

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

### Presbytery Minister Rural & Chairperson

**Rev Garry Hardingham**  
0409 276 940  
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### 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

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

[Queensland Government website](#)

## Pastoral Notes Celebrations & Prayer Points

### Please Pray For

1. Garry & Teresa Hardingham for wisdom, discernment, Godly solutions to difficult issues & protection as he travels around our Presbytery.
2. Peter & Christy Allen for wisdom, discernment, Godly solutions to difficult issues & protection 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

25<sup>th</sup> -27<sup>th</sup> March – Mission Beach Resort

**Synod** 13<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> May- Alexandra Park

### Ministry Agents & Spouse retreat

2<sup>nd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> August - Cardwell

### Carpentaria Presbytery Meeting

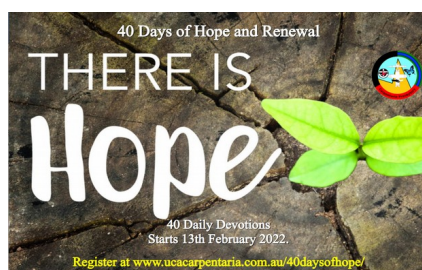
4<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> Nov

**Carpentaria Presbytery Meeting  
25<sup>th</sup> -27<sup>th</sup> March @ Mission Beach**

The letter to congregations & Rego link will be sent out end of this week or early next week.  
Keep on eye out.

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**40 days of Hope and Renewal**



Carpentaria Presbytery lets journey together and who knows? Maybe we will find hope and renewal is closer than we think!!

To sign up, simply go to <https://www.ucacarpentaria.com.au/40daysofhope/> and register.

*If you have registered & are having trouble with receiving the daily devotions please let me know by sending an email to [office@ucacarpentaria.com.au](mailto:office@ucacarpentaria.com.au) Marie*

Great opportunity to print a weeks worth, make a few copies & share it with those who don't have emails, we did that last week & had 7 more takers. Marie

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**The North Queensland Tongan Tsunami Relief Project**



The North Queensland Tongan Tsunami Relief Project is to support the families of the Tongan seasonal workers who were badly affected back in Tonga. There are currently about 1000 Tongan seasonal workers who are currently working from Bowen to Mareeba in our Northern region. They are traumatized, not able to speak to their families and also have very little access or support for their loved ones back in Tonga. The funds will also assist in purchasing much needed equipment and resources that will significantly help rebuild the lives of the Tongan villages and outer islands. Go to <https://www.ucacarpentaria.com.au/> Donations can be made to our gofundme page: <https://gofund.me/011a1521>

## 40 Days of Hope & Renewal

If you have missed any days, you can get them at [www.ucacarpentaria.com.au/40da](http://www.ucacarpentaria.com.au/40da).

A daily devotional by Rev Garry Hardingham

### Day 11 – Ecclesiastes - A glass filled in the middle

Today we start a journey through Ecclesiastes. This is one of my favourite books in the Bible. Not because I am naturally a bit cynical....which I am.... but because it explores themes that are universal and can be engaged with whether you are a new Christian, a crusty old Bible-basher or just someone whose had a gutful of the chaos and confusion of the world. (If so refer to devotions day 2- 9)

Its also really interesting in that, like the book of James, it somehow got into the biblical canon by some unknown accident. Even the name is a bit dodgy. Ecclesiastes is not a Hebrew word. It comes from the Greek, ekklesia, meaning assembly or congregation and actual refers to a member of the assembly. Meanwhile, the Hebrew word, קהלת (Kohelet, Koheleth, Qoheleth, Qohelet...take your pick), comes from Kahal (assembly) but ends up meaning 'someone speaking to an assembly' or, for us, 'Teacher'.

Either way, Ecclesiastes lacks a lot of those common themes of the Hebrew writers, like a God who reveals and redeems, who elects and cares for a chosen people. And so it has this cynical theme running through it as if the Teacher has lost his faith and is struggling to find meaning and hope. I reckon in our current age, this is a common human condition now. We're institutionalising and rationalising God out of our lives and society and we've replaced it with wokeness and likes on facebook.....or to be blunt....nothing!!

