

INTERSECTION

ST MICHAEL'S UNITING CHURCH



AUTUMN 2019



ST MICHAEL'S UNITING CHURCH

ST MICHAEL'S
UNITING CHURCH



2019 - IT'S A GOOD YEAR

CHAIR OF CHURCH COUNCIL

Laura Beckett

TREASURER

Ian Cox

SECRETARY

Maree McDonald

DEANERY I: HOUSEHOLD

Dean: Bill Morgan

Deputy Dean: Allan McLaren

DEANERY II: CHURCH SERVICES

Dean: Graeme Adamson

Deputy Dean: Albert Phillips

DEANERY III: CONTACT & CARE

Dean: Lyndell O'Brien

Deputy Deans: Joy Arnot
and Liz Green

DEANERY IV: PROGRAMS

Dean: Lorraine Woolley

Deputy Dean: Simon McCall

OFFICE

Phone: 03 9654 5120

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Web: stmichaels.org.au

[youtube.com/StMichaelsChurch](https://www.youtube.com/StMichaelsChurch)

[instagram.com/stmichaelsmelb](https://www.instagram.com/stmichaelsmelb)

twitter.com/stmichaelsmelb

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MINGARY COUNSELLING

Director: Dr Lynette Kramer

Phone: 03 9654 5120

mingarycounselling.com.au



The weather in Melbourne has just just turned. It is officially Autumn, and we are already a quarter of the way through the year. As we prepare for Holy Week and Easter, we continue to enjoy the presence of supply minister Rev Peter Burnham. And in the face of renewal and resurrection St Michael's continues to move forward with positivity and promise.

With a new Council appointments, the rewriting of Council roles, new faces in the office and and a desire for effective communication, St Michael's keeps its focus on changing for the better. The introduction of a "Council Corner" section in the Intersection gives members the opportunity to hear what Council actions are being undertaken to keep this vibrant community working.

We also look towards our members who truly make St Michael's what it is. It is our members and the people who attend St Michael's who give St Michael's it's colour and momentum. In this edition we meet members who have had a long standing presence at St Michael's, who have lived out their significant moments at St Michael's and forged strong conections and friendships with others. It is their voices and actions we love about this church and it's community.

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COUNCIL CORNER: COUNCIL COMMUNIQUE



Thank you to our Program Presenters in 2018.

- A vote of thanks from the Council to Patricia Cameron-Hill and Dr Shayne Yates, presenters of the *Staying Alive* Program during 2018, to a most appreciative audience. Patricia has advised that her program is currently postponed.
- Neil Blood has concluded his *Creative Faith Discussion Group* and the Council thank him for his excellent work and for leading the discussion in the area of the New Faith as delineated by Dr Macnab.

Administrative Issues.

- Recognising that many members like to sit in the Balcony on Sunday it was agreed to close the Balcony on Communion Sundays only.
- The Council will be working hard to implement the Keeping Children Safe Policy and to ensure

that appropriate volunteers have an up to date Working with Children Check registration.

- The Council is reviewing its responsibilities regarding the archives of its important Church documents. We will be seeking advice on the maintenance and update on an appropriate records management system.

Terence Corkin Consultancy

- As a result of a recommendation from the Terence Corkin Consultancy, Council members and presenters of programs have each signed a new Code of Conduct. This document recognises the appropriate behaviours to be demonstrated in our church, and the due respect to be shown to all to our congregation and to those who visit our church.
- Terence Corkin is continuing to work with the

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Council to review how the Council operates, its governance and meeting procedures. A workshop for Council members was held on Saturday 30 March and a later workshop will be held on Saturday 25 May. Terence will be conducting a meeting for the congregation later in the year.

- Council has approved new job descriptions for the Church Council, Chair of Council, Treasurer and Secretary.

Church Website

- Those visiting the St Michael's website will notice the excellent work of our Communications Committee chaired by Susan Humphreys. The site has been extensively refreshed, and the information has been updated and navigation is now much easier and quicker.

