



Keep sharing your stories and events with us — we love to hear what's happening across The Northern Presbytery!

Contact The Northern Presbytery News Team



What's Stopping Us?

Every now and then, in those rare moments when I pause and reflect, a thought creeps into my mind: perhaps I should learn to play a musical instrument.

My track record in this area is hardly illustrious. Attempts at both the clarinet and trombone during high school ended without much success. Yet I still find myself drawn to the idea. What a wonderful gift music is! The ability to create it must surely be one of the great blessings God has bestowed upon us.

As someone who leads worship, there is also something appealing about being able to provide the music as well as the preaching and PowerPoint presentations. With fewer organists available and fewer young people to form a band, the responsibility for accompanying congregational singing increasingly falls to those leading worship.

I remember a time when any youth group leader worth their salt had a beard and could play the guitar. Sadly, I could only manage one of those qualifications!

Of course, the moment I begin seriously considering learning an instrument, the excuses start rolling in. Where would I find the time? Would I have the patience to practise? How long would it take before I could play something recognisable? Is my brain still capable of telling my left hand to do one thing while my right hand does

another? And perhaps most importantly, how would my wife — and the neighbours — cope with the inevitable increase in noise?

We often hear inspiring stories of people who have achieved remarkable things, followed their dreams or discovered talents they never knew they possessed. We are encouraged to believe that it's never too late to begin something new.

And yet, when it comes to our own lives, we can be remarkably good at finding reasons not to try.

Perhaps this is true of our faith journeys as well. Sometimes we sense a gentle nudge towards something new — an opportunity to serve, a conversation we have been putting off, a different way of doing things or simply stepping beyond what feels comfortable. But before we have taken the first step, we have already convinced ourselves of all the reasons it won't work.

Maybe the answer isn't to begin with something grand or ambitious. Maybe it is simply to start small, to take one step and see where it leads.

After all, faith has never been about having everything worked out before we begin. Sometimes it is about trusting God enough to give something a go.

And who knows? Perhaps one day there might even be music coming from my house — music that the neighbours actually enjoy!

Geoff Battle - Forster Tuncurry UC



Celebrating the people, congregations and communities doing amazing things across The Northern Presbytery.

Bexhill Uniting Church



100 Years of Faith, Music and Community

The pews were filled, some guests gathered outside, and the historic pipe organ was given a full workout as Bexhill Uniting Church celebrated 100 years of worship, witness and service in the Northern Rivers.

It was a day of music, memories and reconnection, bringing together the current congregation, former members and people whose families have shared a connection with the little rural church across generations. For many, it was an opportunity to return to a special place and reconnect with familiar faces they had not seen for years.

The centenary service took those gathered on a musical journey through the church's history, beginning with a hymn connected to the building's opening a century ago and moving through to contemporary songs of worship. Members of the congregation shared in leading prayers and liturgy, while Bible readings reflected on Christ as the Good Shepherd.

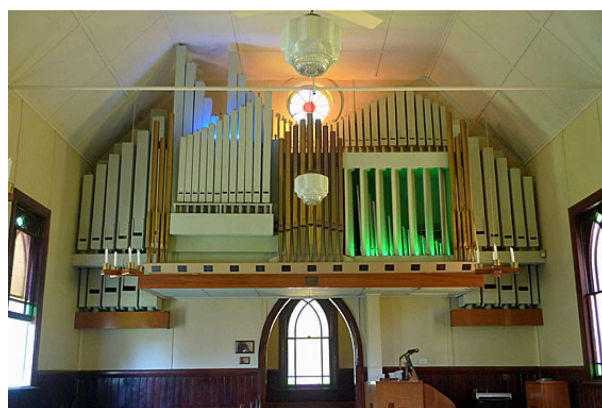


A particularly meaningful message emerged from the celebrations: a church's *heyday* is not measured by the number of people in its pews or the size of its Sunday School, but by how faithfully it sows seeds of justice and love, following the example of Christ.

