# The Uniting Church
# Maffra Congregation

# MONTHLY - NEWS

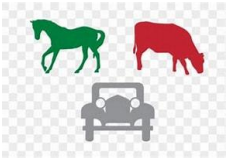
October 2026

## MINISTERS LETTER

Dear Friends in Maffra Uniting Church,
Grace and peace to you all as we step into October. Here in Gippsland, spring is doing what it does best, with new green on the paddocks, blossom in the gardens and longer, softer light in the evenings. It is a lovely reminder that God is still creating and renewing, and that the same God who "crowns the year with bounty", as Psalm 65 says, is at work in us as well.

If you feel a little sleepy this morning, you are not alone, because daylight saving began at 2:00 am today and we all lost an hour. Thank you for making the effort to be here anyway. In return, we now have the warm, bright evenings of spring and summer ahead of us, and that is well worth an hour's sleep.

October is a month of new beginnings. Term 4 starts tomorrow, Monday 5 October, and I invite you to keep our students, teachers and families in your prayers as they head into the busy final stretch of the school year. Many of us are also feeling the pace of the farming season, and we hold those who work the land close to our hearts.



Later in the month, the Maffra Agricultural Show returns to the Recreation Reserve from Friday 23 to Saturday 24 October. The show is more than a set of events. It is a weekend when our whole community comes together to celebrate the land, the work and the people who make this district what it is. If you are going, I hope you'll chat with the people you meet, and perhaps look out for a familiar face from our congregation. We also pray for the organisers, volunteers, stallholders and visitors, that the weekend will be safe, joyful and full of good company.

October is also Mental Health Month, and this is a gentle invitation for all of us. Many people carry quiet burdens that we never see. So this month, why not phone a neighbour, share a cuppa with someone who is on their own, or simply ask "How are you, really?" and take the time to listen. Small acts of kindness

can be a lifeline, and they are one of the ways we live out love for our neighbours.




The writer of Ecclesiastes says, "To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven." Whatever season you are in right now, I hope you know you are held and never walk alone.

Blessings

Your minister,
Rev. Paul Ryu

# Friendship Group

Will not meet for October due to the funeral.



## Church Council Report for October Monthly News

**Minister**
Paul has been approved as a Uniting Church Minister for the future after he completes an intensive week of Uniting Church Study at the start of 2027. Currently Paul is technically called a “Minister of Other Denomination” as his original training was as a Baptist minister. We will then have a celebration to acknowledge this important step for Paul.

**Property**
A whole new driveway has now been competed for our 7 Pearson St rental property. It was a very big job with drainage and huge roots having to be fixed underneath. We also had part of the concrete path fixed. John, Sue and Frazer spent a lot of time working on the logistics of this repair. Thank you.
Sue and John liaised with Wellington Council regarding the tree roots for these repairs and they were very helpful. Thank you, Wellington Shire.



**Finances**
We are going steadily but a little down on open plate collected during church services this year.
Just a reminder that we pay for our minister, Rev. Paul Ryu, and our insurance, rates, property maintenance and all other costs, by congregation members’ donations during church services or via Direct Deposit into our bank account Hall hire revenue, and by rent from the two rental properties. Thank you for all your regular deposits and your giving in the open plate in church – it is what helps keep our church open and a minister leading our services.

**Gardens**
Alternating warm weather and rain have meant that the new garden plants are already growing. Weeds are being dug out then mulch added to help retain moisture in the soil for the summer.
Thank you very much to Dot Berryman and Paul Ryu for your generous donations towards plants and mulch for the garden so far.



Don't forget to attend the Faithful Futures meeting on October 10th in our hall, starting at 10.00 am, if you want to have a say in the future of our church. It will be led by a person from the Gippsland Presbytery.

Jeanette McNamara

# Quilt Group

Meets 8th & 22nd October 10am – 3pm



**St Faithful's, Havnot**
2d ·

ORGANISTS APOLOGY FORM
Lionel, having watched the reaction to Tim's apology form of yesterday has decided he needs one too. We are sorry about... more

stfaithfuls.com



# Organist's Standard Apology Form

*Please tick the apology you require, and consider that I've apologised. Then affix this form to whichever surface in your home is most appropriate. I suggest the privy.*

