

fellow workers

news from around the presbyterian church of victoria

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Freedom in Christ–PYV summer camp

In the days following Christmas the population of Phillip Island increases tenfold. Two hundred and fifty young people added to the numbers as they gathered at the Phillip Island Adventure Resort (PIAR) for the 2009/10 PYV Summer Camp. This was the first time the camp was held here, and after a slower than anticipated start (due to the VERY slow traffic on the way to the Island!) the Freedom in Christ camp got underway.

This camp was always going to be different to previous years due to the new venue and the mega-cheap cost to campers. PIAR is a great venue. Its facilities are excellent and the on-site activities meant that we didn't need to go anywhere to have fun. Having said that, when you are a ten minute walk from the beautiful Smiths Beach, an off-site excursion was a must! Campers only paid fifty-five

dollars for the whole week due to the PCV's 150th Anniversary Committee giving PYV \$50,000 towards reducing camp costs in our Church's anniversary year. PYV thanks them very much for their generosity because it enabled us to open the camp to many who had not experienced a PYV camp before.

Rev. Peter Owen spoke on Freedom in Christ from Romans. He dealt with issues such as 'How does God relate to mankind?' and 'The obedience of Christ' as it relates to his work on the cross and obeying the law. Peter pointed out that not only is Christ's death on our behalf credited to the believer but also his obedient life. Christ has done everything to make us right with God and we obey His law out of love and reverence for God and thankfulness for His salvation. He also talked about the 'shun' words in Scripture! 'Justificashun', 'Propitiashun', 'Reconciliashun'... 'Redempshun' and perhaps the

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The Prince and the Pauper—made rich! p. 4

Livingstone's Legacy

'See that tree?' asked my driver, Chibambo. 'That is where Dr David Livingstone met with the slave traders and freed the slaves. He came up the Shire river to the place now named Blantyre and met the Malawi slave traders. He explained the gospel of the Lord Jesus to them and the justice that flowed from that gospel.' He paused.

'What happened then?' I asked.

Chibambo replied, 'There and then the Malawi slave traders released the slaves. They had been chained and separated by forked sticks. The gospel changed the traders right there!'

We went to the Blantyre mission, and the Church of St Michael and All Angels.

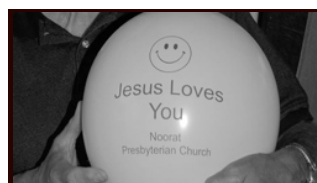
'Interesting name,' I volunteered.

'Yes,' came the answer, 'They needed St Michael and all the angels when they were building that church. There were no professional people engaged in the building. It was dreamed together step by step, and grew into the cathedral you see today! It has only had one major repair job in its...

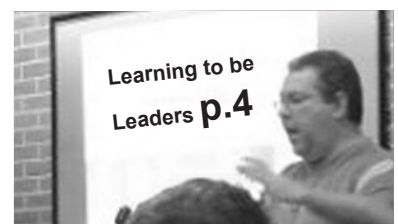
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PIM at Show p.5



Going into hospital?

You might like to receive a visit from a Presbyterian chaplain, if one visits or is on call to that particular institution.

The current standardised hospital admission forms often make it difficult for Presbyterian chaplains to know you are there. If you or your family mark 'Christian' in the religious affiliation box at admission, your details will go into hospital records as 'Christian – other'. A Presbyterian chaplain in Victoria is only given access to patients who register specifically as 'Presbyterian'. It's a small thing, but could make all the difference in letting a visiting chaplain know you are in the hospital. Please pass this on to any family or church member who may experience a hospital stay in the coming months.

*Kathy James
Health and Community Chaplaincy
Committee*

It's all happening at FW

The State News Committee is delighted to have Chiara Bilyj as the new editor of our quarterly newsletter. She brings to the task the enthusiasm of youth and the expertise of editing, publishing and graphic design for print media.

The committee would like to congratulate her on the first issue, which covered many different areas of the life of the church in Victoria through text and illustration. She is already looking at ways to improve its quality. In her enthusiasm, she's created a 'Facebook' page (www.facebook.com) and an email delivery service. As Bill Lawry would say (for those who know who Bill Lawry is) 'it's all happening!'

P.S. I insisted that Chiara include this paragraph.