A video presentation shared the story of the building and its place in the community's faith journey. A special liturgy gave thanks for the various spaces within the church, followed by a blessing for the ways the building might continue to serve and connect people in the years ahead.

A Century of Music and Memories

One of Bexhill's treasures is its historic pipe organ. Brought from Brisbane in pieces in the early 1960s, it was painstakingly restored through the dedication of church members, including organist Grant Virtue. Additional pipes were donated over the years in memory of loved ones, making the instrument a lasting symbol of faith, generosity and community connection.



Following the centenary service, the celebrations continued over lunch, with the hum of conversation filling the room as old friendships were renewed and stories shared. Some brought memories from family members unable to attend, ensuring their connections to Bexhill were also part of the day.



Long-time congregation member May, who had witnessed both the church's 50th and 100th anniversary celebrations, provided one of the day's lighter moments when she suggested she probably wouldn't be hanging around for the 150th!

A Small Church with a Big Heart

Today, Bexhill is home to a small, mixed-age worshipping community that continues to gather regularly and is deeply committed to living out its faith.

Just up the road, the beautiful Bexhill Open Air Cathedral offers another important connection with the wider community.

Established in 1958, this peaceful outdoor space hosts special services, including Easter Sunday Sunrise worship and Carols by Candlelight, drawing people from well beyond the regular congregation.

For many, it is also simply a place to sit, reflect and experience a connection with God as Creator.



The congregation's commitment extends beyond its local community. Passionate about social justice, members wrote an open letter last year expressing support for the children of Gaza and calling for an end to the violence in Palestine.

Looking Forward with Hope

While the centenary was a time to celebrate the past, the congregation is also looking towards what the future might hold.

With new residential development bringing change to the village of Bexhill, members are keen to find ways to welcome new arrivals and strengthen connections within their growing community.

There are also hopes that the Northern Rivers Rail Trail may eventually extend through the village, opening up possibilities for the church to become a welcoming stopping point for walkers and cyclists. While these ideas are still in the dreaming stage, they reflect a congregation eager to explore new ways of serving others.

One hundred years on, Bexhill Uniting Church's story is not simply about a building that has stood the test of time. It is about generations of people whose faith, love and commitment have shaped a community — and a congregation that continues to look forward with hope.



Perhaps the greatest message of the centenary is that the church's best days need not be behind it. Wherever faith is lived out through love, justice and service, the church is living in its *heyday*.

[Click here for an interesting and informative YouTube video on the more detailed](#)

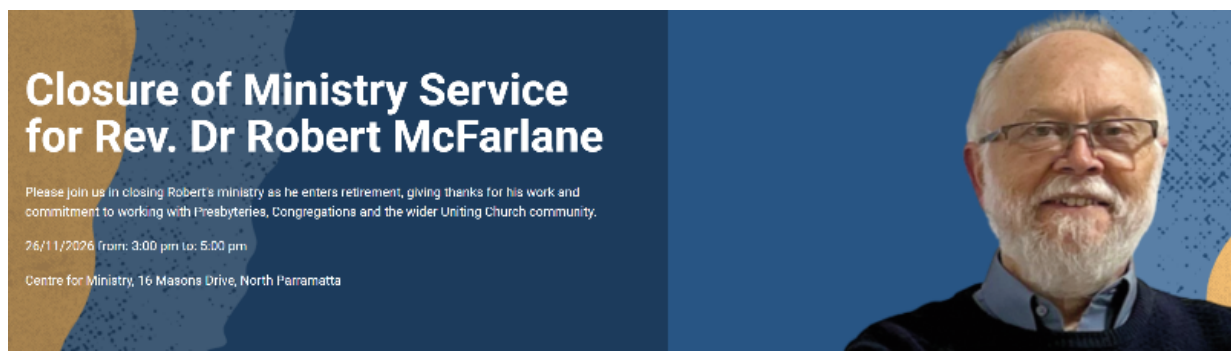
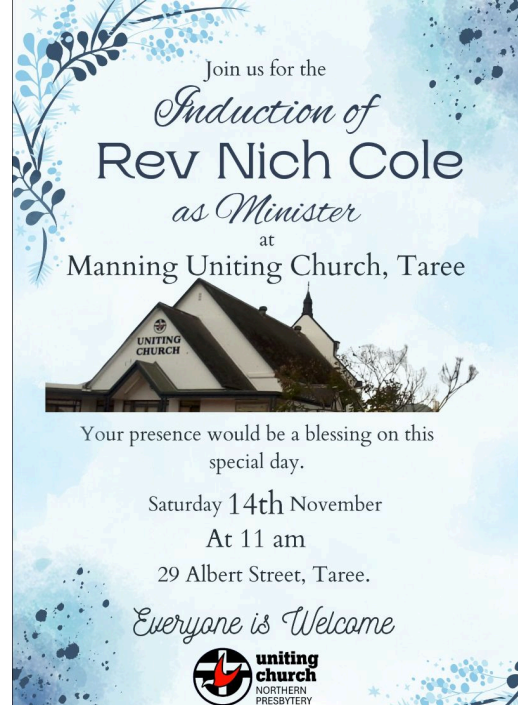
[history of Bexhill Uniting Church](#)

