



UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA YASS PARISH



FEBRUARY 2021

MINISTER in Supply:	Rev Christine Moimoi	To contact phone 0408 400 542/ 6226 1132
CHAIRMAN:	Sue Demoor	All may be contacted through Contacts on this website. Use the dropdown menu to find the person you need.
SECRETARY:	Ruth Thompson	
TREASURER:	Lesley Cox	
NEWSLETTER EDITOR:	Lee Parker	

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.

Minister's Message:

Greetings to you all, the people of the Yass and Rye Park congregations. I want to congratulate you on the effective way in which you have negotiated the maze that is COVID19 and the desire to control its impact across the whole community. I do hope we can sing at Easter as I cannot imagine that great, high festival without the jubilant songs of the generations. But we must wait and see and move with what is possible at that time. You will have me for a 50% Supply position until the end of April. And that time will go very quickly. In some ways, I am simply holding up the slack as you look to what the future may look like. A full-time placement seems no longer possible, and it is rather a shock to realise how communities change in a relatively short time. I remember a different Yass congregation probably about 20 years ago. But our situations change. And it is no use longing for some imagined memory of how good things used to be. The 1950's with large Sunday Schools and Youth Groups were a response to the changes of war, and the desire for a more orderly world. By the 1960's the world was already shifting. And my generation was asking different questions and looking for something more than a cultural religion. We went in lots of different directions and that continues today with a different set of questions again. Change happens. The challenge is together to work out how to embrace the now in which we live. To work out how we try to be faithful disciples of Jesus in ways that may feel quite odd, because they may be different, and we will be different. The most important thing for us all to remember is the promise 'that Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and forever.' Circumstances call us to change but Jesus is with us and we need not be afraid. And let's not forget, that if we try things that don't seem to work, that is not failure but learning. I am available for conversation and prayer as you may require. Study material for a Lent study is being organised and I would appreciate if you could let Owen know if you are interested in participating. It is possible to run a couple of groups, and these can be on line and in person in the same way that Sunday services are. Just let Owen know what you need. Thank you. Blessings to you all. Christine Moimoi

Bookings to attend services:

We do not require bookings from you to attend worship services. We are under the 2 square metre rule and because our congregation has shrunk we have enough room for all who wish to attend, but we still need to be aware and observe the 1.5 metre rule wherever possible. We are still keeping attendance records and we ask you to sanitize your hands as you enter the building and to remember to keep apart when possible.

Morning tea is being served in the hall in Yass after the service.

Ruth Thompson – Church Council Secretary

UCAF News:

UCAF held a Friendship lunch at the church hall on 13th December. About 25 people enjoyed a bbq and salads while sitting outside on a lovely day. It is hoped to continue these dinners during 2021.

On 16th December Lee and I took the goods which were donated to the Reverse Advent Calendar appeal to the Mustard Seed Pantry in Gungahlin. It was interesting to see their set up and to hear about their support for those who find it hard to make ends meet. It is hoped that we can support them again in 2021.

UCAF supported the Vine Foodbank in Yass during December through a donation to allow them to have a wider range of fruit and vegetables available for their customers. This donation was greatly appreciated.

We are still hoping to have our Market Day early this year. This will be discussed at our meeting on Monday 8th February at 2 pm in the hall. *Ruth Thompson - Secretary*

Forward Dates for Your Diary:

Friday 5 March

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

FEBRUARY LECTIONARY READINGS:

DATE	DAY	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
7	Epiphany 5	Is 40: 21-31	Ps 147: 1-11, 20c	1 Cor 9: 16-23	Mk 1: 29-39
14	Transfiguration of Jesus	2 Kgs 2: 1-12	Ps 50: 1-6	2 Cor 4: 3-6	Mk 9: 2-9
21	Lent 1	Gn 9: 8-17	Ps 25: 1-10	1 Pt 3: 18-22	Mk 1: 9-15
28	Lent 2	Gn 17: 1-7, 15-16	Ps 22: 23-31	Rom 4: 13-25	Mk 8: 31-38 or Mk 9: 2-9

Special Congregation Meeting:

There will be a special Congregation meeting held on 28 February 2021 to elect two Elders and four Church Councillors.

