

# UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA YASS PARISH



## SEPTEMBER 2021

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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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### **REFLECTION: FORGETTING GOD**

Last week I watched a programme about the life of Billy Graham, the great evangelist of the 50's onwards. It ended up being more politically orientated than spiritually, which disappointed me, but it did cover a lot of his early evangelistic life and his crusades.

I remember his Sydney Crusade and being there and being carried away with the great sense of occasion, the great outpouring of religious fervour and the stirring preaching of Billy Graham himself. I can still picture George Beverly Shea singing "How Great Thou Art". They are very wonderful memories.

But, back to the documentary. At one of Billy Graham's crusades, he made a very strong and hard-hitting comment. He stated that "America had forgotten God!" In amongst the economic growth and people's access to more wealth and freedom, the people of America he said had "Forgotten God."

That statement was no doubt relevant then and the response to his preaching and his message demonstrated that many of the people had indeed "forgotten" God and they responded to his call to turn back to God.

As I thought about that statement, I really feel that Australia is in that same position today. Many, many people have forgotten God. They have replaced God with material possessions. They have pushed God into the background of their lives and have forgotten him and I feel that to a large degree the churches have let this happen.

There are a variety of reasons why this has happened and that's for another time. The basic message I feel we have to get out to today's world is that God has not gone away. He is still with us. He is available to one and all and he still has so much to give out, free with no terms or conditions. It is a very basic message but has so much to offer.

Forgetting God is not a new scenario. Our Old Testament tells us that Moses faced the same problem. Moses, knowing the mere fact that he wouldn't be able to enter into the promised

land and that his fellow Israelites were about to take over the land, set a warning before them to not dare to forget God when they enter and enjoy the gift of the promised land.

One of the problems then and still is, is how easily people remove God from the picture when we/they enjoy good things. Because of the alluring beauty of blessings and the happiness it brings, we become preoccupied with it, and the thought of God easily vanish from our minds. We forget God.

Moses reminded the Israelites of three things:

1. God gives real satisfaction. Out of God's mouth comes real satisfaction. Satisfaction that no material possession can match.
2. God's goodness in the past. A glimpse of our past will reveal the remarkable footsteps of God's goodness to us. Our past experience of God's goodness is a good starting point to be humble and acknowledge God in every season of life. Humility is the antidote to forgetfulness of God.
3. God gives enablement. God provides enablement to carry out our daily tasks. Our strength, wisdom, opportunities are all by-products of the Sovereign One. We may have good visions in life and lay-out plans but only God gives opportunities to work out those visions and plans. In other words, it is an imperative for us to realize that we all depend on God for enablement. This truth calls us to be humble enough to avoid the pitfall of forgetting God.

Those three reminders are there for all of us and if we apply them to our daily living then the task of remembering God, not forgetting him, is so much easier. (GMP)

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### **Church Council News:**

Regulations permitting Church Council will meet on 22nd September and, if restrictions are still in place, may have to be held on ZOOM.

Thank you to those who have organised on line Services during the lockdown.

The reports for the Annual Parish Meeting are now due. I will contact all groups who need to report in the next few weeks.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 24th October, at this stage. (Ruth Thompson – Secretary – Yass Parish Church Council)

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### **General Congregation Meeting:**

The General Meeting of the Yass congregation will be held at a date to be advised owing to Covid restrictions.

(Christine Anderson, Congregation Secretary)

**SEPTEMBER LECTIONARY READINGS:**

DATE	DAY	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
5	Pentecost 15 (23)	Prv 22: 1-2, 8-9, 22-23	Ps 125	Jas 2: 1-10, (11-13), 14-17	Mk 7: 24-37
12	Pentecost 16 (24)	Prv 1: 20-33	Ps 19	Jas 3: 1-12	Mk 8: 27-38
19	Pentecost 17 (25)	Prv 31: 10-31	Ps 1	Jas 3:13-4: 3, 7-8a	Mk 9: 30-37
26	Pentecost 18 (26)	Est 7: 1-6, 9-10; 9: 20-22	Ps 124	Jas 5: 13-20	Mk 9: 38-50

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**Yass Combined Youth Group:**

The Youth Group has begun meeting again on Friday afternoon from 4-6pm at the Baptist Church. The group is for school years 5-8.

