Volume 7 Issue 76 Graham's Reflection

December 2024





house inside and out with bright tinsel and lights, deciding what to have for Christmas dinner, and wondering what Christmas presents we might get – Christmas wouldn't be the same without the suspense and expectations which fill the preceding weeks.

Christmas – A Time of Great Expectations

Christmas is an exciting time, and one of many reasons for this can be summarised in two words – 'Great Expectations'. Christmas is not just one day, it is a whole season. Christmas wouldn't be the same without the weeks leading up to it – the preparing, the choosing of gifts, sending out Christmas Cards, singing Christmas Carols, putting up the tree and decorating the

Church life is much the same, Advent and Christmas Services, carols evenings and end of year parties. There is a whole lot of preparation, and anxious expectation that it will all come together as planned.

The First Christmas also had more than it's fair share of expectations. Consider Joseph and Mary. An angel appeared to each of them individually to prepare them for what was about to happen. How did Joseph feel preparing for the birth of this child who he was to raise as his own, with the knowledge that he was actually the son of God? What sort of man was he expecting Jesus to grow to become. And Mary – one can not begin to imagine her thoughts, dreams and expectations. Did Mary have any idea what the future held for her son?

(Cont. next page)

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Mary Burnett

And yes there were the shepherds, the wise men, King Herod, Simeon and the prophetess Anna at the Temple – and of course the whole Jewish Nation who had been waiting and preparing for the coming of the Messiah for hundreds of years. What were their expectations – some looked forward with hope, some with despair, some with joy and some with fear. If indeed Jesus was the expected Messiah – what did that mean?

I doubt Jesus turned out to meet any of thier personal expectations, but if we only got what we wanted or expected, we would miss out on so many blessings.

Just the other side of Christmas is a whole new year, and about now our vision not only takes in the mad but exciting mayhem that Christmas can be, but looks to the year to come. Consider your hopes and expectations for your congregations, your mission and ministry, Christ's church, and the building of God's kingdom. What does 2025 look like for you and the church? Will you be content to just have your expectations met, or are you open and praying for our unpredictable God to do something new, unanticipated, completely left-field, and mind-blowingly life changing.

You know something? Christmas would actually be very boring if all we ever received or experience was what we expected. In my experience, it is the unexpected that makes a good Christmas great. We can be eternally thankful that God sent us the Messiah that we needed, not the Messiah that we wanted.

I pray that this Christmas and 2025 is everything you expect, but also unbelievably so much more!! May you encounter the living God in new exciting and totally unexpected ways.

Joy to the world – the Lord is come.

God Bless, Pastor Graham Huth



Graham's Diary

<u>December</u>

5 Standing Committee & PRC (Gympie) 10 MC3 11 PSI 12 Placements

<u>January</u>

- 20 PresMins Strategic Planning Day
- 21 23 PSI Retreat
- 28 29 Presbytery Strategic planning -PSC & PRC committee members

Presbytery Meeting Dates 2025

March 15—Bundaberg UC July 19—Caloundra UC November 14 - 16 TBC *Corinthians 12*

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

Mary Burnett Online Services

<u>Blackall Range</u> - Website	Buderim - YouTube	
Bundaberg - YouTube	<u>Caloundra</u> - Facebook	
<u>Cooroy/Pomona</u> - Facebook	Hervey Bay - YouTube	
Gympie Uniting Church - YouTube	Kawana Waters - Facebook	
Apologies if I've missed anyone, please let me know.		

Standing Committee

and PRC

2024/25 Meetings

Submissions accepted for consideration up to 1 week before meeting.

5 Dec	13 Feb
12 March (Z)	10 Apr
14 May (Z)	12 Jun

All ministry agents are required to have a Professional Supervisor. Professional Supervision Covenant forms are available on the <u>Presbytery website</u>.

Prayer

Sovereign Lord of Light and Peace, In a world fractured by darkness and discord, We come before you with hearts heavy yet hopeful. Like a lighthouse piercing through storm-tossed waves, Break through the shadows that surround us.

Breathe your Spirit anew into your people, As you did upon the waters at creation. Where chaos reigns, speak your peace. Where hearts are hardened, plant seeds of compassion. Where hope has dimmed, rekindle your eternal flame.

> Renew your Church, O God, Until we shine like stars in the darkness, Bearing witness to your unchanging love. Transform our weariness into strength, Our fear into faithful action, Our despair into dancing.

