



# Carpentaria Presbytery

- of the Uniting Church in Australia -



#9 | 2026

## NOTES & UPDATES

- **Christy in Brisbane** for SSC meeting on Thursday
- **Craig on Leave** from 25 May to 5 July
- **Kirwan Uniting Church Market Day** on 9 May
- **Safe Church Audits** – audit questions have been sent to congregations and are **due for completion by 31 May**
- **National Church Life Survey 2026** info now available
- **Free Online Grant Workshop** on 12 May
- **New PO Box for Carpentaria Presbytery Office** from 1 June 2026 is **PO Box 7070, Garbutt QLD 4814**

## PRAYER POINTS

- **Presbytery Capacity / Resourcing – Synod wide conversations and discernment**
- **To all the mothers, grandmothers, aunts and mother figures around the world “Happy Mother’s Day” on Sunday**
- **Townsville West End ministry**
- **Napranum UCA and Ministry**

## PRESBYTERY OFFICE



Monday – Friday | 8:30am – 5:00pm



0459 544 507



**PO Box 7070, Garbutt QLD 4814**  
**New PO Box from 1 June 2026**

### Presbytery Minister Pastoral & Coastal

**REV CHRISTY ALLEN (Chairperson)**

0418 184 834 | [presmincoastal@ucacarpentaria.com.au](mailto:presmincoastal@ucacarpentaria.com.au)

*Residing in Southern Zone*

### Presbytery Minister Rural (Supply)

**REV CRAIG MISCHEWSKI (Deputy Chairperson)**

0400 036 630 | [cjmisch@gmail.com](mailto:cjmisch@gmail.com)

*Residing in Northern Zone*

### Executive Assistant

**ANA MILA (Secretary)**

0459 544 507 | [office@ucacarpentaria.com.au](mailto:office@ucacarpentaria.com.au)

Mon-Fri 8.30am-5.00pm

### Presbytery Administrator

**ROBYN COOLEY (Treasurer)**

0429 195 506 | [admin@ucacarpentaria.com.au](mailto:admin@ucacarpentaria.com.au)

Mon & Tues 9am to 3:30pm | Wed 9am to 1:00pm |  
Thur 12:30pm to 4:30pm

### Administration Support (1 day/wk)

**NATALIE LUND**

0491 278 198 | [natalie.lund@ucaqld.com.au](mailto:natalie.lund@ucaqld.com.au)

Mon 10am-12:30pm | Wed 2-4:30pm | Thurs 3-4:30pm

*Uniting News – Stay connected with UCA QLD by subscribing to weekly updates and stories [here](#).*

*QLD Synod Hub – [hub.ucaqld.com.au](http://hub.ucaqld.com.au)*

*Connect100+ Newsletter – email [connect100@ucareqld.com.au](mailto:connect100@ucareqld.com.au)*

*UCA Assembly Newsletter – subscribe [Sign up here](#)*



## CARPENTARIA NEWS

### ONLINE RENEWAL PRAYER GATHERINGS

There is so much to be thankful to God for as we reflect on the course of our lives. God's goodness and grace found in so many ways and places, God's generosity and love discovered in the people and events that have shaped us. Out of this gratitude we bring our prayers to God and ask that we as individuals, and as communities of faith, would be refreshed and renewed to share the transformative presence of God in our lives with the world around us.

Each week, 7-7:30pm (Qld time) on a Tuesday night, and on the first Wednesday morning each month from 6-6:30am (Qld time), a small group of us gathers online to pray together — nothing fancy, just an open space to bring what's on our hearts and ask God to move in our church and community. We'd love you to join us. Whether prayer feels natural to you or you're not quite sure what you're doing, you're welcome. Come as you are.

To join on Tuesday at 7pm use this link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81994146488?pwd=VDcird1dCbJluaHZQR3JsM0wySGdWUT09>

To join on Wednesday at 6am use this link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81502499450?pwd=4S2L4gafUXX76SIUNHCGQxurYxrJMp.1>

*Paul Wetzig, Synod Mission Development Partner*

### SAFE CHURCH AUDIT

The annual questions are now available to complete through Protecht, and are **due 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2026**. This is visible to only one Protecht user at your church, so check with others to find out who received it.

