

The Minister's Weekly Word...

As I sit and write this message, the world is once more coming to grips with a terrorist atrocity, this time in London. Once more we grapple with our mortality, the existence of evil in the world, and the nagging questions about why we find it so hard to live together in peace. None of these are easy issues and all of them require deep and sustained thought. However, there is perhaps a simple point to be made about Christian hope. Unlike 'optimism', which imagines a kind of trajectory of 'improvement', Christian hope faces the sin and brokenness of our world head on and says, amid this darkness, there is a light. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. This is why, paradoxically, Jesus' death is such a hopeful event. There's no pretence, no contrivance, no optimistic assumptions. The bleakness of the world is on full display and yet set within that bleakness, Jesus makes the ultimate sacrifice of love. He gives of himself unto death and lays down his life for his friends - and he has billions of them. There is always hope. Amid the chaos of London, a British politician, Tobias Ellwood, whose brother had died in the 2002 Bali bombings sought to resuscitate the stabbed police officer Keith Palmer. He gave him mouth to mouth and kept trying to keep him alive. That was a hope-filled act. And while the officer in the end succumbed, Tobias Ellwood's courage and compassion in the face of murder and death, powerfully spoke of a different way, what St Paul called 'the most excellent way', the way of God's self-giving love. We are called to be a hopeful people amid the storm, a light amid the darkness, because *the* light has come to be among us. God bless the memories of those who lost their lives, their families and friends, and all the world.

Blessings, Michael



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!

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..."



Sunday 26 March 2017 (Lent 4)

Our ministry focus areas are:

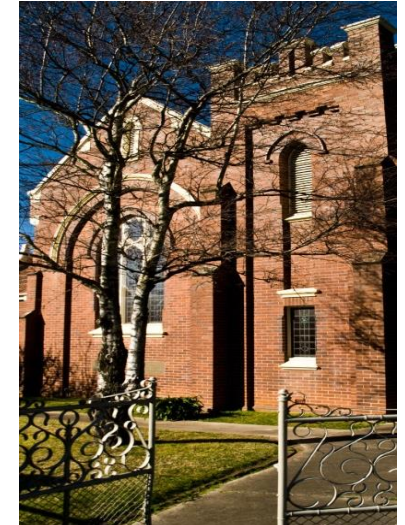
*Worship & Discipleship
Children & Families
Seniors
Community engagement*

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:

1 Samuel 16: 1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9: 1-41

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 27 March

9.30am Lenten Study Group MUC
2.00pm Bible Study @ Margaret Osborne's home
5.30pm Uniting Voices Rehearsal

Tuesday 28 March

9.30am Playgroup
9.30am Pieces & Yarns
7.00pm Bible Study @ Netta McKay's, Mittagong
7.30pm Bible Study @ the Dinning's, Mittagong
7.30pm Young Women's Bible Study @ Lucy Earl's

Wednesday 29 March

10.00am Reflections Study Group @ the Bunker's home
12 noon – 1.30pm OPEN CHURCH
12.30pm Food & Fellowship in the Gallery... All welcome!
7.00pm Lenten Study Group at the Pattinson's in Moss Vale

Thursday 30 March

10.00am UWISH in the Gallery
Guest Speaker: Rev Elizabeth Walker
3.30pm Kids Connect

Friday 31 March

6.00pm Bell Ringing Practice

TODAY'S SERVICES 26 March 2017 (Lent 4)

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

NEXT SUNDAY 2 April 2017 (Lent 5)

9.00am Service of Worship (Rev Michael Earl)
6.00pm Evening Fellowship Time

Readings Next Week:

Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

ROSTER	THIS WEEK: 26 March	NEXT WEEK: 2 April
Organ	Gail Reid	Heather Tredinnick
PowerPoint	Narelle Harwood	Barry Roberts
Elder	Geoff Webb	
Stewards	G & Rosemary Robinson	Greg & Kathy Searle
Flowers	Kathy Searle, Judy Dyson	Mary Dunk, Beryl Adams
Kids Church	Uniting Families Connect	
Morning Tea	Arthur, Jenny, Emma Alcorn	Volunteers required

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers!



BOWRAL UC NEEDS VOLUNTEERS...!
Please see the rosters on the Gallery noticeboard

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK



“These special holidays give rise to various liturgical calendars that suggest we should mark our days not only with the cycles of the moon and seasons, but also with occasions to tell our children the stories of our faith community's past so that this past will have a future, and so that our ancient way and its practices will be rediscovered and renewed every year.” *Brian McLaren (b 1956) US Christian Pastor (Cedar Ridge Community Church) Author & Activist-----*

COMING EVENTS

Sat 8 April 8.00am BUC AUTUMN FAIR
Mon – Thurs...10 – 13 April 9.00am...*Holy Week Devotions each day*
Thurs 13 April 6.00pm *Maundy Thurs Service @ Mittagong*
Fri 14 April 9.00am *Good Friday Service*
Sun 16 April 9.00am Easter Sunday Service
Thurs 20 April 2.00pm CAMEO meets at The Stumps, Bradman Oval

BOWRAL AUTUMN FAIR --- 3 weeks to go...!

Please see the Roster in the Gallery if you are able to help on any of our stalls: Books, Garden, BBQ, Cakes, Jams and Kitchen.

We would love your donations 😊

Uniting Women in the Southern Highlands (UWISH) will meet together to consider the significance of Easter this Thursday 30 March at 10am in the Gallery.



Our special Guest Speaker (#1) is Rev Elizabeth Walker and Devotions will be offered by our special guest (#2) Linda Longworth! This will be a wonderful morning of fellowship and we would love you to join us. Please feel free to invite a friend or neighbour!



!!! NEXT SUNDAY IS PANTRY SUNDAY !!!

All the usual food donations will be gratefully accepted by Anglicare. Maybe a few Easter treats too, at this special time of the year. Many thanks, Liz and Ros.

THANK YOU! *Your prayers, thoughts and expressions of sympathy to both Kathy and me have been a great support to us as we reflect on the life of my late sister, Margaret. With our thanks, Greg Searle.*

PALM BRANCHES NEEDED for Palm Sunday...if you have some palm branches or know of where we can get some... please see Elaine Hills (Phone...48834925)