

**UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA  
YASS PARISH**



**APRIL 2021**

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Contact us page

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*As part of God's people we are called by God, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to share the love and grace of Jesus Christ, within our community through regular worship, faithful witness and humble service.*

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**Minister's Message:**

Easter is upon us. The message of resurrection is often lost in the public holidays, gluttonous spending and the disconnect for many from any understanding of Christian faith. This is the 'high' celebration of the Christian year, a time when we celebrate God's action, in ways we cannot possibly understand and yet still share in, when Jesus of Nazareth who died a cruel death met with those closest to him on the other side of death. A unique moment.

And yet not quite. Creation around us speaks constantly of the wisdom and creativity of God, and models for us the truth of resurrection. Think of the bulbs we plant so that colour and beauty surface as spring comes. Remember what happens to Australian lands that have been wiped out by bush fires: it rains and before long eucalypts are sprouting what looks rather like green hair up their trunks as the trees come back to life. Banksias must be burned so that seed and new life can be released. Out of death comes vivid new life. Pink flannel flowers that are only evident after a conflagration. And, while it is something we avoid thinking about, think about what happens to our own bodies after our death – earth to earth, dust to dust. Out of our death nutrients are released back into the soil from which we come so that life continues.

Resurrection offers us hope that our lives have a part in the purposes of God both at a physical and a spiritual level. We are looking to celebrate Easter and to remember the death that leads us to resurrection. This truth so vividly modelled around us offers us hope as a community. Is there life for the congregations that have nurtured us so that others may be nurtured? It seems at times that we are facing too much hard work to turn things around, but this season and the patterns of creation tell us not to lose hope for out of death there is new life. We just need to look in the right places to recognise it.

Happy Easter (and not too much chocolate)!!

Christine Moimoi

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**THE YASS CONGREGATION:**

The AGM of the Yass congregation will be held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2021 for the election of office bearers, to be followed by the general meeting. We were required to postpone these elections from 2020 owing to Covid restrictions.

The following positions are for election. Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary, Church Notices, Presbytery Representative, Chief Stewards (at present there are four) Reserve (currently one.)

Items for the agenda or nominations for positions should reach me by 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021.

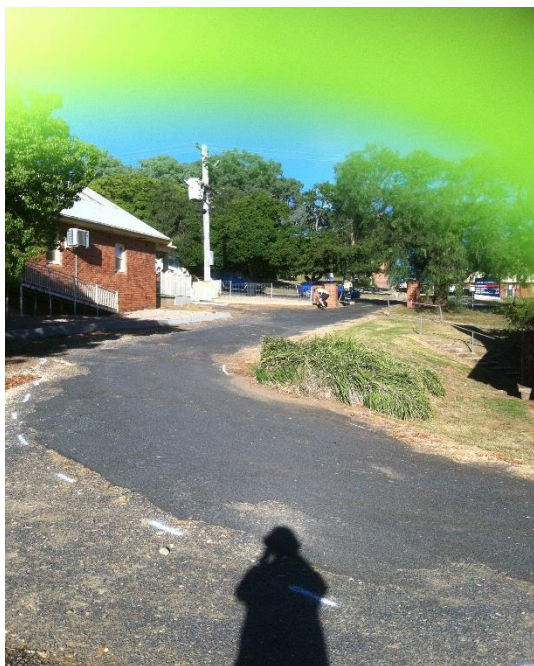
*Christine Anderson, Congregation Secretary.*

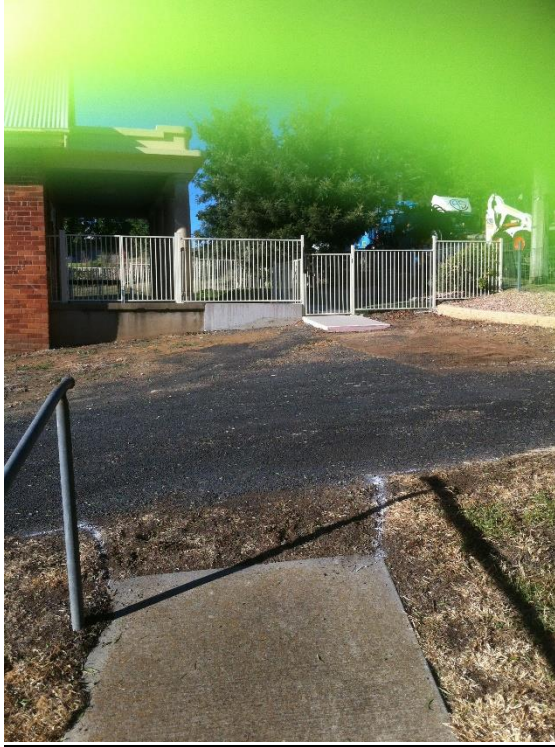
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**PROPERTY COMMITTEE:**

