

# Link



## Pastoral Notes / Prayer Points

- ◆ Robyn will be on leave from 1-18 June
- ◆ Christy in Brisbane at Moderator's Convocation from 14-15 June
- ◆ Roberta Stanley's induction service as Regional Council Chairperson will be on 27 June
- ◆ All congregations and faith communities within Carpentaria Presbytery including Prison Ministry and Presbytery of Georges Rivers in NSW.

## Presbytery Office NEW

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### Presbytery Administrator

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#### Townsville:

Rev Barry Cox  
0408 415 816

## 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.

# Carpentaria News...

## Pics from Bowen UC

Bowen Uniting Church welcomes back Pacific Island Workers. We have workers from Tonga and Vanuatu also, worshipping together this year. While their first languages are different, English is common to both. We are working on ways of sharing together in worship.



*Ian Ness, Pastor at Bowen UC*

## UnitingCare Prayer Points for June

### Prison Ministry

- Pray for all our prison chaplains who volunteer their time to share God's unconditional love with inmates throughout Qld (especially in Lotus Glen and Townsville).
- Pray the Holy Spirit will touch the hearts and minds of inmates and correctional officers.
- Pray for those with loved ones in prison.
- Pray for truth and justice to prevail in the courts.
- Pray inmates who are journeying with Christ will find love and acceptance within a Christian community once they are released.
- Pray for more people willing to become prison chaplains (especially in Lotus Glen, Rockhampton and Southern Qld Correctional Centres). Also, for more First Peoples chaplains throughout Qld.

*Wendy McHugh, Prison Chaplain*

## National Prayer Chain – Prayer Points

Arising from the Act2 Project, the whole church has been called to begin Uniting in Prayer across the national Uniting Churches. The two councils that Assembly has joined to pray for each other are: Presbytery of Carpentaria and Presbytery of Georges River.

The Presbytery of Georges River will pray for Carpentaria Presbytery and all the ministries within our Presbytery. They have sent through some prayer points for their Presbytery:

- ◆ Relationships across the NSW+ACT Synod are tense at the moment, while the Secretariat tries to lead the Church here into significant change. Please pray for reconciliation and unity across our Presbytery - and our whole NSW+ACT Synod - especially places where unresolved or unattended-to conflicts have led to broken relationship and mistrust.
- ◆ Please pray for our Presbytery staff team: Rev Kent Crawford, Rev Charissa Suli, Ian Goff, Jono Hirt, Poppy Roumeliotis, Lune Lim, Gabi Cadenhead and Nadine Rozario.

## Reminder - Xero and Financial Matters

The latest Weekly Wrap has information regarding the monthly subscription for the use of the Xero bookkeeping system and the bookkeeping services of the Synod Office. These charges will apply from 1st July 2023. If you have not received the Weekly Wrap, please let the Presbytery office know, so the information can be forwarded to you. There are some other financial updates / information that may affect congregations. Robyn will email secretaries and treasurers with this information before the current financial year finishes.

## Turning Queensland Blue for BlueCare 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### Exciting news from UnitingCare for your presbyteries!

Sheri has organised various landmarks to go "blue" for BlueCare 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Please share this information in your area and encourage members to take photos and share to social media so facebook can go blue for BlueCare (this is after St Origin so it is okay for Qld to go blue then )

Thanks Sheri for initiating this.

Linda Hanson



**70 YEARS**  
1953-2023

**BlueCare**  
At the heart of Queensland for 70 years.

**LIGHTING UP LANDMARKS BLUE**

<p><b>BRISBANE</b> 10<sup>th</sup> August 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Story Bridge,</li> <li>• Victoria Bridge,</li> <li>• Reddacliff Place sculptures Donna Marcus: Steam 2006</li> <li>• Wickham Terrace Car Park architectural wall</li> <li>• Breakfast Creek Bridge, Newstead.</li> </ul>	<p><b>TOWNSVILLE</b> 24<sup>th</sup> August 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wharton Reef Lighthouse</li> <li>• Victoria Bridge</li> <li>• George Roberts Bridge</li> <li>• Old Magistrates Court House</li> <li>• Flinders Square</li> <li>• Little Fletcher Bridge</li> <li>• Central Park Boardwalk.</li> </ul> <p>"Townsville sign" is currently offline.</p>
<p><b>ROCKHAMPTON</b> 24<sup>th</sup> August 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heritage buildings riverside</li> </ul> <p><b>FRASER COST</b> 24<sup>th</sup> August 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maryborough City Hall</li> <li>• Avenue of fig trees adjacent Seafront Oval in Hervey Bay</li> <li>• Fig trees at various locations on the Hervey Bay Esplanade.</li> </ul>	<p><b>DALBY and CHINCHILLA</b> 24<sup>th</sup> August 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dalby Corporate Building which adjoins the main highway</li> <li>• sides of Charles Drew Bridge</li> <li>• along the Warrego Highway between the Big Melon and Chinchilla Visitor Information Centre</li> </ul>

# From The Word for Today...

## You are Christ's Ambassador

**'Our citizenship is in heaven.'** Philippians 3:20 NIV

Let's recap. As an ambassador, you must have the following qualifications and characteristics:

- 1) *Be a citizen of the country you represent. '... our citizenship is in heaven.'* (Philippians 3:20 NKJV)
- 2) *Your character and conduct must reflect the highest values of your country. '... that our God may make you worthy of his calling ...'* (2 Thessalonians 1:11 NIV).
- 3) *You must be equipped for the job. 'There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit ...'* (1 Corinthians 12:4 NIV).
- 4) *You must be loyal to your country.* Now, let's look at two more qualifications:
- 5) *An ambassador must be an effective communicator.* The best ambassadors are bilingual; they speak and understand the language of those around them. Can you do that? In order to have the right answer, you must understand the question, the questioner, and where they're coming from. The Bible says, *'... if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way'* (1 Peter 3:15-16 NLT). Note the words *'always be ready.'*
- 6) *An ambassador must be a good diplomat.* Ambassadors are most effective when they're winsome as they go about their work. You wouldn't want someone representing your country who was arrogant and abrasive in dealing with others. Jesus said, *'By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another'* (John 13:35 NKJV).