JNC Update

- The JNC has received a number of applications from Australia and overseas. Three candidates were interviewed at the end of March 2019.

Prayer Tree

- The Council is grateful and sincerely thanks Val and John Kelly for their many years of dedicated

service to the church's Prayer Tree. Val has been the leader of the Prayer Tree and John has ably assisted Val with the administrative aspects of this important church service. The Prayer tree assists and remembers people who are experiencing difficulties in their lives and forms a vital support to members of the congregation. Catherine Jones has agreed to be the new leader of the Prayer Tree. We thank Catherine for undertaking this important role.

New Members

- Lyndell O'Brien, Dean of Contact and Care, together with Reverend Burnham will be organising meetings for people wishing to consider becoming a member of St Michael's in May this year.

Programs

- Lorraine Woolley has been working hard to implement new programs for members of the congregation to enjoy. Reverend Burnham has commenced his *Saving Jesus* Series which will be held in the Waratah Room from March through August.
- After church Mindfulness Meditation sessions

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2019 ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH COUNCIL

Graeme Adamson	Bill Morgan
Peter Anderson	Jeanette Noy
Joy Arnot	Lyndell O'Brien
Laura Beckett	Albert Phillips
John Coppock	Carole Phillips
Ian Cox	Cheryl Power
Susan Fleming	Garry Radley
Valerie Gill	Stuart Reid
Elizabeth Green	Wilfred Sawatzky
Johanna Hersey	Ian Smith
Roger Hersey	Margaret Smith
Susan Humphrey	Max Telfer
Catherine Jones	Russell Watson
Heather Martin	Alan Wilson
Maree McDonald	Ann Wilson
Allan McLaren	Lorraine Woolley
Evelyn McLaren	

have been organised. Conducted by Karen Ellis, they will be held twice a month in the Wellbeing Room.

- Peter Kingsbury is continuing his *Poetry Program*. *The Searchers Group* will be facilitated by Simon McCall and Peter Kahane.
- Roz Rimes conducted her program *Positive Living* at the end of March in the Waratah Room.

Church Office Appointments

- Glen Tonkes has been appointed as Finance and Operations Manager to oversee and manage the church office. We congratulate Glen on his appointment and know that he will do a great job in managing the work of the church office.

Council Support for the Choir of Hard Knocks

- The Council has agreed that the Choir of Hard Knocks use the Church Hall on Monday mornings as a rehearsal space. We are very pleased to be able to assist the choir and we look forward to their



Office Bearers from top to bottom: Laura Beckett (Chair of Council), Ian Cox (Treasurer) and Maree MacDonald (Secretary)

performing for us during the Sunday Service.

Thank you.
Laura Beckett
Chair of Council

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND COMMITMENT SERVICE FOR ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH COUNCILLORS 2019



On 24 February 2019 a Commitment and Acknowledgement service was conducted for the 2019 Members of St Michael's Church Council, by Rev Peter Burnham.

The Councillors processed into the church and were seated in the front rows. During the Liturgy of Commitment, Rev Burnham spoke of the diverse gifts given to us all, that God works through people in different ways and that together we are the Body of Christ.

Rev Burnham, on behalf of the people of the Congregation, then presented the following people who had been elected by the congregation and who will serve as Church Councillors in 2019:



Graeme Adamson, Peter Anderson, Joy Arnot, Laura Beckett, John Coppock, Ian Cox, Susan Fleming, Val Gill, Liz Green, Catherine Jones, Heather Martin, Maree McDonald, Allan McLaren, Evelyn McLaren, Bill Morgan, Jeanette Noy, Lyndell O'Brien, Albert Phillips, Cheryl Power, Garry Radley, Stuart Reid, Wilf Sawatsky, Max Telfer, Alan Wilson, Ann Wilson and Lorraine Woolley.

The following Councillors were unable to be present on the day: Johanna Hersey, Roger Hersey, Susan Humphrey, Carole Phillips, Ian Smith, Margaret Smith and Russell Watson.