The resealing of the driveway at 2 Cliff Street has been carried out. These ‘before and after’ photos show what a major improvement this is and how much it has enhanced the look of our property.

*(Gordon Henshaw, Chair, Yass Parish Property Committee)*





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**APRIL LECTIONARY READINGS:**

DATE	DAY	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
4	Easter Day	Acts 10: 34-43 or Is 25: 6-9	Ps 118: 1-2, 14-24	1 Cor 15: 1-11 or Acts 10: 34-43	Jn 20: 1-18 or Mk 16: 1-8
11	Easter 2	Acts 4: 32-35	Ps 133	1 Jn 1: 1-2:2	Jn 20: 19-31
18	Easter 3	Acts 3: 12-19	Ps 4	1 Jn 3: 1-7	Lk 24: 36b - 48
25	Easter 4	Acts 4: 5-12	Ps 23	1 Jn 3: 16-24	Jn 10: 11-18

**Holy Week Readings:**

1	Maundy Thursday	Ex 12: 1-4, (5-10), 11-14	Ps 116: 1-2, 12-19	1 Cor 11: 23-26	Jn 13: 1-17, 31b - 35
2	Good Friday	Is 52: 13-53:12	Ps 22	Heb 10: 16-25 or Heb 4; 14-16, 5: 7-9	Jn 18: 1-19: 42
3	Holy Saturday	Job 14: 1-4 or Lam 3: 1-9, 19-42	Ps 31: 1-4, 15-16	1 Pet 4:1-8	Mt 27: 57-66 or Jn 19: 38-42

**April Roster: Yass Congregation**

DATE	WORSHIP LEADER	BIBLE READERS	PRAYER OF INTERCESSION	MORNING TEA	FLOWERS
4	Rev Moimoi	Chris Anderson	Sandra Henshaw	No morning tea	R Thompson
11	Della & Cheryl	Team 5	Team 5	Chris & Ann	A Ranyard
18	Rev Moimoi	Tim Holmes	Ruth Thompson	Parish Lunch	S Henshaw
25	TBA				B Rayner

**Stewards:** Ruth and Kerry Thompson  
**Counters:** Gordon Henshaw and Lee Parker  
**Duty Elders:** Barry Banks

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**CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS:**

Church Council met on 10th March and welcomed re-elected members, Judy and Barry Banks, and Owen Graham who has returned to Church Council.

On 17th March the AGM was held. Barry Banks was elected as Chairperson and Garry Southwell was elected Vice Chairperson. Ruth Thompson continues as Secretary and Lesley Cox continues as Treasurer. The office bearers are happy to hear your ideas for our Parish and welcome the chance for a chat. Please contact them.

Thank you to retiring chairperson, Sue Demoor, who has guided us through some important changes in the governance of our Parish. Thank you also to retiring Vice Chairperson, Cheryl Maxwell, for her role in the life of Church Council. Sue and Cheryl remain on Church Council.

*(Ruth Thompson, Secretary Church Council)*

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**DONATION MONEY WORKING GROUP:**

This group approved a donation of \$5,000.00 to Generate Ministries to support Jessica Field in her work at the Yass High School. The Working Group felt that it is important that the parish continue our support for this valuable ecumenical outreach.

The Working Group's decision was ratified by Church Council.

If you have any ideas of how we can support outreach projects in our community please contact any of the Working Group members: Gordon Henshaw, Sue Demoor, Lee Parker, Lesley Cox, Helen Poulton or Ruth Thompson.



## **RYE PARK CONGREGATION**

After a slow start we have moved on to a more normal routine. Following our earlier decision to meet at ‘Wattle Grove’ in a House Church environment which allowed a little more flexibility, we are now back into the church with just the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday each month being House Church. All these services are being held at 5pm.

