



Shepparton
Uniting Church

Fifth Edition
December 2015

on the *Vine*

Seeking to be faithful to Christ in worship, community life and serving the wider community.

Merry Christmas

Let the countdown begin



Getting to Know...

Ray Luscombe

For The Kids

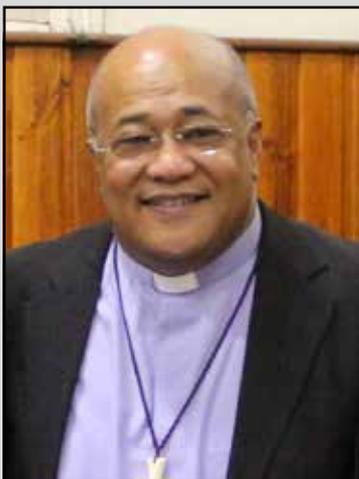
Have Fun!

Faith in Action

In Jerusalem As An Ecumenical Accompanier

Christmas is the Time

To Be Jolly - Fa-La-La



Rev.
Loni Vaitohi
(03) 58224602



Rev.
Rosalie Rayment-Hewitt
(03) 5821 2077

“

We are here as part of God's church, not because we are good enough, or because we are better than others, but because we recognise the need for God in our lives and seek to learn together what it is to walk the way of Christ in love and service of others.

We come from a variety of backgrounds and are at different points in our faith journey. This all adds to the richness of our lives together. Whether you are here as a visitor or looking for a place to be your spiritual home, I trust that you will find a welcome and something that nourishes your inner being.

”

Shepparton Uniting Church
150 Maude Street, Shepparton
P.O. Box 7032, Shepparton, 3632

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Happy Birthday!

Happy 1st Birthday to 'On The Vine'! What a wonderful 12 months it has been getting to know and be inspired by the many wonderful things going on in the life and lives of our congregation, its members and the wider church.

I know that I, personally, have discovered many wonderful things happening in the wider church that I wasn't entirely aware of. I have found some of this new found information about the many things that our congregations do across the wider church inspiring and it has made me realise how much as a group of Christians, working together, we can achieve.

This magazine itself is a wonderful collaboration that started as a glint in members of the congregations eyes and has now become, what I believe, a great source of information and inspiration, that has been compiled by a team of wonderful and enthusiastic individuals.

Jen, Thelma Corey and I would like to thank the following people for their work and support over the last 12 months;

Article Contributors: Rev. Darryl Porritt, Lorraine Threlfall, Adrian Greenwood, Helen Collins, Kaye Teague, Val Gibbs (Trevor), Barbara Chapman, Jo Farren, Judy Luscombe, Keren Wall, Shirley Marven, Ray Luscombe, MADAS Youth Group, Cameron Shields, Damien Stevens, Lois Hardy, Joan Fisher, Brian Hardy and Jeanie Streeter.

Regular contributors: Rev. Loni Vaitohi, Rev. Rosalie Rayment-Hewitt, Jeni Fitzgerald, Zane Streeter, Anni Russell, Joan McRae, Marjorie Shields and Alan English.

We would also like to thank our trusty team of printers and folders: Cameron Shields, Rob Graham, Norma Porritt and Ray Luscombe.

And an extra special thank you to Breanna and Liam

who have put up with their mummy and Jen busy on the computer typing, compiling and printing. They have both played around us, trying to share their stories and toys with us, and fallen asleep on the floor in the church when the printer has broken down and it has gone long past their bedtime before we have finished.

We also want to thank you for your support, encouragement and generosity in sharing your stories, photos and faith with us through the pages of 'On The Vine', or for speaking personally to us when an article has spoken deeply to you.

As we celebrate this small milestone in the bigger scheme of things and move into the celebrations of the birth of Jesus, we hope that in all these things you feel God at its centre.

Blessings and thank you.

Melissa Graham

Christmas 2015

The following are the special worship and event times for Shepparton Uniting Church, Christmas 2015:

Monday 21st December:
9:30am-11:30am
Countdown to Christmas

Tuesday 22nd December:
9:30am-11:30am
Countdown to Christmas

Wednesday 23rd December:
9:30am-11:30am
Countdown to Christmas

Thursday 24th December:
7:00pm Christmas Eve family Service

10:00pm Candlelight Service

Friday 25th December:
9:30am Christmas Day Celebration

All Services and events will be held at:
Shepparton Uniting Church,
134 Maude St, Shepparton

Special Service times for Shepparton Rural Parish are as follows:

Sunday 13th December:
7:30pm Carols Service at Katandra West

Wednesday 23rd December:
7:30pm Christmas Family Service at Pine Lodge

Friday 25th December:
9:00am Christmas Day Celebration at Dookie



Prayer points...

A Compilation

Wake Us from Slumber and Apathy

Bruce D Prewer.

Advent God,
Awaken us from our slumber,
Shock us out of our apathy

Come to us
like the thunder of the surf
pounding Bell's Beach,
like the mighty roar of wind
surging through blue gum
forests.

Come to us
with whatever shock
of discipline is needed
to awaken drowsy disciples.
For the night is far spent.

Simple Gifts

Bruce D Prewer.

The smell of the bush
after some rain,
the desert in flower
on a red plain,
the coming of sleep
after much pain:
for gifts simple and profound
we thank you, loving Friend.

The sound of the waves
along the shore,
the children's laughter
as they explore,
the promise of grace
for evermore:
for gifts simple and profound
we thank you loving Friend.

The sight of wild swans
on a calm lake,
the taste of summer
in a fruitcake,
travelling by faith
after a mistake:
For gifts simple and profound
we thank you, loving Friend.

Contradictions

Bruce D Prewer.

God of generosity,
your love planned the birth of
the baby
who is born to save his
people from their sins:

We confess to you and to
each other,
That, in this world of
contradictions,
We stand in need of your
saving.

