



GROVEDALE UNITING CHURCH

MAY 2026

For pastoral issues please contact

Rev. Peter Jewell – Minister of the Word

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Church Council Chairperson – Ian Firth

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Worship Leader – David Muller

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Church Vision Statement

To worship God and grow through fellowship and discipleship,
each member in loving ministry and transforming outreach.

Introducing Rev Deacon Peter Batten



Who are you?

I am an ordained Deacon of the UCA, I have been ordained for 30 years. My wife and I “retired” to the Bellarine (Clifton Springs) 2 years ago.

What are you doing at Grovedale UCA?

I am delighted to be able to provide 3 months’ supply ministry while the Rev Peter Jewel is on long service leave. This involves leading the Sunday morning gathering, Mainly Music, Messy Church and

any pastoral concerns. My times are Sunday morning and Tuesdays and Wednesday morning.

What have been/are your roles in ministry ?

I have been an outreach youth worker in the outer east of Melbourne, worked for synod YMU. Post ordination my placements have been university chaplain (Albury Wodonga) South Port Uniting Church (South Melbourne, Port Melbourne) as outreach worker, primarily focusing on mental health and Intentional Interim Minister. Minister Northcote Uniting church (PT) and working for PPW (PT) in mission and education. My final placement was presbytery minister in Gippsland presbytery, focusing on mission and education and eLM. Over this time, I have served on a variety of synod and Assembly committees, some of which I continue to serve on today. Currently I am part of Victorian Council of Churches Emergency Ministries and Compassionate Hearts on the Bellarine.

What are your interests?

My main interests are cycling, especially cycle touring, photography, music, (choirs and drumming, percussion), reading, and attending films and theatre, and multi modal art making (ask me about that one). One of my key interests is how the arts can inform our spirituality. Meditation as a practitioner and teacher.

What family do you have?

I have a wonderful wife, 3 grown up daughters and 5 grandchildren.

The Future?

I do not consider myself as retired rather reinventing myself. I am allowing the future to emerge.

Can I be contacted?

Yes. E mail pjbatten5@bigpond.com or 0419 255 585

Rev Deacon Peter Batten

May Roster

03/05/26	10/05/2026	17/05/2026	24/05/2026	31/05/2026
Greeting Hosts				
S Schneider G Barton	D McCallum J Hazen	S Schneider G Barton	D McCallum J Hazen	S Schneider G Barton
Church cleaning				
H Jones	W Poyner	D Muller	H Jones	W Poyner
Hall / Foyer / Steps				
P Holland	J Bromilow	P Holland	J Bromilow	P Holland
Morning Tea				
W Poyner G Barton	Helper needed S Schneider	D McCallum J Dean	L Hazen S Barrand	M McGough H Jones
Offering Count				
R Jane J Frost	I Firth L Brown	G Barton J Frost	W Poyner L Brown	R Jane L Brown
Thank you to all who contribute in any way to the Church body. If you are unable to take your turn, please arrange a swap with someone. If you would like to be included on any rostered duty please see Gail Barton.				

For your Diary in May

Sunday	9:30 am 4pm – 6pm	Worship service Open invitation to morning tea Messy Church 10 th May 17 th May – Kids Church
Monday	11:00 am	50+ Playgroup - Booln Booln Cultural Centre
Tuesday	10:00 am 7:30 pm	Mainly Music Study Group TBA
Wednesday	10am-3:30pm 6:30 pm	Chattels + Chats open 20 th May - Church Council meeting
Thursday	9:45 am 10:00 am 4:00 pm	Prayer Group Craft Group Worship practice
Friday	10am-3:30pm	Chattels and Chats open
Saturday	10am – 3:30 pm 9:30am 10am – 3:30pm	2 nd May Chattels and Chats open 16th May Grounds Working Bee 16 th May Chattels and Chats open

Ian's Jottings

On your behalf, I want to extend a warm welcome to the Rev (Deacon) Peter Batten (2 Peter) who is providing supply while Peter J (1 Peter) is on long service leave. We are very fortunate that 2 Peter is able to fill in.



While we welcome 2 Peter we are preparing to farewell Linley and Barry Liersch as Linley takes up a new placement at St John's Cowes. In the almost 2 years that I have been a member of the congregation I have come to value the wise counsel and sound advice of both the 'Lierschs'. I know you will join me in wishing them a happy and rewarding time as they minister on "the island".

Meanwhile the work of Church Council continues. At our April meeting we received a quote of some \$188K to replace the existing roof on the church complex. That unfortunately doesn't include the cost of removing and reinstalling the solar panels! CC decided that another quote was required. I am also arranging to get a report from a roofing expert rather than from a tradie. Hopefully this report will tell us that the work can be staged.

Unfortunately the *Uniting* saga drags on. Linley, Barry and I attended a meeting last week with Libby Coker, our Federal Member of Parliament for Corangamite. Linley was there as a Presbytery Minister. Barry and I were there as members of CC. Also present were reps from other UC congregations and one of the volunteers. Barry and I made it clear that our congregation was unable to provide any physical support to a continuing Emergency Relief service. We would be open to considering accommodating such a service but the matter of rent would need to be considered.



The congregation representatives were asked to report back to their respective CC's and then advise what funds each congregation could contribute to fund a continued service.

Libby Coker agreed to approach organisations around town to see if one could be found who would agree to manage the service. It is not just a matter of giving out food or food vouchers – volunteers have to be managed and trained, they have to have Police Checks and Working with Children Checks, they have to be rostered to work, and the need for a person (manager) who can hold all this together. So I'm expecting there is a bit more water to flow under the bridge before this issue is finally resolved.

Cheers, *Ian*



HAPPY BIRTHDAY in MAY to

Ayla Erdogan

Helen Lipua

Trevor Schneider

Brent Hope



GROUNDS WORKING
BEE

SATURDAY 16TH MAY

9:30 am

ALL WELCOME