Judy Banks and Barry Banks (Elders) and Cheryl Maxwell, Christine Anderson, Judy Banks and Barry Banks (Church Councillors), concluded their elected terms in 2020, but by agreement, they remained in office as elections had to be held over due to Covid19. Barry Banks and Judy Banks are eligible to be re-elected for the position of Elder and/or the position of Church Councillor.

Nomination forms for the positions of two Elders and four Church Councillors are available in the foyer of the church along with explanatory notes regarding the above positions and are also included in this Newsletter.

Nominations should reach the Congregation secretary by 14th February 2021.

Any agenda items should also reach the Congregation secretary by this date.

(Christine Anderson, Congregation Secretary)

Property Committee Report:

The Property Committee will meet on 28th January.

At long last the exterior of the St Andrew's building has been painted. The fascia and gutters have been repaired and painted and look great against the clean tiles.

The lawns have been kept neatly mown over the spring period but are looking a bit dried up just now. A few plants are dying but we can't keep enough water up to them.

The church key which has been kept under the hall has been moved. This is necessary because the operator from Chubb's who inspects the fire extinguishers was told where the key was. The operator now comes without notice and more often than is required and each time sends us a hefty bill.

If you are a key holder who sometimes forgets their own key or someone who uses the key occasionally, please talk to me and I will tell you the new position of the key.

I cannot put the new position in this newsletter because the newsletter is available on the web page.

Ruth Thompson

Used Stamps:

It is anticipated that sale of used stamps and private Collections forwarded to UCA NSW will amount to \$35,000 for 2020 and 2021. These funds will be available to be distributed to various UCA organisations during the coming year.

The Yass Uniting Church continues to collect used stamps and forward to Synod Stamp Committee by Ray Armour. Ray will trim and sort as the Stamp Committee requires. Stamps can be given to Ray or left at the Church.

February Roster: Yass Congregation

DATE	WORSHIP LEADER	BIBLE READERS	PRAYER OF INTERCESSION	MORNING TEA	FLOWERS
7	Rev MoiMoi	Chris Anderson	Ruth Thompson	UCAF	S. Henshaw
14	Owen & Suzie Graham	Team 2	Team 2	UCAF	B. Rayner
21	Rev MoiMoi	Tim Holmes	Della Armour	UCAF	L. Parker
28	Barry Banks	Team 5	Team 5	UCAF	L. Glover

Stewards: Tim Holmes and Phil Willis

Counters: Lee Parker and Gordon Henshaw

Duty Elders: Helen Poulton and Lee Parker

Church Council:

A New Year

We have accomplished lots in 2020, but not much of that was planned for in 2019. We had looked at our mission plan again and still prayed for a growth, but what did we get: Covid19 with no one in the church. However, with David's help, we were able to continue worshipping, but online! Who would have thought we could do this. Not only that but we have reached many more online than we've ever had in a church service for a long time. God certainly does use strange times to his advantage if we only listen and follow. 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 now have Rev Christine Moimoi leading us as a church and in worship. We are very fortunate to have such an experienced minister with us during our continued period of change. If you haven't been able to worship in person, please hear her on our Facebook site. Christine will be with us until the end of April so we have much more to learn from her. If you want to meet with her, she is usually in Yass on Sundays and Mondays.

We are still continuing with our new time of 10am for services in Yass and online, and 5:30pm for communion services at Rye Park.

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, all member of Council welcome your comments and input.

Update on Covid

Unfortunately, Covid19 is not over and we know that some 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. Unfortunately the expulsion of air when singing makes it much more dangerous than talking. I am thankful that so many of you have been willing to perform musical items for us. I have been reading the words as these groups have been singing and have really started to take in the words much more carefully, so thank you.

