



BANGALOW/BYRON BAY UCA

It's Christmas...

***"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!"
(Luke 2:14)***

With these words the angels announced that the birth of Jesus Christ on that first Christmas was a wondrous act of God that would bring peace to this world and humanity. This is an inspirational idea for us to hold closely in this Christmas season. For the second year in a row we reflect upon a year that was filled with much uncertainty, disruption and the ongoing effects of the COVID pandemic. It has been a difficult season for many people not just around the world, but within our own local community. The idea of peace may appear fleeting and hard to imagine in many parts of this world and our own community. Christmas is a reminder to us all that in Christ we can have peace.



At Christmas we remember the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, the prince of Peace. God's love for the whole world is revealed in this history defining action. Our Christmas carols and songs reflect the enormity of this occasion and remind us of the hope, peace, joy and love that can be found in this good news story. As a community we have considered these themes again this year during Advent and my prayer is that each of us will spend time engaging with how these themes can influence our lived experience, the way we relate to others and the way we relate to this God who loves all of us.

It continues to be a joy for me to minister in this creative, vibrant, loving and servant-hearted community and as this year draws to a close, I want to take this opportunity to thank all those who have served in the life, mission and ministry of our church and community. Your kindness, goodness and love are a true reflection of the God who displays all these qualities in the birth and life of Christ. May we see Christ all around us this Christmas as we share the good news of the gospel in word and deed.

May you have a blessed Christmas filled with special moments that fill your heart and spirit with wonder and joy and may you experience the deep peace of God in this season.

Grace and peace, Rev Phil

MISSION AND MINISTRY

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

Every Week...

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

Open Church: Tuesday 9-11am @ Bangalow, Wednesday 9-11am @ Byron Bay
Open Church will be on a break until the first week of February 2022.

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: The Op Shop has now reopened, although there will be a short break during the Christmas/New year period. Current requirements enable all people to access the Op Shop independent of their vaccination status and QR code entry is still required.

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

Growing Young Bookclub: every fortnight (details below)

Upcoming events...

YWAM Impact Summer: 27th December - 7th January @ Byron Bay UCA

Growing Young: Monday 10th January, 3pm @ Bangalow 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



Christmas Offerings

This year all the offerings received in our Christmas gatherings will go to the Christmas Bowl. This is an ecumenical appeal through the National Council of Churches that brings hope to people throughout the world. The Christmas Bowl appeal currently funds 28 projects across 19 different countries around

the world. Through giving we will be acting together for peace, helping to create a world where people uprooted by conflict and disaster have a safe place to belong. Please come prepared to give generously.

ALL ARE WELCOME
COME AND JOIN US AS WE
CELEBRATE...

CHRISTMAS GATHERINGS 2021

BANGALOW/BYRON BAY UNITING CHURCH



Advent Small Group

Rev Phil has organised an Advent Group that has been meeting weekly during Advent on Thursday mornings at 10am at the Bangalow Church. We have been 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 for the final session this coming Thursday morning 23rd December.



WWW.BYRONSHIREUNITINGCHURCHES.UCA.ORG.AU



CAROLS IN THE CARPARK

5PM SUNDAY 19TH DEC.

@ BANGALOW UCA - STATION ST, BANGALOW
(BRING A PICNIC RUG AND PICNIC)

CHRISTMAS EVE

5PM FRIDAY 24TH DEC.

@ BYRON BAY UCA - CARLYLE ST, BYRON BAY

CHRISTMAS DAY

9AM SATURDAY 25TH DEC.

@ BANGALOW UCA - STATION ST, BANGALOW

Lectionary Readings

19 December	Micah 5:2-5a	Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 80:1-7	Hebrews 10:5-10	Luke 1:39-45,(46-55)
26 December	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26	Psalm 148	Colossians 3:12-17	Luke 2:41-52
2 January	Jeremiah 31:7-14	Psalm 147:12-20	Ephesians 1:3-14	John 1:(1-9), 10-18
9 January	Isaiah 43:1-7	Psalm 29	Acts 8:14-17	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Gathered Worship

Sunday 19th December (Advent 4)	9.30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow - Outdoor Carols in the carpark	- Rev Phil
Friday 24th December (Christmas Eve)	5pm Byron Bay	-Rev Phil
Saturday 25th December (Christmas Day)	9am Bangalow	- Rev Phil

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

ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE

Week of 19 December: China, Hong Kong,
Macau

Week of 26 December: Japan, North Korea,
South Korea, Taiwan

BYRON SHIRE UNITING CHURCHES

Let us PRAY

Prayer Points:

- The work of The Christmas Bowl as they organise projects around the world to address the needs of those who have been uprooted from their homes due to conflict and disaster.
- A generous and compassionate response to the millions of displaced Afghan refugees living in fear and insecurity.
- Our local community as it experiences the effects of COVID and for all those who are experiencing challenges this Christmas. May we support one another and show love, care and respect.
- The YWAM team as they engage in their Impact Summer ministry and use our Byron Bay facilities as a base from 27th December -7th January.

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.