



# Crookwell Uniting Church

“To Know Christ and Make Christ Known”



Crookwell – Wheeo – Jerrara – Bigga

September 2019

## For Whom Does Your Heart Burn?

At the heart of our faith is a story of a God who loves the *kosmos* (the universe or the world) so much that that God becomes part of the *kosmos* itself, taking on flesh, and suffering as we suffer in order to bring hope, healing and new life to all (see John 1.1-18; 3.16-17).

In the church we can get distracted from this story easily. We get so caught up in worrying about theological tribes, money, power, rosters and numbers, that we forget the story that formed us as a community in the first place.

And when this happens, church can quickly become something we do, or somewhere we go, rather than who we are.

Or, other times we don't feel like we have the words to express the story of our faith. We know it...sort of...deep down. We have a sense that God is loving, and we try to be nice and give our time and money generously.

But when asked to share our faith, or to share our experiences of God's love, we can quickly be overwhelmed by self-doubt:

Have I truly experienced God's love?

Do I really believe all this?

Isn't religion private, like politics, and not something to be discussed at the dinner table?

Isn't this the Minister's job? Don't they have all the training? What if I don't have the right words?

In other words, we forget that the God who loves the *kosmos* also loves and journeys with us.

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## Contact Us

### Minister of the Word

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### Congregation

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Yet as a congregation we have named our belief that we are called to:

WITNESS TO GOD'S LOVE FOR THE WORLD  
FROM THE MAIN STREET TO THE PADDOCK.

So, how do we live in this tension, of believing we are called to witness the story of God's love, whilst finding that life and self-doubt cause us to forget who we are and why we exist?

I don't know that I have a simple answer, but what if we change the question?

What if instead we asked, 'for whom do our hearts burn?' Who are we passionate about, as individuals and as a congregation? What are we concerned for in our local community?



Who do we know that needs to feel God's love right now?

And then, how might we love our neighbours and show them that they are truly loved (whether they are our grandchildren, or the businesses on the main street, or farmers in the drought, or those suffering domestic violence, or someone else altogether?)

How do we suffer with them as they suffer, or celebrate with them as they are celebrating?

How do we come to embody a story that says people are valued not because of what they achieve, or who they are related to, but because they *exist*?

I am hopeful that some of these questions might help inform us as we gather for a workshop this month on **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September** after morning worship, to think about what our witness as a community might look like in the coming years.

Because at the heart of our faith is the story of a God who loves the *kosmos* so much that God became a part of the *kosmos* itself. May you know this story each and every day.

- Daniel



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## Pastoral Partners

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

October 18<sup>th</sup>  
December 13<sup>th</sup>

Meetings will be at 2pm until further notice. We are on the lookout for more people to join the Pastoral Partners team. Let Daniel know if you are interested.

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## 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 10 September, 10:30am**



## Worship & Readings

### Sunday 1 September

9:00 Wesley (Holy Communion)  
2:30 Wheeo

*Readings:* Jeremiah 2:4-13; Psalm 81:1, 10-16; Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14

### Sunday 8 September

9:00 Wesley

*Readings:* Jeremiah 18:1-11; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; Philemon 1:1-21; Luke 14:25-33

### Sunday 15 September

9:00 Wesley  
2:30 Jerrara

*Readings:* Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28; Psalm 14; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

### Sunday 22 September

9:00 Wesley

*Readings:* Jeremiah 8:18-9:1; Psalm 79:1-9; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13

### Sunday 29 September

9:00 Wesley – Joint service with St Bartholomew's

*Readings:* Jeremiah 32:1-3, 6-15; Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16; 1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31

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## Welcome Kath Merrifield

Crookwell Uniting Church welcomes the Rev. Kath Merrifield to our congregation. Kath, who began as a Minister in the Brighton-Kogarah Uniting Church in 2003, will be a Supply Minister to our region over the coming months.

As well as her experience as a Minister, Kath brings the know-how of almost seven years as an Executive Director at Uniting Mission and Education. In the last twelve months, Kath has led the Pathways Project in the Kiama-Jamberoo region, seeking to explore how the mission of God is lived out in congregations; and bringing to light the possibility of sharing Christ's story to connect meaningfully with our communities.

Kath has also served as the chair of the National Church Life Survey board; a world leader in research focused on connecting churches with their communities, examining well-being, spirituality, and church health.

Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> will see Kath co-chair a workshop with Daniel after worship. ???



## Care and Support...

### At Every Stage of Life

A new advertising campaign began in August that shows Uniting's care and support at every stage of life. The campaign puts Uniting's people and values at the heart of the work they do, whether in residential care, early learning centres, home care, or retirement living.

The work is underpinned by a shared mission and Uniting's purpose to inspire people, enliven communities, and seek justice. The ethos of the Church is reinforced through references to 'teaching children to care' and 'respect your dignity' throughout the ads' narratives.

The aim of the advertisements is to connect with the wider community, so that Uniting can help more people when they need it most, and create a more inclusive, connected and just community.



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