



A Good News / Good Neighbour Church

April 2026

## From our Minister Apelu

### Easter Sunday Services



6:30am Sunday 5 April - Sunrise Service (outdoor)

9:30am Sunday 5 April - Easter Service

### Apelu's whereabouts

Apelu will be away on annual leave from April 7th to the 3rd of May. Russ Neal, a lay preacher from Wesley Uniting, Canberra, will lead worship on the 12th of April and 3rd of May. Russ had preached at our church before, and he enjoys preaching at our church. Rev Matthew Stuart will lead worship on the 19th and 26th of April. Rev Stuart is a chaplain in the Australian Army and recently joined our church. Please offer Russ and Matthew your usual support.

### Special Services coming up

- ❖ 10 May (Mother's Day) - A commissioning service for all people in the various ministries of the church. If you are a member of the Church Council, Committee, and other services and ministries, please try and be at church this Sunday.
- ❖ 17 May - Celebrating and welcoming new members who have joined us recently

### Church Picnic

Sunday 19 April – keep reading the newsletter for details

### Bible Studies

Lenten/Bible Studies are now on a break. They will continue during my absence. The Group that meets at Church on Wednesday morning will resume with a book study on the 6th of May. The other group will decide when they will resume.



The next Jumble Sale will be on Saturday 18 April (a week earlier than normal due to Anzac Day falling on the following Saturday).

The team sort goods on a Tuesday morning and are always looking for more helpers to assist.

For more information contact Greg Toone  
0412 060 465 or visit [www.quc.org.au/support/jumble-sale](http://www.quc.org.au/support/jumble-sale)



Several months ago, the Pastoral Care group announced the need for someone to be available after church to support people in personal prayer if needed.

A group of seven of us were discussing this but no one felt comfortable being THE Pray-er.

So, the idea of "when 2 or 3 are gathered in Jesus' name, he will be there" was born, that we could do it together, to support each other and our congregation. After church each week, whoever is available of the group, comes to the alter and we join hands and begin praying. As others come or leave, the Prayer circle widens or closes. The praying is for about 10 minutes, but if personal prayer is asked for, it could be longer.

This is not a Holy Huddle, but a committed group of pray-ers willing to pray for individuals, our own needs and the needs of our church via the Prayer Pad. Anyone can join us on any week or write their prayer requests on the prayer pad to be further prayed for.

## Bennie's Food Basket



Congregation members are invited to bring along a grocery item or two each week to be placed in a basket at the church. Once a month these items are passed on to St Benedict's.

### St Benedict's Community Centre



### Donations of Food

We would appreciate the following items:

- Tinned Meat Dishes (Irish Stew, Beef and Vegetables)
- Pasta
- Spaghetti Sauces
- Single Serve Microwavable Soup or Meals
- Tinned Vegetables (Peas and Corn, Potatoes, beans)
- Cup a Soups
- Tomato & Barbeque Sauce
- Cereals
- Noodles
- Long Life Milk
- Tea Bags
- Coffee
- Muesli Bars
- Vegetables, Honey, Jam
- Toiletries (Deodorant, Shampoo, Conditioner, Bodywash)

### Thank you



**Canberra Region Presbytery**  
35m · 🌐

Please join us for Amy Junor's Ordination and Induction on Saturday, 11 April 📅

RSVP - <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/1986039127493?aff=oddtcreator>

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Canberra Region Presbytery  
invites you to the

*Ordination of  
Amy Junor*

**as Deacon**

including induction into placement  
as the Presbytery Transition Leader  
- Southern Presbytery.

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Saturday 11 April 2026  
10:30am  
Canberra City Uniting Church





Please RSVP at: [tinyurl.com/JunorOrdination](https://tinyurl.com/JunorOrdination)



## Church Council

By the time you read this Easter will be over – another reminder of how quickly this year seems to be passing! Easter, and the lead up to it, is a major event in our church year. Thanks to everyone involved in the Lenten bible studies and the Holy Week services, especially to Apelu for his leadership through this period.

Apelu will be on leave throughout April, and we are grateful to Russ Neal and Rev Matthew Stuart for leading our services while Apelu is away.

Council's March meeting was mainly devoted to preparations for the 29 March 2026 Congregational Meeting and election of Office bearers. Ten people received the required two nominations for positions as Church Councillors and five of these accepted their nomination. At the Congregational Meeting, Alison Crawley, Ian Gray, Lesley Hilder, Andrew May and David Warren were elected as Church Councillors and Keturah Whitford was elected as Congregational Secretary, a position which has been vacant for several years. All candidates have previously served on Council so will be bringing a lot of experience with them. Thanks to those who have volunteered and to those who are stepping down from Council at this time.

Thanks to those who responded to the Congregational Survey. While the response rate was lower than Council had hoped, the survey provided some useful and encouraging insights into what we value about QUC, what we might do better, and what else we might do. A summary of the survey results is included in this Newsletter and the new Church Council will consider how to use these results to further the life and witness of QUC.

Council also accepted a generous offer from Ian Gray to investigate options to improve the brightness of the screen used during worship services. The screen has become harder to read over time, a problem exacerbated by the recent repairs to the lighting in the church.

Finally, on behalf of the whole congregation I want to thank Heather Irons for her wonderful contribution to QUC over many years (including serving on Church Council and co-ordinating The Shed and morning teas) and wish her well as she moves to Wollongong. We will miss you Heather and we hope this new chapter in your life is exciting and satisfying.