## I'm SO sorry that...

- ☐ The organ was too loud for your conversation before the service.
- ☐ The organ was too quiet to cover your singing during the service.
- ☐ I played the hymn too quickly for you to savour your favourite words.
- ☐ I used the wrong tune—i.e. the one printed in the hymn book.
- ☐ Matt Redman actually didn't write his song with the organ in mind, and it doesn't have a drum machine built in.
- ☐ I omitted your favourite verse, thereby undermining the entire Christian faith.
- ☐ The choir sang something you didn't know.
- ☐ The choir sang something you knew, but differently.
- ☐ The organ was out of tune due to the sudden change in weather.
- ☐ I forgot that you don't like the sound of the oboe stop.
- ☐ We sang a new hymn before you'd had an opportunity to become familiar with it.
- ☐ We sang an old hymn when you've repeatedly said we need to move with the times.
- ☐ I modulated the harmony in the last verse without first obtaining your written consent.
- ☐ The voluntary continued after you had finished worshipping.
- ☐ I appeared disappointed when you chatted loudly to your friend through the entire Bach fugue you specifically begged me to learn.
- ☐ Your suggestion that we "just play something everybody likes" has proved unexpectedly difficult to implement.
- ☐ I mistook the singing of the congregation for a communal act of worship, when it seems I was actually accompanying your personal worship preferences.

Lionel

**Lionel P. Hargreaves D.Mus**
Organist, St Faithful's, Havnot
*And holder of a certificate in passive aggression from the University of Hard Knocks.*

# Faithful Futures Roadshow

**The Faithful Futures Roadshow is coming to Maffra on Saturday October 10th. The workshop will be held in the Maffra Uniting Church supper room. It will start at 10.00 am and finish at 2.30 pm. Please bring lunch to share. Snacks, tea and coffee will be provided.**

It will be a relaxed gathering designed to bring the Faithful Futures Project to life through conversation and participation.

**Why come along?**

- Hear about the Faithful Futures project, with time for your questions
- Share your own experience and ideas in a World Café conversation
- Take part in imagining together what our Presbytery could look like in 5 to 10 years
- Be heard: everything gathered on the day is collated, themed, and shared back across the Presbytery, with real next steps

Each session is invitational and open to everyone in Gippsland Presbytery - you don't need any background in strategy or governance to take part, just a willingness to talk and listen.

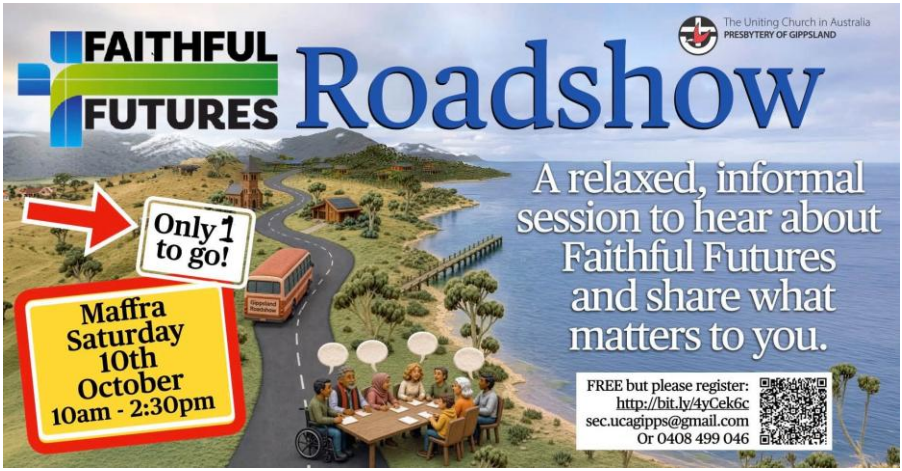
The workshops will take us through a range of activities to uncover the stories of what God is already doing with the church, and to explore together some questions which might help us discover even more possibilities.

Please register your intention to come at https://events.humanitix.com/faithful-futures-gippsland-presbytery

Or get in touch with sec.ucagipps@gmail.com 0408 499 046 to register.

Thank you,

The Gippsland Fauthful Futures Roadshow Team



# Rosters

| **ELDER** | |
|---|---|
| October<br>November | Jude Walker<br>Isa Taylor |
| **BIBLE READER** | |
| 4 & 11 October<br>18 & 25 October<br>1 & 8 November | Lois Ramsey<br>Sue Poynton<br>Sue Burnett |
| **DOOR** | |
| 4 October<br>11 & 18 October<br>25 October<br>1 & 8 November | Isa Taylor & Sue Poynton<br>Chris Clyne and volunteer<br>Isa Taylor & Nell Langley<br>Sue & Frazer Burnett |
| **LAWNS** | |
| 5 October<br>19 October<br>2 November | Sue & Frazer Burnett<br>Duncan & Kathy Malcolm<br>Geoff Little & volunteer |
| **FLOWERS** | |
| 4 & 11 October<br>18 & 25 October<br>1 & 8 November | Dot Berryman<br>Vacant<br>Isa Taylor |

UPCOMING WORSHIP

| | |
|---|---|
| 11th October | Jeanette McNamara |
| 25th October | Sue Burnett |
| 1st November (HC) | Jude Walker |
| 8th November | Jeanette McNamara |