



# PARTNERSHIP IN PRINT



ISSUE NO. 101 SEPTEMBER 2024



## ***The Russia-Ukraine War: President Vladimir Putin, Patriarch Kirill & the Russian Orthodox Church, and the World Council of Churches***

A couple of media reports about the Russia-Ukraine War occurred during our winter which may have some interest for the Partnership in Print readers.

*The Saturday Paper* (29th June-6th July) published a Comment article by Stan Grant FASSA (theologian, writer & Sturt University distinguished professor) titled "Understanding Vladimir Putin". In March this year, the Russian Orthodox Church (ROC) leaders released a document titled "The Present and Future of the Russian World" that speaks in apocalyptic terms about "protecting the world from the onslaught of globalism and the victory of the

West fallen into Satanism". Grant writes that "it amounted to a call to arms for the faithful" and "largely overlooked and under-reported in the West, the church fathers again stressed the invasion of Ukraine was a holy war." For Grant, it is a distortion of Christ's message of love and forgiveness. The World Council of Churches (WCC) has rejected the ROC document and does not support Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the war, nor the description of a "Holy War".

Grant wrote that the ROC Patriarch Kirill considers Putin as a "gift from God" and the defender of the Russian World - "the Russkiy Mir". For Putin, "Russia is the promise of salvation against a world gone wrong, a world dominated by a godless and decadent West." Grant writes that "to men such as Patriarch Kirill, Putin is waging nothing less than a crusade. He refers to the 'kingdom and the priesthood'".

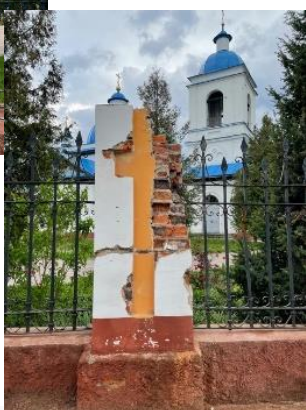
Grant refers to the view of the Ukrainian political scientist Lena Surzhko Harned that the war is a joint mission of church and state "making Russia a spiritual, cultural and political centre of civilisation to counter the liberal, secular ideology of the West". Grant mentions that ROC Priests bless nuclear weapons and preach their own version of jihad, called "podvig": a "holy war that stretches from the conflicts of the 1300s to WWII and the wars on Chechnya.

Ukraine is the latest battleground". While hundreds of priests have signed letters protesting the brutality of the war against Ukraine, in the *ABC RN Religion & Ethics Report* (24th July), presented by Andrew West, the Rev. Dr. Jerry Pillay, the general secretary of the World Council of Churches (WCC), spoke about the WCC relationship with the Russian Orthodox Church, which has been a WCC member since 1948, about

its support of President Putin, and the Russian Government, in attacking Ukraine and blessing it as a "Holy War". For the WCC, one of the most serious consequences of the Ukraine War has been the split in the global Orthodox Church. Pew Research estimates there are 260 million Orthodox Christians worldwide. Since 1948 there has been much opportunity for dialogue between the WCC & ROC that, *inter alia*, enables the WCC spokespersons to speak Truth to the ROC, just as they do with the other members of the WCC. The World Council of Churches-Russian Orthodox Church dialogue continues!



Photo by Christian Wiediger-on Unsplash



Photos here and above by Anzhela Bets on Unsplash – photographer from Ukraine

Continued on page 3

## LECTIONARY Readings Year B

### Pentecost

A period of time that varies in length depending on whether Easter is early or late. In this period, the church recalls its faith in the Holy Trinity. It seeks to relate its faith as a people of God to Christ's mission in the world. It commences with Trinity Sunday and concludes with the feast of Christ the King.

Date	Day/Season	Col.	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
25 Aug	Pentecost 14	G	1 Kings 8:(1, 6, 10-11), 22-30	84	Ephesians 6:10-20	John 6:56-69
1 Sept	Pentecost 15	G	Song of Solomon 2:8-13	45:1-2, 6-9	James 1:17-27	Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
8 Sept	Pentecost 16	G	Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23	125	James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17	Mark 7:24-37
15 Sept	Pentecost 17	G	Proverbs 1:20-33	19	James 3:1-12	Mark 8:27-38
22 Sept	Pentecost 18	G	Proverbs 31:10-31	1	James 3:13 to 4:3, 7-8a	Mark 9 30-37
29 Sept	Pentecost 19	G	Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22	124	James 5:13-20	Mark 9:38-50
6 Oct	Pentecost 20	G	Job 1:1; 2:1-10	26	Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12	Mark 10:2-16

