

CARPENTARIA PRESBYTERY

Link



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UCA Queensland Synod

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. Peter & Christy Allen 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.

Date Claimers 2022

Carpentaria Presbytery Meeting

25th -27th March

Synod 13th -17th May

Carpentaria Presbytery Meeting

4th -6th Nov

Ministry Agents & Spouse retreat

2nd -5th August

Thank You Thank You

CHURCH BOWLS- Townsville

I thought that you might like to know the total that we have raised for the McKay Patrol during 2021 through the bowls games that have been held at Jubilee Bowls Club. We have had some generous donations from our group this year and to date have raised a total of \$2,170.00.

We thank Chris and Ken who are members of the bowls club for volunteering their time to open the club for us and assist our players who really are/were novices.

Kay

Congratulations Ena Koongotema



Cert 4 in Theology & Ministry

Some Pictures from our Presbytery meeting



Worship & Prayer



Connecting



Farewells

Pastor Jan Bryde (Blue care Townsville),

Rev David & Janette Ellis (McKay Patrol- new name- Carpentaria Remote Bush Chaplaincy),

Pastor Graham & Anne-Marie Huth (Aitkenvale),

Rev Tevita & Lousiale Uasike Mone (Bowen).

Garry's Thoughts

I still remember when airbags became mandatory in all new cars in Australia. It was 2013. I remember reading protests from people who refused to buy cars with airbags claiming that airbags kill more people than the crashes they were intended to save you from. I still know a bloke called Brian who refuses to buy a car equipped with an airbag. I think Brian will be stuck with his 1986 Camira for the rest of his life. He says he's not opposed to airbags, he just thinks people should have a choice. I ask him, "What about your passengers?" He just reckons they can choose not to go with him....hmm mmm.

Two years earlier, Teresa and I had a serious car accident at Wyandra. The passenger side airbag went off and resulted in me receiving 3 broken ribs and a cracked sternum. It was painful for quite a number of years. Did I regret it. Absolutely not!! The alternative would have been my head sling-slotting into the windscreen, despite the seat belt. I am still alive.

I am a big fan of increasing road safety. It was a primary reason we bought a Tesla in 2019. With more airbags than a ballooning festival and all the other safety features, ABS, auto-steer, auto-brake etc etc, it is rated as the safest passenger car ever on an Australian road. Yes, it cost \$66,000. But what price is life?

I know there are a small number, and seriously the number is small, who are opposed to mandatory vaccinations. I don't like mandatory anything myself. But we need to be thinking beyond ourselves. We need to ask how do we fulfill Christ's call on His followers to work towards a fair and just society in which the most vulnerable are protected when we selfishly use arguments of self over neighbour and not Christ's call for neighbour over self.

And now with a push for possible future booster shots, the question of our understanding of self becomes even more of a question in an increasingly self-absorbed, individualistic society. Currently, I need a yearly flu shot if I want to see my mother-in-law in aged care.

What troubles me is the we now live in such a society that people are so self-absorbed that aged care facilities have to introduce mandatory flu vaccinations to remind us that their centres are filled with vulnerable people.

The other night at a BBQ at my local airport, a few of us were talking about old Doug, an 86 year old fella who doesn't follow the news and refuses to be vaccinated. All there agreed that we needed to be vaccinated so that we protected Doug as well as we could. These people are not Christians, but they get it. How can we, who know Christ's call to serve others, even question it?

But back to car safety.

When seat belts were introduced into cars, people complained that their freedoms were being trampled on. But seat belts saved lives. It's a plain fact. When airbags were introduced, did anyone say, "Oh, they are introducing airbags because seat belts don't work!!". Of course not. They enhanced safety.

When hepatitis C vaccination was introduced, it was two shots. Now it's three. Not because it was ineffective, but that three shots are much better. Covid-19 booster shots are not an admission that vaccines are not effective, as much as airbags are not an admission that seat belts are not effective.

Around December 17, Queensland is going to open up. We know unvaccinated people will then have their movements restricted. We, as Christians have an obligation to speak Christ into the societal conversation. The world will say unvaccinated people are being punished for holding out or having genuine concerns. But Christ calls us to protect those who choose not to protect either

themselves or their neighbours. I think it's fair enough that our little mob who meet on a Saturday night BBQ at the

