

SHEPPARTON UNITING CHURCH

WITH DOOKIE UNITING CHURCH



NEWS DECEMBER 18, 2022

ADVENT 4

MINISTERS

Rev Loni Vaitohi Sick Leave
Rev Kerrie Needham 5823 1987
Rev Joan Fisher, Minister in Assoc 5821 8382 0417 210 447
Rev Glenys Gill, Supply Minister 0417 723 634
Pastoral Care Convenor Shirley Marven 0438 242 150
Church 4805 1120
Website sheppartonuc.org.au
Email: sheppartonuca@iinet.net.au
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/shepparton.unitingchurch>

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 Advent 4 Rev Glenys Gill, Tanya Walker,
Young Adults**

Readings Is 7.10-16 Ps 80.1-7m 17-19 Rom 1.1-7 Matt 1.18-25
Praying Together

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24 Christmas Eve 7.00 Rev Kerrie
Needham and Messy Christmas**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 Christmas Day Rev Loni Vaitohi
Dec 25 Is 63.7-9 Ps 148 Heb 2.10-18 Matt 2.13-23

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

DOOKIE 9.30AM Rev Kerrie Needham HC

ADVENT 4 is the final week of our preparation for the coming of Hesus. We light the candle of love.

Sunday December 18, 3:30- 6.30pm



Messy Christmas!

Christmas craft, games, worship, and a special Christmas dinner. *Note the earlier time of 3.30.*

GREETING FROM KERRIE

Hello.

We've arrived at the stage of Advent where everything is happening, yet everything is winding down or coming to the final stages of readiness for Christmas.

Last week I waxed lyrical in the church service about the wonderful CWA stall which happened last Friday. If they ask to hold their stalls in our church front garden again next year, we'll be sure to advertise it within church. It was well worth attending.

I went to a lovely afternoon tea this week, even found my way there after accidentally lining up in left turn lane.

I found my way to Dookie for a church council gathering with the help of passenger directions. Having had those directions, I'll feel more confident next time I travel. It's far easier to find a different white line and avoid all the traffic in Shepparton CBD.

It was exciting to meet with a Uniting Care leader from Melbourne and with the locals here on base at the church. Allison and Sara shared what their work portfolios look like, and it is wonderful to know how much good Uniting is doing in our community.

As Uniting awaits building renovations at their other site, we will have more people working from our site. They will perhaps cross our paths occasionally, and I'm hoping we can help them settle in for the months they will be here.

Allison is keen to come and talk to the congregation to tell you what they do (remembering it will be in general terms as their work is confidential). We have talked about arranging a time in January before the larger team arrives.

If you've been worrying about where our mission money goes, worry no longer. Money comes to Shepparton Uniting (we mostly think of it as Uniting Care) to provide a range of excellent supportive services – headed by skilled case workers who pride themselves on budgeting and managing finances wisely to provide the best for their clients. They are great programs and I feel proud that such good work is happening for this community – some from these premises.

Have a great week. Try to take time to breathe if you have a busy time and hold the joy and anticipation of Christmas close to your heart. Kerrie

A GENEROUS GIFT

Two Catholic parishes in Melbourne recently sent 20 boxes of toiletries and cleaning items to Stable One for flooded areas in Shepparton. Four of those boxes were given to me for our hampers. Christmas Cheer gifts had already been made so the goods will be available when needed. Check with Joan.

THANK YOU

Warmest thanks to all who have been so helpful since my house was flooded – for kind messages, people who came to clean - or mow my lawns when I was out! And for accommodation for a fortnight. I leave the motel on 17/12 for permanent accommodation. Work on the house – 2023! Joan

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Waiting to return home



Christmas
Bowl



Many Sri Lankan refugees living in exile in India are finally ready to make the journey home to the country they love. But the current economic crisis and food shortages mean it's not safe for them to return.

Through the Christmas Bowl you are helping our local partner, the Organisation for Eelam Refugees Rehabilitation (OfERR), continue to provide lifesaving medical care for refugees while they wait for Sri Lanka to be safe again. **Please give today.**

CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl

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

PASTORAL PRAYERS

We remember Emily, Eve, Nola Smith

All with Covid, or Long Covid, those isolating – the greatly increasing numbers in Victoria and locally. *The Presbytery* prays for Cobram and Katamatite. *The WCC* prays for the lands and peoples of China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau. The Assembly remembers those impacted by the tragic shootings in Queensland, and all communities of faith as they gather to mark the season of Advent and to prepare for the arrival of the Christ Child. Loni and family.

ENVELOPES FOR DECEMBER 2022-23 OFFERINGS

Boxes of envelopes for offerings from December 4 may be collected from the narthex table.

CHURCH OFFERINGS – ELECTRONIC GIVING

NAB Shepparton Uniting Church

BSB 083-894 Acc number: 167707403 C

INSTEAD OF BLUE CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR

Due to unforeseen circumstances this year, our Blue Christmas service did not occur. This may be distressing to a number of people and is deeply regretted.

Our solution to this is to offer an hour on Wednesday 21st December from 6p.m., where the church will be open for a time of quiet contemplation. Kerrie will be available if anyone would like to speak with her or ask for prayer. If you have a friend who usually attends ta service, please let them know of this opportunity.