

SHEPPARTON UNITING CHURCH

WITH DOOKIE UNITING CHURCH



NEWS JANUARY 15, 2023

EPIPHANY 2

MINISTERS

Rev Loni Vaitohi

Sick Leave

Rev Kerrie Needham

Rev Joan Fisher, Minister in Assoc 5821 8382

Rev Glenys Gill, Supply Minister

Pastoral Care Convenor Shirley Marven 0438 242 150

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SUNDAY JANUARY 15 Rev Kerrie Needham

Readings Is 49.1-7 Ps 40.1-11 1 Cor 1.1-9 John 1. 29-42

DOOKIE 9.30am Rev Joan Fisher HC

SHEPPARTON WORSHIP 9.30AM

Worship online www.youtube.com/user/SheppartonUniting

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.

SUNDAY JANUARY 22 Shirley Marven
DOOKIE Elders/Zoom

SUNDAY JANUARY 29 Rev Kerrie Needham
Combined service. Thanks and farewell to Rev Glenys Gill.

GREETINGS FROM KERRIE

Hello,

Have you ever looked at an ordinary, everyday object that you use occasionally – and suddenly discovered how beautifully made it is; how clever the person who designed and fabricated it is?

I had that feeling today as I received a set of three stencils in the mail. They were made to line up and create the perfect image in three steps. They were also designed to work as sets of two, or to be used alone. The person who designed them also embossed the stencils on the front side, so that the user would never mistakenly turn a stencil the wrong way round. They could be lined up perfectly. All that work for a few little pieces of plastic, yet these little pieces of plastic could make an artistic statement...and also enhance the work of a dabbling crafter (me).

There are so many little things in this world we could take for granted, but the blessing comes in recognising the work, the thought, the planning, the technical know-how...just out of the blue.

And a kind of revelation comes in recognising that sometimes things of the past might stand up better to scrutiny than things built on a similar design today. Take the humble old rotary eggbeater for instance – a better whisk. If you have one from around the 1940's or 50's you have a treasure, but if it was from the seventies or eighties, you've probably moved on quickly to the stick blenders around now. Plastics and angled handle designs kind of made the eggbeater unwieldy and the opportunity for another reinvention occurred. Pick up that stick blender and you can now have whipped cream in a couple of minutes, and butter almost before you know it...and no wrist pain at all. Unless the power goes out.

We use the ingenuity of people in our everyday lives and don't realise it. Because we're used to it. And it takes those moments of clarity - of exploration to see the beauty behind it.

I wonder- when was the last time we picked up a leaf and looked at it? Or a flower? Or sat in a park and looked at a tree? Or looked up at the stars at

night? If we're being honest, I'd say it was way more often than when we recognise the hard work of other people.

So next time you are fascinated by a clever tool – why not join me in remembering and giving thanks that the one who created the stars, the vegetation and all, is the one who created amazing, creative, industrious people able to make a difference in the world.

God bless you,
Kerrie

EPIPHANY 2

or, with its full title, After Epiphany 2, sees a change in the liturgical colours. Since Christmas Eve, we've been white, the colour for days relating to Jesus. At present we are green, the colour for most of the year, known by parts of the Church as Ordinary Time. That means no special festivals or days. The next time we are white will be Easter Day, but before that, we'll be purple, for the penitential season of Lent which begins on Ash Wednesday, which this year, is on February 22.

As you'll know well, green has to do with growth and these 'ordinary' days and weeks are the times when our spiritual growth develops quietly but positively.

Be blessed in Ordinary Time!

WITH LOVE TO THE WORLD

Many people find *With Love to the World* a great help in their spiritual life. I note that there are some absolutely wonderful notes at present – all Uniting Church women writers! If you would like to subscribe for 2023, please tell Joan by January 18. Cost for the year, \$24, payable with the February issue.

THIS WEEK

Thursday 19 Cuppa and Chat 10.00am - noon

PASTORAL PRAYERS

We remember Emily, Eve

All with Covid, or Long Covid; those isolating – the greatly increasing numbers in Victoria and locally with the new vicious strains. *The Presbytery* prays for Mt Beauty. *The WCC* prays for the lands and peoples of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen. All refugees and displaced people. Ukraine. Loni, Moti and the family. Kerrie and Don.