

**SURF COAST LINKED CONGREGATIONS**  
**QUARTERLY NEWS BULLETIN**  
**SUMMER EDITION (Dec 2012, Jan, Feb 2013)**

Surf Coast Uniting Church with Linked Congregations at Aireys Inlet, Anglesea, Bellbrae and Torquay. MINISTER: REV HELEN ROBINSON Mobile 0408 527 521  
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DEADLINE for Autumn Edition 2013, - approx 20 February.

**MINISTER'S REFLECTION: SOME THOUGHTS AT CHRISTMAS**

Well, here we are at the beginning of the Christmas rush. So much conspires to cause us to forget what Christmas is really about. The food and the presents and the tinsel are just so much icing on the cake (If you'll pardon the expression). For Christians, this is a time to take stock of what Christ means in our lives and (heaven help us) to peel away the layers of glitter and the overdose of Christmas specials on T.V., and get down to what has real significance in our lives.

I well remember the first Christmas Steven was with us. He was 6 at the time. He came out of his bedroom, looked at the Christmas tree, and yelled "He's been! He's been!" (By which he meant Santa, of course). That's fine for a 6 year old, and I'm glad he was so happy. Our children and grandchildren's joy on Christmas Day makes us joyful too. But we are adults, and we see the world with different eyes. We see a world which desperately needs the light of Christ in the midst of its chaos and turmoil.

There is so much for us to commit to prayer, as always. Israel and Palestine at war, each trying to make an end of the other. The fledgling democratic movement in Burma/Myanmar, which finally has seats in parliament. Refugees in camps in Africa, with far too few supplies of any kind to care for the huge numbers of people who stagger in, exhausted, after marathon journeys on foot. The asylum seekers who ask for safety in our land, who are shunted elsewhere, and whom our government works hard to ensure they don't get onto Australian soil.

There are so many issues, so many people who need our prayers at this time. Think about what it would mean to pray, in all earnestness, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." We know very little about the mystery of prayer. We do know that when we come to God asking "Please help me to be part of the spread of love and peace in this world!", that this prayer will be answered. Many who are reading this have been Christian for many years, and have their own experiences of God answering prayer, even if it has been in utterly unexpected ways. Christmas is a time for us to make a gift of our time, energy and effort in prayer for those we know are suffering, and in danger.

We are astonished, and perhaps a little frightened, at the vulnerability of God coming as the Christ child to Bethlehem, that first Christmas. We are amazed that God chooses to exercise power in vulnerability - a choice which our faith tells us was ultimately so powerful that the grip of evil on creation was totally undermined, and God's love, justice and wisdom began to draw all things to God, through Christ. The great joy of Christmas is in knowing that God is present in our lives, and God's love in Christ is the source and destiny of all creation. May our joy at the birth of the Christ child, and our prayers for those who are in need at this time, hasten the reign of God's love in this world. Amen.

Love from your Minister, Helen.

**SURF COAST PREACHING PLAN – 2nd DECEMBER 2012 - 3<sup>rd</sup> MARCH 2012**

**USUAL WORSHIP TIMES: Anglesea – 9.00 am                      Aireys Inlet – 10.30 am**  
**Torquay – 9.30 am    Bellbrae – 11.00 am**

SUN 2 DEC                      COMBINED SERVICE, LINKED CONGREGATIONS AT ANGLESEA,  
11.00 AM FOLLOWED BY SHARED LUNCH AND FELLOWSHIP

TUES 4 DEC                      ELOUERA AT 2.15 PM    JEAN MURRAY

SUN 9 DEC                      ANGLESEA & AIREYS INLET                                      REV HELEN ROBINSON  
TORQUAY & BELLBRAE    WORSHIP TEAMS

WED 12 DEC                      HOLY COMMUNION, A'SEA, 10.30 AM REV HELEN ROBINSON

SUN 16 DEC                      ANGLESEA    REV BERNIE LONG  
AIREYS INLET    J & L RICHARDSON  
TORQUAY & BELLBRAE    REV HELEN ROBINSON

SUN 23 DEC                      ANGLESEA & AIREYS INLET                                      REV HELEN ROBINSON  
TORQUAY & BELLBRAE    CORAL DAVIES

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

**MON 24 DEC                      TORQUAY AT 6.00 PM    REV HELEN ROBINSON**  
**BELLBRAE AT 11.00 PM    REV HELEN ROBINSON**