Should you know of any young people who might be interested, please pass on this information.

In Term 4, the group will be meeting at the Vine Church.

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**UCAF news:**

UCAF will meet soon to plan the service for 24th October, Covid restrictions permitting. It will be our annual service for Frontier Services and a retiring offering will be taken. You will also be asked to pay for your lunch and this money will support Frontier Services.

Should the Covid situation prevent having an outdoor service, we will need to work out how we can best support their work.

We have continued to supply morning tea for folks at Warmington Lodge, but we are not able to go in to serve. The residents appreciate the variety of home baking.

*(Ruth Thompson for UCAF members)*

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**Rye Park News:**



Our thoughts are with Leonie Halley convalescing in the Blue Mountains and with Lorraine Mayhew, who has been unwell.

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**September Roster: Yass Congregation**

DATE	WORSHIP LEADER	BIBLE READERS	PRAYER OF INTERCESSION	MORNING TEA	FLOWERS
5	Team 1	Team 1	Team 1	Chris and Ann	S. Henshaw
12	Team 2	Team 2	Team 2	Lee	B. Rayner
19	Rev Dr John Braakman	Tim Holmes	Della	Ray & Della	L. Parker
26	Judith Willson	Isobel Wykes	Ruth Thompson	Ruth	L. Glover

**Stewards:** Ken and Brenda Bush  
**Counters:** Gordon Henshaw and Lee Parker  
**Duty Elders:** Helen Poulton and Lee Parker

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**Bible quiz answers:**

1. **True:** The Bible is the most popular book ever written (by copies sold)
2. **False:** The psalms are a collection of many writers, but David contributed the most.
3. What was most likely the first gospel written? **Mark.**
4. Which human author wrote the most books and how many? **Paul -13**
5. Which is the longest book in the Bible? **Psalms**
6. In what language was most of the New Testament given? **Greek**
7. Which is the shortest book in the bible? **John 3 – 1 Chapter - 15 verses**

8. Which human author wrote the most words in the Bible? [Moses 125139](#)
9. What was most likely the first gospel written? [Mark](#)
10. What was most likely the last gospel written? [John](#)
11. In what language was most of the Old Testament given? [Hebrew](#)
12. Which New Testament book contains the Sermon on the Mount? [Matthew Chap 5](#)
13. What was Matthew's profession before he became a disciple? [A Tax Collector](#)
14. Who was the author of the Book of Revelation? [John](#)
15. Who was the first person to come upon the injured man in the parable of the Good Samaritan? [The Priest](#)
16. Who asked Pilate for Jesus' body after the crucifixion? [Joseph of Arimathea](#)
17. Who were the first two apostles called to follow Jesus? [Peter and Andrew](#)
18. What type of insect did John the Baptist eat in the desert? [Locusts](#)
19. Paul was shipwrecked on which island? [Malta](#)
20. How many baskets of food were left over after the feeding of the 5000? [12](#)

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**Prayer Points for September:** (They may often be the same, but continuing prayer is needed).

For containment of the Corona Virus outbreaks as they occur;

For Afghanistan;

For family members and for friends coping with ongoing medical issues;

For the residents of Sydney as their lockdown is extended to the end of September;

For all families;

For countries caught up in conflict and civil unrest;

For the very tense situation in Ghaza.

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**Helpful information received from Westpac Bank:**

**BEEN ASKED TO RETURN A MISTAKEN PAYMENT?**

New Scam alert! Phishing SMS/emails aim to capture personal and banking details via fake websites.

You receive a payment to your bank account.

Someone claiming to have sent you the payment in error contacts you via phone or SMS, asking you to return the funds to an account number. Callers may claim to be the bank or sender of the funds.

You complete the payment via Online Banking.

Customers actioning these requests noticed further payments to the payee by scammers using the compromised credentials.

Financial institutions have processes for mistaken payments, notifying you in writing (not a phone call from a number that may appear genuine). (*Gordon Henshaw*)

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### **A lighter look at life:**

As a staff member at an airport check-in desk checked through a customer at the counter, he accidentally knocked over the man's luggage. He quickly collected the fallen bags and apologised for the mishap. Unappeased, the traveller burst into an angry tirade, raging and swearing at the clerk for his clumsiness.

