

A. Prayer Points

- i. Pray for Iola, Lorraine, Stella and any others known to you during their time of ill health.
Give thanks for successful surgery for Stan;
- ii. Pray for the Halinen family on the loss of Taimi;
- iii. Give thanks for the safe arrival of Mathilda and Madelyn. But there are still a couple of mums-to-be known to us whose time is very close;
- iv. Give thanks for the Christmas services across our town;
- v. COVID-19: the rapid spread of the omicron variant, a widespread vaccine uptake, strength and protection for doctors and nurses and others on the front line, the frail and vulnerable;
- vi. Pray for Russell and Anne Andersen (OM). Pray for them at the international school where they work in central Asia and their ministry there in 2022;
- vii. Pray for Tanya Johnson (Wycliffe) at the mission's Kangaroo Ground training facility;
- viii. Pray for the church's Compassion child and Joyce as she maintains contact;
- ix. Ask for strength and endurance for Christians in lands where they face persecution or a denial of the freedom we take for granted;
- x. Those travelling this holiday season, including those who are moving to Emerald in 2022;
- xi. Pray for those for whom the new year will be a time of fear and not expectation because of things like an abusive partner, an addiction out of control, or a chronic/terminal medical condition;
- xii. Pray for the places and situations we've forgotten because of COVID: Syria, Yemen, Ethiopia, Myanmar, Sudan;
- xiii. Pray for Jim, Jane and Michael as they begin to conclude their time in Emerald. Pray over the vacancy and those who will fill positions; and
- xiv. Give thanks for the beautiful season which has fallen upon our district.

B. A Table of Some Coming Events

Date	Activity	Leader	Venue	Sermon	Notes
Thu 6 Jan	Avalon worship, 2.00 pm		Avalon		COVID-19 aged care facility rules.
Sun 9 Jan	Public worship, 10.00 am	Jim	Church	Corinth and Sin	COVID-19 face to face activity. Probably masks
Sun 16 Jan	Public worship & communion, 10.00 am	Jim	Church	Corinth, Pride and Disunity	COVID-19 face to face activity. Probably masks
Tue 18 Jan	W&PC meeting, 7.15 for 7.30 pm		Office under manse		COVID-19 face to face activity. Probably masks
Thu 20 Jan	Avalon worship, 2.00 pm	Jim	Avalon		COVID-19 aged care facility rules.
Sun 23 Jan	Public worship, 10.00 am	Jim	Church	Corinth and Christ	COVID-19 face to face activity. Probably masks Australia Day features
Sat 29 Jan	Public worship, 2.00 pm (tbc)	Jim and others	Alpha		COVID-19 face to face activity under Alpha jurisdiction

Sun 30 Jan	Public worship, 10.00 am	Jim	Church	Corinth and Self Examination	COVID-19 face to face activity.
Thu 3 Feb	Avalon worship and communion, 2.00 pm	Jim	Avalon		COVID-19 aged care facility rules.
Sun 6 Feb	Public worship and communion, 10.00 am	Jim	Church	Corinth and Preaching	COVID-19 face to face activity. Probably masks. Jim's final scheduled service.
	Fellowship lunch		Church hall		COVID-19 face to face activity. Shared food allowed (at this stage!)

C. Livestream Links

Sunday 9th January: <https://youtu.be/ZePNKHRJz3U>

Sunday 16th January: <https://youtu.be/SQZWmsEwLRo>

Sunday 23rd January: <https://youtu.be/V737dwUoX-8>

D. Neighbourhood Centre Christmas Appeal

The baskets at the front of the church for this appeal were filled to overflowing and have now been delivered to the Neighbourhood Centre. Thank you to those who made contributions.

E. Christmas Bowl

The Christmas Day offering was a very generous one and went, as is our custom, to the Christmas Bowl. Thank you to those who made contributions.

F. Preaching and Leading Worship in 2022

At their last meeting the W&PC elders discussed at some length worship leading and preaching after January 2022. Their meeting endorsed the establishment of pairings/teams of lay people who can be rostered to fill the pulpit on Sundays. There are two key segments of a Sunday worship service: preaching and worship leading. The separation of worship leading from preaching will be a feature of this proposed 2022 arrangement: individuals or pairings can take one role only if they desire. The implementation of such a roster for the church in 2022 will be key to the functioning of the church after Jim leaves.

G. An Army Chaplain Recalls East Timor

Many of you will know Jim did many years in the Australian Army, including several service trips overseas. He prepared an illustrated talk after one deployment in 2000-1. If anyone would like to learn a little about his time in East Timor in the heady months shortly after its independence vote, he'll present the talk after morning tea on Sunday 9th January.

H. A New Banner

Take a moment to have a look at and admire the new banner hanging in front of the tall vertical window at the front of the church. See what biblical allusions you can find. Thank you Philipa, and any who assisted her, for your time and creative skill which produced this piece for us.

I. A Second Visit to Alpha for Worship

Jim had a phone call from Jenny Coombes, the minister at Longreach, about the possibility of Emerald leading and supporting a visit on Saturday 29th January to Alpha Uniting Church. He has said a provisional yes, and Jenny will now talk to Alpha about this. In October last year seven people came with him. It was a great afternoon, and included a scrumptious afternoon tea! If you'd like to come, please talk to Jim and we'll do some car-pooling.

J. New Electric Piano

Our new electric piano arrived just before Christmas, and is currently situated in the music corner. Han has already played it, and discussions have begun about incorporating it more fully into the worship life of the church. Thank you again Han; we will develop this further in 2022.



Matilds Doris Saxby

1Madelyn Helen Keyes



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