

LISMORE REGIONAL UNITING CHURCH
Includes Bexhill, Coraki, Jiggi, Kyogle, Lismore Worship Centres.
4 OCTOBER 2026



Our vision for *LISMORE REGIONAL UNITING CHURCH* is to
transform communities through *Lives being healed by*
Revival of Faith. Renewal of Hope and Restoration of Love.



"If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation; the old has gone, the new is here!" - 2 Corinthians 5:17

Dear Siblings in Christ,

As with many of you, I had the distinct pleasure of attending Bexhill Uniting Church last Sunday to celebrate their 100th Year Anniversary celebrations. It was a fitting tribute thoughtfully presented by Rev Jeff and Rev Denise along with the soulful accompaniment of former BHUC parishioner Geoff Webb on organ (Grant would've approved). Andrew Buchan, along with the valuable support and contributions of Bexhill Uniting Church members, are to be congratulated for making this significant event a reality.

This memorable celebration of Bexhill Church's origins and those who have meaningfully contributed to its existence over the past century, got me pondering about our own Lismore Uniting Church's situation in relation to its future. We have a number of challenging decisions to ultimately make and naturally some angst exists among our members as to what the future of our church looks like.

Something to ponder. We all have our own personal "Book of Life" filled with many significantly personal chapters. These chapters document our own successes and failures, wins and losses, aspirations and disappointments. If you're anything like me there will be those chapters where you wish you could put "time in a bottle" and savour its contents from time to time when you feel the need.

The birth of our second child when there was just the four of us living simply on our little farm at Cattai, is one such memorable time for me (I'm sure you all have many of your own). Is it a case of wanting to return to this time? No, it is more of an appreciation and revisitation to a blessed season in our lives that's created an inextinguishable, beautiful memory. And as God reminds us, there is a time for every activity and a season for every purpose under heaven.

God has a habit of putting such things into perspective. He wants us to keep our eyes looking forward to "the prize of His heavenly calling in Jesus Christ." He wants us to review the chapters in our life story, our "time in a bottle" experiences that acknowledge and cherish what is behind and those who came before us. Yet He also keeps us mindful that it is equally important to live in the moment with a view towards the future and those who will follow us. 2 Corinthians emphasises this transformation and the significance of moving forward in faith. His promise is that He will never leave or forsake us. He will be our guide and support on this journey.

So while Our Lord wants us to treasure the people, places and joys of the past He also wants us to be aware of not losing or appreciating the "new memories" created by our present and future. He's given us all a wonderful opportunity for revival!

Our Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we view our Church's future directions with some uncertainty, strengthen our spirit and make clear to us your promise of hope, peace and the glorious possibilities of new beginnings. Remind us that we are a new creation in Christ. Amen.

May the Lord enrich you with the joys of the past and fill you with the promise of a blessed new future.

Craig Beck.

LRUC Office Address: 80 Keen Street, (PO Box 1132), Lismore NSW 2480. **Phone:** 02 6621 5801
email: lismoreuc@gmail.com **website:** www.lismoreregionalunitingchurch.com

Worship Leaders: Rev Denise Savage & Rev Jeff Savage,
Barry Perry, Craig Beck, Donna Griffith, Vernita Clapham, Colin Bennett.
LRUC Office: Open Mon to Thurs, 9am to 1pm, Ph 6621 5801
Lismore Red Dove Op Shop: Open Mon to Fri, 9am to 3pm.
Kyogle Red Dove Op Shop: Open Wed to Fri, 9am to 12.30pm, and Sat 9am to 12noon.
Facebook: Kyogle Red Dove Op Shop. www.facebook.com/61567752435767/
Facebook - Lismore: www.facebook.com/LismoreRUC
Coraki: www.facebook.com/103100732142570/posts/103105738808736/
Jiggi: www.facebook.com/Jiggi-Uniting-Church-223225084926895

WHAT'S HAPPENING

LISMORE RED DOVE OP SHOP ROSTER: Mon Oct 5: Closed for public holiday.

