



# Witness



Durer, Landauer Altarpiece, 1511  
All Saint's Day, 1 November

**St Ninian's Uniting Church, Lyneham**

**October - November 2025**

**St Ninian's Uniting Church, Cnr Mouat and Brigalow Sts, Lyneham**

**Minister**

Rev'd Sharon Cutts:

**Pastoral Assistant**

Julie Gillespie:

**Witness Editor**

Elizabeth Smith

**All mail to** PO Box 7181, Kaleen ACT 2617

**Telephones:** 6248 9198 Church Office)

**Email:** [stninians@stninians.org.au](mailto:stninians@stninians.org.au)

**Webpage:** [www.stninians.org.au](http://www.stninians.org.au)

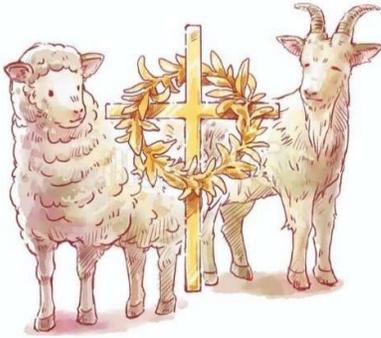
Chairperson, Church Council	Neville Biggs <a href="mailto:chair@stninians.org.au">chair@stninians.org.au</a>
Secretary, Church Council	John Cutts <a href="mailto:secretary@stninians.org.au">secretary@stninians.org.au</a>
Treasurer	Gwen Souter <a href="mailto:treasurer@stninians.org.au">treasurer@stninians.org.au</a>
Finance Committee Convenor	John Cutts (as above)
Chairperson, Property Committee	Cheryl Wright
Honorary Pastoral Assistant	Julie Gillespie

Services of Worship at St Ninian's each Sunday at 9.30 am.

MATERIAL FOR NEXT WITNESS IS DUE ON: Sunday 30 November

## From the Minister

### SHEEP AND GOATS



A phrase we are familiar with when entering a new community might be 'sorting out the sheep from the goats.' And like so many phrases we use without thinking about it, this phrase comes directly from a story in the bible in Matthew 25:31-46. Quite typically it isn't a very long story that Jesus tells. The intention of the parables is to teach spiritual truths to the people around Him in ways that would make sense to them. The images and circumstances Jesus used back then are still very familiar to us today.

In the parable, sheep represent those in a close relationship with Jesus, while goats symbolise those who are not. Jesus always hoped that one day, they would be there with the other sheep.

This is where discipleship comes to the fore in the parable. Looking at the parable at face value you could be forgiven for thinking that all you needed to be as followers of Christ was good people doing good works – something I hear when talking to people in the wider community. The sheep were praised for doing charitable work, such as providing food, drink, clothing and most likely some form of a sanctuary proving the love Christ has for all people on a difficult timeline. After all, it was Jesus who would soon willingly sacrifice His life-giving salvation to both the sheep and the goats. The goats, however, were not seen doing or providing anything for those whose needs were great. It was more difficult for the goats to love beyond themselves making their salvation more difficult for them to see.

To be clear here, it isn't by our good works that we can claim our salvation, like the sheep, it's our faith in God, the risen Christ Jesus and the forgiveness we have received from His cross. The kind of good works described in the scriptures aren't the cause of our salvation but are the effect our hope and faith in Christ has on us. John 13 tells us about Jesus' commandment to love and as we model our lives on Christ our love for others is directly linked to our wanting to help others who are in need. We are called to be Christlike and if we want to be true to our faith in Christ, we are compelled to act in loving ways to all people in the same way Jesus did. We may not like or agree with what they say or do, but we are called to still love them, not bring harm or hurt into their lives.

The core teaching of this parable is that our love for others should reflect Christ's example, characterised by a lack of judgment and favouritism. The purpose of our good works whilst having an outward appearance of goodness, is based on an everlasting loving relationship with Christ from whom we have received His grace and mercy, and who has been shepherding His people since creation. Christ's shepherding has taken the shape of servant and as His followers our good works are also shaped as servanthood to bring glory to God not ourselves. The message for the goats in the parable is unless their good works are done to bring honour to God, they only bring honour to their own name. The purpose isn't the same as the sheep and will not bring honour or worship to God.

As Christ's followers we want all people to know the love and promises of the living Christ, we share the great love the Shepherd had for all His sheep even those who become lost – those who might be more like a goat than a sheep. Although we might first see this is a divisive parable, it's about bringing us all to a closer and loving relationship with Christ so we can all sit eternally with Him.

In His Service

Rev'd Sharon Cutts

## News of People

Congratulations to Beth Roberts on a big 0 birthday. Beth is celebrating with family at Hall's Gap.

We think of Dawn and Keith La Fontaine as Dawn has recently been in hospital.

Robyn Russell remains in North Canberra Hospital.