The Minister asked the Councillors a Question of Commitment: Do you accept your position of leadership and pledge to carry out your responsibilities

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with integrity, compassion and commitment?
The Congregation was then asked: Will you, the members of St Michael's, accept these Council members, and encourage them in love and support them as they make important decisions for the life of St Michael's congregation?

Rev Burnham introduced the Councillors who had been elected as Office Bearers for 2019:

Chair of Council: Laura Beckett

Treasurer: Ian Cox

Secretary: Maree McDonald

The Deans were introduced:

Dean - Household: Bill Morgan

Dean - Church Services: Graeme Adamson

Dean - Contact & Care: Lyndell O'Brien

Dean - Programs: Lorraine Woolley.

Laura Beckett, Chair of Council, then made a speech to publicly recognise and thank Richard Siegersma for his nine years of service, completed at the end of 2018, as Chair of St Michael's Church Council. Laura spoke of Richard's great commitment to the office and of his innovative ideas. Richard made a speech in response.

Following the service a special Morning Tea was held in St Michael's Hall to:

- Welcome Rev Peter Burnham as Supply Minister to St Michael's
- Acknowledge the Church Council for 2019
- Thank Richard Siegersma for his nine years of service as Chair of Church Council.

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THE PEOPLE OF ST MICHAEL'S



SANDY AND JOHN FOSTER

We moved back to Melbourne in late 1997, attending St Michael's on Christmas Day. The music and the service were so moving we decided to join St Michael's and our membership was transferred in 1998. We have been enriched by Dr Macnab's teaching, and the many wonderful speakers he invited: Spong, Veitch, Funk, Geering and others.

With relief, we'd found a comfortable place of progressive thinking. John became part of the 'greeting' team on the West Door. One morning Sandy's niece had tramline sand blown into her eyes and Sandy asked where she could find the first aid kit. She was directed to Patsy Stubbs, instigator of the first aid group. Patsy recognised Sandy's nursing training, enlisting her into the group. It has been rewarding to assist with a variety of health crises, providing care for sometimes very sick people.

Patsy became a friend and mentor. When Sandy began her PhD, with Dr Lou Harms as her supervisor, Patsy became 'literature resource person'. The breadth of knowledge and skills within St Michael's community never ceases to amaze us. Dr Rosemary Milne, Dr John Williams, Max Kidd, Eric Ford and others,

willingly contributed their wisdom. Memories of these friendships are precious. For many years we were part of a lunch group in its various locations, especially Basso's in Little Collins Street. It was an inclusive group where stories could be shared. We have alone and together attended a variety of after-church groups. John was on the church council for several years. He convened *Healing with Music*, one of Lou Harm's Searcher's Groups, where he made many friends. Memorable too, was the opening of Mingary and the arrival of the grand piano.

We still share the closing part of the journey of life, visiting sick and frail St Michael's people who can no longer attend church, becoming very close to them and their families. In this we are nurtured and supported by the other members of the Pastoral Care team, as we support them in return.

St Michaels is our spiritual home – we love its place in our city, its space, message, music and people. The last few years have been difficult for us all. It is the congregation's support for one another, hoping and holding a core sense of belonging, which gets us up early every Sunday morning. St Michael's has enriched who we are.

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ELVYN DEAR

Soon after hearing John Shelby Spong speak at the Uniting Church on Pitt Street in Sydney, they recommended I try St Michael's as I was soon to move to Melbourne where I was hoping to find a similar progressive church and community.

I wasn't disappointed. I was transported to another dimension the first time I stepped into the church and heard Calvin playing a Phillip Glass piece on the organ. When Dr Francis Macnab mentioned St Michael's was inclusive of homosexuals that brought a tear to my eye. It was a healing moment as I'd only ever heard in a church that we lesbians were an abomination before the Lord.

Scholarly sermons based on historical evidence challenging traditional scripture has meant I've been happy to invite my friends either, atheist or of other faiths to celebrate the sacred with me and some continue to visit occasionally.

