

A. Prayer Points

Give thanks for this nation's satisfactory COVID-19 status, a prospective vaccine, and the current mantle of protection over our district and its vulnerable;

- i. Pray for the new US president Joe Biden;
- ii. Our own national, state and local leaders. They have had a demanding 2020 and will face more difficult decisions in 2021;
- iii. Our missionaries: the Harden's, Anderson's, Tanya Johnson (see news below). Give thanks for peace and stability in the countries in which they work;
- iv. Pray for Ian, Jennifer, Tony, Kat, Bob and others with ailments not visible to the naked eye;
- v. Pray for new school teachers and others coming to Emerald for work or marriage;
- vi. Pray for Rev Andrew Gillies, to be inducted as the new minister of Rockhampton South on 29th January;
- vii. Pray for the mayoral election in Rockhampton;
- viii. Pray for volunteers at places like Lifeline and Avalon, especially as those organisations take steps back to 'normal' activity;
- ix. Pray for Australia Day: those who find it a day for much thankfulness and those who find it a day of trial and sadness; and
- x. Pray for those considering work in other places.

B. A Table of Some Coming Events

Date	Activity	Leader	Venue	Sermon Text	Notes
Fri 22 Jan	Prayer meeting, 11.30 am		Church hall		COVID-19 face to face activity
Sun 24 Jan	Public worship, 10.00 am	Iola	Church	Jonah 3:1-10	COVID-19 face to face activity
Fri 29 Jan	Prayer meeting, 11.30 am		Church hall		COVID-19 face to face activity
	Induction of Rev Andrew Gillies, 7.00 pm		Sth Rockhampton Uniting Church		COVID-19 face to face activity
Sun 31 Jan	Public worship, 10.00 am	Young people & Jim	Church	Australia Day theme	COVID-19 face to face activity
Thu 4 Feb	Worship, 2.00 pm		Avalon		COVID-19 aged care facility restrictions
Fri 5 Feb	Prayer meeting, 11.30 am		Church hall		COVID-19 face to face activity
Sun 7 Feb	Public worship, 10.00 am	Jim	Church		COVID-19 face to face activity
	Fellowship lunch	Fiona Stevens?	Church hall		COVID-19 face to face activity. Pls BYO.

C. Livestreaming Link

Sunday 24th January: <https://youtu.be/oxzf7NCvuaE>

D. Missions News

- i. **Tanya Johnson Update (from email received 3 Jan 21)**



"The only flight mum could get on was one this afternoon and she has now safely arrived in Queensland and is on her way home to Townsville. There she will test and isolate until a negative result but this is totally fine. The last couple of days was a nervous wait to see if Queensland would reinstate a hard border with Victoria, which hasn't happened yet.

"What a sigh of relief!"

ii. Kyrgyzstan News (courtesy BBC 11 Jan 21)



Frontrunner Sadyr Japarov won a landslide victory in the January 2021 presidential election. He also acquired sweeping new powers after voters amended the constitution in a referendum. Mr Japarov effectively ran the country after President Sooronbay Jeenbekov was ousted in a popular revolt in October 2020 against allegedly rigged parliamentary elections.

A nationalist opposition politician, Sadyr Japarov spent four years in exile during the rule of President Almazbek Atambayev and his successor and ally Mr Jeenbekov and was imprisoned for taking a rival politician hostage until his supporters freed him in October. He has pledged to make tackling corruption his main priority.

News from the Andersens(excerpted from an email received 17 Jan 21)



Over the course of the next several weeks we'll be viewing some PowerPoints Russell and Anne have sent to the church. In the COVID-19 enforced absence of some regular means of communication with them (eg furlough visits) these skilfully crafted and engaging PowerPoints will inform our prayers and support of them. They will be shown as an introduction to worship.

E. Markets Outreach in 2021

The next night market will be held on Saturday 13th February. Yes, the day before Valentines Day! John tells us in his first epistle that God is love and that we love because he first loved us (I John 4:8,19). We'd like to share that message at those markets with anyone who passes our stall, takes a biscuit and also accepts an associated printed scripture verse. So if you can bake some heart shaped biscuits, as you did so plentifully and scrumptiously for our Christmas night market stall, please do so. Jenny will be co-ordinating this outreach so please seek her out for further details.

F. Esme Machin Funeral Link

<https://www.gregsonweight.com.au/funeral-streaming-centre/#client/5222bc92-430d-4ab8-b14a-e730fa9b928b>

G. Manse Improvements

On Saturday 9th January Peter Iwers (as electrician) and Doug Core (as his faithful TA) came early to the manse. Their mission: replacement light fittings for the lounge/dining area and a new fan in that space. By lunch time their work was done. Jim did the preparatory and follow up carpentry and painting. The result is a softer and cooler living space. Thank you very much Peter and Doug: the commercial cost of labour alone for getting this done, based on hours spent by these two skilled workers on site, would have been considerable. The manse has now had, since Jim and Jane came in 2015, a renovated bathroom, new linen press, all new kitchen appliances, some new curtains, other living area improvements, garden work and electrical improvements such as this. External painting is planned for 2021. The generosity of the church in this space is not inconsiderable.

H. QR Code

Many of you will be aware the church is now using a QR code for sign in and sign out on Sunday mornings. Provision for those without the necessary phones to use this code is still of course available. Over the early part of 2021 information will be produced for door stewards about how they can best perform the steward task with the new regimes COVID-19 has imposed on us.

I. Lent Bible Study

Our annual lent bile study will begin this year on Friday 19th February at 10.30 am in the church hall. It will be based on *With Love to the World*. Copies of this daily bible reading devotional booklet will be available shortly.

J. Farewell Elize

We farewell Elize on Sunday 17th January and gave her a gift. She has graciously responded (what else would you expect from Elize!?!?) with the framing of an Emerald Uniting Church centenary tea towel (1979) she was given by Lorna. It can be viewed in the hall and will find a permanent home there, subject to church council approval.

K. Café 126

Avalon Aged Care Village would like to restart its Café 126 Sunday afternoon coffee shop after the COVID-19 enforced lockdown of 2020. Emerald Uniting Church formerly operated that one Sunday a month. Please consider if you would like to be involved in this ministry; you can talk to Pat or Jim to find out more about it.