Make us instruments of your peace, Channels of your healing grace, Until your light spreads from heart to heart, From community to community, Like dawn breaking over distant hills. In the name of Christ, our Peace, Amen.

(source Uniting News 12/11/24)

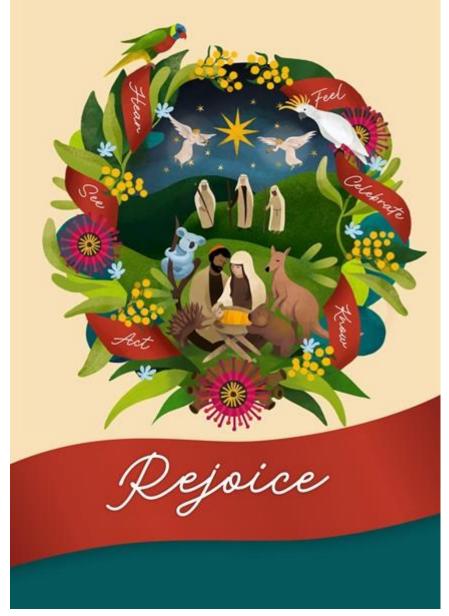
For God has great Plans for you!

Presbytery committees members

Thank you to all who have stepped into Presbytery roles to serve on our committees. We welcome: Presmin: Graham Huth Chairperson: Peter Coombes Secretary: Naomi Cavalli Treasurer: Johan Frank Admin: Kylie Aalbers Mission Engagement Officer: Phil Smith Property Committee: Wendy Jensen, Kylie Aalbers Standing Committee: Stuart Bosch; Elizabeth Nolan, David Ellis, Steven Fincham, Neil Storey, MEO, Presmin, Pres Chair, Pres Secretary; Pres Treasurer, Property Committee, Pres Admin Pastoral Relations Committee: Stuart Bosch, David Ellis, Elizabeth Nolan, Neil Storey, Steven Fincham, Margaret Gilbert, Wendy Jensen, Presmin, Pres Chair, Pres Secretary, Pres Admin

Please pray for the members of these committees as they carry out the work of the Presbytery on our behalf.

I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving be offered for all those in authority, so that we may lead tranguil and guiet lives in all godliness and dignity.



The 2024 Advent and Christmas Resources, based on the theme "Rejoice" are NOW COMPLETED and available for <u>download from</u> <u>here</u>

Above is a sample of the design theme that is being used throughout the material.

If you have any questions about the material, please get in touch via email with Jess Pinkerton jessica.pinkerton@ucaqld.com.au or Paul Wetzig paul.wetzig@ucaqld.com.au and they will assist you.

(Source: Uniting News 19/11/24)



The BlueCare - Grief and Loss team have released their first team newsletter which in future monthly issues will feature updates, high-lights & training opportunities across the state.

We welcome you to share this across your communities & should you wish to be added to their distribution list, please reach out directly to the team via <u>griefandlossprogram@bluecare.org.au</u>

Andi Griggs

Connect100+ | Mission & Community Partnerships UnitingCare Queensland

I have emailed this newsletter to Presbytery Reps and church council secretaries, and put a copy on the <u>Presbytery website</u>. Kylie Aalbers Presbytery Admin admin@maryburnettpres.org.au

7 DAYS WITHOUT PRAYER MAKES

ONE WEAK

November Presbytery Report

9th November 2024

After the meeting opening formalities, Presbytery started with the standing committee reports

- MEO report, it was noted that the seed funding from MC3 needs to have Presbytery support and applications should be sent to the standing committee for comments, before being submitted to the MC3 team.

- Property report, Wendy has visited a number of congregations across the Presbytery and provided feedback that the most common item for preventative maintenance is to keep the gutters clean and free of vegetation! We were also reminded that all rental agreements for manses need to be signed by the property trust, and cannot be delegated to the real estate. The Protecht system is working well and seems to be easy to use. Please display and use the posters that Peter Rose supplied a few months ago.

- Safe Church report - ministry training was held on the 8th Nov, please let the office know if you need congregational training.

Rev Stuart Bosch gave a report on the 17th Assembly and an overview of the many topics that were discussed.

The Gen Sec, Rev Dr Adam McIntosh was introduced and spoke about the upcoming Moderator elect nominations, followed by the new support initiatives coming from Synod -Mission Accompanying Team, Church Renewal Fund to name a couple.

