

# Link



## Carpentaria Presbytery

- of the Uniting Church in Australia -

### Pastoral Notes / Prayer Points

- ◆ Pray for Garry' upcoming knee surgery on 23 March and his recovery
- ◆ Pray for congregations and faith communities within Carpentaria as they finalise their Safe Ministry for Children Audit (extended until 29<sup>th</sup> Mar) – Ana will be following up with each congregation
- ◆ Pray for our Presbytery Meeting on 5-7 May at Mission Beach
- ◆ Pray for the Ministry Agents & Spouse Retreat on 7-10 May in Cardwell

### Carpentaria Link Weekly Reflection

#### Sign Up and Share Your Reflection

Here is your opportunity to contribute to Carpentaria Link by offering a reflection. You can choose the date from the calendar found at

[https://www.ucacarpentaria.com.au/link\\_roster/link\\_roster\\_calendar.php](https://www.ucacarpentaria.com.au/link_roster/link_roster_calendar.php)

We would love to hear how God is working in and through you all.

### Presbytery Office NEW

#### Postal Address

PO Box 6071  
Mackay MC Qld 4741

(07) 4068 8131

#### Office Hours

Mon Tues Wed & Frid  
8.30am-1.30pm

#### Executive Assistant

Ana Mila

(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 Administrator

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

# Carpentaria News...

## Prayer Requests for March

### Lifeline

- This month we give thanks for 60 years of faithful service by staff and volunteers.
- Phone counsellors - for wisdom, listening ear and self care about what they hear.
- Callers - they may know the peace of God and that others care about them and their circumstances.
- Retail outlets - pray for wisdom and patience to interact with customers in this time of growing economic hardship.

*Christine Herman, Cairns Region Community Chaplain*

## Date Claimers

### March 2023

**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup>** – Glenn Louttit Induction Service at 9am at Aitkenvale PCYC

**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup>** – SMC Audit for all Carpentaria congregations due (extended from 15<sup>th</sup> Mar)

### May 2023

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>** – Calvary Zone meeting in Cairns

**Fri-Sun 5<sup>th</sup>-7** – Presbytery meeting at Mission Beach

**Sun-Wed 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>** – Ministry Agent and spouse retreat at Cardwell

## Using Church Property for Social and Affordable Housing

Over recent months the Office of the Synod has received several inquiries about using a congregational property for social and affordable housing. This is an exciting example of our mission evolving to adjust to the world of today and tomorrow. Especially as the traditional pathways to resourcing and sustaining the Church's mission are becoming more challenging, along with these inquiries, the Synod is collaborating with the government and other church entities to establish a 'whole of church' approach.

Remember to share this information with your church council and Presbytery. If you are considering building, think about how to fund the pre-work, such as the site survey, town planning, and architecture. These services are required before moving on to a builder, project manager, operations manager, and the service and maintenance of the built property.

**Whilst our direction is being finalised, please send all inquiries on this topic to**

**[property@ucaqld.com.au](mailto:property@ucaqld.com.au)**

## 40 Days of Fitness – Daily Devotions



[www.ucacarpentaria.com.au/40daysoffitness](http://www.ucacarpentaria.com.au/40daysoffitness)

*As we prepare for our first Presbytery of 2023, are we match ready?  
Not just for the meeting, but for the work we are called into the future?*

*At this Presbytery meeting we will be exploring, not only what we are currently doing, but discerning together what ways we can be strengthened for the challenges ahead.*

*As part of this, Garry has written a series of daily devotions that you can subscribe to and/or distribute in your congregation or fellowship so that together we can be prepared for God's mission for Carpentaria.*

*Let's get fit!!*

## Carpentaria Presbytery Meeting - 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Our next Presbytery meeting to be held **5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023**, is fast approaching. It will be great to be together again! A reminder that this meeting is for both Ministry Agents and lay reps from each congregation along with Ministry Agents who are in placements in other roles e.g.: chaplaincy (**2 per congregation, including Ministry Agent**). It would be wonderful to have more lay people join our meetings.

The Presbytery meeting will be held at the Mission Beach Resort and **will begin at 2.30pm on Friday afternoon** for all Ministry Agents who are required to attend the compulsory Safe Ministry with Children training. For all other delegates, please arrive by no later than **5:00pm** as a BBQ buffet dinner will be served at **5:30pm Friday night** for all Presbytery attendees, with our opening worship and first session to follow at 7:00pm.

**Register here:** <https://www.ucacarpentaria.com.au/events/event1515.php>

More information will be sent out before the Presbytery meeting, so keep a look out for it but remember to register.

As in recent times each congregation & agency will be invoiced \$120 for Travel equalisation per entity. If you have any queries, please contact Ana at the Presbytery Office.

