



## Sapphire Coast Uniting Church 'Lockdown' Newsletter

Week Ending Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May

**Welcome** to the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of our weekly emails, keeping our congregation connected during the Corona Virus shutdown. Contributions and items for inclusion can be forwarded to Jeff or Tony.

### Birthdays next week:



Rae Stove – 4<sup>th</sup> June

John Osborne -6<sup>th</sup> June

## Church News

Last Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup>, a **Congregational Meeting** via Zoom video link was held. Over 40 members were able to link in. The main business was to vote on a motion to issue a call to a new minister. Colin (Chairperson) presented the meeting with all the relevant details. Following the discussion a vote was taken that unanimously supported the issuing of a call to Rev. Jean Shannon. It is with anticipation that we await her response.

## Closure service for Rev David Russell

The service will take place on Sunday **31<sup>st</sup> May at 10.00am**, and will be available to watch via Zoom video. If you wish to attend, either log into [zoom.us](https://zoom.us) and click on 'Join a Meeting'. When prompted, enter **Meeting ID: 931 4515 6317**

Alternatively, just click on the link below: <https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/93145156317>

Please join between 9.50 – 9.55am so you are ready for the commencement of the service. Note that you will be viewing only – your audio will be muted, so you don't disturb the service. It is recommended that you leave setting on 'Speaker View', so the screen focuses on the speaker only. The Zoom broadcast will cease at the end of the service.

**Morning Tea:** If you wish to join our weekly casual, virtual morning tea, you will need to join separately from the closure service. We hope to start the morning tea Zoom within a few minutes of the end of the closure service. Just log onto [zoom.us](https://zoom.us) and click on 'Join a Meeting'. When prompted, enter the **Meeting ID: 961-8350-2388** and **Password: 705601**

Alternatively, just click this link:

<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/96183502388?pwd=d2l4MDhJQnZqeEh5cVU5NyttUi9lUT09>

Be sure to have your computer/laptop/ipad camera and audio turned on. (If you need some assistance, call Jeff or John beforehand). So, grab a cuppa and a biscuit and join us – no agenda, just a social catch up with whoever who can make it on the day.



*Sapphire Coast Uniting Church - Merimbula invites you to a*

**Closure of Ministry Service for**

***Rev David Russell***

**Pentecost Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020 at 10.00am**

**To take place via Zoom**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/93145156317>

Meeting ID: 931 4515 6317

NB: Please note that participants will be muted on entry to assist in maintaining an orderly service.



**uniting  
church**  
Canberra Region  
Presbytery

The next **Church Council** meeting will now be held at 2.00pm on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June. At this stage the meeting will be held by Zoom video, unless restrictions on indoor gathering are changed in the interim, with further details to follow. A Zoom invitation will be sent to regular attendees closer to the time.

**The UnitingCare Merimbula Board** meets 3-4 times a year, with the role of overseeing the administration of our local Community Visitors Scheme (CVS) and supporting Greg Wollaston in his role as co-ordinator. At the moment we have a vacancy on the board. If you are looking for a small volunteer role where you can make a contribution to your local community, please call secretary Shirley Bazley on 64959231. The UnitingCare Merimbula/CVS Board have also deferred their next meeting until such time as will allow an indoor face to face meeting.

## Lectionary readings this week:

Pentecost Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020

Acts 2: 1-21

1 Corinthians 12: 3b-13

John 20: 19-23



Thoughts from Bruce Prewer

### ONLY ONE THING IS INFINITE

Every visible thing around us, and most of the invisible things, are ultimately non-renewable. The earth, the sun, the solar system, the whole universe, appears to be running down, and bit by bit falling into disorder. All is subject to entropy, in line with what we call the second law of thermodynamics... There is one Thing alone which is infinite. One awesome Thing that is inexhaustible. One awesome Entity that is prodigal in its generosity. Today we celebrate a vibrant aspect of that awesome Thing: we call it **Pentecost**.

*“And in the last days, God declares,  
I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,  
and your sons and daughters shall prophesy,  
your young men shall have visions  
and your old people shall dream dreams.” Acts 2:17*

Pentecost was a special blessing. We celebrate the day when the infant church became dramatically aware of the inexhaustible resource which we call the Holy Spirit, “poured out on all flesh”. The Holy Spirit is God’s own presence with us. Not God in some distant heaven. Not God on some loftier plane of existence. Not some sub-god or archangel paying us a visit. But the One God, holy beyond comprehension, truly with us and within us in unique power. Like when Jesus was around, but even more widely available. They were gathered together in the one place when out of the blue the something extraordinary happened. And I mean extra-ordinary! The disciples and their friends had been a small and vulnerable community. But on the day of Pentecost they no longer felt either small or vulnerable. They were ready to take on the world. The Holy Spirit did this. They had a personal experience of the awesome, lavish, intimacy and power of God. It was so amazing that they later struggled to convey what happened. They described it as a sound like a mighty, rushing wind which filled the whole building. Again they explained it as being like tongues of fire, resting on each head. That word “like” grapples with the difficulty of describing the extra-sensory nature of the Holy Spirit’s inflowing. It is beyond words yet they had to attempt to describe it in words.