Rev Nigel Rogers spoke about the Centre for Ministry and Leadership courses that are available and also about Easter Madness camp for high schoolers. Churches and individuals can send their young folk, or sponsor or donate to help someone from another congregation to attend.

After lunch, there was the PRC report, with number of notations. Among them is the new minister starting at Kawana Waters in the new year, Rev Fritz Venzke, and the retirement of Rev Dr Anita Monro at the end of the year. As the ministers of the Burnett Network of Churches are now Presbytery positions, there was a vote to call a new minister, which was unanimous - and as he has accepted the call and already started, I can tell you his name is Rev Phil Alcorn. We look forward to meeting Fritz and Phil at the next meeting in March.

In the Chaplaincy report, Ps Jim Hall reminded us that having simple conversations and just listening to people, can have an immeasurable impact.

Uniting Care Mission Partner - Rev Keren Seto shared a range of initiatives, events and programs in which Uniting Care are involved, including Reconciliation, Grief & Loss, Prison Ministry, and Environment Sustainability.

The annual elections were held for Standing Committee and PRC, in which all nominees were duly elected. The Chair Peter Coombes (who was appointed by the Moderator in September) nominated to stand for 3 years and was elected, and the Property Officers also both nominated for 3 years, and were elected.

To finish the day, there was an open forum Q & A with the Gen Sec & PresMin, which covered a range of topics. (your rep will have more details in meeting minutes)

Kylie Aalbers Presbytery Admin.

The Act2 work of the Assembly is taking concrete steps forward.

We're establishing two new national Commissions in 2025. You can now express interest in being a member, or offer feedback on the task we're giving them.



Your invitation to contribute to our theological culture and common life and wealth

The Assembly has an exciting opportunity for you to play a critical role in co-creating the future of the Uniting Church as we establish two new national Commissions in 2025.

Following the decisions of the 17th Assembly in July relating to the Act2 Project, the Assembly has moved from a time of reflecting on our life and imagining our future into a specific set of concrete steps. Two whole-of-Church Commissions are being created:

<u>The Commission For Theology, Formation And Leadership.</u> <u>The Commission For Governance, Resourcing And Administration.</u>

There are two ways to engage with this exciting work right now:

- Express Interest in being a member of one of the Commissions.
- Give feedback on the draft Terms of Reference for the two Commissions.

The final deadline for both responses is 1 March 2025.

More information

(source National Update 27/11/24)

Sunshine Coast Kerssangdiens

Christmas Carols Service Sunday 1 December 2024 at 6:00 pm 🖉 🔊 BUDERIM UNITING CHURCH SUNSHINE COAST OLD (c/o Gloucester Road & King Street

Buderim, 4556) buderim.uniting@bigpond.com (075445 2921)

Afrikaans/English Service Verversings/Refreshments in Connections on King







The 12th November was National Survivors' Day, which recognises & commemorates the courage and journeys of Survivors of Sexual Assault and Institutional Abuse across Australia. More details here

(source Uniting News 12/11/24)

DV Training on coercive control and the new offence in Qld

Two free online training modules from the Qld government are now available:

Module 1: Coercive control and domestic and family violence training and Module 2: Coercive control and the law training

(source Uniting News 12/11/24)

Uniting Church's Position Statement - Domestic & Family Violence

The Synod Standing Committee has approved a Domestic & Family Violence position statement for the Queensland Synod. You can read the position statement on our website



Farewell Rev Craig Allan

On the 21st November, BlueCare and the Presbytery celebrated the conclusion of Rev Craig Allan's chaplaincy placement at Masters Lodge, Hervey Bay. Mr Jeff Howard, BlueCare manager of Mission & Pastoral Care, welcomed everyone and then handed over to Rev Stuart Bosch who led worship and presided over the formal proceedings of letting go of a pastoral rela-

tionship. Stuart received acclaim from the residents for both his guitar playing and his singing! Jeff even suggested he should apply for Australian Idol





Several Presbytery reps were present, and many residents and staff came as well. Several members

spoke very highly of Craig and of how much he will be missed, including Rev Keren Seto (Right) Then Craig and his lovely wife Nadine, cut the cake, for morning tea! We wish Craig

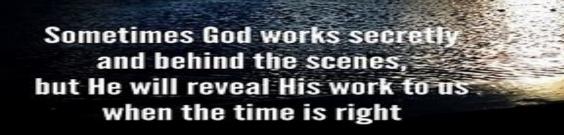
and Nadine all the best for their future back in New Zealand.