When there was a call for tour guides I volunteered and although I probably wasn't much good on the history of the church, I met Marg a fellow guide and we still enjoy meeting and often catch up over lunch. It's probably our friendship more than anything that keeps me coming back.

I love the library space and Susan's dedication to keeping it open and I admire the myriad of volunteers who make St Michael's the dynamic vibrant place it is.

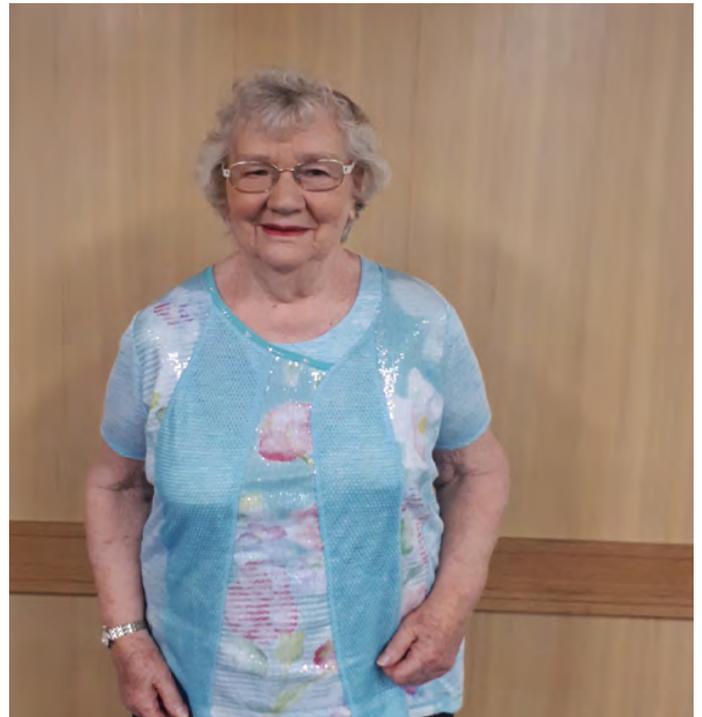
BETTY MCLAREN

For many, St Michael's has been a place of thought and friendships. Not only is it a place to sit and listen each Sunday morning, but people make strong and ongoing connections.

Betty had been teaching at Templestowe Technical School and had set up a Learning Centre Department, ensuring that extra help was available for the number of children who needed additional academic support. Maybe it was the fact that the Centre had been allotted the first three computers resourced to the Humanities Department, possibly making other colleagues resentful, but at one point in her career an advert in *the AGE* newspaper jumped out at her, "When you feel all the world's against you where do you turn?" It was an ad for St Michael's Sunday address. She went. She listened and she was hooked. Betty has been attending St Michael's ever since then.

After the initial service, she plucked up the courage to say hello to a very poised woman in the hall. This woman, Maisie, became a good friend at St Michael's. They sat together every Sunday and she joined with Betty's family for holidays at Wilsons Promontory.

Betty was also a keen organiser of social events: outings



to the Melbourne Theatre Company, lunches to the Hyatt and Sofital. She even helped start a Book Group, based in St Michael's, with discussions in her home.

Betty has felt the support from the community of St Michael's - from her longstanding friendships and from the Pastoral Care team. For Betty, over the years, St Michael's has been her place.

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PEOPLE OF ST MICHAEL'S

DAVID JAMES

David is a St Michael's regular who agrees that a valuable part of St Michael's is its social centre.

David's father was a Unitarian minister, who retired during the 1970's, after which David was looking for a church with a similar intellectual approach. This search brought him to St Michael's, where he attended a service at the end of December in 1980.

This move was to change his Sunday habits and his relationship status. One of the Church Notices mentioned a New Year's Eve party, hosted by another St Michael's member. He attended. At 10pm he met a lady offering refreshments. They introduced. She stopped tendering refreshments and they spoke into the New Year. Her name was Phyl. They married on that spot in the November. Theirs was a long marriage (32 years), punctuated with Sundays at St Michael's and plenty of social occasions.