Colours: P – Purple

W – White

G – Green

R – Red

B – Black

## SEASON OF CREATION

The theme for 2024 is

**To hope and act with Creation**



**TO HOPE AND ACT  
WITH CREATION**

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

*The firstfruits of hope*  
(Rom 8:19-25)

In the letter of Paul the apostle to the Romans, the biblical image pictures the Earth as a Mother, groaning as in childbirth (Rom 8:22). Francis of Assisi understood this when he referred to the Earth as our sister and our mother in his Cantic of Creatures. The times we live in show that we are not relating to the Earth as a gift from our Creator, but rather as a resource to be used.

And yet, there is hope and the expectation for a better future. To hope in a biblical context does not mean to stand still and quiet, but rather groaning, crying, and actively striving for new life amidst the struggles. Just as in childbirth, we go through a period of intense pain, but new life springs forth.

1st September - 4th October  
each year

The **Season of Creation** is the annual Christian celebration to pray and respond together to the cry of Creation: the ecumenical family around the world unites to listen and care for our common home, the Oikos of God.

For more information and to access the Season of Creation Celebration Guide, follow this link:  
<https://seasonofcreation.org/>

from page 1: Asked about how Christians raise their prophetic voice on political issues, without being a political player, Rev. Pillay stated that the WCC does not enter the conversations as a political player - as "politicians". Rather, the WCC spokesperson speaks from justice perspectives... Christians seeking justice.... living their faith, faithfully! He referenced the history of a decade ago in the Middle East, when Christian Churches were being attacked. Christians in the Holy Land were being "squeezed out". What of the role of the WCC in those circumstances? Faith & justice mattered. Where people have the freedom to practice their faith, a government has the responsibility to protect the religious faith of their people. WCC churches and members should not have their faith diluted by political leaders. The WCC representatives seek Truth and justice in their dialogues, living their Christian faith and beliefs.

The *ABC RN Religion & Ethics Report* (31st July), focused on "The moral calculus of war", in which Andrew West had a conversation with Professor Nigel Biggar, an Oxford University moral philosopher and theologian, and the author of a paper titled "All Things Considered Making Moral Sense of the Wars in Ukraine and Gaza". Emily Crawford, the Sydney University Professor of International Humanitarian Law, also participated in this conversation. I commend this conversation to readers.

What of President Putin's faith and beliefs? In *The Saturday Paper* article Stan Grant references that the Russian President has written about his mother, a ROC Christian, "defying his father and secretly baptising him during the communist, atheistic, Soviet Union. In 1993, Putin's mother asked that he take his baptismal cross with him on a visit to Israel, where he had it blessed at the Tomb of the Lord. He has not taken it off since."



Grant adds that "to understand the complexity and religiosity of Putin is not to excuse him. There were geopolitical and historical factors that contributed to the invasion of Ukraine, **but** the decision to make war (that) has brought error and death to innocent people was Putin's alone. His is an act of aggression. We cannot underestimate faith and politics in Russia. We cannot think the embrace of orthodoxy is merely a populist play by Putin. If we do, we misjudge the stakes in Ukraine and how far Putin might go for victory". Grant considers Putin "a product of his nation, his faith and his history. He fashions himself as a defender of the faith, resisting the decadence of the West."

And what of the position of Patriarch Kirill and the leaders of the Russian Orthodox Church? Are they speaking TRUTH, justice and Christian values to President Putin, the Russian Government, the members of the Russian Orthodox Church and the people of Russia?

Doug McIver

Member, Uniting Church (Kyneton & Northern Congregations)

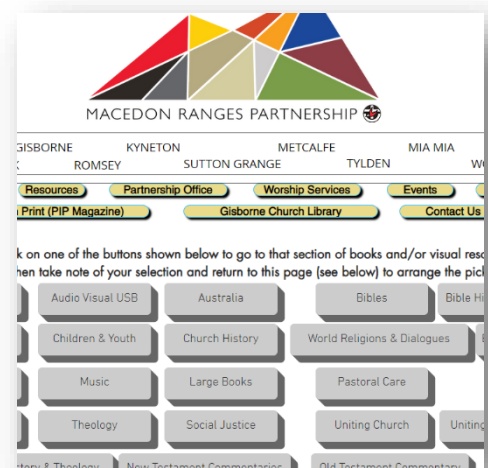
August 2024

The picture above is an AI Generated image by NVD from Pixabay

**Help needed!!** Our Gisborne Church has a fine and growing library. Unfortunately, it is not used as much as we would like so we're looking for people to take a book, read it and write a short review to encourage others to do the same. For more information talk to D'Arcy, Janet or Marg Woolner.

