



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.*

September 2020

The Promise of Tomorrow

Yesterday, I mowed my lawn for the first time since winter began. The rain and snow over the last month, coupled with the warm weather this week meant new shoots of grass were springing up all over the place, including in my garden beds where I really do not want them.

(After the pain of the last few years, I pray that the recent rainfall means full dams and a good ground cover for those of you living on properties.)

It is hard to miss the signs of new life emerging all around us at the moment: the creek flowing, a hint of pollen in the air, and magpies taking up their positions ready for protective parenting.

Now, I have lived in Crookwell long enough to know that winter is not yet done with us – there are some cold, bleak days still to come.

But I confess that the early signs of spring have lifted my spirits and have me feeling more positive about the days ahead. Hopefully, this promise of life will sustain me through the next cold front when it inevitably arises.

But as I pondered on the weather, I realised that I have also seen other signs of promise and life over the last few weeks:

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- Conversations with three different families about baptizing their children when COVID 19 is over.
- Members of our congregation in their 70s and 80s mastering technology to worship with us via YouTube on a Sunday morning (seriously, how many of you thought that would be a thing twelve months ago?).
- The potential of a playgroup restarting in the life of our congregation.
- A visitor to town wanting to buy a bible from WELCOME.
- Coffee with several people in their 30s looking for genuine community and wondering if the Church might be part of this.

Now, none of this is to say that the hard days of COVID are behind us. Indeed, in some ways they are only just beginning. We still do not know how long until we might regather for worship, and how it will look when we do. People are still faced with financial hardship, and health problems, and an ongoing pandemic. Members of our congregation and wider

community are still feeling lonely and isolated, desperate for community.

But these small signs of life have given me hope. Hope that God is still at work. Hope that this is not the end of the story. Hope that tomorrow will come.

And I am going to live off that hope, even when the cold, dark days return to have another crack at us, because they are nothing short of the promise that God's resurrection comes. Resurrection always comes.

Thanks be to God – Daniel.

R U OK?

September 10th is R U OK? Day. It is Australia's national day of action to remind us that every day is the day to ask "Are you OK?" if people in our community are struggling with life's ups and downs.

2020 has been a challenging year for everyone, and it is more important than ever to stay connected. A conversation that starts with "Are you OK?" could change a life. On this R U OK? Day, we could keep connected by taking the time to call a friend, just to stay in touch. More info is at ruok.org.au

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Happy Birthday

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

David Wray – September 5th

Wayne Moorby – September 6th

Allan Aynsley – September 22nd

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



Worship & Readings

Sunday 6 September

9:00 crookwelluniting.org

Readings: Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149;
Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

Sunday 13 September

9:00 crookwelluniting.org

Readings: Exodus 14:19-31; Psalm 114;
Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

Sunday 20 September

9:00 crookwelluniting.org

Readings: Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6,
37-45; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

Sunday 27 September

9:00 crookwelluniting.org

Readings: Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32

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Sharing Our Faith

Many thanks to Ron Browne for sharing his and his wife Heather's story about how they are continuing to express their faith during the pandemic.

Compared to the hardship experienced by many, the COVID-19 pandemic effect on us has been relatively minimal.

Although the Men's Shed offers me considerable satisfaction and pleasure, I views its temporary closure as an opportunity to spend more time working on the property. I have picked up tons of rocks from the Lucerne paddock, cleared up fallen branches and debris from the island, modified the cattle yards and carried out some much needed fence repairs.

Being an outside person, I consider myself truly blessed and fortunate to have this setting in which to work. I also consider myself most fortunate and blessed to have Heather to not only look after me and the home, but to help with tasks like stock feeding, drenching, marking etc, where the extra worker is most helpful.

Possibly the thing we miss most is the personal contact with the family. We have regular phone contact and even family conferencing via the internet. As wonderful (and for me 'mind blowing') as this is to be able to see and speak with the larger family,

it lacks the warmth and intimacy of personal contact.

We also miss the fellowship of corporate Worship which has always been an important part of our lives. However, we see this necessity of the restrictions, and thank God for our leaders who have to make these difficult decisions.

Our sincere thanks to Daniel for Live Streaming our 9:00am Crookwell Service. Whenever possible we involve ourselves in this before switching to one of the Sydney Services where my family members are involved. We have watched the Channel 2 *Songs of Praise* for years and continue to do so, enjoying the traditional old hymns.

One of my favourite hymns is *I Cannot Tell Why He Who Angels Worship* (809 in the Methodist Hymn Book). Not only do I like the tune (Londonderry Air, also known as Danny Boy) but the whole theme expresses many of my thoughts. There is so much we cannot grasp or understand. But there is much we do know and we can rest in the assurance that God is in control.

"What we see now is like a dim image in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. What I now know is only partial; then it will be complete – as complete as God's knowledge of me." - 1Corinthians 13:12

God be with each of you in these difficult times.
– Ron Browne

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