Ian Robinson  
On behalf of Church Council

## From The Pastoral Care Group



Weather permitting, there will be a church picnic in the Ray Morton Park, near the Sensory Garden, on Sunday 19 April, following the usual morning tea after church.

People will need to bring their own chair, food and drinks. If it happens to be wet on the day, we will stay at the church for an "indoor" picnic.

The Pastoral Care Group hopes that as many people as possible will attend.

### Important: Required Password Reset for your Elvanto Account

If you're a congregation member who uses Elvanto, our rostering and directory software, you may have recently received an email from Tithely Support asking you to reset your password. This is a legitimate email, and you will need to complete the reset to continue accessing Elvanto.

Some members have been experiencing difficulties logging in. One common cause is when multiple family members share a single email address, which can create a conflict when using the "Forgot Password" option.

If you need assistance, please contact Ian Gray.

### Queanbeyan Uniting Church Congregational Survey March 2026

Church Council conducted a survey in February/March 2026 to seek views from the congregation on three questions:

1. What do you value about QUC?
2. What could we do better? and
3. What other activities might we explore?

While we had been hoping for wider engagement with the survey, Council is very grateful to the eight congregational members who took the time to put forward their ideas, which are set out below. Council will now consider these responses and how they might shape QUC going forward. If this list stimulates further ideas in your mind, or if you feel you would like to be involved in some of the suggested future directions, please do not hesitate to speak with Apelu or a Council member. What we can achieve as a church is very much in the hands of the congregation and there are roles everyone can play if they are prepared to get involved.

#### What Do You Value About QUC?

- Friendly, caring, committed and supportive;
- Welcoming to visitors and new members;
- Inclusive; acceptance and affirmation of diversity;
- Reverent services and spiritual depth of sermons;
- Slides make worship service easy to follow and accessible;
- Challenging bible studies with safe, open discussion;
- Commitment to the community (Jumble, Shed, sausage sizzle, St Benedict's);
- Open, embracing worship space.

#### What Could We Do Better?

- Children's and youth ministry;
- Deepen our knowledge of Jesus;
- Some members could be more committed;
- More regular pastoral visiting/contact, especially to 'shut-ins';
- Check on absent members;
- Develop opportunities beyond Sunday to get to know people better;
- Look after and follow up newcomers;
- Achieve a wider demographic spread;
- Wider community engagement;
- Community information for new people moving to the region;
- Improve our presence in the community, perhaps partnering with other churches;
- Consider different service times;
- Improve grounds maintenance;
- Encourage increased giving.

#### What Other Activities Might We Explore?

- Submitting a short, up-lifting spiritual message in the fortnightly free paper;
- Social media presence;
- Inviting other churches to come to non-threatening gatherings, eg, meal or hymnfest;
- Home churches in Googong and Jerrabomberra;
- More social gatherings eg, picnics; small group outings; progressive suppers; camps;
- Social fund raising activities;
- Young adult meal/discussion group;
- Using our property appropriately to provide commercial income;
- Relationship and faith building;
- Additional community involvement;
- Congregation to engage in practical ministering in the community.

Ian Robinson  
On behalf of Church Council

## Regular Ministries of QUC

Ministry	When	Contact
Bible Studies and Small Groups	Various times, weekly or fortnightly.	Apelu Tielu <a href="mailto:minister@quc.org.au">minister@quc.org.au</a>
Jumble Sale	One Saturday per month (usually the 4 <sup>th</sup> ), 9am-12pm.	Greg Toone
Pastoral Care		Gillian Seeley <a href="mailto:pastoralcare@quc.org.au">pastoralcare@quc.org.au</a>
Sunday Morning Worship	Sundays, 9:30am.	Apelu Tielu <a href="mailto:minister@quc.org.au">minister@quc.org.au</a>
The Shed	Same dates as Jumble Sale.	

If your ministry group’s details are missing, or incorrect, please email [news@quc.org.au](mailto:news@quc.org.au) to correct them for the next newsletter.



Your generous giving helps us fulfil our vision and mission – locally, nationally and internationally. There are a number of ways you can regularly give and/or make a once-off donation.

1. **Direct Giving** (encouraged) - is giving that you arrange with your own bank (can normally be set-up as weekly, fortnightly, monthly or annually) into:

**QUEANBEYAN UNITING CHURCH AT CALL ACCOUNT,  
B.S.B. 634-634, ACCOUNT NO. 100 020 066**

2. **Cash** (or Cheque) offering put in the offering box each Sunday.
3. **Weekly Envelopes** - cash (or cheque) put in the offering box each Sunday before or after worship. The envelopes are freely available to be picked-up from the back table at the church.

For more information visit [www.quc.org.au/giving](http://www.quc.org.au/giving)



Find us on

### Church Office (by appointment)

For general enquiries (including [room use/hire](#)) please see our webpage [www.quc.org.au](http://www.quc.org.au)

You can contact our **Minister** Apelu Tielu 0409 550 088 or email [minister@quc.org.au](mailto:minister@quc.org.au). Apelu works from the church office on Monday and Wednesday mornings. Please check with him a suitable time.

**Chair Church Council** email [council@quc.org.au](mailto:council@quc.org.au)



If you can't make it to church, you can join us on Zoom via [this link](#).

**To access the service, you will need to have a Zoom account and be logged in.**

### Next Newsletter

Contributions for the May 2026 newsletter are due by Sunday 26 April for publication Sunday 3 May 2026.

Email to [news@quc.org.au](mailto:news@quc.org.au).