

10 January 2021



BANGALOW/BYRON BAY UCA

A New Year and God is with us...



As a gathered community we began the new year by considering the opening of John's Gospel. John 1 is one of my favourite parts of the New Testament and is filled with many rich themes about God and humanity. One of the ideas that is presented strongly by the Gospel writer is that in the coming of Jesus Christ, God's presence is with us in a new and amazing way. This is the good news

that is proclaimed so boldly by the early followers of Jesus. It is the good news that can still inspire us today as we enter into the new year of 2021. The writer beautifully says that:

'the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.' - John 1:14

I love how Eugene Peterson paraphrases this passage in *The Message*:

'The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighbourhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, Generous inside and out, true from start to finish.' - John 1:14 (*The Message*)

In Jesus we recognise that God moved into our neighbourhood, coming to be with us in flesh and blood. We begin 2021 by recognising that the good news of the Christmas story that we have just celebrated continues. God continues to be with us. The original good news was that Emmanuel, God with us, was a reality. Today God continues to be with us in a real and present way. Even as we look back with mixed feelings on 2020, with all its joys and sorrows, pandemics and pain that may have even marked us with scars...we know that God was with us and continues to be with us and indeed will be with us throughout the year ahead! As we move into this new year, may we recognise that the God who was there before time began, in the birth of Jesus came to our neighbourhood to be with us. May we truly be aware that God's presence continues to be with us in each and every moment as we bear the light and love of Christ in this world. Grace and peace, Rev Phil

We acknowledge the Arakwal people of the Bundjalung nation, the original custodians of this place. We acknowledge their deep spiritual connection to these lands and waterways upon which we live and gather, and honour their elders past, present and emerging.

MISSION AND MINISTRY

Please contact us to find out more about any of our programs and activities.

Every Week...

Op Shop @ Byron Bay: 9am-12pm, Thursday, Sat 9am-12pm
Men's Cooking: 10am Fridays
Currently suspended due to Coronavirus

Now Operating...

Byron Bay Uniting Church Op Shop: Tuesdays & Fridays 9am-1pm

Sewing @ Byron Bay: 9am-3pm and 6pm-9pm, Mondays

Upcoming events...

Bangalow Weir BBQ Picnic:

Sunday 31st January 2021 we will have a BBQ Picnic as our gathering at the Bangalow Weir (near Deacon St). This has become an annual event and we hope to see you there.

Lectionary Readings

10 January	Genesis 1:1-5	Psalms 29	Acts 19:1-7	Mark 1:4-11
17 January	1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)	Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	John 1:43-51
24 January	John 3:1-5,10	Psalms 62:5-12	1 Corinthians 7:29-31	Mark 1:14-20
31 January	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	Psalms 111	1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Mark 1:21-28

Newsletter Items If you have an event or item for the newsletter, please email Phil the full details by the Tuesday before release, so that we can keep people informed and up to date.

Vision Task Group

In recent times we have been encouraged by our Synod to develop plans for our ministry and mission into the future. In light of our Advent Theme 'Those Who Dream', it feels like now is the season to spend focused time in prayer, dreaming and visioning for the future of our congregation. At our recent Church Council meeting, the Council approved the creation of a Vision Task Group who will meet regularly to discuss possibilities and work towards creating a Mission Plan for the future. Initially this group would meet once a month to discuss ideas, review our current Mission Plan and then develop a plan for the future. If you would like to be part of this group that will begin meeting in February 2021, please contact Rev Phil.

Growing Young

The Pulse Team of our Synod has suggested a resource for churches to consider in terms of their engagement with younger people and growth. This revolves around a book called **'Growing Young: Six Essential Strategies To Help Young People Discover And Love Your Church.'** Our Church Council has decided to engage in this process and this would take the form of working with a small group within our congregation who would read this book (like a book club/small group) and then meet fortnightly to discuss the content, eventually developing an approach for our own church. This would be done in partnership with Pastor Steve 'Molk' Molkenntin and the Pulse Team. We have purchased 10 copies of the book and would like to form a group to begin meeting in February 2021. If you would like to be part of this group then please contact Rev Phil. For more details on Growing Young try this link:



<https://ume.nswact.uca.org.au/resources/growing-young/>

Picnic At Bangalow Weir - Sunday 31st January

On Sunday 31st January we are gathering for a picnic in Bangalow as our gathering for that day. In previous years we have shared salads and a BBQ but this year due to COVID we will have a slightly different approach. We are asking each family or individual to bring their own picnic basket/meal and to not share food or drinks with one another. This will allow our church leadership to satisfy COVID Safe requirements for such an event and for us all to safely enjoy a social gathering like this, despite the current COVID situation.

ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE

Week of 10 January: Iran Iraq Syria

Week of 17 January: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen

Prayer Points:

- For our congregation as we enter a new year of mission and ministry. May we grow in our love for God, one another and for this world.
- The various ministries of our church and those who lead them, as we begin a new year of engaging and serving our local community.
- That our Vision Task Group will be formed and develop some God-inspired ideas for the future ministry and growth of our congregation.
- The current COVID situation in Australia and for our national and state leaders as they make difficult decisions to address the spread of this pandemic.

Gathered Worship

Sunday 10th January	5pm (Bangalow)	Rev Phil
Sunday 17th January	5pm (Bangalow)	George & Shirley Graham
Sunday 24th January	5pm (Bangalow) Day of Mourning themes	Rev Phil
Sunday 31st January	5pm (Bangalow Weir)	Picnic at the Weir (near Deacon St)

The Church Council has decided to continue our combined gatherings at 5pm at Bangalow until the end of January 2021 and will make decisions about our next steps during this time.

Banking Details:

Giving your offering or tithe by Direct Debit or EFTPOS is a helpful way of engaging in this important act of worship.

If you would like to do this the banking details for our church are:

BSB:634-634

Account Number: 100 018 564

Speak to our Treasurer George Graham for more details on offering, gifts or bequests.

Bangalow Byron Bay Uniting Church: 6685 1708

<https://byronshireunitingchurches.uca.org.au>

 <https://www.facebook.com/BangalowByronBayUnitingChurch>

Minister: Rev. Phil Dokmanovic

Phil: 0425 291 955 // phild@nswact.uca.org.au

(Minister's Day Off: Friday)

Church Council Secretary: Corinne Nash 6629 1692

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