

The Minister's Weekly Word...

This week marks the holiest week in the church's year. On Good Friday and Easter Sunday we remember and celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus out of which the Christian faith flows. While we may find certain emphases in different parts of the story, it is always important to hold the two days together. We cannot say 'Good Friday' without saying where it is leading, Easter Day. And we cannot say 'Easter Sunday' without saying from where it has come, Good Friday. Easter is the story of the divine love breaking into the world in the most astonishing and dramatic of ways. It is the story of the death of the Saviour, and also his conquering of death in the resurrection. These events have been immortalised in painting, poetry, sculpture, and art of different kinds, but in the end it is their infusion into the life of a person (and a people) that makes for the greatest rendering of their power. We are Christians, because we are of Christ. And by receiving and being shaped by that same love that was in him, we become his followers in the world, in our own way bearing witness to the Easter events. At Easter God leaves nothing in reserve. God gives it all for us and shows us what true life is really all about. It is life that doesn't shirk death, but sees to the other side even while enduring the darkness, and finds hope in an everlasting promise. This is God's gracious invitation to faith and it comes to us all. So, as we enter this holy time we come with eyes and hearts open to what God has in store for us all. ***Blessings, Michael***



CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES (Samaritans Purse)

Thank you to Barbara Learmont who has volunteered to coordinate the distribution and collection of the Christmas Shoeboxes this year. Barbara will have information sheets arriving very soon. In the meantime, you might be on the lookout for special items to fit into your Shoeboxes (Operation Christmas Child): Something to wear, Something to play with, Something for school, Something to love, Something special, Something for personal hygiene.

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 lucyear179@gmail.com

Bowral Uniting Church

"A church for all people..."



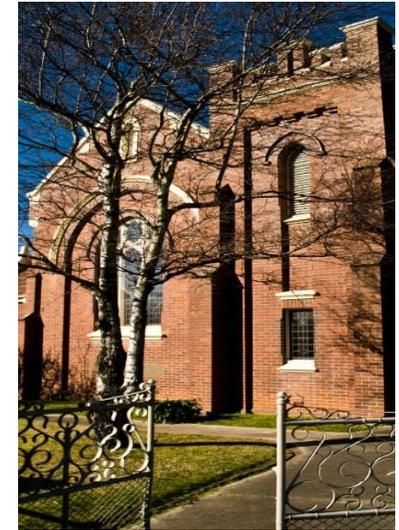
Friday 14 April 2017 (Good Friday)
and Sunday 16 April 2017 (Easter Day)

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
Telephone: (02) 4862 1350
Internet: bkuc.com.au

Church Council Chairperson

Mrs Kathryn Searle 4872 1002

Church Council Secretary

Mrs Sharon Hoogland 4871 1583

Church Council Treasurer

Mr. Bruce Tredinnick 4861 6990

Elders' Convenor

Mr Jim Layton 4862 4623

Readings:

Jeremiah 31: 1-6; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Acts 10:34 – 43; John 20: 1-18

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?

Monday 17 April

Public Holiday

Tuesday 18 April

9.30am Playgroup **IN RECESS**

9.30am Pieces & Yarns

7.00pm Bible Study @ Netta

McKay's, Mittagong **IN RECESS**

7.30pm Bible Study @ the Dinning's,

Mittagong **IN RECESS**

7.30pm Young Women's Bible Study

@ Lucy Earl's **IN RECESS**

Wednesday 19 April

10.00am Reflections Study Group @

Bunker's in Bowral **IN RECESS**

Wednesday continued...

12 noon – 1.30pm OPEN CHURCH

12.30pm Food & Fellowship in the Gallery... All welcome!

2.00pm Funeral of

Ms Bettye Harcus

Thursday 20 April

2.00pm CAMEO meets at The Stumps, Bradman Oval

3.30pm Kids Connect **IN RECESS**

6.30pm Elders' Meeting

7.30pm Church Council meeting

Friday 21 April

6.00pm Bell Ringing Practice

TODAY'S SERVICES 16 April (Easter Day)

9.00am Service of Worship (Rev Michael Earl)

6.00pm Evening Fellowship Time

NEXT SUNDAY 23 April (Easter 2)

9.00am Service of Worship (Rev M Earl & Mrs M Herbert)

11.30am Uniting Families Connect (followed by lunch)

6.00pm Evening Fellowship Time

Readings Next Week:

Acts 2: 14a, 22 – 32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1: 3-9; John 20: 19 - 31

ROSTER	THIS WEEK: 16 April	NEXT WEEK: 23 April
Organ	Heather Tredinnick	Gail Reid
PowerPoint	Ian Prior	Narelle Harwood
Elder	Ann Clipsham	Kay Smith
Stewards	Norm & Narelle Dickson	Ruth & Barry Roberts
Flowers	Elaine Hills, Denise Layton	H Ling & R Robinson
Kids Church	Lucy Earl & Kathy Searle	Uniting Families Connect
Morning Tea	Margaret M/Jenny H	Volunteers Please

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers!



BOWRAL UC NEEDS VOLUNTEERS...!

Please see the rosters on the Gallery noticeboard

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK



'Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people & hallelujah is our song.' *Pope John Paul II (1920-2005) Polish priest, Pope of Roman Catholic Church 1978-2005*

COMING EVENTS

Wed 26 Apr 4.00pm

Presbytery Meets @ Bowral

Thurs 27 Apr 10.00am

Uniting Women in the Southern Highlands

Thurs 19 May 2.00pm

CAMEO @ The Stumps Coffee Shop

Sun 21 May 10.30am

BUC Congregational Meeting

EXCITING NEWS - PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!

David Shrimpton – our 'Flying Padre' will be visiting us here in Bowral during the weekend of **13th and 14th May**. The Flying Padre support group will be meeting tomorrow morning to plan further, and more details will be included in next week's news sheet – together with an update on David's activities!

LISMORE UNITING CHURCH

suffered soul-destroying damage in the floods following cyclone Debbie. Their pipe organ was tipped on its side and swept away alongside floating pews, Bibles and hymn books. Their church building and Op Shop were filled with mud. We knew you would want to reach out to them, so the Church Council Executive have sent your greetings and a cheque for \$1000 on your behalf, which may help some of their families who have lost all their possessions and some, their livelihood.

UNITING WOMEN IN THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

are invited to come along on Thursday 27 April at 10.00am to meet and hear the amazing witness of Ms Penny Carpentier, a young woman who is soon to take up a position as a Bible College lecturer in the Namibia Evangelical Theological Seminary (NETS). Penny has a Masters of Divinity excelling in both Ancient Greek and Hebrew and a Masters of Research with distinction, focusing on the Jerusalem Temple in the Selucid era...! Penny's husband Ben will also be working in Namibia in the distance education program with prison inmates.

OH, & BY THE WAY, Penny is the daughter of Barbara & Tony Towers!!

DVD's of our Sunday services are now available.

If you would like to replay the service which you enjoyed, or if you would like to play the service for a special friend or someone who is not able to attend our church service, please take advantage of this very special resource. A small number of portable DVD players are also available. This special ministry is being coordinated by Kay Smith – who will be pleased to help you!