[Northern Presbytery Website Link](#)

Northern Presbytery Update

CLOSURE OF PLACEMENT SERVICE
OF
REV HAGOP SARKISSIAN
**Sunday 15 November
10am**
Armenian Evangelical Church Willoughby
32 Frenchs Road, Willoughby

uniting
church
NORTHERN
PRESBYTERY



Date: 26 November 2026

Time: From 3:00pm followed by afternoon tea

Location: Centre for Ministry, 16 Masons Drive North Parramatta. Livestream options available upon registration.

Please RSVP your attendance and any dietary requirements by 18 November 2026

[Click here to Register your attendance](#)



SYNOD NOMINATIONS CLOSE THS SUNDAY 25th OCTOBER

(Attention SYNOD 2027 nominee submitters)

Nominees who have submitted their nominations have received the 'Synod 2027_nominee additional info form 28.09.2026.'

Completed and endorsed form must be **emailed by 28th October 2026** to Northern Presbytery admin support, Leslie D'Mello: LeslieD@nswact.uca.org.au



Big or small, every prayer matters — share what's on your heart and let our Presbytery pray with you. [Click here to request a prayer](#)

We pray for the young people across our Presbytery as they navigate the challenges and opportunities of growing up in an ever-changing world. May they find encouragement, belonging and positive role models, and may our churches be places where their voices are heard, their gifts are celebrated and their faith can flourish.

We hold in prayer those experiencing illness, grief or the loss of someone dear to them. May they find comfort in God's loving presence, strength for each new day and peace amid uncertainty. We also pray for families, friends and carers who walk alongside them, offering compassion, support and hope during difficult times.

We give thanks for the wisdom, faith and life experiences of older members of our congregations and communities. We pray for those facing challenges with health, mobility or loneliness, that they may feel supported, valued and connected. May we continue to honour their contributions and nurture meaningful relationships across generations.

We pray for peace in a world troubled by conflict, division and uncertainty. May those living in fear and suffering find safety and hope, and may world leaders be guided by wisdom, compassion and a genuine desire for reconciliation. Help us to be peacemakers in our own communities, extending kindness, understanding and love wherever it is needed.

As we offer these prayers may God open our eyes this week to the people, places and possibilities where love is needed most.



Interested in what's happening at your local congregation?

Many of our congregations have **regular activities, groups and events** throughout the week. For the latest details, times, changes and **special events**, check your congregation's **Facebook page or website**.

It's a great way to stay connected and discover what's happening in your local church community.


