



## 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 2023

### Keeping Ministry Vital

This coming January will mark five years since the start of my ordained placement in Crookwell (and seven years since I became Crookwell's Pastor). As such, since August, representatives of Canberra Region Presbytery came to Crookwell to conduct a 'Vitality of Call' conversation. Vitality of Calls are a regular process used by the Uniting Church as a kind of performance management, to help congregations and ministers strengthen their relationship, and to discern whether God's call in a place is ongoing.

The Presbytery Representatives came out and spent a day with myself and the Church Council (in separate conversations), and as a result of that, I'm pleased to report that the Pastoral Relations Committee last week determined to:

- Affirm that we discern a continuing vitality for ministry in Daniel Mossfield in his placement at Crookwell UCA; and
- Recommend that the Rev Daniel Mossfield continue in Placement with Crookwell UCA.

As part of these conversations, Church Council also suggested that it would be a helpful step for me to write a newsletter article outlining what my ministry week looks like to help give clarity to the congregation about the tasks to which I've been called. This month's newsletter article sets out to do just that.

As you may be aware, my placement in Crookwell is half-time (50%), which translates to approximately 21 hours per

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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

week. With the other half of my time, I am doing some teaching at the United Theological College in Sydney and undertaking a PhD in Homiletics (Preaching). I then try to take Saturday as a regular day off to play soccer for Crookwell and spend time with my family.

Of the 21 hours a week I work for Crookwell Uniting (often I do slightly more than this in a given week), my ministry activity can be broken into three broad categories: Preacher, Pastor and Administrator.

Since finishing at Goulburn at the end of June, I've committed to leading worship in Crookwell three times per month (when I'm not on leave). Though this is above a 50% load, Church Council and I determined that a regular presence at worship was a key need of ministry in Crookwell at this time. There is an old adage that a Preacher should spend about one hour in preparation for every minute they preach (i.e., a 15 minute sermon requires 15 hours of preparation). Whilst I would love to give this much time to my worship prep, it is rare in a part-time ministry to have this much time available. As such, I ordinarily would spend 10-12 hours preparing my sermon and liturgy for a given Sunday, and another 3-6 hours in attendance at worship on Sunday (3 hours when Crookwell only, 6 hours on a Jerrara Sunday). That means, on a preaching week, I spend anywhere from 13-18 hours on worship commitments.

As a Pastor, I do not get to spend as much time as I would like to doing pro-active pastoral care (eg: pastoral visiting everyone

in the congregation). Instead, my pastoral work tends to be focussed on crises (eg: end of life and funerals), phone calls and Viewhaven. A funeral often involves 3-4 steps: visiting with the deceased and family at the end of life (doesn't always happen), funeral preparation conversations, writing the service, and leading the funeral itself. In total, each funeral is approximately seven hours of work, and I have done ten so far this year (a bit more than one each month). In addition to funerals, I spend one morning each month leading worship at Viewhaven and visiting the residents there. Then, I can spend several hours each week on pastoral phone calls.

Finally, as an Administrator, I work closely with Church Council and Matthew to ensure the ongoing functioning of the congregation. This includes Church Council meetings, supporting the Treasurer on budget matters, working on governmental and wider Church reporting (including compliance with Safe Church, Working with Children, ACNC, Cemeteries, Ethical Ministry and ATO reporting matters), and communications such as this newsletter. Additionally, there is a lot of behind the scenes work on the Childcare Project, Property Sales (for Bigga and Kialla), and the electrical work. The reality of Administration is that there is always more to do, and it will expand to fill whatever hours I allow it in any given week.

In addition to these three key areas of work *for* the Parish, my ministry also gets used another two ways. Firstly, in the wider community: for example, participating in

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RSL services like ANZAC Day & Vietnam Veteran's Day. Secondly, all ministers in placement are expected to give at least 10% of their time to the wider Church. In my case, I am currently serving as chair of the Presbytery Pastoral Relations Committee which has oversight of discipline, placements and the wellbeing of congregations from Yass to Eden.