## Women's Activity Group (WAGs)

At our first meeting in August, Wendy gave a very interesting travel talk about her trip to New Zealand last year. She shared many photos and told of her experiences on the tour, one of the highlights being a visit to Hobbit Town built for The Lord of the Rings movies. Our next meeting was cancelled due to the funeral of Jan Livingstone who was a very much loved member of St Ninian's. She will be missed by all of us.

In September we had another of Kay's very interesting and informative travel talks. This time, instead of Nice and Normandy, it was a trip she and Horst did to Namibia. We look forward to the Nice and Normandy trip next year. At our last meeting we all had to talk about a favourite piece of music or song. Anita and Irene brought their speakers along so we were able to play extracts from each piece of music and even had a singalong to one of the Seeker songs.

Coming up is a visit to the heritage Nursery at Yarralumla for morning tea, then Jennifer Hobson is talking about her experiences as a bush nurse. This will be followed by two more speakers; Stephen Bardwell who will give a travel talk and Olwyn Anne Cook speaking about her experiences at the coronation of King Charles. Lots of variety so come along and join in the fun.

Irene Reid

## Uniting Church Adult Fellowship (UCAF)

At our August meeting we had the pleasure of hearing about the trip Marion McConnell made to Japan recently. We enjoyed her

description of the beauty of this country and also gained something of an insight into the nature and character of the Japanese people. Their attention to detail and cleanliness and pride in their presentation and work was reflected in the loveliness of the parks and gardens and maintenance of the streets and public facilities. Marion's photography was impressive, and views of wisteria and cherry blossoms were particularly noteworthy. We were also able to examine some of her mementos displayed on a table.

In September we continued with our travel theme when Elizabeth Smith described her trip to Ukraine in 1995. Elizabeth was able to give us a brief historical context to current events. Her presentation was illustrated by slides and it was striking to see the number of churches – they seemed to be everywhere, their onion domes a feature of the landscape. Different styles of architecture were very noticeable, traditional wooden cottages as well as Soviet era apartment dwellings. Thank you to both speakers for the trouble they have taken to prepare such interesting and informative talks. We are so lucky to have such friends willing to contribute much time and effort for our enjoyment.

On 23 August we sold clothing alongside the garage sale. Due to school holidays we did not have helpers from Radford College so accordingly cut back. We were fortunate with the weather so were able to open the shed as well as having racks in the hall. Some linen, clothing and handbags were also put on tables. When Market@The Meeting Place begins operations, we are hoping for extra helpers, not limited to those who usually attend our meetings, an hour or two given here and there would be very welcome.

Finally we would like to express our condolences to Jan Livingstone's family and friends for their loss. She had attended UCAF meetings for many years and contributed lots of help to our fund raising activities and also enjoyed our social occasions. After our July meeting we celebrated the milestone of her 90th birthday and we know she really enjoyed this.

Coming Events  
Meetings

1 October 2025 Speaker: Jane Allen

Topic: Volunteering in an Aged Care Home

5 November 2025 Christmas Lunch

Pat Semmler

### Church Council

### Choir

The second half of the year has started well, with most of our 9 choir members being present for most practices and Sundays. However, if there are only 5 or 6 of us we continue on regardless. Illness and holiday travels cut into our numbers sometimes, but that is to be expected.

After our winter break we started singing again on 10 August. As our second successful "Come Sing With Us" was held on 14 September, we immediately began to practice in earnest for that as well. Thanks to Linus who played it as a postlude one Sunday, and to Neville who had the music, we decided to launch ourselves into a different mode for All God's Creatures Got a Place in the Choir.

What fun that was, we all watched and listened to Celtic Thunder do their version of it and sang along till we got it right (and I could finally play it fast enough for our practices together!) Also, we sang lovely new words by Michael Herry to the classic old tune Thaxted (from The Planets by Gustav Holst) - A Blessing Hymn for Australia. Here we sang of our "ancient land of wide and sunburnt plains ... land of gold and green ... bring us all as one together under southern stars above ... help us build in Christ a world reborn in justice and in love". Beautiful, meaningful words. If you came to church that Sunday morning you got a double dose! Both times we were accompanied exquisitely by Linus Lee, on the organ in the morning, and on the piano in the afternoon. Lastly, we launched into a couple of rounds that our audience could participate in – Kookaburra Sits in an Old Gum Tree and London's Burning (complete with buckets of real and fake water!!). It is nice to occasionally sing something more frivolous than a Sunday morning anthem.

St Ninian's Witness – page 5

Kay Hahne, Choir Director September 2025

### Social Action Group

**30<sup>th</sup> Annual Remembrance Ceremony for those who lose their life to illicit drugs** will be held on

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October, 12pm – 1pm** at Weston Park, Yarralumla.

To take place at the dedicated memorial located on the right of Weston Park Road opposite the Pescott Lane Junction.

Please bring flowers to lay at the memorial. Speakers include: Ms Rachel Steven-Smith, ACT Minister for Health.

Vannessa Garven, ACT Area Officer of the Salvation Army.

Louise Hughes (CAHMA) and Tammy Waters (Directions Health Services).

All welcome.

If you would like a loved one remembered at the ceremony please email CAHMA at [info@cahma.org.au](mailto:info@cahma.org.au)

Speak to Maron or Bill for more information.