*Neil Harvey
Convener, State News Committee*

Livingstone's Legacy



schools, the clinic, industry, centres of care. This happened at Blantyre, Mulanje and Domasi. And so the gospel spread, and the truth, justice and mercy of the gospel impacted the land.

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...108 years of its history.'

But the amazing thing was that it was built right across the slave trading route. It was in itself, a statement: 'No slaves will pass this road again!' Even the church offices have one room that used to be the holding prison for slave traders awaiting judgment. I gazed at the bars, and drank in the amazing history.

They knew the rest of Livingstone's story: twenty-two years of service in Africa for God. The loss of his children, his wife and his health. He endured separation, malaria, tsetse fly, an attack by a lion that affected his arm for the rest of his life and blindness in one eye. He was a man of prayer. His prayer was to God for Africa, that salvation would come to these people. He had been so stirred as a young man by the message of Dr Moffat, 'I saw the smoke of 1000 villages, and there is no missionary.' Dr Livingstone was their first missionary, only by the grace of God.

Within two years of Livingstone's death, missionaries began to arrive in Zambia and Malawi from Scotland. Missions were established... missions that included evangelism, the formation of a church, the church building,

And now, in 2009, I had the opportunity of visiting on behalf of the Victoria Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

The welcome was thrilling—an evidence of the special partnership which is being forged between our church and theirs. I loved hearing praise of the very good work the Victorian church is doing as together we serve God.

Sunday morning arrived and I was scheduled to preach at St Columba. Six hundred and fifty people gathered for the first service of worship in the Chichewa language. That was followed by the service in English with over 800 present. I was hurried away prior to the 3rd service in order to be in time for the final service at the Limbe church. At all services the numbers were in the hundreds.

┌ 'we'll show you the kangaroo method of caring for children!' ┐

At lunch time many questions flowed. 'Three thousand, two hundred members in the congregation, and four Prayer Houses,' was one answer.

'Tell me what you mean by Prayer House?' They explained that each congregation had Prayer Houses... or in our language, preaching places, or Home Mission stations. When finances were strong enough



and a minister was available to be called to the Prayer House, it would become a 'Sanctioned Pastoral Charge', and then would establish its own Prayer Houses. And so the church grows.

There are 5 synods in the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP). Blantyre Synod has 1.8 million members. Zambia synod has 60,000.

'We will visit Mulanje Mission today,' Melton announced. This mission, established in the early days of Scotland's missionary outreach, is now thoroughly an indigenous mission to Malawi folk. It commenced with a welcome and meal at the manse, and then a look around. My question was, 'What does mission mean here?' I began to feel it as we dined. I met the local minister, an evangelist, a school's head teacher, ladies caring for widows and orphans, the Session clerk, and as the meal continued, the hospital's doctor and his administrator arrived. Then we visited the places where they worked, and the initiatives they were taking to make 'the Mission' self-sustaining at every point. They even have an industry which provides employment, an opportunity to sell local produce, and a factory to produce nutritious porridge meal to feed their families.

When visiting the hospital, Dr Rolland van der Veir, with considerable delight said, 'Come and we'll show you the kangaroo method of caring for children!' We entered the maternity ward. Wherever you travel in Africa, ladies carry their babies on their backs. But what if the baby is born prematurely, or is not strong? That's where the

kangaroo method of care kicks in. The system is 'front loading', skin to skin, as close to the source of supply as possible. 'That's the warmest place, and you don't need to use incubators!' All because of our Australian kangaroo method – a pouch for baby!

As I viewed the approach to church life, it was so easy to use the word 'holistic'. What church, government, and all our care agencies do here, the church does there. It was very impressive.

'Africa is now politically independent,' said Dr Frimpong-Mansu in a speech at the Blantyre Synod when a covenant of partnership was signed between the Blantyre Synod and the Presbyterian Church of Ghana. 'Increasingly we are economically independent,

and we need to strive for more economical independence. Spiritually we continue to grow in independence. But we need to grow spiritually to the point that

the church be so influential in Africa, that governments will heed the clarion call of the church, and God will be glorified through the testimony and influence of His people!'

Dr Livingstone said: 'The haunting spectre of the smoke of 1000 villages in the morning sun has burned within my heart!' We pray that the gospel passions stirred by that statement will drive us, whatever the cost, to break new ground in our society, for in the LORD's words to Joshua, 'there is much land yet to be possessed!'