Don't get me wrong, there is nothing intrinsically bad in giving a ten year old who came dead last in the crosscountry a ribbon for at least being able to put her shoes on, but, ultimately it denies the simple and hard-realised fact that each of us have to, whether we want to deny it or not, live in a world that refuses to stay at 25C every day of the year or not burn our house down the day after our insurance expires.

Ecclesiastes can be either positive and life-affirming or deeply pessimistic depending on your starting point. If your world is sunshine, lollipops and unicorns, Ecclesiastes is going to be like taking cod-liver oil. On the other hand, if your life is boring, repetitive drudgery surrounded by self-deluded misery gutses who drone on and on about their under-achieving family (photos included) then Ecclesiastes will be a happy place where you'll be saying, "that's right!!" every few minutes or so.

Either way, wherever you start with this book, I am sure that you will find hope and if you ask the right questions, it will renew your faith and strength. And who doesn't need that?

### Prayer:

Dear Lord, thank You for Your written Word and the mighty truths it contains.

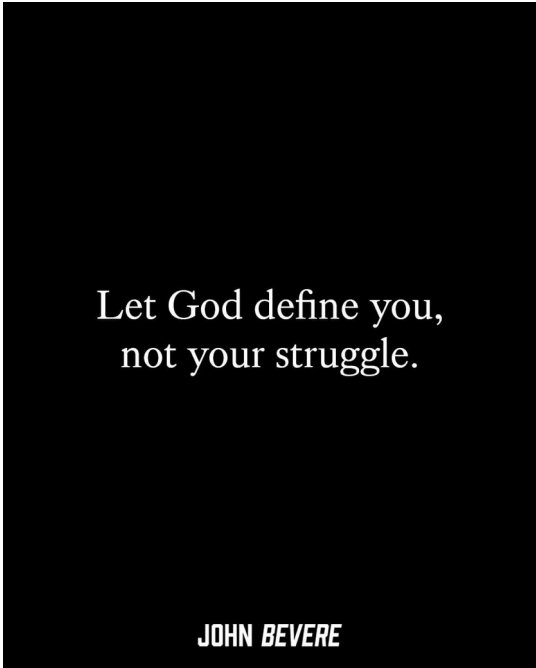
We pray that in the power of Your Holy Spirit,  
You would open our hearts and minds  
to the truths that You wish us to see.

Prepare our hearts and open our minds we pray,  
and give us a teachable spirit  
that is receptive to all that You would have us learn today.  
Open our ears to hear Your voice speaking to us  
and remove any preconceived biases  
that we may have developed in any particular passage of scripture.

Guide us into all truth  
and prevent our own internal voices from speaking out of turn  
or drowning out the still small voice to Your Holy Spirit.  
And should we stray from the truth of this passage,  
would ask that we would not retain any error  
but rather that we would remember the truth.  
May we grow in grace and in a knowledge of the Lord Jesus today.  
Feed our hearts, by faith, with thanksgiving we pray.

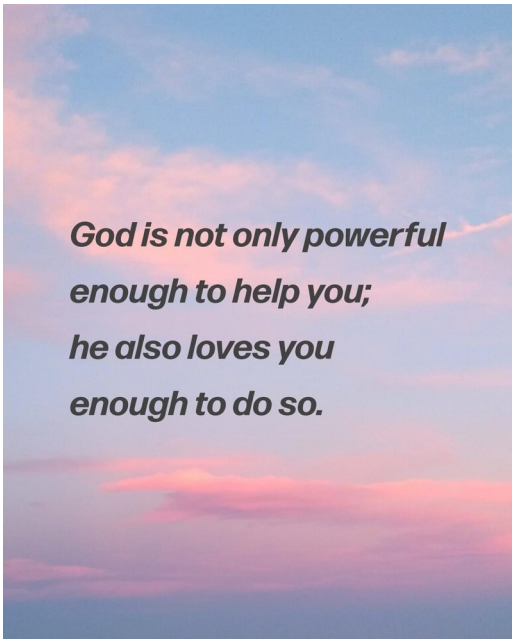
In Jesus' name, Amen.

Source: <https://prayer.knowing-jesus.com/Prayers-before-reading-the-Bible>



Let God define you,  
not your struggle.