Tues Oct 6: Cathy Ruigrok, Dianne Perry, Elaine Virtue.

Wed Oct 7: Christine McCowan, Jeanie Pearson, Marie Cowin.

Thurs Oct 8: Rosemarie McLeod, Val Latimer. **Fri Oct 9:** Chris Kollar, Janette Price.

MONTHLY LUNCH—First Sunday of the month at Goonellabah Sports Club, 12 noon. All welcome.

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS: Bill W, Margaret J, Barry and Di P, Vic E, Glen and Shirley H, Alan P, Will R and Alli S. Some of our folk have had recent health challenges and are experiencing changes in accommodation, and life stage changes. May we hold one another in prayer as life brings us a hurdle or two. And may we also hold all year 12's who are coming to the end of their schooling and heading towards HSC exams in a couple of weeks.

LISMORE BUILDING ACCESS: If you have physical keys for entry to the Lismore Church Complex buildings, please contact Susie in the church office to arrange a change over to an electronic fob. The office isn't attended each day so either phone 6621 5801 or email admin@lruc.org.au to make the arrangements. Instructions will be given when you swap key for fob. Failure to change over to the new system will result in very loud and embarrassing alarms sounding, and costly alarm call outs. Please attend to this before daylight saving starts on 4 October.

Someone with good administration skills is required to assist the Property Team. Tasks are to liaise between LRUC, Synod, and other parties to track down information required to attend to some outstanding matters. Good email, phone and communication skills required. You are not required to commit to the Property Team long term, just to assist with these tasks. Please contact Bob Eather or Jeff Savage if you can assist.

KYOGLE UNITING CHURCH: Red Dove Op Shop is open Wednesday to Friday, 9am to 12.30pm and Saturday, 9am to 12 noon. They are in Bloore Street opposite the Library, with clothing for babies to adults, books and bric-a-brac. Monday mornings, church members and volunteers set up shop for the coming week, Sharon Eaton is the coordinator. They would be happy for you to come say hello.

CORAKI UNITING COMMUNITY CHURCH: Community church services at **9.30am Sundays**.

Morning Fellowship Wednesdays 10-12 at the church with Donna. *Prayer Meeting* each Thursday 5.30pm to 7.30pm with Colin.

JIGGI UNITING CHURCH: have a "Pennies from Heaven" repairs fund for the church and are holding a pop-up Op Shop on *3rd Sunday of each month, 10am to 3pm*. If you would like to make a donation—all "pennies" are gratefully received: **Account Name: Lismore Regional Mission; BSB: 634 634; Acc No: 1000 29408; Reference: "Pennies From Heaven"**. *This fund will continue to support further projects at Jiggi. For more information check Jiggi Uniting Church facebook page.*

The Lismore worshipping community is invited to a short forum/discussion following worship on Sunday 4 October to further discuss and receive the community's collective thoughts regarding a decision of Church Council to donate an amount equivalent to 10% of the Lismore Red Dove Op Shop takings for one year to CASPA.

ITEMS FOR NEWSLETTER—If there is any information or news you would like to have in the newsletter, please send it to: lucvolunteers@gmail.com by *Wednesday each week*.

NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL—If you have an email account and would like to receive your newsletter by email, please contact lismoreuc@gmail.com to request the newsletter.

CONTACT DETAILS for Rev Denise Savage and Rev Jeff Savage:

Phone Nos: Denise—0427 647 395, Jeff—0429 728 243

Emails: DeniseS@nswact.uca.org.au and JeffS@nswact.uca.org.au

REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY.

Oct 4:

Ex 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20 / Is 5: 1-7
Ps 19 / Ps 80: 7-15

Phil 3: 4b-14

Mt 21: 33-46

Oct 11:

Ex 32: 1-14

Ps 106: 1-6, 19-23

Phil 4: 1-9

Mt 22: 1-14

LISMORE REGIONAL U C SERVICES:

Lismore: Sundays **9am**.

