

**UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA  
YASS PARISH**



**MAY 2021**

MINISTER: *phone* 0408 400 542/ 6226 1132

CHAIRMAN Church Council: Barry Banks  
SECRETARY Church Council: Ruth Thompson  
TREASURER Church Council: Lesley Cox  
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Lee Parker

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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:**

Just a quick note to say 'Thank you' for having me at Yass and Rye Park over the last four months.

As I indicated to you, when I came I was struggling with my capacity to meet your needs and to function in an appropriate manner for your well-being. (When you are whacked over the head, and don't expect it, you are left reeling for quite a while.) Thank you for letting me get back into 'it', that is, being a minister which is what I have been for just on thirty years. I would hope I had learned something in that time but I have wondered.

Thank you for your hospitality, and welcome. I leave with a sense that I have offered something useful to many of you. And leave with more people to add to my prayer responsibilities. When Paul tells us to pray without ceasing I don't think he means nagging God every waking minute but sometimes that seems to be what we might need to do. Intercession is a demanding ministry and you have some good ministers in this area among you. Honour them and value their ministry of prayer. Without them you would be missing a heart within your community.

Thank you to those who participated in the study group. It was a bit wobbly but there was some good discussion which is what it is all about.

I look forward to seeing you in June for a service, and, hopefully, the cataract op next week will be as uneventful as the first one last October. For all of you, keep warm, eat properly and have your vaccinations when your doctors advise is the right time. I give thanks that we, as a community, have navigated the pandemic with inconvenience rather than illness. We are so fortunate when we consider other communities still struggling.

Blessings as you navigate this resurrection season and get ready for the fires of Pentecost.  
Christine Moimoi

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**REMINDER, REMINDER, REMINDER!**

**Notice of Congregation Meeting**

The Annual Meeting of the Yass Congregation will be held on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2021. Elections for the following positions are to take place at this time.

- **Chairperson**
- **Deputy Chairperson**
- **Secretary**
- **Church Notices**
- **Presbytery Rep.**
- **Chief Stewards**
- **Reserve**

At the conclusion of the elections the General Meeting of the Yass Congregation will take place

Nominations for positions or Agenda items should reach me by Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021.

The positions are currently held by

**Chairperson:** Owen Graham,

**Deputy Chairperson:** Gordon Henshaw,

**Secretary:** Christine Anderson,

**Church notices:** Christine Anderson,

**Presbytery Representative:** Lee Parker,

**Chief Stewards:** Barry Banks, Gordon Henshaw, Mike Poulton, Ray Armour.

**Reserve:** Tim Holmes.

*(Chris Anderson, Congregation Secretary)*

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**SAVE the DATE!:**

On **Saturday 15th May** we will be holding an outdoor Garage Sale. There will be second hand goods, books, cakes, plants and craft.

If you have any donations please ring Ruth 6226 5463 or bring them to the hall on Friday 14th in the afternoon.

Helpers on the day will be welcome. In the event of bad weather (rain) it will be cancelled.

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**PROPERTY COMMITTEE:**

Property Committee will meet on Wed 28th April. If you have any concerns about the property, please talk to a member of the committee. Routine maintenance is being looked after. *(Gordon, Ruth, Richard R, Bev. Russel and Phil)*

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**MAY LECTIONARY READINGS:**

DATE	DAY	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
2	Easter 5	Acts 8: 26-40	Ps 22: 25-31	1 Jn 4: 7-21	Jn 15: 1-8
9	Easter 6	Acts 10: 44-48	Ps 98	1 Jn 5: 1-6	Jn 15: 9-17
16	Easter 7	Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26	Ps 1	1 Jn 5: 9-13	Jn 17: 6-19
23	Pentecost	Acts 2: 1-21 or Ezek 37: 1-14	Ps 104: 24-34, 35b	Rom 8: 22-27 or Acts 2: 1-21	Jn 15: 26-27; 16: 4b-15
30	Trinity Sunday	Is 6: 1-8	Ps 29	Rom 8: 12-17	Jn 3: 1-17

**May Roster: Yass Congregation**

DATE	WORSHIP LEADER	BIBLE READERS	PRAYER OF INTERCESSION	MORNING TEA	FLOWERS
2	Barry Banks	Team 4	Team 4	Ann Ranyard & Chris Anderson	S. Henshaw
9	Ruth Thompson	Team 3	Team 3	No morning tea Mother's Day	L. Glover
16	Judy Willson	Tim Holmes	Sandra Henshaw	Della & Ray	A. Ranyard
23	Rev. Anne Ryan	Chris Anderson	Ruth Thompson	Ruth Thompson	R. Thompson
30	Rev. Dr John Braakman	Gordon Henshaw	Sandra Henshaw	Sandra & Gordon	R. Thompson

**Stewards:** Ray and Della Armour

**Counters:** Gordon Henshaw and Lee Parker

**Duty Elders:** Barry and Judith Banks

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**John 21:18-23**

**18**Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” **19**Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, “Follow me!”