David spent ten years at the helm of St Michael's Sound and Lighting desk, ensuring the spotlight stayed

focussed, the ministers were heard and the service was recorded. He retired in 2013.

After a brief hiatus from the Church looking after Phyl, who was unwell, David has returned and is enjoying the company of new and old friends at St Michael's. Even after the many years spent at the Church, David is still finding moments of pleasure amongst his many friends.



VALE

IDA SUMMERS

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Ida Summers, at the age of 98, on 17 December 2018. Ida began attending St Michael's in the 1970's, when it was the Independent Church.

She was very involved in many ways. Ida was a 'Folder of the Order of Service' for 20-30 years, belonged to the Knit and Chat Group, knitted and crocheted wonderful items for the Global Concerns Table and continued to do so after she could no longer attend. She also was a guide for Week Day Tours.

During Dr Macnab's Ministry, Ida donated money each fortnight from her pension and asked Dr Macnab to use it 'for the children'. He put the money towards

the *Big Tent Project*. Dr Macnab named an award in her honour- *the Ida Summers Award*, which was awarded to several professional people, two of whom were St Michael's Members, for work done in the care and education of children, particularly those with special needs.



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MINDFULNESS MEDITATION

When:

Sunday 14 April, 11:30am sharp to 12:00pm
Sunday 28 April, 11.30am sharp to 12.00pm
Sunday 5 May, 11:30am sharp to 12:00pm
Sunday 19 May, 11:30am sharp to 12:00pm

Where: Wellbeing Room, 1st Floor

Presenter: Karen Ellis

Karen has been running weekly half-hour group sessions in the Chapel at Epworth Richmond Hospital since 2013 open to all. She is currently on staff in the Pastoral Care Department at Epworth in the area of grief and loss. Meditation has been an important part of Karen's life for 40 years.



PROSPECTIVE NEW MEMBERS

Several people in the congregation have expressed interest in the possibility of becoming a Member of St Michael's.

Two meetings are planned to take place in May. At these meetings with Rev Peter Burnham and the New Members' Team, you will have the opportunity to discuss what is involved in Membership of the Uniting Church in Australia and St Michael's Uniting Church, in particular.

SAVING JESUS WITH REV PETER BURNHAM

When:

Session 4 Sunday 28 April, 12:00pm
Session 5 Sunday 26 May, 12:00pm
Session 6 Sunday 9 June, 12:00pm
Session 7 Sunday 23 June, 12:00pm

Where: Waratah Room, 1st Floor

Presenter: Rev Peter Burnham



Join Marcus Borg, John Dominic Crossan, Matthew Fox, Amy-Jill Levine, James Forbes and a host of others for an exploration of the relevance of Jesus Christ for the third millennium.

Each session runs for 1-1.5 hours and includes a conversation around the readings, a 20 minute video segment and guided discussion.



The Induction of the New Members will take place during the Communion Service on 2 June 2019. For further information, please speak with Lyndell O'Brien or Joy Arnot.

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TRIO ANIMA MUNDI

On Sunday 24 March, St Michael's was pleased to host the delightful *Trio Anima Mundi* (Kenji Fujimura, Rochelle Ughetti and Noella Yan) in concert. A receptive audience enjoyed the program that the *International Academy of Musical Arts* expressed as the trio's "masterly interpretations" which "captured the magic and passion of the Ravel and Warner trios!"

Don't fret if you missed out, - they are playing at St Michael's again.

Concert 2 - *The Kapellmeisters*

Sunday 23 June at 2pm

Concert 3 - *Three's Company*

Sunday 20 October at 2pm

Single tickets: Adult \$45, Concession \$35

Bookings: www.trioanimamundi.com



REINTRODUCING

After a couple of years away attempting to get a handle on motherhood (and still trying), Alana Pryor is back with the St Michael's team.

In a the role of Communications Officer Alana will be working part-time keeping the website looking good, increasing our social media presence and supporting the office and St Michael's congregation in advertising

our excellent events.