HARVEST FESTIVAL

25 OCTOBER 2026
 10am combined service
 followed by morning tea & a BBQ
Join us for a celebration of God's abundant provision!
 We invite you to bring along your home-made or home-grown items. At the end of the service these will be sold and proceeds will go to the work of this community and the wider church.
 380 Terrigal Dr, Terrigal | www.terrigalunitingchurch.com


Community Market Day


Saturday 24th October
8.30am - 1pm
 251 Warnervale Road,
 Hamlyn Terrace NSW 2259
 Local artisans and small businesses
 So much for families to see and do
 Scottish pipe band performing at 10am


Food & Treats
 Jerky & hot sauce • Coffee Van • Bacon & Egg rolls • Food truck • Devonshire Teas & Sandwiches • Cakes & slices and our ever-popular **Sausage Sizzle**
Family Fun
 Face painting • Mermaid tails • Children's activities • Balloons • Bows & accessories
A great day out for the whole family!

Pride Faith Service
6pm, Sunday 25th October
 A celebration and nourishment for one and all.
 All sexual and gender identifications
 and expressions - allies too.
 All faith and spirituality expressions
 - we really mean it: **ALL WELCOME!!!**
 @ Adamstown Uniting Church
www.adamstownuca.org.au
 **ADAMSTOWN**
 UNITING CHURCH


All Saints Service
Sunday 1st November
Remembering those we have lost
 9.30am
 Roseville Uniting Church
 7a Lord Street Roseville






TURRAMURRA COMMUNITY
FLEA MARKET
 TURRAMURRA UNITING CHURCH
 10 TURRAMURRA AVE, TURRAMURRA

SATURDAY

31 OCT

2026

**DONATION
DROP OFF
THURSDAY
29 OCT
10AM - 7PM**

**8:30AM
2:00PM**

**NOTE NEW
DROP OFF
TIMES**



My Aged Care Forum

Empowering individuals to make informed decisions about their ageing journey.

Join us to gain the knowledge and confidence to navigate aged care, exploring supports, government funding, and how to access and apply for the services you need.

Date: Thursday, 29 October 2026
Time: 11am – 1pm
Venue: Gordon-Pymble Uniting Church – Gordon site
 18 Cecil Street, Gordon, 2072

- ☒ Expert inputs
- ☒ Practical next step
- ☒ Tea and nibbles
- ☒ Q & As

Places are limited.

Please register ASAP by scanning the QR Code
 or leave a message with Courtney on 02 9983 9879
 or E: courtney.heyden@gpuc.org.au
 General enquiries: cvermeulen@uniting.org



Uniting

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Three Voices On...

HOSTED BY MEETING GROUND & SPIRITUAL MISFITS

Wyoming Community Centre, 6pm, third Thursdays
 Entry by donation — \$10 suggested to cover dinner.
 Additional funds raised on the night for a local charity project.



Three diverse voices, 5 minutes each



The conversation continues over dinner



A local artist responds to the theme



Funds raised on the night for a local cause

THURSDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2026, 6PM

Apocalypse

...and how to survive one?




MORE INFO



The Northern Presbytery

Ethical Ministry Refresher Course Dates

Anyone from anywhere can do any of these courses, they are not area-restricted

Zoom Workshop - **Tuesday 10th November** at 9.30am . Zoom links will be sent closer to the day.
 Please book with Jenny Mathieson : jennyandray@bigpond.com
 The pre reading material will then be sent to you

Wed 28 Oct 9:30am– 11:30am
 2026B | Zoom with facilitator Trish Rooney
 To register: please e-mail Michelle:
michelle.lombard@sccpresbytery.org.au

23-Oct-2026 -2:00 PM - 5:00 PM
 ~For Ministry Agents~
 Tamworth City Uniting Church - Ps Geoff Battle

24-Oct-2026 9:00 AM-12:00 PM
 ~For Lay People~
 Tamworth City Uniting Church -Ps Geoff Battle

Please contact the NENW Presbytery Administrator to register:
nenwpresbytery@gmail.com

Other Publications