Bexhill: Sundays **11am**—not 1st Sunday monthly.

Coraki: Sundays **9.30am**.

Jiggi: Third Sunday every month **11am**.

Kyogle: Sundays **9am**.

Preaching Plan	4 Oct	11 Oct	18 Oct	25 Oct
	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Kyogle 9am	Jeff	Denise	Denise (HC)	Craig
Lismore 9am	Denise	Jeff (HC)	Worship Team	Denise
Bexhill 11am		Jeff (HC)	Worship Team	Denise
Coraki 9:30 am	Colin	Barry	Colin	Jeff (HC)
Jiggi 11am			Jeff (HC)	

4th: Daylight Savings begin

12th: School resumes

BEXHILL CENTENARY

The pews are filled, and some sit outside. The organ is fired up and its range given a full work out. A community of people gather to bring their connection and story to a building that has served God's people as a place to gather for worship, witness and service. Not only for Bexhill, but for many beyond as well. With reminders about who and whose we are in the space of worship, songs and prayers gave voice to the place of faith in life. An opening song that connected the celebrations to the opening of the building 100 years ago, and a movement towards the contemporary story with songs of our time took those gathered on a journey. Bible Readings that reflected on the nature of Christ as the Good Shepherd, and that faith lived out is what really puts us in our heyday. Not numbers who gather or have been part of our Sunday Schools etc. It is the sowing of seeds of justice and love as Christ has shown us that is the church living in its heyday. Members of the worshipping community shared leadership in prayers and the liturgy. A video storytelling gave an overview of the gift of the building in faith life. A Litany that gave thanks for various parts of the space was shared, and a blessing of how the building might yet connect and bless community into the future.

Following worship people were invited to share their stories and memories further over lunch. The hum of conversation and people reconnecting with others was a delight for all. May, who has been a long time member of Bexhill, suggested that after having seen a celebration for 50 years and now 100, didn't think she'd hang around for the 150th!

For those who would like to see more photos you can view them through the facebook page for Lismore Regional Uniting Church. A recording has been made and will be available for those who would like as a private link on You Tube. Images and the private link can be made available by contacting Denise.



JIGGI UNITING CHURCH

Just 18 kilometres from Lismore north towards Nimbin Jiggi Church now 120+ years old is experiencing its largest attendance to monthly services in decades with 19 attending the August service, the first wedding in the church in 30 years celebrated recently and last month over 60 people ventured out to church to attend service, browse in the monthly pop-up Op Shop for affordable household items, curios and clothes or just to sit and have a cuppa under the awning where everyone is welcome and cakes and slices are a-plenty.

Jiggi congregation now has around 30 regulars who attend throughout the year, new volunteers and many friends who come for fellowship monthly from throughout the valley, Georgica, Lismore, Gold Coast and beyond.

“When we started our efforts now 10 years, two floods and Covid Pandemic ago we wanted to a) rebuild our congregation and b) fix the outhouse when the roof blew off, and maybe the back step. We wrote an email to the then Church Council without any idea who they were and unsure how church processes work. We sent the 'powers that be' a note asking for permission to fundraise and we included Matthew 18:20 "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them". Pretty sure that email was also seen in higher places.

Alan Hoskins was the first to come out and visit us, he arranged for Brian Latimer to cut open our windows that were painted shut. Yay no. more 40oC inside in summer! Our Pastor John Mace cheered us on with every crazy idea we had - Blessing of the Animals, Official reopening and Blessing of the Outhouse, and Rob and Thea Buchan here for six months cheered even louder encouraging us to do 'what speaks to us'. It's a new era now and we are super grateful to have continuing support as we learned a lot along the way... that Jiggi is everyone's opportunity not only a local church. We learned the meaning of the words outreach and witness and we are proud to show what Uniting Church truly represents.

