

SHEPPARTON UNITING CHURCH

SHEPPARTON RURAL CLUSTER



NEWS MAY 2, 2021

CHRIST IS RISEN! ALLELUIA!

MINISTERS

Rev Loni Vaitohi 5822 4602 0449 504 228

Rev Joan Fisher, Minister in Assoc

Rev Glenys Gill, Supply Minister

Pastoral Care Convenor Shirley Marven

Church 4805 1120

Website sheppartonuc.org.au

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/shepparton.unitingchurch>

APRIL 25 Rev Loni Vaitohi Rev Tony Davies

Praying Together Rochester, Elmore, Bamawm, Tongala

Readings Acts 8.26-40 Psalm 22.25-31 1 Jn 4.7-21 John 15. 1-8

We begin our Mission Study - see sheet on narthex table.

READINGS MAY

May 9 Acts 10.44-48 Psalm 98 1 Jn 5. 1-6 John 15.9-17

May 13 Ascension Acts 1.1-11 Ps 47 Eph 1.15-23 Lk 24.44-53

May 16 Acts 1.15-17, 21-26 Ps 1 1 Jn 5.9-13 John 17.6-19

May 23 Pentecost Acts 2.1-21 Ps 104.24-34,35b Rom 8.22-27
John 15. 26-27, 16.4b-15

May 30 Trinity Is 6.1-8 Ps 29 Rom 8.12-17 John 3.1-17

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands and waters of the region, the Peoples of the Yorta Yorta Nations, and pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

SHEPPARTON WORSHIP ALSO CONTINUES ONLINE

Joining in to Zoom via the phone

Step 1: Dial 03 7018 2005 or 02 8015 6011

May 2 Meeting ID 965 9098 8686# Passcode 766 039#

CHURCH ROSTERS

	May 2	May 9
Opening	H.Dixon	TBA
Elder	S.Marven	
Welcome/Sign In	J.Fitzgerald, K.Teague	
Readers	S.Marven, H.Dixon	
Data Projector	R.Dewi	A.Russell
Audio-Zoom	TBA	TBA
Counting Offering	D.Spratling, J.Dahlberg	
Flowers		
Morning Tea May	TBA	

THIS WEEK

Saturday 1 Connect Grow Serve 11-1 Dr Vicky Balabansky

Monday 3 Connect Grow Serve 7.00-8.00 Wendie Wilkie

Tuesday 4 Friendship Group Stamps 10.00am to noon

Connect Grow Serve 7.00-8.00 Community Gardens

Wednesday 5 Connect Grow Serve 7.00-8.00 Mark Zirnsak

Thursday 6 Cuppa and Chat 10.00am to noon

↳ Sacraments Training Presbytery Office

Connect Grow Serve 7.30 -8.30 Children and Families

Saturday 8 Connect Grow Serve 11-1 Dr Deborah Guss

PASTORAL PRAYERS

We continue to remember Emily, Tracy Ford, Lisa, Eve and Merinda Speedy.

The Presbytery prays for Rochester, Elmore, Bamawm, Tongala. The WCC invites prayers for the lands and peoples of Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan

The Assembly invites our prayers for

* the people of India in the COVID-19 crisis, as they mourn loss of life and seek urgent aid and support.

* those sharing in the President's Conference over this weekend

* people seeking asylum and safety in Australia who remain trapped in an unjust system

* the Moderators, President and President-Elect who are sharing together

this week on the life and witness of the Uniting Church.

CONNECT GROW SERVE

Explore the connections between our faith, the environment and how we live.

Saturday, May 1, 11.00am to 1.00pm Dr Vicky Balabansky will lead a study on Colossians, which has the highest view of Christ, and ecological potential

Monday, May 3, 7.00 - 8.00pm Wendie Wilkie *For God so loved the world - thinking theologically about creation*

Tuesday, May 4, 7.00 - 8.00pm Tanya Walker and Tim Angus *Community gardens share the faith*

Wednesday, May 5, 7.00- 8.00pm Mark Zirnsak *What does it mean to be a 'green church'?*

Thursday, May 6, 7.30- 8.30pm Heather Woodman *Living simply - Children and Families*

Friday, May 7, 2.00- 4.30pm Ministry Agents PD - Planning for using *The Seasons of Creation* in worship

Saturday, May 8, 11.00am to 1.00pm Dr Deborah Guess *Eco-theology and the Church*

If you are interested in any sessions but are not online, we may be able to make arrangements for you! See Joan 5812 9320

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Judy and Ray Luscombe who celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on Thursday, April 29! We have been privileged to share in this wonderful partnership, so richly blessed for so many years. Ray and Judy, may you continue to be blessed in all you do in the years which lie ahead!