NSW Health updated advice regarding singing and chanting for places of worship Jan 2021

‘Group singing and chanting remains a high-risk activity for transmission should someone involved be infected.

- No more than 5 performers should sing indoors, with 1.5m between performers and 5m between performers and the audience.
- In indoor areas, audience members and congregants should not participate in singing or chanting.
- In outdoor areas, if the event is one where the audience or congregation are likely to participate in singing or chanting, such as religious services, audience members and congregants older than 12 years should wear a face mask.’

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

Yass congregation election of Council members and Elders

There are 4 members of Council who are completing their term on Council. I would like to say a big thank you to these four people for their work on Council over the years. Each has contributed much to the church through their service. Whether or not you choose to be nominated again, I thank you so much for what you have already done.

As nominations are coming up, it is really the duty of all members of congregation to discern through prayer and thought those people who have a vision for the futures and who have the gifts and graces to be a leader on the Church Council.

If you would like to nominate someone for Council, there is more information on the nomination process elsewhere in this newsletter.

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. If you want to contribute online, here is the information: UCA – **Yass Parish Account** BSB number: **634 634** Account number:

100039947 with the reference **Offering Yass** or **Offering Rye Park**

Sue Demoor

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Know Your Bible:

Know Your Bible (KYB) will be recommencing 2nd Feb. This term the group of ladies that meet at Della Armour's home, 10 Mitchell St Yass, will be looking at Acts chapters 1 to 12 Ladies this is an open group that enjoy sharing together as we look at God's word. None of us claim to know or understand all that God brings to us through Scripture but we do get a clearer understanding and a desire to know and experience more, as we share together and learn from each other and any reference books we come across.

We also pray together over the concerns we share together each week.

Ladies if you would like to be part of such a group you would be most welcome, we meet each Tuesday morning 9.30 – 11am (includes a cuppa) at Della's home (mostly)

Any Question you may have, chat to myself, Judy Banks or Ruth Thompson

Cheryl Maxwell also has a group you may wish to have a chat to her.

Della Armour

RYE PARK CONGREGATION



The service of Carols in the Park went well on Christmas Eve followed by a picnic in the Park, where each family enjoyed their goodies they had prepared.

We have continued with weekly House Church, being led by Rev Christine Moimoi with lay folk also contributing. We thank you all for travelling and your time to conduct our services.

PRAYER FOR PATIENCE.

God, teach me to be patient -----
Teach me to go slow-----
Teach me how to " wait on you "
When my way I do not know
Teach me sweet forbearance
When things do not go right
Teach me sweet forbearance
When things do not go right
So I remain unruffled
When others grow upright
Teach me how to quiet
My racing, rising heart
So I may hear the answer
You are trying to impart.
Teach me to let go, dear God,
And pray undisturbed until
My heart is filled with inner peace
And I learn to know Your will!

Parish Prayer Points:

*Yass High School SRE Programme as school prepares to recommence Give thanks for leadership from Jessica Fields.

* Church members and families that are undergoing and recovering from Medical treatment.

*General Congregation Meeting Yass

* Discernment as we seek to nominate folk for the positions on Church Council and Elders.

Thought for the week: "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging."

In these changing time let us remember God is with us. From Psalm 46 *Della Armour*

Men's Breakfast:

The first breakfast for the year will be held Saturday 6 February at 8 am at the Vine Church

Advent Services:

A big thank you to Lee who took the services in December. We all enjoyed the different approach and it helped us to think behind the normal Christmas story.

The dressing of the tree and the meanings were new to me (and others) and gave us much to ponder.

The music on each Sunday was a delight and we appreciate the work Lee put into organising the singers and musicians and the work they put into the service. The service of the Carols brought our church alive again and we were pleased to see so many singers and musicians.

Ruth Thompson

Laughter – The best of medicines.

