



NEWSLETTER

28 April – 4 May 2025

Revive
Restore
Reach Out

Sunday Worship 9am

Guest Preacher

This week Rev Allan Blyth will be preaching for us. Communion will be postponed until next Sunday.

Article about Rod

Rod was recently interviewed about his Ecumenical Council role. If you would like to read the article, please click [here](#).

Fellowship Walk

Come join us for a walk, breakfast or both at Cumberland State Forest Saturday 3rd May. Meet outside the Cafe Salinga at 9am for a walk and breakfast at 9.45pm.

Please feel free to invite a friend.

Let Sue know if you are interested so she can book a table.

Community Garden

There will be a working bee, morning tea, & blessing of the Community Garden on Saturday 10th May.

The working bee will start at 8.30am, with morning tea at 10.30am. Please come along at any time during the morning -we'd love to see you there.

Previous Sermons

If you would missed any of our previous sermons you can listen to them on our YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/@nrcc6214> or read them on Rod's blog at <https://rodbenson.com/>

Dates for your Diary

May	
2	Games Night
3	Fellowship Walk
10	Community Garden Working Bee
June	
21	Cancer Council Morning Tea
22	Lunch after church at Castle Hill RSL
Aug	
30	Serving at NRPS Fete
Sept	
6	Trivia Night
Dec	
6	Fair Trade Market

Community News and Notices



**FAIR
TRADE
MARKET**

SATURDAY 3RD MAY
10AM-3PM

📍 West Epping Uniting Church Grounds
35 Orchard St, Epping

From beautiful handmade jewellery, ornaments, textiles, gifts and more from around the world - supporting artisans and their families to help alleviate poverty' - there's something for everyone!
All fair trade products!!

Devonshire tea & sausage sizzle!

Make a Difference at the Fair-Trade Market!
Be part of empowering communities affected by poverty and unfair trade practices by visiting the Fair-Trade Market at West Epping Uniting Church on Saturday, 3 May from 10am to 3pm. Join the fight against poverty while shopping for unique, ethically-made jewelry, clothing, and home décor—just in time for Mother's Day! Enjoy a delicious Devonshire tea or sausage sandwich, and relax with live performances from our talented community. There's fun for the whole family, with free face painting and kids' activities throughout the day. Shop with purpose. Enjoy the day. Help change lives.



Uniting Church Assembly and Synod News Links

Uniting Church Assembly: <https://uniting.church/news/>

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

Reflection of the Week

Psalms have predicted with accuracy the coming of the Lord Jesus. And He has come—our Saviour, our Messiah. So what do the prophecies about Him mean for us today? How can we relate to these psalmists who spoke of Jesus 1,000 years before His birth when we are living 2,000 years after?

The psalmists were people just like us. They had warring emotions: on the one hand, courage when facing the enemies of God; on the other, utter despair before God. On the one hand, they exhibited exuberant confidence in the presence of God; on the other, they raised entreating cries to God to fulfil His promises. Can you identify with that? The Messianic psalms show us that regardless of our emotions toward our circumstances, we can come to God. Though God is awesome and mighty, He is also our loving provider. The psalmists help us look to God in all circumstances so that we rest in His faithful, unstoppable lovingkindness.

The psalmists also remind us that, while Christ has come, there is yet a more glorious day—the day of His return. They exhort us to remember the past, prepare in the present, and joyfully anticipate our future. That means remembering the work of the Lord in your life—the Hound of Heaven—seeking you out to bring you into His salvation. It means preparing now for the return of

Jesus, allowing His Spirit to make every part of you subject to the King of kings, for He alone is trustworthy and pure. And it means waiting expectantly for the future glory that is promised—being in the presence of the Lord, enjoying Him forever in the new heaven and the new earth. Come, Lord Jesus!

Prayer: My Lord and King, my hope is in You. Help me to remember Your goodness, prepare for Your coming, and anticipate the future consummation of Your purposes—Your eternal Kingdom. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see" (Hebrews 11:1).

Prayer Points for This Month

For Our Church

- Pray that we stay rooted in God's Word, seeking His guidance in every step of our journey.
- Pray for Rod, that he may be strengthened and guided as he leads us.
- Pray for our Church Council, asking for unity and discernment as they faithfully lead the congregation.
- Pray for healing and restoration for those in need.

For the Wider Church

- Pray for wisdom and discernment for church leaders at all levels—congregational, Presbytery, Synod, and Assembly.
- Pray for missionaries and mission organizations, especially those reaching the unreached, that they may be bold, wise, and fruitful in sharing the Gospel. We pray especially for the missionaries that we support: Mike & Jacky, Richard & Lindsey, Bill & Sandra.

For Australia

- Pray for those in our communities who are struggling. May they feel God's love and find renewed hope.
- Pray for our political leaders that they might lead with integrity and prioritize justice, especially for the vulnerable.
- Pray for national unity and reconciliation, that our communities might be drawn together in understanding and peace through God's love.

For the World

- Pray for world leaders, that they would govern with wisdom, justice, and compassion.
 - Pray for peace in areas facing conflict and unrest.
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E - give (Anonymous Direct Electronic Giving)

Account Name: North Rocks CC - Giving
(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 or Pastoral Care Team.
Robyn: 0424 791 916

Ministry Leaders

Supply Minister: Rev Dr Rod Benson / 0412421678 / rod@northrocks.org.au

Church Council

Chairperson: Cathy Nelson Secretary: Samson Leung Treasurer: Anne Crabb
Alex Chow, Nicole Critchley, Jenny Keyte