**20**Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, “Lord, who is going to betray you?”) **21**When Peter saw him, he asked, “Lord, what about him?” **22**Jesus answered, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me.” **23**Because of this, the rumor spread among the believers that this disciple would not die. But Jesus did not say that he would not die; he only said, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?”

**Reflection:** This final story is deeply personal. Jesus points to Peter and John’s futures. Peter went onto be martyred. Tradition has it he was crucified upside down as he considered himself unworthy to be crucified in the same way as his Lord. Tradition has it that John died a very old man in the city of Ephesus.

Amid these conversations, Jesus goes back to Peter with his original calling: ‘Follow me.’ This is very helpful for us as well. Whatever our situation, whatever our age and stage - when you boil it all down, what is it all about? It doesn’t matter whether you were one of the first apostles or a regular believer today, there is only one call, and that is to follow Jesus. That is our daily challenge and our ongoing privilege.

**Question:** What does it mean for you to ‘follow Jesus’ today? What are your challenges? What is causing you tension? What opportunities has God laid before you?

**Prayer:** *Jesus, thank you for inviting me to follow you. Help me to see this as the rich privilege that it is. Thank you that my life counts for so much more because somehow it is a part of your bigger plan and purpose. Help me to honour you in the way I live. Amen.*

*(Bishop Stephen Hale)*

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## **RYE PARK CONGREGATION**

There is no report from Rye Park this month.

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### **General News:**

The next Church Council meeting will be on 15th May and we look forward to working together as a team with the new executive.

The Elders continue to meet each month and are making sure that we have a worship leader each week.

The church services at Thomas Eccles Gardens and Warmington Lodge have been presented by Rev Christine Moimoi in the last months and the residents have enjoyed their time of worship. They enjoy a chat with members of the congregation who attend. *(Ruth Thompson)*

## UCAF:

The Friendship Lunch on 18th April was well attended. It was great to have a chance to acknowledge Christine's time with us and everyone enjoyed a chat.

Morning Teas have recommenced at Warmington Lodge. The mornings are opened to the groups who are supplying the morning tea. The Uniting Church group is rostered for the first Wednesday of the month and it is a chance to catch up with the residents.

Saturday 15th May we will be holding an outdoor Garage Sale. there will be second hand goods, books, cakes, plants and craft. If you have any donations please ring Ruth 6226 5463 or bring them to the hall on Friday 14th in the afternoon. Helpers on the day will be welcome. In the event of bad weather (rain) it will be cancelled.

*(Ruth Thompson for the members of UCAF)*

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## Reflection:      With Open Minds, Begin Anew

The closing chapter of St Luke's Gospel tells of Jesus being again with his disciples. For us the hearers, and me the preacher, it is difficult to explain or understand from a 21<sup>st</sup> Century perspective. It must have been an awesome, breathtaking experience and makes me wonder and maybe it does for you too – how can we stand in the place of Jesus' disciples.

But we can stand where we are situated today and in our tomorrow's, and enter into the experience if we will listen again to his words as St Luke tells us in verses 47 and 48 . . .

*“that in his name repentance bringing the forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed to all nations. Begin from Jerusalem: it is you who are the witnesses to all this.”*

Then we can add richness to our experience as we reflect over what he said to them, again with the help of St Luke . . .

*“this is what I meant by saying, while I was still with you, that Everything written about me in the Law of Moses and in the prophets and psalms was bound to be fulfilled.’ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures.”*

Yes, Jesus opened their minds! You are to be witnesses to me. You are people with a resurrection story, a new life story, a Risen Lord story. You are to take it to the people of your day. Added to that was our Lord's emphatic word of the outcome – *“blessed are those who have not seen me, and yet have come to believe.”*

So, the disciples are to begin from Jerusalem. This his call – make a new start having entrusted them with a commission and message.

One of the surely lovely aspects of this experience is how Jesus trusts them. He retains them in this close fellowship of ministry. He does not point out any failures, shortcomings from the past. He does not dismiss them from his mission. In effect he says – “let's go and get

on with it.” And he does the same today with you and me and our sisters and brothers in Christ.

