

# **SHEPPARTON UNITING CHURCH**

## **WITH DOOKIE UNITING CHURCH**



**NEWS MARCH 5, 2023**

### **LENT 2**

#### **MINISTERS**

**Rev Loni Vaitohi**

**Rev Kerrie Needham**

**Pastoral Care Convenor Shirley Marven**

**Church Office**

**Sick Leave**

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**SUNDAY MARCH 5 Rev Kerrie Needham HC**

**DOOKIE 9.30am Rev Joan Fisher**

*Readings* Gen 12.1-4a Ps 121 Rom 4.1-5,13-17 John 3.1-17

**SUNDAY MARCH 12 Rev Kerrie Needham**

**DOOKIE 9.30am Anglicans**

*Readings* Ex 17.1-7 Ps 95 Rom 5.1-11 John 4.5-42

**SUNDAY MARCH 19 Shirley Marven**

**Messy Church 4.30pm**

**DOOKIE 9.30am Rev Denise Naish HC**

**SHEPPARTON WORSHIP 9.30AM**

**Worship online** [www.youtube.com/user/SheppartonUniting](http://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*

## **THIS WEEK**

<i>Sunday March 5</i>	Lenten Study 6.30-8.00pm
<i>Tuesday March 7</i>	Friendship Group <i>Outing Europa Deli</i> 10.00am; Crazy Whist
<i>Wednesday March 8</i>	Prayer 10.00-10.30am Lenten Study 2.30-400pm
<i>Thursday March 9</i>	Cuppa and Chat 10.00 to noon
<i>Friday March 10</i>	Prayer 10.00-10.30

## **DATES FOR DOOKIE CONGREGATION**

Friday March 3 *World Day of Prayer service*, St Andrew's, 7.30pm  
Sunday March 5 *Former Rural Parish service and lunch*, St Andrew's  
10.30am Tuesday March 7 *Table Talk* St Andrew's, 7.30pm.

## **GREETINGS FROM KERRIE**

Hello. Last Sunday afternoon a group of people from our congregation travelled to Benalla to join the farewell service of Kelvin Hodge. The service was uplifting, with Kel indicating at one point in the sermon just how out of the ordinary the past several years have been, and inviting us to giggle at this contrast to the usual perceptions of a rural placement.

On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, the congregation of Shepparton farewelled Ailsa Cook in a memorial service jointly led by Rev Kerrie and Ailsa's son-in-law Jim. At the graveside service I spoke on behalf of the congregations:

The congregation extends a message of love to the family; wanting you to know that many of them remember Ailsa and her involvement with a number of congregations before and after the congregations joined together.

I have heard quick stories over morning tea on Sunday, and memories shared over a cuppa after meetings. (I mentioned a couple, and then concluded:) Many other stories were told - hopefully you will get to hear some stories today, over a cuppa.

You may have noticed a small garden growing in pride of place in the narthex. Messy Church attendees created this mini garden/tableau so that we can watch it grow on the journey to Easter. The grass is growing so well they had to 'mow' it last week. Well done!

Thursday's news announced a young dog was found alive in the rubble of the earthquakes in Turkey. The news reader suggested it brought new hope to the people still desperately digging through fallen buildings. The

people need hope. Let's pray extra hard for hope for the people who are still living in uncertainty and cannot go back to what life was like before the earthquakes.

Let's not forget our own community where there had also been a natural disaster, people who need to be able to hope, and people who cannot go back to what life was like before the floods.

Heartache happens in all sorts of situations. People need prayer. Let's open our hearts in loving prayer during the coming week.

God bless. Kerrie and Don

PS We did have a food adventure this week. Ice cream cones at a certain 'arched' venue.

## **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

Friday March 3. GV Christian Fellowship, Pine Road, 10.00am. This year's service has been prepared by the churches of Taiwan. We can pray for those places round the world who are still to worship as earth spins on its daily journey.

## **LENT 2 YEAR A**

The focus for this week's readings is faith or believing. Think of Abram, believing in a promise, and setting out for a new land. The Psalmist who has faith in the God who protects and cares. Faith as the entrance to relationship with God, as Paul says. Nicodemus, invited to be born again in faith. And us? May we all be blessed in our journey this Lent.

## **PRAYER SESSIONS DURING LENT**

Special sessions for prayer will be held during Lent to pray for Loni and for Syria and Turkey and New Zealand and to give thanks.

Wednesdays 4.00- 4.30pm after the Lent Study Fridays 10.00 to 10.30am.

## **LENTEN STUDIES**

The Presbytery's online Lenten Studies, again shared with Loddon Mallee Presbytery, continue Sunday March 5 and Wednesday 8. The six sessions, are offered with a choice of Sunday evening (6.30-8.00pm) or Wednesday afternoon (2.30-4.00pm) Join online or in a group at the church.

## **PASTORAL PRAYERS**

*We remember* Emily and her family; Eve

All with Covid, or Long Covid, in the continuing serious pandemic. *The Presbytery* prays for Beechworth, Stanley, Yackandandah, Myrtleford-

Whorouly. *The WCC* prays for the lands and peoples of Ireland; the United Kingdom – England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales. *The Assembly* invites prayers for \*Conversations around the proposed First Nations Voice in the lead-up to the Referendum to be conducted with respect, openness and hope for a better nation. \*The people of Taiwan, host country of the 2023 World Day of Prayer. We pray for strength and wisdom to cope with an uncertain future. \*Uniting Church communities which have been a target of vandals during the World Pride event and those impacted by these hateful acts. We give thanks for these communities of faith and their ministry of welcome and inclusion. Continuing prayers for Syria and Turkiye; Palestine and Israel. Loni and Moti and the family. Kerrie and Don

### **INDUCTION OF REV CYNTHIA PAGE SUNDAY MARCH 5, MOOROOPNA, 2.30PM**

Cynthia will be inducted as Minister for the Small Churches Network. Do join us!

### **AT-HOME CARERS – DIARY DATE**

A special Carers' Wellbeing morning tea will be held on Wednesday April 12 at GV Hospice Shepparton at 10.30am for those who care for a family member or friend, taking them to appointments, helping with daily living. This morning tea is to acknowledge the work of unpaid carers!

### **THE REFERENDUM: FIRST NATIONS VOICE**

The Uniting Church has joined a coalition of faith organisations calling on Federal parliamentarians to support the referendum on a First Nations Voice. Uniting Church President, Rev Sharon Hollis, a signatory, said, 'We support the Yes vote as a pivotal step toward the full implementation of the Uluru Statement, so that as a nation we can finally confront justice and promote healing for First Nations people in this land.' She and UAICC Interim National Chair Rev Mark Kickett encouraged Uniting Church members to be informed about the Uluru Statement and the things it asks of this nation and urged people to create spaces for respectful yarning on the impact a First Nations Voice will make. Resources are readily available at *Uniting for the Voice*.