You can find some of the books available at the Gisborne UC library (maybe all?) through the Partnership website using the link below:

<https://www.macedonrangesunitingchurch.org.au/copy-2-of-church-book-library-1>



SPRING  
right into (or out of)



BOOKS



@ The White Goose

Book Exchange or Borrow  
3 Sutherlands Rd, Riddells Creek

gardening books, cooking books  
or simply books to sit with in the  
sunshine (or away from the wind & rain)  
and enjoy reading

Every Wednesday  
9.30am - 1.00pm

Second Sunday of each Month  
10am - 2pm



## Quiet Day

*A time of self-care and nurture, as we  
come together for reflection and  
contemplation, stepping aside from our  
busy-ness, to be present with what is sacred*

Saturday, September 14th, 10am - 3pm  
at 'the White Goose'

3 Sutherlands Road, Riddells Creek

Lunch, tea/coffee and light snacks will be provided.  
(Please let us know of any special dietary requirements)

**We would appreciate a small donation (on the day) to assist with costs.**

For further information (or if you need transport):

Barbara Ashley 0410 439 724,

Jill Gray 0400 236 122, or

Marg Huggins 0490 753 843

Please let Barb, Jill or Marg know if you and/or a friend plan to attend.

*Holy  
as the day is spent*

Supported by St Andrews Uniting Church, Sunbury

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>Pentecost 15</b> Streaming from Kyneton HC (AB)	<b>12.30</b> Souper Lunch <b>2.30pm</b> Faith Community Woodend <b>4pm</b> Meditation Romsey		<b>9.30-1pm</b> White Goose Riddells Creek		<b>10am</b> Prayers at Gisborne <b>6.30pm</b> Fish & Chips Worship Kyneton	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<b>Pentecost 16</b> Streaming from Romsey, lay-led <b>10-2pm</b> White Goose	<b>12.30</b> Souper Lunch <b>2.30pm</b> Faith Community <b>4pm</b> Meditation	<b>10am</b> Muffin Morning Gisborne	<b>9.30-1pm</b> White Goose Riddells Creek		<b>10am</b> Prayers at Gisborne	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<b>Pentecost 17</b> Streaming from Tylden, lay led	<b>12.30</b> Souper Lunch <b>2.30pm</b> Faith Community <b>4pm</b> Meditation	<b>10am</b> Ministers Munch	<b>9.30-1pm</b> White Goose Riddells Creek		<b>10am</b> Prayers at Gisborne <b>6.30pm</b> HC Fish & Chips Worship Kyneton	<b>*PiP items due tomorrow</b>
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<b>Pentecost 18</b> No streaming. AB leading at Gisborne	<b>12.30</b> Souper Lunch <b>2.30pm</b> Faith Community <b>4pm</b> Meditation	<b>10am</b> Gisborne alternative worship	<b>9.30-1pm</b> White Goose Riddells Creek		<b>10am</b> Prayers at Gisborne	
29	30	<h1>September 2024</h1>				
<b>Pentecost 19</b> <b>Partnership Service with Communion</b>	<b>12.30</b> Souper Lunch <b>2.30pm</b> Faith Community <b>4pm</b> Meditation					

## COCO REPORT

CoCo met on 3rd August at Gisborne with most members present.

We discussed the issues around streamed worship and it was reinforced that the person operating technical equipment for streaming worship on that day, needs to arrive at least half an hour before worship starts so that any connection problems can be ironed out well before 9.30am. There will be an A4 sheet of troubleshooting instructions to also help in connection between churches. Annette has words for many hymns that can be added to a Powerpoint presentation, but hymn books can also be used.

The meeting after the Partnership Service in June provided some feedback on the Act 2 recommendations, but we are waiting for further information from Synod about actions that will need to be taken by local congregations.

Our website currently shows photos of our church buildings so it would be good if congregations could take some photos of events happening in our churches. If personal photos are taken permission must be given to have these photos uploaded to the website and there is a standard form that can be used for this purpose.

There are some property issues with the Kyneton church building and there will be a consultation with relevant people from Presbytery and Synod towards the end of August to identify these issues.

Further contact is to be made with Cobaw Community Health regarding potential use of the Woodend Manse, the alternative being to commence a commercial lease.

