

The New-Normal Newsletter

Gordon-Pymble Uniting Church
Sunday 14 February 2021



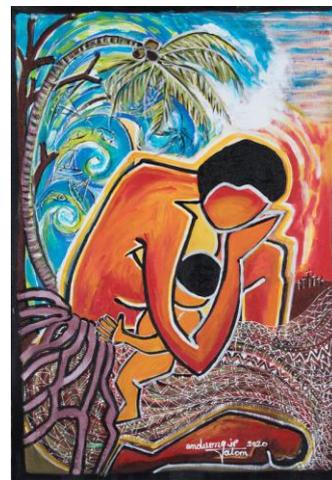
A message from Steve

It was a joy to have Homayoon sharing at Tuesday Conversations this week on his experiences exactly one year after his baptism. Thank you Homayoon for your thoughtful reflections and questions for the group. We were encouraged by your engagement and growth in these past 12 months. Punch Discussion resumes this evening and Friendship Circle gathers tomorrow after a long Covid-induced break. Lent Event groups are also forming. We are reminded it is good for our faith to be part of a small group of some sort where we can learn, encourage and be encouraged. Early in the year is a good time to join a group. Talk to me if you are unsure where to fit.

As we return to some normality, a reminder that Lifeline and Exodus are always supporting those in need and our support is much appreciated. Thank you to Andrew Cripwell and Wendy Wallin for their constant work in sorting and ensuring the food is ready for pick-up. Here is a list of suggested items that you can drop off at either site:

Small boxes cereal
Snacks for school lunches
Tinned vegetables Baked beans
Toothpaste and toothbrushes
Tins tuna and salmon
Biscuits Long life milk
Small jars coffee Tea bags
Pasta and sauce

Steve Aynsley



World Day of Prayer

A World Day of Prayer service will be held this year at Gordon Uniting Church on Friday, 5th March at 11 am. Gordon-Pymble Uniting Church is hosting the service, and the churches participating include Catholic, Anglican, Baptist, Presbyterian and Uniting churches of Gordon, Pymble and St Ives. The theme of this year's service is 'Build on a Strong Foundation', and has been prepared by the women of Vanuatu. Sureka Goringe, Executive Director of UnitingWorld will be the speaker. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, numbers are limited. If you wish to attend, please register at info@gpuc.org.au. Gordon-Pymble Church contact is Sue Conde – sue.conde@gpuc.org.au.



Lenten Studies There are opportunities to participate in Lenten studies this year. These studies will be once a week for 6 to 7 weeks leading up to Easter, commencing Monday 15th February

You can participate by attending the Thursday morning study group at Gordon. Contact Sue Conde. If this is not suitable contact Janet Scott who will run Monday nights or Heather McMaster, day to be decided.



Thoughts & Prayers

Continue to pray for the families of Alec Conner, Bessie Meek and Lois Bowden as they adapt to life without their loved ones.

Parvaneh is recovering well from surgery.
Shirley Bradshaw as she sees a raft of doctors and awaits results for her 'wobbliness'

MARGARET JURD COLLEGE

In December the GPUC Mission Team established the GPUC – MJC Working Group (**Working Group**), The Working Group is comprised of members of the congregation who are drawn from both the Gordon and the Pymble sites. The inaugural members of the Working Group are:

Kerry Blight; Judy Elmslie; Nicola Robinson; Pru Tout; and David Hodges (convenor);

A principal purpose of the Working Group is to work with MJC in identifying and initiating activities which are consistent with the development and maintenance of the partnership with MJC which reflects the mission of GPUC, being:

"that which we do for others out of our love for Christ".

It is anticipated the Congregation's contribution to our partnership with MJC will include both financial and practical support.

Watch this space!



Craft Classes

Mondays 10-12.00pm at GUC.

Come and join us for craft. Some are busy knitting beanies for Wayside Chapel but this is not the only option. If you are interested in joining contact

Lyn Kwong or Pru Tout

English Conversation Classes

Mondays at 10am-11.30.

There are currently 12 enrolments with backgrounds in a variety of languages, Farsi, Mandarin, Japanese, French and Cantonese.



