



Pancake Day tradition alive and well

John Meyer

The ancient tradition of making pancakes on the day before the commencement of Lent has been kept alive and well in the Wembley congregation for nearly two decades.

It was in 2001 that the idea of a pancake meal on Shrove Tuesday was introduced to the congregation by its then minister, Rev Margaret Greenhill. Members were invited to cook their own pancakes in the church hall kitchen. After enjoying their meal, children and adults alike tried their hand at 'tossing the pancake' with the leftovers, on the lawn outside the hall; then everybody moved into the sanctuary for a short devotional looking towards the beginning of Lent.

When several years later the Synod promoted the idea of holding Pancake Day events to raise funds for the church's caring services, it was only natural that Wembley Uniting Church was happy to join in. This became an important means of outreach to the wider community and was further enhanced when members of the church's craft group set up a stall to add to the funds raised from the sale of pancakes and drinks.

Over the years the event has developed into the provision of a light meal at minimal cost, consisting of pancakes with savoury mince and salsa, as well as plain pancakes to which can be added a variety of toppings. Also for sale are soft drinks, fruit juices, tea and coffee. One of our members also cooks savoury puffs for her neighbours and friends and donates the proceeds to the cause.

Wembley's Pancake Day survived the cessation of the UnitingCare promotion and has become a firmly established event within the local community. In more recent years the proceeds went towards First Third Ministry (now Uniting Generations) in the western suburbs, and now the congregation's support of the chaplains at Churchlands Senior High School is given an extra boost.

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Photo credit: Rev Anne McAndrew