To complete (full steps here: [C2.1.13.8-Complete-the-Safe-Church-Audit-in-Protecht.pdf](#))

- Log in to [Protecht](#)
- Click on **Compliance Attestations** and **My Compliance Entry**
- Click into a question, select **yes, in progress** or **no**. Add a comment as needed and click **save**
- Repeat with the rest of the questions.

You no longer need to upload documents, however please continue to keep these up-to-date.

If you have any questions or need help with completing the audit, please reach out to:

- **Presbytery Support Unit** via [psu@ucaqlid.com.au](mailto:psu@ucaqlid.com.au) or **3377 9984** or Natalie directly on **3377 9934**
- **Protecht Support** via [protechtsupport@ucaqlid.com.au](mailto:protechtsupport@ucaqlid.com.au)

Thank you for maintaining a Safe Church culture as you do mission and ministry in your local contexts.

## 2026 BURDEKIN GOSPEL MUSIC FESTIVAL

All are welcome to attend!



The poster features a vibrant, starry night sky background with fireworks. At the top, the text reads "2026 Burdekin Gospel Music Festival" in large, bold, yellow and white letters. Below this, it says "Sunday 26<sup>TH</sup> July at Stardust Drive-in Ayr 2 - 6pm". The central theme is "AFTERNOON of MUSIC ART & FAMILY FUN". Three artists are featured: Lynton Allan (a painter), Brendon Walmsley (a country musician with a guitar), and Victor Claye (a hip-hop artist with a microphone). A red banner at the bottom right says "FREE ENTRY".

**2026 Burdekin Gospel Music Festival**

Sunday 26<sup>TH</sup> July at Stardust Drive-in Ayr **2 - 6pm**

**AFTERNOON of MUSIC ART & FAMILY FUN**

**Lynton Allan**  
**Brendon Walmsley**  
**Victor Claye**

**FREE ENTRY**

- **Live Music** • Food Stalls • Kids Activities
- **Brendon Walmsley:** Multi award winning Country Music artist
- **Victor Claye:** Blending the golden era Hip Hop with African rhythms
- **Lynton Allan:** Artist / Storyteller back by popular demand

*Bring your friends & family! Spread out your picnic rug and enjoy the show!*



**Hosted by the Burdekin Uniting Church  
With assistance from the RADF**

*The Regional Arts Development Fund is a partnership  
between the Queensland Government and Burdekin Shire Council  
to support local arts and culture in Regional Queensland*



## FREE GRANT SUPPORT WORKSHOP FOR CONGREGATIONS & INDIVIDUALS



If you've ever started a grant application and found it hard to keep things moving, this workshop will help you take the next step.

In this live session, I'll walk through a simpler way to approach your grant applications - so you're not trying to pull everything together at the last minute or start from scratch each time. This is a practical, hands-on workshop.

I'll guide you through a short exercise so you can actually make progress on your own grant while you're there.

By the end, you'll have:

- more clarity on your project
- a clearer sense of what you need
- and a simple next step to keep things moving

You don't need anything fancy - just a pen and paper.

👉 I'm also opening this workshop to the public as part of the lead-up to my updated Master Grant Writing Course.

It's a good opportunity for you to: revisit the fundamentals and get a walkthrough of the Grants123 app in action.

**Date: Tuesday, 12 May**

**Time: Qld / NSW / Vic / Tas: 10:00-11:00am; SA: 10:30-11:30am; WA: 8:00-9:00am**

Register using the link - [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

## NATIONAL CHURCH LIFE SURVEY 2026

This year, thousands of churches across 20 denominations will take part in the National Church Life Survey (NCLS). Since 1991, the NCLS has provided trusted insights into church life and trends, making it the longest-running survey of its kind in the world. Post-COVID, this year's snapshot is a vital check.

**All Uniting Church congregations are encouraged to participate.  
We want to hear from all voices!**

**Cost involved:**

Qld Synod pay the \$400 fee, per local church.

