



UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA YASS PARISH



DECEMBER 2020

MINISTER:	<i>To contact the Church phone</i>	0408 400 542 6226 1132
CHAIRMAN	Sue Demoor	
SECRETARY:	Ruth Thompson	
TREASURER:	Lesley Cox	
NEWSLETTER EDITOR:	Lee Parker	

All may be contacted through Contacts on this website. Use the dropdown menu to find the person you need.

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.

SUPPLY MINISTRY:

Following a recommendation from Presbytery, a group of Elders and Church Councillors met with retired minister, Rev Christine Moimoi who lives in Canberra, with a view to inviting her to take up the position of Supply Minister in our Parish.

Two meetings were held and a mutual decision for Supply Ministry for the period 1 January 2021 to 30 April 2021 was reached.

The second meeting agreed that to allow Christine to get to know us and us to know her, that she would lead the worship service for the first four Sundays in January in a row. Thereafter, she will lead worship on two Sundays a month. The newsletter calendar will have further details each month. Christine will lead worship fourteen times in that period. Pastoral care and visiting will be available, but these requests will be channelled through the Pastoral Partners program.

The Presbytery Pastoral Relations Committee approved our application to employ Rev Moimoi at its meeting on Tuesday and advised her that our agreement with her had been approved. *(Ruth Thompson on behalf of the Elders and Church Council)*

DECEMBER SERVICES:

Following recommendations from the Elders Task Group the "Facing Christmas without them" service and the Christmas Eve service will not be held this year.

The service on **Christmas Day at St Andrew's** will be held at **9.30 am**.

There will not be a service on Sunday, 27th December.

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE:

If you are coming to church: please ring **RUTH THOMPSON ON 6226 5463 TO BOOK A SEAT FOR THE WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10 AM EACH SUNDAY.**

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR:

The proposal to conduct a reverse Advent calendar activity in 2020 has been curtailed by the restrictions on meeting face to face. However, the UCAF have decided to have a ‘mini’ activity and collect donations of food from the Yass Congregation from now until Sunday 13 December. You may donate as much as you like. Please only give products with a long shelf life such as canned food or other products with a ‘use by’ or ‘best before’ date beyond April 2021. Cleaning products, tea towels, toothpaste and toothbrushes are also appreciated. The items can be brought to church gradually and placed in the basket at the rear of the church or brought on Sunday 13 December. The donated items will be delivered to ‘The Mustard Seed’ Pantry at Gungahlin Uniting Church for distribution to the surprising number of families and people in need that the pantry supports.

This is an Advent outreach activity from one Uniting Church to another.

Participation will not get you a chocolate each day but you might be surprised at how much more pleasure than a chocolate, this will give you and how much longer that feeling lasts.

(Lee Parker)

ANNUAL REPORTS:

Due to the difficulties of having large groups meeting together we won’t have an Annual Parish Meeting this year. However, the Annual Reports have been prepared by office bearers of the groups in our Parish.

The reports are available in the porch of Yass church and from Lorraine at Rye Park.

If you can’t come to church email or ring me and I will make sure you get a copy. Comments and questions are welcome and all questions will be answered.

(Ruth Thompson – Secretary – Yass Parish Church Council 6226 5463

krthompson54@bigpond.com)

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR, CHURCH COUNCIL:

Last Council meeting for 2020

This has been a hard year for everyone with bush fires, smoke, Covid and David’s leaving. Although we are very tired from this year and are looking forward to a bit of a break, we have learned lots and now know that change is with us. We will probably never go back to exactly where we were, but we do know that God has led us during this time and will continue to do so.

We have purchased equipment and will keep our Facebook live (and recorded) services going along with face to face, we and appreciate the comments some of you make online or to us

individually. This has been a huge mission that God has dropped in our lap. We are reaching over 100 devices (140 people?) that engage with us during the week. We will continue trying our new time of 10am for service in Yass and online and 5:30pm for Rye Park services until February when this will be reviewed at our Council meeting. We would welcome your feedback.

We have set the Council dates for 2021 as follows: 10 February, 10 March, 12 May, 14 July, 8 September, 6 October (AGM), and 10 November. As always, we welcome your comments and input.

Update on Covid

We have heard that a number of you won't be returning to face to face services for a while yet, which is fine as Synod and the NSW government are still saying if you are over 70, online may be preferable for you.

I also know some of you are anxious to start singing in church. Although I have no voice, I, too, enjoy the music very much. Unfortunately the expulsion of air when singing makes it much more dangerous than talking.

Update on Covid from Synod on 8 October 'The NSW State Government has updated the rules involving singing in church.

- *Members of congregations and faith communities are still to refrain from singing or chanting.*
- *Masks for those over 12 years of age are still highly recommended to be worn in worship settings.*

NSW Health updated advice regarding singing and chanting for places of worship

In accordance with advice from the Chief Health Officer, NSW Health recommends the following measures for singing and chanting. These regulations are still in the NSW Covid Safe Plans.