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

**TUES 25 DEC                      ANGLESEA AT 9 .00 AM    REV BERNIE LONG**  
**AIREYS INLET AT 9.45 AM    REV ALAN PARTON**  
**TORQUAY AT 9.30 AM    REV HELEN ROBINSON**

SUN 30 DEC                      ANGLESEA WORSHIPPING AT ANGLICAN CHURCH AT 9.00 AM  
AIREYS INLET    M & K BREMNER  
TORQUAY & BELLBRAE    WORSHIP TEAMS

SUN 6 JAN                      ANGLESEA & AIREYS INLET                                      JEAN MURRAY  
TORQUAY & BELLBRAE, HC    REV BERNIE LONG

SUN 13 JAN                      ANGLESEA & AIREYS INLET, HC.                                      REV BERNIE LONG  
TORQUAY & BELLBRAE    ROBERT PACKETT

SUN 20 JAN                      ANGLESEA & AIREYS INLET                                      NONI JOHNSON  
TORQUAY & BELLBRAE    MICHELLE HARDY

SUN 27 JAN                      ANGLESEA & AIREYS INLET                                      BRIAN SHAW  
TORQUAY & BELLBRAE    JEAN MURRAY

SUN 3 FEB                      ANGLESEA & AIREYS INLET                                      MICHELLE HARDY  
TORQUAY & BELLBRAE, HC    REV HELEN ROBINSON

SUN 10 FEB                      ANGLESEA & AIREYS INLET, HC                                      REV HELEN ROBINSON

TORQUAY  
BELLBRAE

NONI JOHNSON  
WORSHIP TEAM

**WED 13 FEB**                    **HOLY COMMUNION A'SEA, 10.30 AM**                    **REV HELEN**  
**ROBINSON**

**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE, TORQUAY, 7.00 PM**

SUN 17 FEB                    ANGLESEA & AIREYS INLET  
TORQUAY & BELLBRAE

WORSHIP TEAMS  
REV HELEN ROBINSON

SUN 24 FEB                    ANGLESEA & AIREYS INLET  
TORQUAY & BELLBRAE

REV HELEN ROBINSON  
BRIAN SHAW

SUN 3 MARCH                    ANGLESEA & AIREYS INLET  
TORQUAY & BELLBRAE, HC

JEAN MURRAY  
REV HELEN ROBINSON

**NB DATES AND TIMES OF THE ELOUERA SERVICES IN 2013 ARE STILL BEING ARRANGED WITH THE ELOUERA STAFF. THEY WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE WEEKLY NEWS SHEETS.**

### **AT THIS TIME OF YEAR .....**

1.    **CHRISTMAS BOWL – ACT FOR PEACE.** Envelopes for your donation will be in all four congregations very soon. Act For Peace is the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia, aiming to reduce poverty, protect refugees, improve educational opportunities and empower communities. The Christmas Bowl envelopes can be returned through the offering plate on Sundays or on Christmas Day.

2.    **STAMPS FOR SAMMY STAMP.** This is the time of year when we all receive many postage stamps on our Christmas mail. PLEASE SAVE all these stamps. They can be given to Rev Helen, Jean Murray, Margaret Ganly, or to your regular “stamp collection person”. The stamps are taken to the Sammy Stamp sorting team at the Synod Office, Melbourne where they meet each Thursday morning. Stamps are trimmed and sorted. Dealers come and buy, and proceeds are directed to very worthwhile projects. Up to 20th September this year sales of stamps have raised \$30,600 (\$21,865 at the same time last year). This is an amazing figure for those little bits of paper that could so easily be thrown away on used envelopes! So far this year \$21,075 has been approved in grants for projects such as \$2,000 for the Philippines Typhoon Emergency Relief Appeal (through Uniting World), \$1,000 to Queenscliff Uniting Church for their Community Meal Program, and \$3,000 to Frontier Services for Rocky Ridge Aged Care Facility in Katherine, NT.

As well as used stamps, Sammy deals in used postcards and stamp albums – the older the better! If you know of someone who is having a “clean out” as they move or down-size, please ask them about old postcards and stamp albums! What a waste if they are simply thrown away!