*Robert Benn
Moderator General of the Presbyterian
Church of Australia*



Three new home missionary appointments



Peter Roberts and family

The Ministry Development Committee has made three new Home Missionary Appointments for 2010.

On the first of January this year, Cranbourne welcomed Peter Roberts as their new Home Missionary. Peter became involved in Presbyterian circles through studying for a degree at the Presbyterian Theological College in Box Hill, while involved as an elder in an evangelical congregation in Oakleigh, in south-eastern Melbourne. Last year he completed a student placement at Dandenong. Peter and his wife Gail have 5 children; Joshua, Elijah, Daniel, Elisabeth and David, ranging in age from 17 to 8 years old. The whole family enjoy participating in ministry together, particularly through music.

Steven Arbuckle has been appointed to Eaglehawk. Steven and his wife Noelene were posted at Rochester Home Mission Station. The Eaglehawk congregation welcomed the Arbuckles enthusiastically at a commissioning service on the 31st of January.

In December 2009, a temporary arrangement at Kaniva and Nhill was made permanent, with Ian Smith being appointed as Home Missionary there. Ian and his wife Jan have undertaken a number of short-term pastoral appointments in South Australia and Victoria recently.

*Rev Dr Robert Carner
Ministry Development Director*

Learning to be leaders

Last November, the Presbytery of Ballarat was richly blessed with a wonderful time of training from the Rev. Dr. Greg Goswell and the Rev. Nello Barbieri from the Presbyterian Theological College. Our Leadership Development seminar was attended by about 30 people from across the Presbytery.

On Friday evening, Nello gave a very encouraging talk on 'Discipleship Dynamics'. It was a highly interactive session as delegates were divided into groups of four or five for discussions. The next morning, the Moderator of Presbytery, Rev. Ian Hutton, gave an inspiring devotion on 'leadership with love'. Greg is the Old Testament lecturer and delivered an overview of the OT under the theme of the Kingship of God. He spoke with much passion and clarity, which made OT study interesting and easy to follow. After lunch, Greg spoke with much wisdom on 'leadership in 1 & 2 Samuel', and Nello encouraged and challenged everyone to be 'people of the word and people of prayer'.

Our seminar was enriched by the hospitality from Ebenezer St. John, for the ladies did a superb job in catering for the supper, morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea. A big thank you to the



Presbytery's Clerk, the Rev. Dr. John Woodward, for organising the seminar.

I would recommend a leadership seminar to other Presbyteries, because it provides opportunities for everyone to talk about issues that might be otherwise overlooked.

Hui Lim
Ballarat Presbytery



Andrew and Joy Bray in Government house ballroom

The Prince and the Pauper – made Rich!

As Moderator of the PCV, my wife Joy and I received an invitation from the Governor of Victoria to attend a reception at Government House to celebrate Australia Day in the presence of His Royal Highness Prince William of Wales – we accepted!

It was a splendid occasion! There were 950 invited guests and numerous house staff present. A brass band and wind ensemble played beautiful music. We arrived at 3.50pm, passed security, and entered the ballroom, where we were served with savoury finger-food. The Prince arrived from a BBQ lunch and a tour of Victoria's fire-stricken towns 20 minutes late: plain-clothes security was evident but not overt.

The Governor made a speech, and then we listened to the only official speech in Victoria from the Prince. Then we all moved out of the ballroom for a garden-party. The musicians continued providing beautiful music for our entertainment under the huge Moreton Bay Fig trees in flower, while the Prince mingled with the guests. Whilst both Joy and I were only about three metres from him, we didn't actually have the opportunity to shake hands such was the pressing crowd!

We were delighted to be in attendance, and soaked up the atmosphere of euphoria that was so clearly present.

The beauty and magnificence of Government House is truly a great testimony to the artisans of the day.

In a worldly sense, the Prince of Wales is rightfully 'a Prince,' but as Christians, we already enjoy a wonderful relationship with a prince – the Prince of Peace, the Lord Jesus Christ. Even though I have been in the presence of the Prince of Wales, there was no such relationship—if I had the opportunity for a chat and shake of hands it would all be very superficial, unlike the lasting relationship we can have with the Lord Jesus.

‘Compared with Prince William, I’m a pauper!’

In worldly terms, comparing myself with Prince William of Wales, I’m a pauper! But I rejoice in the Lord Jesus Christ, for in my poverty He has made me rich beyond measure, the fullness of which still awaits me in eternal life with Him.

