

# Link



## Pastoral Notes / Prayer Points

- ◆ Prayers for all the ministries, outreach and mission being undertaken within our congregations & faith communities
- ◆ Prayers for all our ministry agents, members & those in leadership roles in our congregations and faith communities
- ◆ Prayers for our Presbytery Ministers as they lead the Presbytery in its mission & vision as well as provide support and pastoral care to the ministry agents within Carpentaria
- ◆ Prayers for the Presbytery admin team as they provide support & resources to the wider church

## 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...

## Date Claimers / Reminders

### 37<sup>th</sup> Synod

- The 37<sup>th</sup> Synod will be held on **20-24 October 2023** at Alexandra Headlands and each delegate must be fully registered by 25 August

### Grants and grant writing webinar

- Next webinar to be held July 12th. To register for this webinar, which will occur at 10:00am on the 12th, click on the following link:

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/2404fb95-1506-43b2-9aca-fae8ea0ae205@6f22e5a7-e1b9-4ede-a7c5-31fca0deaa40>

### Blue Care 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

- Congregations are encouraged to promote this event and look at how they join in the celebrations. For more information about local champions, please get in touch with Sheri Holland at [Sheri.Holland@ucareqld.com.au](mailto:Sheri.Holland@ucareqld.com.au)

### Northern Zone Meeting

- The next Northern Zone meeting will be held on 26 August

### Calvary Zone Meeting

- The next Calvary Zone meeting will be held on 2 November in Cairns

### November Presbytery Meeting – Change of Venue

- The next Presbytery meeting will be held on **3-5 November 2023** in Townsville at Mount Louisa Community Church. Accommodation options will be advised closer to the meeting

## Reminder: Easter Madness Camp – Invite to Steering Committee

A letter of invitation was distributed to all Ministry Agents on 14 June, from the Presbytery of Moreton Rivers, inviting one ministry agent from our Presbytery to be a part of the steering committee for the Easter Madness camp held each year in Brisbane.

If you are interested please let Ana know and please note in your consideration that you must also be available to attend the camp.

## Grants / Fundraising / Bequests

**Vanessa Griffiths** from the Synod office is very keen to connect with church councils to see how she may be of assistance. Vanessa is happy to link in to any church council meeting via zoom or other electronic means and share her information about bequests, fundraising and grant applications.

She has lots of information and tools about grants and can point you in the right direction for a grant that may be available in your area or that suits your needs. Vanessa can be contacted via email:

[Vanessa.Griffiths@ucaqld.com.au](mailto:Vanessa.Griffiths@ucaqld.com.au) or by phoning 0438277011. ***If you would like us to pass on your church council details to Vanessa, please let us know.***

Some key things to note:

- The next **Grant webinar** is being held on 12th July at 10:00am. To register for the event please click on the following link: <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/2404fb95-1506-43b2-9aca->

[fae8ea0ae205@6f22e5a7-e1b9-4ede-a7c5-31fca0deaa40](mailto:fae8ea0ae205@6f22e5a7-e1b9-4ede-a7c5-31fca0deaa40) (if you have problems registering, please contact Vanessa.

- Vanessa will send out regular prompts and updates if you ask her to include you in her mailing list. She sent out a document in April called '**Damn Good Advice for treasurers**'.
- A number of congregations have received **bequests**. Vanessa can provide your congregation with an information brochure on how to leave a bequest that does not get caught up in loopholes. Maybe you have congregation members who want to leave a gift in their will?
- **Fundraising** - Vanessa can also provide some resources and tools to help in this area.

Robyn Cooley, Carpentaria Administrator / Treasurer

## Presbytery Office Bearer Changes and Presbytery Office Contact

- **New Presbytery Secretary** - At the May 2023 Presbytery Meeting, **Akosita (Sita) Otumuli** from the Mount Isa congregation was elected as the new Presbytery Secretary. Sita will mainly be responsible for minutes at the Presbytery meetings and the monthly Presbytery leadership team meetings (PLT).

Normal correspondence for the Presbytery can still be sent to either Ana (Executive Assistant) or Robyn (Admin Officer / Treasurer).

- **Contacting Presbytery Office** - Please be advised that the first port of call when contacting the Presbytery office is **Ana Mila (07) 4068 8131** or [office@ucacarpentaria.com.au](mailto:office@ucacarpentaria.com.au). If Ana does not answer your call straight away, please make sure you leave your name, phone number and message, so that Ana can call you back.
  - Nominally her hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday (8:30am - 1:30pm). Thursdays are Ana's day off.
  - If matters are finance and property related, please contact **Robyn on [admin@ucacarpentaria.com.au](mailto:admin@ucacarpentaria.com.au)** - Hours of work nominally Mon to Friday (9:00am - 5:00pm).
  - If you have items for 'Links', please contact Ana by Tuesday afternoons.

## Ministry Agent Holidays

- A reminder to record your Ministry Agent approved holidays in your church council minutes - this is the only place a minister's annual leave is captured.
- A Ministry agent is entitled for 4 weeks leave each year, including 4 Sundays. This does not include being absent for church meetings, pulpit swaps or continuing education.
- **Please advise the Presbytery office of your Ministry Agent's holiday dates** - so we do not contact them on holidays unless it is an emergency. If your ministry agent is currently on holidays, just come back from holidays or about to go on holidays, please forward those dates to us.

