



# Crookwell Uniting Church

“To Know Christ and Make Christ Known”



Crookwell – Wheeo – Jerrara – Bigga

December 2019

## A God Who Ministers To Us

Lately I have been reading several books by Andrew Root, which explore what it means to be the church in ‘a secular age’.

In the latest of these books, Toot has been exploring what it means for us, as the people of God, to be ministers. He maps how expectations of ministry have changed over time and explores what ministry into the future might look like. Then, he offers an important insight.

God is a minister.

That is, the God who we have encountered in Jesus Christ is the God who comes to minister to us: to journey alongside us, suffer with us, and raise us to new life.

God is the one who meets us in the fullness of our experience, in all its glory and its

shame, and pulls us into a story that is bigger than any of us individually.

As we once again enter the stories of Advent and Christmas this December, this is such a precious insight to keep before us.

We do not know God as a far off, distant being who cares nothing for the pain and destruction of our world.

Rather, we proclaim that God is revealed in Jesus: a homeless, unemployed, middle eastern Jew born not in glory, but as a vulnerable baby in a small country town in the backwaters of the Roman Empire. We dare to say that this same God would grow like we grow, laugh like we laugh, weep like we weep, and even die like we die, so that we might rise as he rose.

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## Contact Us

### Minister of the Word

Rev Daniel Mossfield

0432 648 676

[crookwelluniting@gmail.com](mailto:crookwelluniting@gmail.com)

### Congregation

(02) 4832 1026

PO Box 75

Crookwell NSW 2583

It is a ridiculous story that we tell. It undermines all conventional wisdom. It makes no sense.

And yet, somehow we know it to be true.

SO, as you sing carols this Christmas; as you eat meals with family; as you share gifts with others; as you get frustrated in shopping centres; as you decorate trees and hang lights; I invite you to remember the power of this story.

God is incarnate. The Word made flesh. The one who comes to minister to us in the darkest moments of our life.

And I pray you also become incarnate this Christmas, as ministers to our community, embodying the story of hope.

- Daniel

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## Pastoral Partners

The last Pastoral Partners meeting for 2019 will be held on December 13<sup>th</sup> at 2pm.

Dates for 2020 are as follows: -

**February 21<sup>st</sup>**

**April 17<sup>th</sup>**

**June 19<sup>th</sup>**

Pastoral Partners gather for mutual support and training. 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 December, 10:30am**

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## Christmas Services

### Wednesday 18 December

Blue Christmas

6:00pm St Bartholomew's

### Tuesday 24 December

Christmas Eve Service

"Carols Under The Fairylights"

7:00pm Jerrara

### Tuesday 24 December

Watch Night

11:00pm Wesley

### Wednesday 25 December

Christmas Day Service

9:00 Wesley

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## Worship & Readings

### Sunday 1 December

9:00 Wesley

2:30 Wheeo

*Readings:* Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Matthew 24:36-44

### Sunday 8 December

9:00 Wesley

*Readings:* Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Matthew 3:1-12

### Sunday 15 December

9:00 Wesley

2:30 Jerrara

*Readings:* Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10; Matthew 11:2-11

### Sunday 22 December

9:00 Wesley

*Readings:* Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Matthew 1:18-25

### Sunday 29 December

9:00 Wesley

*Readings:* Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Matthew 2:13-23

## New Contact Details

The phone number 4832 1026 will now divert to the church office. Voice messages will be checked and cleared regularly. If you wish to directly contact Daniel, please call his mobile on 0432 648 676.

## Binda Community Carols

Everyone is welcome to attend community carols at the Binda Hall, between 5:30pm and 8:30pm on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.

Along with carols and the story of Christmas there will be market stalls, a barbecue, and a visit from Santa. More information can be found by calling Sally on 0428 238 023 or at [www.facebook.com/BindaCommunityCarols](http://www.facebook.com/BindaCommunityCarols)



## Crookwell Carols

By Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, Crookwell will be well and truly glowing with the spirit of Christmas. The main street will be lined with decorations, courtesy of Dianne Layden and her team at the Crookwell Progress Association.

There will be late night shopping, and carolers in Goulburn Street. Santa will make an appearance, and there will be an opportunity for photos at the Bowling Club from 6:30pm.

We are looking for singers to participate in caroling between 5:30pm and 6:30pm. If you are interested, please see Daniel.

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## Advent Reflections

This December, Common Grace will be offering a daily reflection based on the theme of “We Are Longing”. Advent is a time of waiting and longing together; for the return of Jesus, and for justice and healing from the Kingdom of God. You can sign up for daily emails at [commongrace.org.au](http://commongrace.org.au)

### Welcome To “Welcome”

*“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in” - Matthew 25:35*

The Christian Book Shop has been resurrected as “Welcome”; a local meeting place which we hope will become a focal point of the town.

Under the guidance of Fiona Landford, the space has been transformed. The shop will still sell books, cards, gifts, and free trade items, but will also be a place for people to drop in and have a tea or coffee, or just a chat. “Welcome” will in time also offer information about NDIS services.

Fiona is still looking for volunteers. If you can spare some time, please contact Fiona at [contact@couragewisdomchange.com](mailto:contact@couragewisdomchange.com) or on 0491 483 566.

## Christmas Giving

There are many worthy causes to consider if you are able to donate this Christmas.

**Everything In Common** – Every gift card assists those in poverty around the world with clean water and education. More info at [everythingincommon.com.au](http://everythingincommon.com.au)

**Target & Uniting Care Christmas Appeal** – In partnership since 1992, the Target & Uniting Care Christmas Appeal provides gifts for those who are doing it tough. More info at [target.com.au/company/community/uniting-care-christmas-appeal](http://target.com.au/company/community/uniting-care-christmas-appeal)

**Moderator’s Bushfire Appeal** – The Moderator’s appeal distributes funds to the areas most affected by bushfires, drought, and floods. Cheques made out to “The Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of NSW and the ACT” can be posted to PO Box A2178, Sydney South, NSW, 1235. See <https://nswact.uca.org.au/about-us/giving/moderators-appeal/> for further information.

**Christmas Bowl** – Since 1949, The National Council of Churches in Australia has been receiving donations through its Christmas Bowl appeal. Gifts assist poor communities around the world with healthcare, food production, education, and clean water. You can read more about the work being done at <https://www.actforpeace.org.au/Christmas-Bowl>

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