



The Companion

The newsletter of the Ballarat Regional Healthcare Chaplaincy ministry

February 2022 Ed. 1

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Welcome to The Companion:

The Companion (TC) will be the semi-regular newsletter. Although it won't look as fancy as some newsletters, its job is to let you know about dates, events, resources, and other things pertinent to the healthcare chaplaincy ministry across Ballarat & the Presbytery.

It will be available on the Chaplaincy website, in your email inbox or as a hard copy in your letterbox.

Taking its name from our tagline – ‘a companion on the journey when you’re far from home’ – and the Andy Gault painting in the dining room at BPCC, the intention is for this newsletter to be your companion and guide for dates and news. It will hopefully reduce the volume of emails you get from Chaplaincy ... and that is always a good thing.

If you would like to contribute an article, advertise a church event, or share something for ‘The Final Word’ section, get in touch. For now, though, on with the newsletter.



Starting 2022:

When we signed off for 2021, the hope was 2022 would become easier somehow. During the early stages of '22 so far, it has felt just as stressful as big parts of 2020 and 2021. Now, conversation and news are dominated by RAT's and omicron.

It has certainly left some of us not where we wanted to be and not how we wanted to be feeling – your correspondent included. So, rather than moaning about the things we CAN'T do or control, the intention in Chaplaincy for 2022 is to get on with the things we CAN do and control – like reconnecting more regularly with our volunteers, continuing with Chapel, and working towards a time when we can go back and lead aged care church in-person and conduct pastoral visiting in-person.

As a result, February 2022 looks busy as we reset and reconnect. There are dates for team meetings with the Assistant Chaplains and Worship/Chapel Teams, a Chaplaincy Committee meeting, an Information Night, and all culminating in a Chaplaincy Commissioning Service on Sunday, Feb 27th

The online Chapel Services will continue weekly until we need to fit in regular in-person aged care church. February will be ‘as normal’ but look out for a twist in March where we hope to record Chapel Services from each of Ballarat’s Uniting Church buildings.

And finally, as you can appreciate, the regulations about visiting in aged care and the hospitals are adapting as Covis adapts. We will do our best to keep you updated and informed about various policies as we go. Similarly, if you become aware of visiting regulations at the places you have contact with, feel free to let us know too.

Dates for February 2022:

Wednesdays Feb 2 & 16 – Assistant Chaplains Refresher Mornings

10am – 12 midday

BPCC

Two mornings where AC's get to reconnect train, discuss, plan etc.

Wednesday, Feb 9 – Worship & Chapel Teams Morning

10am -12midday

BPCC

A morning for Worship Team members and Chapel Team members to share ideas, resources etc.

Wednesday, Feb 23 – Chaplaincy Information Night

7pm – 9pm

BPCC

Bring/invite folks from church and other friends to find out more about the Chaplaincy ministry and areas they can be involved.

Thursday, Feb 10 – Chaplaincy Committee

1:30pm onwards

BPCC

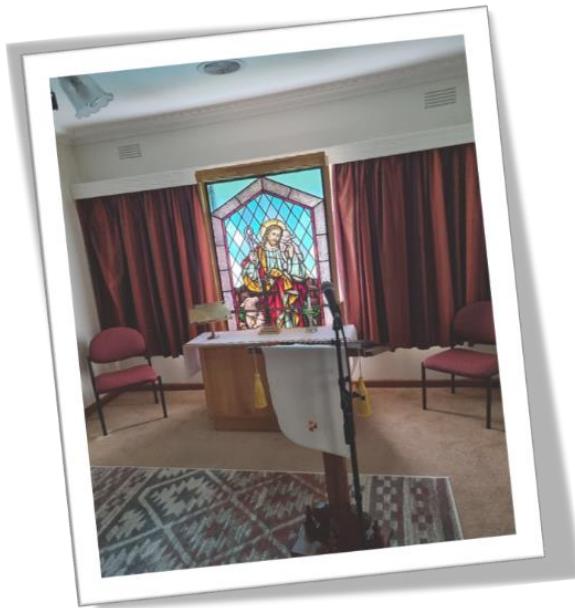
Sunday, February 27th – Chaplaincy Commissioning Service

2:30pm onwards

Brown Hill Uniting Church

This afternoon service will acknowledge and commission all people and parts of the Chaplaincy ministry, with opportunity for people to take part in-person and livestreamed online. It will also be open to congregations around the Presbytery.

✿ Chapel Roster February & March 2022:



Feb 1 – Chaplaincy
Feb 8 – Ballarat Central
Feb 15 – Brown Hill
Feb 22 – Skipton Street
Mar 1 – Chaplaincy
Mar 8 – Ballarat Central
Mar 15 – Brown Hill
Mar 22 – Skipton Street
Mar 29 – Neil Street

- ❶ During February, Chapel Services will be recorded at BPCC.
- ❷ During March, Chapel Services will be recorded in the respective church's building
OR at BPCC.
- ❸ Chapel Services will continue to be recorded on Tuesdays at 2pm (unless otherwise arranged) and
 - ❹ available for viewing on our YouTube channel by 2pm Wednesdays.

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The Final Word...

For all the encouragement Snoopy administers to his friends – as the Easter Beagle, the intrepid leader of the Beagle Scouts, Joe Cool and in the tenacity of his sporting prowess – it is nice to know that even he is not fully in control.

And neither are we ... and that's a good thing.

(If you want to send in a The Final Word article, get in touch!)