How about you? What's your greatest aspiration in life? Is it to come into the presence of the Prince of Wales (or some such celebrity), or come into the presence of the Prince of Peace, the Lord Jesus Christ?

Yes, Prince William is a fine, handsome, wealthy young man, but to be in the company of the Lord Jesus Christ is far, far better!

Rt. Rev. Andrew Bray
Moderator, PCV



Heathmont house—a centre of activity

Picture a decrepit weather-board house with its paint peeling, timber rotting, and rood rusting. Heathmont House (HH, as it is now called) looked like a demolition job.

It's the building you see when you pass Heathmont Presbyterian Church on Canterbury Road. The Heathmont Board of Management was planning to demolish the house. Then God stepped in. In January 2009, the PYV found itself without anywhere to run its operations. They moved into Heathmont House. Problem: having thrown the PYV this eleventh hour lifeline, Heathmont church lacked any funds to redeem a derelict building. But they did quickly catch a vision for what it could be.

What if Heathmont House could become a centre for our denomination's committees and save them money on commercial rental - which they could then devote to their ministries? It's right on Eastlink, near a major suburban centre (Ringwood) and has a very benevolent 'landlord' - Heathmont PC. We wrote to all Assembly Committees seeking expressions of interest.

No takers. Perhaps they were all scared off when they saw the pictures. However, with an approach to Maroondah Presbytery, things began to move. Last year, Presbytery gave Heathmont PC money

to begin work. First came re-stumping and re-roofing. It was complex work: there were wrangles with the power company, the resident possums (they're still there!), scaffolding (O.H & S requirements), and roof framing issues.

Next, a hiatus. Money is

‘Are you skilled in cabinetry, tiling, hanging doors, installing skirtings and architraves (boring, but necessary), or fixing plinths around stumps?’

running low. Paid work comes to a temporary halt. Volunteers continue, sending away rubbish ready for the next stage, and the long-suffering PYV staff and volunteers make the best of it. Heathmont BOM, meanwhile, seeks money and helpers who catch the vision for it being a centre for PCV and Heathmont PC activity.

Then a plastering company agreed to do cut price work, a donation came in from another PCV congregation, a trust gave a sizable boost of funds, another Committee donates free labour for some external

cladding, and work starts again. Carpentry work doing internal subdividing, installing new windows, external re-cladding and making a new entrance. Electrical work comes next, with installation of safe wiring, plentiful power outlets, efficient lighting, and the modern technological refinements that will allow training and administration activities to take place. After that, replastering will bring the end in sight!

Current funds will not see the project completed. Funds are needed for the kitchen, bathroom, heating, cooling, carpets and so on.

We hope that Assembly Committees will take another look and perhaps relocate their staff, hold events or meetings at HH sometime in the future. God has been good in not allowing us to demolish a building that is proving useful in his Kingdom work.

If you can offer help, whether financial, skilled labour or even as a volunteer to clean up, or would just like some more detail, please contact Andrew Venn, Minister at Heathmont, and project manager - ph.9870 5182 mob.0422 414 942.

Photos are on the Heathmont website - heathmont.pcvic.org.au.



PIM at the Noorat Show

The Noorat Presbyterian Church has been running a stall at the Noorat Agricultural Society Show for the last two years. The focus of the stall is to present the gospel through both children's ministry and relating to the people of the land. The former is done through

craft activities and giving away balloons, and the latter through the ministry of PIM, in particular Rev. Rudi Schwarz, who speaks of his ministry in the Mallee. The farmers appreciate the PIM and are glad to see someone doing this.

Prior to the Noorat Show there was much prayer and planning, with Mr Peter Walms-

ley taking a key role in the logistics of the stall. We ran a stall the previous year at the show, learned some valuable lessons, and implemented these to make it a great success. We had many willing helpers on the day who shared in the joys of speaking, sharing and blowing up many balloons.

Rev. Miles Fagan

Freedom in Christ—PYV summer camp changes lives



Continued from page 1

most comforting one of all; 'Adopshun'. While we chuckle at some things Peter's New Zealand accent does to the English language, examining these crucial areas of doctrine was done in a serious and helpful way, complete with visual aids using some members of the audience to quite literally see the point Peter was making. Many campers found the studies and subsequent discussions challenging and practical in terms of 'How does knowing these truths change my attitude, behaviour, evangelism etc?' At least two campers found the messages life-changing; in fact they met the Saviour of whom Peter spoke! Praise God that He works through the preaching of His gospel to bring people from darkness to light, and that He keeps doing this

through the ministry of PYV.

