



BANGALOW/BYRON BAY UCA

No worries...

Apart from my accent, one of the Australian phrases I became well known for during the time I lived in Manchester in the North of England, was the very Australian phrase: "No worries!" When I was feeling a bit homesick and particularly Aussie I would say: "No worries, mate!" In Luke's Gospel, Jesus, noticing the predicament of the people around him, strongly encourages them not to worry: ***"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear."* - Luke 12:22**



In essence what Jesus is saying is: No worries mate! Jesus is also reminding his followers of the call of faith to trust in God in all circumstances. To trust that the Divine is present with us, loves us and will provide for us. These are great ideas for us to consider as we continue to explore faith, learning to not worry about our needs and trusting that God will provide for us.

But...

That's a nice idea when things are going ok. That's a nice idea if we don't have up-to-date access to the news of the world on our mobile phones or if we keep our eyes closed to the reality of life in this global world we find ourselves in today. It seems so much easier not to worry when we don't grasp the realities of the wider world that confront us daily. Close to home here in Australia this has been the experience of people for so many years now. Drought, floods, bushfires, plagues and now a pandemic! What more can people bear? And how can we say to people, "Don't worry," as they face such extreme circumstances.

When it comes down to it, I guess that is the challenge of living a life of faith. Learning to trust in God and not to worry even in the hard times. It is also helpful for us to again be reminded that in Christ, God entered the human condition of suffering and pain and engaged in the full range of human experience. As Jesus spoke these words, he was fully aware of the suffering that was evidenced around him and the ongoing plight of God's people living under Roman rule in an honour-shame based culture. I am sure he knew full well that to say these words did not negate that experience of humanity and does not negate our experiences of pain and suffering when it is difficult to trust in God and to not worry. Jesus goes on to offer a reframe in light of our experiences and tendency to worry. Maybe this could be a tangible way forward for us as we consider how we could grow in this area. Jesus invites us to focus on God's Kingdom: ***"Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well."* - Luke 12:31**

Shifting our focus to God's justice, grace and love can be the way ahead. That is what the kingdom Jesus announces as good news is all about.

As our eyes are opened to the realities of this world we live in, may we be people who learn to trust deeply in God even in our hardest days and may we grow in the ability to say: "No worries, mate!"

Grace & 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...

Men's Cooking @ Bangalow Uniting Church: 10am Fridays (Not yet running)

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)

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

Now Operating...

Byron Bay Uniting Church Op Shop:

Op Shop will be closed from Monday 11th October due to the required vaccination and COVIDSafe requirements from this time and the potential effects of this on our volunteers and community. The Op Shop volunteers will be organising reopening arrangements in the next few weeks as the NSW Roadmap continues to change and we will keep you informed as decisions are finalised.

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

Growing Young Bookclub: every fortnight (details below)

Upcoming events...

Growing Young: Monday 29th November 3pm @ Bangalow UCA

Congregational AGM: Sunday 21st November (following both gatherings)

Church Council Meeting: Tuesday 23rd November 11am @ Bangalow UCA

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

(Minister's Day Off: Friday)

Church Council Secretary: Corinne Nash 6629 1692
email: allthenashes@gmail.com



Congregational AGM - Sunday 21st November

On the **21st November** we will be holding a Congregational Meeting (AGM) following each of our gatherings. This is an important time to review the previous twelve months, to consider the governance of our church and it will also include a ballot/reaffirmation for positions on the Church Council and Eldership. Our current governance structure requires a functioning Church Council and Eldership to administer the spiritual and administrative life of our congregation.

Church Council focuses more on governance and administration and Eldership focuses more on spiritual and pastoral aspects of our communal life. Those selected for both Church Council & Eldership combine to form our Church Council.

Church Council & Eldership Nominees

The following names are being brought to the Congregational AGM: George Graham for Church Council (5 years), Shirley Graham for Elder (5 years), Janelle Jarrett for Elder (5 years), Sybil Johnston for Elder (5 years), Mollie Strong for Elder (5 years)



Fair Trade Fair
BANGALOW UNITING CHURCH,
STATION ST BANGALOW
DECEMBER 4TH 8AM - 1PM
The ethical and sustainable way to shop!

Advent Small Group

Rev Phil is organising an Advent Group that will meet weekly during Advent (probably on Thursday mornings starting Thursday 2nd December). At this stage the plan is to meet together and consider 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 let Rev Phil know and he will give you some more details.

Frontier Services Support



At our gathering last weekend we spent time reflecting on the amazing work of Frontier Services in rural and outback Australia. We thank God for this amazing ministry of the Uniting Church in Australia. We are pleased to announce that we received \$520 through our offering and donations and this will go directly to Frontier Services.

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
phil@nswact.uca.org.au
<https://byronshireunitingchurches.uca.org.au>



Saltbush Gathering

Saturday 11th December, 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

Sunday 21st November	9.30am Byron Bay - Followed by Congregational meeting 5pm Bangalow - Followed by Congregational Meeting	- Rev Phil
Sunday 28th November (Advent 1)	5pm Bangalow	- Rev Phil
Sunday 5th December (Advent 2)	9.30am Byron Bay - Communion 5pm Bangalow - Communion	- Rev Phil
Sunday 12th December (Advent 3)	5pm Bangalow	- Rev Phil

Lectionary Readings

21 November	2 Samuel 23:1-7	Psalm 132:1-12, (13-18)	Revelation 1:4b-8	John 18:33-17
28 November	Jeremiah 33:14-16	Psalm 25:1-10	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13	Luke 21:25-36
5 December	Malachi 3:1-4	Luke 1:68-79	Philippians 1:3-11	Luke 3:1-6
12 December	Zephaniah 3:14-20	Isaiah 12:2-6	Philippians 4:4-7	Luke 3:7-18

ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE

Week of 21 November: East Timor (Timor Leste) Indonesia, Philippines

Week of 28 November: Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore



Prayer Points

- Matilda and William Jarrett (and their parents Luke and Courtney) following their beautiful baptisms last Sunday. May they grow in their faith and knowledge of God's love for them and may we support all young people in our community in prayer and practical ways.
- Our Church Council & Elders as they administer and lead the spiritual and administrative life of our congregation.
- Rural and remote communities as borders re-open after months of lockdown. We pray people have access to vaccines and healthcare and we pray for the work of our Bush Chaplains in supporting those communities.

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.