

Iona in Scotland is an ecumenical community working for justice and peace, community and worship renewal in the world. They call themselves a "dispersed community" since many who are part of Iona may come and go from the island—or not—and strive to live the Iona mission wherever they are.

This notion of being a dispersed community captures the imagination. It seems to reflect the nature and ethos of St. Andrews in many ways. Each one who crosses the threshold for whatever reason is a part of the whole. Each one brings a special gift and, hopefully, receives what they need that day. Touched by Christian community, we are dispersed to bear justice, compassion, peace and love at home, at work, and throughout our neighbourhoods.



Halyna cooking soup

#### Thank You for Your Consistent Support

We would like to take the opportunity to thank those organisations and businesses that have maintained their support in an ongoing way over the recent pandemic months. By acknowledging your generosity, we hope to inspire others to join your efforts or support our great local businesses:

- Caruso's Fresh Fruit
- Baker's Delight Glenelg
- SA Gourmet Meats Glenelg
- SecondBite
- Zonta Club
- Holdfast Rotary Club
- Brighton Lions Club
- Share the Dignity

#### Pantry Items Needed

Thank you to all who continue to bring in donations for our Emergency Relief pantry, especially those who remember us weekly. Last month, Gawler Uniting Church shared with us out of their abundance and we were grateful to see the pantry topped up.

As our numbers continue to increase steadily, the pantry remains in constant need of resupplying. In particular this month we need:

- Cereal
- Instant coffee and tea bags
- Long-life milk
- Savoury biscuits

#### Op Shop Revamp

Are you an op shopper? Do you have an imagination for retail with greater community purpose and meaning? In 2021, we intend to reopen the Op Shop with a fresh aim and look.

Sustainability is not just a buzz word, it is a necessity in our times. Therefore, we hope to assist others in creative repurposing. Initial brainstorming includes occasional markets in the courtyard to support local farmers, artisans and encourage hand-made gifts for Christmas.



If you would like to be part of this new initiative, please contact St. Andrews on 8295 1771. We are looking for visionaries and volunteers to give shape to the revised Op Shop.

## Reflections from Coordinator Avril Noy



When Emergency Relief was established at the beginning of April, our then Pastoral Support Worker Avril Noy was appointed as Coordinator. Avril has dedicated her time, effort and love to help us be a place of hospitality, acceptance and care.

Avril was asked recently about the gifts she has seen as well as the challenges over these months. She says a challenge has been the ever-changing landscape caused by the pandemic. While much has settled down for the moment, initially Avril was needing to revise procedures weekly. Also, working in the hall space has been limiting at times. The "Education Room" was quickly adapted to allow for food distribution but needs renovating to give it a more suitable and permanent home.

The gifts include seeing community grow and develop. Avril says this has come about in part by our change in space and the introduction of processes focused on maximising relationships. Avril is pleased to see many distinctions (us/them, volunteers/"clients" etc.) dissolving because of this emphasis. Another gift is the growing sense of shared ownership among the volunteers with everyone taking initiative to help in whatever way they can rather than volunteers attending to a single programme or task.

## COVID Marshals Introduced

In mid-August, UnitingCare Emergency Relief Services and places of worship were required to have a COVID marshal on-site whenever programmes are in operation. Staff and volunteers were quick to step forward for the online training and to fulfil this new responsibility. While taking seriously the role, we decided to have a little fun (notice Avril's sheriff's badge in the photo above). We felt this friendly, playful approach would be more in keeping with the ethos we hope to nurture at St. Andrews.

## Snapshot of Those Served During the Day

No fixed address	5.4%
Shared accommodation	22.9%
Other	71.7%
Single	44.5%
Male (of that figure)	60%
Female (of that figure)	40%
People with dependence	55.5%
People born in Australia	59.5%
People born outside Australia	40.5%
People living outside a 5km radius	42%

## Welcoming New Volunteers

In August, four volunteer applicants had trial shifts. We are finding that some approach St. Andrews because the organisations where they were volunteering have been shut down because of COVID. Others are looking for a way to be involved locally, especially during this time. Still others come for food support themselves and wish to engage more deeply in the community. Whatever the reason, we welcome all to the team.



Welcome Yelena!

## Tax Deductible Giving

As a sense of belonging and ownership grows, some are enquiring about how they might express their gratitude with a financial gift. We are pleased to inform you that your gift to UnitingCare Glenelg Emergency Relief Services is now tax deductible since we have come under the UnitingCare SA essential services umbrella. To make a tax deductible offering, please visit the Uniting Church SA website ([sa.uca.org.au](http://sa.uca.org.au)) and follow the links to the UnitingCare SA Relief Fund. Be sure to designate **UnitingCare Glenelg** when you make your donation.