While the focus of PYV's camping ministry is to help youth better understand the gospel for use in their home churches, camps are also for fun and relationship building. We made good use of the flying fox, giant swing, canoes, pool, air conditioning (playing various board games and theatre sports), basketball and tennis courts. We also had great outings to Smith's Beach, for a 150-person game of Capture the Flag, surfing lessons, swimming, and general beach fun.

A PYV summer camp would be incomplete without the New Year's Eve celebrations. It was a big ask for the organisers to top the Carnival from 2008/9, but they ran a fantastic *When I Grow Up* gameshow. Campers competed in various 'growing up' challenges such as 'learning' to eat, crawl (complete with nappy), speak, spell and sing. It was a hilarious evening, and everyone had a fun time accompanied by a fabulous

three-course meal. Midnight saw study groups gathered together to pray for the coming year before a little more dancing rounded off a great night and camp.

Thanks are due to many, above all to God who answered the many prayers that were offered for camp. The convenor, Nic Bilyj, did an excellent job organising the camp and keeping it running, ably assisted by his five co-ordinators. An indication that this was one of the best camps PYV has run in recent years is that the resort manager asked to address us on our final morning. He complimented everyone on their behaviour and courteous attitude to the staff, saying that it was a credit to us and a wonderful witness to his non-Christian staff. We give thanks to God for this, for safety and for the lives changed by His message.

*Dean Carroll
PYV Councillor*



MENS, WOMENS AND MIXED DIVISIONS

PYV Volleyball 2010
Saturday 27 March
9.30-6pm

Players \$7
Spectators: gold coin donation

Message by Rev. Martin de Pyle

Youth leaders, head to pyv.org.au to download your info pack & register your teams by Monday 15 March. Contact David Bruce on 0408 321 677 or email events@pyv.org.au

STATE VOLLEYBALL CENTRE, 270 STUD RD, DANDENONG

Other PYV news...

PYV had their Annual General Meeting on February 6th.

They discussed future possibilities for regional ministry and elected this year's PYV Council. Please pray for them.

They are:

Marton Murany (President)
Joy Venning (Secretary)
Russell Graham (Treasurer)
Rev. Dean Carroll
Joe Dunning
Brad Ronalds
Alex Venn

*Andrew Vines
PYV Youth Worker*



FELLOW WORKERS

Whatever he says to you...

In highly populated areas of our vast continent God is giving us unprecedented opportunities to meet people from all over the world, so that we find he has brought a multi-ethnic Mission Field to our doorstep.

Melbourne's western suburbia is no exception to these wide open doors. We should contemplate the possibility that the doors may not stay open indefinitely.

What, therefore, is happening in the West?

Sometimes we meet people who give testimony to what God is doing through them in the West. At a Melbourne gathering I was blessed to discover a man who lived to minister solely to his Islamic friends. I rejoice to meet people in my city who practice continual outreach. I used to wish we could put leaflets in every letterbox in the city, but I discovered that one church had already started this. I read the small, unpretentious tract very critically and was delighted to discover the genuine, theologically sound message which was being shared.

Sunshine Presbyterian Church has been singularly blessed. Through one hundred years of existence, God has given us faithful persons who bear testimony to his amazing Grace through various means.

A café church service is held regularly giving space for fellowship, spiritual growth, mentoring and outreach.

Another answer to prayer is the Men's Fellowship group which has been functioning for over a decade. We hear that laughter is a prevalent feature at their gatherings.

A greatly appreciated activity is the fortnightly Community Kitchen Café. A team of local community workers from a Community House join our church team and provide a meal in the church hall to whoever walks in off the street. Christian literature is available together with opportunities to discuss people's world views and personal concerns.

In these days when Sunday Schools seem to be waning we are blessed in that God is giving us more kids and more teachers.

Some people are being touched by God's Spirit in the Retirement Hostels where we conduct church services. They talk to their families about their discoveries. As we see the Lord encouraging people to practice tithing and increase their giving to missions, we testify to all of the above as evidence of his work amongst us, an unworthy assembly of believers who are privileged to experience the amazing grace of God. We live in

‘We are aware that without the divine protection of the Holy Spirit and his enabling it would be impossible to do this work.’

the LIFE of a living Lord Jesus!

