



The Presbytery of The Downs

Living Water for a Thirsty Land

Newsletter - March 2023

Launch of Bottle Tree Remote Area Ministry (RAM) and Induction of Rev Dona Spencer



The highlight of the big weekend of Presbytery was worship on Friday evening marking the Presbytery's new partnership with Frontier Services and UnitingCare Qld Connect 100 at the launch of Bottle Tree RAM and the induction of Rev Dona Spencer as Bush Chaplain into this ministry.

The service was a wonderful celebration of God's provision beginning in 2013 with the Presbytery's seeding a vision to support rural and remote ministry in the Western Downs through a pilot ministry supported by the Qld Synod called the Leichhardt Patrol. Rev Graham Slaughter ministered in this placement until his retirement in 2021 - we thanked God for the pastoral ministry he exercised and for the wise learnings he shared with the Presbytery during this unique ministry.

In 2021 the Presbytery discerned a new direction for this ministry and for the Maranoa Region on the retirement of Ps Jenny Noble in November 2022. We shared the vision and story with Frontier Services and UnitingCare Qld who agreed to provide three years funding for a Bush Chaplain (based in Roma) to minister in the communities of Mitchell, Roma, Wallumbilla, Injune, Arcadia Valley, Taroom, Wandoan, Glenmorgan, Surat and all the small communities along the way - this would be called Bottle Tree RAM.

On Friday evening in the company of Rev Sharon Hollis, President of the Assembly UCA; Mr Rob Floyd, Acting National Director, Frontier Services; Rev Dr Peter Armstrong, Associate Director for Mission Uniting Care Qld; Rev Andrew Gunton, Moderator Qld Synod; Rev Heather Den Houting, General Secretary Qld Synod; Rev David Baker, General Secretary Qld Churches Together, Ps Joe Eka, Bush Chaplain Kennedy RAM, members of Presbytery; visitors and friends of Dona and Les and many who joined online; we celebrated and praised God as we launch this new ministry and inducted Rev Dona Spencer as Bush Chaplain in the Bottle Tree RAM. Dona comes with a passion for sharing the gospel hope, a creative flare as an artist, open hands and heart, and with her companion in ministry (husband and driver) Les. We pray for Dona and Les as they begin this new ministry. We ask that God will continue to provide all that they need to share the good news with the people of the Bottle Tree RAM.

Thank You



Highfields Community Church

Thanks to Rev Marius and the amazing team of people from HCC who blessed us, fed us, made us feel welcome and comfortable, giving all the glory to God during our Presbytery weekend (24 - 26 Feb).





YOUR CONTAINERS CAN DO SOMETHING GOOD

Support
The Downs Presbytery
Rural and Remote Ministries

SCHEME ID: C10090389

2022 collected \$738
That's 7380 containers
Every 10 cents container helps.

START COLLECTING TODAY



**SALTBUSH GATHERING
GOONDIWINDI
11th March, 2023**

A day to be spiritually nurtured and
to share life and faith together.

**MORE DETAILS AND
REGISTRATIONS HERE**

Empowering Lay Preachers
National Conference of Lay Preachers 2023

4th -7th August 2023

Alex Park, Alexandra Headlands
For more information and to
Register [HERE](#)

**Lifeline and UnitingCare Disaster
Community Care and Recovery Training**
9th -10th March
Redcliffe Uniting Community Hub
For more details and to register
for this FREE event [HERE](#)



Be redefined this Easter.

REGISTER HERE



**1 - 4 APRIL 2023
QCC TAMBORINE
GRADES 7 to 12**



Easter Madness Sponsorship

If you don't have young people in Grades 7-12 in your congregation who are going along to Easter Madness 23! Would you or your congregation consider sponsoring a young person to have this life-changing experience? Watch [HERE](#) for more details and donate [HERE](#)

Fundraising



Vanessa Griffith is here to help us with Grant Applications and fundraising opportunities. Two upcoming webinars:

Grant Writers Webinar - 16th March 2023 10am
Gifts in Wills Webinar - 18th April 11:30am

For more information and registration call Vanessa on 0438 277 011 or email vanessa.griffiths@ucaqld.com.au



Retreat Walk Granite Belt
Camino de St Anthorpe

29th April - 1st May 2023

Guest retreat leader: Rev Heather Den Houting.

For more information contact:
Rev Kaye Ronalds M: 0418 907 540
kayeronalds@gmail.com
Jenny Vichie M: 0417 192 370
jenny@vichie.com.au

Registration required by 21st April 2023
An Activity of the Uniting Church in Australia, Granite Belt, Qld

PRAYER POINTS

- Dona and Les and the Bottle Tree RAM.
- Young People attending Easter Madness
- Saltbush Goondiwindi gathering may those who attend be nurtured in their faith.
- Congregations of Highfields Community Church and Middle Ridge Uniting Church as they participate in a Life and Witness Consultation
- Candidates for Ministry - Annie Baker and Naomi Bell as they continue in their formation.
- The Property Committee as they travel out to Cunnamulla to prepare the property for sale.
- Those attending the UnitingCare Disaster Training
- The people of Crows Nest District Uniting Church as they seek a new Minister.
- The Joint Nominating Committee (JNC) for Cunnamulla, Burke and Wills RAM as they seek a new Bush Chaplain.
- Blue Care Middle Ridge JNC seeking a new Chaplain.
- Those participating in the Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE).
- For our congregations as we realignment with Jesus through the journey through Lent and Easter.

Anglican
Church
St Luke Toowoomba

Hymnfest

St. Luke's Organ Appeal Launch

MASSED CHOIR



Sunday 12 March - 3pm

FREE ENTRY

St Luke's Anglican Church,

Corner Ruthven & Herries Streets, Toowoomba

Massed Choir Conductor: Alex Dixon
Guest Choir: TAS Primary Chapel Choir

REGISTRATION ESSENTIAL

<https://toowoombatickets.com.au/event/17564>



12.30pm	Registration
1.00pm	Rehearsal
2.30pm	Break
3.00pm	HYMN FEST commences
4.30pm	Afternoon Tea

Ph: 07 4639 1910

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9am to 1pm

Email: stluke.tbba@bigpond.com

Web: www.stlukestooowoomba.org.au

Facebook: facebook.com/StLukesParish

If you would like something from your congregation shared with the whole Presbytery - it could be a good news story, a need, an event or a prayer point please send it [HERE](#)

(Whoops AGAIN !)

Rev Rob Callow's contact details are:

E: rev.rob.callow@gmail.com

M: 0490 376 930

DON'T FORGET TO KEEP AN EYE ON THE [PRESBYTERY WEBSITE](#) and [LIKE](#) the Presbytery UCA Presbytery of The downs Group Facebook FOR LOTS OF INFORMATION AND UPDATES

