



The Presbytery of The Downs

Living Water for a Thirsty Land

Newsletter - January 2023

Prayers of the Faithful

I have been joining my prayers with the eternal prayers of those who have gone before me. Like Brigid of Kildare Abbey in Ireland who was around from 450-523AD. Her prayer is:

I arise today through a mighty strength:

God's power to guide me,
God's might to uphold me,
God's wisdom to teach me,
God's eyes to watch over me,
God's ear to hear me,
God's word to give me speech,
God's hand to guard me,

God's way to lie before me,
God's shield to shelter me,
God's host to secure me.

Ford-Grabowsky, Mary. WomanPrayers (pp. 118-119). HarperCollins. Kindle Edition.

Through Christ and by the Holy Spirit God surrounds us as we learn and grow together what it means to be disciples of Jesus.

This year we continue, across the Uniting Church in Australia, to listen and seek God's wisdom to guide us to be the church for now and for years to come, that realistically means that prayerful consideration and prayerful action is required by us all. Act2 is the national conversation where we invited to contribute our ideas and thoughts about how best we can be the Uniting Church in Australia. If you and your congregation would like more information about Act2 and to if you have something to add to the conversation - we need your voice to be heard [HERE](#).

On a personal note, I continue to be blessed by the prayers of the faithful through this time of healing, and am on the road to full recovery. It's great to have Rob on board with his gently, thoughtful wisdom to support the Presbytery. Please keep him in your prayers.

Peace and Blessings

Yvonne (Presbytery Minister, The Downs Presbytery)

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NEWS



Rev Rob Callow

Welcome Rob to the Presbytery team. The Standing Committee asked Rob to consider a role supporting the Presbytery while Yvonne continues slowly returns to work and we come to an arrangement about what administration would be needed.

For February Yvonne is on half-time return to work for to be reviewed again at the end of the month so Rob is filling in the other half. Rob will continue in a half-time role until the end of June to support the Presbytery Minister and Presbytery Office. Rob has access to the Presbytery emails and if you need to contact him by phone call 0409 376 930. Rob is currently working on Safe Ministry Audit and may be contacting you soon.

We thank God for the skills that he brings and continue to pray for guidance and clarity for the Presbytery.

Learning Opportunities



Building a discipleship culture

We are hosting two watch hubs and invite you and your leadership team to come to either:

**Middle Ridge Uniting Church,
264 Stenner Street, Middle Ridge**

**Warwick Uniting Church,
55 Guy Street, Warwick.**

We will join online with the hosts of this event, Moreton Rivers Presbytery on

11th February 2023 from 9am - 3pm.

This is a workshop discerned to help your congregation explore:

- What contemporary discipleship looks like
- The theological basis for focusing on discipleship
- Why discipleship is not the same as 'attending church' and why it is critical to congregational health, mission and growth
- designing an action plan for your congregation to begin or advance a culture of discipling.

COST: FREE

BYO something to share for morning tea and afternoon tea and your lunch.

Register [HERE](#)

For more information about the Watch Hubs contact pm@downspresbytery.org.au

Worship Workshop
The Heart of Preaching

Friday 24th February
2.00pm to 3.30pm
At Highfields Community Church

A short workshop for
lay leaders and preachers
All welcome
RSVP to chair@downspresbytery.org.au

1883



St. Stephen's Uniting Church
invites you to celebrate the **140th Anniversary**
of our Church building.
Sunday, 9am on 19th February, 2023
Followed by light refreshments at
St. Stephen's Uniting Church, 51 Neil St. Toowoomba.



Special Guest:
Rev. Sharon Hollis (President of UCA)

Also celebrating in 2023

- 160 years of congregation,
- 30 Years since renovation and
- Over 60 years of
St. Stephen's Meals On Wheels

2023



OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

24th February from 6pm Launch of Bottle Tree Remote Area Ministry and Induction Service for Rev Dona Spencer.

25th February 8:30am - 8pm Highfields Community Church - Presbytery Meeting


26th February 9am Worship at Highfields Community Church

11th March Goondiwindi Saltbush Gathering (more information to come soon)

PRAYER POINTS

- The people of Turkey and Syria
- Youth and young people that they be inspired and encouraged to contribute positively to community life.
- Pastoral Carers as they gather for a blessing on 13th February at St Luke's cathedral at 2pm.
- Dalby Jandowae Uniting Church, Ps Alisi and the local community.
- Pilton Congregation and their leaders
- Allora Congregation and their leaders
- Nobby Congregation and their leaders
- Rev Nathan Barton in his role both in Eastern Downs Parish and ScotsPGC. We also pray for Kate and William.
- Goondiwindi Uniting Church and their leaders.
- BlueCare staff, volunteers and chaplains.
- Highfields Community Church as they engage in their consultation process.
- Middle Ridge Uniting Church as they begin their consultation process.

Engagements with
Abrahamic Religions



Abrahamic Faiths Gathering

Date: Wednesday, 15th February 2023
Time: 5.45pm, followed by light dinner
Venue: Garden City Mosque,
217 West Street, Toowoomba Qld 4350

The evening will begin with a short presentation by each faith group on "How do we see Prayer."

- Mohammad Aminul Islam, Imam of Garden City Mosque.
- Ariel Heber, President and Community Liaison, Queensland Jewish Community Services Inc.
- Sr. Maria Joyner PBVM, St Anthony's Parish, Catholic Church.

For further information please contact,

Eric Donges – Phone: 4637 2009 email: opaeric@gmail.com
or John Agnew – Phone: 4666 3225 email: agnewjj@yahoo.com.au

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 to:

admin@downspresbytery.org.au