Kylie Aalbers

Presbytery Admin





christianquotesforyou tumble.com

Please join us for the Induction and Commissioning Service for the

Mission Accompany Team Mr Scott Guyatt, Mr Adam Legge, Rev Faye Talatonu and Rev Ralph Mayhew Uniting Church Synod Office Qld TUESDAY DECEMBER 10 @ 5:00pm

After the service, please join us for some light refreshments

The Chapel Uniting Church Centre,

60 Bayliss Street Auchenflower

RSVP via email to Jillian Bow, ministrymattersunit@ucaqld.com.au By 2 December 2024



INVITATION INDUCTION AND COMMISSIONING SERVICE MISSION ACCOMPANY TEAM

> Please join us for the Conclusion Service of Rev. Doug Foster

Uniting Church Synod Office Qld WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 11 @ 5:00pm

After the service, please join us for some light refreshments

The Chapel Uniting Church Centre, 60 Bayliss Street Auchenflower

RSVP via email to Jillian Bow, ministrymattersunit@ucaqld.com.au By 2 December 2024



INVITATION CONCLUSION SERVICE **REV DOUG FOSTER**

Presbytery Office

Maroochydore Uniting Church 6 Millwell Rd Maroochydore Mon - Thurs* 9am -3.30pm



Drop in for a cuppa *Except - SC & PRC

Presbytery Postal Address

Mary Burnett Presbytery

PO Box 1635 Sunshine Plaza 4558





On the lookout for Advent resources? Check out this <u>wonderful free re-</u> <u>source</u> from Intergen which packages together intergenerational liturgies and ideas for the four weeks of Advent and Christmas Day, written by Rev Kath Ruhle in the Synod of Queensland. You might also like this <u>Australian Advent</u> <u>Wreath Liturgy</u>

(source National Update 13/11/24)

Prayer

May I see goodness, kindness, care and compassion in the every day and ordinary. And more importantly, may it be seen coming from me.

Amen

Please pray for our chaplains

- Mrs Wendy Keeble (Kingaroy)
- Rev Anna Ashby (Buderim)
- * Ps Theo Masselos (Buderim)
- Pastor Peter Pearson (Bundaberg)
- Rev James Stevenson (Buderim)
- Rev Keren Seto (St Stephens Hervey Bay)

Alb to give away.

This belonged to Rev Keith Ewin and his family wish to honour Keith by giving it to another minister. The fabric is in good condition, and it has a cover.

Keith was a NSW Presbyterian minister and chaplain for police and psychiatric hospital, then a frontier services, and RAAF padre. He received an OAM in 1983. Keith retired to Beerwah 20 years ago.

Shoulder to hem is 1.62m.

If interested, please contact Kylie at the Presbytery office.

admin@maryburnettpres.org.au

0417 509 433





* Ps Jim Hall (Bli Bli/Gympie)

Ps Kristen Porter



Montville Reflection Gallery

Space to rest and reflect 10 am to 3 pm every day of the year! Montville Uniting Church, 152 Main Street, Montville Q.

Vision

Rev. Ron Potter, the founder of the Montville Reflection Gallery, envisaged "the Montville Uniting Church premises being used as the ongoing venue for art displays" as part of "the congregation's Christian witness in the community" with "the building becoming widely known as a place of inspiration and hope".

We don't know how many visitors have passed through the Gallery since its inception in 2017, but we do know that many of them have found the experience of visiting the Re-



flection Gallery to be just that: a source of inspiration, hope and peace. The messages in our Visitors' Books attest to that. Here's just a couple of examples:

I am in a season of waiting and the words gave me comfort and reassurance. The paintings are beautiful!

Your paintings and the accompanying messages are so thoughtful and inspiring. Thank you for sharing your talent and faith in the space.

Aims

In 2024 and beyond, our aims remain to:

- provide a quiet, creative, reflective space for local residents and visitors to rest, ponder and pray;
- share the Christian message of inspiration, hope and peace through the hospitality of the space; and
- provide an exhibition space for artists working in a variety of faith-based contexts.

Are you, or someone you know, able to assist us with fulfilling our vision and aims? We are looking for artists working in faith-based contexts to exhibit in the space.

