



# Bathurst Uniting Church

Sharing God's love by connecting people to God;  
people to people; and people to community.

Special Newsletter

August 2021

Physical Distance - Social Connection - Community Care



This is a special edition of the newsletter just to keep in touch during lockdown. The regular September newsletter will be available in two weeks. Hopefully the lockdown won't last for too long but who knows?

Lockdowns (even though we practiced last year) bring all sorts of feelings: anxiety, frustration, loneliness, fear and uncertainty among them. It also brings thankfulness that we have technology to keep in touch with people (although it will never replace physical closeness), thankfulness that we live in a pretty good place where most of us have access to space to walk and be outdoors and enjoy the signs of the coming Spring.

If you are feeling lonely or just need to talk with someone please contact either your pastoral partner, Email [BUConnect@gmail.com](mailto:BUConnect@gmail.com) and someone will be in touch or contact Ellie.

## Prayer from Rev Sharon Hollis, UCA President

God of mercy and compassion,

We pray for the world as across the globe we face the challenges of COVID.

We give you thanks for those who care for the sick,  
for those who work on limiting the spread of the disease  
and those who develop and administer vaccines.

We remember before you all those affected by COVID,

Comfort those who mourn the death of a loved one,

Heal those who have COVID-19 or suffer the long-term effects of having had COVID.

Sustain those who work in health care, testing and vaccination.

Encourage those who are supporting education remotely,

Console those who must stay at home,

And bless and protect those whose work is essential for our wellbeing.

We long for a world where access to health care and vaccines are shared equitably

Strengthen the efforts of those who work to end COVID for all.

And fill us with a desire to work for justice and care for all. Amen

The UCA Assembly has invited congregations to join a National Day of Prayer for Covid this Sunday,  
August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## **GATHERING IN DIFFERENT WAYS**

As was emailed last Monday:

Worship on Sunday will be at 10:30am on Zoom.

The link for the 10:30am service is <https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/91810584067>

The 5:00pm service will be held on Zoom. The link is <https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/96123640714>

The Annual General Meeting that was set down for Sunday has been postponed until 12 September. The Luncheon planned for Sunday has been cancelled.

## **Food for Goodooga - a good news story**

It's great when our Uniting Churches come together to help others. We had a wonderful example this week of everyone working together to help get food to Goodooga.

Goodooga is a town in the Australian state of New South Wales in Brewarrina Shire on the eastern bank of the Bokhara River. It is near Brewarrina, 121.6km, and Lightning Ridge, 73.7 km, its closest neighbours. The town lies 20 kilometres south of the Queensland border. The population of 274 is basically Indigenous and there are about 80 families.



For many years there has been no Supermarket. They have a School, Post Office, and Health Centre.

Now the Covid Lockdown has reached Goodooga concerns for fresh food and vegetables, frozen food and household essentials have become critical. The restrictions on driving, lack of licences, only one person from a family being allowed to shop, on social distancing and the impact of panic buying in Lightning Ridge and Brewarrina cripple the ability of Goodooga residents to access even the most basic of foodstuffs, let-alone fresh fruit and vegies. They have sent a request to Corrina Alchin, Church & Community Engagement Lead at Uniting in Dubbo, who used to live in Goodooga and still has family there. They have asked for very basic things like tea, coffee, UHT milk, nappies and washing powder as well as frozen vegies and food.

Corrina has reached out to a number of churches in our Presbytery to see if we can help. We've had a fantastic response. Dubbo church is hiring and paying for a pant-tech truck and will drive it (appropriately permitted) loaded with fruit and vegies and staples on Monday (the earliest the truck could be hired) to Goodooga. Frozen goods will come from a firm in Coonamble who have offered to transport any food we buy from them to Lightening Ridge for free. We are looking to purchase things like frozen chickens, frozen vegies, ice cream etc. Once they get to Lightening Ridge the postmistress from Goodooga will pick them up.

This is all being paid for by donations from Churches. Orange UCA has put in \$2000 and Bathurst UCA has contributed \$4000 including \$2000 from the BUSS program . There has also been a \$2000 donation from Gordon/Pymble UCA through their Make a Difference out West program. Bathurst UCA is acting as the Banker and will pay the bills etc

## A prayer for Afghanistan

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### Let us pray

All-loving God, Your hands have fashioned every lovely corner of this treasured planet, and the beautiful land of Afghanistan is as precious as every other place Your children call 'home'. By its rivers and mountains, its fields and gardens, its busy towns and ancient villages, it is the heart's desire of its people and the place where their lives and loves are nurtured.



We grieve today with those who grieve over Afghanistan, the people who call it home indeed, the people exiled or suddenly having to leave, and the men and women from other countries who have made sacrifices in recent years in the cause of that country's future.

We remember with renewed sadness the loss of lives of military personnel during the years of this country's involvement in Afghanistan, conscious of the questions that must today be troubling the minds of those in our community who were bereaved, those who were wounded on operations, and those who were forever changed by experiences suffered there.

We pray for peace, dignity, freedom and confidence for the men, women and children of Afghanistan; for courage, vision and generosity within the international community responding to such need; and for tranquillity of mind amongst our own Service community and its wider family.

In the name of Jesus Christ, the peace-giver, we pray, AMEN.

This prayer is from the Church of Scotland and written by Rev Dr Marjory MacLean, convener of the Committee on Chaplains to Her Majesty's Forces.

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### Signs that Spring isn't far away in my garden