Forgive us
If in the Christmas season we
have used holy words
in a shallow way,
If we have conducted hollow
celebrations,
If we have given gifts only to

those who give to us.

Forgive us
If we have feasted without
thanksgiving,
Carolled without joy,
Greeted without caring,
And prayed without love.

May the living Word which has
come to us -
Emmanuel who is with us,
Elder Brother who is one of
us -
Save us from our sins,
Quieten us with his peace,
And fill us with his Spirit.

We delight to call his name
Jesus,
For he is saving us from our
sins.

Collated by Jeanie Streeter.



Getting to know...

Ray Luscombe

Born: April - 1939 at the old Mooroopna Base Hospital

Early Years: Ray attended Toolamba Primary School and later Shepparton High School where he met Judy. After leaving school he returned to the family dairy farm at Toolamba and spent his working life doing a variety of tasks including shearing, cropping, milking and being the general roustabout.

Family: Ray never forget the girl he met at school and in 1961 Ray married Judy Chapman at Box Hill Presbyterian Church.

He is the very proud father of children Greg, Jennie, Rod and Carolyn and super proud grandfather to 12!!!

Community Involvement:

Ray was a very active sportsman - cricket and table tennis were his favourites and he is a life member of the Mooroopna Cricket Club and the Shepparton Table Tennis Association.

When two Justices of the Peace retired, the Toolamba area was left without any JP's - Ray was asked if he would consider becoming a JP for the area which he did in 1981 after completing the training. He now works as a volunteer JP at the Shepparton Police Station and enjoys meeting a wide variety of the community in this position.

Ray has been the chairperson of the Toolamba Cemetery Trust for the past 20 years



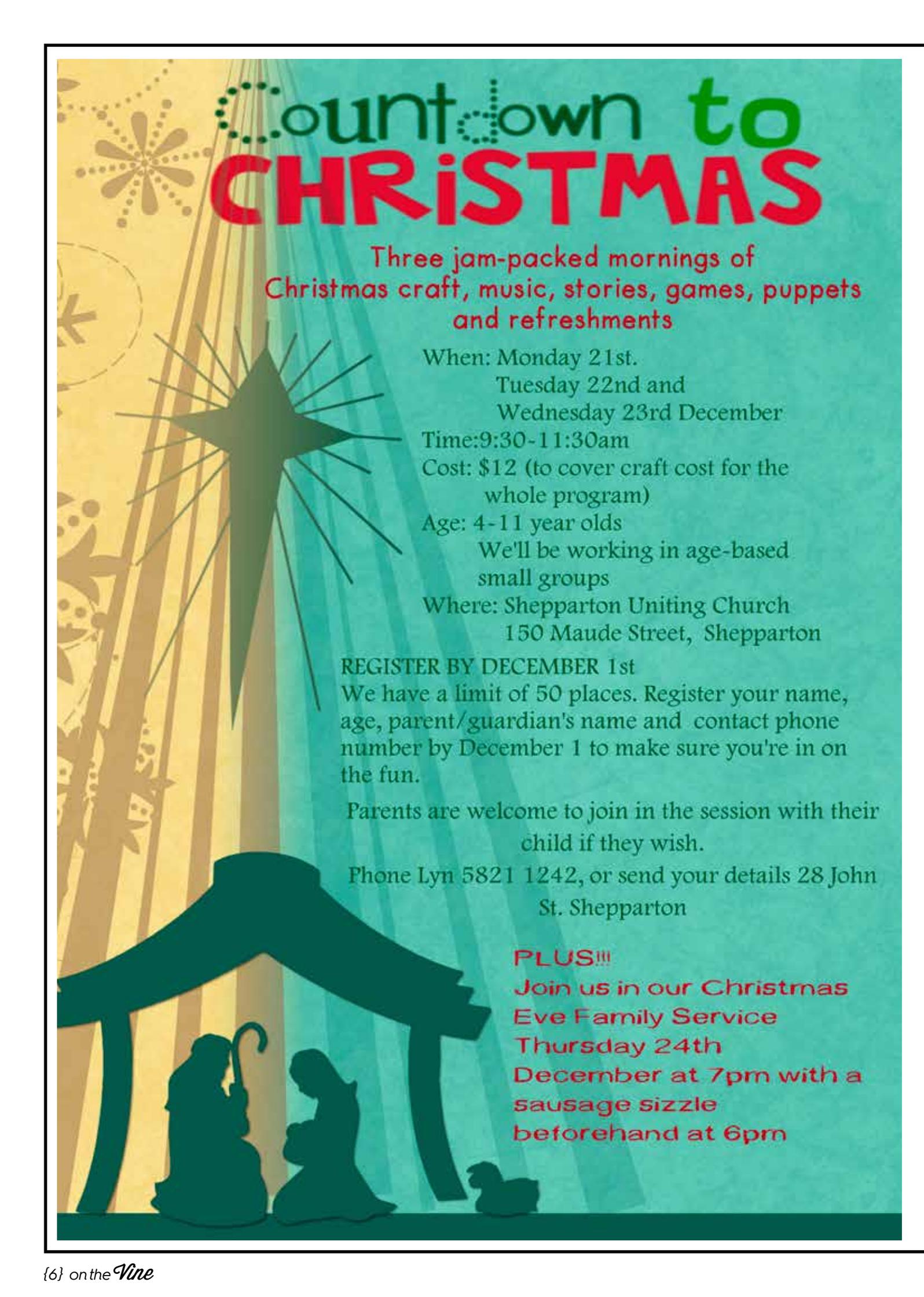
and plays a major role in its general appearance and upkeep.

