

Keeping up with the Carletons

with Laurie & Bec Carleton • June 2026

#WhatsNewOnNorfolk



Lives are being changed on Norfolk Island through the Good News of Jesus! We are so grateful for your prayers and support of our work. We have much to report from the last few months with exciting opportunities to testify to God's goodness to His people here, and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

A mini revival!

A real highlight for us has been the mini revival in UNIT Youth (you may have seen the recent article in Sydney's Southern Cross Magazine).

In 2023, the group dynamics of UNIT Youth began to change and it became a place where young people became actively involved with the Good News of Jesus in new and unique ways. The group began to grow, albeit slowly, while it continued to be a place that was unashamedly Christian. We saw Jesus changing lives.

Last year we had 14 to 16 kids on average but this year we've got around 40 kids coming each week! We're so thankful for what God is doing. These kids are mostly from unchurched families and it's a great opportunity to speak the truth of Jesus into this environment.

Our Kids Club held on a Wednesday is also thriving, but these two groups are being run without a Kids and Youth Minister. Of the five years we've been on Norfolk Island the position has been vacant for four. We are praying that God has prepared the heart

of someone to come and take on this role. Currently Laurie is currently spending around seven hours a week on programing, prep and being at the programs.

We are also praying for volunteers to come and help, because with growth comes the need for leaders to help out and ensure we make the requirements for adult to children ratios.

Praise God for the growth in UNIT Youth and that it is unashamedly Christian with the young people coming along to have fun, hear from God's Word and pray.

Pray for wisdom and guidance in appointing a Kids and Youth Minister.

Easter on Norfolk

We start each Easter with a production called *Women at the Cross* on Maundy Thursday. This production was written by some friends of ours from Newtown and Erskineville Anglican Church who gave us the opportunity to use it on the Island. It tells the story of Jesus' journey to the cross through the eyes of women who

Banner Image: Sunset over the Island

Circle Image: The Carletons

Middle Image: Our numbers at UNIT Youth have more than doubled this year!

Bottom Image: Fun at UNIT Youth



Women @ the Cross on Maundy Thursday

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witnessed his life and ministry. It's an outreach opportunity for people to come and hear the story of Jesus' death and resurrection from a fresh perspective. All the monologues are biblically-based and thoroughly researched within the Bible. This year we had around 80 people come from the church and the community.

Pray that God would be at work in the hearts of those who attended and that we can have gospel conversations moving forward.

On Good Friday we held a combined churches event at All Saints in Kingston. The Church of England joins together with the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the Fijian National Church (All Nations), the Uniting Church, the House of Worship (Pentecostal), and the Catholic Church. It was such a blessing to see all the churches come together in fellowship to celebrate the common faith we share in Jesus Christ. There was a real unity in the fellowship of the spirit.

Throughout the Easter weekend we looked at the curtain from the tabernacle and the curtain from the temple, and how the tearing of it in two opened up the way to access God through Jesus' death and resurrection.

It was such a blessing to see all the churches come together in fellowship to celebrate the common faith we share in Jesus Christ.

On Easter Sunday we celebrated new life in Christ at a Combined Churches Dawn Service. We got up to the top of Mount Pitt at 4.45am and watched the sunrise. It was a blessing to start Easter Day in this way.

We also held our regular Church of England Sunday Service following the theme of the curtain ripped in two. It was great to finish the story. We're very thankful for the opportunities we had to speak the truth of Jesus into the lives of Christians (regular and visiting), but also community members who don't normally come to church.

Give thanks for the Combined Churches events and unity in the fellowship of the spirit.

Please pray that the seeds scattered across the Easter

weekend will be used to grow a living faith in the lives of those not yet in God's kingdom.

Our Sesquicentenary Celebrations

Now we'll take you back to last November when we celebrated the Sesquicentenary of the laying of the foundation of St Barnabas' chapel. It was a great celebration for the Island. The Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Melanesia came over for the occasion as well as the Bishop of South Sydney, Michael Stead, and Sydney's Bishop of International Relations, Malcolm Richards. Five past clergy who served on Norfolk Island attended the occasion too.

Celebrations across the weekend were a really good opportunity to see the work that God has done and continues to do through the ministry of the Church of



Combined Churches Dawn Service

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England on Norfolk Island. And this ministry doesn't just impact the Island, but actually has an impact on the entire world...

On Saturday 22 November we had a full day of activities including a reflection on the history of the Melanesian mission and an address from the Archbishop of Melanesia about the impact of the ministry throughout Melanesia.

We followed this by burying a time capsule next to the Chapel and then hosted a lunch for the community complete with a cake cutting. In the evening, we gathered inside the chapel to give thanks for everyone who has served Jesus in the chapel; from those who have ministered upfront, to those who have cleaned the chapel, and Islanders who have been part of daily life at the chapel.

Our Sunday service included the baptism of Riley Buffett – a wonderful champion of the faith who is always inviting her friends to church. She was pretty chuffed that three bishops attended her baptism!

Please join us in thanking God for His work through all those who have served Him

on Norfolk Island over the past 150 years.

The Gospel lived out

The vision of the Church of England on Norfolk Island is to *Love Jesus, Love each other and Love Norfolk Island*. And in 2026 we're focusing on partnering that with *The Gospel lived out*. Early in the year, we worked through the book of Romans and we're now looking at God's rescue plan told through the book of Exodus, trusting both God's provision and His rescue plan.

Please pray that as a congregation this year we will be filled with the love of Christ and live out the Gospel.



Laurie and the Archbishop cut the celebration cake



Saturday Sesquicentenary Celebrations

**In love and in Christ,
Laurie, Bec, Olivia, Claudia & Harry**

Pray for

**our work on
Norfolk Island**

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