



# Crookwell Uniting Church

**“To Know Christ and Make Christ Known”**



*Witnessing to God's love for the world  
From the main street to the paddock.*

May 2020

## **To Be a People ‘On the Way’**

As we enter this second month of physical isolation, I have found myself meditating on the experience of the Israelites wandering in the wilderness after the escape from slavery in Egypt. Forty years they spent out there, in the unknown of the wilderness, unsure when their isolation and suffering would end. Forty years! Perhaps now, we are starting to get a sense of why they might have been distracted and grumbling.

Still, one of the things I find hopeful is that Israel wasn't left alone in the wilderness. God kept turning up. God kept interrupting them. And, God kept providing for them, even if that provision didn't always feel particularly satisfactory (small amounts of manna in the desert).

How Israel must have longed to arrive in the promised land, as we long to be back together worshipping once more. I look forward to celebrating communion with you all again some day soon.

But, part of our Uniting Church tradition is remembering that our worship building is not, in fact, the promised land.

We have a much larger vision into which we seek to live: the Kingdom of God.

The Basis of Union makes clear that ‘the Church is a pilgrim people, always on the way towards a promised goal: here the Church does not have a continuing city but seeks one to come. On the way Christ feeds

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### Contact Us

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the Church with Word and Sacraments, and it has the gift of the Spirit in order that it may not lose the way' (*Basis of Union*, Para 3).

May this season of dislocation and strangeness remind us of our vocation, to be a people 'on the way', witnessing to God's love for the world (from the Main Street to the Paddock).

And may we know the living, resurrected Christ who comes to feed us 'on the way', so that we never feel like we are in this alone.



### Church Updates

I hope you were able to find meaningful ways to mark Holy Week and Easter this year, whether that was using materials we have produced, or following the services on television.

Just a reminder that all our services are available online at [crookwelluniting.org](http://crookwelluniting.org). You can catch up on past services by clicking the 'worship recordings' tab at the top and choosing which service you would like to join in. Further, the website also has a 'Faith Formation' section that we are

building up with resources for you to continue your discipleship journey.

In this newsletter you will find some ideas on how to set up your own sacred space at home, that you might like to pursue.



Thanks you also to those who have been able to continue their giving during this strange season, whether by Direct Debit, or by leaving offerings at the manse. Your generosity in this time is deeply appreciated.

On Church Finances, thank you to Barry and Rob who continue to work extremely hard during this time. The congregation will have a reduced income for the next few months but is eligible to receive the Government's cashflow assistance payment. Further, we are pursuing our eligibility for the Job Keeper payment.

With these payments, God's provision, and your ongoing support, we are optimistic about the path ahead.

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### For Prayer

Over the last fortnight, I have led two funeral services (under the strict ten person rule set by the government). Please keep in prayers the families of Len Johns and Estelle Hart (nee Wray).

Further, several members of our community are in hospital at the current time or recovering from surgeries. Please also keep these people in prayer, as well as all doctors, nurses and emergency service workers keeping us safe and healthy during the current crisis.

Finally, please pray for each other. Think about who you might see normally in the pews around you and utter a prayer for them, even if it is just by saying their name out loud. Then, maybe give them a call to see how they are going.

Yours in Christ.

Rev. Daniel Mossfield

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### Pastoral Partners

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.

**Pastoral Partners meetings are currently suspended due to COVID-19. Daniel will be in contact with each Pastoral Partner individually during May.**

Proposed dates for 2020 meetings are as follows: -

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

**August 21<sup>st</sup>**

**October 16<sup>th</sup>**

**December 18<sup>th</sup>**

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### Happy Mother's Day



*"She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. (...) Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he*

*praises her: 'Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.'" – Proverbs 31:26,28-29*

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## Connection and Community

The Church is the people; not the building. During this difficult time, we are all called to be open to new ways of ministry. Although we may not congregate physically, we would do well to remember that we are connected. Thankfully, there are resources available to help us continue our worship; even if it is from home.

<https://victas.uca.org.au/resources/covid-19-worship-resources/>

The Victorian and Tasmanian Synod provides tips on worshipping from home, including ideas on how to create a meditative worship space from home. There are also prayers and faith practices for children, adults, and families.

<https://www.growministries.org.au/product/church-at-home/>

Grow Ministries has collated free resources in a pack called *Church At Home*. The pack has resources, conversation starters and activities for all ages.

<http://crookwelluniting.org/faith-formation>

We will also be adding resources to our website over the coming weeks. You can already find daily prayers and devotions.

## Worship & Readings

### Sunday 3 May

9:00 crookwelluniting.org

*Readings:* Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

### Sunday 10 May

9:00 crookwelluniting.org

*Readings:* Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

### Sunday 17 May

9:00 crookwelluniting.org

*Readings:* Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

### Sunday 24 May

9:00 crookwelluniting.org

*Readings:* Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

### Sunday 31 May

9:00 crookwelluniting.org

*Readings:* Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34; 1 Corinthians 12:3-13; John 20:19-23

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## What is Pastoral Care?

What do the words 'Pastoral Care' mean to you?

Perhaps the term conjures up images of a counselling session? Or perhaps of a shepherd in a field? Maybe you think 'pastoral care' is something that 'the Minister does', or perhaps the term may seem old-fashioned.

At its heart, Pastoral Care is simply the love that members of the Christian community (the Church) show to one another. It may be formal (as in pastoral counselling, or visits by the minister) or informal (through friendships and fellowship). At its heart however, pastoral care is always modelled on the life of Jesus Christ, and the love he showed to both friends and strangers. As such, pastoral care is not just for the good of the Church, but for the whole world. Yet, it can never be completely separate from the Christian community either.



As Pastoral Care is a very hard term to define, there are a number of images which may be helpful. These include:

- **The shepherd:** provides rest, comfort, restoration, protection, nurture and guidance for the flock.
- **The wound healer:** the wounds of our life help us gain wisdom and offer understanding for the pain of others.
- **The horse-tram:** Like a second horse, ready to help with an extra load.
- **The host and guest:** Hospitality – A friendly space to find and maintain our own centre and offer that freedom to others; welcoming strangers into our group.
- **The bridge builder:** A good communicator or mediator, safely spanning life's problems and bringing people together.
- **The companion:** The person with whom we share the necessities of life.

(Taken from *Pastoral Partner Program*, Mediacom (1998), pp. 21-31).




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