

SHEPPARTON UNITING CHURCH

WITH DOOKIE UNITING CHURCH



NEWS FEBRUARY 5, 2023

EPIPHANY 5

MINISTERS

Rev Loni Vaitohi

Sick Leave

Rev Kerrie Needham

Rev Joan Fisher, Minister in Assoc

**Pastoral Care Convenor Shirley Marven 0438 242 150
Church 4805 1120**

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**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 5 Rev Kerrie Needham HC
DOOKIE Lorraine Threlfall**

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 12 Rev Kerrie Needham
DOOKIE Anglicans**

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 19 Rev Loni Vaitohi
DOOKIE Rev Denise Naish HC**

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 26 REV KERRIE NEEDHAM
DOOKIE Elders/Zoom**

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.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday, February 7 Friendship Group, Crazy Whist

Wednesday February 8 Church Council

Thursday, February 9 Cuppa and Chat 10.00 to noon

GREETINGS FROM KERRIE

Hello. We are in February already! Meetings and groups are all back in the swing of things and our calendars are beginning to fill. We are looking forward to a busy and productive year.

We will be the venue for Presbytery at Shepparton Uniting Church on February 18 and Presbytery are inviting more than the usual Presbytery Reps this time. I include an excerpt from the invitation letter in the Notices section of the news. It will be a BYO lunch event.

Loddon Mallee Presbytery and the Presbytery of North East Victoria have joined to create a Lenten Bible study which will be sent via zoom. Congregations may form a group to meet at the church or at someone's home. Individuals can join from home. I will have some flyers available at church on Sunday for those interested.

I can commend the LM leader – I worked for a time with a group led by him to create worship services during Covid; and you would know the good value of the NEV leader. Look for the flyer on Sunday!

I visited a new Coffee shop this week. The Food Store. It was a great venue for a quiet chat with someone. A place that is open in the afternoons too! The coffee was good and they provided water at the table - always a good move.

I got lost on my drive to the Salvation Army headquarters. I was on my way to my first Ministers Association meeting. My phone directed me to Optus. I don't know why. I eventually found the place and enjoyed the meeting. The group seem to be very active and keen to have ecumenical activities.

I want to finish off my letter today with a HUGE THANK YOU to everybody who helped move furniture before and after Café Church; the people who set the tables; the people who did the data projection, sound and video; the people who cooked; the people who organised the serving of food and drinks; the people who came and joined in; the people who tidied up and vacuumed, and all the other things...the Don

who kept me fed and watered as I worked and the people who supported me in that planning process.

I enjoyed the feel of happy people talking, sharing, responding. I felt blessed to have so many people there who actively engaged with the day. And... though I am very wordy, I can't find the words to describe the feeling of peace in which I rested that afternoon. I felt confident God was pleased with that day's worship.

Café Church was new to us all – that version of it anyway, and there are probably ideas and suggestions to be shared, so I am happy to hear your ideas and suggestions over a cuppa after worship on Sunday in the old church building. And... good news! Let's open both spaces for cuppas from now on.

I have heard many inquiries over the past month, as we have built up in numbers again since Covid time and the noise level of people joyously catching up can make it difficult for some to hear. Let's set up our tables in groupings for six, too, so that they feel more welcoming. It's much easier to drag up an extra chair to a larger table.

God bless, Kerrie

FRIENDSHIP GROUP

The Friendship Group will commence on Tuesday February 7 in the Narthex at 10.00am. Please join us every Tuesday morning for fun and fellowship. Everyone is welcome. Crazy Whist begins on Tuesday afternoons then, too.

ONLINE LENTEN STUDIES

As usual, the Presbytery will offer Lenten Studies online, again sharing with Loddon Mallee Presbytery. There will be six sessions, offered with a choice of Sunday evening (6.30-8.00pm) or Wednesday afternoon (2.30-4.00pm), starting February 19 or 22. Each study will have a different leader, three from each presbytery. You will be able to join online at home or in a group.

PASTORAL PRAYERS

We remember Emily and her family; Eve All with Covid, or Long Covid, in the continuing serious pandemic. *The Presbytery* prays for Rutherglen, Corowa, Howlong. *The WCC* prays for the lands and peoples of Andorra, Italy, Malta, Portugal, San Marino, Spain and Vatican City. The Assembly invites prayers for *Uniting Church members acknowledged in the 2023 Australia Day

honours and all in the Uniting Church who selflessly offer their time and gifts in service to our Church and communities. *All those impacted by flooding and extreme weather in Auckland, and for the families of those who have died.
Loni, Moti and the family.
Kerrie and Don.

SAVE THE DATE: PANCAKE DAY, TUESDAY FEBRUARY 15! A Pancake Day celebration to support the work of Uniting will be held in the evening. Dessert pancakes will be served and staff from Uniting will join us. More details next week.

CHURCH OFFERINGS – ELECTRONIC GIVING
Please contact us for more information.