January Roster

10/01/27	17/01/27	24/01/27	31/01/27	07/02/27
Greeting Hosts				
D McCallum	J Hazen	G Barton	D McCallum	J Hazen
Church cleaning				
D Muller	W Poyner	H Jones	D Muller	W Poyner
Hall / Foyer / Steps				
J Bromilow	P Holland	J Bromilow	P Holland	J Bromilow
Morning Tea				
M McGough H Jones	S Schneider S Jewell	L Hazen P Riches	D McCallum J Dean	W Poyner G Barton
Offering Count				
D Armstrong L Brown	G Barton J Frost	I Firth L Brown	W Poyner J Frost	D Armstrong L Brown

Thank you to all who contribute in any way to the Church body.
If you are unable to take your turn, please arrange a swap with someone.
If you would like to be included on any rostered duty please see Gail Barton.

Diary for January

Sunday	9:30 am	Worship service followed by an open invitation to morning tea
Monday		
Tuesday	10:00 am 7:30 pm	Mainly Music TBA Study Group TBA
Wednesday	10am- midday 10am – 3.30pm	Chattels + Chats 13th January – Cleaning day 15th January – Cleaning day 20th January - Reopens
Thursday	9:45 am 10:00 am 4:00 pm	Prayer TBA Craft TBA No worship practice in January
Friday	10am – 3.30pm	22nd January - open
Saturday		

GROVEDALE UNITINGCHURCH

DECEMBER 2026

JANUARY 2027

Church Vision Statement
To worship God and grow through fellowship and discipleship, each member in loving ministry and transforming outreach.

For pastoral issues please contact
Rev. Peter Jewell – Minister of the Word
Phone: 5245 8040 or 0419 165 473 or
psjewell@netspace.net.au

Church Council Chairperson – Ian Firth
0419 317 350 - ianfirth47@gmail.com

Peter's Piece

The Farmer and the Geese



There was once a man who didn't believe in the incarnation of Christ or the spiritual meaning of Christmas, and was sceptical about God. He and his family lived on a farm. His wife was a devout believer, diligently raising their children in the Christian faith, but sometimes he mocked her religious observance of Christmas.

"It's all nonsense - why would God lower himself and become a human like us?
It's such a ridiculous story!" he said.

One snowy day, his wife and children went to church while he stayed home. After they had left, the winds grew stronger, turning into a blinding snowstorm. He had just sat down to relax by the fire for the evening when he heard a loud thump against the window. Then another.
Seeing nothing through the window he ventured outside, and in the field near his house he saw, of all the strangest things, a flock of geese! They were apparently flying south, but had been caught in the snow storm and forced to land. They were stranded on his farm, with no food or shelter, unable to do more than flutter their wings and fly in aimless circles.

He had compassion for them and wanted to help them. "The barn would be a great place for them to stay", he thought. "It's warm and safe for them to wait out the storm." So he opened the barn doors for them and waited, watching, hoping they would notice the open door and go inside. But they didn't move. He moved closer to them to get their attention, but they just moved away out of fear. He tried a trail of breadcrumbs. He tried shooing them toward the barn. Nothing he did could get them to go into the barn where there was warmth, safety and shelter.

Feeling totally frustrated, he exclaimed, "Why don't they follow me? Can't they see this is the only place where they can survive the storm? How can I possibly get them into the one place to save them?" He had a sudden realization. "The only way would be for me to become a goose myself. Then they would follow me and I could lead them to safety." He stopped and considered what he had said, "If only I could become like one of them..." And then, at last, he understood God's heart towards humanity. He fell on his knees in the snow and worshipped.

With God's blessings for Christmas and the New Year! **Rev Peter**

December Roster

06/12/26	13/12/26	20/12/26	27/12/26	03/01/27
Greeting Hosts				
J Hazen	G Barton	D McCallum	J Hazen	G Barton
Church cleaning				
W Poyner	H Jones	D Muller	W Poyner	H Jones
Hall / Foyer / Steps				
P Holland	J Bromilow	P Holland	J Bromilow	P Holland
Morning Tea				
W Poyner G Barton	M McGough H Jones	S Schneider S Jewell	L Hazen P Riches	D McCallum J Dean
Offering Count				
W Poyner J Frost	D Armstrong L Brown	G Barton J Frost	I Firth L Brown	W Poyner J Frost

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For your Diary December

Sunday	9:30 am 12:30 pm 4pm – 6pm 9:30 am	Worship service Open invitation to morning tea **13TH December – Church Luncheon** 6th December – Messy Church 20th December – Kids Church **25th December – Christmas Day Service**
Monday	2:00pm	**21st December – Chattels & Chats Christmas Afternoon Tea**
Tuesday	10:00 am 7:30 pm	Mainly Music finishes - 8th December Study Group TBA
Wednesday	10am-3:30pm	Chattels + Chats open
Thursday	9:45 am 10:00 am 4:00 pm	Prayer Group Craft Group Worship practice
Friday	10am-3:30pm	Chattels and Chats open **11th December – Carol Service**
Saturday	10am – 3:30 pm 10am – 3:30pm	Chattels and Chats open 5th December **19th December Chattels and Chats open**

Ian's Jottings

CC met on 18 November. A "For Lease" sign has now been erected at the corner of the property concerning the availability of the former Uniting offices. Hopefully we will have a tenant sooner rather than later.

Selected trees have hopefully been removed which will stabilise the foundations of the former Methodist Chapel and result in having a cleaner court yard for a neighbouring resident behind our property.



Wendy has weeded the former Uniting veggie garden and would welcome donations of seedlings or seeds to create a flourishing patch. Produce will be available to take and volunteers are sort to aide in the care and growth of this patch. Could you spare an hour or two to potter around in our garden.

I have written to the CoGG regarding replacement/repair of the boundary fence between our properties (at the Reserve Rd end).

Our Christmas Carols service will be slightly different this year as Rob hasn't felt able to take responsibility for this. On your behalf, I thank Rob for the outstanding job he has done for so many years. The service will comprise readings that tell the story of the birth of Jesus with a liberal dose of carols. There will also be others presenting items. Those who been involved in putting the program together are hopeful that this slight change will make the service as enjoyable and as appreciated as in past years.



As we approach the end of the year, it is customary to reflect on the year that's passed and look forward to 2027. This past year has been one of change with Uniting leaving being the biggest, and most consequential one. But that also presents us with an opportunity of leasing the former Uniting offices and providing us with an additional income stream.

That additional income will enable us to do some more maintenance and maybe some additional ministry. What that additional ministry might look like is still to be determined.



My thanks to all the members of the CC for their work this year – to Diane, Gail, Wendy, Rob, Brendan, David and of course Peter.

May you experience the blessings of Christmas and good health in 2027. Ian



DECEMBER

Lexie Fry
Rob Voysey
Ron Dean
Elizabeth Spencer
Eugene Kardos
Sue Barrand



JANUARY

Rod Loxley
Neel Shimpf
Ian Hobbs