Annette's report included the many connections she is making around the Partnership communities, as well as her leading of worship. She also gave recognition to the leadership of many people around the Partnership in local activities.

Tylden have been hosting Delightful Diners dinners at various venues around the Partnership, so ask your CoCo rep for details if you're interested in having a fun night out.

There are various events throughout the month at each congregation, so check the calendar and join in with others from the Partnership.

## RECLINING CHAIR FREE TO A GOOD HOME



D'Arcy's friend is offering this reclining chair for free, with free delivery within the Macedon Ranges.



Please contact D'Arcy Wood if you are interested.

**Free Entry!**

The churches of Kyneton and district warmly welcome

**Geelong Welsh Ladies Choir  
Victoria Welsh Male Choir  
& guest artists The Couriers**

GANTORION CYMBREIG  
Victoria Welsh Male Choir

to help everyone join into

# KYNETON SINGS PRAISES

**Community Hymn-singing**

Please assist afternoon tea catering by registering either at [trybooking.com/CTJKS](https://trybooking.com/CTJKS) or leave rsvp message on **0403 447 992**

**2:30pm, Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2024**  
**OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CHURCH**  
**53 Ebdon Street, Kyneton**

**Gymanfa  
Ganu!**

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## CoCo workshops for the whole Partnership

For a time, CoCo has been meeting bi-monthly on the first Saturday morning each month, after initially meeting monthly. As we begin to consider what the future might hold, in the light of ACT2 and changes to ministry in the coming years, I'm proposing that we gather on the alternative Saturday mornings; CoCo members, Church Council members and Elders, and any other interested people, to reflect and learn together. We might also hold some online sessions to enable even more people to participate.

To begin, on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September I'll lead a conversation based on this podcast about the changes in church and culture around us, which is also available as a video on YouTube:

Video: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Wpco22MfKgc>

Podcast: <https://www.spiritualmisfits.com.au/podcast/episode/78b168ef/my-generational-deconstruction-with-joanna-drayton-ken-day-and-ella-evans> (this link also has a link to the video)

or

<https://podcasts.apple.com/au/podcast/spiritual-misfits-podcast/id1607194516?i=1000663985231>

You can watch or listen before we gather, but we'll all watch the video together as well, as a lead-in to conversation. We can arrange for Zoom participation or, if there's enough interest, separate Zoom sessions at another time.

Other topics in the future will include: Mission, Pastoral Care, Worship, Discipleship, Governance, Resourcing, Implications of ACT2...and other topics that arise out of our conversations. Please come along and contribute, learn, listen, reflect and work on the actions we need to take.

Looking forward to listening deeply to the Spirit's leading, and to each other,

Annette

“What of your adventures in Switzerland?” Janet Wood asked me...

I have just had 3 beautiful weeks in Switzerland with my whole family (husband Carl and three daughters). We stayed with Carl’s parents near the Lake of Zurich. We each contributed to planning our holiday, then together decided what we would do. We spent time with friends, stayed in beautiful places, enjoyed the mountains and summer. We shared meals, conversations and some long, tricky and challenging walks. The late spring flowers in the alps were enjoyed by all. The girls (now aged 16, 20 and 23) rose to the hiking challenges and joined in the conversations. We walked around the old cities of Bern, Lucerne, Rapperswil and Zurich (a highlight for the girls was the Zurich flea-market). We used public transport where-ever we went. Our times together were healthily sprinkled with times doing our own thing. I even had two days flying (just a taster, not great weather for paragliding when we were there). It was truly a delight to be away together. I have returned to Woodend feeling refreshed and ready to be involved in ‘real’ life again.

Robyn Z

\*The ACT2 Report: The Gift of the Spirit is available to read or download online:

<https://act2uca.com/report/gift-of-the-spirit/>

There are limited printed copies available in each congregation, please share them around.