SACRAMENTS TRAINING

The Presbytery Pastoral Relations Committee has invited Wendie Wilkie to run Sacraments training groups for the Presbytery. All who would like to learn more about the Uniting Church's understanding and practice of Baptism and Holy Communion. The course is for those who wish to learn as well as those interested in becoming Lay Presiders - and Lay Presiders who would like a refresher course. There will be sessions, each of half a day, with further work for those wishing to be accredited. *Sessions* May 6 and May 20, Presbytery Office, 44 Carrier Street, Benalla Contact Tanya Walker if interested contact details are on the Presbytery website.

If there are five interested people here, or Mooroopna-Shepparton, Wendie will come here and lead the session on an other date.

GREATER SHEPPARTON WINTER NIGHT SHELTER 2021

The programme involves

7 Venues 150+ Volunteers 13 Weeks 10 Guests Dinner, B and B

Warm thanks to those who have volunteered to staff our venue - or others. The programme will run for 13 weeks, from June 1 to August 31
Volunteers must be 18; drivers 25

We would love to have

a Trailer Driver - to bring and return trailer to Salvation Army
and/ or a Minibus Driver - to bring guests from SA to venue 5.30 - 6.00pm; return guests to Salvation Army at 9.00am
one more Evening Shelter Volunteer shift worker 5.30 - 10.00pm
a couple more Kitchen Volunteers three - prepare and serve evening meals 5.30pm - 8.30pm
Overnight Shelter Volunteers - Shift leader and two workers 10.00pm - 7.00am

Breakfast Shelter Volunteers - three 7.00- 9.00am

And a Standby bus driver, two workers evening shift, two overnight shift, and both evening and morning kitchen shifts

Detailed sheets, with roles and details, are on the narthex table.

Contact Joan - 5812 9320 (taking services on Sunday)

Training

All volunteers are required to do general training in the operation of Winter Night Shelters. Shepparton's main day is Saturday May 1 - this week! There will be some other opportunities. Training will be led by the Stable One, the organisers of the whole Winter Night Shelter project, assisted by the Salvation Army. 8.50am to noon

Some volunteers also require First Aid training (May 11, 9.30-3.30) and Fire Warden training (online, by May 20). Kitchen volunteers require Food Handlers' training (online, by May 20) Details available Sunday April 25
Costs of training: Any costs paid by volunteers will be reimbursed by Greater Shepparton Winter Night Shelter - mention our name

Our Venue

Accommodation will be in the former church, between hospitality (meals area and evening programme) and the chapel.

Guests, who must be 25, will be screened at the Salvation Army each night.

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT OF MEETING ON APRIL 21, 2021

Chairperson Rev Loni Vaitohi opened the meeting and welcomed all present. Jen Shields led us in a time of devotions, reflecting on 'New Beginnings'.

Retiring members Jeni Fitzgerald, Melissa Graham, Ray Luscombe, Lisa Tu'ungafasi and Lea Watts were thanked for their commitment to the life and ministry of the congregation through their participation in Church Council.

Newly elected members of the Church Council are Harold Dixon, Bron Fisher, Gail Jones, Munya Juru, Graham Thomson, Taleena Maile, and those elected to serve a further term on Church Council are Jan Le Quesne, Lavinia Losaki, Shirley Marven, Anni Russell, Cam Shields and Jen Shields. Lorraine Threlfall concludes her 3 year term on Church Council in in 2022.

Some time was spent in orientation and review of the Consensus decision making process. Joys and concerns in the life of the congregation were shared, with joy being expressed for the great pastoral opportunity that Op Shop offers to the community; that Messy Church has recommenced with 12 children plus adults participating; that Shepparton UC has been invited to host this region's President's Round Table – an opportunity for young adults to meet with the President Deidre Palmer and President Elect Rev Sharon Hollis – later in the year.

Concern was expressed for members who are experiencing illness, bereavement and the stress of major change in their lives.

Reports were received from the Minister, Pastoral Care Committee, Treasurer and further information regarding the Greater Shepparton Winter Night Shelter (GSWNS) was received. It was agreed that quotes be obtained for the installation of hard-wired smoke detectors in the Old Church, to comply with the requirements for the GSWNS.

The request for baptism of Riley Fortin, Olivia Heenan and Parker Fortin was approved for April 25th with the family being supported by elder Harold Dixon.