If you have been counting along, you will see that this doesn't add up very well to 21 hours – and you'd be right. Ministry is always a juggling act, balancing what is important with what is urgent at any given time. As compliance demands on the Church go up, this becomes more complicated – which is why I always remind myself, that before anything else, God has called me to be a Preacher and to proclaim the good news of the Kingdom to the gathered assembly.

I hope this helps give some clarity about what ministry looks like. In short, sometimes things will slip through the cracks – for that, I ask for your forgiveness and your prayers, for you are in mine.

Yours in Christ  
Daniel

P.S. I wanted to make the congregation aware that we recently discovered I have about twelve weeks of annual leave owing. The reason for this is that when I went from full-time to part-time at the end of June, my six weeks of leave (based on hours accumulated) doubled. Church Council and I are aware of the issue, and are making

plans for me to take some substantial leave in coming months to rectify the problem.

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## Worship & Readings

### Sunday 3 September

9:30am Crookwell and  
crookwelluniting.org

Readings: Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

### Sunday 10 September

9:30am Crookwell and  
crookwelluniting.org  
2:00pm Jerrara

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

### Sunday 17 September

9:30am Crookwell and  
crookwelluniting.org

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

### Sunday 24 September

9:30 Crookwell and  
crookwelluniting.org

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

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## Call For Leaders

We would like to put a call out for some more lay worship leaders for weeks when Daniel is not available. For this coming quarter, that means we are looking for volunteers to lead services on 17 September, 1 October, 8 October and 26 November. Resources and training are available, including prayers, sermon preparation, video sermons and music. Please contact Daniel if you are interested.

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## September Roster

Please find below the roster for September services. If you would like to volunteer for future services, please contact Daniel.

SEPTEMBER 2023	WORSHIP LEADER	ELDER/PRAYERS	BIBLE READER	STEWARDS
3/09/2023	Daniel	Margaret	Barry	John & Jan
10/09/2023	Daniel	Phyllis	Nikki	Louise
17/09/2023	TBA	Barry	Ron	Margaret & Reta
24/09/2023	Daniel	Barbara	Heather	Allan & Gill



## Meeting the Uniting Church Again for the First Time

The following is an excerpt from "Recalling our Hope and Passion" by Rev Simon Hansford. It first appeared in the 2023 winter edition of *insight* magazine.

*Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:16-20)*

It is not surprise to anyone in this generation of society and church that compliance and regulation can dominate the agenda of those in roles chosen with other expectations. Ask teachers, or medical professionals, or ministers, about how their diaries (even their vocations) have been incrementally changed to comply with the demands of administration.

In our church and community, we need to ensure that people are safe, especially

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those most at risk; we need to take appropriate responsibility for our resources – human, financial and property. No one questions that.

However, we can become forgetful.

The insistent demands of compliance can easily drown out the vital voice of our first call, if we are not careful. We can fall for the illusion of planning carefully, or ‘managing our risks’ when risk and sacrifice are inherent to our vocation.

I am reminded that the tension is supposed to exist. Sacrifice and mercy, reconciliation and adherence to an alternate life are inevitable consequences of our discipleship to Christ.

We baptize, and remember. We break bread and share wine, and remember. We hold the Word before our gathered communities, and remember.

Our communities of faith have innumerable contacts within our wider communities. Sometimes company is all people require. We serve and bless people at the beginning of life, throughout life’s journey, and as life draws to its completion.

When we are asked why we are caring and serving and offering hospitality, what shall we say? Might we speak about the sense of hope we find when we consider how loved we are by Jesus Christ? We could take

about how our faith community has made a place for us which gives us purpose. We might even talk about the Uniting Church, which asserts the passionate love of God for each and every person, in a world where many people are told they have no place, or no name worth enunciating.

From the commencement of Jesus’ ministry to the gospel’s completion, Jesus is inviting people to walk with him. To follow Christ is to live a life of hope – in this world – for the mercy, for justice and for life itself. Is this not worth inviting others to share?

Remember your first love, which placed you here. Recall the hope, the passion and the blessing. Is that not a story worth offering to others with the care and generosity it was offered to you?



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