Contacts Other Groups		
<u>SUTTON GRANGE</u> <u>MIA MIA</u> <u>BARFOLD</u> <u>METCALFE</u>	<u>Congregation Chair</u> - Dot Smith <u>Elders - North</u> Dot Smith Marge Townrow	<u>Elders- Kyneton</u> Pip Elston, Jenny Elston, Helen Aldridge Andrea Strack
<u>KYNETON</u>	<u>Church Council</u> Roy Gibbs, Helen Carey Chair – Pip Elston Sec – Helen Aldridge	<u>Congregation Secretary</u> Jenny Elston <u>Congregation Chairperson</u> Roy Gibbs
<u>ROMSEY</u>	<u>Church Council/Elders</u> Noel Shaw      Jay Brooks Jeni Clampit      Jenny Elliott      Carol Toy	<u>UCAF</u> Pres/Sec - Jeni Clampit Treasurer - Carol Toy
<u>TYLDEN</u>	<u>Elders</u> Shirley Bowen, Joy Evans Max Hinneberg	<u>Worship Team Co-Ord</u> Janet Cole, Shirley Bowen <u>Op-Shop Contact:</u> Fiona Armour
<u>WOODEND</u>	<u>Editor Partnership in Print</u> – Robyn Zumstein	
<u>RIDDELLS CREEK</u>		<u>Craft Group</u> - Lynette Bucknall
<u>GISBORNE</u>	<u>Prayer Ministry</u> – D’Arcy Wood <u>Pastoral Care</u> - Bev Gilbertson <u>Social Justice</u> – Nola Anderson <u>Worship &amp; Education</u> - Paul Gilbertson	<u>Faith &amp; Community</u> – Kerrie Birch – Wendy Hallinan - Helen Hallett
<u>CoCo</u> - (Co-ordinating Council)	<u>Chair</u> - Colin Chapman <u>Deputy Chair</u> - Keith Hallett <u>Minute Secretary</u> - Keith Hallett <u>Treasurer</u> – Lyn Ward	<u>Tylden Woodend Op Shop CoCo members</u> Paul Gilbertson, Nola Anderson, Colin Chapman



Address label

**Partnership in Print** is a monthly magazine produced by the Uniting Church in Australia – Macedon Ranges Partnership and is available on the last Sunday of each month, except December

Macedon Ranges Partnership is part of the Port Phillip West Presbytery of the Uniting Church in Australia.

<p><b><u>MINISTER:</u></b>                  Pastor Annette Buckley                  Ph 5429 5351 or 0457 608 539                  annettebmrp@icloud.com</p>		<p><b><u>Office Location and Postal Address</u></b>                  Wurundjeri Country                  3 Sutherland Rd                  Riddells Creek 3431</p>
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<p><b><u>OFFICE PHONE</u></b>                  (03) 5428 6920</p>	<p><b><u>PARTNERSHIP EMAIL ADDRESS</u></b>                  macedon.ranges.partnership@hotmail.com</p>
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**PARTNERSHIP WEBSITE** [www.macedonrangesunitingchurch.org.au](http://www.macedonrangesunitingchurch.org.au)

CONGREGATION DETAILS	CHAIRPERSON	SECRETARY	TREASURER	PROPERTY	CoCo REPS
<p><u>SUTTON GRANGE</u> - Church Access Rd  <u>MIA MIA</u> - Matheson Rd  <u>BARFOLD</u> - Heathcote-Kyneton Rd  <u>METCALFE</u> - 3 Metcalfe-Kyneton Rd  <u>KYNETON</u> - 54 Ebdon St (PO Box 892)</p>	Pip Elston	Helen Aldridge miamiakynetonu c@outlook.com	<p><u>Finance Committee</u>                  Helen Carey                  (Treas)                  Roy Gibbs                  Jenny Elston</p>	Church Council Executive	<p>Marge Townrow                  Dot Smith                  Pip Elston, Lyn Ward,                  Helen Aldridge(alt)</p>
<p><u>ROMSEY</u> - 25 Pohlman St                  (PO Box 264, Romsey, 3434)</p>	Noel Shaw	Jeni Clampit	Roger Baker		Noel Shaw, Jeni Clampit, Jay Brooks (alt)
<p><u>TYLDEN</u> - Trentham Rd                  (c/o Tylden General Store, Tylden,                  3444)</p>	Max Hinneberg	Janet Cole	Dawn Hinneberg	Max Hinneberg	Bronwyn Hewitt, Dawn Hinneberg
<p><u>WOODEND</u> - 37 Forest St</p>					
<p><u>GISBORNE</u> - 23 Brantome St</p>	Bev Gilbertson	Colin Chapman	Paul Gilbertson	Neil Moorhouse Rob Dunstan	Colin Chapman, Keith Hallett, Paul Gilbertson

Happy Wattle Day for 1<sup>st</sup> September and welcome to Spring! From Psalm 117: (NRSVUE)  
 Praise the LORD, all you nations! Extol him, all you peoples! For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!  
 Submissions for the October edition are due to me by Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September thank you!  
 Robyn ( [zumstein@mmnet.com.au](mailto:zumstein@mmnet.com.au) )

Printing donated by