**Easter Services** for Rye Park have been set down as follows:

Good Friday- 11.30am

Easter Sunday Sunrise service – 6.30am in the Recreation Ground (*reminder of end of Daylight saving*).

**Bible Study** has started on Tuesday evenings @ 7.30pm. We are working through ‘The Way’ Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus by Adam Hamilton. This will continue up till Easter.

**Harvest Festival** has been cancelled for this year due to COVID & restrictions on food service etc. Hopefully back bigger & better in 2022

### **April Celebrations**

Happy Birthday ...20<sup>th</sup> - Sheree Bush

Anniversary ... 21<sup>st</sup> – Joan & Kelvin

**Rosters** have not yet recommenced.

	<b>RYE PARK SERVICES</b>
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	GOOD FRIDAY ... 11.30am
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	SUNRISE SERVICE in the Recreation Ground ... 6.30am
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	5pm ... Home Church
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Christine’s last service ... Yass only
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	5pm @ Church

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## **UCAF:**

UCAF will host a Friendship lunch at the hall on Sunday 18th April after the Parish Service. This will be Rev Christine Moimoi's last service in our Parish during her Supply Ministry.

Everyone is invited to join us.

Please put your name on the list in the porch or email me on [krthompson54@bigpond.com.au](mailto:krthompson54@bigpond.com.au) as I will be away for a short time.

Don't forget the garage sale on Saturday 15th May. All saleable good, books and plants are welcome as donations.

So now is the time for an autumn clean up around your home.

*(Ruth Thompson for the members of UCAF)*

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## **Reflection:**

- When we follow God's leading it leads to great peace in our lives.
- When we do our own thing, it can bring pain and discomfort.
- As we follow and pursue the Lord, we will walk and not faint or fall.
- Trust in the Lord with all your heart and He will make your paths straight.

**Prayer:** Lord, I give You the place of priority in my life. I choose to learn Your ways above my ways and follow Your paths above my paths. Lead me and cause me to walk and not stumble, and may my life be filled with Your peace. Amen.

*(The Word@Work is prepared by Paul Vernon using the Alive to God devotional for Williamstown Military Christian Fellowship of Australia [www.mcf-a.org.au](http://www.mcf-a.org.au).)*

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## **A light-hearted look at Easter:**

What do you call the Easter Bunny on Easter Monday? Eggshastered

Where does the Easter Bunny get all of the eggs he hides? He gets them from an eggplant

How does the Easter Bunny stay fit? Egg-xercise

Why shouldn't you tell an Easter Egg a joke? A: Because it might crack up

How can you tell where the Easter Bunny has been? Eggs mark the spot

What is the best way to send a letter to the Easter Bunny? Hare mail

How does a rabbit throw a tantrum? He gets hopping mad

**Reflection:**            Ask, Seek, Knock

The Gospel lesson for Sunday, March 21, is rich in what it tells us. In it, there is in my opinion, a wonderful moment captured in John's words – "Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip and said to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.'" So Philip went and told Andrew, and the two of them went to tell Jesus."

*Sir, we should like to see Jesus.*

Well, of course we do not know the outcome. In a sense it would be lovely and satisfying to know if they were received by Jesus and what ensued.

We do well to keep in mind that as Greeks in Jerusalem – they were still outsiders. And we know, of course, that our Lord was happy to be found in the company of outsiders.

Let me take us on a little wandering and imagining. Could these Greeks have come from Corinth? Be lovely if they did, for we can do a little history journey with our wandering.

This request was somewhere between 30 and 33AD. Now it is thought that St Paul wrote his First Letter to the Corinthians around 58AD. In that Letter St Paul comments – "Greeks look for wisdom; but – but we proclaim Christ." It seems in order for us to presume that there were already established Christians in Corinth to whom St Paul was writing. Wouldn't it be nice or appropriate that those who came to Philip with their "Sir, we should like to see Jesus" indeed did meet him and talk with him, listened to him and took that back to Corinth having asked, sought and knocked.

