

# Link



## Carpentaria Presbytery

- of the Uniting Church in Australia -

### Pastoral Notes / Prayer Points

- ◆ **PRESBYTERY OFFICE CHRISTMAS CLOSURE:** Closing on Friday, 15th Dec at 1.30pm and re-opening Monday, 8th January 2024 at 8.30am
- ◆ VALE Rev Douglas Jones who was a past NQ Presbytery Minister recently passed away. Please pray for his family and give thanks to God for his service amongst us
- ◆ Robyn is back from leave on Mon, 11 Dec

### Presbytery Office NEW

#### Postal Address

PO Box 6071  
Mackay MC Qld 4741

(07) 4068 8131

#### Office Hours

Mon Tues Wed & Frid  
8.30am-1.30pm

#### Executive Assistant

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[office@ucacarpentaria.com.au](mailto:office@ucacarpentaria.com.au)

#### Presbytery Minister Rural & Chairperson

Rev Garry Hardingham  
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[presminrural@ucacarpentaria.com.au](mailto:presminrural@ucacarpentaria.com.au)

#### Presbytery Minister Pastoral & Coastal

Rev Christy Allen  
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#### Presbytery Administrator

Robyn Cooley  
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[admin@ucacarpentaria.com.au](mailto:admin@ucacarpentaria.com.au)

#### Hospital Chaplains:

**Cairns:**  
Rev Shane Kammermann  
0409 287 109

**Townsville:**  
Rev Barry Cox  
0408 415 816



# Carpentaria News...

## Congratulations Rev John Dansie

Rev John Dansie won the 414 Award for his role as an Army Chaplain. The 414 Award is presented each year on the Army Chaplaincy Birthday, 1 December, in recognition of outstanding Chaplaincy - core role of Pastoral Care, Leadership, capability in delivering Spiritual Care and Religious advice and service. The 414 Award is presented in memory of the 414 Australian Army Chaplains who served during WWI.



## UnitingCare Prayer Points for December

### Escaping Violence Payment Program (EVP)

- ➔ The Escaping Violence Payment Program (EVP) is available to anyone who is experiencing violence from their partners. This service assists those seeking to leave a violent partner, or have recently left and are struggling with the finances to live their life in safety, can access some financial assistance, goods and services such as removalists, bonds or basics for a new home and support including casework from the EVP provider.
- ➔ Pray for the staff – that they have patience, wisdom and compassion for those who contact the service. That they may be aware of the need for self care, due to the nature of the stories that they may encounter.
- ➔ Pray for the clients – that they may be protected from those making their lives unsafe. That the services provided are one less worry that they have during this difficult time. Pray that the clients will be able to find healing and wholeness as they set about rebuilding their lives.

*Rev Christine Herman, Cairns Region Community Chaplain (UCA and UnitingCare QLD)*

## Notice of Christmas Closure – Qld Synod Bookkeeping Services

Synod Bookkeeping Services will be unavailable from Thursday, December 21, 2023. Regular operations will resume on Tuesday, January 2, 2024.

We encourage you to plan accordingly and submit any urgent requests or documents well in advance of our closure to ensure that your needs are met promptly. Should you have any financial transactions anticipated during this period, we recommend preparing ahead of time so that we can assist you in ensuring everything is in order before our holiday break.

# Synod / Assembly / UnitingCare / UnitingWorld News...

## Safe Church - Free Training Webinar: Identifying Grooming Signs and Appropriate Actions

Do you and your team have the know-how to spot grooming behaviour? And would you be aware of the appropriate actions to take? This webinar is to be hosted by Rev Sarah Lim on Monday, December 11, and it provides practical insights into this challenging topic.

- For more details and to register, [click here](#)

If you have any concerns or questions, please get in touch with your Presbytery office or email the Safe Church Assurance and Support Officer, Lynde Davy, at [safechurch@ucaqld.com.au](mailto:safechurch@ucaqld.com.au).

## Resources for staying safe during heatwaves

Heatwaves are no joke, causing more harm than any other natural disaster in Australia. Seniors are especially vulnerable to their effects.

- Prepare for hot summers in Queensland with [free resources](#) courtesy of Bluecare

BlueCare's heat health resources were co-funded by the Queensland Government and created in partnership with Griffith University.

## GLS Next Gen - Thrive Initiative Invitation

This is "GLS Next Gen\_Thrive Initiative\_Local Church Invitation" by Global Leadership Network AUS|NZ please share - [GLS Next Gen - Thrive Initiative Invitation](#)

To register to receive the free GLS Next Gen resources, coaching and tools **book your Zoom info session by emailing Fiona Cochrane before January 30, 2024.**

**We have 20 available spaces for all of Queensland**, so please contact me as soon as possible. Email: [fiona.cochrane@globalleadership.org.au](mailto:fiona.cochrane@globalleadership.org.au) or Phone: 0411 486 631

## Advent resources are now available!

We're thrilled to announce that all the 2023 Advent Materials are available!

The full set includes resources for Worship and Early Learning settings, as well as printable materials for Community and Church Families.

- Check out the full set and get ready to nurture the garden of your soul [right here](#) (Don't forget to bookmark this page!)

If you need additional information, please don't hesitate to contact our Advent champions. Jess Pinkerton at [jessica.pinkerton@ucaqld.com.au](mailto:jessica.pinkerton@ucaqld.com.au) or Paul Wetzig at [paul.wetzig@ucaqld.com.au](mailto:paul.wetzig@ucaqld.com.au).

## From The Word for Today...

### Do you know why you're here?

#### 'He chose us.' Ephesians 1:4 NKJV

When it comes to God's will for your life, *He* decides it and *you* discover it. It's not something you can change, a topic for debate, or a plan you get to have a say in.

The truth is, you can miss God's will and be miserable, or do things His way and experience '*... glorious, inexpressible joy*' (1 Peter 1:8 NLT). The choice is yours. 'But I don't know God's will for my life,' you say.

Then pray this prayer: 'Father, I'm tired of going through life with no real purpose because it brings no glory to You. You created every living thing, including me, that they may bring You pleasure (see Revelation 4:11). I know that You have a specific job for me to do. Your Word says You formed me in the womb to be Your servant (see Isaiah 49:5). I'm getting lots of input from other people, but I need to know the path *You* have chosen for me. Help me to stop ignoring and minimising the gifts and talents You have invested in me; acting like they're of no significance. I know we are all called to serve, and I need Your help to discern *who, where, when, and how* I should serve. I want to do what You have destined me to do and not be side-tracked by wrong priorities, busywork, or other people's desires and demands. At the end of my life, I want to be able to look back and say like Jesus, "*I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.*" (John 17:4 ESV). In the name of Jesus I pray. Amen.'

(Reflection from [vision.org.au](http://vision.org.au) website – The Word for Today reading, 6 December 2023) The Word for Today is authored by Bob and Debby from UCB International

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