3..    **CHRISTMAS FOOD AND GIFTS FOR UNITINGCARE GEELONG (“CONCERN”)**  
We need to be quick with our donations, as Christmas hampers are soon to be packed. These items are in great demand for the hampers: Christmas cakes, puddings and mince pies (NOT home made), shortbread, sweet and savoury biscuits, tins of ham, fish, meat,

vegetables, soup, tinned fruit, jelly crystals, instant pudding, longlife milk and custard, tea, coffee, cordial, fruit juice, sweets, nuts, potato chips, pop corn, cheesels, and any other non-perishable food. Bonbons and Christmas serviettes. Red and green supermarket shopping bags are needed for the hampers. Unwrapped gifts – children's toys (specially for boys aged 7 – 12), gifts for teenagers, gift vouchers (eg Big W, Target, etc), Christmas paper and cards. Please check with your congregation with regard to gifts – for under the Christmas tree, or other arrangements.

4. **SUMMER CLOTHING, SMALL TOYS, ETC. FOR 2013 FETE AT OLD TIMERS, ALICE SPRINGS.** No, it's not too early to think about goods for next year's fete at the Old Timers Aged Care Facility, Alice Springs (Frontier Services). In the Christmas and summer sales you may find some items of children's or adult clothing or soft toys which you would like to donate to the next fete. Also, if you are attending any church fetes you may find some suitable craft and soft toys (eg at the Anglesea Fair on Saturday, 12 January, you could support the Fair and Old Timers in the one purchase!) Items can be placed in the clearly marked plastic box at the Torquay church, or given to Rev Helen or Jean Murray. Thank you!

### **AIREYS INLET NEWS**

The Aireys Inlet congregation is feeling the loss of our oldest member, Gwen Gaylard, who passed away after a short illness. Until recent times, Gwen made a wonderful contribution to our services with her spirited and eloquent readings from scripture. Our monthly Community Coffee and Chat gatherings will also be the poorer for Gwen's passing. Gwen's life was honoured at a funeral service held at St Aiden's, where children and grandchildren spoke of her wonderful sense of humour and her pivotal role in the life of her extended family.

Our recently purchased large screen television was put to good use at Gwen's funeral, with the service telecast directly into the back room where overflow seating had been provided. With assistance from Peter Heath, we enjoyed a number of services where Rev Helen screened parts of the liturgy, the words of hymns and other visuals on the television screen. Unfortunately, this foray into higher tech worship services came to an abrupt halt with the theft of our television as part of a raid on a number of the churches along the Surf Coast.

On the subject of technology, we at Aireys Inlet are really appreciating the revamped Linked Congregations' web page, especially the up-to-date calendar of events and the opportunity to read Helen's sermons and comment on them. There are several keen users of Facebook in the Aireys congregation (this writer included) and we have undertaken to trial the running of a Facebook page for the Surf Coast Linked congregations.

At our recent Annual Church Council meeting Keith Bremner was re-elected as Chairman, ably assisted by Phyllis Mill as Secretary and Ray Mill as Treasurer. All other positions of responsibility were filled, with almost every member of the congregation having a role of some description. Our congregational activities are operated through our Pastoral Care, Worship and Outreach teams, an approach that seems to work well for a group of our size.

The Outreach Team has begun to plan a program of events for next year. Buoyed by the success of the Salvation Army Melbourne Veterans Band concert, held earlier this

year we have made some preliminary investigations into getting the Choir of Hope and Inspiration (formerly the Choir of Hard Knocks) to perform at Aireys Inlet. Stay tuned for more developments on this front.

The Uniting congregation plays a leading role in organising the Community Carols at Aireys Inlet, which will again be held at the Bark Hut, featuring a pageant involving children from the local school. This will be a wonderful finale to a very active year for our small congregation. All are welcome - SUNDAY 9 DECEMBER at 7.30 pm. (If the weather is bad, the event will be moved to the Community Hall.)

Mary Bremner

### **ANGLESEA NEWS**

Anglesea Uniting Church has had a sad last quarter with the loss of two of our loved irreplaceable members Bill Geeves and Jean Yule. One could never list the number of activities that Jean was involved in as so many of these were carried out (including writing for this Bulletin) so efficiently. Bill is missed from that front pew where he sang lustily those old hymns knowing all the words and where Doreen still attends every Sunday. Many family and friends came together at Anglesea for Bill's Service.

Jean Yule's Thanksgiving Service was attended by approximately 200 friends and family. Following the wonderful service all stayed on for afternoon tea a time to reminisce on a fulfilling life given to Christ. The whole service can be found on the Surfcoast UCA site, as well as the Obituary written by daughter Jane for publication in The Age.