As the doctor completed an examination of the patient, he said, "I can't find a cause for your complaint. Frankly, I think it's due to drinking." "In that case," said the patient, "I'll come back when you're sober"

Breaking Covid News: The seven dwarfs have been advised that they can only meet in groups of six. One of them isn't Happy!

DEEP WATERS

When gates of heaven seem closed to me
and all prayers seem futility
don't come at me with attitude
or cover me with platitude
but let me share the waters awhile
with my Mate from Galilee.

When the church seems to leave me dry
and no god seems to heed my cry
don't look askance and say me
you'll condescend to pray for me
but let me share the waters awhile
with my Mate from Galilee.

When the blessed Dove seems far away
and words seem stone in the creeds I say
don't think me lost in vanity
or that I speak profanity
but let me share the waters awhile
with my Mate from Galilee.

B.D. Prewer 2002

Steward Roster January -- December – 2021.

January...	Mike & Helen Poulton.
February...	Tim Holmes & Phil Willis
March...	Cheryl & Richard Maxwell.
April...	Ruth & Kerry Thompson.
May ...	Ray & Della Armour.
June...	Russel & Bev Mills.
July...	Ruth & Kerry Thompson.
August...	Owen Graham & Chris Anderson.
September...	Ken & Brenda Bush.
October...	Sandra & Gordon Henshaw.
November...	Isobel Wykes & Margaret Henderson.
December...	Ann Ranyard & Chris Anderson.

Steward Duties

- * **Open church. Switch on lights including the cross, turn on Microphones.**
- * **Heater turns on automatically.**
- * **Obtain hymn numbers from organist if required.**
- * **Greet worshippers as they enter & hand out hymn books if required, or such materials as newsletters, etc.**
- * **Take up the offering or organise someone else to do so.**
- * **At the end of worship turn off all microphones, power point in vestry, lights, fans etc; check that the candle at the communion table is out & leave church as you found it.**

If anybody has a problem with rosters please contact Chris Anderson

Parish Calendar: FEBRUARY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Finance Committee Meeting 1 pm	2	3	4	5	6 Men's Breakfast 8 am - Vine Church
7 HC 10 am Yass Rye Park 5pm Rev Christine Moimoi	8 Elders 11am UCAF Meeting 2pm	9	10 Church Council 7:30 pm	11	12	13
14 10am Yass Team 2 Rye Park House Church 5pm	15	16 TEG Service 11am	17 Ash Wednesday Service 7:30 pm	18	19	20
21 10am Yass Rye Park 5pm Rev Christine Moimoi	22 <u><i>March Newsletter Items due</i></u>	23	24	25	26	27
28 10am Yass Team 4 Congregational Meeting 11 am Rye Park 5pm						

More laughter:

What do you call a dog that does magic tricks? A labracadabrador.

Why did the old man fall in the well? Because he couldn't see that well.

People in Dubai don't like the Flintstones. But people in Abu Dhabi do!

Have you heard about those new corduroy pillows? They're making headlines.

What's the difference between a hippo and a zippo? One is really heavy, and the other is a little lighter.

Nomination form for Elders within the life of the Yass Parish
Congregation of Yass Uniting Church

The role of an elder in the Yass Parish is to support the Minister, Congregation and Church Council through the exercising of leadership in worship, discipleship, pastoral care, discernment and spirituality. Elders will engage in regular meetings of prayer, devotion, and discernment throughout the year. Elders will support the Church Council in their leadership as it gives priority in its life to building up the Congregation in faith and love, sustaining members in hope, and leading the Congregation to a fuller participation in Christ's mission in the world.

It is also necessary that nominations for Elders within our church be for men and women who have gifts for this role and who have been a part of Yass Uniting Church for a reasonable period of time. As far as it is possible, the elders task group should reflect the diversity of our congregation in age and gender.

We are seeking members of the congregation to **discern through prayer and thought** those who have the gifts and graces to be an elder in the life of the Yass Parish.