Alana enjoys spending time with her partner Kieran and their 2.5 year old daughter Miia. She is also a practising Myotherapist, passionate about helping people become their best and loves dancing (still managing to join a class when she needs time out).

Alana is happy to be back, confessing to missing the St Michael's people while she was away.

FLORAL DISPLAYS

We love the floral arrangements in the church. Bright, fun, subtle or elegant, whatever their mood, they are always beautiful.

Each Sunday the Church flowers are donated by those wishing to remember a special person or event in their lives. We are grateful for the stunning flowers we enjoy each week in the Church and we welcome your contribution to this program. Please contact the office if you wish to donate.



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CONTACT AND CARE

The members of the Contact and Care Team are available to talk with, or assist people, who are experiencing difficult times.

Rev Peter Burnham is available to provide support and Pastoral Care to people from St Michael's congregation. St Michael's is engaging Peter to provide support, so there will be no cost for anyone who wishes to meet with him.

If you would like to speak with us: find us on a Sunday (our name tags have 'Contact and Care' printed in red beneath our names), or contact a member of the team via the Church Office. All matters remain confidential.
Lyndell O'Brien - Dean of Contact and Care
Joy Arnot and Liz Green - Deputy Deans



PRAYER TREE

There is a light in this world, a healing Spirit, more powerful than any darkness we may encounter.

- Mother Teresa



We are a small group of caring people committed to sharing the load with those going through difficult times. We have welcomed the positive outcome experienced by those whom we have supported.

If you would like your own name put on our 'Prayer Tree' please speak with Catherine Jones directly, or contact the St Michael's office and ask for a message to be forwarded. All personal information is treated with respect and confidentiality.

*If this request involves another person, please seek their permission first.

MINGARY COUNSELLING SERVICE

Confidential, low-cost counselling

If you are seeking relief from painful or stressful experiences, assistance with major life changes or help reducing anxiety, fear and uncertainty, call Mingary Counselling Service to make an appointment today.

Or visit The Quiet Place: a peaceful, nondenominational sanctuary for people of all cultures. Open 9am to 5pm weekdays; 8am to 1pm Sundays; enter from the Russell Street side of St Michael's.

Director: Dr Lynette Kramer, Counselling and Clinical Psychologist

www.mingarycounselling.com.au | (03) 9654 5120

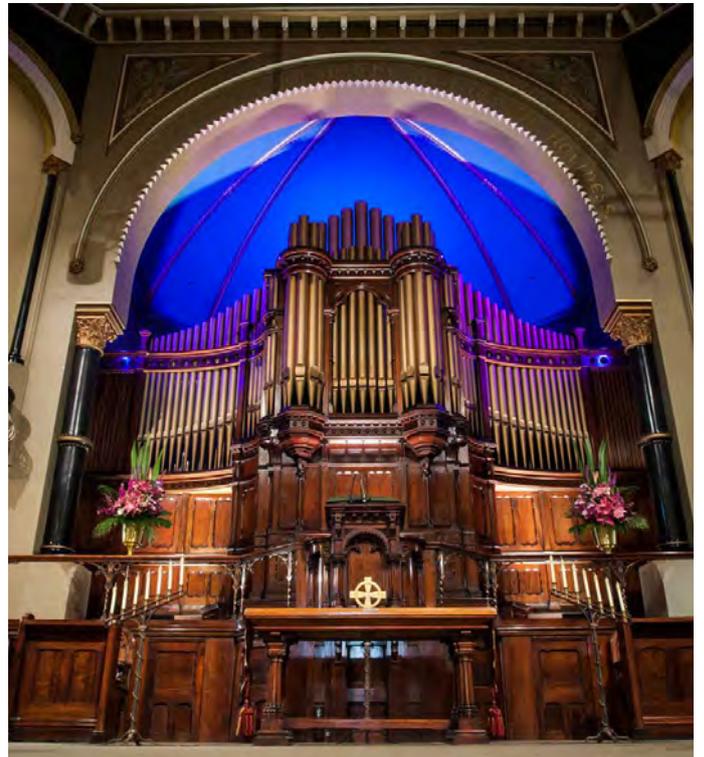
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LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITAL

On Thursdays at lunchtime, a different type of sound fills St Michael's. It is the sound of air. More specifically, it is the sound created by wind driven through the organ pipes of the St Michael's Grand Organ.