### A TIME TO TREMBLE

Thinking about the Holy Spirit on one hand should “scare the living daylights out of us.” This is truly an awesome thing! The ultimate mega-awesome thing ! The Holy Presence of the Maker of all things seen and unseen. Our Source and our End. The Judge who reads our most secret thoughts. Scary stuff!

There is a time to tremble with awe.

But on the other hand, thinking about the Holy Spirit should leave us trembling with love; filled with wonder, thanks and praise. The Holy Spirit is the very soul of our Divine Saviour and Friend; the very breath that sustains our life, the fire that warms our hearts and welds our faith and inspires our love for others.

We both worship and trust this Holy One whose resources are inexhaustible. Whose power forever makes all things new. Whose patience is greater than all human folly and whose mercy is deeper than all human wickedness. Whose grace is ever inclusive in its embracing of the lost, whose wisdom is the only ocean that can never be plumbed, and whose love is the only universe that can never suffer entropy.

No entropy. This never runs down or falls into disorder. The second law of thermodynamics has no hold over the Holy Spirit. All else may run down and may disintegrate, but not this Spiritual Reality. Eternally renewable energy? This is it!

#### HOW WILL OUR LIVES RUN OUT?

Through circumstances beyond our control we may run out of gainful employment.  
In ways we cannot anticipate we may run out of good health.  
By the accidents of life, or by changing values, we may one day run out of friends.  
Through the occurrence of disease or disaster we may run out of loved ones.  
In the trials life we may run out of energy and exhaust all our reserves of optimism.  
The hour will certainly come when we will have run out of time.

But there remains the **Pentecost factor**. The Holy Spirit who is the ultimate Friend and Counsellor (as Jesus promised) is to be with us forever. Forever! The one Source of ever-renewable life and love and holy joy!

Forever. With us and for us and in us forever!

For those who welcome and trust this Holy Spirit, hope and well-grounded optimism never runs out.

*“And in the last days, God declares,  
I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,  
and your sons and daughters shall prophesy,  
your young men shall have visions  
and your old people shall dream dreams.” Acts 2:17*

#### **PRAYERS FOR OTHERS**

Holy Spirit, because you have come to us like wind and fire, this world can never be a barren and joyless place. May all people and all nations make room for your Presence. May they come to recognise you, to trust you, and to love you. Then in loving you, may they find the resources to love one another.

Spirit of truth, inflame your children with a zeal for a reformation of communities and nations which is grounded in love. Give us a passion for justice and truth administered with grace and mercy. Teach the way of Christ in all things.

We pray, loving Spirit, for the comfort of your Spirit for all who are frail, diseased, injured or in sorrow. We name before you members of this congregation for whom we hold a special concern: Please shape, direct and bless all the powers of healing, and let trust and peace reside in every heart.

We thank you for all those especially precious to us, who now share the resurrection of Christ Jesus. By your Spirit give us the grace to so live and love, that in the hour of our death we may move on to join their joyful company.

Through Christ Jesus our Redeemer. Amen

#### **Contact Details**

Church email: [merimbulaunitingchurch@gmail.com](mailto:merimbulaunitingchurch@gmail.com)

Church Council Chairman Colin: 64950961

Church website: [www.merimbulaunitingchurch.com.au](http://www.merimbulaunitingchurch.com.au)

Wyndham Congregation: Nancy Grant – 64942127

Sapphire Coast Uniting Church acknowledges the First Peoples of the land on which our congregations meet, work, play and live. We honour them for their continuing custodianship from time beyond remembering. We pay our respects to elders, past, present and emerging.

Missed a newsletter? They can be viewed on the Merimbula church website by clicking on the link on the front page, or going through to '**Notices and News**' and clicking on 'Lockdown Newsletters'.

Keep safe and "keep your distance"  
Ed.

Please let us know if you no longer wish to receive these emails

## THE COMPUTER SWALLOWED GRAMPY

The computer swallowed Grampy.  
Yes, honestly its true!  
He pressed 'control' and 'enter'  
And disappeared from view.

It devoured him completely,  
The thought just makes me squirm.  
He must have caught a virus  
Or been eaten by a worm.

I've searched through the recycle bin  
And files of every kind;  
I've even used the Internet,  
But nothing did I find.

In desperation, I asked Google  
My searches to refine.  
The reply from him was negative,  
Not a thing was found 'online.'

So, if inside your 'Inbox,'  
My Grampy you should see,  
Please 'Copy,' 'Scan' and 'Paste' him  
And send him back to me.

*We do not stop playing because we grow old;  
We grow old because we stop playing.*