

Church Fete this Saturday, 24 October  
See you there!

First Sunday Program, with Holy Communion & BYO lunch, continues on 1 November and 6 December. If you need transport please contact your elder.

Special Occasion! Baptism of Nicholas Crosbie as an adult will take place on 1 November. Please make a special effort to participate in this wonderful occasion in the life of the church.

Welcome back to members of Exultate Choir (including Margaret Turnbull) who will sing in the service on Sunday, 8 November.

Combined Service at Holy Advent Church on 29 November, 9.30 am. This special service marks the *centenary* of the formation of the Anglican congregation in Armadale. Archbishop Dr. Keith Rayner will be the preacher. No service at the Uniting Church.

Uniting Church Fellowship will meet on Monday, 26 October, 1.30 pm at 3 Grant Ave ("the Flying Doctor") and Monday, 23 November, 1.30 pm in the Reta Berry Room (Christmas).

Council meetings:  
Parish Council - 21 October and  
Combined Council - 18 November.

### Synod Report

"HOME AND NOT ALONE: GOD'S HOSPITALITY AND OURS." Theme for Synod 1998.

Attending Synod meetings is somewhat like being back at school. You must be punctual or they will start without you! You must listen intently to all speakers, because at any minute you will be required to VOTE, and if you have fallen asleep during the long discourse you may not really have an informed opinion! You must take reams of notes (unintelligible later) to make sense of the arguments being put forward, a difficult feat at the best of times. Try doing it when squeezed into a small seat, between two large persons who are also juggling heavy books on their laps and seem to have four elbows each! One envies the luxury of space enjoyed by the Moderator, the General Secretary and one other person (whose function I am still not sure of) as they sit at a long table on a platform in front of the 500 or so delegates. They are there to make sure we all behave, and that we use our blue or orange voting cards at appropriate intervals. One has to be very careful here, as if you are among the intrepid minority who have chosen to display a blue card (a NO vote) you may have to go to the microphone and tell EVERYONE your reason for such a silly attitude. When, at long last, lunchtime comes round, everyone divides up into their little groups with their lunch boxes, and disappears. As I said, just like school!

However, attending SYNOD is a great learning experience, it is a living picture of the work being done by the Uniting Church

in Victoria. Decisions made here will affect all of us in some way during the next years, and you will read of them in future Crosslight editions. Fifty-three recommendations in all were voted upon, so you can see, I can't possibly list them all here. They ranged from such varied concerns as Privatisation; its effects of water supply; Education (state v private schools funding); Health/disability/social justice concerns; multicultural/racist and Aboriginal reconciliation on-going problems to Interim Code of Ethics for clergy.

Following the theme of SYNOD 1998, in her opening address, Moderator Rev. Pam Kerr told us not to be afraid of change, to try new music, new worship times or days, use our older members' talents and experience more creatively; instead of lamenting a death of "young" people go to where they are! Find out who is your neighbour through ecumenism and sharing of hospitality and faith. Challenging thoughts, summed up in her closing words:

*"reach out to community, challenge corruption, be loving, caring, sharing; genuine in friendship and full of integrity. But above all, speak out about your personal faith."*

I enjoyed my time at SYNOD and would be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding specific concerns (from my copious indecipherable notes & "sometimes reliable" memory!).

Yvonne Smith.