Church Involvement:

Ray has been involved with the Presbyterian and now Uniting Church all his life and was elected an elder at the age of 28. He was chairperson of the Waranga Parish Council before he and Judy relocated to Orr St. Shepparton after selling the farm four years ago. There have been some challenges for Ray and Judy

adjusting from a small rural congregation where everyone is very well known to each other, to a larger city church - but they have appreciated the friendships extended to them. Rays skills and experience and deep commitment to his faith saw him quickly voted on to the Church Council and last year Ray was elected the Church Council Chairperson.

*Prepared by Jeni Fitzgerald
November 2015*



Countdown to **CHRISTMAS**

Three jam-packed mornings of
Christmas craft, music, stories, games, puppets
and refreshments

When: Monday 21st.
Tuesday 22nd and
Wednesday 23rd December

Time: 9:30-11:30am

Cost: \$12 (to cover craft cost for the
whole program)

Age: 4-11 year olds

We'll be working in age-based
small groups

Where: Shepparton Uniting Church
150 Maude Street, Shepparton

REGISTER BY DECEMBER 1st

We have a limit of 50 places. Register your name,
age, parent/guardian's name and contact phone
number by December 1 to make sure you're in on
the fun.

Parents are welcome to join in the session with their
child if they wish.

Phone Lyn 5821 1242, or send your details 28 John
St. Shepparton

PLUS!!!

Join us in our Christmas
Eve Family Service

Thursday 24th

December at 7pm with a
sausage sizzle
beforehand at 6pm

Interfaith Connections

Weaving A New Cloth



Weaving a New Cloth is the exciting new report of the national Anglican-Uniting Church Dialogue Group. The report, which was received by the Anglican General Synod in 2014 and by the Uniting Church Assembly in 2015, is the first report of a proposed agreement to be signed by

both churches since 1986.

Weaving a New Cloth is an exciting report because it presents ways in which the two churches can collaborate and work together. It focusses on ways in which local churches can work together, providing opportunities for hospitality, shared witness,

shared ministry and mission. Although the Anglican and Uniting Churches of Victoria already have an agreement for ways of working together from ranging shared buildings to joint congregations, provided in The Trinity Declaration of 1999, the new report is the first agreement for co-operation between the two churches at national level, and is thus an important document.

Copies of *Weaving a New Cloth* can be obtained from Joan McRae, who is a member of the Assembly's Christian Unity Working Group. Bishop John Parkes, Bishop of Wangaratta, was the Anglican Co-Chair of the Dialogue Group, so there should be plenty of encouragement for congregations in this Presbytery and in Wangaratta Diocese to work together in new ways. This is particularly important for the rural congregations. The report is straightforward and accessible, and I commend it to you for study and action.

Joan McRae

Op Shop News

End Of Year Changes

At the end of this year the management of the Op Shop will see some changes. Marj Barter and June Anderson are retiring, as well as others on the management team.

However it is Marj and June who do the bulk of the sorting and they will be sadly missed- it is an ongoing task and they

spend many hours per week at the Op Shop.

We will have a gathering before Christmas for all our valued volunteers - a date is to be arranged.

Yours in friendship, Alison Finlayson. (Op Shop Convenor).



Faith in Action

In Jerusalem As An Ecumenical Accompanier



Muslim men respond to the 'Call to Prayer' at 5 a.m.

While I was in Jerusalem as an Ecumenical Accompanier earlier this year, I learned a great deal.

I found that this program of the World Council of Churches welcomed contributions from people of many different faiths, and none. And people whose main motivation was political rather than religious had many skills which enriched our work.

I was also challenged by the open practice of religion in daily life, in contrast to our Australian way.

Since 2002, more than 1500 Ecumenical Accompaniers have provided 'protective presence' in Palestine and Israel, accompanying those who are dehumanised every

day because of Israeli military occupation. This includes the 'cold violence' of Israeli laws that discriminate against equal rights for Palestinians. EAs also stand alongside Israeli peace activists working to end the occupation.

My placement was in Jerusalem, the religious, political and economic centre for Palestinians and Israelis.

From childhood I'd been fascinated by Bible stories from the 'Holy Land'; I had the privilege of a tour there in 2013. At that time I became more aware of the plight of Palestinian people since the State of Israel was created in 1948. The thousands of Palestinians killed, and millions

displaced, is an injustice still not addressed by the international community.

As a Christian disciple, I was troubled by the misuse of Scripture to justify the abuse of one people by another. The 'righteous' or 'right-living' life to which Scripture calls us always involves seeking justice: these are two sides of the one coin. So becoming an Ecumenical Accompanier gave me an opportunity to act on my concern for vulnerable Palestinian people by supporting them, and those Israelis who work for reconciliation based on peace with justice.

*Rev. Joan Fisher,
November 2015.*

To become involved, check out the EAPPI Website www.eappi.org/en. There's annual training available for prospective EAs in Seymour: The next is May 2016. Or ask me for more info!



Orthodox Christians celebrate Easter [Holy Fire] Saturday.



Protesters in the Old City of Jerusalem.

For The Kids

Have Fun!