Our local Street Ministry began as a regular activity at the beginning of 2001. This witness has been maintained over the last eight years, taking a break only for the Franklin Graham Festival. Approximately five thousand encounters have taken place when local citizens have received Bibles, New Testaments, Jesus DVDs, tracts and meaningful discussions. A very small handful of people maintain the witness and prayer partners in the church constantly lend support. Under the leading of the Holy Spirit great care is taken to show the utmost courtesy, with no pressure on contacts, no obstruction of walkways and no invasion of privacy when people are shopping. We are of the view that as we pray earnestly, exercising the faith God has given us, we can trust him 100% to lead us to the persons he has brought across our paths. If some reject our approach we know that next time they are offered words of life they may listen and we can pray for them.

At times we are encouraged when some say things like: ‘No-one has ever spoken to me like this before’, ‘My children will take this DVD to school’, or ‘We'll come to your church on Sunday!’

Godly people grieve that there are churches dying across our beautiful country. What can we do? Maybe the words of Mary at the wedding feast give us a clue: ‘Whatever He says to you, do it!’

Isabel G. Bell

Sunshine Presbyterian Church

HOW ABOUT A

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4 ways to train an eldership—part 2

A two part series by Nello Barbieri, PCV Training Officer

In part one, Nello Barbieri began answering the question: 'how do you train an elder?' If you missed it, you can find it online at www.fellowworkers.pcvic.org.au.

3. Train through discussing and planning 'personal-walk-with-God' projects and activities that will meet personal and spiritual needs. The teaching elder could plan a weekend session retreat to discuss, and encourage the other elders in their personal walk with the Lord Jesus.

4. Train through discussing and planning ministry projects and activities based on specific needs. Work on an evangelistic strategy together. Consider the following suggestions:

- Inactive church list: Even before the teaching elder asks session members to help him, he needs to take the initiative in sharing his faith. An excellent source of contacts for him and the other elders is the church's list of inactive names.

- Ten Most Wanted List: If the teaching elder has a core of elders to work with, he could ask each one to list 10 friends that he would like to see receive Christ. The teaching elder then could to plan for either himself or other session members to take a member of the congregation to witness to those friends.

- Personal Testimony: Encourage the session members to share their testimony with the entire group. Their testimony might stimulate people who have a spiritual interest but a low commitment.

- Brainstorm on what way we can minister both inward and outward. Encourage session members to be creative and think big.

- Outreach Programme: Involve session members in putting together an Outreach Programme. Delegate responsibilities.

- Growth Group (bible study and other small groups). Involve session members in various roles of responsibility or special activities with the group.

- Youth Group Specials. Special events in the general youth group such as camps, socials, day trips, work projects etc.

- Visitation. Take the session members on visits. The teaching elder could train session members in how to evangelism and disciple via this means.

- Social Action Initiatives. Serving peoples' physical and emotional needs in the community. Ongoing involvement in crisis accommodation, street contact, visiting institutions, helping the Salvos etc.

What's happening in your Sunday School?

The Christian Education & Nurture Committee (CENC) is keen to support churches who are holding Sunday School classes. We know that many churches struggle to choose material. To help with this, the CENC is keen to provide a meeting point on the web where you can

read reviews and comments from current Sunday School teachers about the material they use. You'll also find contact details so you can speak with these teachers.

For more, go to www.cenc.org.au.

The Presbyterian and Scots' Church Joint Mission

Joint Mission Sixteenth Anniversary Service, St Stephen's Presbyterian Church, Flemington on Sunday 18th April at 3pm. All welcome!

The Scot's Church Mission has been at St Stephens since 1994, serving the people of Flemington and the surrounding areas with food parcels, clothing, blankets and bed linen.

Since December 2008 the mission has moved from twice a month to weekly. The food assistance is still on a twice a month basis, but all other forms



A client of the mission at the Christmas sausage sizzle

of assistance and support are now available at the mission hall every Tuesday.

The service will be conducted by Rev. Douglas Robertson, from Scots' Church, and the guest preacher will be the Rt Rev. Andrew Bray, Moderator of the PCA. Members of Presbyterian Ladies College Choir have been invited to the service to present two musical items.

Following the service afternoon tea will be served in the mission hall.

Robert Lowe

Committee member Scot's Joint Mission

