

SHEPPARTON UNITING CHURCH

WITH DOOKIE UNITING CHURCH



NEWS DECEMBER 4, 2022

ADVENT 2

MINISTERS

Rev Loni Vaitohi

Indefinite Sick Leave

Rev Kerrie Needham

5823 1987

Rev Joan Fisher, Minister in Assoc

Rev Glenys Gill, Supply Minister

Pastoral Care Convenor Shirley Marven

0438 242 150

Church 4805 1120

Website sheppartonuc.org.au sheppartonuca@iinet.net.au

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 Advent 2 Rev Kerrie Needham HC

Readings Is 11.1-10 Ps 72.1-7, 18-19 Rom 15.4-13 Matt 3.1-12

Praying Together Alexandra

READINGS

Dec 11 Is 35.1-10 Ps 146.5-10 James 5.7-10 Matt 11.2-11

Dec 18 Is 7.10-16 Ps 80.1-7, 17-19 Rom 1.1-7 Matt 1.18-25

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 Rev Kerrie Needham HC
Worship online www.youtube.com/user/SheppartonUniting

DOOKIE. 9.30AM Tanya Walker

THIS WEEK

Tuesday, Dec 6 *Friendship Group* 10.00.am *Crazy Whist* 1.30pm.
Presbytery Advent Study 3, 2.30- 4.00pm

Wednesday, Dec 7 *Presbytery Advent Study 3*, (repeated) 7.00- 8.30pm

Thursday, Dec 8 *Cuppa and Chat* 10.00am – noon

PASTORAL PRAYERS

We remember Emily, Eve, Nola Smith, Bron Fisher,
All with Covid, or Long Covid, those isolating – the increasing numbers in
Victoria and locally. *The Presbytery* prays for Alexandra. *The WCC* prays
for the lands and peoples of Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. The Assembly
requests prayers for *All who experience gender-based violence. We pray
for God's healing, justice, strength and love to be poured over society as we
work for a world beyond violence. *People with a Disability. We give thanks
for the rich theological insights and gifts they offer as we mark International
Day of People with Disability on December 3. May we create spaces for
worship where all feel welcome, valued and included. **West Java**

Ukraine

****Special prayers for Loni and his family.**

GREETING FROM REV KERRIE NEEDHAM

Hello,

I have been exploring Shepparton a little more this week. And getting
lost a little bit too. I did follow the white line on the way home from
Dookie last Sunday. Very helpful instructions on finding out which
road really is the New Dookie Road. 😊

I have now had coffee at three places in Fryers Street since my
arrival and look forward to exploring more. It is a lovely café district.

I managed to find my way to Harmony Village – with help... and in the
process discovered a new way to travel from home to that part of
Shepparton. At Harmony, I met Keith who sets up the TV for the
residents to join us at worship, real time. I met several others from our
congregation there too. Glenys has been doing a marvellous supply
ministry and led the service as part of my introduction to the group.

Do you know that really thin nasal swabs for RAT tests tickle the nose? I know now.

I attended the meeting of Shepparton InterChurch Council this week and am excited by the possibilities of different congregations working together on special focus activities each year. We're only at the thinking stage for 2023 as yet.

I am excited too, for the Op Shop volunteers. They have had a boost this week, to hear that the next step in the process of being able to build is closer. Such good news as they - and the congregation - have been waiting for this.

As I travel around as a passenger in the car, I am noticing the changing land - as more water ebbs away. The most notable changes are at the park near the art gallery on Wyndham Street – there were families playing there last night. There are also changes along Archer Street in the 'bushy' looking areas.

I was reminded of the words 'Hello Moon' a couple of times this week when I was out in our back yard. The moon is visible in the afternoon, almost overhead. I'm quoting a lovely children's book when I say those words, but it's been a Hello God experience – just two minutes or so looking up at that amazing moon in the sky and considering the wonder of the creation God has placed us within.

May you be blessed with a 'how beautiful is that – thank you God' moments this week. Kerrie

ENVELOPES FOR DECEMBER 2022-23 OFFERINGS

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

CHRISTMAS CHEER

Many thanks to those who have donated food, toiletries, gifts and cash for Christmas Cheer. We would appreciate any further gifts as soon as possible. We try to get goods to families in early December to alleviate anxiety about celebrating Christmas. Thank you for caring. Val (Trevor) Gibbs for Women's Afternoon Group.

Second Sunday of Advent

Peace through food rations



It's been 11 years since the civil war broke out in Syria with thousands of families still living in neighbouring countries like Jordan. But as the cost-of-living increases, many refugee families are struggling to earn enough money to put food on the table.

Act for Peace's local partner, the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR), supports Syrian refugees by providing vital food rations 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 humanitarian agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188

Did you know that there is a Syrian kebab shop in High Street, run by some of our Syrian refugees? Delicious food!

NEWS FROM THE OP SHOP

The last day of trading for 2022 will be Thursday, December 15. We are planning our Christmas Break-Up at Toolamba. It is at Rod's Place (Judy and Ray Luscombe's son) at 1010 Toolamba Road, 10k south of Mooroopna Police Station on the Rushworth-Mooroopna Road. If you have helped at the Op Shop as a volunteer in the shop, or washed clothes at home or sorted clothes at Ray's, or anything else and would like to go, please add your name to the list at the Op Shop and/or email Geoff Thompson for catering purposes. If you would like a ride we will arrange to meet you at the Op Shop.

Since the floods we have distributed some Flood Vouchers to people who have been flooded. Thank you. Val (Wes) Gibbs, Op Shop

CUPPA AND CHAT

Thursday, December 15th, 2022 is our last day to meet together before Christmas.

We hope everyone involved in Cuppa and Chat during the year will attend on the 15th. Volunteers will bring some party food for morning tea. We look forward to sharing together at this special Christmas time.

We hope to resume Cuppa and Chat on Thursday, 12th January, 2023

OLIVE AND VINE CAFÉ, TATURA UNITING CHURCH

Open 10.00 to 3.00 Wednesday 7 and Thursday 8. Do call in!