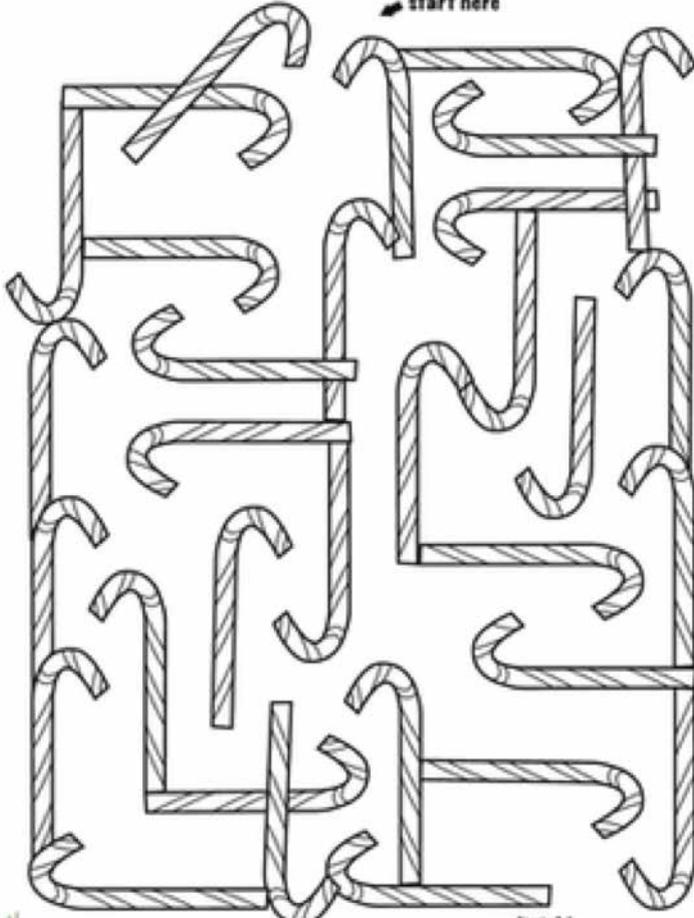
Look At A Candy Cane...
What do you see ?
Stripes that are RED
Like the Blood,
Shed for me.
WHITE for my Savior
Who's Sinless & Pure.
"J" is for Jesus...My Lord,
That's for sure !
Turn it around...
A Staff You will see,
Jesus My Shepherd
Is coming for me !

~Author Unknown~



CANDY CANE MAZE

start here



finish!

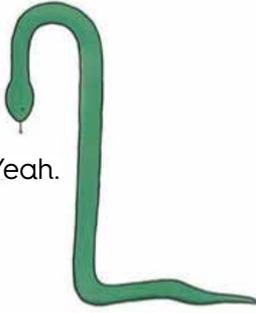


This is an easy
1-2-3 healthy
snack kids
will love!
Simply alternate
banana slices
and strawberry
halves. Place in
the shape of a
candy cane!

You ate another
candy cane,
didn't you?



Yeah.



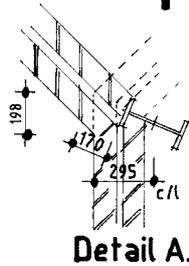
PPTG Report

Since our last report we have advanced even further. There is a lot of detailed work now going on in preparing documents for the tender process. The plan drawings are being fine-tuned. Work has started on preparing the specification for processes, materials and finishes to be used on the project. When that work is completed the PPTG expects to be in a position to call for tenders.

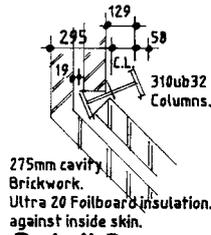
We were hoping that we could call for tenders at the end of October but that wasn't possible.

At the time of writing there is an expectation that tenders will be called before the end of this year. Attached are some of the plan details for you to look at.

