



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.*

August 2022

Across The Garden Bed

This month I wanted to provide you with an update on the Life and Witness consultation currently taking place in the life of our congregation.

For those new to the Uniting Church, a Life and Witness is one of the ways that our Presbytery (the regional body of the Church – in our case Canberra Region Presbytery) fulfills its responsibility to provide oversight of congregations. The purpose of such consultations includes strengthening congregations in their life and witness; being a catalyst to encourage congregations in mission planning or implementation; and, to develop co-operative partnerships

between congregations in their Presbytery.

While Crookwell was definitely due for a Life and Witness consultation (they normally happen around every five years), the trigger on this occasion was in fact our neighbouring congregations in Goulburn and Yass no longer being able to sustain the level of ministry they could previously.

Consequently, Canberra Region Presbytery called a Life and Witness into all of the congregations in its Northern Rural Region (what we might call the Southern Tablelands) in 2021. After

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many delays due to COVID-19 that process is now well underway.

The Life and Witness team has now met with the Crookwell Church Council twice and have been highly affirming of Crookwell's openness to new ideas, progress in new missional spaces (especially exploration of the Childcare), and willingness to work co-operatively across our region (with a now six year history of partnering with the GRACE community).

In its draft report, the team has suggested formalising shared ministry arrangements between the congregations in our region into a more permanent structure (as you know, I currently serve as the Minister of Crookwell and the Goulburn Multi-Centre 50% each, but this is without any formal agreements between the two congregations). What exactly this looks like, and how it would work, still requires a great deal of work going forward.

However, I will note that a highlight of this year for me so far was the joint Uniting Church anniversary service in Goulburn in June. I want to thank all of you that made the effort to travel into Goulburn, or to join us online. The service had a really good energy about it, and I know members of the Goulburn congregation were blown away by how

many folks from Crookwell attended. This service serves as a great example of the life that might flourish as our congregations work together to share our witness to Christ's work in our region.

For a while now, I have been pondering the image of a garden bed as a way of thinking about the Church in our area. Too often the Church has spent its time focusing on the health of individual plants (individual churches and worship centres), without stopping to take note of the soil we all share. But if we change our vision and begin to consider the whole garden bed, we realise that a healthy church is one with many different expressions – many different plants in the garden – each blooming in their own season.

In the months ahead, may God help us tend to the whole garden bed, so our witness may flourish across the region.

- Daniel



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Worship & Readings

Sunday 7 August

9:30am Crookwell and
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Readings: Isaiah 1:1, 10-20; Psalm 50:1-8,
22-23; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40

Sunday 14 August

9:30am Crookwell and
crookwelluniting.org

Readings: Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19;
Hebrews 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56

Sunday 21 August

9:30am Crookwell and
crookwelluniting.org
2:30 Jerrara

Readings: Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6;
Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17

Sunday 28 August

9:30 Crookwell and
crookwelluniting.org

Readings: Jeremiah 2:4-13; Psalm 81:1, 10-
16; Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14

Courses Available

The Southern Tablelands Clinical Pastoral Education Centre is a fully registered centre with the NSW College of Clinical Pastoral Education (NSWCCPE) Inc.

The introductory CPE programme follows the guidelines set by the NSWCCPE, and covers the essential capabilities required for Pastoral Visits in NSW hospitals.

The course will be conducted online via Zoom on six consecutive Thursdays, beginning on October 13.

For an application form, or for more information, please call Barbara Hall on 0418 413 731 or contact Barbara via email at barbarahall1909@gmail.com

Uniting Mission and Education (UME) will be providing a course on 'Living Our Faith: Leading Worship' over two half days on August 6 and 13 via Zoom.

This course is for worship leaders, lay preachers, bible study group leaders, those engaged in informal chaplaincy or pastoral care, or anyone interested in learning more about worship in the Uniting Church.

Register to book in your place at <https://ume.nswact.uca.org.au/.../living-our-faith.../>

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R U OK?

September 8 is R U OK? Day. It is our national day of action when we remind Australians that every day is the day to ask “are you okay?” and start a meaningful conversation whenever they spot the signs that someone they care about may be struggling with life.

Two years of living with the restrictions imposed by COVID-19 has left many of us feeling less resilient than usual; and the associated isolation has given rise to vulnerability in those already affected by loneliness or stress.

While the work of health professionals is vital, simply starting a conversation can be a valuable support for people in need. No qualifications are required, but the R U OK website (ruok.org.au) provides valuable resources to assist in starting and continuing what may be a difficult conversation.

The website provides tools to assist you in being ready to have the conversation, being prepared, and making sure the talk takes place at an appropriate time and setting.

While September 8 is the day we are reminded to ask our friends, family and neighbours if they are okay, the website has other resources that can be used all year round.

There are specific resources for workplaces, schools, emergency services workers, people affected by natural disasters, and general communities.

More information can be found at <https://www.ruok.org.au/every-day-resources>



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