

March Roster

01/03/26	08/03/26	15/03/26	22/03/26	29/03/26
Greeting Hosts				
S Schneider G Barton	E Spencer J Hazen	D McCallum S Jewell	S Schneider G Barton	E Spencer J Hazen
Church cleaning				
W Poyner	D Muller	H Jones	W Poyner	D Muller
Hall / Foyer / Steps				
P Holland	J Bromilow	P Holland	P Holland	J Bromilow
Morning Tea				
S Jewell S Schneider	D McCallum J Dean	L Hazen S Barrand	M McGough H Jones	W Poyner G Barton
Offering Count				
G Barton S Barrand	W Poyner L Brown	R Jane J Frost	I Firth L Spencer	G Barton S Barrand
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.				

For your Diary in March

Sunday	9:30 am 4pm – 6pm	Worship service Open invitation to morning tea Messy Church resumes 1 st March 15 th March – Kids Church
Monday	11:00 am	50+ Playgroup - Booln Booln Cultural Centre
Tuesday	10:00 am 7:30 pm	Mainly Music Study Group TBA
Wednesday	10am-3:30pm 6:30 pm	Chattels + Chats open 18 th March - Church Council meeting
Thursday	9:45 am 10:00 am 4:00 pm	Prayer Group Craft Group Worship practice
Friday	10am-3:30pm	Chattels and Chats open
Saturday	10am – 3:30 pm 9:30am 10am – 3:30pm	7 th March Chattels and Chats open 21st March – Grounds Working Bee 21 st March Chattels and Chats open



GROVEDALE UNITING CHURCH MARCH 2026

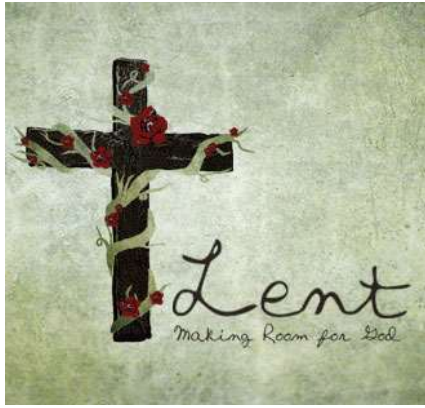
For pastoral issues please contact
 Rev. Peter Jewell – Minister of the Word
 Phone: 5245 8040 or 0419 165 473 or psjewell@netspace.net.au

Church Council Chairperson – Ian Firth
 0419 317 350 - diane.ian70@bidpond.com

Worship Leader – David Muller
 5243 1256 – dmuller7@bigpond.net.au

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

Peter's Piece



A 40 day Focus

We have entered the season of Lent, which runs from Ash Wednesday to the Saturday before Easter.

According to scholars, the number 40 was chosen for its significance in the Bible, most notably that Jesus fasted in the wilderness for 40 days.

While it began as a 40-hour fast of preparation for those who were going to

be baptized on Easter, reflecting the belief that Jesus spent 40 hours in the tomb, it has now become a period of 40 days of personal reflection and self-evaluation. It's also interesting to note that Lent's liturgical colour is purple, associated with repentance from ancient times.

Some have likened Lent to a "wilderness time"; recalling other biblical wanderings and times of trial and repentance. Examples include:

The 40 days and nights of rain that destroyed all the earth but those on the ark.

The 40 days Moses spent fasting on the mountain before he received the Law.

The 40 years the Israelites wandered in the wilderness helped form them as a nation

The 40-day journey Elijah took to Mount Horeb where he honestly sought God's presence and discovered a call to prophetic ministry.

It was also in the wilderness where John baptized, and where Jesus fed the multitudes. And while the gospel reading for the first week of Lent (Matthew 4:1-11) is traditionally on Jesus' temptations, it's important to note that Jesus was strengthened by his 40 days in the wilderness

Lent offers us the opportunity to slow down and enter our own "wilderness"; to reflect, pray, and find ourselves renewed in God's presence.

It can be a time of growing profoundly in our faith, strengthened by an assurance of God's presence, which empowers us to face the truth of Good Friday, and then rejoice in the glory of Easter.

Rev Peter



Ian's Jottings

From my perspective, the most frustrating and time consuming issue that the Church Council is currently dealing with is the future of the *Uniting* ER program on this site.



I have previously told you both verbally and in print that Church Council agreed to a request to allow *Uniting* to remain on site until early March – yes next month. We have since had another request for a further 3 month extension until the end of June. Meanwhile the *Uniting* volunteers have been meeting

with Libby Coker, our local federal member to see what additional funding might be available to pressure *Uniting* to remain at Grovedale. From information provided by the volunteers, I know that additional funding has been found but it is not yet clear what, if any decision, *Uniting* has made.

Until there is clarity about what *Uniting* are doing, we can't explore the future use of our buildings. My hope is that we could make some space available for rent which would give us an income to both support ministry at Grovedale and Winchelsea as well as some additional mission activities in our community.

Although, through allowing use of our facilities, we enable *Uniting* to run their ER programs, there is some cost to us in doing so. Clearly, I wasn't here 10 years ago when *Uniting* came on site. So I don't know what conversations took place which resulted in *Uniting* not paying us "rent". Had there been such a conversation then I'm sure our finances would be healthier than they are now.

So it's a case of watch this space.

Ian

Dianne Herbert
Ben Torriero
Lesley Brown
Dawn McCallum
Rhonda Hobbs
Chantal Hope
Paige Doley
Ron Whittingham
Zac Williams
Alison Matthews



GROUNDS WORKING BEE
SATURDAY 21st MARCH
9:30 AM
HELPERS WELCOME



SUNDAY 15TH MARCH

Reports to Gail by 1st March
Distribution on 8th March