Confirmation of the Memorandum of Understanding between SUC and Uniting VicTas for the establishment of a 10 year Ground Lease by UVT for 136 and 142 Maude St was received. This agreement will commence on 1 July 2021. The Settlement Date (30th April, 2021) for the sale of the Loddon Crt manse was confirmed. *See separate document for further information on these matters.* Graeme Thomson and his team were thanked for their work maintaining the gardens and carrying out 'caretaking' duties during the time that the Manse has been vacant.

Project Control Group At the request of the Synod and Presbytery a Project Control Group is to be established to oversee the various major projects that SUC is undertaking – the future of the Maude St properties, the installation of air conditioning in the Old Church and Hall and the construction of a new building to house the OP Shop. CC appointed Harold Dixon, Val Gibbs, Rob Graham, Cameron Shields and Lorraine Threlfall to the PCG, which will be chaired by Rev Richard Franklin, Presbytery Minister for Administration and Strategy. A representative from Synod Property Services will also be part of the PCG. Subcommittees will be appointed for various tasks as required.

Mission Study Working Group Gail Jones, Munya Juru, and Lea Watts all agreed to participate in the WG with a number of others being identified, subject to their agreement.

Following new information from the Synod and Presbytery regarding building regulations and inspections it was agreed that SUC join with the Presbytery-arranged Gap Analysis inspections to identify issues we may need to attend to.

Due to concerns raised about the management of parking at the Fryers St Complex a task group comprising Zane Streeter, Wes Gibbs and Lea Watts has been established to review car parking and bring recommendations re its management to the Church Council.

Following an approach from the ShepFest committee, permission was granted for;

*a mural to be painted on the southern wall of the Op Shop. An example of the mural will be submitted to the CC for approval before it is commenced.

*the ShepFest choir to rehearse in the worship space on Thursday evenings, between 5.30 and 7.30, from May 6 until June 24. Choir practice will conclude early on the 6/5 and 3/6 to accommodate other users of our

space on those evenings.

*for an art installation in the Old Hall from June 8 until June 21. Further information about these events will be shared as it becomes available.

An approach from JL Productions regarding the use of the Old Church for musical events known as the Winter Sessions was denied as the events involve the provision of alcohol and CC resolved in 2018, that the use of alcohol on the premises would not be allowed. *Lorraine Threlfall*

MAUDE STREET PROPERTY UPDATE 25/4/21

The Church Council is pleased to announce that a Memorandum of Understanding has been made between the Shepparton Uniting Church and Uniting VicTas for the property at 136 Maude St (the Manse) and 142 Maude St, (Wesley Hall and Sacred Space) as follows:

A 10 year ground lease for 136-142 Maude St Shepparton be established between The Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (Victoria) and Uniting (Victoria and Tasmania) Limited (UVT) noting that UVT will be responsible for all and every cost of ownership of the property whilst they are the Lessee.

During the term of the ground lease UVT will be responsible for all repairs and maintenance, structural or otherwise. The Lessee is responsible to arrange and pay for annual ESM audits, maintenance, and the Annual ESM Report; rates, taxes, levies, ESM, Building/ISR and PL insurances.

This arrangement will commence on the 1st of July 2021 and UVT will make an annual payment for each of the 10 years, after which UVT will have the option to purchase the Responsible Body Status from the Shepparton Uniting Church.

Eighty per cent (80%) of the annual rent will available to the Congregation for mission related activities and twenty per cent (20%) will be shared with the wider church.

An application for the realignment of the boundaries at the Maude St property is being prepared for submission to COGS, and the associated Powercor and GV Water requirements are being undertaken. Once this has been completed the remaining 2 sites (Wesley Church and the Old Church) can be offered for sale.

5 LODDON COURT (MANSE) UPDATE

Due to its age and the forecast costs for the ongoing maintenance and repairs required to bring this manse up to the current standards required for a manse, the Church Council unanimously agreed to offer it for sale. After receiving the appropriate permissions from the Synod Property Trust, an offer from a private buyer was accepted. Settlement will take place at the end of April. All funds realised from the sale of the manse will be lodged with the Synod's Manse for Manse Program, which attracts interest, so that there will be funds available for the provision of a Manse or the payment of a Manse Allowance for the next person called to a Placement at the Shepparton Uniting Church.

The Synod Property Trust has advised that lease and sale figures not be made public.

Lorraine Threlfall

WEEKLY DELIVERY OF THE SUNDAY SERVICE AND THE NEWS

We have been offering this weekly delivery of the Sunday service and the NEWS to you for over a year now.

Many of our people are now worshipping at the church each week.

So now we are inviting you to tell us if you want to continue receiving the weekly deliveries. **If you would like us to deliver to you** each week, **please** tell Shirley Marven or Joan McRae by Wednesday May 5 or leave a note in the NEWS SHEET box on the narthex table.