



BANGALOW/BYRON BAY UCA

Where do we start?

The enormity of the disaster in our region this past fortnight is only beginning to sink in. For communities that are still in the recovery process from the intense flooding of only five years ago, to now encounter the biggest flood in recorded history is heartbreaking and devastating. The question: "Where do we start?" is a common one in such times. Many of us have engaged in assisting, supporting and encouraging those who we know who have been affected, along with others in our community, as they begin the recovery process. What is clear, is that this is not a sprint and there will be a long period of recovery ahead. For those in our own church community who have lost their home, belongings, livelihood, animals or livestock, we are so very sorry that this has happened and we offer our support at this time and into the future. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you need practical help, a chat or with specific prayer requests.

In recent times we have been considering the teaching of Jesus to love our neighbour. It seems to pop up often in our gatherings! During our **Growing Young** series we were reminded of the call to be the best neighbours and already with our Lent focus of "**A Fair Trade Lent,**" we have considered how to love our global neighbours. The life-changing experience of this disaster for so many, gives us all an opportunity to put this teaching into practice. I encourage us all to be in prayer for our communities, our leaders and the recovery process. I also invite us all to consider how we might engage in this as we seek to live out our faith and show God's love in words and deeds. Last week I crafted this prayer and prayed it in our gatherings. I invite you to pray it in the days ahead:

*God of comfort and healing...
There are times in life where there are no words.
This is one of those moments...
But still we struggle and try to put some together...
All around us we hear stories of fear and loss
Pain and grief surround us...
The light of Hope seems dim.
So today and in the days ahead
May Your light shine through the darkness once more
Through the outstretched helping hand of a friend or neighbour
Through the gum-booted feet shovelling mud and debris
Through the comforting embrace of a loved one, support worker or stranger
Through the rays of sunshine that pierce the clouds that released so much water for so long.
May the good that is on display throughout our communities
Continue to flow in these days and remain as a constant beacon in the days ahead.
When stories are shared and heard may consolation and healing arise.
And may peace come to the weary...
Opening up a way forward
Through the refuse-lined streets of our communities and our hearts
And may love be known, shown and declared.
Amen*



Our upcoming Harvest Festival will be a fundraiser to support flood recovery in the local area, so invite as many people as you can. If you have any creative thoughts on how we as a church community can support those in need in practical ways, please let me know and we will continue to seek ways to engage with the recovery process together.

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...

Open Church: Tuesday 9:30am-11:30am Byron Bay UCA

Cuppa & Conversation: Wednesday 10:00am-11.30am @ Bangalow UCA

Scripture at Byron Bay PS: Rev Phil Thursday 12-2pm
begins in Term 2, 2022

Now Operating...

Byron Bay Uniting Church Op Shop:

Open Monday-Friday from 9am-1pm

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

Growing Young Bookclub: every fortnight (details below)



Upcoming events...

Growing Young: Monday 14th March, 3pm
@Bangalow UCA

Harvest Festival (with dinner and auction):
Sunday 20th March, 5pm @ 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





BANGALOW UNITING CHURCH

Harvest Festival

Harvest Festival - Sunday 20th March 5pm @ Bangalow UCA

Harvest Festival is just a week away!

Harvest Festival is just a week away! After postponing this annual event for two weeks due to the recent severe weather and flooding, we are ready to go. The evening will begin with a shortened time of worship where people of all ages can participate, followed by a meal and then our famous Harvest Auction. Please invite friends and family along from the community and consider what produce or goods you might bring along to be auctioned. All funds raised will now go to the flood recovery in our local area.

Open Church / Cuppa & Conversation

After evaluating the Open Church initiative after a year, the Church Council has decided to make a few changes to our weekly schedule. Open Church will continue at Byron Bay, but now on a Tuesday morning from 9:30am to 11:30am. Rev Phil will be there each Tuesday and available for people to stop by for a cuppa and a chat and to connect with people in our community. On Wednesday at Bangalow, we will now

have Cuppa & Conversation each Wednesday from 10am-11:30am.

This is an opportunity to join a small group who will spend time in conversation around matters of faith, scripture and bible study.

BANGALOW/BYRON BAY UNITING CHURCH

EASTER GATHERINGS 2022

HE IS RISEN

ALL ARE WELCOME

Thursday 14th April, 5pm: Service of the Shadows - Bangalow UCA, Station St
 Friday 15th April, 9:30am: Good Friday - Byron Bay UCA, Carlyle St
 Sunday 17th April, 6am: Easter Sunrise - Cape Byron Lighthouse




Lectionary Readings

13 March	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18	Psalm 27	Philippians 3:17 - 4:1	Luke 13:31-35 or Luke 9:28-36
20 March	Isaiah 55:1-9	Psalm 63:1-8	1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Luke 13:1-9
27 March	Joshua 5:9-12	Psalm 32	2 Corinthians 5:16-21	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
3 April	Isaiah 43:16-21	Psalm 126	Philippians 3:4b-14	John 12:1-8

Gathered Worship

Sunday 13th March	9.30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow	- Rev Phil
Sunday 20th March	9.30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow - Harvest Festival	- Rev Phil
Sunday 27th March	9.30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow	- Rev Phil
Sunday 3rd April	9.30am Byron Bay - Communion & Morning Tea 5pm Bangalow - Communion	- Rev Phil

Easter Gatherings 2022

Thursday 14th April 5pm @ Bangalow UCA - Service of The Shadows
 Friday 15th April 9:30am @ Byron Bay UCA - Good Friday Gathering
 Sunday 17th April 6:00am @ Cape Byron Lighthouse - Easter Sunday Gathering.

ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE

BYRON SHIRE UNITING CHURCHES

Let us PRAY

Week of 13 March: Scandinavia: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden
 Week of 20 March: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania

Prayer Points:

- All those impacted by the flooding emergency across QLD and NSW, especially in the Northern Rivers region. For rescue workers and other emergency services and all those providing care and support.
- The ongoing conflict in Ukraine. We pray for the people of Ukraine and the people of Russia and we pray for world leaders to seek an end to war and a pathway to peace.
- Uniting Church communities as we journey through the season of Lent. May it be a time of deep reflection pointing us to new life. May we engage in our theme: **"A Fair Trade Lent"** in meaningful and practical ways.

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.