Our Elder, Iris Speare, has left Anglesea to reside in Geelong to be close to her family and a farewell was extended to her in appreciation of long service for the Anglesea church and our best wishes went with her to her new area but we hope to see her periodically when time allows.

The SPAN (singing, praying & nattering) group enjoy the fellowship over dinner at 6 p.m. in the church and always have interesting subjects and speakers to entertain this group. It has proved a wonderful way to really get to know our fellow parishioners. Drop-in continues on the second Wednesday preceded by communion and on the 4th Wednesday games and lunch and UCAF.

All are working towards the Anglesea Fete to be held on Saturday 12th January. Do come along and have a full breakfast on that day.

We are looking forward to seeing you all attending the Combined Parish Service at Anglesea on 2nd December.

Our congregation is very active and we have to thank Ken McCasker for keeping it so – without fail those rosters are placed before us to make sure that it continues to involve all.

Elizabeth McKenzie

(If readers who do not have access to the Internet wish to have a copy of the very full and interesting Obituary of Jean Yule, prepared for publication in The Age, written by Jane,

please contact the Editors – Val or Jean - who will gladly furnish you with a printed copy.)

## **BELLBRAE NEWS**

Our little church in the pines has continued to have many happy times during the last three months. Our second and fifth Sunday services continue to give us pleasure and we are particularly enjoying our music on those days. Helen has been sharing her planned services with us and we are always grateful and inspired by what she has to say. Maxine Flakemore and Bev Hooper have also prepared and taken services on these worship committee days and we also find these services of great value. We have been delighted with some of the beautiful hymns that have been chosen for us by Helen as well as enjoying choosing our own favourites where they link in with the reflection for a particular day. Occasionally we have visitors from the Bellbrae Timeshare, including some who have been to worship with us before. We have welcomed some new regulars to our small group.

With regard to the Bellbrae Op Shop and Book Room donations continue to come in at a faster pace than we can cope with or sell them. Margaret Ganly, however, has solved this problem for us by noticing an advertisement in the Advertiser by Lifeline requesting donations for their five Geelong shops. We have been delighted to respond to this and thank Judith and Don Duffield for taking in a packed station wagon load of goods to the Geelong Lifeline storeroom and Ray Lancaster and Michael Lambkin for taking another trailer load a couple of weeks later. We have completed the process of changing all the clothing stock in the Op Shop over so that there are new things on all the shelves and all the boxes of summer clothes can be released from their hibernation in the storeroom. We are also very grateful to Martin Hooper, Michael Lambkin and Herbert Kumschlies for the wonderful outdoor storage facility they have built for us. We are now able to put the bags, that have been filled for recycling by Statewide Cleaning Cloths, outside when they are ready, instead of having to keep them in the already crowded storeroom. We are also now able to use this wonderful new facility for a working surface when sorting and packing goods.

The Book Room has been getting itself known around the district as well as in Melbourne and the Bellarine Peninsula. Two regular customers who expressed interest in the shop are now volunteering and this addition of helpers has been very welcome. We have been given some really beautiful and valuable books over the last three months and these continue to sell really quickly. We are certainly getting a reputation for being a great place to shop.

### **Focus on Margaret Ganly, a Bellbrae Treasure**

Our living treasure is Margaret Ganly who is a wonderful contributor to the life of our Congregation. Margaret is 97 years old, drives herself to church, regularly brings the flowers, is one of our Scripture readers and generally takes part in all activities. She is one of our Monday volunteers at the Op Shop sorting day, and regularly takes home goods for washing and cleaning. With her wonderful sense of colour and her cheerful face, we love having her in our presence.

Margaret was born in 1915 on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of the 7<sup>th</sup> month to the 7<sup>th</sup> son of the Burn family and the 7<sup>th</sup> daughter of the Pride family. Father Norman Burn died of wounds in

France, 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1917. She was brought up by her mother and a large range of uncles and aunts from both sides of the family in Geelong. She was educated at The Hermitage, Geelong, finishing school in 1931. After marrying John Arthur Ganly in 1939, she had two daughters, Margaret and Carleen.

Margaret still lives in Pride Street, Torquay in the "Joseph H Scammell" – the house left to her by the wife of William Pride Jnr, son of William Pride who purchased the deckhouse of the wreck in 1891 and turned it into a holiday house for his family. Margaret still actively takes part in golf, line dancing, exercise classes, Mahjong, swimming in the sea, beach walking and does her own gardening. She has travelled extensively during her life and enjoys reading challenging fiction and non-fiction books. Margaret is known widely in the Torquay area and is loved by all who know her.

