



## 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.*

January 2021

### **A Good Epiphany**

Between the light of Christmas and the somberness of Lent sits the season of Epiphany.

After Christmas, Epiphany can seem a bit of a let-down. Now the tree comes down and we go back to 'normal'. Though, in the year we have had, perhaps Christmas itself felt a bit of a let-down, and Epiphany is just business as usual.

In Australia, this season of Epiphany coincides with some of our warmest months, and a time of busy activity before the cold winds and long winter nights return. January is a strange combination of holiday rest and busy preparation for the coming year. Families are buying uniforms

for a new school term, and many of you will be busy preparing livestock or cakes for display at the Crookwell Show (hoping beyond hope that it gets to happen this year).

But in the Church, Epiphany can be a microcosm of life itself. At the start of the season, we hear the story of the magi coming to visit the infant Jesus. By the end of Epiphany, we reach Transfiguration Sunday, when Jesus turns his face towards Jerusalem, suffering and death.

English Bishop Libby Lane describes how a good Epiphany might look for us:

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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

*A good Epiphany starts with a journey embracing discomfort, loss and death, bringing us from the vulnerable baby in the stable to the dying young man on the cross. What is made manifest in Jesus is the 'superabundance' of God's generosity. It is on the solid ground of that generosity that we as Christians are able to act in the world – loving enemies not in a metaphorical way, but in a self-sacrificing, practical way, working for peace, working for justice, loving and forgiving 'because he first loved us.' Christmas has indeed 'gone out the door' and, in making with the journey of a good Epiphany, **we go with it to share the good news with others.** (Libby Lane, 'A Good Epiphany' in *A Good Year*, ed. Mark Oakley, London: SPCK, 2016, p. 50)*

As we mark several losses in our local community, and as the shadow of COVID-19 again looms over us with the new outbreak in Sydney, may we also be attentive to the 'superabundance' of God's generosity this Epiphany – and may we act in generosity towards our neighbours and our world.



### **New Contact Details for Daniel**

For those that have not heard, the Mossfields have bought a house in Crookwell. As such, we will be moving out of the manse on 16 January and into our new house. Church Council will oversee some work that needs to be done to the manse, and then it will likely be leased commercially.

This means I am inviting you to update your contact details.

Firstly, for those who aren't yet aware, ***the old Minister's Phone Number (02 4832 1026) now goes to the office at the Church.*** It is staffed by Matthew on Monday and Tuesday mornings from 9am-1pm. Outside of these times, you can leave a voicemail on this number, and I (Daniel) will check it throughout the week.

***If you want to ring me directly, please call my mobile: 0432 648 676.***

Secondly, if you are looking to send me something by post, you can either use the Church PO Box (PO Box 75, Crookwell NSW 2583) or send it to my new address: 26 McIntosh Road, Crookwell NSW 2583.

***Finally, for those who have been leaving their offering in the Manse mailbox, I will let you know new arrangements ASAP.***

Grace and peace,  
Daniel

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**Pastoral Notices**

As many of you would know by now, there were two deaths linked to our community over the Christmas period: Luke McCue and David Mullen.

Luke was the son of Glenda and John McCue, and the grandson of Norma and Ellis Collins. Luke was a very kind young man who demonstrated generosity towards younger students at school through his care, example and storytelling.

David served as a lay preacher in the Crookwell Church, and a member of the Church Council over many years. David also served time as the Pastor of the Braidwood Uniting Church. I know his leadership and care were important for many members of our congregation and he will be sorely missed. David is survived by his wife Lorna.

I'm sure you will join me in giving your prayers and support for the McCue, Collins and Mullen families at this hard time.

**Worship & Readings****Sunday 3 January**

9:00am Crookwell Wesley

Readings: Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:1-18

**Sunday 17 January**

9:00am Crookwell

2:30pm Jerrara

Readings: 1 Samuel 3:1-10; Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

**Sunday 31 January**

9:00am Crookwell

Readings: Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

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## Happy Birthday

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

Judy Offley – January 6th

Ian Laverty – January 7th

Gale Collins – January 10th

Clare McCabe – January 26th

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



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Epiphany Word Search



- |               |            |          |
|---------------|------------|----------|
| FIRST MIRACLE | REVELATION | MELCHIOR |
| FRANKINCENSE  | BALTHAZAR  | BAPTISM  |
| WISE MEN      | BETHLEHEM  | HOLIDAY  |
| THREE KINGS   | CHRISTIAN  | JANUARY  |
| TWELFTH DAY   | EPIPHANY   | CASPAR   |

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