

# CARPENTARIA PRESBYTERY

# Link



## Presbytery Office Postal Address

PO Box 201,  
Mission Beach 4852  
(07) 4068 8131

## Office Hours

**Mon Tues Wed & Frid**  
**8.30am-1.30pm**

## Executive Assistant

**Marie Dewar**  
(07) 4068 8131

[office@ucacarpentaria.com.au](mailto:office@ucacarpentaria.com.au)

## Presbytery Minister Rural & Chairperson

**Rev Garry Hardingham**  
0409 276 940  
[presminrural@ucacarpentaria.com.au](mailto:presminrural@ucacarpentaria.com.au)

## Presbytery Minister Pastoral & Coastal

**Rev Christy Allen**  
0418 184 834  
[presmincoastal@ucacarpentaria.com.au](mailto:presmincoastal@ucacarpentaria.com.au)

## Presbytery Admin. Officer

**Robyn Cooley**  
0429 195 506  
[admin@ucacarpentaria.com.au](mailto:admin@ucacarpentaria.com.au)

## Hospital Chaplains:

### Cairns:

Rev Shane Kammermann  
0409 287 109

### Townsville:

Rev Barry Cox  
0408 415 816

## UCA Queensland Synod Corona-virus Update

For the latest COVID-19 updates and resources, visit the [Synod website](#).

## Presbytery Office

Please remember that  
MONDAYS are Garry & Christy's day off.

## Pastoral Notes Celebrations & Prayer Points

### Please Pray For

1. Garry & Teresa Hardingham for wisdom, discernment, simple solutions to difficult issues & safety as he travels around our Presbytery.
2. Christy & Peter Allen & family, for wisdom, discernment, simple solutions to difficult issues & safety as she travels around our Presbytery.
3. Robyn & Gavin Cooley, as she deals with the property & financial matters across our Presb.
4. Presbytery Youth Camp

## Date Claimer

**Carpentaria Presbytery Meeting**  
**Innisfail 5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> November**

**Ministry Agents-** COE Training Friday 5<sup>th</sup> (time to be advised)

Please remember only one lay rep & the ministry agent from each congregation attends. Pray for God's wisdom & discernment.

**3<sup>rd</sup> September****Townsville**

**Safe Ministry with Children Training @ Aitkenvale UC** 7-8:30pm , for anyone involved in children's ministry.

Please register with the Marie 4068 8131 or [office@ucacarpentaria.com.au](mailto:office@ucacarpentaria.com.au) so we can print materials needed. I need – Name / Congregation / Email

**11 & 12 September****National Conference of Lay Preachers Online**

2021 National Conference of Lay Preachers Online



The Conference will be provided in a shortened timeframe on 11 and 12 September only (10am to approx. 4.30pm each day) and will allow for ample breaks.

We have taken into account the different time zones across the country and are now working with the presenters to modify the program, make the sessions dynamic and as interactive as possible.

**REGISTER NOW:** The new registration site can be found [here](#) and the revised program is also attached.

Additional information can be found on the NCLP website [National Conference of Lay Preachers 2021 - Uniting Church in Australia, Queensland Synod \(ucaqld.com.au\)](http://National Conference of Lay Preachers 2021 - Uniting Church in Australia, Queensland Synod (ucaqld.com.au)) We would encourage you to register as soon as possible so that we may make provision on the online platform to accommodate the number of participants.

Neil Ballment & Geoff Hill -National Conference of Lay Preachers Convenors

**24-27<sup>th</sup> September 2021****Registration Closes 3<sup>rd</sup> September****Presbytery Youth Camp****Northern Madness  
24<sup>th</sup> -27<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

Cost for Camp \$40 High School -21yrs

For more information contact Pastor Ian Ness 4786 2857 (Burdekin UC) or Rev Greg Rankin 0413 787 626 (Ingham UC).

Click on the link to Register

<https://www.ucacarpentaria.com.au/events/event44.php>

### Position Vacant in Townsville

#### Early childhood teacher Kirwan Uniting Child Care

Permanent Full-time

The Kirwan Uniting Church Child Care Centre are a not-for-profit centre providing a high quality of care to our children, families and community. Our focus is to provide quality learning opportunities through play-based learning.

More info: <https://ucaql.com.au/synod-services/people-and-culture/vacancies/employee-vacancies/early-childhood-teacher-kirwan-uniting-church-child-care-center/>

#### 19<sup>th</sup> August -End September

#### UnitingWorld visits Carpentaria Presbytery

Don and Sylvia Wright (who have taken over from Jenny Guyatt, ) will be visiting churches in Carpentaria (from Cooktown) as of 19 August to the end of September.

We are UnitingWorld volunteer ambassadors from Hervey Bay and are looking forward to bringing news of the work of the Uniting Church in Australia, through UnitingWorld, with overseas partner church's needs.

