

Christmas is always such a surprise

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Look, I know that anyone reading this has been past more than a few Christmases,
and sometimes they flow into each other, and feel like they are all the same.

But Christmas is always a surprise.

You might remember your first Christmas present.

I always remember the photo of mine –

I was only 6 months old so I don't remember the day itself.

I received a stuffed bear – palest blue, cold in the Brisbane heat.

Christmas is always a surprise.

I still have that bear – now in a box,

stuffing seeping out through the dodgy repairs done by 12-year-old me.

I don't carry it everywhere any more (the arm it was carried by has the most repairs!)

Christmas is always a surprise.

When we look back at the first Christmas, there seem to be so many repairs.

Jesus was born in a house, not a stable. The Wise Men were astrologers.

The shepherds were poor, stinky, ritually unclean security guards.

But Christmas is always a surprise.

Jesus comes from the line of kings, but was born in a peasant hovel.

He was the Son of God, but spent his first night sleeping in a feeding trough.

Worshipped by angels in the fields,

he was visited by the filthy rough-sleeping shepherds in the house.

Christmas is always a surprise.

This year, we look once more at the worn image of Christmas,
covered in artificial snow and spray-on-shine,
and look into the torn seams.

Because Christmas is always a surprise.

Falling messily out of the seams is the Son of God,

the Saviour of the World, the Ruler of Eternity, Jesus.

Christmas is that kind of surprise.

Christmas blessings,
Steve Cramb

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Intercessory Prayer Team

Email prayer@lifeworksuniting.org.au

December 2025 Services

Sunday 7th December 9am

(Holy Communion)

Worship Leader: Kerrie Andrews

Preacher: Rev Adam Tipple

Sunday 14th December 9am

Worship Leader: David Hogg

Preacher: Rev Adam Tipple

Sunday 21st December 9am

Worship Leader: Pastor Peter Cole

Preacher: Rev Adam Tipple

Christmas Eve 24th December 7am

Worship Leader: Rev Adam Tipple

Preacher: Steve Cramb

Christmas Day 25th December 8.30am

Worship Leader: Rev Adam Tipple

Preacher: Rev Adam Tipple

Sunday 28th December 9am

Worship Leader: Louise Walker

Preacher: Pastor Peter Cole

Livestreams - please see [Facebook](#) for the latest link.

Giving Details

If you would like to give to Lifeworks, you can use the following methods:

Electronic direct deposit

Bank: Westpac Bank

Name: Lifeworks Uniting Church

BSB: 034 242

Account Number: 359 011

Write a cheque to Lifeworks Uniting Church, and post in the mail to: PO Box 18093, Clifford Gardens, Qld, 4350

Cash can be left in the offering bag on Sunday mornings.

We also now have Zeller to take card payments. Ask at church.

We thank-you for your generosity!

Quick Links

www.lifeworksuniting.org.au



[YouTube](#)



[Facebook](#)

News and Announcements

Hamper 'Red Bag Appeal' for Wilsonton and Harristown SHS

Thanks to all who contributed items for families in need. Chappy Howard Savage (pictured) collected 29 bags on Thursday 4th December. Thanks also to the Women's Shed for making the Christmas bags they will be delivered in.

Coloured Sand

In a service at Lifeworks raising awareness for DV in May, some coloured sand was used during the service and some of you may have taken that home. With recent concerns around coloured sand and trace amounts asbestos, the advice is that if you took this home you should dispose of it.

Rev Tanya Richards Finishing

Tanya finishes with Lifeworks and Uniting Care in Toowoomba on 14th December, and moves to Roma to take up the role of Bush Chaplain with the Bottle Tree Remote Area Ministry in the New Year. A big thank-you to Tanya for her service here, and blessings as she moves on.

It was great to celebrate Tanya's ministry in her service of closure at Lifeworks in November (photo).

Rev Adam Tipple Leave Dates

Adam is on leave from 26th December to 14th January, returning to work on 15th January. For any pastoral enquiries during this time please call the ministry mobile on 0487 572 400.

Everything in Common, Ethical Gift Catalogue from Uniting World

UnitingWorld* offers Everything in Common gift cards each year. When people purchase Everything in Common cards, they are helping the global church address the causes and consequences of poverty, injustice, violence and climate change.

Everything in Common cards may seem like a simple gift, but they represent life-changing projects for hundreds of thousands of people around the world. For more information or to purchase, visit everythingincommon.com.au

*UnitingWorld is the Uniting Church's International aid, development and partnership agency.



Church Council Update

Church Council met on 10th November and then again for our Christmas dinner celebration on 3rd December (CC members pictured with some of the spouses.) We thank God for everyone who has served over the last 12 months on this Council.

Some decisions from the November meeting:

- Pastor Peter Cole was co-opted to serve on Church Council for 12 months. We thank God for Peter's willingness to serve at Lifeworks in this way, and pray that this is a blessing to him, Julie and the congregation.
- Anni Cramb commenced her role as an elected Elder on Church Council. We thank God for Anni and pray this is also a blessing to her and the congregation.
- We decided to keep the same-gender marriage survey open until 30th November. Results of this will be published in the New Year.
- Finalised plans for Carols in Glenvale.
- Agreed to lease the Truscott St manse for a further 12 months.



Happy 90th Aileen!

We had a great celebration with the Keenagers on 27th November as we sung Christmas carols and shared Christmas jokes, stories and poems.

We also celebrated with Aileen Plummer her 90th birthday. Aileen and Kevin (pictured) are not usually able to get to church, but are faithful listeners of our USB ministry. God bless them and all who listen in this way, and a big thank-you to Marg Shultz who sustains this ministry.



Prayer Points

- For Rev Tanya Richards as she concludes her placement with Lifeworks and Uniting Care Queensland.
- For the families receiving our Christmas hampers through school chaplaincy.
- For teachers, school staff and students to have a wonderful restful break.
- For those doing it tough this Christmas and struggling with finances or illness or loneliness.
- For Our Community Carols on 7th December, for good weather and attendance.





Christmas services at Lifeworks

CHRISTMAS EVE 7PM

CHRISTMAS DAY 8.30AM



615 BOUNDARY ST GLENVALE

**Lifeworks**
Uniting Church

Blue Christmas Service

Sunday 14th December, 9am
at Lifeworks Uniting Church

This time of year can be tough for many of us.

This service is an opportunity
to acknowledge pain, loss and sadness,
and to know and receive the hope,
peace, comfort and joy that can be
found in Jesus,
the divine light who shines even in our darkest
days.

All welcome.

LIFEWORKS UNITING CHURCH

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tues- day	Wednes- day	Thursday	Friday	Satur- day
	1	2	3 9.30am mainly music	4	5	6
7 8.30am Prayer in the meeting room 9am Worship Holy Commun- ion 4pm Glenvale Community BBQ Carols in Glen- vale	8	9	10	11 Midday Keenagers Christmas Lunch	12 Midday Funeral for Elena Ve- lez	13
14 8.30am Prayer in the meeting room 9am Worship (Blue Christmas Service)	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 8.30am Prayer in the meeting room 9am Worship	22	23	24 7pm Christ- mas Eve Ser- vice	25 8.30am Christmas Day Service	26	27
28 8.30am Prayer in the meeting room 9am Worship	29	30	31 New Year's Eve			