



Crookwell Uniting Church

“To Know Christ and Make Christ Known”



Crookwell – Wheeo – Jerrara – Bigga – Kialla

December 2018

Minister’s Reflections

“These days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah”
(Jeremiah 33:14)

It has always struck me as deeply profound that the church year begins with a time of waiting. Advent has always been one of my favourite seasons of the church calendar, perhaps for that very reason.

Traditionally, the time of Advent (which comes from the Latin word for ‘coming’) marks a waiting for three things. 1) The waiting of Israel for deliverance from their exile in Babylon; 2) the waiting of the people of God for the birth of the Messiah (anointed one), which was celebrated at Christmas; and 3) the waiting for the final triumph of the Kingdom of God.

In other words, Advent is not Christmas – even though around us shops have had Christmas decorations up since October. And whilst this month we will also celebrate Christmas, it is worth pausing in the feeling of waiting.

I wonder how you feel when you have had to wait for something or someone to come that you wanted very much. Was there a sense of anxiety? Or hope? Of frustration and annoyance?

All of these are appropriate for a time like Advent.

In the reading from Jeremiah I quoted above, the prophet is writing to the people of Israel in their exile in Babylon. The people had lost everything: their home, their place of worship, and even their sense of God’s closeness.

Contact Us

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But Jeremiah speaks into the people's frustration with a word of hope: "The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made."

Jeremiah knew that the exile would be long and frustrating. But he knew the power of the promise of God – and he invited the people to live in the light of that promise.

He told the Jews to intermarry with the people of this other land, and to make there a home for themselves – whilst also remaining faithful to the God that would lead them back to Israel.

As we look around the world, and see how it has changed, we are invited to do similar I suspect.

The church is no longer the centre of the world: our culture looks different than it once did. But God remains faithful to us and calls us to be lights to the nations sharing his hope for the world: sharing the promise of the one who is to come.

So, this Advent let us live into the Mission we believe God has called us to be part of: to be a caring Christian community witnessing to God's love for the world from the main street to the paddock.

Daniel

Carer Support Group

Carers ACT invites you to join carers for a regular social group at Crookwell Services Club at 160 Goulburn Street. This is a chance for carers to meet new friends, enjoy refreshments, socialize and relax.

The group is supported by Carers ACT, who can provide respite if needed.

The Carers Support Group will meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 11am. The next meeting will be on December 19th.

For more information, please contact Kat on 0423 218 530. If you need respite to attend, please call 1800 052 222

Everything in Common

Are you looking for an unusual gift this Christmas? One that can truly help people in need? The "Everything in Common" Ethical Gift Catalogue is out now. You can help children go to school, families have clean water, or communities become self-sufficient with the purchase of chickens or goats.

For more information, please call 1800 998 122, or go to www.everythingincommon.com.au or email info@unitingworld.org.au You can also see Matthew on Mondays and Tuesdays between 9am and 1pm to view the catalogue.

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Worship & Readings

Sunday 2 December

9:00 Wesley

2:30 Wheeo

Readings: Jeremiah 33:14-16, Psalm 25:1-10, 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

Sunday 9 December

9:00 Wesley (Holy Communion)

2:30 Jerrara

Readings: Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

Sunday 16 December

9:00 Wesley

Readings: Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

Sunday 23 December

9:00 Wesley

2:30 Bigga

Readings: Micah 5:2-5a; Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

Sunday 30 December

9:00 Wesley

Readings: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

Pastoral Partners

This year, Pastoral Partners will gather for mutual support and training on the following dates:

Friday 14 December, 3pm

If you are not already a Pastoral Partner but feel like God might be calling you to this ministry (even if you don't feel 'skilled' enough), could you please come and speak to Daniel.

Save the Date: 22 December

On Saturday, December 22, two special events will take place at Crookwell Wesley. That day will see the Ordination of Daniel Mossfield, as well as the Closure of Ministry of the Rev. Aimee Kent.

While we are sad to farewell Aimee, the day is a cause for celebration as we pay tribute to her successes, and support Daniel as he continues to guide us into an exciting new phase. -

Viewhaven Service

On the second Tuesday of each month at 10.30am, members of our church lead a worship service at Viewhaven. We could always do with volunteers at this service to help residents find their pages in their hymn books and other non-speaking roles.

If you are available to help, the next Viewhaven service will be **Tuesday 12 December, 10:30am**

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Christmas Services and Events

Saturday 15 December

Nativity Trail
From 4:30 Begins at St Mary's

Sunday 16 December

Blue Christmas
2:30 Wesley

Monday 24 December

Christmas Eve Service
"Carols Under the Fairylights"
7:00 Jerrara

Tuesday 25 December

Christmas Day Service
9:00 Wesley

Target & Uniting Care Christmas Appeal

The Target and Uniting Care Christmas Appeal has been a gift giving campaign for the past 27 years, and provides support to disadvantaged people of all ages.

You can make a donation at any Target store, or online at unitingcarechristmasappeal.com.au
Our nearest Target store is in Goulburn.

Help in Retirement

Information on retirement is now available in the foyer of Crookwell Wesley. It includes advice on applying for the aged pension, concession cards, senior health care cards, and rent assistance, including residents of granny flats and retirement villages.

The information has been provided by Centrelink and the Department of Human Services. Instead of making the trip to Goulburn, why not make Wesley your first stop? Matthew is here Monday and Tuesday mornings, and is happy to assist.

Christmas Gifts Available Now

The Christian Bookshop in Goulburn Street, Crookwell has a wide range of items suitable for Christmas gifts. They stock books from local and national authors, children's books, Christmas cards, stationery, and religious ornaments.

Fair Trade goods are also available at the bookshop, or at Crookwell Wesley on Monday and Tuesday mornings. Check out the variety of items including bags, jewellery, toys, gift cards, and much more.

Christmas is upon us, so for any last minute gifts, see Heather and her team at the bookshop, or Matthew at Wesley.

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