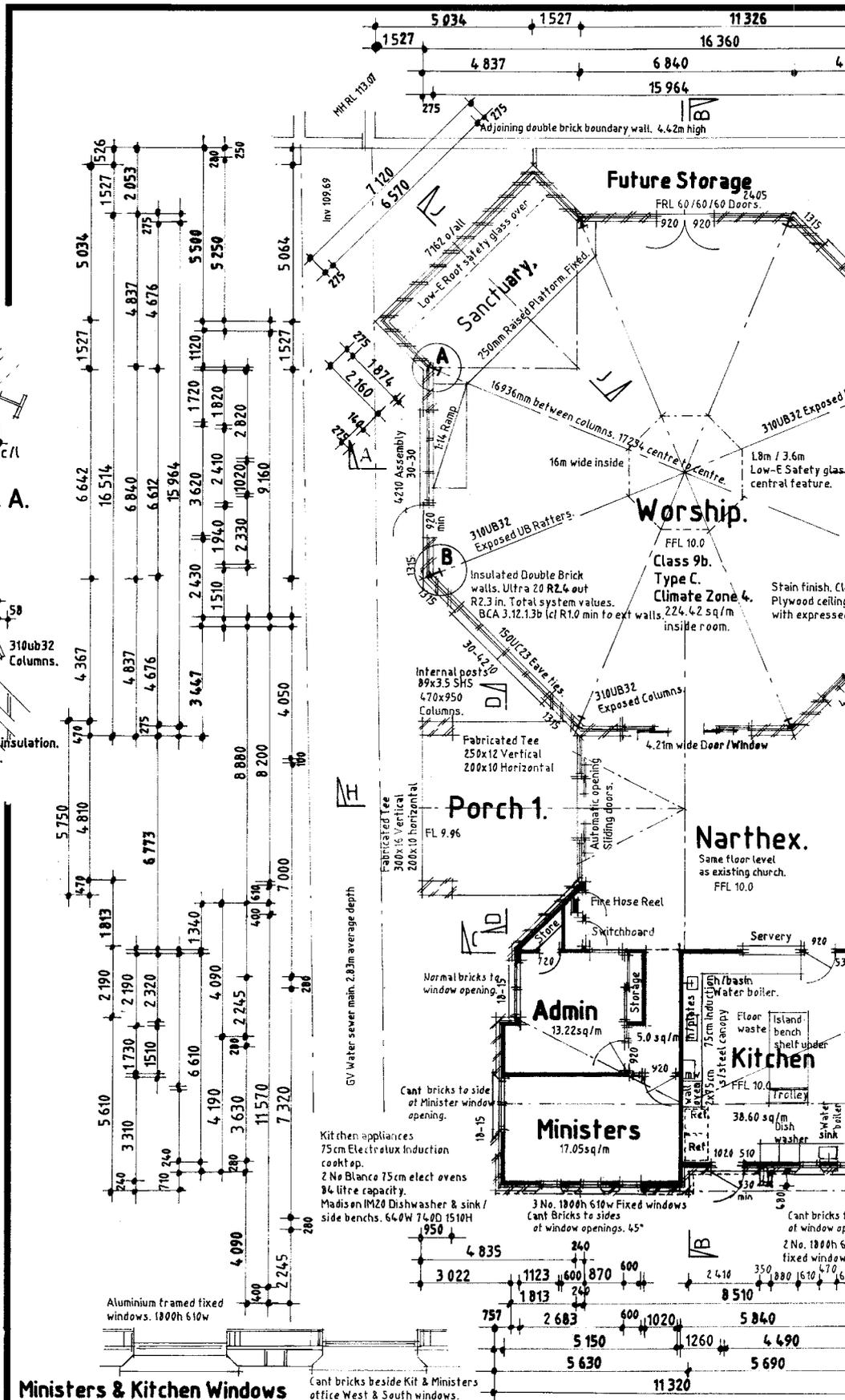
Zane Streeter Sec. PPTG



Detail A.



Detail B.



Ministers & Kitchen Windows

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23.12.13 5G Design option
31.1.14 Dimensions & Notations
5.11.14 Amend East windows.
8.12.14 Amend Kitchen
17.3.15 Amend Kit windows
15.9.15 Kit amend

DESIGN	
DRAWN	
CHECKED	
APPROVED	
DATE	

SCALE: E:100
AREA:

WRITTEN MEASUREMENTS TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER THE CONTRACTOR SHALL VERIFY ALL DIMENSIONS ON PLAN, OR BEFORE COMMENCING ANY WORKS OR CONFIRMING ANY OTHER

Christmas is the time to be Jolly – Fa-La-La

Festivities and family in this day and age seem to take precedence over any thought of a new born KING. Carol singing is popular and in the evening on a rug with children people enjoy the traditional tunes. In times gone by

Churches would have over-flowed with worshipers. It is still here, but is not a big celebration as has been in the past. Present giving can be a major chore. The wise discriminate buy

selectively over a longer period and are not

caught in a final rush. However for many the cost of living has got to the point where a line in the sand has to be made. Even appeals for the needy have to be restricted to a few very important ones.

This is an age when people claim to be so busy. We hardly have time to say good day to one another. The loss of intimacy is some-what tragic, but this is what it means to live in a technological age. So many are robots, who go to work and at the weekends can be pooped and just want to recover. The young more often indulge or are into sport.

A time like Christmas, a birthday, Mother's Day or Father's Day are reminders that we are family. Such celebrations spread out through the year count to keep us together.

Gardening is a pleasurable hobby. Flowers add beauty and create a peaceful environment. Spring-time is most agreeable as more

and more flowers come into bloom. Vegetables take on a minor role, but two or three tomato bushes are more than sufficient. Sweet corn from November offers tasty cobs. I grow bush beans in summer. Climbing beans won't set until autumn when it is cooler. I cover the bush beans with shade cloth to aid their germination and to keep the pigeons eating the seed.

So, Christmas is coming. Our creed speaks of the return of the Christ; but in truth the presence of a risen Jesus has been coming and is experienced in every century since the time of the common era. To all who are sensitive and alert that presence is with us now. This is the "Kingdom come". Be thankful, faithful with much joy. We are one. We can belong together.

What more can I say: "be good boys and girls: don't eat and drink too much – love one another and be of good cheer – God Bless for the coming year and be real good." *Alan English.*

Christmas Story

Seven-Year-Old Ryan

This is a story of a seven-year-old boy named Ryan who lives with his grandmother in a small town in Gippsland.

Every Sunday, they travel for two hours to visit Ryan's mother, who is in a nursing home on the outskirts of Melbourne.

Ryan's mother is only 44 and has been in care for 2 years.

She has no speech at all and is unable to communicate verbally in any way. She was a policewoman and a wonderful sports person.

When Ryan arrives to visit, her face lights up, her arms reach out to enfold her beautiful son, and she is happy. They laugh and dance or listen to music or watch television together.

The wonderful staff who care for Ryan's mother, have been so moved by the sad situation of this mother and son, that they decided to contribute to buy Christmas presents for Ryan and his grandmother. These gifts were to be presents from his mother, who is unable to do what all mothers do for their children.

Their gesture was done with such love, that I am sure they understood that the greatest gift at Christmas is love.

Lois Hardy.

UnitingCare Kildonan

Globe Award For Diversity Project



Kildonan UnitingCare's Diversity Project Greater Shepparton has been awarded a GLOBE Community Award for its work with young people who are same sex attracted, sex and/or gender diverse (SSASGD).

The annual GLOBE Awards celebrate achievements in Victoria's gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex (GLBTI) community and highlight the work being done by many organisations to benefit or unite the GLBTI community.

The Diversity Project, which is funded by the state government, works with the communities and services relevant to young people, to support the provision of respectful and safe environments and improve the health and wellbeing of SSASGD 10 to 25 year olds in the Greater Shepparton region.

Kildonan UnitingCare CEO Stella Avramopoulos said the award reflects the work being done by the Diversity team to make Shepparton a safer place.

"It was Rowena Allen-Victoria's Gender and Sexuality Commissioner- who established the Diversity Project in Shepparton more than fifteen years ago, and since then, staff and volunteers have been working to create a safer, more inclusive and healthier community for young people in Shepparton," she said.

"The team works hard to ensure that young people can grow and develop while feeling safe to talk about their feelings, thoughts and identities, and importantly, seek the right help when they need it."

The Diversity Project's Damien Stevens said a fortnightly

youth group has helped more than 100 individual young people over the past three years.

"LGBTI people in regional and rural areas can often find it really tough, but every two weeks we create a space where they can come together, hear from guest speakers, share a meal, and connect and engage with others," he said.