Here are the steps for the nomination process:

- Pray about who might have the gifts and graces to be able to fulfil the role of an elder
- Discern who you would like to nominate
- Approach another member of the congregation to second the nomination – The seconder should also have the opportunity to discern the nomination.
- If the seconder agrees to support the nomination, you will need to approach the person being nominated and ask if they will accept the nomination. They may express a desire to pray and discern the nomination themselves, which should be respected.
- If they agree to the nomination, you will then need to fill in the attached form with their name, along with the gifts you believe they bring to the Elders Working Group
- The person being nominated then must sign the form and tick the box for the appropriate term they are willing to serve – one, two or three years.
- When completed, place the completed form into the “Elders Nomination Box” located in the church foyer.

For your information, elders over the last year have been: Owen Graham, Suzie Graham, Barry Banks, Judy Banks, Helen Poulton, Cheryl Maxwell, Lee Parker, Della Armour, and Lorraine Veness.

If you would like more information on the role of an Elder please contact Owen Graham.

Nomination form for Church Council Representatives of the Yass Parish Congregation of Yass Uniting Churches

The role of a Church Council representative is to exercise gifts of leadership in making decisions about vision, mission, discipleship, pastoral matters and spirituality. Each representative will be engaged in regular meetings of the Church Council throughout the year. As a whole, the task of the Church Council is to give priority in its life to building up the Congregation in faith and love, sustaining members in hope, and leading the Congregation to a fuller participation in Christ's mission in the world. This is the first priority of the Church Council.

One of the responsibilities of a Church Council representative in the Yass Parish is to be a liaison person to one of the Working Groups. There are five main Working Groups: Mission; Property; Finance; Hospitality and Elders.

It is also necessary that nominations for Church Council representatives within our church be for men and women who have gifts for this role and who have been a part of Yass Uniting Church for a reasonable period of time. As far as it is possible, the Church Council should reflect the diversity of our congregation in age and gender.

We are seeking members of the congregation to **discern through prayer and thought** those who have the gifts and graces to be a leader on the Church Council with a vision for the future.

Here are the steps for the nomination process:

- Pray about who might have the gifts and graces to be able to fulfil the role of a Church Council representative and discern who you would like to nominate
- When you have a name of someone to nominate, approach another member of the congregation to second the nomination – the seconder should also have the opportunity to discern the nomination.
- If the seconder agrees to support the nomination, you will need to approach the person being nominated and ask if they will accept the nomination. They may express a desire to pray and discern the nomination themselves, which should be respected.
- If they agree to the nomination, you will need to fill in the attached form with their name, along with the reasons you think they will be able to carry out the role of a Church Council representative.
- The person being nominated must sign the form and tick the box for the appropriate term they are willing to serve – one, two or three years.
- When completed, place the completed form into the “Nomination Box” located in the church foyer.

For your information, Church Council Representatives over the last year have been: Sue Demoor (Chairperson), Cheryl Maxwell (Deputy Chair), Ruth Thompson (Secretary), Lesley Cox (Treasurer), Chris Anderson, Barry Banks, Judy Banks, Brian Giles-Brown, Lee Parker, Garry Southwell and Phil Willis.

If you would like more information on the role of a Church Council Representative, please contact Sue Demoor.

Nomination forms:

I through prayer and discernment,

would like to nominate..... to be an elder from Yass (cross out one) Uniting Church, starting in March 2021.

I believe this person will carry out the role of elder well because:

*

*

and I believe they would be able to support the congregations and Church Council through the exercising of leadership in worship, discipleship, pastoral care, discernment and spirituality

The nomination is seconded by

I accept nomination to be an Elder for a period of 1 2 3 years

Signature of person being nominated

I through prayer and discernment,

would like to nominate..... to be a representative from Yass Uniting Church to the Church Council of the Yass Parish, starting in March 2021.

I believe this person will carry out the role of Church Council Representative because:

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*

and I believe they would be able to build up the congregation in faith and love.

The nomination is seconded by

I accept nomination to be a representative to Church Council for a period of 1 2 3 years

Signature of person being nominated