**JOHN BEVERE**



*God is not only powerful  
enough to help you;  
he also loves you  
enough to do so.*

# Synod News & Info.



The Moderator shares a message of hope

<https://vimeo.com/680209780>

## Changes to COVID rules

The Premier has announced in parliament today (22/2/22) that changes to occupant density and mask wearing will be take place from Friday, 4 March at 6pm. The COVID Team will provide further information once the public health directions have been updated.

## Executive Officer Conclusion of Placement Service video

The service to mark the conclusion of placement of Rev Keren Seto as Executive Officer Synod Chaplaincy Commission was held on Wednesday 16 February 2022 from 5.15pm. Keren is currently serving in supply in the Ministry Agents Coordinator role in Synod. Our love and prayers are with Keren in this new season.

You are invited to watch a recording of the service, which is now available on the [Synod website](#)

## Plenty Update

### Plentiful Mentoring Leadership Program

The Office of the Synod is excited to host one of the first initiatives within the Life Together mission priority of the 'Shared life, flourishing communities' ambition. The next iteration of the Plentiful Mentoring Leadership Program will launch in June this year. This highly successful program offers 40 participants in leadership roles in any part of the synod, the opportunity to participate in cross-synod, intentional mentoring and leadership development.

Initial Information about the 12 month fully funded program is [available here](#).

Application forms will be available from 14th March.

If you have any questions please contact Rev Kath Behan, [Kathryn.behan@ucaqld.com.au](mailto:Kathryn.behan@ucaqld.com.au), 0425221217.

## Lent 2022

Join with the Discipleship working group as we commit to Lent 2022 with music, prayers, poetry and bible discussions as well as a weekly challenge to help us explore what it means to live as disciples of Jesus.

In the Shared Life, Flourishing Communities Progress Report the working group committed to invite the Church to reset our hearts on living as disciples of Jesus. Working group members have created a set of Lenten resources for use by individuals, groups and congregations.

The resources are now available and can be accessed [here](#) and via the UCAQ Discipleship Resources Facebook group which will also be a space to share your thoughts, questions and knowledge. See you there...



## News from the life of the church

### Lent 2022 - Uniting World Lent event and resources



From 2 March to 14 April, UnitingWorld will hold **Lent Event** once again.

We encourage individuals and small groups to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, practising compassion, generosity and justice. Give or take up something in solidarity with those who live with less and raise money for UnitingWorld projects, including clean water, education and disaster preparation.

Take up our seven-part Bible study for Lent and reflect on how we can be better partners in the fight to end poverty.

Uniting World also has a range of videos that show the impact of God at work in the world through Uniting Church partners.

Click on the links or visit our website for ideas resources and to get inspired!

<https://donate.unitingworld.org.au/event/lent-event>

<https://donate.unitingworld.org.au/event/lent-event/resources>

### Volunteers CARE Essential Courses

Do you want to become equipped with the skills to provide pastoral care and support people in your church and local community?

Volunteers CARE Essentials course is suited for elders, church leaders and anyone who would like to gain or refresh their pastoral care skills. It can also be the beginning of a pathway to volunteering in more specialised pastoral care settings.

Course registrations are now open for 2022. For registration and more information visit our website [here](#).

### Stand Up Speak Out

#### [Federal election resources](#)

Election day will fall on a Saturday by the end of May. With campaigning yet to start, it is important to see how our democracy is shaped by corporate interests. The following reports and guide may help you to make out the fact from the fiction.

1. [Selling Out: How powerful industries corrupt our democracy by the Human Rights Law Centre.](#)
2. [Confronting State Capture: How corporations have eroded our democracy, and what we can do about it by the Australian Democracy Network](#)
3. [Election funding and disclosure in Australian jurisdictions: a quick guide by the Parliamentary Library](#)

### Congratulations to Rev David Ellis on his induction into the Burnett Network of Churches



Congratulations to Rev David Ellis on his induction into the [Burnett Network of Churches - Uniting Church in Australia](#) (faith communities in Childers, Biggenden, Mundubbera, Murgon, Gayndah, Eidsvold, Wondai, Kingaroy, Nanango, Kumbia, Yarraman, and Blackbutt) on Saturday 12 February 2022 at Gayndah Uniting Church.

Our new Presbytery Minister, Graham Huth, challenged us all: Jesus words of mission and Paul's echo of going and announcing the Good News!