Friday Community Centre

Fridays during term. Various classes are available

Registration is essential beforehand due to Covid restrictions

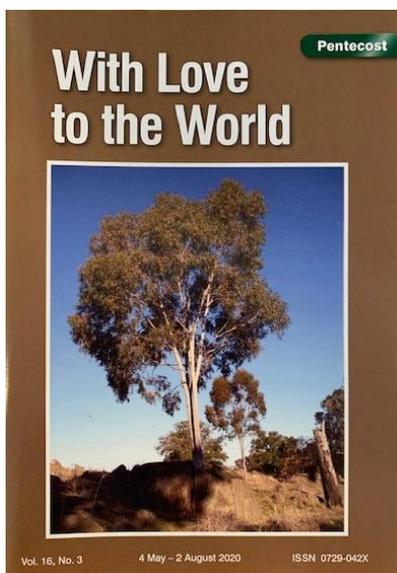
Contact lesley.burt@gpuc.org.au

Unfortunately, after many years of leading our walking group, Ros Rossetin is retiring from this position. We would like to thank Ros for her dedication, motivation and leadership skills that has made the group so popular. I know that she and her bright sunny manner will be sadly missed. We are now looking for a volunteer that is willing to lead the walking group in 2021. If you are interested please contact Lesley on 0480 223 981.

At the moment we are researching ways that the Mah-jong can operate in a safe manner and we will be following up with them once we have a plan. Thanks for your understanding.

Playgroup Times are Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9.30 to 11.30am at Gordon and the new Baby Playgroup at Pymble on Thursdays 12.30pm

If you ever feel like cleaning some toys after a session you'd be more than welcome.

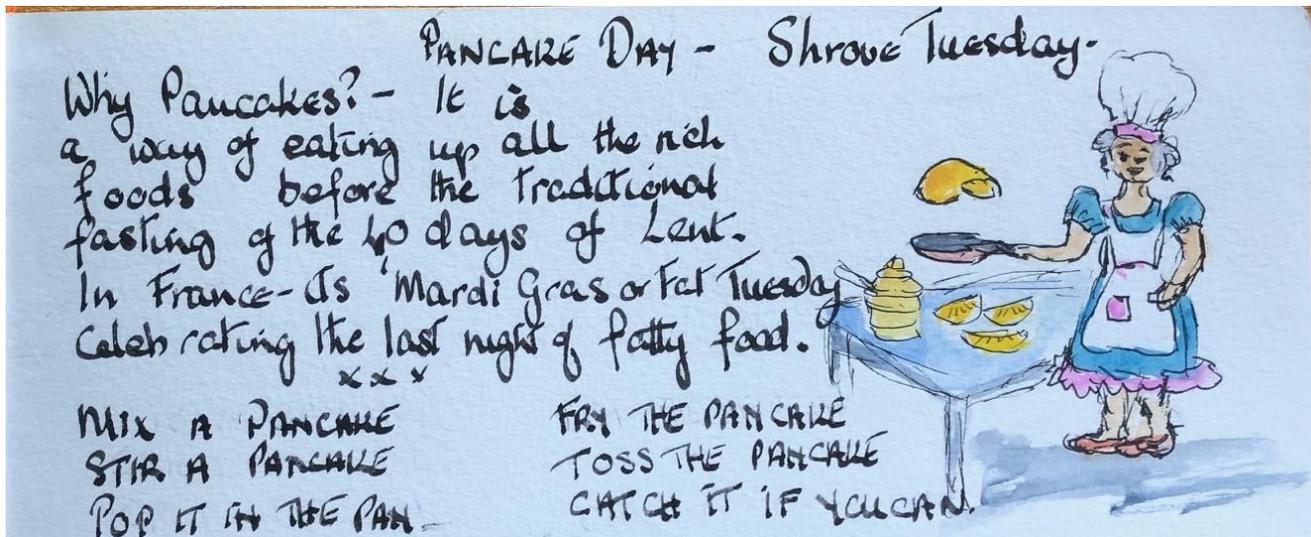


WITH LOVE TO THE WORLD

The new copy of With Love to the World has arrived. You can pick up your copy at either site. If you have any questions please contact Ailsa Reichardt or Sue Conde.

Jeanie's artwork reminds us this week is the start of Lent.

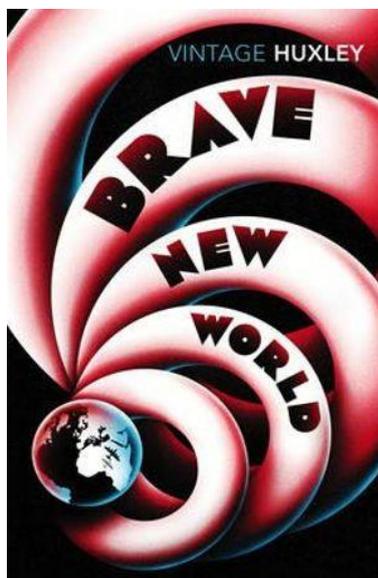
Shrove Tuesday is the 16th February, it is the traditional feast day before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Lent – the 40 days leading up to Easter – was traditionally a time of fasting and on Shrove Tuesday, Anglo-Saxon Christians went to confession and were “shriven” (absolved from their sins).