Still, the history is relevant, for John's Gospel is held to have been written between 90-100AD. By now the young Church is on the move geographically and in people's lives. It is starting to settle into holding the truth about Jesus, and for new believers all the orally told stories are now being written, and these Greeks and their request story are relevant. That what Jesus said, is now available to them through the written word.

Going a little further on the other hand we can be forgiven if we were to ask – were they, the Greek seekers, satisfied? Did they find what they wanted to see in or about Jesus?

Being satisfied is a real issue for people in society today. In many ways we are conditioned to handle dissatisfaction – if we don't get what we expected – there are refunds, complaints departments, inquiries and other means for dealing with our lack of satisfaction. Ease of purchase and ease of access to internet information or complaint means that at times there is little need to put an effort into asking, seeking or knocking.

Unlike those Greeks, we don't have to journey to Jerusalem to see. Often it's only a journey from one room to another. Still, I trust it is worth the journey from home to church building for worship, the hearing of the Word and the receiving of the Sacraments.

We too, need to journey to find our Philip and Andrew to help us see Jesus. But there are more lovely aspects to the seeking Greeks. Philip and Andrew act on their request. They go to Jesus with it. They do not turn away the Greeks, who are asking, seeking and knocking. They do not fob them off by telling them – he's too busy at this Passover Festival time.

It is a good reminder to us to reflect and consider about how we handle those who come to us, in whatever way; young or old; enchanted or disenchanting; outside and within our communities of faith.

“Sir, we would see Jesus” – maybe not as often heard by us in today’s rapidly changing society and world. Even we, ourselves, can overlook that we too might ask that question of our Lord – where do I see you Lord in what is happening for and to me?

It is a reminder that we must be careful lest we miss God’s grace and love by thinking - “I’ve got it” and forgetting that like those Greeks of today’s Gospel lesson we, too, need to keep asking, seeking and knocking. We live with the assurance that like Philip and Andrew, Jesus will not turn us away.

Furthermore, it will lay before us the question that is worth facing and working through to the answers – is there any sense of urgency about the mission of Jesus for the growth of God’s will and Kingdom? It will not be easy and it will be demanding, but worth facing.

So, to aid all who want to see Jesus, where might we see him and to point them and ourselves to the truth about Jesus’ grace, love, caring, salvation and fullness of life, these are some of the places where all of us will and can see Jesus:

- Arms around children; hug a child, a friend, family often
- Touching a leper, a blind man; the outsider
- Conversing with a Samaritan woman at a well; a newcomer understanding English
- Outside an empty tomb; sharing comfort with today’s grieving Marys
- On a truck arriving at a drought stricken farm with a load of hay; support them still
- At a small group praying with and for a friend
- In our quiet moments of reflection and prayer

And whenever and wherever, we hear the request – “Sir, we/I would like to see Jesus” and similarly as we sustain for ourselves the asking, seeking and knocking. (DRP)

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### **Prayer Points for April:**

For those whose homes, businesses, farms, properties have been inundated by flood waters;

For state governments and local councils as they seek to prioritise the allocation of money and effort to repairing the damage;

For medical staff looking after Corona virus victims around the world;

For the successful roll-out of the vaccine in Australia and in other countries;

For those recovering from surgery;

For those with ongoing medical issues;

For our schoolchildren and their teachers as they break for the Term 1 holidays;

For our families, our friends, our community and our country.



**Parish Calendar: APRIL 2021**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> Maundy Thursday Service 6.00 pm	<b>2</b> Good Friday Yass 9.30 am Rye Park 11.30 am No Playgroup	<b>3</b> Holy Saturday
<b>4</b> Easter Sunrise Service Rye Park 6.30 am Rev Christine Moimoi 10 am Yass <b>HC</b> Rev Christine Moimoi	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Morning Tea GWL served by UCAF 10 am	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> No Playgroup	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 10am Yass Team 5 Rye Park House Church 5pm	<b>12</b> UCAF Meeting 2 pm	<b>13</b> Elders 3 pm	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> No Playgroup	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 10am Yass <b>Parish Service</b> Rev Christine Moimoi  Friendship Lunch	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> TEG Service 11am GWL Service 2 pm  <u><i>May Newsletter Items due</i></u>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Playgroup 9.30 am – 11.30 am	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> TBA	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Property Committee Meeting 7.30 pm	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Playgroup 9.30 am – 11.30 am	