



**PROFILE— IRENE & BOB STEVENSON**

Irene was born in Crook, County Durham (northern England) and has a brother and sister. She attended Howdern-Lea-Weir Primary School and then Willington Primary School when the family moved for her father to work in the coal mine. Then it was to Willington Parkside Comprehensive. Irene says she never ever finished secondary schooling because she was in hospital when the end of year came and then didn't go back. Her first job was in a department store selling cosmetics which she really



loved and she stayed until the birth of her daughter. Later she worked part-time for an optician. Irene attended Sunday School in Willington and had a great love for Jesus without a lot of understanding until after the birth of her son. She was raised in a strong Methodist home which gave her a firm religious foundation. Bob was born in Croydon and has two sisters. He attended Mooroolbark Primary School and then Box Hill Tech before moving to Hamilton when his father returned from the war. On leaving school he started work with the Commonwealth Bank as a teller in Hamilton and then moving to Maryborough, Ballarat, Stawell and Maryborough again as the Accountant. He left the bank after 14 years in 1967 to study for the ministry, having always felt the call of the church. His spiritual journey began as a four year old through his grandmother and encouraged by the Sunday School at Mooroolbark. Bob was a good sportsman and played football and cricket (continuing until he was 50) – now in retirement he can enjoy watching his Melbourne Demons play. After Home Missionary work at Avondale Heights Bob was ordained in 1973 with his first placement at Rainbow, followed by Belmont, Surrey Hills, and then 5 years in England before returning to South Port Parks Parish Mission. When the Methodist Conference sent Bob to England he was responsible for a circuit of 13 chapels. It was at this time that he met Irene at Willington where she was an elder. He was recalled back to Melbourne to support Joe Fraser, a close friend, to fill a vacancy at the Parish Mission; twelve months later Bob was called to the Mission where he ministered for the next 9 years.

Bob and Irene married in 1992. Bob has six children and Irene has two children and they now have 20 grandchildren and three great grandchildren. They retired to Clifton Springs in 2000 with Bob acting as the Presbytery Minister for Barwon for 18 months.

Irene is one of the members of the church helping arrange the craft activities for Messy Church. She is also involved in the church as a pastoral carer, member of the Worship Team, helper at mainly music and part of the choir in the 10.45 service group. She also volunteers in the Op Shop. Irene likes to be involved in Messy Church to help young people take part in church—they are our future she says. Irene is a deeply spiritual person with a fierceness for faith and God-centred life. Bob is a member of the choir and has been a great support to our ministers and linked congregations with services and special pastoral care. He was also heavily involved in the Geelong Concern administration, that is now UnitingCare Concern.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Angela & Chris Tutty has welcomed another new grandson, Amorangi TeKarehana Christopher Tutty.

**SPECIAL BIRTHDAY**

Congratulations to Denise McLaverty who celebrates her 70th birthday this month.

The next special birthdays dinner will be in October. Details next issue.

**MESSY CHURCH**

The August “Recycle” Messy Church had participants making masks, whale catchers, racing cars, cat collages, firework paintings, planting seedlings and noughts & crosses game. Thank you to all who supplied milk cartons, cardboard rolls and bottle tops.

In October the theme is “Harvest”.



**MARK YOUR DIARY**

Planning has commenced for the Pilgrimage for 2017 to be held on Saturday 7 January with a theme of “Sky and air”.

- 14 Sept – 1.00 pm Communal Prayer
- 17 Sept—8.00 am Prayer Breakfast
- 28 Sept —1.00 pm Communal Prayer
- 15 Oct—Mainly Home-made Fete

\* \* \* \* \*

\* Q. How do you \*  
\* make Holy Water? \*  
\* \* \* \* \*

\* A. Get regular \*  
\* water and boil \*  
\* the devil out of it. \*  
\* \* \* \* \*

**This month's services**

- 4 Sep — 9.00 am Wayne’s Team with  
Rev Bob Stevenson HC
- 10.45 am Wayne Myers with  
Rev Bob Stevenson HC
- 11 Sep — 9.00 am Graeme’s Team  
10.45 am Rev Ian Porter
- 18 Sep — 9.00 am Denise’s Team  
10.45 am Rev Bob Thomas
- 25 Sep — 9.00 am Jenni’s Team  
10.45 am Port Lay Team

**Stack every bit of criticism between two layers of praise.**



**Happy birthday!**

- SEPTEMBER**
- Wayne Myers 4th Sep
  - Jonnie Mander 9th Sep
  - Sue Gibbons 9th Sep
  - Duncan McKellar 9th Sep
  - Margo Jones 10th Sep
  - Denise McLaverty 13th Sep
  - Merrilyn Lloyd 26th Sep
  - Rita Kuit 27th Sep

10.45	KITCHEN	WELCOME	READING	ELDER/PRAYERS
SEP 4	Pat & Ken	Marg	Harvey	Irene
11	Win & Andrea	Marg	Win	John
18	Marg & John	Ken	Marguerite	Jen
25	Val & Audrey	Ken	Lay Team	Pat/Lay Team

W@9	KITCHEN	COUNTING	FLOWERS
SEP 4	Wayne’s Team	Ian	-
11	Denise’s Team	Jonnie	Norma Taylor
18	Graeme’s Team	Jenni	Wilma Mansell
25	Jenni’s Team	Lynda	-

Web site: <http://drysdale.unitingchurch.org.au>

***Our Vision—Reaching out with God’s love and care***

**Happy birthday!**