

The Minister's Weekly Word...

It has been a strange week in many ways for me, two funerals, one ANZAC Day service, one closure of ministry service, two Presbytery meetings and other things going on. It has been a week when I've been reminded of beginnings and endings. The Gospel is full of such things; new starts, death and new life, the seed falling to the ground to regrow into a new tree. The great German Theologian of Hope Jurgen Moltmann wrote a book called 'In the End, the Beginning'. This paradoxical title wants to remind us that the Christian hope is not located in an escape from the struggles of the world, the deathly contingency that stalks our existence, but rather in a love that goes through suffering, that experiences it... Indeed, Christianity is the only religion in the world which says that God entered into suffering in order to offer hope beyond it. God doesn't take us out of suffering, but takes himself into it in order to bring life. When Jesus is raised it is the same Christ who was crucified, he still bears what Charles Wesley memorably called 'those dazzling scars'. In a week of beginnings and endings, I'm reminded that it is God's willingness to be with us in our beginnings and our endings and everything in between that means we can have hope in this life and the life to come. We do well not to take this for granted, but rather to live free from fear and with faith in all we do and say and are. Moltmann's title of course points us towards the eschatological renewal of all things in the final time. While some strands of Christianity have wanted to avoid the doctrine of the last things, Christian theology is reduced significantly without it, and actually collapses in on itself to become little more than ethics. This won't do. God's end, forged through death and resurrection, will become our new beginning. Whatever we are going through here and now, there is a new day ahead. *Blessing, Michael.*

Prayer points:

- . Pray for the aftermath of the earthquake in Vanuatu, for the families who have lost their homes and their loved ones.
- . Pray for the people of Ecuador who are forced with rebuilding their lives in the aftermath of an earthquake.
- . Give thanks to God for all persons who become involved in voluntary service in the aftermath of devastating events. May they be blessed!



Bowral/Kangaloon Uniting Church

"A church for all people..."

Sunday 1 May 2016 (Easter 6)

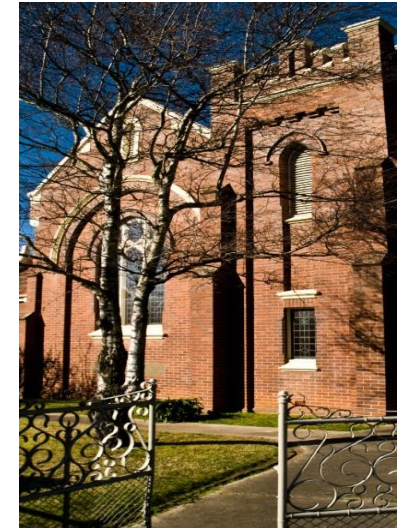


Our ministry focus areas are:

*Worship & Discipleship
Children & Families
Seniors
Community engagement*

You are most welcome at worship today, particularly if you are a visitor or a new resident of the area.

We would love to get to know you, and help you feel at home. Please make yourself known. Join us for coffee after the service!



For matters concerning the life of the congregation, contact:
Reverend Michael Earl, on (mobile 0422 433 569).

**Office: 28 Bendooley Street
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Internet: bkuc.com.au**

Church Council Chairperson

Mrs Kathryn Searle 4872 1002

Church Council Secretary

Mrs Sharon Hoogland 4871 1583

Church Council Treasurer

Mr Graham Blackadder 4861 7385

Elders' Convenor

Mr Jim Layton 4862 4623

Readings:

Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:10,22-22:5; John 14:23-29

A Hearing Loop is in place in the Church and Hall.

To access it, switch your hearing aid to the "T" position.

It is advisable not to sit right against the wall

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK?

<p><u>Monday 2 May</u> 9.30am Peace with Pieces</p> <p><u>Tuesday 3 May</u> 9.30am Pieces & Yarns 9.30am Uniting Kids Playgroup 10.00am Mens Coffee – Stumps Cafe 7.30pm Bible Study for Young Women (Lucy Earl's) 7.30pm Bible Study @ Anne Thomson's in Mittagong In recess 7.30pm Bible Study @ Netta McKay's in Mittagong</p>	<p><u>Wednesday 4 May</u> 10.00am Reflections Study Group @ the Bunker's home. 12 noon – 1.30pm OPEN CHURCH 12.30pm Food & Fellowship in the Gallery... All welcome!</p> <p><u>Thursday 5 May</u> 10am Flying Padre Support Group meeting in the Gallery. 4.00pm Kids Connect Group</p> <p><u>Friday 6 May</u> Bell Ringing practice</p>
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TODAY'S SERVICES 1 May 2016

9.00am Bowral Service of Worship (Preaching: Rev Elizabeth Walker)
6.00pm Bowral Evening Fellowship Time

NEXT SUNDAY 8 May 2016

9.00am Bowral Service of Holy Communion (Rev Michael Earl)
11.30am Bowral Uniting Families Connect
6.00pm Bowral Evening Fellowship Time

Readings Next Week: Acts1:1-11; Ps47; Ephesians1:15-23; Luke24:44-53

ROSTER	THIS WEEK: 1 May	NEXT WEEK: 8 May
Organ	Heather Tredinnick	Ann Clipsham
PowerPoint	Barry Roberts	J & S Hoogland
Elder	Ann Clipsham	Anne Kingdom
Stewards	L Neal, F Manton	J & S Hoogland
Flowers	Judy Dyson, Helen Ling	Jan Hamilton
Kids Church	Lucy Earl	Uniting Families Connect
Morning Tea	Lorraine R & Barbara L	Margaret Murray



*Thank you to our wonderful volunteers who willingly share their gifts and talents throughout the week in our many activities.
Please see the Rosters in the Gallery if you would like to assist!*

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK



‘Sow everywhere the good seed given to you. Sow in good ground, sow in sand, sow among the stones, sow on the road, sow among the weeds. Perhaps some of these seeds will open up & grow & bring forth fruit, even if not at once’
(*Saint*) Seraphim of Sarov (1794-1833) *Russian Orthodox Monk*

THREE NEW GROUPS

1. There will be a **new Bible Study small group** starting at Margaret Osborne's home, 7 When Close, Bowral, at 2pm on Monday, May 9th. This group is open to anyone who is interested. Please contact Rev Michael Earl for more information.-----
2. **BUC widows** will meet next for afternoon tea at the home of Anne Thompson at 2pm on Thursday 12th May. 7 Bunya Close, Braemar. 48713590. For further information contact Narelle Schofield or Una Vidler
3. **Discussion Group**...open to all Southern Highlands Church 'Goers'; Wed 2.30pm at 2/24-26 Purcell St., Bowral-Talk to Ray Bunker (4869.1020)

COMING EVENTS...

Sunday 15 May: Final Service at the Kangaloon Church (11am)
Saturday 28 May: Southern Highlands Zone Planning Day
Sunday June 26: Uniting Church Anniversary & Soup on Sunday
(see Liz Pattinson & Ros Hinde)

Thursday 24 November: Seniors Christmas Party @ Bowral UC

YOU WILL WANT TO HEAR THIS...!

Serendipity (the Choir) is joining with the Sydney Male Choir to present a concert "Royal Connections" at several venues, but especially at Chevalier College on Saturday 7 May at 3pm and at Bundanoon Memorial Hall on Friday 20 May at 6pm.
Tickets from Brown Bookshop-...



Material for **WEEKLY NEWS** needs to be provided by noon each Wednesday to Rev Michael Earl or Sharon Hoogland, 48711583 or hooglandsj46@gmail.com.
Photos, information or notices promoting the work of the church for our **Website** (bkuc.com.au) should be sent to lucyearl79@gmail.com