## **TORQUAY NEWS**

### **Torquay Afternoon Fellowship:**

The ladies of the Fellowship met for the last time this year on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November for carol singing, devotions, a sumptuous shared lunch and the distribution of funds collected during the year. Even though the number attending was small, their dedication and the warmth of the fellowship were very evident. Following the death of our much-loved and long-time member, Joyce Barnes, her family made a generous donation to the Fellowship, thus bringing the total amount to be distributed to \$500.00.

Careful consideration was given to the beneficiaries, with the result of \$100.00 going to each of the following:

ACCESS Ministries (Geelong Chaplaincy Appeal, supporting chaplains in local primary and secondary schools); Africa Clean Stoves; Frontier Services (in celebration of their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary); UnitingWorld (Education for children with disabilities in Tonga); and UnitingWorld (Medication for child victims of tuberculosis in North Korea).

The Fellowship will resume on Wednesday 20 February 2013, at 1.30 pm for their annual Holy Communion service, with Rev Helen Robinson. All welcome!

### **Torquay Property Development – Progress Report:**

The church has accepted that the current church hall, toilet block and manse are substandard, and would need substantial resources to upgrade them. It has also recognised that the land to the rear of the manse and church (facing Beales St) is under used, and, as such, could be a target for a Synod sale of excess church property.

Because of the potential value of the Beales St land, and with the approval of Synod, the church is moving towards a development which would involve

- Selling the Beales St land,
- Giving some of the proceeds to Synod (according to Synod rules)
- Retaining funds to provide for a new church complex on the manse site, and a new manse elsewhere.

The church has

- Received a plan for a possible new church complex from the Architect David Reid
- Obtained approval from Surf Coast Shire to subdivide the land (subject to the provision of property services)
- Appointed a Real Estate Agent to advertise and auction the land.

Part of the proceeds from the sale of church properties is allocated to the Synod's Board of Mission and Resources (BOMAR). We were encouraged to apply to BOMAR for funding to help us build the complex proposed by David Reid. Our application appears to have been unsuccessful.

It is intended to proceed to the sale of the land. When we know exactly what funds we have available, we will know what we can afford to build.

Bob Hale  
Member, Torquay Property Development Committee  
November 25, 2012

## **AFRICA CLEAN STOVES**

A big THANK YOU to all everyone who supported the concerts and the chocolate drive that raised money for Africa Clean Stoves. As a result of these and other initiatives, we have ended our calendar year with sufficient funding to initiate the first two stages of the project. Since our last bulletin, there has been less progress than I would have liked due to the fact that St John's University virtually closed between academic years. The new academic year started in October. At the time of writing, Joseph Kibugwa, the student sponsored by the project, has had his Masters research methodology approved so is now able to recruit families to participate in the initial testing of the stoves in village homes. These participants will have the opportunity to cook on smokeless stoves and to provide the research team with feedback on their experiences. The money we have raised has purchased a laptop to record the data for the project and purchased the stoves and pellets for the initial trials. Once any issues identified by the villagers have been resolved, we'll start making pellets at the Foundation run by Hearts for Africa at Mkwanga and encourage more families to adopt the clean stoves.

## **DON'T FORGET THESE BIG EVENTS!**

**All are welcome – so invite family, friends and neighbours – and join us!**

### **AIREYS INLET COMMUNITY CAROLS**

**Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> December, 7.30 pm**

**at the Bark Hut (or Community Hall if weather is bad)**

**“IT'S A WONDER!” Christmas Pageant, Carol Singing**

**BYO chair or rug and a present or donation to place on the empty Christmas tree.**

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### **HEY, HO – COME TO THE FAIR !!!**

### **ANGLESEA ANNUAL FETE**

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2013**

**Breakfast, Morning Tea, Lunch**

**Crafts, Cakes, Books, Flowers, Plants, Cards, Toys**

**Trash & Treasure**

**Scones and Cream**

**See YOU there!**

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The Editors, Val and Jean, thank everyone who has contributed articles for the Quarterly Bulletins during 2012, and we hope our readers have found each edition helpful and informative. Best wishes to you all for a very peaceful Advent and Christmas season.

**“To travel the road to Bethlehem is to keep a rendezvous with wonder,  
to answer the call of wisdom,**



**and to bow the knee in worship.”**