

What's on This Week?

Sunday 21st 9.30am	Advent 4 Worship
Wednesday 24th 5.30pm - 6:15pm	Christmas Eve Christmas Eve - Family Service
Thursday 25th 8.30am	Christmas Day Christmas Day Worship
Sunday 28th 9.30am	Christmas 1 Worship

For You to Note

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE - in the hall from 5.30pm. Activities available from 5pm in the foyer. Come with family, neighbours, strangers or friends - sit around a table and enjoy.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE - in the church from 8.30am.

MESSAGE FROM OUR MINISTER - NOT SO MERRY THIS CHRISTMAS?

For many people this time of festivities is difficult.

There are many reasons, but one is that a loved one is absent.

If this is your first (second, umpteenth) Christmas without your spouse, child, parent, or special friend, it is natural for you to find this is not such a merry time.

I encourage you to be gentle with yourself and take some time to acknowledge how your loss is impacting you at this particular time.

Know this is not a time you have to 'crack hardy'.

You are not letting people down if you can't be forever jolly.

I also encourage you to recognise the joy of this season being not so much about the festivities, or even the gatherings, but being in the presence of Emmanuel, God with you, each time you weep or sigh or smile or laugh.

OUR MODERATOR'S MESSAGE

In the wake of the tragic events at Bondi Beach, we extend our heartfelt condolences to all who are grieving and to those who have been injured. We stand with the Jewish community and together mourn at the impact of this tragedy on the Bondi community. We recognise that many within the Uniting Church and the wider Uniting family may be affected by this event, and we send our love and prayers. We hold Sydney Presbytery, and in particular Rev. Peter Chapman from the Bondi congregation, in our prayers. We also recognise the pastoral support being provided by Rev. Kent Crawford from the Wayside Chapel.

Events like this can be profoundly distressing. In these moments, we are called to respond in Christ's love, showing compassion, care, and encouragement to one another, and resisting the temptation to let evil multiply through fear or anger.

UCA PRESIDENT'S PRAYER RE BONDI -

God of mercy and peace,

we come to you with hearts that are tired and grieving.

We entrust to you the lives lost,
the wounded,

and all who are holding sorrow this day.

Surround the Jewish community and all who have been affected
with comfort, safety, and hope.

Strengthen those who serve and protect,

and grant wisdom and gentleness to all who lead and respond.

In a world shaken by violence,

teach us again the way of Christ —

the way of love, courage, and peace.

Hold us, heal us, and lead us forward.

Amen.

DONATIONS TO CHRISTMAS APPEALS - Every Christmas local churches and church members receive letters and emails from many organizations requesting donations to their Christmas appeal. At its November meeting, Church Council decided that Morisset would promote just two appeals in 2025 : The National Council of Churches in Australia CHRISTMAS BOWL, and Uniting World's EVERYTHING IN COMMON gift catalogue. When you arrived at church this morning you would have been given a CHRISTMAS BOWL envelope for your donation. The envelope can be returned via the red offering bag next Sunday 21st December; at the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services; or on Sunday 28th December. Or you can send it direct to the address on the envelope.

Unfortunately we only received one print copy of this year's Uniting World's "Everything in Common Gift Catalogue". But if you want to donate one of their gifts to a family member, go to www.everythingincommon.com.au to see what is available, or phone their Sydney office on 1800 998 122

SUPPORT A PLACE TO CALL HOME - Everyone deserves a suitable place to call home. But right now, demand for housing and homelessness support in NSW far outstrips supply, leaving too many people without the stability and safety they need. Call on the NSW Government to commit to lasting change by joining the campaign on homelessnessnsw.org.au

T SHIRTS - The recently produced church T shirts would be a great gift for Christmas for anyone who would like to advertise our church community. At \$24 each they are a bargain! See Cathie Smythe for assistance.

REMINDER - save and leave your used stamps, eyeglasses, and blister packs in the relevant boxes in the foyer for recycling and the good of others please.

Duties for 28th December - Christmas 1

Preacher	<i>Cathie Smythe</i>
Bible Reading	<i>Pat Coster & Kelvin Ward</i>
Welcomer	<i>Morven & Sylvia</i>
Offering/Banking	<i>Sue & Phillip K & Helen Edgell</i>
Prayers of the People	<i>Joan Horgan</i>
Morning Tea	<i>Barbara Dufty & Trish Mitchell</i>

Lectionary Readings for 28th December

<i>Isaiah 63:7-9</i>	<i>Psalm 148</i>
<i>Hebrews 2:10-18</i>	<i>Matthew 2:13-23</i>

OP SHOP BREAK - The Op Shop has now closed for 2025. We are extremely grateful to all the helpers who make it possible to serve the community in this ministry. We pray they all enjoy a Christmas of blessing and a holiday break of refreshment.

DIRECT GIVING - Your offering can be set up to go directly from your bank account into the Church accounts and thus avoid the need to use the envelope system on a Sunday. A direct credit can be set up using the Church's Westpac working account BSB 032-524 Account number 12-1985 or by filling in a form to go to Uniting Financial Services. This form is available from Parriss McDougall.

Connect in Prayer

- Pray for Mental Health Chaplains during the advent of Christmas when people's mental health is increasingly vulnerable. Pray also for the lonely, the bereaved and the despairing.

- We pray for people who have no family or are far from family at this time, when everyone else seems to be joining in celebrations, and we pray that others will be alert to their needs.

- Give thanks for the birth of Jesus, his saving grace, and his presence in the world today. Pray that this true meaning of Christmas will be proclaimed in churches and gatherings throughout the world.

Submissions to the Newsletter

Articles for the Weekly Newsletter should be submitted in writing by Wednesday.
Email: morissetnews@hunter.uca.org.au



MORISSET UNITING CHURCH

"THE CHURCH IN THE TREES"



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER **ISSUE 1440 21st December 2025**

Welcome to the "Church in the Trees" this morning. If you are a visitor, help us to get acquainted with you by signing the Visitors' Book & staying for a time of fellowship at Morning Tea after Worship. Please also collect our Information Brochure.

Children are especially welcome as we share stories and have an activity area at the back of the worship area.

Minister **Rev Nancy Brawn**
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nrbrawn@gmail.com

Service Church 9:30am Sunday
Ph: 0249 735554
PO Box 533, Morisset, NSW 2264
www.morissetunitingchurch.org.au
Facebook: [churchinthetreesmorissetuniting](https://www.facebook.com/churchinthetreesmorissetuniting)

Op Shop Ph: 0249 735967

Prayer Circle Prayer support for all needs for both congregation and beyond. Contact: Helen Edgell
Ph: 49705359 or Mb: 0400 460770

"Growing in the Spirit, reaching out in love"