

SHEPPARTON UNITING CHURCH

SHEPPARTON RURAL CLUSTER



NEWS DECEMBER 19, 2021

ADVENT 4

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

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SUNDAY DECEMBER 19 Rev Glenys Gill

Readings Mic 5.2-5a Luke 1.46b-55 Heb 10.5-20 Luke 1.39-45

Praying Together Rochester, Elmore, Bamawm, Tongala

FRIDAY DECEMBER 24 Christmas Eve Family Worship

Rev Joan Fisher; Joan McRae 7.00pm

SATURDAY DECEMBER 25 Christmas Day Rev Loni

Vaitohi 9.30am

SUNDAY DECEMBER 26 Christmas Rev Glenys Gill

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

SHEPPARTON WORSHIP SUNDAY DECEMBER 19

There are two options for worship on Sunday, December 19:
Worship in the church at 9.30am
or *Worship online, using Youtube.*

Go to www.youtube.com/user/SheppartonUniting

When the Sunday December 19 service link comes with the video link: click the link and you will be taken to the service. This may take a short while.

SUNDAY MORNING CONVERSATION AFTER WORSHIP

Joining in to Zoom by phone 10.30AM

Step 1: Dial 03 7018 2005 or 02 8015 6011

December 19 Meeting ID 998 3552 6923# Passcode 711 842#

SUNDAY DECEMBER 19: CHANGES FOR WORSHIP

COVID Marshalls will ensure that you are correctly checked in – QR code

Proof of double vaccination is no longer required for worship as of Thursday December 16. Masks are not mandatory for worship, but given recent recognition of the airborne nature of the COVID-19 virus, and the advice of some epidemiologists, people may feel more comfortable wearing a mask.

RURAL CONGREGATIONS SUNDAY DECEMBER 19

Dookie 9.30am Rev Loni Vaitohi



Messy Christmas Messy Church

**Sunday December 19
4.30 – 6.30pm**

Families are invited to join us for Christmas activities, Messy Church-style worship and a shared meal, provided for participants.

Please RSVP for catering – now! Anni

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Sharing God's love this Christmas

It's been 10 years since the civil war broke out in Syria with thousands of families still living in neighbouring countries like Jordan. The challenges refugees face no longer make front page news, and now COVID-19 has made life even harder. Through the Christmas Bowl, you are helping our local partner provide support for families, including food rations and hygiene kits, along with psychosocial care. **Please give today.**



CALL: 1800 025 101

VISIT: actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl



The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188

CHRISTMAS SERVICES RURAL CONGREGATIONS WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 22 PINE LODGE CAROLS SERVICE

7.00PM The Carols will be followed by supper. Children who are taking part are asked to arrive early, to prepare. Margaret North

THURSDAY DECEMBER 24 DOOKIE CHRISTMAS SERVICE 9.00

Rev Loni Vaitohi

SUNDAY DECEMBER 19 DOOKIE CAROLS 7.30pm

The Carols have been moved back to the CWA Gardens. 6.30pm
Lions' BBQ

RURAL NEWS

CLOSING OF KATANDRA WEST CONGREGATION DECEMBER 12

About 45 members attended the closing service led by Rev Loni Vaitohi. The congregations shared memories of the church over almost 60 years. Dookie and Pine Lodge assisted with the afternoon tea.

DOOKIE HAMPERS 49 hampers were ordered and have been delivered

PINE LODGE FINAL SERVICE Saturday January 15, 10.00am

PASTORAL PRAYERS

We remember Emily, Tracy Ford, Eve, Bron, Lea, Lisa and her family.

The Presbytery prays for Rochester, Elmore, Bamawm, Tongala

The WCC invites prayers for the lands and peoples of the nations of

China, Hong Kong, Macau

The Assembly prays for

* Those impacted by the latest outbreaks of COVID-19 in the community, including those who are ill, health workers and others caring for them, and those who will need to isolate over the Christmas period.

* Vaccine equity across the world and for more ambitious programmes to deliver vaccines in low income countries.

* Our church partners across the Pacific, Africa and Asia who are working to break the cycle of poverty, create gender equity, enact climate justice and respond to disasters.

ASSEMBLY NEWS

This Christmas, amid the weariness, anxiety and tension in our world, the birth of Jesus brings hope, says UCA President Rev Sharon Hollis in her first Christmas message. 'In coming amongst us as a baby, God enters into all the riskiness of human life,' says Rev S. Hollis. Wait till Christmas Day for the rest!

ADVENT STUDIES *What are you waiting for?*

Presbyteries of North East Victoria and Loddon Mallee.

Last session Sunday 19 at 6.30pm. This week's study focusses on love, in relation to the Incarnation and COVID-19. Zoom link – see Joan

CHRISTMAS BOWL ENVELOPES

Envelopes and other information are waiting for you - on the narthex table.

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2022

Collect yours from the narthex table.

UNITING *Congregation Connect*

See the Summer *Congregation Connect* – on notice board; narthex table.

COPY FOR THE NEWS

Items for inclusion in the *NEWS* must still be with Joan on Wednesday.

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