

**UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA  
YASS PARISH**



**FEBRUARY 2022**

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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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**Psalm 138 – a reflection**

The first flush of excitement that comes with the opening of a new year is fading fast and may even have dissipated completely for you. And yet there is still the glow of the leftover sparkles from New Year celebrations, and in some cases, the Christmas lights and decorations are still hanging around. All are reminders of the new that has come with the start of the year, and these reminders stir our hearts and invite us to offer songs of praise and thanksgiving to our God. Perhaps the journey to this place has been fraught with pain and sorrow, but here we are, in the realisation that it is God who has brought us to this time and place.

This song of thanksgiving in Psalm 138 – offered by one who has been delivered from distress – calls to make our individual offerings of praise to the One who makes all things new each moment, each day, each year. The new is inviting because it speaks of possibilities. When that newness follows on the heels of deliverance, it speaks of limitlessness that begins with the blossoming of new hopes and dreams that have been set free to flourish through the expansive grace of God.

The experience of God's enlivening presence calls forth praise. The new has come and brought increase for those who have been blessed by it. That is the promise that resonates through the words of this psalm in these early days of the year. Who knows what awaits? Yet the present moment of new beginnings is worthy of thanksgiving to God, who not only makes all things new, but comes with the promise of new opportunities, new growth, and great flourishing.

*Prayer: God of new beginnings, accept the praise of our hearts for what has been, what is, and what is yet to be. Amen.*

Contributed

**FEBRUARY LECTIONARY READINGS:**

| DATE | DAY                      | FIRST READING      | PSALM              | SECOND READING        | GOSPEL              |
|------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1/2  | Presentation of the Lord | Malachi 3: 1-4     | Ps 84              | Hebrews 2: 14-18      | Lk 2: 22-40         |
| 6/2  | Epiphany 5               | Isaiah 6:1-8(9-13) | Ps 138             | 1 Cor 15:1-11         | Lk 5: 1-11          |
| 13/6 | Epiphany 6               | Jer 17: 5-10       | Ps 1               | 1 Cor 15: 12-20       | Lk 6: 17-26         |
| 20/2 | Epiphany 7               | Gen 45:3-11, 15    | Ps 37: 1-11, 39-40 | 1 Cor 15:35-38. 42-50 | Lk 6:27-38          |
| 27/2 | Transfiguration of Jesus | Ex 34:29-35        | Ps 99              | 2 Cor 3:12-42         | Lk 9:28-36,(37-43a) |
|      |                          |                    |                    |                       |                     |

**Church Council News:** The Executive of Church Council have been monitoring the COVID situation and will report to the Church Council meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> February. A decision will be made about re-opening the worship services with people checking in, wearing masks and no singing. I will send an email on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February and ring those not on email.

Members of Church Council are your representatives and we value your opinion on matters that have to be decided. In this case we would like to know how you feel about re-opening the worship services and serving morning tea. Please email me with your thoughts at [krthompson54@bigpond.com](mailto:krthompson54@bigpond.com) or ring Barry Banks on 6226 1437 by the morning of 2<sup>nd</sup> February so that your views can be included in the discussion.

The NATIONAL CHURCH LIFE SURVEY will be conducted in our Parish during February. Our Synod directs us to take part in the survey and Synod pays the costs.

During February you will be given a survey sheet to fill out. In the past we have stayed in the church and filled them out. However due to changing circumstances it is possible to take the form home and return it no later than 20<sup>th</sup> February. For those who like filling out forms on line a link will be given so that you can do this. Eventually we do get some feedback. In the event that Church Council votes on 2<sup>nd</sup> February to discontinue services in the building during February the forms will be mailed out to you.

*(Ruth Thompson – Secretary – Yass Parish Church Council)*

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**WORSHIP ROSTER----ST ANDREWS CONGREGATION FEBRUARY**

| <b>DATE</b>     | <b>WORSHIP LEADER</b>       | <b>BIBLE READER</b> | <b>PRAYERS</b>        | <b>Morning Tea</b>       | <b>Flowers</b>     |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Feb 6th</b>  | <b>Rev Anne Ryan</b>        | <b>Suzie Graham</b> | <b>Owen Graham</b>    | <b>Ruth and Kerry</b>    | <b>B. Rayner</b>   |
| <b>Feb 13th</b> | <b>Team 3 (Ruth)</b>        | <b>Team</b>         | <b>Team</b>           | <b>Sandra and Gordon</b> | <b>L. Glover</b>   |
| <b>Feb 20th</b> | <b>TBA</b>                  | <b>Tim Holmes</b>   | <b>Ruth Thompson</b>  | <b>Della and Ray</b>     | <b>R. Thompson</b> |
| <b>Feb 27th</b> | <b>Rev Dr John Braakman</b> | <b>Isobel Wykes</b> | <b>Sandra Henshaw</b> | <b>Ann and Chris</b>     | <b>A. Ranyard</b>  |
|                 |                             |                     |                       |                          |                    |