Robyn Cooley, Carpentaria Administrator / Treasurer

## What Are Your Social Justice Advocacy Priorities?

Let us know what issues you think the Synod should speak out about or take action on. You can make your voice heard in less time than it takes to make a cup of tea. **If you have any questions or comments, email [communications@ucaqld.com.au](mailto:communications@ucaqld.com.au).**

- [Click here to take the survey](#)

## UnitingCare Prayer Points for July

### → Financial Support and Gambling Support Services

*These two separate, small services provide invaluable help and support for those facing financial difficulty or who recognize a gambling problem.*

### → Pray for the staff-

*That they have patience and wisdom in how to walk alongside those they look after.  
That where necessary practical ways can be found to support their clients to help themselves.*

### → Pray for clients-

*That the often complex personal situations can be addressed by referral to other available programmes. Pray that funding and places would be available without long waitlists.  
That they can continue with the programmes despite setbacks in their progress to address the identified issues.*

### → Pray for clients' families and friends-

*For those impacted by others' situations may find forgiveness and be able to help in the process of healing and overcoming situations caused by the clients.*

Christine Herman, Cairns Region Community Chaplain

## Free Bystander Action Training

Training will be held at UnitingCare Community Townsville on Wednesday, 6 September 2023 from 8.30am – 12.30pm. Bystander Action Training is about building communities that do not allow violence against women to continue. Each of us has a part to play in preventing domestic violence and family violence.

The Bystander Approach offers a framework in which everyone has a positive role to play in violence prevention and intervention. [Click Here or below to register](#)

If you are interested or have any questions please contact Sam McDonnell on 0488 488 833 or email: [sam.mcdonell@ucareqld.com.au](mailto:sam.mcdonell@ucareqld.com.au)

## Interim Change to Presbytery Minister at Moreton Rivers Presbytery

On the 31<sup>st</sup> July Rev Mark Cornford will conclude his placement as Presbytery Minister. A Closure of Service for Mark at the next Presbytery Meeting on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August to thank him for his ministry.

Rev Nigel Rogers will be offering Interim Ministry in the role of Presbytery Minister from 1<sup>st</sup> July - 31<sup>st</sup> December. This will provide an opportunity for the transition of ministry in the month of July. We are grateful to Nigel for providing ministry for these six months.

Nigel's contact details during July will be [nigelrogers321@outlook.com](mailto:nigelrogers321@outlook.com) and his phone number: 0411 133 389 until he begins using the Presbytery Minister email: [presmin@mrpres.org.au](mailto:presmin@mrpres.org.au) and phone 0491 642 135. Mark and Nigel will be managing this transition during July, sharing information and tasks.

Moreton Rivers Presbytery

# From The Word for Today...

## Dealing with Loneliness

**'I lie awake, And am like a sparrow alone on the housetop.'** Psalm 102:7 NKJV

Wolfgang Dircks, a divorced, disabled loner, was found deceased in his apartment in Bonn, Germany, in December 1998 – five years after he died. He was forty-three and died watching television. Neighbours didn't notice his absence.

His landlord came by after the bank account from which his rent was paid dried up. A TV schedule was still sitting on the lap of Dircks's skeleton and was open to the page of 5 December 1993 – the apparent date of his death. The television had long since stopped in the on position, but the lights on his 1993 Christmas tree were still glowing.

When God created us, He said, *'It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him'* (Genesis 2:18 NKJV). You weren't created to be alone. You don't have to accept loneliness as your destiny.

Instead: 1) *Find a need and meet it.*

Often loneliness is not the absence of people, but purpose. Show a true interest in the difficulties of others. Resist making your own issues and worries the aim of every conversation. *'Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others'* (Philippians 2:3-4 NIV).

2) *Be generous to others with your time, talents, and treasure.*

Not everyone will accept what you offer, but someone will. Pray for guidance and keep reaching out. God says, *'To me, you are very dear, and I love you...'* (Isaiah 43:4 CEV).

*(Reflection from vision.org.au website – The Word for Today reading, 12 July 2023) The Word for Today is authored by Bob and Debby Gass*





# Synod News...

## Intercultural Neighbouring Sunday: Promoting Multicultural Engagement in Congregations

*A discussion with Rev Louisa Yu, Chairperson of Multi-Cross Cultural Reference Group and member of Assembly 'Being a Multicultural Church Panel'*

During a recent dialogue with Reverend Louisa Yu, the Queensland Synod Multi-Cross Cultural Reference Group Chairperson and a member of Assembly's 'Being a Multicultural Church Panel', she expressed her excitement regarding Intercultural Neighbouring Sunday. The purpose of the conversation was to highlight the importance of this occasion and inspire other congregations to take part.

Intercultural Neighbouring Sunday, scheduled for July 16 this year (and the third Sunday of July each year), is a Sunday which the 16<sup>th</sup> National Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia resolved to set aside and dedicate to promote intercultural engagement within congregations and faith communities. It serves as a reminder for all to celebrate and appreciate the diversity within their congregations and communities.

- **[Read the story, by Andrew McKaysmith, Synod Writer and Content Creator, at Journey Online](#)**

**[Click here](#) to access the Assembly's range of Intercultural Neighbouring Sunday resources.**

## 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](#).**

## President's Conference 2023

Join us at the 2023 President's Conference, from 26-30 July, hosted at Redcliffe Uniting Church. Connect with Uniting Church members, get inspired by powerful speakers, and reflect on God's work in our Church and ministry. Don't miss out on this transformative event! **For all information about the conference, [click here](#).**

- [Register for the conference here](#)