *Season of Creation (1 Sep – 4 Nov)	Jer 18:1-11	Ps 139: 1-6, 13-18	Phlm 1-21	Lk 14: 25-33	G
14 Sept Pent 14	Jer 4:11-12, 22-28	Ps 14	1 Tim 1: 12-17	Lk 15: 1-10	G
21 Sept Pent 15	Jer 8:18- 9:1	Ps 79: 1-9	1 Tim 2: 1-7	Lk 16: 1-13	G
28 Sept Pent 16	Jer 32: 1-3a, 6-15	Ps 91: 1-6, 14-16	1 Tim 6: 6-19	Lk 16: 19-31	G
5 Oct Pent 17 *UCA Older Persons Sunday	Lam 1: 1-6	Lam 3: 19-26 or Ps 137	2 Tim 1: 1-14	Lk 17: 5-10	G



DIARY

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 14 Sept. | 9pm SPOTLIGHT 7 – Destiny Rescue |
| 18 Sept. | 10am MusicLovers – Dextrous Digits Duo |
| 1 Oct. | Due date Reflections items |
| 10 Oct. | 12.15pm Men’s Lunch – One Table |
| 13 Oct. | 12.30pm Women’s Fellowship lunch
– One Table |
| 16 Oct. | 10 am MusicLovers Classical Guitar |
| 19 Oct. | 2 pm COOL & CLASSIC CONCERT
– Tango Enigmatico |



NCCA will hold two online prayer sessions:

Prayers for Peace:

Wed. 17 Sept, 12.30pm AEST

Season of Creation:

Wed. 1 Oct. 12.30pm AEST

[Online Lunchtime Prayer and Reflections – National Council of Churches in Australia](#)

Save the earth...It's the only planet with chocolate!

September 2025

	7 September	14 September	21 September	28 September
Elder	Rob	Dawn	Dawn	Dawn
Music	Jenny	Jenny	Jenny	Jenny
Prayer	Wendy	Gemma	Dawn	David
Reading	Coralie	Margot	Leng	Andrew H
Steward	Carolyn	Andrew L	Ralph	Allan
Steward	Philip	Blair	Lester	Andrew L
Cha Bar	Gemma	Arini	Leng	Gemma
Cha Bar	Joycelyn	Carolyn	Sally	Joycelyn
Ann'ments	Dawn	Marleine	Dawn	Dawn
PA System	Andrew L	Lester	Andrew L	John S
PowerPoint	Wendy	Rosemary C	Gemma	Rosemary C
Notice Board	Euan	Euan	Euan	Euan

October 2025

	5 October	12 October	19 October	26 October
Elder	Rosemary C	Dawn	Rosemary C	Rosemary C
Music	Jenny	Jenny	Jenny	TBA
Prayer	Marleine	Juana	Wendy	David
Reading	Coralie	Margot	Andrew H	Dawn
Steward	Carolyn	Blair	Ralph	Allan
Steward	Philip	Andrew L	Rob	Lester
Cha Bar	Gemma	Rosemary H	Sally	Rosemary H
Cha Bar	Jan	Joycelyn	Rosemary C	Carolyn
Ann'ments	Dawn	Marleine	Dawn	Dawn
PA System	Andrew L	John S	Lester	John S
PowerPoint	Rosemary C	Gemma	Wendy	Rosemary C
Notice Board	John S	John S	John S	John S

A teacher asked her students to bring an item to class that represented their religious beliefs.

A Catholic student brought a crucifix.

A Jewish student brought a Menorah.

A Uniting Church student brought a plate of curried egg sandwiches.