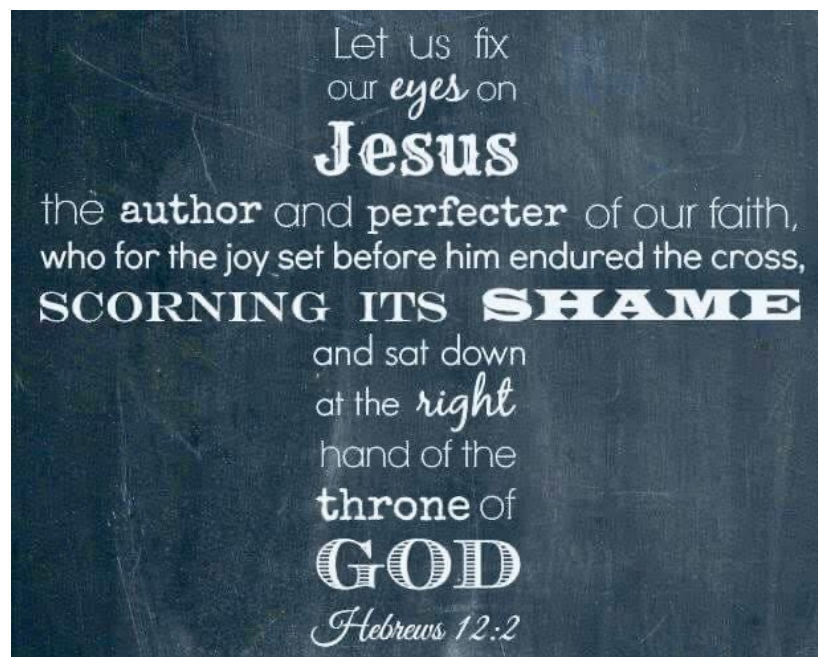
Let's not enter into the conversation of hate and division. Let's ask ourselves in every conversation, "In what way will this show love to my neighbour?"

Be safe. Be loving.

Get vaxed....not just for your sake, but for everyone else.

Blessings

Garry



Synod News & Info.

Wisdom as a whisper

There's a lot of shouting in the streets; plenty of noise. Noise isn't the same as wisdom.

Wisdom is often a whisper, requiring we listen like Elijah. Loud voices disguise wisdom as popular opinion, culture of the day, approval and/or comfort and convenience.

None of that is necessarily Godly wisdom, and it is not, what we call "common sense".

[Read more](#) in this reflection from Phil Smith, Community Pastor at BELLS Faith Community on the Sunshine Coast.



Reach Out Speak Out Human Rights Week is Coming!

Human Rights Week will start on 1 December and culminate on Human Rights Day on 10 December and this year, the Queensland Human Rights Commission is asking you to make equality your priority.

There will be opportunities to learn about equality through webinars and info sessions about Queensland's anti-discrimination and human rights laws. There'll be opportunities to talk about equality and have your say about how to improve it, by taking part in the review of the Anti-Discrimination Act and making a submission or attending a community conversation.

Click [here](#) for more information and to learn more.

Call for Participants - Families in Australia Survey

The Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) is calling on every Australian to share their experience in the Families in Australia Survey. The Institute wants to hear about family relationships, connections, support given and received and how COVID-19 has affected families. The survey is open to anyone over 18 years of age.

As a thank you, participants in the [survey](#) will have an opportunity to opt into a random draw for one of five \$500 shopping vouchers.

Act2: Considering Afresh Our Life Together

Have you read the report [Act2: Considering Afresh Our Life Together?](#) Drawing on feedback received from the Act2 conversation thus far, the report highlights both the strengths *and* the challenges facing the Uniting Church into the future. Based on the things we have heard, a number of case studies reflect challenges experienced across the Church. What is your story? Share your feedback by responding to the survey. [Learn more.](#)

Spread hope this Christmas



This Christmas, the Synod Office is inviting you to make a contribution around our theme of **hope**. Join us for a month of joy and celebration over the course of December!

Send us a prayer, a reflection, a video or a recipe so we can share them from the beginning of December for Christmas 2021. Contributions should be sent to the [Synod Office communications team](#) by no later than **19 November 2021**.

For any questions or further information, please contact the [Synod Office communications team](#).

Lifeworks Uniting Church - helping those in need



Lifeworks Uniting Church were joined by Mardi Lumsden from UnitingWorld who shared about the signs of God in our world, and the important work of helping those in need.

The congregation was also blessed to have Jodie Ramage paint during our service and connect that in with our theme.

2021 UnitingCare Christmas Appeal

The annual appeal has been launched to support families in need this Christmas who have been cared for by UnitingCare Family and Disability Services. There are a number of ways your congregation can get involved to bring some peace and hope to the most vulnerable this Christmas.

- Giving tree
- Host a gift or food drive
- Fundraise and donate to the Christmas Appeal.



For more information, please contact [Lidija Judd](#) or [click here](#) for more information and resources.