

CARPENTARIA PRESBYTERY

Link



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UCA Queensland Synod Corona-virus Update

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

[Queensland Government 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

Attention Ministry Agents who are Marriage Celebrants

Three new marriage forms commenced on Wednesday 1 September 2021

The three new marriage forms: the Notice of Intended Marriage (NOIM), the Official Certificate of Marriage (OCM), and Declaration of No Legal Impediment to Marriage (DNLI) forms, have been made available for download from the department's website on 31 August 2021 for use from Wednesday 1 September 2021.

<https://www.ag.gov.au/families-and-marriage/publications/tips-completing-new-notice-intended-marriage-1-september-2021>

Make sure you are aware of ALL the new changes:

Please see an added comment from Rev Barry Cox:

Hi Marie.

In Townsville I recently had to get approval to shorten the time to conduct a marriage. This process has also changed.

Where I would have sent them to the courthouse to get approval the process is now for the minister to send paperwork to Brisbane and wait for approval. Worth noting that this may take a day to organise.

Blessings,

Barry



Queensland
Churches Together

Dear Churches

The Joint Churches Domestic Violence Prevention Project (JCDVPP), a commission of QCT, will be presenting a workshop series on Domestic Family Violence **via zoom** in October.

The workshops are designed for Pastors, Church Leaders, Pastoral Carers and Chaplains to raise awareness of Domestic Family Violence.

The workshops will take place on Thursdays 7th, 14th & 21st October at 7pm.

The proposed programme for the three sessions is:

(Note the sessions may change due to availability of presenters)

Session 1: What is DFV overview- **7th October** Personal DFV story

Session 2: Understanding Perpetrators -**14th October** How to respond to DFV

Session 3: Theological Underpinnings-**21st October** Question and Answer Panel Session

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwuc--srTliE9Fu01BV9_wSw2jAmF-B7cHO

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

JCDVPP have also recently published the third edition of their acclaimed book: "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: Questions Women ask about Relationships and Christian Beliefs".

The cost of the book is \$5 plus postage.

Blessings,

Jackie Fewtrell- Administration Officer Tel. 07 3369 6792 | Enquires: admin@qct.org.au

Christy's Thoughts

The Allen household is going through a season of transition. Our daughter Jess is in the last weeks of year 12 and enjoying (read sarcasm here) what that means. Between exams, studying for exams and thinking about exams there is not much room for anything else. But in the midst of all of this there is formal, getting her driving license, looking for work, picking courses at university for 2022 and thinking about where she will be living next year.

For Peter and I, it is also a season of transition as parents. Jess is our only child so once she finishes school it will be a significant milestone finished or survived depending on which day you ask. We are starting to contemplate what it will be like when she is no longer living with us whether that is next year or in the years to come.

And on top of that, we are starting the planning and preparation of packing as we move to Townsville next year. This move was always on the cards for us as it is not ideal to have both Presbytery Ministers in the one zone. I asked to stay in Cairns until Jess finished high school and now here we are with that event so very close.

As I share this we are lining up today for our 2nd covid vaccine. I am hopeful that as more and more are vaccinated, it will mean less people getting covid, less lockdowns and the ability to see loved ones again.

Transition is a season of life just as are all the things we deal with. Some transitions are significant and life changing even when the change is small. The question then really isn't about transition because it is unavoidable. The question is how do I move through this season with confidence and hope? Too much space and time in our world is devoted to everything that is going wrong in our lives and in our world. Too many words are being written and spoken about tragedy and despair. Where are the words of encouragement, joy, love?

In Paul's letters to the early church, he often draws them back to the truth that is found in Jesus Christ. It is to Christ that we should look. It is Christ that we should offer the burdens of our daily lives. It is in Christ that we will find peace.

Transition may well be occurring in our lives, but I remain confident in Christ who is my Saviour.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 4:4-9

On an exciting note...

Over the last few months, we have been able to support the start of Tongan Worship in the Northern Zone. Here a couple of pictures from the most recent gathering. The Tongan ministers from across the Presbytery have been leading this worship.



Blessings,
Christy Allen

Synod News & Info.

Discipleship as core business for the church



“Can there be a shadow side—a risk—in developing a sharper focus on discipleship as core business for the church?” asks Presbytery Minister for the South Moreton Presbytery **Rev David Busch**.

Absolutely. Two immediately come to mind.

One is an exaggerated sense of effort. How easily does discipleship become all about us, what we should do, how we should live, what we need to change! We take upon ourselves the task of transformation of self and society, and feel burdened with expectations, guilt and inadequacy.

Yes, Jesus does counsel us to weigh up the cost, and Dietrich Bonhoeffer did famously write about the “cost of discipleship”. But that cost is not our striving effort, but our relinquishment. It is the cost of surrendering to the yoke of obedience to Christ, in whom we find true freedom and wholeness.

Discipleship is not so much a journey of demand and denial (although it is that!) as it is of changed desires: learning to desire rightly. It is not a journey of our own self-improvement, but of God taking hold of us ever more deeply, that we might live in the fullness of life—not ours, but Christ’s.

[Read this reflection](#) from David Busch.

New Plentiful conversation video

<https://vimeo.com/603703633>

The rejuvenation of Toowong Uniting Church is profiled in the latest video as part of the Plentiful Conversation series.

As part of this rejuvenation, the congregation worked hard to create a missional imagination where members of the congregation celebrated the stories of where God was at work in people's lives beyond church on a Sunday.

Consider your position on Voluntary Assisted Dying

Voluntary Assisted Dying legislation remains a challenging issue in our state, and in communities throughout the world. Our Synod has arrived at a position through engagement, prayer and discernment and we remain focused on a reasonable and compassionate stance.

We believe wholeheartedly in the value of each individual life at all stages and in all circumstances.

As each of us consider our individual position, and how this might impact us, or those we love and care for, or those that are already vulnerable in our communities, [here](#) is some food for thought.

Agency and service provider news



Send love and fight poverty!

UnitingWorld's set of eight beautiful Christmas cards are now ready for pre-order. These cards bring hope and joy not just to friends and family, but to people working hard to free themselves from poverty overseas. \$15 per pack of eight—proceeds give life to our international partners.



The new catalogue will be available soon at www.everythingincommon.com.au but you can order poverty-fighting Christmas card packs now!

Click [here](#) for more information. Order now for delivery in early October!

Giving thanks for the faithful ministry of Stuart McMillan



The Uniting Church Assembly last week gave thanks for the faithful service, enormous contribution and enduring legacy of Stuart McMillan on his retirement from formal ministry.

Uniting Church President Rev Sharon Hollis paid tribute to Stuart, who in the past 10 years has served the church as Moderator of the Northern Synod, President of the Assembly, and for the past three years as Assembly Consultant Covenanting.

“Stuart has a heart for honouring the wisdom of First Nations, listening to and learning from them and for calling the Church to the repentance and restitution for the ongoing wrongs of colonisation,” said Rev Hollis. “His deep spirituality and life of prayer infuses everything he does. I always came away from time with Stuart challenged, strengthened and blessed.”

To read the full tribute, click [here](#).

Meet the Advocate: Discipling the Next Generations

The Assembly is excited to introduce the Advocates for the Assembly Circles of Interest for this triennium who were commissioned this week!

As we've been exploring our [Intergenerational](#) commitments as a church, we're delighted to share this video from Discipling the Next Generations Advocate Virginia Lavaki.

[Find out more.](#)