Throughout the traveller's rant, the clerk calmly apologized and smiled. The livid customer continued to berate the man, even as he turned away and headed for his gate. Through it all the clerk smiled and remained calm.

The next customer in line witnessed the incident and marvelled at the clerk's professionalism and self-control. "I have never seen such restraint and humility," he said. "How do you keep your cool when somebody is attacking you so viciously?"

"It's easy," the clerk answered. "He's going to London, but his bags are going to Tokyo."

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### **'Not another Bible Quiz!' .....**

Where do you find the following in the Bible – answers in October Newsletter.

- 1) "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son."
- 2) "Nothing can separate us from the love of God".
- 3) "Knock and the door will opened unto you."
- 4) "For every season there is a time".
- 5) "Greater love hast no man than this".
- 6) "In my father's house are many mansions."
- 7) Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, the life".
- 8) "These three things last, faith, hope and love".
- 9) Jesus said, "Come with me and I will make you fishers of men".
- 10) "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God".

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**Reflection Jesus Anointed at Bethany**

**Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, [John 12:1-4](#)**

Jesus caused a scandal by modelling and teaching an intimate relationship with God, whom he called 'Father' (Mark 14:36). The religious leaders of his time thought Jesus to be outrageous, presumptive and scandalous (John 5:17-18). The reality was, of course, that Jesus was demonstrating something that was profoundly true.

No other religion features such a level of intimacy with God.

As a theologian, it occurred to me that almost every heresy that has afflicted the church has the inevitable outcome of turning God into someone who is distant and unknowable—a false god who hides behind the mask of a thousand different religions.

When Jesus visited his friends at Bethany, three things happened: Martha got so busy she didn't have time to be with Jesus; Mary sat in Jesus' presence and anointed his feet with perfume; and Judas worried about money. Only one of them realized that they were made for intimacy with God.

Which are you? *(Dr Nick Hawkes)*

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**Presbytery News:**

Presbytery met on Sat 21 August. There were 60 participants. The theme of the meeting was Advocacy and, after a presentation from the Presbytery Social Justice Group, the meeting was split into small groups for a discussion on advocacy:

What issues are you passionate about?

What do you want to advocate about?

How are you going to advocate for this?

How can your congregation connect with the Presbytery Social Justice Group?

What kind of networking can we develop?

The meeting then reconvened for whole group discussion. Some of the issues raised across the groups were – affordable housing in the ACT and shelter for the homeless; environment and climate change; women's rights; health concerns; aged care and housing; refugees and asylum seekers and overseas concerns. It was suggested that congregations with these concerns could link into Synod resources, join with other churches with the same concerns (not just UCA); be ready when a window of opportunity opens to act; the need to better connect across the Presbytery to support each other on these issues.

The Treasurer reported that the balance of the UCIF loan was paid in two instalments in July and August.

The proposal submitted to the Moderators Appeal Fund for a community chaplain based at Mt Dromedary parish was successful, with a grant of \$60,000 per year for two years to fund the position. Presbytery will now advertise to appoint, and John Squires will discuss with the congregation. John Williams and team were thanked for their hard work on this proposal. Presbytery will write to Rev Kerry Bartlett's family to advise on success of bid (as Kerry was heavily involved in the proposal).

The Chairperson advised that there will be positions to fill at the AGM, particularly that of Assistant Treasurer. Full training will be provided for the person who takes on the roll.

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**Parish Calendar:    SEPTEMBER 2021**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Playgroup 9.30 am – 11.30 am	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 10 am Yass HC Rye Park HC	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Elders 2pm	<b>8</b> Morning Tea GWL 9.45 AM	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Playgroup 9.30 am – 11.30 am	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 10am Yass Rye Park House Church 5pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> TEG Service 11am GWL Service 2 pm	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Playgroup 9.30 am – 11.30 am	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 10am Yass Rye Park	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <i>October Newsletter Items due 21</i>	<b>22</b> Church Council 7pm	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> No playgroup	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 10am Yass Rye Park	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>		