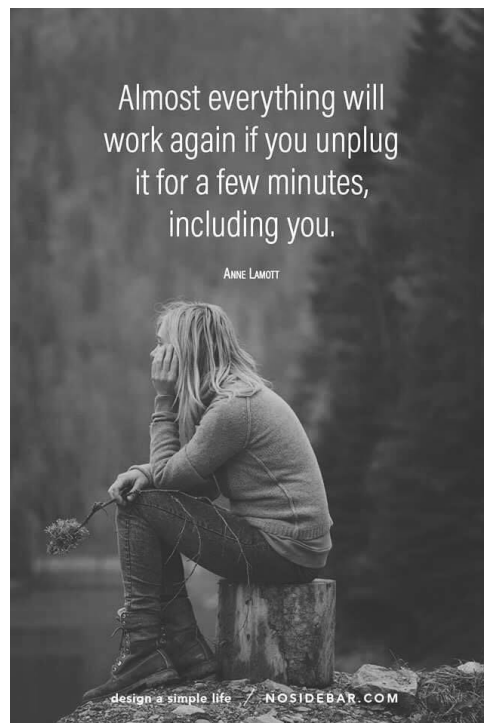


EverythingInCommon, ethical gifts that change lives, will be available through UnitingWorld for Christmas 2021.

Earlier this year we visited churches in Cloncurry, Mt Isa and Charters Towers. We would love an opportunity to share (10mins) with your congregation .

**Please contact us:**

Sylvia 0498264254 or Don 0498264255 and at [sylviaawright@hotmail.com](mailto:sylviaawright@hotmail.com)



## Garry's Thoughts

I did it!! I got my two Pfizer shots!! I'm so excited, because I won't have to renew my phone contract now that I have 5G inside me. Hopefully now I'll be able to just speak to people without the fear of a flat battery or dropping my phone. Plus, apparently I might also now have some of Bill Gate's DNA. You beauty!! I'm glad it's his DNA and not some random pavement drunk with no teeth who spends his time in the park shouting at pigeons!! So. Now I'm all good to go.

Seriously though, getting these two shots has been a big deal for me. I suffer from Trypanophobia, better known as needle phobia. This is not just a dislike of needles, or a fear of pain or anything like that. It's a totally irrational fear that was brought on by a traumatic event in my twenties. It happened when I was getting a blood test and the matron, who could have starred in any Carry On film, sneezed while inserting the particularly long needle into my arm. The needle plunged deep into my elbow and then broke off at the syringe. Her attempts to dig it out only forced the tip into my bone. A doctor was called and, without any anesthetic, proceeded to use a scalpel to dig the needle out. It was horrific!! And it left me with an irrational fear of needles breaking off in me. For almost forty years I have done everything to avoid a needle. Until now.

So, why the change? Well, Covid, lockdowns, travel restrictions, and working with vulnerable people in remote indigenous communities and in congregations. That's why. And it's the best thing I have ever done. Seriously! Not only did getting these 2 shots (plus the flu shot a few months earlier as a test run) reveal the ridiculous level of anxiety I had created in myself towards needles, but knowing that vaccination is our only pathway back to normality and also knowing that I am keeping the people I love safe from not just suffering Covid, but the possible effects of long Covid is a powerful thing. BTW, Teresa's cousin in England caught Covid in April 2020 and is still so ill with spleen, liver and heart damage that he will probably never work again. He was a 42 year old paramedic who used to run half-marathons.

Lately, I've had a few conversations with some of our congregational leaders around vaccine hesitancy and wild unsubstantiated conspiracy theories that have troubled me. And I've heard them all. From Ivermectin to "the government wants to destroy the economy for its own gain". BTW, don't send stuff to me, I've stopped reading it.

Now, I'm not gonna rebuff any of this stuff, but to say, "who cares?" If the government says the path to normality is the vaccine, then I'm getting the vaccine. If, like many other countries, my ability to fly or visit a cinema or my favourite restaurant is conditional on getting vaccinated, I'm getting vaccinated. I don't care how many Ivermectin tablets you have, your path back to freedom is vaccination.

Of course none of this is new. In Mark 12, Jesus is asked if paying taxes to the emperor is lawful. He picks up a coin and showing them the emperor's head and title says, "Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's. Here is Jesus addressing all the conspiracy theorists of his day with a "I don't care what you think, they are the government and we need to abide by their governance." It didn't go over well then, and it doesn't always go over well now.

As Christians, we forever live in this struggle of living in society and yet being ruled by the Kingdom of God. As christian leaders we are called to provide a safe environment and to pastorally care for those around us. As a Minister in the church I am ethically bound to do all I can for the safety and well-being of those I serve. And it doesn't matter what wild conspiracy theory you hold, vaccines have been proven to work, safe and effectively. Billions have now had them. For me, I don't want to see any more people dying alone and isolated, unable to be physically comforted as they struggle for their next breath. Or people mourning the death of a loved one over a zoom hookup because of lockdown or attendance limits. Or even be like the man in Cairns who, since contracting a mild case of Covid, has lost all sense of taste and smell, possible for the rest of his life. We still have people cowering in their homes, fearful of coming back to church because of Covid.

Christ has given us an example of compassionate love. After all, he gave up his life in the most cruelest way that we might live. And he did it without hesitation. It makes my trypanophobia seem even more ridiculous despite how much it ruled by life for decades.

