

# Gordon-Pymble Uniting Church



22 December 2019



*New beginnings*

## **Our team:**

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<b>Community Co-ordinator:</b>	Lesley Burt email: <a href="mailto:lesley.burt@gpuc.org.au">lesley.burt@gpuc.org.au</a>

## Welcome to all who gather today

Christmas draws nigh, plans are made, presents are bought (or will be), tensions rise for some. As we reflect on Christ coming near at Christmas, we might consider where he would come today, and to whom he calls us to be generous. Opportunities abound following fires, drought, ongoing homelessness and overseas need. It really is a season to reflect the giving love of God by giving to others as we're able. May we find much joy in doing so.

A final reminder - our only **Christmas Day service will be 9.00am at Gordon**. Christmas Eve - 6.30pm Children's Service at Pymble; and 8.30pm Carols and Candles at Gordon.

The blessings of the season to everyone.

### **Rev Steve Aynsley**

Steve will be on holidays following Christmas, returning on 13th January. For pastoral needs Duncan McDiarmid (0400 529 105) and Paul Swadling (0418 964 044) are available.

Natasha in the Pymble Office is on annual leave until 6th January. Please continue to send emails to [info@gpuc.org.au](mailto:info@gpuc.org.au) and they will be attended to.

### **Upcoming Services:**

24 December 6.30 pm Children's Christmas Eve service @ Pymble  
8.30 pm Christmas Eve Carols and Candles @ Gordon

25 December 9.00 am Christmas Day Service @ 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 at Pymble, 19th at Gordon, 26th at 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.

Please take home your free copy of **Summer 2019 Insights magazine**. Thank you.

**Drought Relief Road Tour Update** So far we have 8 people doing the whole tour, another 6-8 people coming to Rylstone for the weekend and perhaps a couple doing the first two days. Between us we'll be pumping at least \$10,000 into the country economy. Now that's good news! It's still not too late to join us. Contact Judy Gill on 9488 7678 for details.

**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](http://www.raffletix.com.au/?ref=xctey) or see Alison through the week.

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

**Uniting World** – Buy a goat, or perhaps a chicken after the service.

Uniting World work directly at the grass-roots, with churches that are deeply embedded in their communities and led by local people. Their close relationships with local partners means they are able to clearly see that your gifts benefit those in greatest need, with solutions that are right for the people and the place.

**Good News** Congratulations to William Liu, traveling in Europe when he received his HSC results with an ATAR of 99.9! William will be studying Advanced Science at the University of Sydney next year.

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Finding strength in love after fleeing Syria**

How do we share God's unconditional love with those who have suffered unimaginable violence? Through your gifts, you can help support Syrian refugees as they rebuild their lives. Please give to the Christmas Bowl today.

**CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: [actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl](http://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