Often termed the 'king of instruments' the grand organ is capable of conveying a variety of sounds and moods, from powerful and intense tempests to subtle and quiet melodies. Each pipe organ is designed and built for the room it is located and it is very rare that one organ will sound and behave like another. This makes the St Michael's Pipe Organ even more special.

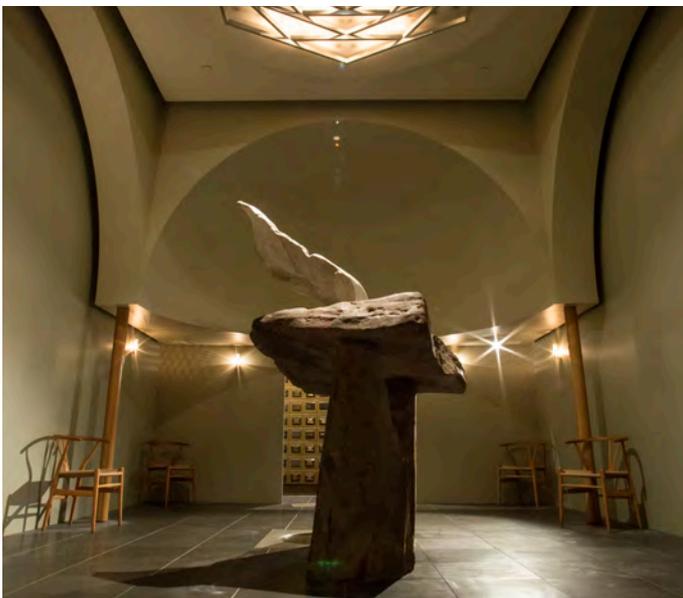
Thursday lunchtimes is when Rhys Boak, St Michael's organist and Director of Music and guest organists bring the sound of air to life. Those who have been attending the organ recitals over the ten years they have been operating can attest to the power and magnificence of the instrument and the skill and talent of those who play it.



When: Every Thursday at 1.00pm
(doors open at 12.30pm)

Where: St Michael's Uniting Church
Free Event

MINGARY, THE QUIET PLACE



On the Russell Street side of St Michael's, steps lead through the the garden and up towards a doorway. This is the way to Mingary, the Quiet Place. This sanctuary is available to the people of Melbourne and its visitors for quiet reflection and meditation.

As you walk through the doors, you notice the calm of a water feature on the left where water trickles down a chain into a marble pool below. Moving onwards you find yourself in the main room. Warm, peaceful and quiet it invites you to stop and rest.

Close your eyes and breath. Focus on the magnificent sculpture - a combination of rock, water and sound. Mingary is a piece of nature in the heart of the city. Contemplate. Pray. Reflect. Mingary is your place to refine your inner calm in the rush of life.

Open:
Weekdays 9am to 4.30pm & Sundays 9am to 1pm.

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EASTER AT ST MICHAEL'S

with Rev Peter Burnham

HOLY WEEK
LUNCHTIME MEDITATION
WITH REV PETER BURNHAM

Monday 15 April

Tuesday 16 April

Wednesday 17 April

Thursday 18 April

12.30pm to 1.00pm

Free Event

Wellbeing Room, St Michael's Place

The meditation/reflection on the last days of Jesus' life.
The day by day account of Holy Week will focus on Mark's gospel
and ideas from John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg.

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EASTER AT ST MICHAEL'S

with Rev Peter Burnham

Maundy Thursday 18 April, 6.30pm:
Holy Communion and Tenebrae Service -
A Service of Communion, Readings and Hymns.

Good Friday 19 April, 9am:
The Cross That Speaks

Easter Sunday 21 April, 10am:
Who Will Roll Away the Stone?

