

# **SHEPPARTON UNITING CHURCH**

## **WITH DOOKIE UNITING CHURCH**



### **NEWS SEPTEMBER 11, 2022**

### **AFTER PENTECOST 14**

#### **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**

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

#### **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 9.30am Rev Glenys Gill**

*Readings* Jer 4.11-12, 22-28 Ps 14 1Tim 1.12-17 Lk 15.1-10

*Praying Together* Waranga – Murchison, Rushworth, Colbinabbin, Tatura

#### **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 9.30am Tanya Walker**

#### **READINGS**

*Sept 18* Jer 8.18- 9.1 Ps 79.1-9 1Tim 2. 1-7 Lk 16.1-13

*Sept 25* Jer 32.1-3a, 6-15 Ps 91.1-6, 14-16 1Tim 6.6-19 Lk 16.19-31

*We acknowledge the Traditional owners of the lands and waters of the region, the Bangerang Peoples of the Yorta Yorta Nations and pay our respects to their elders, past, present and emerging.*

## **SHEPPARTON WORSHIP 9.30AM**

**Worship online** [www.youtube.com/user/SheppartonUniting](https://www.youtube.com/user/SheppartonUniting)

**DOOKIE 9.30am** Rev Jerome Francis

### **THIS WEEK**

**Tuesday, Sept 13 Friendship Group** *Outing to The Last Straw* 10.00am

Crazy Whist 1.30pm

**Thursday, Sept 15 Cuppa and Chat** 10.00am - noon

### **PASTORAL PRAYERS**

*We remember* Emily, Eve, Clive (now in Mercy Place), Vern Marven  
All with Covid, or isolating – the vast numbers in Victoria and those in this district.

*The Presbytery* prays for Waranga Linked Congregations – Murchison, Rushworth, Colbinabbin and Tatura

*The WCC* prays for the lands and peoples of Ghana and Nigeria.

*The Assembly* invites prayers for

\*Those leading and working in the movement for Christian unity in Australia and beyond.

\*Meaningful connections and conversations on R U OK day on Wednesday 7. May we nurture a lifestyle and culture that promotes self-care and good mental health, and work together to overcome the stigma of mental illness.

\*First Peoples as they generously share their wisdom and insights into how to best care for this ancient land. May we listen.

**Special prayers for Loni (and his family), too.** Loni has a further test Friday 9, then expects to hear from Peter Mac after they consider the results.

**Special prayers for Radikha Balaratnam** who is returning to Sri Lanka where her parents are not well.

Our prayerful sympathy to Ben and Bec Ladson and Jonathon on the death of Ben's brother, Adam. May they know God's gracious comfort and support.

The Royal family and all who celebrate the life of Queen Elizabeth II as they mourn her passing.

*Pakistan*, devastated by extreme flooding

*Sri Lanka*, experiencing a financial crisis, exacerbated by the Covid pandemic.

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PRESIDENT!**

**Rev Sharon Hollis**, President of the Uniting Church in Australia, who has been elected a member of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches.

## **DOOKIE CONGREGATION**

There will be a meeting of the Congregation in the church hall at 7.30pm, Tuesday September 13.

## **FRIENDSHIP GROUP BUS TRIP**

The Friendship Group have organised a bus trip to Wangaratta on Tuesday October 25 to see the paintings by Shirley Barber, now housed in Wangaratta Uniting Church. We will arrive in time for lunch at the church, followed by a talk about the artist and her paintings by Rev John van Riet. Then afternoon tea before returning to Shepparton. Cost \$15 per person. This will be a great day. Please see Wilma or Jan if you would like to join the group.

## **EVACUATION PROCEDURES**

The Property Maintenance Committee advises that new Evacuation plans have been drawn up for each exit from the church building. Please take time to read them and be aware of the procedures.

## **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

A reminder that filled boxes are to be returned to Val or Lois by the end of September. Boxes are still available from them.

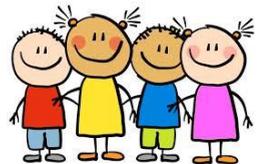
## **CAN YOU HELP, PLEASE?**

Eight years ago, Peter Davis had three DVDs made of his parachuting exploits at Nagambie. They were all borrowed by interested viewers. But none has been returned! If you happen to still have one of the DVDs, or know where one is, would you please let Peter know?



## **God's good world!**

Join us at Messy Church  
Sunday, September 18  
4.30- 6.30pm – meal  
included



## **A letter of Encouragement from the Presbytery Chairperson September 2022**

Hello friends, fellow travellers in this journey of faith that we share,

I confess that I have always struggled with the concept of hope. What does it mean for Christians to hope? It is more than wishing, I know that much, it is deeper than wishing, but what is it?

Last week, as Don and I travelled from our home in Nagambie to The Rock, near Wagga, it became a little clearer in my mind. The signs of Spring were everywhere. Wattle was in full bloom. Paddocks of Canola were laid out bright amongst the dark green of other crops. There were newborn lambs and magpies in territorial stand-off. Life was stirring after what has seemed a long winter. The change of the season speaks of hope - the promise of things to come.

When we are in the depths of winter spring seems far away, but we know it will come, we trust it will come. If you are a farmer, you bank on it. Planting seed in the autumn when the world is going down to winter darkness. Waiting on rain. Waiting for warmth. Breathing a little more easily at the first signs of spring. Never counting on anything until the grain is in the silo, but trusting, despite the setbacks and failures, that in their time the seasons will turn. Farming is a long game and that is how it is with faith - a long game, a generational game, played in good seasons and poor, trusting to God the part of the game we will not see.

This past week some of us read the parable of the mustard seed in Luke's gospel. Jesus' point is that the kingdom of God is like a tiny mustard seed, from the same family as Canola, and that in this kingdom, little things planted can grow big results. From little things big things grow. That transports me straight to Kev Carmody and Paul Kelly's song of the same name. A song that talks about the stand of the Gurindji people of the Northern Territory who in the 1960's sat down for seven years, asking not just to be paid for work done, but for connection to their cultural lands from which their life flowed. It would be helpful to listen to that song. It illustrates what I am talking about.

For a long time we have thought about mission as converting people to our way of thinking. I want to ask you to reconsider. To work with the idea that the kingdom belongs to God and that it is God who is at mission inside the church and outside it, inviting us to play a supporting role. If you think about mission in this way, what happened amongst the Gurindji and all that has followed is an example of God at work, God at mission. It is what Jesus was talking about with the mustard seed. God plants and plays a long game and God's kingdom comes in every act of dignity restored, every wrong righted, every relationship healed.

In the next few years, we are going to be asked to make some changes, to enter treaties and to alter the Australian constitution to further, formally, recognise the place of indigenous people. I want to ask you to look at those changes as God at work, inviting us to play a supporting role and in the process, getting our relationship with God and with those around us, in good order. It is through our actions and in our relationships that God is known amongst us. This is our mission.

Every blessing

*Geraldine*