Congregations pay \$2 per survey (no cost if congregation < 30)

## To Sign-Up:

Please email our regional co-ordinator, Naomi Bell, to confirm participation and order the number of surveys required for your congregation. Email Naomi: [naomi.bell@ucaqld.com.au](mailto:naomi.bell@ucaqld.com.au)

To learn more about the NCLS you can watch the Norman and Mary Millar Lecture from the 36th Synod featuring Dr Ruth Powell, Executive Director of NCLS Research: [Norman and Mary Millar Lecture - Dr Ruth Powell NCLS](#).

General information about the NCLS survey can be found on the [NCLS website](#)



Australia's Largest Church Life Survey Returns in 2026

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## VOLUNTEER MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY - KAIROS

When someone goes to prison, their family often serves the sentence too. **Kairos Outside North Queensland (KONQ)** brings hope to women in north Queensland impacted by the incarceration of a family member or friend. We invite churches across Townsville to be a part of bringing hope by encouraging Christian women with a heart to serve and walk alongside others in this life-changing ministry. **Changing Hearts. Transforming Lives. Impacting the World.**

For more information: **Jill Sutcliffe** - 0499195 095 **Maria Curro** – 0417 004 925

Email: [konorthqldrecruit@kairos.org.au](mailto:konorthqldrecruit@kairos.org.au)

Website: [www.kairos.org.au](http://www.kairos.org.au)

## KIRWAN UCA MARKET DAY ON 9 MAY 2026

They are looking for stall holders and people to attend. Check out the brochure below for more info.



**MARKET DAY**

**KIRWAN UNITING CHURCH**  
Hinchinbrook Dr, Kirwan

**SATURDAY**  
**9 MAY**

**8:00am - 1:00pm**  
**\$20 per site**

**Bookings & Information:**

**Phone : Michael : 0447 311 416**  
**or**  
**mmaclaren53@bigpond.com**

## DATE CLAIMERS

2026

**26 May to 5 July** – Craig Mischewski on Leave  
**23-26 October** – 39th Synod at Alex Park  
**19 November** – Muth Arrak Zone Meeting in Cairns  
**20-22 November** – #2 Presbytery Meeting in Townsville at Mount Louisa Community Church  
**23-25 November** – PLT F2F Strategic Meeting

**Synod Selection Panel (SSP) Key Dates 2026**  
 Panel Training Day – 18th April

**Selection Day 1**  
 Applications Close – 27th February  
 Psychological Testing – 7th March  
 Synod Selection Day 1 – 23rd May

**Selection Day 2**  
 Applications Close – 31st July  
 Psychological Testing – 8th August  
 Synod Selection Day 2 – 7th November

## ZONE MEETINGS

Muth Arrak	Northern	Southern	Gulf
30 April - Cairns 19 November - Cairns	16 May 18 July 12 September	13 June 1 August	(Zoom meetings at 5.30pm) 18 June 20 August 17-19 November - Retreat to be confirmed



# THE WORD FOR TODAY

TODAY GOD IS WITH YOU

**“But they were kept from recognising him.” Luke 24:16 NIV**

When you face a crisis it's easy to lose perspective. It happened to two of Christ's disciples on the Emmaus Road. Discouraged about His death, they were 'talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognising him.' (Luke 24:14-16 NIV).

When you take your eyes off Jesus, you start to feel helpless about your situation. Dr Michael Youssef says: 'Facing a major crisis, I tend to be the kind of person whose vision becomes blurred. My perceptions are shot. My contemplations are one-sided. I often shut out the very people who can deliver me, just like those two disciples... Their vision was blurred about the person who was walking with them and talking to them. The one whose death they were mourning was alive... but they didn't realise it because their focus was on the wrong thing.' But everything changed the minute they recognised Jesus. 'Within the hour they were on their way back to Jerusalem. There... the two... told... how Jesus had appeared to them as they were walking along... and how they had recognised him as he was breaking the bread' (vv. 33-35 NLT). Note the words 'within the hour'. In an instant they went from fear to courage, pain to joy, and despair to hope.

Paul wrote, 'I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened' (Ephesians 1:18 NIV). When you stop focusing on the problem and fix your eyes on Jesus, you get 20/20 vision and you're filled with hope.

*(Reflection from vision.org.au website – The Word for Today reading, 8 May 2026) The Word for Today is authored by Bob and Debby Gass and published under licence from UCB International Copyright 2026)*

