

5 December 2021



# BANGALOW/BYRON BAY UCA

## *Living in the Light...*

Last Sunday we began the season of Advent which starts our new Christian calendar year. The season of Advent is a yearly reminder to the church that God is doing a new thing. This is such a helpful consideration for us as a faith community, as we seek God's guidance in opening up new things for us in mission and ministry.

Advent is a time of waiting and expectation. As we engage in the ancient stories of our faith, we are taken on a journey of remembering, recalling and hoping as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ. Our theme this Advent is Living in the Light...



Our Advent candles are a reminder for us of light and as embodied humans we need light to see. Light enables us to move in the darkness that surrounds us. In this season as we journey towards Christmas we recognise that Christ is the Light of the World. As those who seek to follow his path, we are called to live in the light.

Desmond Tutu claimed that "Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness." It is my prayer that even in the midst of the difficult times that come our way, times we might speak of as dark seasons of life, that we would hold on to a tangible and real hope that despite the apparent darkness that surrounds us, the presence of God is with us always and is our light.

During our Advent journey we will consider the ideas of living in the light of hope, peace, joy and love. These are the four big themes that we reflect upon each Advent season. Because they are such big words in our faith journey and hold such depth and meaning, it is important for us to come back to these words again and spend time reflecting upon their resonance for us and our lived experience in these days. As you begin this Advent journey in 2021, I wonder what it might mean for you to live in the light and for you to walk the path of Christ who is our light?

And so...

May you find hope, peace, joy and love in this Advent season, as you look forward to the celebration of Christmas and may you be enabled by God to take some steps along the path of living in the light.

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...

**Advent Small Group** Thursdays 10-11.30am @ Bangalow UCA until Christmas - see Rev Phil for details

**Open Church:** Tuesday 9-11am @ Bangalow, Wednesday 9-11am @ Byron Bay

**Scripture at Byron Bay PS:** Rev Phil Thursday 12-2pm

(Scripture is currently on pause and will resume in 2022 as a result of the COVID situation and NSW Roadmap)

## Now Operating...

**Byron Bay Uniting Church Op Shop:** has now reopened and is accessible by people who are fully vaccinated until the situation changes later in December.

**Uniting Sewing and Social Group @ Byron:** 9am-3pm and 6pm-9pm, Mondays

**Growing Young Bookclub:** every fortnight (details below)

## Upcoming events...

**Growing Young:** Monday 13th December 3pm @ Bangalow UCA (last session for 2021)

**Bangalow Fair Trade Fair:** Saturday 4th December 8am-1pm @ Bangalow UCA

**Kids Christmas Crafternoon:** Tuesday 7th December 3pm-5pm @ Bangalow UCA

**Saltbush Gathering:** Saturday 11th December 9am-4pm @ Lismore UCA

## 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: 6601 2010

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

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

Minister: Rev. Phil Dokmanovic

Phil: 0425 291 955 // [phild@nswact.uca.org.au](mailto:phild@nswact.uca.org.au)

(Minister's Day Off: Friday)

Church Council Secretary: Corinne Nash 6629 1692

email: [allthenashes@gmail.com](mailto:allthenashes@gmail.com)



## Advent Small Group

Rev Phil has organised an Advent Group that is meeting weekly during Advent on Thursday mornings at 10am at the Bangalow Church. We will be considering some of the writings of Richard Rohr that explore the idea of incarnation, a major theme of Advent. If you are interested in being part of this group, please join us on Thursday morning.



Fair Trade Fair

BANGALOW UNITING CHURCH,  
STATION ST BANGALOW  
DECEMBER 4TH 8AM - 1PM

*The ethical and sustainable way to shop!*

## Summer Combined Gathering Schedule

Sunday 26th December (Boxing Day) - no gathering

Sunday 2nd January - Bangalow 5pm (with Communion)

Sunday 9th January - Byron Bay 9:30am

Sunday 16th January - Bangalow 5pm

Sunday 23rd January - Byron Bay 9:30am

(Day of Mourning elements)

Sunday 30th January - BBQ @ Bangalow Weir

Come and join in the Christmas fun

# CHRISTMAS CRAFTERNOON

Bangalow Uniting Church

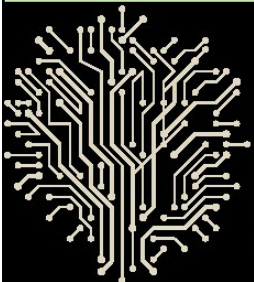
## TUESDAY 7TH DECEMBER

### 3:15PM-5:00PM

Kids from K-6 are all invited to a fun afternoon of games, food, Christmas stories, music and craft.

**\$5 DONATION TO HAMLIN FISTULA**

Please email Phil for more information and bookings  
[phild@nswact.uca.org.au](mailto:phild@nswact.uca.org.au)  
<https://byronshireunitingchurches.uca.org.au>



**SALTBUSH**  
UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

## Saltbush Gathering

**Saturday 11th Dec, 9am-4pm @ Lismore UCA**

This gathering is a good opportunity to meet with people from your region, the Saltbush Team and the Synod! These gatherings are designed for people from all locations who want

encouragement, ideas, conversation around Christian community and who are willing to open themselves to the reality of grounded discipleship. As we enter a new season of exploring our regional governance, we are invited to engage in a much-awaited and rescheduled Saltbush Gathering. This event is open to everyone in our congregations, not just Presbytery representatives. The day will also include the Induction of Rev Peter Overton, who joins the Saltbush Team as the Far North Coast Regional Minister. To register: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/saltbush-scattered-community-gathering-tickets-198600488407>  
Please contact Corinne Nash or Rev Phil if you need to register and cannot access the internet.

# Gathered Worship

<b>Sunday 5th December (Advent 2)</b>	9.30am Byron Bay - Communion 5pm Bangalow - Communion	- Rev Phil
<b>Sunday 12th December (Advent 3)</b>	5pm Bangalow	- Rev Phil
<b>Sunday 19th December (Advent 4)</b>	9.30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow - Outdoor Carols in the carpark	- Rev Phil
<b>Friday 24th December (Christmas Eve)</b>	5pm Byron Bay	-Rev Phil
<b>Saturday 25th December (Christmas Day)</b>	9am Bangalow	- Rev Phil

## Lectionary Readings

<b>5 December</b>	Malachi 3:1-4	Luke 1:68-79	Philippians 1:3-11	Luke 3:1-6
<b>12 December</b>	Zephaniah 3:14-20	Isaiah 12:2-6	Philippians 4:4-7	Luke 3:7-18
<b>19 December</b>	Micah 5:2-5a	Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 80:1-7	Hebrews 10:5-10	Luke 1:39-45,(46-55)
<b>26 December</b>	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26	Psalm 148	Colossians 3:12-17	Luke 2:41-52

### ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE

Week of 5 December: Myanmar, Thailand  
Week of 12 December: Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam

#### Prayer Points:

- The Red Frogs who are using our Byron Bay Church as a base during their 'schoolies' ministry again this year (December 4-18). May they have opportunities to show God's love to young people celebrating the end of their schooling in our region.
- Our journey through Advent as we prepare our hearts and minds for the celebration of Christmas in 2021. May this be a season of hope, peace, joy and love in the midst of our own unique circumstances.
- Our local council elections and our newly elected leaders for the Byron Shire Council. May they be wise in their decision-making and may they have a heart for those on the margins and those in our community who are struggling.
- Members of Parliament as they consider the Religious Discrimination Bill. We pray for thoughtful discernment and respectful conversation that is mindful of the rights of all people to be free from discrimination.

BYRON SHIRE UNITING CHURCHES

*Let us PRAY*

**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.