**Stewards:** Chris Anderson and Tim Holmes  
**Counters:** Gordon Henshaw and helper  
**Duty Elders:** Della Armour and Cheryl Maxwell

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**Prayer Points for February:**

We pray for the people of Tonga as they begin to recover from the tsunami;  
 For all those affected by the COVID 19 virus; those who are ill, those who have lost loved ones and those who are anxious;  
 For the families of Afghanistan;  
 We give thanks for all members of our congregations at Yass and Rye Park.  
 We give thanks for the lives of Pat Bush and Jean Morgan and we uphold their families as they mourn their passing.  
 A Memorial Service will held for the Late Jean Morgan will be held on Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> February at 11 am. The family have invited members of the congregation to join them,

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## UCAF NEWS

UCAF held a luncheon on 5<sup>th</sup> December and thanks to the generosity of those present \$325.00 was raised for the Mustard Seed Food Pantry in Gungahlin. We received a lovely thank you letter which said in part - "With your gift the Mustard Seed Management Team has purchased \$20.00 supermarket Gift Cards to distribute this week to regular customers who we know are struggling at this time.....Thank you for thinking of others and how you can make a difference to the life of someone you do not know."

A gift was presented to Lee Parker on 12<sup>th</sup> December as a thank you from the Parish for her contribution to the life and witness of our Parish. We wish her well in her new home.

UCAF members continue to supply morning tea for the residents of Warmington Lodge on the first Wednesday of each month. We are hoping to be able to visit them in person soon.

We will host the World Day of Prayer service On Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> March.

The next UCAF meeting will be held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm. Everyone is welcome as we plan activities for the coming year

*(Ruth Thompson for UCAF members)*

# Tonga Tsunami Disaster Appeal

***On Saturday 15 January, a tsunami was triggered by the eruption of underwater volcano Hunga Tonga Hunga Ha'apai, just 65km from the capital city Nuku'alofa on Tonga's most populated island.***

*Communications have been down since the tsunami hit, and there has been no news yet from our partners. There are grave fears for the safety of residents of low-lying remote islands who are particularly vulnerable.*

*Many parts of Tonga remain covered in ash and people have been left without power since Saturday. Early reports are showing extensive damage to homes and buildings along the coastlines. Several people have been reported missing, but casualties and the full extent of the damage remain unknown. The Red Cross is estimating 80,000 people have been affected by the disaster.*

(from Uniting World Appeal webpage: <https://donate.unitingworld.org.au/tonga>)

**THOSE WHO SEEK TO OFFER ASSISTANCE AT THIS TIME OF NEED:**

Those who are wanting to do something to help the people of Tonga can donate through UnitingWorld, the international relations arm of the Uniting Church. UnitingWorld already work with our partner organisation, the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga, to support people 'on the ground.' In this way we can provide the most appropriate assistance possible.

Access the Uniting World Appeal here:  
<https://donate.unitingworld.org.au/tonga>

**Ross Kingham and Judy McKinlay**  
**Presbytery Co-chairs**  
**Canberra Region Presbytery**  
**Uniting Church in Australia**

**Parish Calendar: FEBRUARY 2022**

| Sun                                     | Mon                   | Tue   | Wed   | Thu       | Fri   | Sat       |
|---|-----------------------|---|---|-----------|---|-----------|
|   |                       | <b>1</b>  | <b>2</b><br>Morning<br>Tea GWL<br>Church<br>Council | <b>3</b>  | <b>4</b><br>Playgroup<br>9.30 am –<br>11.30 am  | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>6</b><br>10am Yass<br>Rye Park 5pm   | <b>7</b><br>UCAF 2 pm | <b>8</b><br>Elder's 2pm   | <b>9</b>  | <b>10</b> | <b>11</b><br>Playgroup<br>9.30 am –<br>11.30 am | <b>12</b> |
| <b>13</b><br>10am Yass                  | <b>14</b>             | <b>15</b> Memorial<br>service for Jean<br>Morgan 11 am<br>GWL Service<br>2 pm           | <b>16</b>   | <b>17</b> | <b>18</b><br>Playgroup<br>9.30 am –<br>11.30 am | <b>19</b> |
| <b>20</b><br>10am Yass<br>Rye Park 5 pm | <b>21</b>             | <b>22</b><br><i><u>March</u></i><br><i><u>Newsletter</u></i><br><i><u>Items due</u></i> | <b>23</b>   | <b>24</b> | <b>25</b><br>Playgroup<br>9.30 am –<br>11.30 am | <b>26</b> |
| <b>27</b><br>10am Yass                  | <b>28</b>             |   |   |           |   |           |

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: WORLD DAY OF PRAYER ON FRIDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH