

Gordon-Pymble Uniting Church



15 December 2019



Lessons and Carols

Our team:

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Welcome to all who gather today

Our Annual Lessons and Carols Service always reminds us Christmas is just around the corner. The words of Scripture and the melodies of carols ought to lift our hearts on this third Sunday of Advent with its focus on Joy! As we start Year A of the lectionary with its Matthew focus, I have chosen readings from this gospel to accompany our carols and hymns today. I hope they will remind us of what the 'Jesus event' was all about.

A special thanks to Jillian Cranney and the choir for the extra practices and preparation for our 2 services today. Wish them strong lungs and willing larynxes.

Rev Steve Aynsley

Upcoming Services:

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| 22 December | 9.00 am Worship @ Pymble and Morning Tea
9.30 am Morning Tea @ Gordon
10.30 am Worship @ Gordon |
| 24 December | 6.30 pm Children's Christmas Eve service at Pymble
8.30 pm Christmas Eve Carols and Candles at Gordon |
| 25 December | 9.00 am Christmas Day Service at Gordon |
| 29 December | 9.30 am Combined Worship & Morning Tea @ Pymble |

Service time and venue changes in December and January.

Church Council has decided all services after Christmas and through January will be combined 9.30 am services at rotating venues. On December 29th at Pymble, January 5th at Gordon, 12th Pymble, 19th Gordon, 26th, Pymble. If you have been rostered on during January, **please check the rosters folder** to see if this affects you as some changes have been made at Pymble. Thank you.

Natasha in the Pymble Office will be on annual leave from Thursday 19 December to 6 January 2020. Please continue to send emails to info@gpuc.org.au as they will be checked during this time.

Ideas for **Summer Reading**- Gordon Book club's first two books in 2020 are "Scrublands" by Chris Hammer and then "Unreliable Memoirs" by Clive James

Santa is visiting Playgroup this week on Tuesday and Wednesday morning. (10am) at GUC. If there are any "elves" available to give some help with the party we'd love to see you.

MADOW has received a kind donation from the '**Stitching Group at Gordon**'. Each year the Stitching Group has donated to various organisations. In 2019, \$420.00 has been given to support communities in the west. Drought, fires, isolation and economic challenges are devastating. Thank you.

Morning Tea volunteers are needed for Sunday 29 December for the combined service at Pymble. Please write your name in the rosters folder if you are able to assist. Thank you.

Drought Relief Road Tour A tour to support country towns in the NW of the State, starting on 30th December and ending in the Mudgee area on the weekend of 4th -5th January. All welcomed to join the tour even for a couple of days or the weekend in Mudgee (including a church service at Mudgee UC). For more details, please contact Judy Gill at info@gpuc.org.au. Information is on the website guc.org.au

Human Rights for All Christmas Raffle- HR4A has an office at the Gordon site. It is a charitable pro-bono law firm which fights for the freedom of asylum seekers and refugees. If you are interested in purchasing some tickets it can be done at www.raffletix.com.au/?ref=xctey or see Alison through the week.

Third Sunday of Advent

Finding joy in resilience

Is it possible to be joyful when the natural disasters that batter your island home become more destructive with every year? Your gifts help the people of Tonga to prepare for, and stay safe through, worsening disasters. Please give to the Christmas Bowl today.

CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188