A small group of up to 5 people may sing together in a large well-ventilated (preferably outdoor) area if:

- All singers face forwards and not towards each other
- Have physical distancing of 1.5 metres between each other and any other performers, and 5 metres from all other people including the audience and conductor.'

Of course we will continue to follow our Covid Safe Plan especially with sign-ins, sanitising, greetings, record keeping, and cleaning.

Offerings and Finances

Thank you for your continued offerings. They are helping to keep us going and will help us to be able to employ another minister in the future.

UCA – Yass Parish Account

BSB number: **634 634** Account number: **100039947**
with the reference **Offering Yass** or **Offering Rye Park**

David's Final Service

Some of you have asked for copies of David's final service held on **25 October**.

Unfortunately, I have not been able to burn a CD of this yet. Of course this service is still on our Facebook site and you can watch it at

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Christian-Church/Yass-Uniting-Church-228378387525290/>

We would love to hear from you about any suggestions, help you need or are willing to offer
God bless, Sue Demoor, Chair, Yass Parish

WE REMAIN IN CONTACT THROUGH:

- Parish Facebook site: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Christian-Church/Yass-Uniting-Church-228378387525290/>
- Website - <https://yass.uca.org.au/> for information and to reach us through contacts
- Pastoral Partners – Contact Barry, Della or Sandra for more information
- Our newsletter continues to play an important role and is now on the website – contact Lee for more information or to contribute. Current and past newsletters: <https://yass.uca.org.au/newsletters-2020/>
- Prayer Group – currently meeting by Zoom on Thursdays at 9:30 – contact Suzie Graham for more information

You can find contact information for these people on our website using the dropdown list on <https://yass.uca.org.au/contact-us/>

RYE PARK CONGREGATION December 2020



Not just a Church, but a Family.

We have been thankful for our teams leading our worship over past weeks. Although we haven't returned to our church building, we have been meeting at Garry and Lillian and Ron and Lorraine's residences and enjoy the team members who have been able to travel out or the online services along with the fellowship and meal after.

This year we will be holding a Christmas Eve service in place of the Christmas Day service. The time and place are yet to be decided.

December Birthdays:

Sylvia Pearsall.....7th

December Celebrations:

Sheree and Terry Bush.....Wedding Anniversary

GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD

Our Father up in Heaven, long, long years ago,
Looked down in His great mercy upon the earth below
And saw that folk were lonely and lost in deep despair
And so He said, 'I'll send My Son to walk among them there...

So they can hear Him speaking and feel his nearness too,
 And see the many miracles that Faith alone can do...
 For if man really sees Him and can touch His healing hand
 I know it will be easier to Believe and Understand'....
 And so the Holy Christ Child came down to live on earth
 And that is why we celebrate His holy, wondrous birth,
 And that is why at Christmas the world becomes aware
 That heaven may seem far away but God is Everywhere.

DECEMBER LECTIONARY READINGS:

DATE	DAY	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
6	Advent 2	Is 40:1-11	Ps 85:1-2, 8-13	2 Pt 3:8-15a	Mk 1:1-8
13	Advent 3	Is 61:1-4, 8-11	Ps 126 or Lk 1:46b-55	1 Thes 5:16-24	Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
20	Advent 4	2 Sm 7:1-11, 16	Lk 1:46b-55 or Ps 89:1-4, 19-26	Rom 16:25-27	Lk 1:26-38
25	Nativity 1 Nativity 2 Nativity 3	Is 9:2-7 Is 62:6-12 Is 52:7-10	Ps 96 Ps 97 Ps 98	Ti 2:11-14 Ti 3:4-7 Heb 1:1-4, (5-12)	Lk 2:1-14, (15-20) Lk 2(1-7), 8-20 Jn 1:1-14
27	Christmas 1	Is 61: 10-62:3	Ps 148	Gal 4:4-7	Lk 2:22-40

JANUARY LECTIONARY READINGS:

DATE	DAY	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
3	Christmas 2	Jer 31: 7-14	Ps 147: 12-20	Eph 1:3-14	John 1:(1-9), 10-18
10	Baptism of Jesus	Gn 1:1-5	Ps 29	Acts 19:1-7	Mk 1:4-11
17	Epiphany2	1 Sm 3:1-10, (11-20)	Ps 139:1-6, 13-18	1 Cor 6:12-20	Jn 1:43-51
24	Epiphany 3	Jon 3:1-5, 10	Ps 62:5-12	1 Cor 7:29-31	Mk 1:14-20
31	Epiphany 4	Dt 18:15-20	Ps 111	1 Cor 8:1-13	Mk 1:21-28

.....

