

CHURCH COUNCIL

Executive:

Chairperson
Secretary
Treasurer

BOB LOCKLEY
ANN BARNES
RAELENNE ASHMAN

Congregational Reps:

Karen Bain
Gloria Green
Norm Green
Irene Beddes
Rev. John Dihm

(Grapevine and website)
(Children's ministry)

CHURCH CONTACT
NUMBER:
0407579349

UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

THE GRAPEVINE

MARCH 2024

NORTHAM CONGREGATION
103 Duke Street, NORTHAM, Western Australia 6401



WORSHIP 9.30am
1st and 3rd Sundays

NEWS - ROSTERS - CHURCH INFORMATION EVENTS

MY DESERT TIME WITH GOD



As a child I remember giving up chocolates or such sweets for lent. As the years wore on and as the Second Vatican Council brought in changes to the practice of my Faith. I wondered why we take on self-imposed sacrifices that came uninvited. Our task, I believed, in lent or in any season, was to cope nobly and to find meaning

in the suffering and losses that inevitably came into our lives. But now that I am in my golden years, I realise my childhood training paid off. The good nuns that schooled me to live with a traditional Lenten theme-

A time with Jesus in the wilderness.

My desert time was initiated by God and expedited by the institutional church. God called me into a uncharted wilderness in 1972 when I was asked to accompany a family whose gay son had died of aids. The family was a very well respected and very wealthy family who were now in their own wilderness. They felt shame and did not mention their son's gayness in anyway.

They asked that the church say that he died of the flu. The desert is the archetypal place of confronting ourselves, a place where we analyse our motives, question our behaviour, investigate our future and find meaning in any suffering we may have. In the desert there are no roads or maps, just the time and space to know God and ourselves in a clearer way. Every Lent does end in an Easter, however, whether it comes in 40 days or 40 or more years.

But after the desert years I know that I am a better person.

Blessings Rev John Dihm

EVENTS EVENTS EVENTS EVENTS EVENTS EVENTS EVENTS

ALPHA COURSE - February to April- see details inside.

GREAT EASTERN GATHERING Merredin 23rd March'

THANKSGIVING SERVICE - Northam Uniting Church, Sunday 17th March. Bring something to put on the table. e.g. Fruit, vegetables, tinned food etc..



MESSY CHURCH EASTER March 17 @ 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Trinity North Uniting Church 85-89 Marlock Drive, Greenwood, Western Australia, Australia Messy Church is a fun way to worship for families. It's interactive and includes craft, games and a shared meal at the end.

2 Kings 2:23-24

UNUSUAL BIBLE VERSE

"He went up from there to Bethel, and while he was going up on the way, some small boys came out of the city and jeered at him, saying, "Go up, you baldhead! Go up, you baldhead!" And he turned around, and when he saw them, he cursed them in the name of the Lord. And two she-bears came out of the woods and tore forty-two of the boys."

BIBLE READERS MARCH

3 Mar Raelenne Ashman 0437094068
17 Mar Wendy Wolfe 61866981 [Thanksgiving Service]
31 Mar Jenny Kelly 0448772906 [Easter Sunday]

PREACHING PLAN MARCH

3. H.C. Rev John Dihm
17. Thanksgiving Service Rev John Dihm and Ann Barnes
31. Easter Sunday - Rev John Dihm

PRAYERS FOR:

Bob and Kay as they work through medical issues. Kay for her heart operation, hoping for a speedy recovery.

CONGREGATION NOTES

All current executives were voted in again at the AGM.
There is a First Aid kit available in the office.
World Day of Prayer is likely to be at our church next year.

SNOREY STORY

Apparently if you snore regularly it doubles your risk of having high blood pressure. If you snore and have sleep apnoea it quadruples the risk.

I WILL BE POSTING TELEPATHICALLY TODAY SO IF YOU THINK OF SOMETHING FUNNY, THAT WAS ME!

I yelled "Cow" at a woman on a bike and as she gave me the finger she ran into the cow.

ALPHA COURSE

Alpha Australia offers interactive sessions where you can explore life, faith, and meaning. Whether you're new to faith or have been on a spiritual journey, Alpha provides a welcoming environment for discussion and exploration¹.

Time & Location

ALPHA every Tuesday from 6th of February 2024 to Tuesday 23rd April
9:30am to 12:30pm
Bridgeley Church of Christ - 91 - 93 Wellington Street Northam
ALPHA Retreat - 22nd - 23rd March 2024 (More info to come)

CONTACT: Kym Edwards-0407622778 kym.edwards@bridgeley.org.au

TERRIFYING

As Ronald Reagan famously said, "The nine most terrifying words in the English language are,
"I'm from the Government and I'm here to help".!

SALAD DAYS!

I ate a salad and rotisserie chicken before I went to bed last night and I tossed and turned all night.

SCOTTISH WORD OF THE WEEK

Dumfungled: to be mentally and physically worn out.

IF YOU EAT GUNPOWDER DON'T GET CREMATED.

A cattleman from Texas told a young female neighbour the secret to a long life was to sprinkle a pinch of gunpowder on her breakfast each day. She did this religiously and lived to the ripe old age of 103! She left behind 14 children, 30 grandchildren 21 great grandchildren and a 30 meter wide hole where the Crematorium used to be!

R.I.P. JOHN TALBERT

John Talbert, Sue Talbert's husband, passed away recently. Sue has attended Northam Church as a Lay Preacher in the past and our thoughts and prayers go out to her at this terrible time.

Uniting together

Uniting WA Impact Report

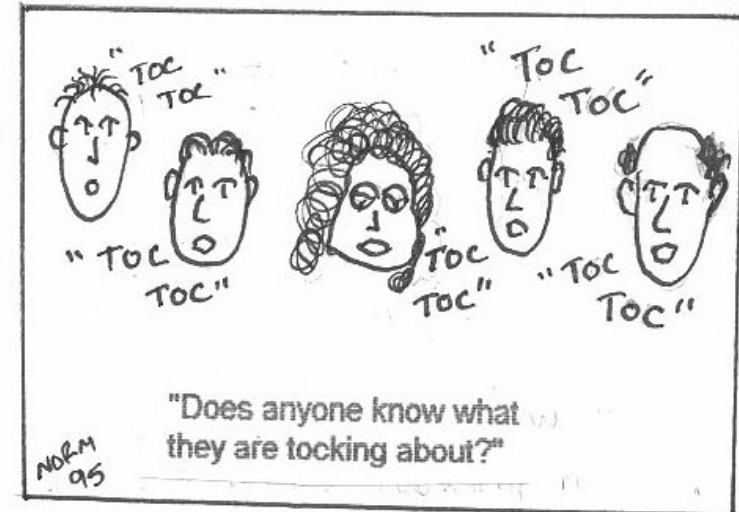
UNITING TOGETHER IMPACT REPORT 2022-2022

Your financial support helped :

- * 313 children and their families
- * 1737 cases of people experiencing intimate partner violence
- * 355 people with disability
- * 355 parents and their children
- * 70,860 presentations by people experiencing homelessness

SLEEPY RATS

According to sleep researchers if they deprive rats of sleep, they die after about 30 days. They die from sepsis or infection, which illuminates the fact that sleep is important for our immune systems. (Or at least for the immune systems of rats!)



I always preferred the English spelling of "diarrhea" which is "diarrhoea" because it really looks like you've lost control of your vowels!

POPE FRANCIS SAYS.....

Pope Francis has warned of the dangers of so-called gender theory, saying he had commissioned studies into what he condemned as an "ugly ideology" that threatens humanity.