*Blessings  
Robyn & Ana*

## ***From The Word for Today...***

### **How God leads us**

**'Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.' Psalm 119:105 NASB**

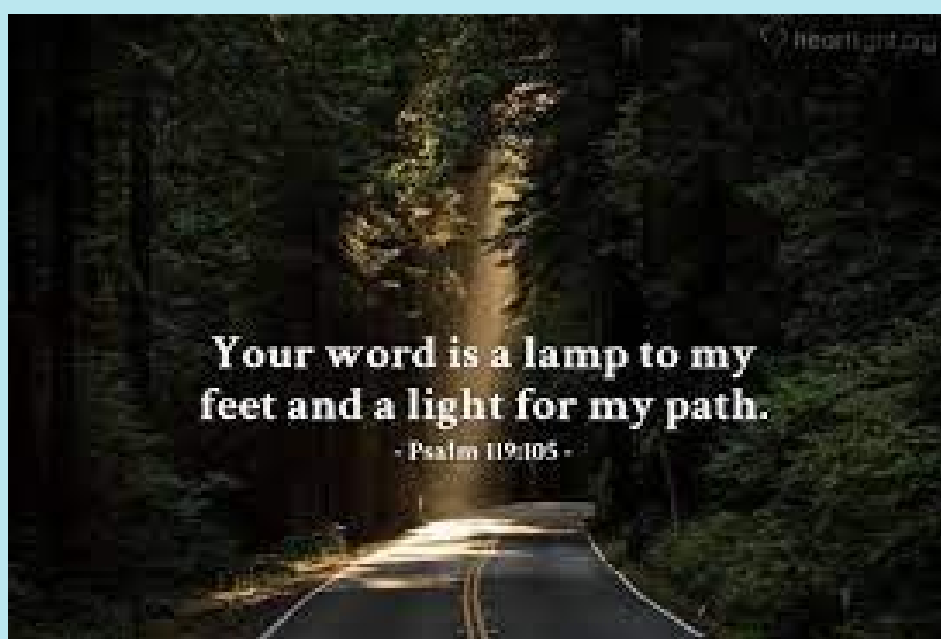
The words '*Your word is a lamp to my feet*' mean you're supposed to walk according to God's will and not your own thoughts, wishes, or impulses. The words '*and a light to my path*' mean you can't go in any direction you choose; you must follow the path that God has planned for you.

You will never go wrong consulting the Scriptures for direction, but make sure you keep the Scriptures in context. Don't use the *open-window method*, allowing the wind to blow across the pages of your Bible, then shutting your eyes, pointing to a verse and saying, 'This is God's leading.'

If you do that, you could end up with the verse, 'Judas went away and hanged himself,' as the verse for your day! Would you want to go to a doctor with an illness and hear him say, without ever examining you, 'It's your gallbladder.' 'How do you know?' you ask. 'Well, I sat by the window a few moments ago and trusted God to blow the pages of my anatomy book to your problem, and the topic on the page was gallbladder.' You would run out of there pretty fast, wouldn't you?

Some people practise this kind of theological superstition, then get into trouble and say, 'Well, God led me,' when God had nothing to do with their choices. Whenever you read the scriptural phrase, 'This is the will of God,' you can be sure that it's His will. If you disobey Him, you will suffer, and if you obey Him, you will be blessed.

*(Reflection from vision.org.au website – The Word for Today reading, 15 March 2023) The Word for Today is authored by Bob and Debby Gass*



# Synod News & Info.

## Resources / Training / Workshops / Camps / Celebrations / Appeals

### Possible electricity savings

The Synod Office is exploring options for saving money on your electricity expenditure. To register your interest in this initiative, please email [bdu@ucaqld.com.au](mailto:bdu@ucaqld.com.au) with the following;

- Contact details
- Congregation or UEL location
- Four most recent electricity bills

Please contact [bdu@ucaqld.com.au](mailto:bdu@ucaqld.com.au) if you have any questions.

### Easter Madness 2023

Easter Madness, the annual four-day High School camp, is happening 1 - 4 April at QCCC, Mt Tamborine. Easter Madness is for young people to evolve and dive deeper into their faith and discipleship, build community and develop leadership, communication, team and social skills. Partner with Easter Madness and give the gift of discipleship to a young person or a leader today.

Head to [www.eastermadness.com.au](http://www.eastermadness.com.au) to donate today.

### Vanuatu March 2023 cyclones and earthquake Emergency Appeal

Multiple disasters in quick succession have struck the Pacific nation of Vanuatu. Over half the population has been affected, and the Government of Vanuatu declared an emergency. You can help get critical aid to people in affected communities.

[Click here](#) to Donate.



## Uniting Church member Royston Sagigi-Baira - Through to the Top 8 on Australian Idol



*Singing in the spotlight to a TV audience of thousands on Australian Idol is a long way from Old Mapoon, the tiny Aboriginal community at the tip of the country where Royston Sagigi-Baira grew up. [Click here](#) to read about his journey from Old Mapoon, the tiny Aboriginal community at the tip of the country, to nationwide stardom!*

**Royston will sing this Sunday again on *Australian Idol* on Channel 7 to garner support to stay in the contest. If you watch the show, you can support Royston by voting for him.**

### **Assembly Info**

#### **Act2 Congregation Resources**

##### **Church Council Conversations**

We are also asking your Church Council or local leaders to have a conversation about the Act2 Project and the role it can play in helping local communities of faith flourish into the future.

Below you can download a Church Council Pack with six questions for you to discuss and share back. We invite your Church Council to discuss the questions and share your feedback in one of the following ways:

- Using the online form [on the webpage](#)
- Email the provided [Response Form](#) to the team [uca.act2@nat.uca.org.au](mailto:uca.act2@nat.uca.org.au)
- Mail the provided [Response Form](#) to: Act2 Project Unit, c/o Uniting Church Assembly, PO Box A2266, Sydney South, NSW 1235

***Responses to the Church Council questions are due 30 April 2023.***

***If you have any questions, please ring out Act2 Hotline on (02) 8026 9728.***