

UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA YASS PARISH



MARCH 2021

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Please contract through the
Contact us page

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:

I have been reading Genesis and the story of Abraham and his descendants. It struck me yesterday that Joseph the dreamer actually set in place the societal structures that in a short time became the means of putting his people into the anguish of slavery. He built infrastructure that meant massive quantities of grain could be stored against the threatened famine. He then sold back to the people their own grain so that they would survive the famine. Buildings showed the competency of pharaoh's government and the grain generated income. This enabled future building that trumpeted the divinity of the pharaoh at the expense of the people. And in time enslavement for the vulnerable. What started out as a response to need became a tool of oppression from which the Hebrew people needed to be rescued.

Often, things that we do start out for very good reasons but over time the reasons change. And the outcomes also change.

The good news of the Kingdom of God that Jesus taught brought life and transformation to many. But it really did not take long for the message to change. As the church became more respectable much that was vibrant was covered over by ritual and behaviour. When Constantine decided that Christianity was the state religion, so much more was lost. Freedom to follow the Spirit was squashed under the weight of structures and creeds that allowed the 'church' to become a tool of government. The 'church' became central to the community not because of its message, although it was often trumpeted, but as a means of social control and of the ambition of its leaders. Money, buildings, serfs and status were more important to the system than good news. Things had to change. There were many over the centuries who called the church back to its true identity, but privilege is addictive. Most of us have grown up on the tail end of 'Christendom', that time in history where the church was at the centre of society and expected privilege and recognition for its role as an order-er of society. But things have now changed. That is not where we find ourselves. Public scandals have brought ill repute, deservedly so. My generation began a period of questioning that has seen many walk away from the church because it/we have not offered what was promised.

This Lent, are we willing together to really look at ourselves and consider what we need to let go of and what we need to modify and where we need to adventure into new being? It is hard work. Are we willing to name burdens that we place, often unwittingly, on others? And remove them. Are we prepared to consider what burdens we carry as a community of faith that limit our ability to be bearers of good news?

God is present. God is love. We are called to be people who announce this with our lives and our words. Let's do it!

Blessings to you all.
Christine Moimoi

SPECIAL CONGREGATION MEETING:

The Special Congregation Meeting of the Yass congregation will be held on **28th February** to **elect two Elders and Four Church Councillors.**

Nominees for Elders: Judith Banks (2years)
Barry Banks (2 years)

Nominees for Church Council: Owen Graham (3years)
Cheryl Maxwell (1 year)
Judith Banks (2years)
Barry Banks (2 years)

AGENDA ITEM

A proposal has been received from Church Council that the time of worship be 10am on Sundays. This recommendation will be put to the Congregation at the meeting.

(Christine Anderson, Congregation Secretary.)

World Day of Prayer:

This year the World Day of Prayer will be held at the Lovat Chapel in Meehan Street – opposite the Catholic Church – at 10 am. Men and women are invited to attend. This ecumenical service has been held in Yass for many years and it is a great gathering of folk from all the churches.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE:

Property Committee met in late January. A quote for painting the gutters and fascia on the St Andrew's building was accepted and this work was carried out in January. A grant towards the cost of this work was received from Yass Valley Council and the Property Committee has been saving for several years to have enough funds for the balance.

A working bee is planned to look at safety issues which need attention around St Andrew's Church building and the hall.

Church Council has given permission to accept a quote from Capital Asphalt for repairs and resealing the driveway at 2 Cliff Street. We are not sure yet when this work will be done. The funds for this work are in the Sale Proceeds Account and have been approved by Presbytery and Synod.

We held a working bee to spray the weeds at the edges of the existing sealed area. Tree bark and rubbish was removed.

New volunteers to join Property Committee are always welcome.

(Ruth Thompson for members of Yass Parish Property Committee)

MARCH LECTIONARY READINGS:

DATE	DAY	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
7	Lent 3	Ex 20: 1-17	Ps 19	1 Cor 1: 18-25	Jn 2: 13-22
14	Lent 4	Nm 21: 4-9	Ps 107:-3, 17-22	Eph 2: 1-10	Jn 3: 14-21
21	Lent 5	Jer 31: 31-34	Ps 51: 1-12 or Ps 119: 9-16	Heb 5: 5-10	Jn 12: 20-33
28	Palm Sunday	Is 50: 4-9a	Ps 118:1-2, 19-29	Phil 2: 5-11	Mk 11: 1-11 or Jn 12: 12-16

Holy Week Readings:

29	Monday	Is 42: 1-9	Ps 36: 5-11	Heb 9: 11-15	Jn 12: 1-11
30	Tuesday	Is 49: 1-7	Ps 71: 1-14	1 Cor 1:18-31	Jn 12: 20-36
31	Wednesday	Is 50: 4-9a	Ps 70	Heb 12: 1-3	Jn 13: 21-32

Reflection:

Not long ago I answered a telephone call from an old friend I'd not heard from for a long time. For whatever reason, our paths had simply not crossed for months. It was good to talk with him. Toward the end of the conversation, he said, "If you need me in any way, I'll be happy to help out." And he meant it! That call came at just the right time, as they so often do. I needed those words of encouragement. I hung up feeling a satisfying lump of warmth in my chest. And that day I re-learned something important about life: life is primarily about people - not plans and schedules, not to-do lists and a million tasks left undone - it's about people. It's about friends. To love and to know that we are loved is the greatest happiness of existence. And happiness seems to be something that is in short supply for too many of us! My friend reminded me that it is never enough just to love; we must also express it. What good are our affectionate feelings toward others if we don't find ways to let them know? Happiness and friendship may be just a phone call away. -- *Steve Goodier*

March Roster: Yass Congregation

DATE	WORSHIP LEADER	BIBLE READERS	PRAYER OF INTERCESSION	MORNING TEA	FLOWERS
7	Rev Moimoi	Isobel Wykes	Ruth Thompson	Ruth Thompson	S. Henshaw
14	Owen & Suzie Graham	Team 2	Team 2	Chris Anderson and Ann Ranyard	B. Rayner
21	Barry Banks	Tim Holmes	Team 4	Sandra and Gordon Henshaw	L. Parker
28	Rev Moimoi	Chris Anderson	Owen Graham	Della and Ray Armour	L. Glover

Stewards: Richard and Cheryl Maxwell
Counters: Gordon Henshaw and Lee Parker
Duty Elders: Owen and Suzie Graham

RYE PARK CONGREGATION



No news from Rye park this month

UCAF:

UCAF met in early February to start planning for the year. We are supplying biscuits for morning teas at Yass until the rules change.

On Sunday 18th April we will have a Friendship lunch. This will be the last service for Rev Christine Moimoi although she will be in the Parish for a short while after this. The meal will be a bbq and salads and ice creams for dessert. Everyone is invited. Please put your name on the sheet which will be in the porch.

On Saturday May 15th we hope to hold a Garage Sale. Second hand goods and craft items. No cooking - no morning teas. This will be outdoors so we hope the weather will co-operate. It will be cancelled if the weather is really bad. If you have any second hand goods to be

picked up, please ring me – 6226 5463. Please don't just leave them at the hall because Playgroup are meeting again.

(Ruth Thompson for the members of UCAF)

Notes from the Chair, Church Council:

Farewell

By the time you get this newsletter, the Yass congregation meeting will have voted in new or returning Council members. I would like to very much thank Chris Anderson and Brian Giles-Brown for all their valuable work on Council and wish them well as they retire from their positions.

I would also like to thank Cheryl Maxwell, Barry Banks and Judy Banks for their hard work on Council and wish them well in the upcoming election.

The executive committee of Parish Council (Cheryl Maxwell, deputy chair, Ruth Thompson, secretary, and Lesley Cox, treasurer) get a big thanks for all their work over these few years of change. They have worked so hard with so much change (governance, mission plan, Covid, online services, online Council meetings using Zoom, finance issues, minister leaving and coming). Thank you all so very much.

I would also like to thank the Parish for allowing me to serve as Chair for these few years. It has been a privilege. As I am not standing for Chair in the March election, I would like to wish the incoming executive, prayers for their discernment in where God is leading our Parish and the energy to follow through on His plans. God bless and thank you for hearing God's call and responding.

Rev Christine Moimoi

Christine is continuing to provide services in Yass, Rye Park and online. She is also running Lent Studies this season on Mondays at 10am in the Yass church hall. Contact Owen if you would like to attend or just turn up. 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 individually, she is usually in Yass on Sundays and Mondays.

Council Snippets from 10 February Meeting

Yass services will continue to be at 10am and broadcast on Facebook; Rye Park will continue at 5pm at this stage.

Council dates for 2021 as follows: 10 March, 17 March (AGM only) 12 May, 14 July, 8 September, 6 October (AGM?), and 10 November. As always, all member of Council welcome your comments and input.

Covid update: voted to have morning tea, no bookings are needed for services, still no singing and signing on is required.

There is a group (Barry Banks, Garry Southwell, Ruth Thompson and Sue Demoor) meeting on future planning for our congregation being convened by Christine Moimoi. If you have thoughts you would like to pass on to this group, please do so.

Sue Demoor

Useful Church Links

Parish website: <https://yass.uca.org.au/>

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

Current and past newsletters: <https://yass.uca.org.au/newsletters>

Parish Calendar: MARCH 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5 World Day of Prayer 10 am Playgroup 9.30 am – 11.30 am	6
7 HC 10 am Yass Rye Park 5pm Rev Christine Moimoi	8 Elders 11am	9	10 Church Council Meeting 7.30 pm	11	12 Playgroup 9.30 am – 11.30 am	13
14 10am Yass Team 2 Rye Park House Church 5pm	15	16 TEG Service 11am	17 Church Council AGM 7.30 pm	18	19 Playgroup 9.30 am– 11.30 am	20
21 10am Yass Team 4 Rye Park 5pm	22	23 <i><u>April</u></i> <i><u>Newsletter</u></i> <i><u>Items due</u></i>	24	25	26 Playgroup 9.30 am – 11.30 am	27
28 10am Yass Rye Park 5pm Rev Christine Moimoi	29	30	31			

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Reflection:

We all feel low from time to time.
Perhaps we ought to take this advice from the American singer, Dolly Parton:

‘The sun gets that sinking feeling every night,’ she said,
‘but it gets right back up there in the morning.’