

SHEPPARTON UNITING CHURCH

WITH DOOKIE UNITING CHURCH



NEWS JANUARY 29, 2023

EPIPHANY 4

MINISTERS

Rev Loni Vaitohi

Sick Leave

Rev Kerrie Needham

Rev Joan Fisher, Minister in Assoc

Rev Glenys Gill, Supply Minister

Pastoral Care Convenor Shirley Marven

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SUNDAY JANUARY 29 Combined Service Café Church

Rev Kerrie Needham *Thanks and farewell to Rev Glenys Gill as she completes her supply ministry with us.*

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 5 Rev Kerrie Needham HC

DOOKIE Lorraine Threlfall

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 29 Combined service Rev Kerrie Needham
Café Church.**

Please bring a small plate of food to share.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 5 Rev Kerrie Needham HC

DOOKIE Lorraine Threlfall

**EAPPI – ECUMENICAL ACCOMPANIMENT PROGRAM IN PALESTINE
AND ISRAEL**

Rev Joan Fisher is at Belgrave until Sunday helping train seven Ecumenical Accompaniers before they go to Palestine or Israel to serve for three months. You may remember that Joan was an EAPPI volunteer for three months several years ago. Please pray for the programme and for all EAPPI volunteers. It's a World Council of Churches programme, operating since 2002, when local leaders in Palestine and Israel established it, inspired by a vision for a just peace so that all in these two countries could live with freedom, dignity and security based alongside Palestinian families and Israeli human rights defenders.

GREETINGS FROM KERRIE

Hello, It's been a bit of a topsy turvy week. A busy one. And fun.

Saturday last, we received a call that a couple of family members were on the way through and would we like to go for a coffee. We stayed in for coffee instead. A lovely hour and a half. Two of us managed to have a couple of race sessions on MarioKart (in the same house) and I won a couple of races – that's a wonder!

On Sunday I scalded my hand with steam, draining pasta at dinner time. I usually place a bowl under the colander to avoid danger...sigh.

I was invited to lead a service at Harmony village and was very glad I could go. They've been through lockdown and were desperate for a service. I enjoyed my time with the group. I had to wear an extra strong mask and a face screen. Fascinating – I haven't had to use the full-face screen before.

I attended some meetings this week and dropped into the Op Shop one day. The volunteers had worked hard at making the shop inviting as it started the new year.

I spent a lot of time thinking about the café church service. As I write this, I have completed and sent on an at home service and the café church service and am happy with what I have prepared.

If you're a bit squeamish about café church, give it a go and see what it's like. I've only done a 'for fun' wedding at Cana service before, and a number of café church bible studies at a café, so I'm a little out of my comfort zone with this too. I like to work to keep things interesting, so I pray we are blessed on the day. (Yes, we are reading the Beatitudes.)

Don got to be the rescuing car fixing Dad this week, and we both appreciated that he could jump in the car and be there in a couple of hours.

We're getting close to the start of the school year, so let's remember to pray for the students, teachers, staff, bus drivers, cleaners, canteen volunteers and parents and grandparents as they make that change from holidays to busy timetabled weeks.

God bless you in the coming week, and may you find joy each day. If we could give some away that would be great too.

Kerrie

PASTORAL PRAYERS

We remember Emily, Eve

All with Covid, or Long Covid. *The Presbytery* prays for Mathoura and Thyra. *The WCC* prays for the lands and peoples of Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Western Sahara and Tunisia. The Assembly invites us to remember students, parents, carers, teachers, school chaplains and all who are returning for a new school year. May they know God's presence throughout the year.

All refugees and displaced people. Ukraine.

Loni, Moti and the family. Kerrie and Don.

JANUARY 26 - UNITING CHURCH MESSAGES

in case you missed them last week.

Rev Mark Kickett, Interim National Chairperson of UAICC, said *'This day marks the survival of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, the First Peoples of this ancient land. We've been here for millennia. We are people with a long history, rich culture and deep spirituality. We have a wisdom and a story to share. And so today, we celebrate our resilience.'*

Rev Sharon Hollis, Uniting Church President, said 'As Second Peoples in the Uniting Church, we affirm the sovereignty of First Peoples and honour their custodianship of the land.' She encouraged all Australians to commit to listening to the truth of this land, particularly as we move towards a referendum on a First Peoples Voice.

'We pray that this year might be a moment of reckoning in our nation, when we face the truth of the past and the present of our nation in ways that promote healing and justice.

We invite you not to just vote yes, but to be a part of the campaign, to have conversations with others in ways that might open the possibility of a new story for our nation', the President said.

CONGRATULATIONS, SENIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR!

Congratulations to Joy Sims, Dookie Senior Citizen of the Year! It was Joy's work to keep in touch with and provide a weekly message to church members during Covid lockdowns that led to her being 'crowned' yesterday. You may also be interested to know that Murchison Citizen of the Year, Gordon Newton, is an active Uniting Church member. Well done, Gordon!

CHURCH OFFERINGS – ELECTRONIC GIVING

Please contact us for further information.