

**UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA
YASS PARISH**



MARCH 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.

Psalm 91:2, 9-16 – a reflection

There that wasn't so hard was it? On Ash Wednesday we confessed our sin. Feel sorry for those who brag, "I will never apologise for anything." Confession is a gift.

An unverifiable but still useful story says that somebody asked C.S. Lewis, "Why are atheists some of the best people I know?" Lewis responded, "They must be good, mustn't they? They have to get it right; they don't know a God who forgives."

Christ, when told that no respectable Messiah would hang out with disreputable people, responded, "I have come to seek and to save the lost. I've come for sinners, only sinners" (see Luke 15). If you don't know a God who saves sinners, then you are forced to keep up the pretense that you are a nice person who can get along just fine on your own.

"Whenever you cry out to me, I'll answer." Sometimes we overlook the gift of knowing a God who, even in our sin, welcomes our cry for help reassuring us, "I'll be with you."

When a child wakes up in the middle of the night and calls for a parent, the child trusts that a parent will respond. The parent may not be able to explain why the child had a frightening dream, but that's okay. It's enough for the parent to answer, "I'm here. No need to fear."

We can be honest because we know a God who responds to our cries for help. We sinners need not fear entering the season of Lent, these forty days of forthright honesty about our sin and our need for salvation.

Whenever we cry out – whether it be a time when life is difficult or a time when we have once again messed up, stumbled, and fallen – that's when we're glad to have a God who says, "Whenever you cry out to me, I'll answer."

Contributed

MARCH LECTIONARY READINGS:

DATE	DAY	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
2/3	Ash Wednesday	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17	Ps 51:1-17	2 Cor 5:20b-6:10	Mt 6:1-6,16-21
6/3	Lent 1	Dt 26:1-11	Ps 91:1-2,9-16	Rom 10:8b-13	Lk 4:1-13
13/3	Lent 2	Gen 15:1-12,17-18	Ps 27	Phil 3:17-4:1	Lk 13:31-35 or Lk9:28-36
20/3	Lent 3	Is 55:1-9	Ps 63:1-8	1 Cor 10:1-13	Lk 13:1-9
25/3	Annunciation of the Lord	Is 7:10-14	Ps 45 or Ps 40: 5-10	Heb 10:4-10	Lk 1:26-38
27/3	Lent 4	Jos 5:9-12	Ps 32	2 Cor5:16-21	Lk 15:1-3,11b-32

Church Council News:

The NATIONAL CHURCH LIFE SURVEY has been conducted during February. Thank you to all who participated. Eventually we will receive a summary relating to our Parish.

COVID regulations as announced by the NSW Government this week has changed the mask rules – no masks are needed in indoor settings. Singing is allowed. BUT please be mindful of social distancing – 1.5 metres from another person. Please do not sit directly behind someone in church – move to the other end of the pew. Where possible leave an empty pew.

(Ruth Thompson – Secretary – Yass Parish Church Council)

WORSHIP ROSTER----ST ANDREWS CONGREGATION

March 2022

DATE	WORSHIP LEADER	BIBLE READER	PRAYERS	Morning Tea	Flowers
6 th March	Barry Banks	Chris Anderson	Team	Bev & Russell	S. Henshaw
13 March	Owen & Suzie Graham	Team	Team	UCAF lunch Tongan appeal	B. Rayner
20 th March	Rev Christine Moimoi	Tim Holmes	Sandra Henshaw	Sandra & Gordon	
27 th March	Rev John Braakman	Isobel Wykes	Della Armour	Ann & Chris	L. Glover

Stewards: Cheryl and Richard Maxwell

Counters: Gordon Henshaw and helper

Duty Elders: Suzie and Owen Graham and Barry Banks

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THE YASS CONGREGATION:

The AGM of the Yass congregation will be held on 20th March 2022 for the election of office bearers, to be followed by the general meeting.

The following positions are for election and currently held by: **Chairperson** Owen Graham, **Deputy Chairperson** Gordon Henshaw, **Secretary** Christine Anderson, **Church Notices** Christine Anderson, **Chief Stewards** (at present there are four) Barry Banks, Russell Mills, Gordon Henshaw, Ray Armour.

Expressions of interest for Property Committee are invited. For information, please see Owen or Chris

Items for the agenda should reach me by 6th March 2022.

Christine Anderson
Congregation Sec

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;

For people to be willing to take office in our congregation

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DONATION MONEY WORKING GROUP

This group met on 14th February, 2022. Present: Sue Demoor, Lesley Cox, Gordon Henshaw, Ruth Thompson. Absent: Helen Poulton

Business: the group met to consider a recommendation from Church Council that \$5,000.00 be paid from this money to Generate Ministries to support SRE at Yass High School. After a short discussion Sue moved that we give \$5,000.00. Sec Gordon Confirmed

This group is always ready to listen to ideas for mission in our community. If you have an idea please talk to a member of this group.

Ruth Thompson for the group.

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INVITATION



Everyone is invited to join us for a Friendship Lunch on Sunday, 13th March following the worship Service. The cost will be \$5.00 plus a donation for Tonga Tsunami Disaster Appeal. UCAF will provide a tasty barbecue lunch and salads

UCAF NEWS

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, 4th March. This is a ecumenical service and we will have visitors from other Christian Churches in Yass. It would be good to see many people (men and women) from our congregation.

The next UCAF meeting will be held on Monday 2nd May at 2pm. Everyone is welcome.

(Ruth Thompson for UCAF members)

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The Property Committee continues the oversight of repairs and maintenance to our properties. The grounds in Yass have been mown when necessary (quite a lot this year). The last of the netting from the old tennis court at 2A has been removed. Problems with drainage at 2A have been investigated. A tradesman has cleared some blockages and will come back to look at the broken pipes. A tradesman has been organised to repair termite damage at the Bookham and Rye Park churches. He will also repair the drain in the kitchen at Rye Park.

Ruth Thompson for the committee

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. Many parts of Tonga remain covered in ash and people have been left without power. The Red Cross is estimating 80,000 people have been affected by the disaster.

The World Bank has just released a report and estimates US\$43.7M worth of damage to residential buildings. In combination with the disaster, the pandemic has added serious complications to recovery as some parts of the country are now subject to lockdown. Humanitarian aid continues to enter the nation and many nations have reached out to offer help.

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>

Parish Calendar: MARCH 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Elder's 2pm	2 Ash Wednesday Morning Tea GWL	3	4 Playgroup 9.30 –11.30 World Day of prayer 2	5
6 10am Yass HC Rye Park 5pm	7	8	9	10	11 Playgroup 9.30 am – 11.30 am	12
13 10am Yass Friendship Lunch for Tongan Appeal	14	15 Services TEG 11 am GWL 2 pm	16	17	18 Playgroup 9.30 am – 11.30 am	19
20 10am Yass Congregational Meeting Rye Park 5 pm	21	22 <u><i>April Newsletter Items due</i></u>	23	24	25 Playgroup 9.30 am – 11.30 am	26
27 10am Yass	28					