Gordon Book Club- First Monday of the month.

New members welcome on zoom or in person.

Our first book of the year, "A Time for Mercy" by John Grisham caused a lively discussion. There were mixed feelings about the book, however, many liked the book for its insight into the legal and social system of a southern US state. Many were dissatisfied that the book did not tie up the ends - leaving room for Mr Grisham to write another "bestseller" sequel. Our discussion then centred on the legal system in the book and the questions it raised such as the death penalty, a juvenile being tried as an adult, jury selection, and the adoption process. We made comparisons to NSW and our systems here.



Dear GPUC

I hope this finds you well placed to meet the opportunities and challenges 2021 has in store.

Before we get too far into this new year, I would like to pass on my heartfelt thanks for your kind contribution to our 2020 Christmas Hamper Project. Because of the incredible generosity of all our donors to this annual campaign, we were able to assist *more than 300* individuals and families within our local community.

Furthermore, we were able to support a number of local women's shelters, as well as The MS Society. We were similarly delighted to be in a position to send gifts and food to Lifeline Central West in Dubbo - all of which were distributed to farmers and smaller rural communities in distress. Overall, it was an outstanding result achieved by everyone involved!

The Christmas Hamper Project is coordinated by a small group of volunteers who devote an enormous amount of effort, energy and commitment to make Christmas a little brighter for people who are struggling, especially during what can be a particularly difficult time of year for many. These hampers not only ease some of the financial and emotional stress experienced during the festive season, they also remind recipients that they are part of a supportive community that cares about them.

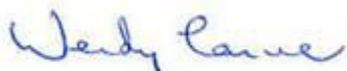
The presence of the coronavirus made last year's Christmas Hamper Project especially challenging for our team; they had to be flexible in adapting their usual practices to ensure the protection of all volunteers and recipients. Yet, despite all this, we were not only still able to assist people in need, but our Volunteer Christmas Hamper Coordinators also received a Mayor's Award for an Outstanding Contribution by a Community Organisation!

One of the many grateful 2020 hamper recipients sent a card to Lifeline, expressing her thanks to all the donors and volunteers:

"A belated thank you to you all for the wonderful hamper you sent to me for Christmas. I had such fun opening it, sorting it out and giving away what I don't use, thus giving joy to others! ... It is a difficult world in which we live but we must all keep our faith and look on the bright side of life."

So from me personally and everyone at Lifeline H2H, thank you again for your participation in this important project. Your kindness certainly made a difference to vulnerable people over Christmas, and for this we are sincerely grateful.

With warmest wishes,



Wendy Carver
CEO, Lifeline Harbour to Hawkesbury



Lifeline
Saving Lives
Crisis Support. Suicide Prevention.

John Pender- previous minister at Pymble Uniting Church

Reverend Pender said he was "dumbfounded" when he was notified of his Order of Australia Medal. "It's not something that's usually within my ballpark," he said. "Who I am and who I've been is someone who has nurtured and facilitated relationships." That's been the highlight."



WHY I AM RETURNING MY AO HONOUR

By Alistair Macrae I have decided to join the ranks of Australia Day award recipients who are handing back their awards in response to the "upgrading" of Margaret Court's Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) to the highest award of Companion (AC).

Alistair Macrae, is minister of Wesley Uniting Church, Melbourne, and a past president of Uniting Church in Australia.

MADOW- Griffith Update.

Last week we heard three wonderful stories coming out of Griffith. If you missed then check out the website.

If you missed any of these articles you can find them on our website

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.

During worship we ask for 3 singles or 2 couples per pew. Downstairs has a maximum of 66. Upstairs 20.

Please remember the safety of others. We want to be able to remain sharing in person.

Although we are unable to mingle after the service we are still having our Virtual Morning Tea at 11am on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

Topic: Sunday morning tea

Time: Oct 11, 2020 11:00 AM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84474736981?pwd=aDU2eGxySmoxZU9ZUkN6ZllvUFE2UT09>

Meeting ID: 844 7473 6981 Passcode: 992809

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

<https://www.youtube.com/user/gordonuniting>

For all the latest news, **visit our Website** www.gpuc.org.au

Contact the office at info@gpuc.org.au or 9983 9879