Our message is the gospel, and our strategy is love! What's our message? *'We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God'* (2 Corinthians 5:20 NIV).

*(Reflection from vision.org.au website – The Word for Today reading, 14 June 2023) The Word for Today is authored by Bob and Debby Gass*



# Synod News...

## Empowering Lay Preachers - National Conference of Lay Preachers 2023

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the conference will now be in Brisbane at the Queensland Synod office, concluding on Sunday instead of Monday afternoon. We apologise for any inconvenience and hope you can still join us for an excellent alternative experience.

- To register for the conference, RSVP by July 21 at <https://www.trybooking.com/CENVA>. For more information, [visit our website](#).

The conference starts at 3:40 PM on Friday, August 4, and ends at 4:00 PM on Sunday, August 6. Ample time is given for attendees to arrange return travel, especially for those with interstate flights. The program is redesigned to offer an enjoyable experience with diverse engaging content. Excitingly, a conference dinner is included, featuring exquisite cuisine and stunning views of the Brisbane River. The Queensland Synod office, located at 60 Bayliss Street, Auchenflower, will be the new venue, conveniently situated around 400 meters from Auchenflower Train Station. Accommodation options are available nearby. The venue is approximately a 20-minute drive from the airport or 1 hour by train.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch with the event organiser [using the link on this page](#).

## Season of Creation 2023 – Let Justice and Peace Flow

Once again Queensland Churches Environment Network (QCEN) invite people to share creative works celebrating Creation. Creative works could include, photos, videos, poems, prayers, short stories, drawings, paintings, art, music, - anything creative. All photographs and creative works will be displayed on the QCEN Facebook page. A selection will be exhibited at St John's Cathedral, Brisbane throughout September.

### Submission of Artworks:

Upload your creations at [www.fb.com/QCEnvNet](http://www.fb.com/QCEnvNet) or email to [admin@qct.org.au](mailto:admin@qct.org.au)

Artworks can be posted or delivered to Queensland Churches Together. Please email [admin@qct.org.au](mailto:admin@qct.org.au) or call 07 3369 6792 to arrange delivery. Photos and artworks should be submitted by **6th August 2023**. Contact Craig Batty if you have any questions: 0414 744 558

To share information about Season of Creation with parishioners and contacts, please download and print a flyer <https://qct.org.au/images/qcen/SoC-display-flyer-2023.pdf>. A jpg version of the flyer be used on facebook pages <https://qct.org.au/images/qcen/SoC-display-flyer-2023.jpg> If you have problems downloading the flyers, email me at [admin@qct.org.au](mailto:admin@qct.org.au) and I will forward the original files.

## It's never to late to help Lifeline

Lifeline's Giving Day was last week, but you can still contribute! Each life lost impacts up to 1215 people - family, colleagues, and friends. Lifeline works. But we need your help to continue to save lives. Every life lost is a tragedy. Donate today & help save lives.

- [lifelinegivingday.com.au](http://lifelinegivingday.com.au)

Call [1800 961 881](tel:1800961881) for more information.

## Governance Research Brief Report – Seeking Your Input

A new governance research brief on Queensland Synod's church invites discussion on accountability & governing activities - no proposed changes to the church structure, but an emphasis on strengthening governing bodies. Feedback is welcomed to shape the future - no changes to Act, Constitution, or Regulations.

- [General Secretary's Cover Letter.](#)
- [Governance Research Brief Report](#)

**We greatly appreciate your input. If you have any initial thoughts, please email [generalsecretary@ucaqld.com.au](mailto:generalsecretary@ucaqld.com.au) before July 14, 2023.** Your feedback will be included in a report to the Synod Standing Committee, which will help determine how to present the paper to the Synod in October 2023.

## Assembly News...

### Uniting Church: Together, Yes for First Nations!

The upcoming referendum offers a significant chance for Australians to recognise and honour the First Nations people and advance as a unified nation. Members of the Uniting Church can actively participate in the Together, Yes campaign by becoming a 'conversation host.' By gathering a group of up to 10 people, hosting two impactful discussions, and engaging in shared learning, you can make a meaningful contribution. The campaign will provide high-quality materials to facilitate these conversations, promoting empathy and connection. On June 1st, an online information session will be held to provide details about Together, Yes, the role of hosts, and how to get involved.

- [For more information and to sign up, please visit the Together, Yes website](#)

Uniting Church President Rev Sharon Hollis encourages members to consider hosting these conversations, underscoring the church's dedication to justice for First Nations people.

**Additional details can be found on the [Assembly website](#).**

### #UnitinginPrayer

Join the Assembly's Uniting in Prayer initiative, a 26-day prayer event across the Uniting Church from May 28 to June 22. Reflect on our future, support each other, and engage through local worship or the national prayer chain. Share using #UnitinginPrayer. Experience spiritual renewal and connect with the Christ community.

- [Sign up here.](#)

**Additional information is available [here](#).**

### PreachFest 2023 - Tickets now on sale!

PreachFest is a 3day festival from 1-3 November, created to inspire and enliven the craft, art and vocation of preaching across churches in Australia. [Click here for more information about Preachfest!](#)