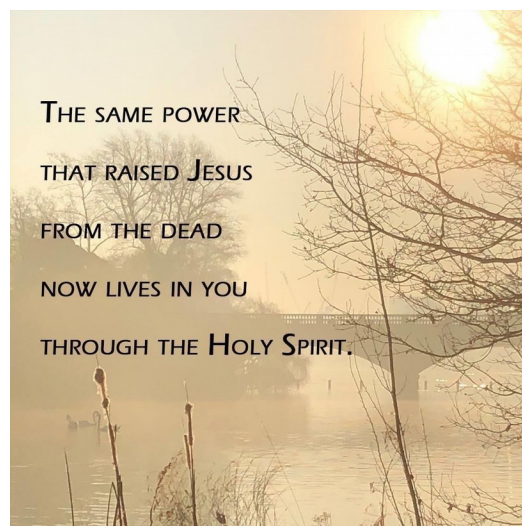
Its time for us, as a church and a society to move on. Its likely that pandemics will always be a part of our life, as they always have been. Locking yourself up and grinding your teeth over conspiracy theories will, in the end, give you nothing but an ulcer, confusion and probably no social life.

Let me finish with these profound words by Billy Joel, penned back in 1976. They are from his song, Angry Young Man....

*I believe I've passed the age of consciousness and righteous rage  
I found that just surviving was a noble fight  
I once believed in causes too  
I had my pointless point of view  
And life went on no matter who was wrong or right*

Give unto Caesar for the sake our community.  
Give unto God for the sake of all creation.  
And if you haven't already...get vaccinated.

Blessings  
Garry



# Synod News & Info.

## Uniting in diversity reflection — Living into the diversity of Christ's body



Since its formation, the Uniting Church has given voice to a desire to be open to and learn from others. The [Basis of Union](#) committed the Church to seek a special relationship with churches in Asia and the Pacific and reminded the Church that its life is lived within a worldwide fellowship of churches. In 1985 we declared we were [a multicultural church](#), a statement as much grounded in ambition as practice. In 2012 we committed to live more faithfully in our diversity as [One Body Many Members](#). Reflecting on how it is that we have such a wonderful statement of commitment and practice, but in so many ways fail to live into who we want to be, I was reminded of some helpful wisdom.

I was also reading a book about disability with the subtitle *Living into the diversity of Christ's body* in which the author Brian Brock says, "Welcome. Gentleness. Presence. Attentiveness. Commitment. This is all Christians need to know about disability. Simple words that sometimes ask more of us than we want to give." (Brock p 1)."

As I read these words it struck me that these spiritual practices can also help us live into the diversity of Christ's body that being a multicultural church promises us—if only we are willing to give ourselves to the journey.

[Read the full reflection](#) by President of the Uniting Church in Australia, Rev Sharon Hollis.

### Prayer for Afghanistan



Loving God, you call us to live together in peace, reaching out to each other in your love.

We look on with despair as we see parts of our community, parts of our world torn apart by injustice. Help us to reach out with compassion to those who find themselves without hope.

May we who have much to give offer what we have to those who have lost everything. Help us to see those who are desperate to live their lives in safety and security as our neighbours, the people we are called to love and care for.

May we be the voice to those whose voice has been lost in the noise of political rhetoric. Continue merciful God to place within us a spirit of peace and reconciliation, and enable us by your spirit to act justly, love mercy and continue our walk with you.

In Christ we pray, Amen.

Rev Andrew Gunton  
Moderator

## Uniting friends in ageing

UnitingCare, in collaboration with the wider Uniting Church community, has established a grassroots network of Uniting Church members. Titled Uniting Friends of Aging, this is in response to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety and will contribute to making the 148 recommendations a reality.

Members of Uniting Friends of Aging are engaged Uniting Church members, passionate about the future of every Australian, determined to contribute to giving our older citizens the rights and care that they deserve.

Local church members have a vital role to play in contributing to transforming ageing and aged care. Sign up for Uniting Friends of Ageing [here](#).

## Presbytery and congregation news

### How can the Presbytery Synod Interface better support you?

This group was established to enable information sharing on operational matters between the Synod Office, the presbytery ministers and UnitingCare.

As the broader church looks at what it means to be “fit for purpose”, PSI is doing the same. It is revisiting its purpose and how it might help local ministry thrive. Over the past few months PSI has been asking Presbytery Standing Committees and their congregational representatives what issues they would like or expect PSI to resolve for them. In doing so, it is also asking, “When it comes to mission activities, and particularly when collaborating with other parts of the church to 'do mission', what is the biggest issue/challenge or frustration?” If the PSI is the “answer” to the problem, it needs to be clear on what the problem is.

What are your thoughts? Your feedback can be provided to [Liz Henderson](#).

Read the [letter](#) from the Moderator.

## Vacant position

### Executive Officer Synod Chaplaincy Commission

The Uniting Church in Australia (the Church) is seeking an individual to provide support to the Queensland Synod Chaplaincy Commission and lead the implementation of the Chaplaincy Strategy in order that the strategic intent of the Chaplaincy Commission is fulfilled.

Applications close on 31 August 2021. For more information, click [here](#).