Email for more information

NEXT

Retired Ministers' and spouses Luncheon

Date: Monday 10th March 2025

Where: Sunrise Uniting Church, 6 Grasstree Ct, Sunrise Beach

Time: 10.30 for light morning tea

Lunch 12 – 1.30

Heather Johnson has generously offered to provide morning tea AND lunch for us at a suggested cost of \$10 per person. Any surplus money to go towards Lent Event 2025.

Please indicate any specific dietary needs. Thanks!

Please mark your diaries now. We will send a reminder early next year.



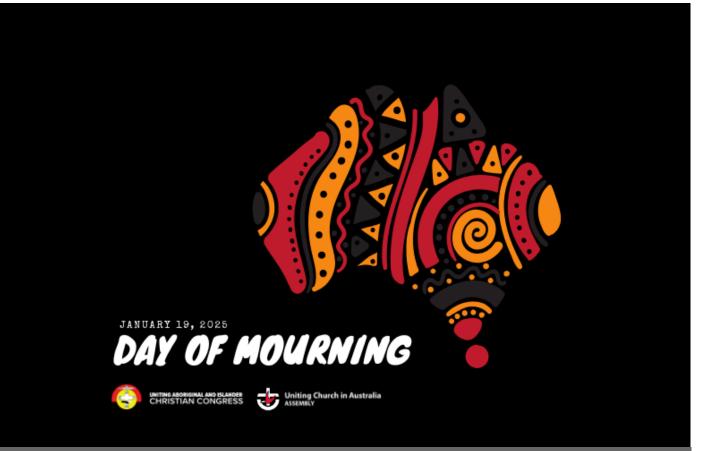
RSVP by Saturday 1st March

Neil and Jenny Sims:

Neil 0422 023 177.

Jenny 0406 477 547.

jenny.a.sims@gmail.com



In the spirit of truth-telling, covenant and walking together as First and Second Peoples, your community is invited to mark the Uniting Church **Day of Mourning** on **Sunday 19 January 2025**. The new resource will be available to download in mid-December and you can <u>sign up now</u> to receive it to your inbox.

We are excited to announce that a national public event will take place to mark the Day of Mourning, hosted by the Synod of Queensland in partnership with the Assembly.

Save the Date: 5:30pm on Friday 24 January, beginning in King George Square and moving into Albert Street Uniting Church in Brisbane. The event will also be live-streamed.



Glasshouse Country Christmas Preparations

Members of the Glasshouse Country Uniting Church have been busy preparing for Christmas.

We began Advent Bible studies in early November looking in depth at Luke 1 stories of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary and Joseph, and their promised special sons, John and Jesus.

The 'Busy Hands and Minds' group collected books and plants, cooked, sewed and made beautiful craft decorations ready for a Christmas Market on 24th November. On 1st December 2024, the church family enjoyed a shared Christmas Brunch after morning worship at Beerwah.



At 6pm some gathered again for the Peachester Community Christmas Carols with children dressing up as the Nativity characters and items from the music team and Deline and Merindie Briscoe.

Advent Appeal 2024 for Kennedy Patrol

The Carpentaria Presbytery, in partnership with Frontier Services, ministers to remote rural, indigenous and isolated communities in the Kennedy Patrol comprising Cape York Peninsula and the Gulf Savannah regions. The Patrol serves people in the small communities and large properties in this remote area including Coen, Georgetown, Bamaga, Pormpuraaw and Cooktown.

With increased fuel prices, Carpentaria Presbytery are running an Advent Appeal to help Kennedy Patrol with fuel costs. **If your congregation or members of your congregation have a passion to support this ministry, you can hold a fundraiser, or take a collection or a retiring offering during Ad-vent** (Sunday 24th November to Sunday 29th December 2024).



- If you have any questions, please contact Carpentaria Presbytery Office on 0459 544 507
- To donate to the Kennedy Patrol Advent Appeal, go the Carpentaria Presbytery website

(source Uniting News 26/11/24)

Uniting World



UnitingWorld has launched its Everything in Common Gift Catalogue for 2024.

It's filled with life-changing gifts that fight poverty and build hope in the world through health, education, leadership and income opportunities.

This is a great way to give meaningful gifts this Christmas while making a difference! The <u>shop is available</u> <u>now</u> or you can <u>sign up to</u> <u>host a gift stall</u> in your church or community.