DECEMBER and JANUARY WORSHIP LEADERS:

December	Worship Leader	Readings	Prayer of Intercession	
6 H C	Team 1	Gordon Henshaw	Sandra Henshaw	
13	Team 1	Gordon Henshaw	Sandra Henshaw	
20	Team 1	Gordon Henshaw	Sandra Henshaw	
Christmas Day	Ruth Thompson			
27	NO SERVICES			



January	Worship Leader	Readings	Prayer of Intercession	Flowers
3 H C	Rev Christine Moimoi			Ruth Thompson
10	Rev Christine Moimoi			Ann Ranyard
17	Rev Christine Moimoi			Sandra Henshaw
24	Rev Christine Moimoi			Barbara Rayner
31	TBA			Lee Parker



UCAF NEWS:

Hooray!!! UCAF was able to meet again today. We are straightaway into our activities which provide fellowship in our congregations. Our other aim is to provide assistance to those in need.

FRIENDSHIP LUNCH: After the worship service on 13 December we will have a barbecue lunch in the church grounds. This will be a great chance for everyone to catch up and enjoy a relaxing meal. All food will be supplied but you can make a small donation towards the cost if you wish.

We are still planning a market day early in 2021 and saleable second-hand items can be saved for this. *(Ruth Thompson – Secretary)*



PROPERTY COMMITTEE NEWS:

Ray Armour has felt that it is time he retired from the Property Committee. Ray has given many years of service to the maintenance of our buildings in Yass and Rye Park. We thank him for his dedication.

(Ruth Thompson, Secretary)



Senior Facts of Life: I don't always go the extra mile, but when I do it's because I've missed my exit.

CONGRATULATIONS:

On Sunday 22nd November during our service Lee Parker was commissioned as a Lay Preacher in the Uniting Church.

Thanks to Sandra for the lovely flowers on Sunday. Lee was delighted to take them home.
(*Ruth Thompson*)

REFLECTION:

An Incredible Feeling

Newscaster Paul Harvey once told about a woman who called the Butterball Turkey Company and said that she had a turkey that had been in her freezer for 23 years. She asked if it was still any good.

She was told that if her freezer was at least zero degrees Fahrenheit, then the turkey was probably safe enough to eat. But they wouldn't recommend that she eat it. The flavour would have deteriorated considerably. She said, "That's what we thought. I guess we'll just give it to the church."

I suppose there are many reasons we choose to give. But people who enjoy sharing with others the most do not share simply because they have a need to get rid of something. Those who find the greatest joy from giving have learned to give from a deeper place; they give from their hearts.

Santa Claus is becoming a universal symbol of giving. Millions of children write letters to Santa each year in hopes that they won't be forgotten during his annual giving spree. Did you know that the US Post Office actually found ways to answer those letters to Santa Claus? They used to just stick them in the so-called dead letter box.

But now some cities have programs that allow people to sort through these hand-written pleas, hopes and wishes and become "Santas" to others in need. They choose a letter and respond however they can. Most anyone can play Santa.

One letter that might have been discarded a few years ago, but was picked up by a volunteer Santa Claus, came from a boy named Donny. He wrote that he wanted a bike for Christmas and "some food and what I really need is love."

Another volunteer Santa latched onto a letter from a young mother who wrote, "I lost my job...and I cannot afford to give my two children the things they need for the winter months." That generous person helped with some necessities for the children.

"I like to go to their home on Christmas Eve," one joyful Santa said. One year he bought presents for four children and a ham for their mother. Then he added this poignant observation: "The feeling you get is just incredible."

I admit it – I don't always get that feeling when I give. But then I don't always give out of untainted motivations. Sometimes I give from other places. Sometimes I give out of social obligation or out of guilt. Or I give with an expectation for receiving back. But I give best

when I give from that deeper place; when I give simply, freely and generously, and sometimes for no particular reason. I give best when I give from my heart.

And isn't it true? Opportunities to give from the heart are not limited to a particular holiday season or cultural tradition. Whether we give food, money, an hour of time or a hug, we can give it sincerely and joyously.

But let me offer a word of caution. If you choose to give from your heart, be careful. The most incredible feeling might just overwhelm you. And if you continue in this behaviour, that feeling may become permanent. *(Steve Goodier)*

February Newsletter:

Please have all items for the February edition to the Editor by Tuesday, 26 January.

.....

ADVENT:

Baby Jesus

What part will we play in this baby's life? When he comes, will we hold him, herald him, love him, live for him? Or will we coo at his cradle, ooh and aah at the star, have a listen when the angels sing – then head back to reality and wistfully wish Christmas could be all year long?

Love born to us,
live in us for life,
not just for Christmas.
Child in the manger,
Grow up and take your place.

What part will we play in each other's lives? When we meet, will we hold, herald, love, live for each other? Or will we say the politically correct things, be politely sympathetic, listen and offer lip-service appropriately – then go back to the real world and wistfully wish we could be more involved with each other?

Love born to us,
live in us for life,
not just for Christmas.
Child in the manger,
Grow up and take your place.

What part will this life play in our lives? ...Keep us by his cradle, listening at his feet, working by his side, weeping at the foot of his cross, rejoicing at his love-story that refuses to die, even when hate and evil does its worst.

What part will we play in this baby's life? That is the question that Advent asks.

(From 'Hope Was Heard Singing by Sally Foster-Fulton, Wild Goose Publications, 2013)