The GLOBE Community Awards were judged by the Lady Mayoress of Melbourne Emma Page Campbell, Fairfax journalist Farrah Tomazin and Channel Nine newsreader Peter Hitchener.

The awards were announced at a black tie gala event at the Mural Hall in Melbourne.

Kate Murphy (Kildonan UnitingCare, media/comms department)



Around the Congregation

Congratulations To...



Lavinia Vaitohi and Tavake 'O Vailahi Losaki on your wedding. We hope that it was a very happy day for you both and your families even if it didn't go exactly as planned! Our thoughts and prayers are with you Tavake for a complete and speedy recovery.



Congratulations to Ben and Bec Ladson who were married on the 7th of November. We hope that it was a wonderful day for you both and your friends and family.

Looking Back

The Kingdom of Heaven

In our first edition of On the Vine Lorraine Threlfall wrote an article about the Kingdom of Heaven. She mentioned in it that at Messy Church sunflower seeds were planted to represent the mustard seeds in the Matthew's gospel Parables. We also featured photos of Breanna Graham's sunflower that grew

from that Messy Church activity.

Breanna and Melissa collected the seeds from that sunflower and have replanted some seeds this year, but Breanna has also shared the seeds with her kinder who will then plant the seeds then share the subsequent seeds that the flowers will bear with the kinder community.



Thanks Breanna for sharing this example of the seeds of God's love spreading through the community.



Reflecting On **"Come As You Are"** by Brian Hardy

How often do we come to church and listen to the delivered message, prayers and hymns and, too quickly, we forget the content of these meaningful parts of that service?

Personally, the parts that stick with me are a lot of the hymns that we sing, both the 'oldish' and the so called 'newish' ones.

If you are lucky enough to possess a range of old and new hymn books, then, like me when I read the words of a lot of these hymns, you will find a lot of incredibly meaningful, comforting and challenging word within many of these hymns, in particular hymns like number 693 in "Together in Song".

In the first verse of hymn 693 we are encouraged to:

"Come as you are, that's how I want you

Come as you are, feel quite at home

Close to my heart, loved and forgiven

Come as you are, why stand alone?"

Aren't those words amazingly reassuring? We are being told that it doesn't matter what we look like, how old we are, what our colour or shape is, what our social history or makeup is - we are welcome to come to worship in his place of worship and we will lovingly be welcomed- no strings attached. "How wonderful is that?"

"No need to fear, love sets no limits

No need to fear, love never ends...

...Each time you fail, to live by my promise

Why do you think, I'd love you the less"

Verse three in this gorgeous

hymn is one which needs to be heard everywhere by everybody. In each and every town, city and country. In our too often very angry, confused and distrusting world, it reads;

"I came to call sinners, not just the righteous,

I came to bring peace, not to condemn

Each time you fail, to live by my promise

Why do you think, I'd love you the less?"

That's the message that needs to be spread around the world, a message to live our lives by, a message that we all must help to spread. We read;

"Nothing can change, the love that I bear you

All will be well, just come as you are."

Just gorgeous in my opinion.

Thanks to Deidre Brown for those wonderful words of love and assurance.

Rural Round Up

Pine Lodge/Katandra Fellowship

We have been out and about. For Seniors Week we were all up bright and early and caught the 6.30am train for Melbourne. On arrival in Melbourne our first stop was a coffee shop for a shot of caffeine to wake us up for a full day of sight seeing under the care of our wonderful tour guide and hostess Enid Jeffery, who by the way had been to Melbourne earlier to suss out all the attractions for us. Our first adventure was the Eureka Sky Walk and what an adventure it was for us as

you can see from the photos. We discovered that our balance wasn't as good as it should be. Despite some of us having a slight fear of heights we really enjoyed the magnificent view of the beautiful city with all its parks and trees. We enjoyed our time here so much that it was lunch time by the time we came down, so it was on to a food court for an early lunch. After an over-crowded tram and a wait, we decided to walk to the Town Hall for

an organ recital by a German organist, a magnificent building, but a disappointing recital. One comment heard was, 'Just as well it was a free concert', yes we have better organists who play for us on Sunday's. We then went on an interesting ferry ride down the Yarra River to Williamstown for a spot of retail therapy, a train back to Southern Cross for tea before boarding the late train home after a great day. Eight weary, but happy ladies arrived back in Shepparton about 9pm, looking forward to Seniors Week 2016.

Joy Sims

Assembly Action

Great things, great love: A refugee story

There's an old saying: "We cannot do great things, only small things with great love." Sometimes perhaps we can do both.

Kakuma refugee camp is a sprawling mass of humanity on the border between Kenya and South Sudan. Under canvas and tin supplied by the UNHCR and the Kenyan government, more than 150,000 people make their homes, many separated from brothers, sisters and parents by fighting across the border in South Sudan and Somalia. Into this maelstrom, another little life emerged last month.

Her name is Deborah. She might never have been.

It was an ordinary morning for young South Sudanese midwives completing their prac in the Kakuma Mission hospital. Many in their early twenties, they've been

relocated with the help of the Uniting Church in Australia from the South Sudanese town of Leer due to heavy fighting. Their training facility was torched. Some of the women don't know where their families are - many fled into the surrounding bush as rebels stormed the area.

The young women carry on with their studies, supported by UnitingWorld partner the Presbyterian Relief and Development Agency of South Sudan. They're determined to finish their midwifery courses and when stability returns, go back to their country. In the meantime, they study at Kakuma and serve their fellow refugees.

"A woman from the camp was brought in to us," recalls trainee midwife supervisor, Rachel. "She was haemorrhaging and her child experiencing fetal distress.

An emergency caesarean was required to save her life and the life of her child. She was South Sudanese and spoke only Dinka, and the doctor requested that our student speak with the distressed woman in Dinka and explain the procedure to her."