10 CHRISTMAS GIFTS THAT DON'T COST THE PLANET







Recommended Free Resource. Have you watched **The Chosen** yet? If you haven't, you're missing out on an amazing resource for understanding the life of Jesus. The App is free and the content is absolutely top notch in every respect.

Christmas with The Chosen: Holy Night | The Chosen

Multi-Cultural Intensive Short Course: Feb - March 2025

Stepping into cross-cultural ministry can be daunting. This unit will help you understand culture and develop strategies for overcoming cultural barriers. We'll explore how to empower churches to become dynamic multicultural communities.

This will be offered across 4 Saturdays in Feb and March. To learn more or to enroll, contact ask@trinity.qld.edu.au.



Dates for your Diary

2025 PRESBYTERY MEETINGS Start time: 9.00am

- * 15 March Bundaberg UC
- * 19 July Caloundra UC
- *7-9 or 14-16 November TBC

Business meeting Saturday 9am

2024/25 STANDING COMMITTEE, COMBINED & PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

- 5 Dec (Gympie) 13 Feb (Gympie)
- 12 March (Zoom) 10 Apr (Gympie)
- 14 MAY (Zoom) 12 Jun (Gympie)
- 9 July (Zoom) 14 Aug (Gympie)
- 10 Sep (Zoom) 9 Oct (Gympie)
- 12 Nov (Zoom) 4 Dec (Gympie)

Start time: 9.30am

Submissions accepted for consideration up to 1 week before meeting.

Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

Jesus knows me, this I love!

www.maryburnettpres. org.au Are your details on our website correct? Please email changes to admin@maryburnettpres.org.au

SAFE MINISTRY TRAINING (Ministry Agents)

INDUCTIONS, COMMISSIONINGS, SERVICES OF

FINANCE, INVESTMENT & PROPERTY (FIP)

***CODE OF ETHICS TRAINING**

MINISTERS RETREAT

CONCLUSION

MEETINGS

* 24 January

SYNOD

ASSEMBLY

* July 2027

RETIRED REVS

15-19 May 2025

MARY BURNETT PRESBYTERY

WHO ARE WE?

The Presbytery, as a Council of delegates from congregations and agencies, are disciples witnessing the love and transformation of Jesus in order to better serve our ministry agents, congregations and other places of ministry within its bounds.

Presbytery Contacts

PS Graham Huth (Presbytery Minister) presmin@maryburnettpres.org.au 0456 556 528

Mrs Naomi Cavalli (Secretary) secretary@maryburnettpres.org.au 0401 161 165

Mr Peter Coombes (Chairperson) chair@maryburnettpres.org.au

Kylie Aalbers (Admin Officer) admin@maryburnettpres.org.au 0417 509 433

Johan Frank (Treasurer) johan.frank6@gmail.com 0478 888 727

Property Committee

Wendy Jensen - jensenlw@bigpond.com Kylie Aalbers - admin@maryburnettpres.org.au

Sue Mulcahy (Safe People, Safe Environment) sue@qmp.net.au 0403 052 123

Ps Phil Smith (Mission Engagement Officer) mission@maryburnettpres.org.au - 0414 823 125

Rev Dr Elizabeth Nolan

Professional Supervision coordinator Period of Discernment Coordinator CEM coordinator enolan1@outlook.com

> God's love knows no bounds

STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Ps Graham Huth Rev Stuart Bosch Mr Peter Coombes (Chair) Pastor Phil Smith Mrs Naomi Cavalli (Secretary) Rev David Ellis Rev Dr Elizabeth Nolan Rev Neil Storey Ps Steven Fincham Mr Johan Frank (Treasurer) Mrs Wendy Jensen (Property) Mrs Kylie Aalbers (Admin, Property)

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Ps Graham Huth Rev Stuart Bosch Mr Peter Coombes (Chair) Mrs Naomi Cavalli (Secretary) Rev David Ellis Rev Dr Elizabeth Nolan Rev Neil Storey Ps Steven Fincham Mrs Margaret Gilbert Mrs Wendy Jensen (Property) Mrs Kylie Aalbers (Admin, Property)

POSTAL ADDRESS OF THE PRESBYTERY

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I HEARD YOU BLURTING MY NAME THERE ... ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU?

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WORK DAYS

Grahams day off varies, according to his

schedule. Please leave him a message if no answer, and he'll get back to you when he's able. Phil's day off is Saturday. Whilst Phil may check messages and respond to urgent requests, please leave non-urgent matters for work days. Thank you.