



# DU Grape Vine



SEPTEMBER 2021

## THE WELCOMING CHURCH

The following is a report of a Synod Zoom presentation that I attended recently that used research on church growth to look at how welcoming a church was or should be. The presentation was made by John Jefferies OAM, CEO of Christian Blind Mission and a director of the Partners in Ministry organisation in Melbourne.



John said that the research indicated that for a congregation with about 100 members, 80 would be very regularly attenders. That congregation would likely have about 160 visitors each year with about 100 having a church background and 60 as first timers. Of the first timers most would be attending an ordinary church service rather than the Christmas, Easter, baptism or special services in a year. Many would come in January, when many churches had a more relaxed approach to rosters and planning.

He pointed out that the welcoming is important throughout the year. People change churches in most cases because they have moved away from the previous church location or because they had little connection to the church other than the Sunday service.

How do we improve our welcoming?

Be intentional—make it easy for visitors to connect

Be authentic—introduce visitors to others especially leaders; invite them to the after service cuppa; make sure every church member is a host

Have life expectations—contact is so important.



Welcoming needs to start not just at the door; many people will have checked out the web site or noticeboard before coming so these need to be up to date and welcoming. The welcoming can explain about anything special happening in the service. Welcoming in the service should be low key—a lot of people don't like too much fuss, especially if they have come to check out the group (we have our chocolate frogs). The ten minutes after the service are vital—are they included or excluded from discussions, are they introduced to people, are their contact details asked for? The research says that if people are contacted by a lay person within 36 hours after the service then about 85% will return, if it is after a week it is only about 15%.

Friendliness is just so important; telling people they are sitting in your seat is the worst that can happen. How do we rate?

**LEPROSY MISSION**

Dr Barry Edwards’ presentation on the work of the Leprosy Mission will hopefully take place on Sunday 17 October.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Graham and Julie Clutterbuck have welcomed a second granddaughter, Revi Weibenga.

**IF YOU HAVE A FALL**

Margaret Jeffrey has the answer for when you have a fall, as she did recently — have the newspaper with you to read whilst waiting for someone to come; Margaret had just collected her morning newspaper, and is alright now.



*This months' services*

- 5 Sep — 10.30 am Rev Temukisa HC (Wayne’s team assisting)
- 12 Sep — 10.30 am Jenni’s Team
- 19 Sep — 10.30 am Rev Temukisa (Denise’s team assisting)
- 26 Sep — 10.30 am Rev Temukisa

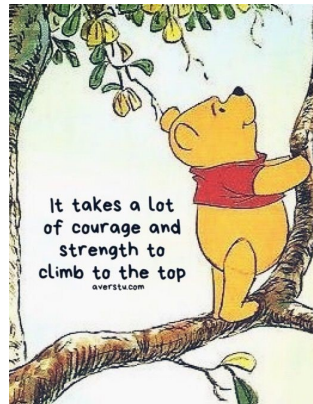
**SAMARITAN HOUSE  
LOOSE CHANGE**

Our loose change offering for Samaritan House is up to \$1364. This is wonderful. We look like we are going to easily exceed our \$1800 target.



**POSTIVE OUTLOOK**

I have prepared the September roster with an attitude that we are going to return next week—will the virus prove me wrong?



Happy birthday!

- SEPTEMBER**  
Wayne Myers  
Jonnie Mander  
Margo Jones  
Denise McLaverty

Happy birthday!



	MORNING TEA	WELCOME	READING	PRAYERS	VESTRY	COUNTING	FLOWERS
SEP 5	Alma & Win	Brenda	Carol	Pat	Claire	Lynda	-
12	Denise’s Team	Carol	Jenni’s Team	Jenni’s Team	Pat	Sue	Marguerite
19	Susan & Pat	Wilma	Win	Margo	Ian	Jonnie	Wilma
26	Marg & Dianne	Melva	Susan	John	Jenni	Ian	Denise

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

Facebook: [Drysdale Uniting Church](#)

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

MOWING	
SEP	Wayne