Further complications arose and permission needed to be granted for an operation that would save the mother's life - but also make it impossible for her to have further children. Again, the student midwife was called upon to assist, patiently persuading the family of the absolute necessity of the operation in spite of the risks and long-term outcome. Some hours later, a healthy child was born and the mother's life also saved.

"As the mother began to recover, she told our midwife, Deborah, how much her



support and encouragement had meant to her.” Rachel says. “It was so important to the young mother that she has named her child after the midwife – Deborah.”

“In South Sudan, too many mothers and babies die in childbirth.” Rachel says. “I have wanted to be a midwife since I was in primary school. I want to make sure that mothers don’t suffer.”

It’s pretty amazing to reflect on this love and determination, given that these young women are themselves displaced from their homes, living as refugees with no way of knowing where their families are or when they might see them again.

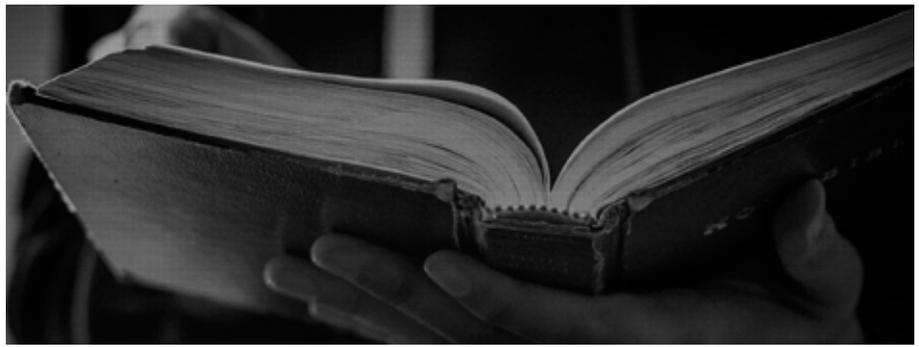
This Christmas, you can give gifts that do great things, with great love through UnitingWorld’s Everything in Common gift catalogue.

We have a range of gifts that help you support people like Deborah in South Sudan, saving the lives of mothers and babies.

Visit www.everythingincommon.com.au in honour of those you love, you’ll be helping create change where it’s needed most.

Cath Taylor:
Communications Fundraising Officer of UnitingWorld.

<http://uca.org.au/great-things-great-love-a-refugee-story/>



From the minister’s desk: Some Things We Do In Worship

In this Edition of the Vine, I wish to reflect on some of the things that we do in worship:

The Introit: We stand for the Introit whilst the Bible is brought in, and the Christ candle is lit. We stand together as community as we anticipate the gift of the ‘Word’ of God entering the sanctuary, whereby Christ lightened a darkened world – symbolised by the lighting of the Christ candle.

The Call to Worship: The worship leader here exercised a priestly role of calling people out of the ordinary experiences of life, to an extraordinary event of worshipping God.

The Prayer of Invocation: God as Spirit is invoked that we may be able to worship. The reason being, we cannot worship God ourselves. It is through Jesus Christ, his life, death and resurrection that calls and enables us to worship. He is our great high priest!

The Hymn: A hymn or a song is sung at this time as a response to the call to worship, often being a song of thanksgiving.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving and Confession: After we sing the hymn in response to the call to worship, we are made aware of our sins and frailties by the light of Christ that has now enlightened the whole sanctuary and we ask/seek forgiveness.

The Declaration of Forgiveness: In confessing our sins we are forgiven! The worship leader exercises another priestly role in declaring to the congregation that their sins are forgiven, and a proper response is the doxology, which can be a hymn, song or psalm.

The Readings: There are four readings for each Sunday in the Lectionary, which are read with the Old Testament first, then the Psalm, the Epistle and the Gospel. Often the Psalm of the day is read responsively, as a communal response. In reading all four readings, unity between the old and the new is evidenced, joining with all of God’s people throughout history in all that happens during worship.

(To be continued in the next edition...)

Blessings

Loni

Preaching Plan **December 2015** / January 2016

December 2015	6th Advent 2	13th Advent 3	20th Advent 4	24th Christmas Eve	25th Christmas Day	27th Christmas 1
9.30am Shepparton	HC Rosalie	Loni	Loni No Messy Church	7pm Rosalie 10pm Loni	9:30am Rosalie	Rosalie 2pm Kialla G Rosalie
Dookie 9.00am	Loni HC	Lorraine	Joy Sims		9.00am Loni	Joan McRae
Pine Lodge 11.00am	Loni HC	No Service	No Service	23rd 7:30 pm Loni		No Service
Kialla West 11.00am	No Service	Rosalie	No Service	No Service	No Service	No Service
Katandra West 11.00am	At Pine Lodge	Carol Service 7:30pm	No Service	No Service	No Service	No Service
Lectionary Readings	Mal. 3:1-4. Lk. 1:68-79. Phil. 3:1-11. Lk. 3:1-6.	Zep. 3:14-20. Is. 12:2-6. Phil. 4:4-7. Lk.3:7-18.	Mic. 5:2-5a. Lk. 1:47-55. Heb. 10:5-10 Lk. 1:39-45.	Isaiah 9:2-7; 62:6-12 52:7-10 Ps. 96, 97, 98 Titus 2:11-14 3:4-7 Heb. 1:1-4 Luke 2:1-20 John 1:1-14	1 Sam. 2:18-20, 26. Ps. 148. Col. 3:12-17. Lk.2:41-52	

