



**uniting
church**
Orange

17th June 2020

**OUR BUILDING
IS CLOSED.**

**THE CHURCH
IS NOT.**

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
HELP US SERVE
GET CONNECTED

Distant Socialising

A Letter from Rev Andrew

Readings for Sunday 21st June: Pentecost 3

Genesis 21:8-21; Psalm 86: 1-10,16-17; Romans 6:1b-11; and Matthew 10:24-39

What do you think of when you hear the expression 'lifestyle choice'.

One definition of a lifestyle choice is that it is a personal and conscious decision to perform a behaviour that may increase or decrease the risk of injury or disease.

You have probably made lifestyle choices. If you exercise every morning by riding your bike, then you made a lifestyle choice. If you smoke cigarettes, then you have made a lifestyle choice.

What kind of consequences do lifestyle choices have – good or not so good?

Do you ever stick with a lifestyle choice even though there are not so good, or even bad, consequences?

Advertising for lifestyle choices certainly tells you about the good things – does it ever tell about the not so good? E.g. the potential injuries that may come about by cycling every day!

To be a follower of Jesus may be compared to a lifestyle choice. Jesus spelt out the challenging realities of being his disciple with both good and not so good news. The good news is that we are hugely valued by God, and God knows every detail of our lives. So, never be afraid, Jesus says – God loves you. On the other hand, the not so good news, he says, is that it is not easy to be a disciple. What do you think some of the risks and dangers are?

Jesus' advert is realistic: he doesn't offer a life without problems. Rather he promises to help us through the difficulties we will meet. We are not immune to the problems everyone has to face (for example, health issues and death/loss). And there are additional challenges created by living out our faith. Jesus encourages us to recognise them – to be forewarned – and to face them with a resilience that comes from an assurance of our value in God's sight.

What 'faith' lifestyle choices do you as an individual, or us, as the Uniting Church in and around Orange, need to make? Get in touch if you have any good ideas.

Scripture in Schools

At the start of this year the High School SRE Committee engaged Barry Porter (Baz) as High School Scripture teacher at Orange and Canobolas High Schools. This decision was made with knowledge of a need to increase the funding base which supports this local ministry.

In different times, Baz would try and visit the churches of Orange and update us about the work and to seek to gather long term prayer and financial support. Instead I have attached a flyer that the High School SRE Committee have prepared to raise awareness and financial support for high school scripture.

The committee would like to draw your attention to the fact that gifts by individuals to Generate in support of Baz are tax-deductible. The next couple of weeks (prior to EOFY) would be very timely for those of you who may be open to giving financial support to this ministry.



Contact Details

Due to the current health situation, the church office is not open to the public.

The care and administration of the church will continue, so if you want to contact us feel free to do so by phone or email.

Church Office

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Find us on

YouTube

New Chairs?

As you are aware from a previous letter, the Church Council is considering replacing the pews in the Anson Street church with chairs for the following reasons:

1. Our property team reports that the pews are increasingly needing repairs and that this is likely to increase in the near future;
2. Chairs will suit the versatility that we are hoping to achieve as we refurbish the church in the coming year;
3. Given the current social distancing guidelines which are predicted to last for many months, even after a return to the buildings, the versatility of chairs will greatly aid our ability to social distance.

Thanks for the feedback that has been received so far. It has been mostly supportive of the idea, and any concerns have been noted and covered in the following comment that appeared in last week's message:

'Please be assured that these improvements will not be a burden on our congregation members as we are working closely with Synod, who see Orange as a strategic regional congregation. The money to support these improvements will come from sales proceeds and the Synod Growth Fund.'

We will not proceed with the redevelopments until that money is confirmed. We will not come to you for financial support other than to support our Mission and Ministry and any ongoing maintenance of the facilities that arises in the meantime or into the future.'

A decision will be made at the Resource Committee next week, and then confirmed at the Church Council. If you have any further comments before then, please email or phone myself or the chairperson (Bob Nash) or raise a question for the Zoom congregational meeting that will take place this Sunday, the 21st of June.



Congregational Meeting

A reminder that that this Sunday, the 21st of June during the 10.30 am Zoom gathering, will be our congregational meeting for voting on the 2020-2021 budget for the congregation. Thank you for the questions and comments that have been received so far.

Please remember that if you are unable to use Zoom to engage in the meeting you can vote by phone, email or mail to the church office.

COVID Safe Roadmap

Our COVID Safe Roadmap Working Group met last week to begin to make a plan for all our worship centres and different activities and, as mandated under public health orders, prepare a COVID-19 Safety Plan for how we will keep staff, volunteers and visitors safe. Each area listed below needs a separate documented plan, and we will keep you up to date with progress.



- ⇒ Worship (including Sunday School, Weddings & Funerals and Small Groups & Essential Meetings)
- ⇒ Food Ministries (Hot Meals Outreach and Mustard Tree)
- ⇒ Pastoral Care (home visits)
- ⇒ Third Party Hall Hire
- ⇒ Markets, Fetes & Garage Sales

In response to the current COVID 19 Safe Roadmap planning, the **Moderator has**

written a pastoral letter, which is attached to the letter.

Sunday Worship

Worship this Sunday will again be using the YouTube channel and Zoom (using the same Zoom invite as last week, and included again in the email with this letter).

Please get in touch, and someone will be happy to talk you through how get connected. **You can also phone into Zoom gatherings if you don't have a device. Just ask!**

Hopefully see you then.

God bless, and keep in touch.

Giving Direct

Confidential giving via electronic banking can be used for either a regular payment or one-off payment from your bank account to make your offering.

Account Name: Giving Direct – Orange UC

BSB: 634 634

Account Number: 100046973

- all deposits made to this account are taken as offering payments.

- do not use this account for any other church related deposits.