

The New-Normal Newsletter

Gordon-Pymble Uniting Church
Sunday 21 February 2021



A message from Steve

The traditional invitation to Lent (usually given on Ash Wednesday) includes these words,

"I invite you, therefore, in the name of Christ, to observe a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word."

They are good words, even if a little solemn. These days we also speak of taking up helpful practices as much as self-denial, but the aim is always to be more reflective and deliberate about our walk of discipleship. As I have thought about this, and peeked ahead at the readings, the theme of **reassessment** came to mind - reassessment of what we value, reassessment of our spiritual practices and more. I hope to sustain this as a theme over the coming weeks as I invite you to a holy Lent.

Church Council this week received a review of staffing, helpfully conducted by Maureen Hovy, and approved a number of changes to job descriptions. The summary is

- the Pymble administration role now becomes Administration and Facilities Co-ordinator responsible for both sites and is increased to 16 h.p.w.
- Nicola's role will now be focused on ministry tasks rather than being split between ministry and administration.
- Courtney, who previously only worked in the school terms, will now be employed for 52 weeks of the year,
- Our volunteer bookkeeper Sonja, receives extra financial duties and will now be paid.

Part of the rationale is to free up more time for Nicola and Courtney to work on the new community of faith, which will initially focus on a Friday night.

Thank you to the staff for their patience, and to Maureen for all her expertise. Changes will roll out over the coming weeks.

Steve Aynsley



World Day of Prayer

World Day of Prayer service on Friday, 5 March at 11 am at Gordon.

Planning is going ahead for the World Day of Prayer service, focussing on the women of Vanuatu. We are delighted that Dr Sureka Goringe, Executive Director of UnitingWorld, has accepted our invitation to speak at the service.

We will be grateful for offers to help as Covid marshals or ushers at the service, so please plan to come along. Registration is essential at info@gpuc.org.au. Please contact Sue Conde - sue.conde@gpuc.org.au if you would like more information.

Lent Begins

Written by UCA President Dr Deidre Palmer

As we enter into this season of Lent, we follow Jesus to Jerusalem, travelling with him in his suffering, and to his death. This year, we are mindful of the suffering experienced by so many in our world right now. In this time of preparation and discipline, may we journey toward the transforming hope and joy of his resurrection, mindful of Jesus' steadfast and enduring love, in the midst of danger, fear and grief. As followers of Jesus, God reminds us again of God's deep and healing love for us and for all people.



Thoughts & Prayers

Compassionate Christ,
You speak to our deepest longings for love, hope and meaning.
You call us into communion with you.
Draw close to us, as we take time in this season, to pray, to reflect, and to open our lives to the transforming presence of your Holy Spirit.
As we journey with you to Jerusalem and remember your suffering, we pray you will open our hearts to the suffering of the world.
Open our eyes and ears to see the needs of our neighbours and hear the voices of those who are grieving and wounded.
Strengthen our resolve to journey with you into justice, and into solidarity with all those who long for liberation.
As we journey with you to Easter, may you renew us in following your Way and empower us to be bearers of God's good news of love, compassion and hope to our world.
Amen.

Pray for
Our many volunteers
Our special projects
MADOW
Margaret Jurd College
Uniting World, especially Kiribati
Messy Church
New Community of Faith

Our newly elected executive members of Council
Chair- Lloyd Robinson
Deputy Chair Brian Gill
Secretary David Turner
Treasurer Maureen Hovy

Families dealing with sickness and loss



Lenten Studies There are opportunities to participate in Lenten studies this year. You can participate by attending the Thursday morning study group at Gordon. Contact Sue Conde.

Craft Classes

Mondays 10-12.00pm at GUC.

Come and join us for craft. Some are busy knitting beanies for Wayside Chapel but this is not the only option. If you are interested in joining contact

Lyn Kwong or Pru Tout

English Conversation Classes

Mondays at 10am-11.30.

There are currently 12 enrolments with backgrounds in a variety of languages, Farsi, Mandarin, Japanese, French and Cantonese.

Wrapped with Love

Last week our Wrapped with Love team delivered 40 beautifully made blankets



New Community of Faith

Courtney, Steve and Nicola along with the NCOF working committee have been looking at changes for 2021. Messy Church is going to continue on the first Saturday of the month with an explicit faith focus tied with the themes across the church community where possible. We have a number of pre teens who we believe will be better placed in their own group while the younger children stay with their parents. Tamara Robinson-MacLeod has offered to run this group. Everyone will come together at the end in worship, hopefully the older ones leading us in song and prayer.

It was felt to develop strong relationships we need to meet more often than monthly. So a new Friday night activity is proposed on the 3rd Friday of the month. We are hoping this will open up opportunities across generations and groups in our community. It will incorporate fun, purposeful activities and points to our Christian ethos without being a religious program/service. More details to come shortly.

Messy Church Saturday 6th March 4.30-6.30pm

You are God's Masterpiece



If anyone is willing to help with an activity or just come along to chat to families it would be appreciated. At the moment we are not having meals.

Visiting the Church: Please register your arrival/departure with a contact number and use hand sanitizer. You are encouraged to social distance, remaining 1.5 metres apart. This is part of the COVID 19 Safety Plan, legally required to keep us safe.

During worship we ask for 3 singles or 2 couples per pew. Downstairs has a maximum of 66. Upstairs 20.

Please remember the safety of others. We want to be able to remain sharing in person.

Although we are unable to mingle after the service we are still having our Virtual Morning Tea at 11am on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

Topic: Sunday morning tea

11:00 AM <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84474736981?pwd=aDU2eGxySmoxZU9ZUkN6ZlVUFE2UT09>

Meeting ID: 844 7473 6981 Passcode: 992809

You can still Join us for **Virtual or Live Stream Worship:** at

<https://www.youtube.com/user/gordonuniting>

For all the latest news, **visit our Website** www.gpuc.org.au

Contact the office at info@gpuc.org.au or 9983 9879