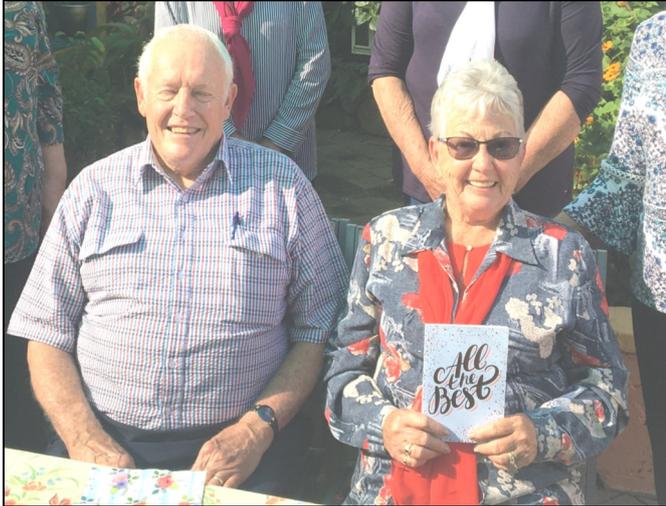




Keeping connected — between members of Gloucester Uniting Church on a weekly basis

Covid-19 pandemic *Messenger*

Then I heard the Lord say, "Whom shall I send? Who will be my messenger?" I answered, "I will go, send me!"



Sunday's reflections, prepared by Rev Dr John Hoskin, is included with this Messenger today

Church morning tea remotely

*Topic: Church Morning Tea
Time: May 24, 2020 10:30 AM Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney Join Zoom Meeting*

<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/93949445759>

*Meeting ID: 939 4944 5759
Dial by telephone Ph : 8015 6011
Meeting ID: 939 4944 5759*

Hello and goodbye

It was a short hello and then a goodbye to former Gloucester residents Mike and Win Giles, who spent a few short hours here on Wednesday before resuming their journey to Queensland. The couple, members of our church for a number of years, had been in New Zealand visiting family and then for two months house sitting in Perth, before flying into Sydney, taking the train to Gloucester where they enjoyed a quick lunch with five friends, picked up their

car and then travelled north to their new home at Ningi, which is near Bribie Island, in Queensland.

Win and Mike thank all for the wonderful friendships formed whilst attending the Gloucester Church.

Keep safe and keep praying for a Covid-19 cure, she said.

Win and Mike can be contacted at their new address, 31 Glenbrook street, Ningi, Queensland 4511, phone 0401411220, or at email gileswin@gmail.com

The countries on the World Cycle of Prayer this week are the two former Portuguese colonies of Angola on the south western African coast, and Mozambique on the south eastern African coast. As so often happens, after gaining independence, both in 1975, there followed a period of civil war. Both now are republics, both mainly Portuguese speakers and Catholic. Angola's population of 26 million is multi-ethnic, whereas Mozambique's 29 million are largely Bantu. Angola has vast mineral and petroleum reserves but Mozambique relies more on agriculture. Again, wealth is not evenly distributed. So we pray for their lands and people.

Presbytery Newsletter

There's more news about what's happening in the Presbytery on our website where you'll find Rev John Thornton's weekly newsletter.

A big part of loving is listening!

*A caring heart, a listening ear,
A thoughtful word, a gentle tear,
Will help to lift the heavy load,
Of weary souls along life's road.
—De Haan*



Birthday girls this week are:

Christine and Kerry on 20th
(the pic opposite shows Christine Bolton at her 80th) on Wednesday

Yvonne on 22nd, and Heather B on 23rd.

GLOUCESTER UNITING CHURCH

**Ministers: Every member of the congregation
Phone Secretary Kerry Chisholm 6558 4206**

Project Reconnect

The sermons from Project Reconnect are now available free of charge on their Facebook page or website each week. Just go to projectreconnect.uca.org.au and click on "Sunday Messages for the COVID 19 Emergency" and you can view them.



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Our church continues its Covid-19 restrictions

The Leadership of the Uniting Church Synod of NSW and ACT and leaders from the Presbyteries and Ministers, met this week to review restrictions on gatherings for worship and meetings for groups in church facilities following the easing of restrictions in NSW and ACT.

With the safety and well-being of our community in mind, the Synod agreed on a strong recommendation that church members should not meet in person for services of worship or face to face meetings in churches.

The recommendation to congregations was laid out in an Information Update signed by the General Secretary, Rev. Jane Fry, and Moderator Rev. Simon Hansford.

"It is anticipated that the effects of COVID-19 will continue to impact our lives for the foreseeable future." "In the coming months we will be asked to make difficult choices between conflicting needs and imperatives. We must avoid framing our situation in terms of a false choice between reviving the economy — or our churches — and saving lives," the guidance said.

The note was clear in its concern for premature easing of restrictions in vulnerable communities, "If we don't continue our efforts to contain the virus, a new wave of infections and deaths will cause further pain. All that we have gained in this time of isolation could be quickly lost."

The guidance confirmed that weddings and funerals were still permissible "adhering to the numbers set by the ACT and NSW Government".

Additionally, it affirmed that Pastoral Visits are permissible if "no one is considered at risk."

The notice made special reference of Ministers or Pastoral Visitors. It recommended a check on health status before visiting community members, and that visitors in a vulnerable category, make alternative arrangements.

Further recommendations advise Uniting Church congregations to:

- * continue to suspend face to face worship,
- * encourage and affirm the continued delivery of worship via alternate means,
- * reaffirm the provision of essential services and activities that support vulnerable people in communities, practicing strict social distancing and hygiene,
- * encourage Ministers and leadership teams in their continued efforts to;
- * foster social contact amongst their people in safe ways,
- * encourage people to maintain fellowship and pastoral care by other means, Australia Post, telephone, internet, online resources including on the Synod COVID-19 Hub for online church activities,
- * Continue to encourage people to use this time as an opportunity for personal retreat and reflection, for enriching and renewing their life of faith, for discovering new ways of reaching out in friendship and support to others in faith, even in the midst of the challenges being experienced."

The Presbytery and Synod leaders will continue to meet each week to monitor future developments.

Lectionary readings for May 24: Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 1 Peter 4:12-14; and John 17:1-11.

Lock Down

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'Just stay at home' the PM said and Gladys said it too

And so I have just stayed at home. It's what I'm supposed to do.

I thought I'd miss the meetings, the committees and the shops.

But no, I really like it here. It's fabulous. It's tops!

I do just what I want to do; wear slippers all day long.

I read, I sew, I garden; but there's only one thing wrong.

It seems that there's this old bloke always hanging round the place.

Now I'm enjoying peace and quiet; but he's getting in my face!

He comes into the kitchen, and keeps getting in my way.

This didn't used to happen when I went out every day.

I know I used to see him and I fed him sometimes too;

But now he says he lives here; I just don't know what to do.

He doesn't seem too clever though, in fact I think he's dim.

He reckons that I'm staying home so I can wait on him.

He wants a million cups of tea, and likes it served with cake,

He wants his lunch at lunchtime and there's no more I can take.

If I cannot get rid of him, I'll really blow my stack.

I try to send him to the shed. But he just keeps coming back!

When they say this lock-down's over, I'll give a joyful shout.

Then every time he bugs me I'll get dressed up and go out!