



## 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.*

October 2020

### How Is It With Your Soul?

A difficulty about not gathering as community is the conversations we don't get to have with one another.

By this I do not only mean the conversations about practical things, like how many mls of rain we got last night, how the kids are doing, or who we caught up with during the week. These are important. Vital even. But some of the conversations continue outside our church family, over the phone with friends, or bumping into each other at IGA.

But when was the last time someone asked you how it was with your soul?

When was the last time someone asked you what is hurting you this week? What have been the tough bits about following Jesus? What are you cranky with God about now?

Or conversely, who have you been able to share your deepest joys with? Where are those spaces to wonder if that stranger you met in the street might have been Jesus? What about that deep spiritual epiphany that happened while you were watching TV? What are you thankful for today?

In a pre-COVID life, it was easy to take for granted having people to share these transcendent experiences – these 'God' moments – with. I wonder if we have a new appreciation for such things now.

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### Contact Us

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So, an invitation for you this month – pick up the phone to someone you know, and ask them ‘how is it with your soul today?’

### Practical Things

I will be on leave for the school holidays (28 September – 11 October). This means no online worship from Crookwell for those two weeks. You are invited to use the materials produced by the Saltbush community

(<https://saltbushcommunity.uca/org.au/>) for that fortnight, or engage with Songs of Praise on Sunday morning as members of our congregation without the internet have been doing.

Work is underway on COVID-plans to allow us some form of gathering soon. Presently, the largest barriers to this are the limits placed on numbers attending outdoor events (20 in NSW) or the 4sqm rule in buildings. It may come to pass that we engage in some form of ‘hybrid’ online/offline gathering with priority of attending in-person given to those without access to the internet. Church Council meets again on October 16 to discuss such matters, and I will let you know more after that date.

Finally, I pray that in this strange season you are continuing to find ways to live out the faith we have been gifted in ways that allow

you to see God with us right now. For God is no less present today than God was before COVID and is still calling us to the path of discipleship. If you would like to reflect on how it is with your soul, feel free to touch base after I am back from leave.

Grace and peace

Daniel

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## The Blessing of the Animals

As part of the annual tradition of the *Season of Creation*, the Uniting Church at Tuggeranong continued with its *Blessing of the Animals* service. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the service was a little different this year; held outside in the car park. Congregants were allowed to bring their pets to be blessed by the Rev. Dr Elizabeth Raine. The blessing of each animal means that health, healing and life are being mediated from God for the benefit of the animal in its relationship with its human partners. Whether it be a pet, working or farm animal; may we remember this verse from Job 12:10.




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## Happy Birthday

Although we cannot physically gather, let's join together to celebrate the birthdays of our fellow congregants.

Glenda Flint – October 9th

Muriel Redfern – October 16th

Phyllis Laverty – October 28<sup>th</sup>

Also, belated well wishes to John Plumb and Ron Browne, who both had birthdays towards the end of September.

If your birthday is in October, and your name is not on our list, please let us know. And have a very Happy Birthday!!



## Worship & Readings

### Sunday 4 October

9:00 crookwelluniting.org

*Readings:* Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalm 19; Philippians 3:4-14; Matthew 21:33-46

### Sunday 11 October

9:00 crookwelluniting.org

*Readings:* Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 99; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:1-14

### Sunday 18 October

9:00 crookwelluniting.org

*Readings:* Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 22:15-22

### Sunday 25 October

9:00 crookwelluniting.org

*Readings:* Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46

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## Sharing Our Faith

*Many thanks to Muriel Redfern for sharing her story about how she is continuing to express her faith during the pandemic.*

Since the start of COVID-19, I am home a lot more than I am used to. I do gardening when the weather is good, and have been going for walks in the park, which is lovely.

If I am stuck inside, I sometimes play my Scottish records. I also do crosswords and colouring.

My sister-in-law and I have morning tea twice a week, and I am able to talk to my friends on the phone to catch up.

I have been able to visit my husband Wal when he was in Goulburn Hospital; and we talk on the phone now he is back at Viewhaven.

I watch *Songs of Praise* each week on the ABC, and like to read the bible readings and sermons that arrive in the mail from Daniel each month.



## With Love To The World

During these difficult days of the COVID-19 pandemic, many people are seeking ways to find meaning, encouragement, and hope for life, and are keen to maintain and deepen their faith and sense of community and connectedness with their church and other Christians.

With Love to the World has been meeting these needs for the past 45 years with its daily commentaries on lectionary and associated Bible passages, prayer suggestions, and questions for individuals and groups.

Our daily Bible reading guide is now available as an app, as well as in booklet form, making it easily available wherever you may be. The annual subscription is just \$24.

To subscribe:

- Search your App Store or Play Store for With Love to the World
- For booklets, contact the office at [wluca@bigpond.com](mailto:wluca@bigpond.com) or phone Peter Butler (02) 9747 1369



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