As our Lord reminded his disciples, so he reminds us about what we are doing in his name and the resources we have available to us as did his disciples and the early and growing Church have.

Our resources include: the worship we celebrate each Lord’s Day; the Sacraments; our private reflection and meditation; our prayer times; our seeking knowledge.

All of these and more, enabling each of us to keep an open mind to new insights and directions to enrich our love for Jesus, our faith in him and our desire to keep on serving him.

Make no mistake, it was not easy for those Upper Room disciples as they went out from Jerusalem. Luke’s additional account – the Acts of the Apostles – tells the stories and sets down what unfolded over the periods of time after their sending forth. The story of what they encountered in the Temple in the face of Jesus’ opponents.

Again, make no mistake, we too, face the worldly attitudes of today which make it hard for us to witness to our Risen Lord. However, keeping our minds open and seeking new beginnings we do not despair, lose heart nor cease in following him.

Our Lord’s word is as fresh today as it was to those Upper Room disciples. Begin from Jerusalem – each of us have and know where our Jerusalem’s lie or are to be found. A lovely command and invitation. To that end we must keep our minds, thinking and planning open.

To that end I believe we can be assisted by the words of a New Testament scholar writing in his Commentary on Luke’s Gospel. Professor Craddock writes,

According to Luke, the Holy Spirit has moved the church into areas in which it otherwise would not have gone and into activities in which it otherwise would not have engaged.”

Our Lord’s gift of the Holy Spirit not only provides power and resultant fruits, but as well opens all of us to new vistas and opportunities to do well what each of us are presently doing but as well, as Craddock so beautifully and purposefully has described it, the Holy Spirit will keep moving us anew in our doing of Jesus’ mission.

So, clarity emerges from the difficulties to explain the new life and opportunities that we as Easter people of the open tomb and an Upper Room will always have in and for and from our Risen Lord.

His word still holds firm – begin from our Jerusalem’s today. Do it for me with open minds and always beginning anew. “I will be pleased with that” is one of the two gifts of assurance and affirmation I am sure Jesus will keep saying to you and me. The second is – “be assured, I am with you always.”

Yes, it is worth repeating and to carry with us – “be assured, I am with you always. (DRP)

## **Prayer Points for May:**

For students and staff returning for Term 2;

For those recovering from surgery;

For those with ongoing medical issues;

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

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

For the successful roll-out of the vaccine in Australia and all affected countries.

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### **A light-hearted look at life in the Army:**

- Officer: "Soldier, do you have change for a dollar?"  
Soldier: "Sure, buddy."  
Officer: "That's no way to address an officer! Now, let's try it again!"  
Officer: "Soldier. Do you have change for a dollar?"  
Soldier: "No, SIR!"
- A drill sergeant grumbles at his fresh young trainee, "I didn't see you at camouflage training this morning, private."  
"Thank you very much, sir," replies the soldier.
- Two Army lieutenants in Darwin were going into the training area at night and were arguing about distances.  
One said, "OK, Smarty, which is closer, Melbourne or the moon?"  
The second one said, "The moon of course. You can't see Melbourne...."
- Why are soldiers so tired on April 1? Because they've just had a 31-day March!
- A soldier runs up a hill and around a corner before slamming into an officer.  
"Where do you think you're going, son?"  
"Sorry, Captain! It's crazy out there and the fire fight was so heavy. I got scared and tried to go AWOL."  
"Who you calling Captain? I'm a General!"  
"Wow!" exclaimed the soldier. "I didn't realize I'd run that far back."

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**Parish Calendar: MAY 2021**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>2</b> 10 am Yass HC Team 4 Rye Park 5pm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Morning Tea GWL served by UCAF 10 am	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Playgroup 9.30 am – 11.30 am	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 10 am Yass Team 3 Rye Park House Church	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Elder's 2pm	<b>12</b> Church Council 7.30 pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Playgroup 9.30 am – 11.30 am	<b>15</b> <b>Garage Sale</b>
<b>16</b> 10am Yass Guest Preacher <b>Congregation Meeting 11am</b>  Rye Park 5pm	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> TEG Service 11am GWL Service 2 pm <b><u>June Newsletter Items due</u></b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Playgroup 9.30 am – 11.30 am	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 10am Yass Guest Preacher Rye Park 5pm	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Playgroup 9.30 am – 11.30 am	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 10am Yass Guest Preacher Rye Park 5pm						