

# The New-Normal Newsletter



Gordon-Pymble Uniting Church

Sunday 4 October, 2020



## *Caring for the vineyard*

Well, we are back! For some of us, today will be the first face-to-face worship we have had in 28 weeks! That is a long time and the last such disruption to regular worship must have been the Spanish Flu a century ago. The words of an old song come to my mind based on a verse in 1 Samuel, "He has brought us this far by his grace... Blessed o blessed be God." God has been with us in the great disruption that is 2020 and the confidence we take from that is that God will be with us whatever comes our way. Blessed be God!

While we are back to in-person worship there will of course be changes, so let us seek to embrace the new normal of our worship and try to make the most of it. Video services will continue, and we welcome those continuing to worship in this way.

We haven't mentioned much about financial giving to the congregation. The church will certainly appreciate your contributions, but we will not be passing a plate on Sundays. However, there will be a plate / receptacle for a retiring offering meaning that envelopes, cheques or cash will be gratefully received. Thank you for your financial support over this unsettling period - most of our expenses have continued of course.

With the school holidays here, perhaps it is poor timing but I will be away next week on 1 week's leave. Rev Paul Swadling will look after the in-person and video service. Natasha will also be on leave, returning to the office on Tuesday 13 October.

**Steve**

Hello Everyone. Please remember that there has been changes to Zoom link for Sunday Morning Tea. The time and zoom meeting link address have changed and you will now need to enter the passcode- 992809. Please see link and invite below.

Topic: Sunday morning tea

Time: Oct 4, 2020 11:00 AM <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84474736981?pwd=aDU2eGxySmoxZU9ZUkN6ZllvUFE2UT09>

Meeting ID: 844 7473 6981

Passcode: 992809

Join us for **Virtual Worship**: [Click for our Youtube channel](#) to catch up with latest videos.

## News from Courtney and Nicola

Am I alone in yearning for  
The recovery of vision,  
Of authentic outrage,  
Of gentle connectedness,  
Of the truth that sets us free?

*Peter Millar Iona Community*

This poem was part of our discussion at Tuesday Conversations and it resonated with me and the journey Courtney and I are going on at the New Plant Growth Workshops.

We are yearning for a vision for our church where we connect with the community in an authentic manner. We are thinking about the core values that make us Gordon-Pymble Church. And who we want to be. We are asking all of you to pray for discernment.

At this point we are thinking our vision in three words is something along the lines of  
Connecting, Exploring and Giving.

We want to connect to our community

We want to explore the Mystery of God with our community

We want to give back to our Community, we want purpose, for example, Uniting World, MADOW, Margaret Jurd.

As we think of our vision the words of Rev. Jon Owen, pastor and CEO of Wayside are useful- we need to be radically involved in our community. We need to get alongside people, and we need to be risk takers. Put aside our agenda, stop and listen to God.

Our mission as a congregation is to live the Story (the Gospel of the Good News), embody the Story and tell the Story.  
We need to look for places of pain and be there.

**EXCITING NEWS!** Playgroup is back onsite, face to face, for term 4. Playgroup resumes **Monday 12th October**.

It may look a little different but we promise to ensure it is fun, safe and worth attending.

- We will be resuming to normal times BUT- **All playgroups** will be run from the Gordon site **ONLY**. Corner of Pacific Highway and Cecil Street (opposite Ravenswood).

**Playgroup Times** are Mondays 10am, Tuesdays 9.30am, Wednesdays 9.30am & Thursdays 12.30pm

Join us for a **mask making** session at the Gordon Centre. We are holding a weekly face-to-face Monday morning Sewing group starting at 10 am. We will be asking people to register prior to coming along as we are wanting to keep the group COVIDsafe. If you would like to come along to this Sewing group - you are welcome to make items of your own choice or help to make masks to donate to Exodus – please register by email [info@gpuc.org.au](mailto:info@gpuc.org.au) or call 04 80 223 981.



**Trivia Quiz Fundraiser-** Thank you to everyone who was part of the Trivia Quiz last Sunday and helped raise over \$6000 for the Uniting World project in Kiribati. It may not look like it, but we had over 50 people participating, and it was a lot of fun, which was part of the aim as well. Your gifts provide our partners in the Pacific with the ability to facilitate workshops, train workshop leaders, produce training resources and create advocates for gender equality and anti-violence. It's still not too late to donate at <https://donate.unitingworld.org.au/pw4c>



**Coffee & Chat Zooms on Mondays & Wednesdays @ 4 pm.** If you would like to join, click on the following Zoom link. The link is the same on both days: <https://zoom.us/j/306846915> Meeting ID: 306 846 915. If you would like help connecting, or if you know of someone who may like to join, please ring Lesley on 0480 223 981. We remain committed to these chats, and trust that just twice a week will meet the needs of our community at this time. Please note that if no one has joined after half an hour, the host will close the session.

Our **Book Stall** at Pymble and Trading Table at Gordon will be closed for a while due to COVID. Thanks.

**Donations for Exodus and Lifeline** It's easy to drive through and keep your social distance! At Pymble donations can be left in food box, near the letterbox, at the top of the driveway. We are emptying it regularly. Andrew is normally there to sort food on Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 – 10.30am and can give a hand if necessary. At Gordon a labelled box will be left outside next to the door with access from the carpark. Nicola will be available from 10 am – 11 am on Wednesdays & Fridays.

**Visiting the Church:** Please register your arrival/departure with a contact number and use hand sanitizer. You are encouraged to social distance, remaining 1.5 metres apart. This is part of the COVID 19 Safety Plan, legally required to keep us safe. At GPUC, following the NSW Health guidelines, we are asking anyone using our facilities **to wear a mask if they are in the public areas**. Thank you for keeping us safe.

For all the latest news, **visit our Website** [www.gpuc.org.au](http://www.gpuc.org.au)

