



NEWSLETTER

6 December – 12 December 2021

Revive
Restore
Reach Out

NRCC News and Notices

▪ **ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

We will be journeying through the coming four weeks during Advent with a joyful anticipation of Christ's birth in our lives. During the four weeks, we are going to celebrate hope, peace, joy and love which our Lord wants to bless us with. May our relationship with our Lord be strengthened during this special season.

Christmas services plan this year:

Christmas Eve, Friday, 24th Dec @ 6 PM → A reflective carol service

Christmas Day, Saturday, 25th Dec @ 9 AM → A celebration of Christ's birth

1st Sunday after Christmas, Sunday, 26th Dec @ 9 AM

▪ **Guest preachers on Dec 12 & 19**

The next two weeks we have invited guest preachers to share with us. **Rev. Dr Rob Macfarlane** will preach on December 12 and **Rev. John Barr** on December 19.

▪ **Current safety measures for our Sunday service**

- If you are feeling unwell, please consider others - stay away and get tested
- 2 sqm indoors. Ensure 1.5m physical distancing where possible
- Check in using our QR code. If this is not possible, please check in at the desk.
- Wear a mask while indoors.
- Singing is allowed with a mask if you are fully vaccinated
- At the end of the service please help by wiping down your chair
- We won't be serving morning tea for now

▪ **From Bill and Sandra**

just wanted to say thank you again and let you and the missions committee know how we used your gift of \$350. The week before last, we travelled just over an hour south of here to the town of Maclean, a fairly historic place with lots of old buildings and churches dating back to the 1800s. We stayed at a BnB, in a very nice little guesthouse, quiet and relaxing for three nights. We did day trips out to surrounding area, including catching a small car ferry across the Clarence River to the town of Lawrence.

Probably you are not familiar with any of these places, but we did want to show you how we used the money you sent. Here are some photos below: the oldest church in the Clarence valley in continual use - free Presbyterian church of Maclean. The second one is from the lookout at Brooms Head, a beach close by.

We very much appreciated our time away, and we appreciate you all!

blessings

Sandra and for Bill



Community News and Notices

Parramatta Nepean Presbytery is looking for a Business Manager

- Full-time, or part-time permanent position (can be negotiated)
- A friendly, supportive, professional dedicated to excellence
- A role with purpose - work for a socially driven Australian organisation

If you are interested please click on the link below.

<https://microsites.uca.org.au/media/11547/parramatta-nepean-presbytery-business-manager-031221.pdf>

▪ **Useful sources of information about mental health issues:**

Beyond Blue: <https://www.beyondblue.org.au/>

SANE Australia: <https://www.sane.org/>

Mental Illness Fellowship of Australia Inc: <https://www.mifa.org.au/en/>

The Blackdog Institute: <https://www.blackdoginstitute.org.au/>

Head To Health: <https://www.headtohealth.gov.au/>

Headspace: <https://headspace.org.au/>

Digital mental health tools to support children: <https://www.flexischools.com.au/top-3-free-digital-mental-health-tools-to-support-your-children>

UCA Assembly Resource on **Domestic and Family Violence** can be found [here](#).

Reflection of the Week

For some, Christmas is about cultural traditions and social obligations. The centrality of Christ in the Christmas season comes under attack from pluralistic, hedonistic, and materialistic societies. Christmas has quickly become a series of twinkling lights and sparkling presents with no inkling of the eternal Truth of Christ. In the midst of our cultural traditions and social obligations, do we make room?

For others, isolation is the focus of the season, and we find ourselves alone, struggling to find a sense of belonging. It seems that the most we can hope for is an uneventful evening. Maybe we will fill our time by gratifying our own desires or focusing on our work. Perhaps the time will be spent entertaining a looming feeling of regret. In these moments of isolation, do we make room?

In the midst of that crowded city, the Messiah quietly came into the world. The streets were busy, the inns were full, the travellers were abuzz in the town, and God took on flesh. Can you imagine being in Bethlehem that night and missing this miracle?

The wonder of the Christmas story is this: God's power makes regular intrusions even when we make no room. No room in the inn? God still took on flesh. No room in your holiday traditions? God still calls to your heart. No room in society's agenda? The gift of God is still offered. No room in your isolation? The Saviour still invites you to intimacy with Him.

God's plan continues even if we make no room for it. The awesome and the miraculous occur every day as He calls men and women from death to eternal life in Christ, and He wants us to experience these miracles. Do not crowd God out at Christmas. Open your heart, mind, soul, home, family, and traditions to God. Make room for Him—don't miss His miracles this Christmas and in the days to come.

Prayer: God, today I want to make room for You. I want You to be at the centre of my heart and of all that I do this Christmas season. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matthew 6:33).

E - give (Direct Electronic Giving)

Account Name: North Rocks Community Church
(BSB): 634634 **Account Number:** 100025906

Prayers

If you have any prayer requests or would like to know of those with particular pastoral needs to pray for, please contact Robyn, Steve or Pastoral Care Team.

Ministry Leaders

Minister: Rev. Steve Lee / minister@northrocks.org.au / 0433 698 690

Church Council

Chairperson: Cathy Nelson Secretary: Jenny Keyte Treasurer: Anne Crabb

Team Leaders

Worship: Jenny Keyte Discipleship: Alex Chow Pastoral Care: Robyn Pike Fellowship: Sue Vasilevska
Intergen: Fiona & Cathy Mission: Steve Turner

North Rocks Community Church

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Phone: (02) 9683 2586

Uniting Church in Australia <https://uniting.church/>

NSW & ACT Synod <https://nswact.uca.org.au/>

Parramatta Nepean Presbytery <https://parramattanepean.uca.org.au/>