### SIEVX Memorial commemoration

The SIEVX Memorial Association ACT Inc (TSMMA) and the Memorial at Yarralumla will hold the SIEV X 24<sup>th</sup> annual commemoration of the tragedy - on **Saturday 18 October 2025 at 10am** at the Memorial (Weston Park Rd, Yarralumla).

Marion McConnell

### Events

**ST NINIAN'S GRAND FETE**  
**Saturday 1 November 2025**

Our Annual Grand Fete is coming around again on the first Saturday in November. (This year it coincides with All Saints' Day).

Did you know it has been going strong every year (except during Covid) since 1968 – 57 years! It started with a simple Sunday School Stall, which inspired the Presbyterian Women’s Committee (PWC) (now the UCAF) to bigger things. The fete is now a significant fundraiser for our church; offers a wide range of quality goods for excellent prices, delicious food and refreshments, entertainment, company and community outreach and engagement.

Of course it takes a lot of work, so if you can contribute in any way talk to Pat Bourke or Cheryl Wright. There is a list of stalls, leaders and helpers in the hall and suggestions in the weekly bulletin

### **FRONTIER SERVICES MORNING TEA**

A huge thankyou to all who donated money on Frontier Services Sunday. we received one thousand and ninety dollars which was amazing!!!! Plus a huge thankyou to all who provided the incredible morning tea.

Pat Bourke

### **COME SING WITH US Sunday September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

Many thanks to Kay, Jane, Neville, Cheryl, and John, for being such a great bunch of people to work with. This team of people certainly provided the community with another great opportunity to gather and sing together as a community. Unfortunately, there was a lot on that day, and we had fewer attendees than last year – but the enthusiasm was just as great. Thanks to Cheryl and her helpers who provided us with another sumptuous afternoon tea. Linus Lee worked his fingers once again on the ivory keys to provide a wonderful time of entertainment. The St Ninian’s Choir sang very well and helped the community to sing two rounds. For those who couldn’t come this year, maybe 2026 will the year you can make it to the annual ‘Come Sing With Us’. I know there are some in the wider community who look forward to this event taking place each year.  
Rev Sharon Cutts

### **HATS FOR HOMELESS**

Three weeks ago I sent off two bags of beanies made by the students at Radford College. The students had a lot of fun making them, and were very creative with the patterns they managed to produce along the way. They have also been very instrumental in helping us with our sales and now our new venture The Market@The Meeting Place. It’s wonderful to witness the relationship that’s growing between the two organisations. They will be on holidays now and our prayers for them continue as they enjoy their break, and come back to school for the final term of the year in good standing and health.

Rev Sharon Cutts

### **MARKET@THE MEETING PLACE**

After the disappointment of not receiving the grant for our project, a committed group of people have continued to meet and come up with plan B which as you know is called ‘Market @The Meeting Place. Our very first Market@The Meeting Place was held on



Friday 26<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September. We were very lucky to have the muscle power of students from Radford College to help us with the setup on Thursday. It’s great to have their help, and if you or you know someone who could offer us a few hours on a day that suits you or them please let us know so you or your friend can find out how you can help. Friday morning arrived and our first sale took place at 9:25am raising our expectations of a successful first try in our new mission. From 9.30 tea and coffee with bikkies or scones was available and at 11am the hall was filled with the smell of freshly cooked pizza and pasta. Books were sold, clothes almost walked out the door and bric-a-brac left the table. Of course, as we continue to learn how to do it better things may change but we’re on our way with our first attempt to fundraise giving us \$800 approx. This is a project which will

grow as it becomes more well known in the community and word of mouth advertising is the best kind of advertising. We will try and keep our Facebook page:

Market@The Meeting Place updated so you will know what's happening. Our focus for the next one on October 10-11 will be on books. Come on in and have a chat, and a cuppa we would love to see you and appreciate your support for St Ninian's Uniting Church.

A very big thank you to all those who helped to make it the success it was and also to Sam from Knot Just Pasta and AJ from the Campbell Pizza Hut who provided the pasta and pizzas.

### **MONDAY GARDENING GROUP**

The St Ninian's/Benedictus Gardening Group works to create and maintain our own little Garden of Eden. It meets on the first and third Mondays of each month from 9.30 for an hour or so, and then enjoys a cuppa and a chat. There are tasks for every level of skill and fitness: pruning, weeding, collecting mulch and so on.

### **PLANTER STONE BOXES**

The square planter stone boxes (along the covered way) which were cracking and falling apart including unlevel paving around them have now been restored. They had become quite an eyesore, so it is good to see the stones reassembled and returned to their original condition. We will need to keep an eye on them for future cracking. When this begins to happen, a decision will be made as to whether the Mt Fuji trees will need to be removed. The cost of remediation was considerable at \$3,400 (less GST which the church can claim back). We have had over \$2,000 in donations towards the cost. If you would be interested in contributing this would be much appreciated. Bank details are on the Order of Service each week or speak to Marion.