January 2016	3rd Christmas 2	10th Baptism of Jesus	17th Epiphany 2	24th Epiphany 3	31st Epiphany 4
9.30am Shepparton Afternoon/ Evening	HC Loni	Loni	Rosalie No Messy Church	Rosalie 2pm Kialla G Brian	Rosalie
Dookie 9.00am	Joy Sims	Shirley	Loni HC	Joy Sims	10:30 am Combined Service at Dookie Loni
Pine Lodge 11.00am	Joy Sims	No Service	At Katandra West		
Kialla West 11.00am	No Service	Shirley	No Service		
Katandra West 11.00am	At Pine Lodge	No Service	Loni HC		
Lectionary Readings	Jeremiah 31:7-14 Psalm 147:12-20 Ephesians 1:3-14 John 1:10-18	Is. 43:1-7. Ps. 29. Acts 8:14-17. Lk. 3:15-17, 21-22.	Is. 62:1-5. Ps. 36:5-10. 1 Cor. 12:10-11. John. 2:1-11.	Neh. 8:1-10 Psalm 19 1 Cor. 12:12-31a Luke 4:14-21	Jeremiah 1:4-10 Ps.71:1-6 1 Cor 13:1-13 Luke 4:21-30

Preaching Plan **February 2016**

February 2016	7th Transfiguration	10th Ash Wednesday	14th Lent 1	21st Lent 2	28th Lent 3
9.30am Shepparton Afternoon/ Evening	HC Loni	7pm Service	Rosalie	Joan McRae Messy Church	Rosalie 2pm Kialla G Brian
Dookie 9.00am	Joan McRae		Loni HC	Joy Sims	Elders
Pine Lodge 11.00am	Joan McRae		No Service	At Katandra West	
Kialla West 11.00am	No Service		Rosalie	No Service	
Katandra West 11.00am	At Pine Lodge		No Service	Joy Sims	
Lectionary Readings	Exodus 34:29-35 Psalm 99 2 Cor. 3:12-4:2 Luke 9:28-36		Deut. 26:1-11 Psalm 91: 1-2,9-16 Romans 1:8b-13 Luke 4:1-13	Gen. 15:1-12, 17-18 Psalm 27 Phil. 3:17-4:1 Lk 13:31-35	Isaiah 55:1-9 Psalm 63:1-8 1 Cor. 10:1-13 Luke 13: 1-9

Upcoming Events **Dec 2015 - Feb 2016**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 2015		1 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 1:30pm Crazy Whist 7pm Junior/Senior Youth Group 7:15pm Indoor Bowls	2 10am Church Council Executive	3 10am Multicultural Play G 2pm English Conversation G 4pm Together in Voice	4 5pm KUCA	5 1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls	6 9:30am Worship
	7	8 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 1:30pm Crazy Whist 7:15pm Indoor Bowls	9 7:30pm Church Council	10 10am Multicultural P.G. 10:45am worship Banksia L 1:30 pm worship at Hakea L 2pm English Conversation G 2pm Fellowship Group 4pm Together in Voice	11	12 1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls	13 9:30am Worship
	14	15 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 10am Worship Ava Maria 1:30pm Crazy Whist 7:15pm Indoor Bowls	16 1:30pm UCAF	17 10am Multicultural Play Group 10:45am Worship at Mercy Aged Care 2pm English Conversation Group 4pm Together in Voice	18	19 1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls	20 9:30am Worship
	21 9:30-11:30am Countdown to Christmas	22 9:30-11:30am Countdown to Christmas 12:15pm worship at Acacia House	23 9:30-11:30am Countdown to Christmas	24 7pm Family Service 10pm Christmas Eve Service	25 9:30am Christmas Day Worship	26	27 9:30am Worship 2pm Kialla Gardens Service
	28	29	30	31			

Upcoming Events

Dec 2015 - Feb 2016

January 2016

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1	2	3 9:30am Worship -
4	5 10am Worship Ava Maria	6	7	8	9	10 9:30am Worship
11	12	13	14 10:45am Worship Banksia L 1:30 pm Worship at Hakea L	15	16	17 9:30am Worship 4:30 Messy Church
18	19 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 10am Worship Ava Maria 1:30pm Crazy Whist	20 1:30pm UCAF	21 10:45 Worship at Mercy Aged Care 2pm English Conversation Group 4pm Together in Voice	22 Dookie Family tea	23 8am Men's Breakfast 1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls	24 9:30am Worship 2pm Kialla Gardens Service
25	26 10am Friendship Group 1:30pm Crazy Whist 2:00pm Worship at Acacia House	27 10am Church Council Executive 7:30pm Women's Evening Group	28 2pm English Conversation Group 4pm Together in Voice	29	30 1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls	31 9:30am Worship

February 2016

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	2 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 10am Worship Ava Maria 1:30pm Crazy Whist 7pm Junior/Senior Youth Group	3 7:30pm Church Council	4 10am Multicultural Play G 2pm English Conversation G 4pm Together in Voice	5 5pm KUCA	6 1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls	7 9:30am Worship
8	9 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 10am Worship Ava Maria 1:30pm Crazy Whist Shrove Family Pancake Tea: details TBC	10 Beginning of Lent 7pm Ash Wednesday Service	11 10am Multicultural P.G. 10:45am Worship Banksia L 1:30 pm Worship at Hakea L 2pm English Conversation G 2pm Fellowship Group 4pm Together in Voice	12	13 1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls	14 9:30am Worship
15	16 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 10am Worship Ava Maria 1:30pm Crazy Whist 7pm Junior/Senior Youth Group	17 1:30pm UCAF	18 10am Multicultural P.G. 10:45 Worship at Mercy Aged Care 2pm English Conversation G 2pm Fellowship Group 4pm Together in Voice	19 5pm KUCA	20 1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls	21 9:30am Worship 4:30 Messy Church
22	23 10am Craft Group 10am Friendship Group 1:30pm Crazy Whist 2:00pm Worship at Acacia House 7pm Junior/Senior Youth Group	24 7:30pm Women's Evening Group	25 10am Multicultural Play Group 2pm English Conversation Group 4pm Together in Voice	26 Dookie Family tea	27 1pm Wesley Social Indoor Bowls	28 9:30am Worship 2pm Kialla Gardens Service
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