

**SURF COAST LINKED CONGREGATIONS**  
**QUARTERLY NEWS BULLETIN**  
**AUTUMN EDITION (March/April/May 2012)**

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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## **Lenten Reflection**

For reasons which seem fairly obvious, we do not embrace Lent with anything like the enthusiasm with which we celebrate Advent and Christmas. We are reluctant to really delve deeply into Lent, because we are so aware that it involves the way of suffering, the way of Gethsemane and the Cross. If only we could jump straight to Easter Day, perhaps that would make us more comfortable. But that's not the way of scripture, nor is it the rhythm of the Church year. And this is so because neither is it the rhythm of life. Life involves suffering and death even though we would rather it did not.

Of course, Easter Day brings the triumph of the resurrection of Christ, and with it our own hope of eternal life with God. We cannot, however, just ignore the suffering along the way, without distancing ourselves from the God who knows and has actually shared our human experiences. Down that path lies a God who has no knowledge of or engagement with our own suffering - and our victories.

We make many choices along the way, most of which have nothing like the impact of Jesus setting his face to go to Jerusalem and accepting the fate which awaited him there. Nevertheless, we are sometimes called on to make choices which we know open up a hard road, one we would rather not travel. But facts are facts, and truth is truth, and sometimes we have no option but to accept the hard yards ahead of us. In Jesus' case, he was vindicated by God the Father and his name was made "higher than any other name".

What might it mean for us to be vindicated, when we have endured suffering? At its most basic, it may mean that no matter how much we have kicked and screamed and railed against our fate, we remain God's beloved child. It is astonishing but true, that when we eventually settle down again after the trauma of our suffering, we find that God has been holding us all that time. It was we who could not see it. Our vindication is not about our being proved to be sinless, like Christ. It is about the sure and certain hope which Easter Day holds out to us. It is about God's promise of forgiveness and eternal life, which is sealed with the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

From your minister, Helen.

## PREACHING PLAN – 11 MARCH TO 27 MAY 2012

	<u>ANGLESEA &amp; AIREYS INLET</u>	<u>TORQUAY &amp; BELLBRAE</u>
	<u>9.00 AM</u>	<u>9.30 AM</u>
	<u>10.30 AM</u>	<u>11.00 AM</u>
<b><u>MARCH</u></b>		
SUN 11	REV HELEN ROBINSON	REV NEIL OLIVER
TUES 13		ELOUERA 2.15 PM HELEN
WED 14	A'SEA COMMUNION 10.30AM	
SUN 18	NONI JOHNSON	REV HELEN ROBINSON
SUN 25	REV HELEN ROBINSON	ROBERT PACKETT
WED 28	A'SEA COMMUNION 10.30 AM	
<b><u>APRIL</u></b>		
SUN 1	REV BERNIE LONG	REV HELEN ROBINSON
THURS 5		TORQ TENNEBRAE 7.30 PM
GOOD FRI 6	A'SEA ECUMENICAL AT CATHOLIC CHURCH	TORQUAY 9.30 AM REV HELEN ROBINSON
SUN 8		DAWN SERVICE COSY CORNER TORQUAY 6 AM TBA AT TORQUAY WORSHIP TEAM AT B'BRAE ELOUERA 2.15 PM JEAN
	REV HELEN ROBINSON	
TUES 10		
WED 11	A'SEA COMMUNION 10.30 AM	
SUN 15	BRIAN SHAW	REV HELEN ROBINSON
SUN 22	REV HELEN ROBINSON	MICHELLE HARDY
WED 25	A'SEA COMMUNION 10.30 AM	
SUN 29	WORSHIP TEAM	WORSHIP TEAM
<b><u>MAY</u></b>		
SUN 6	A'SEA WORSHIP TEAM AIREYS WITH ANGLICANS	REV HELEN ROBINSON
TUES 8		ELOUERA 2.15 PM HELEN
WED 9	A'SEA COMMUNION 10.30 AM	
SUN 13	REV HELEN ROBINSON	TORQ MICHELLE HARDY B'BRAE WORSHIP TEAM
SUN 20	A'SEA WORSHIP TEAM AIREYS WITH ANGLICANS	REV HELEN ROBINSON
WED 23	A'SEA COMMUNION 10.30 AM	
SUN 27	REV HELEN ROBINSON	NONI JOHNSON

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**DON'T MISS THIS WONDERFUL EVENT!!!! EVERYONE WELCOME!!!**

### **GARDEN PARTY**

**SUNDAY, 25 MARCH, 2.30 TO 5 PM**

**at the home of David and Roz Allen**

**5 Ironbark Crt, Torquay**

**GREAT FOOD! GREAT FELLOWSHIP! ALL FOR ONLY \$10**

## **AIREYS INLET NEWS**

In early December, the Aireys Inlet Churches joined together, at the outdoor venue of the historic Bark Hut, for Christmas carols and the acting out of the Christmas story by the local children. It was truly delightful.

From Christmas through the holiday period, Aireys Inlet Uniting Church worship services have welcomed many visitors and Swallows. It has been a joy to see the church full on Sundays. The last Sunday in January we had the pleasure of welcoming some of the Bellbrae church community to our service, followed by a BBQ lunch. We are looking forward to repeating the experience.

With the start of February, normal activities have started up.

We had a full house at our first Coffee and Chat for the year and a spin off group from Coffee and Chat has been started to play pétanque at the church.

We discussed the possibility of further sponsorship of work in Cambodia. A decision was reserved until Mary and Keith Bremner return from their trip to Cambodia later in March.

Our members put on a very good Pancake Day at the Aireys Inlet Hall. It was a delight to watch the school children choosing their pancakes and toppings. We thank members from our other Surf Coast churches that supported the day.

We were thrilled to attend the Ordination Service in Colac of one of our Swallows, David Thompson. We wish him well in his future, serving with the Uniting Church.

## **MELBOURNE VETERANS' BAND AT AIREYS**

Do you remember that part of Christmas when the Salvation Army band came to play carols on the street corner near your house? As children my family always looked forward to the local corps band bringing their music to our community.

**ON TUESDAY, 1<sup>st</sup> MAY** the Melbourne Veterans' Band is coming to Aireys Inlet to share their wonderful music. These fine musicians, still members of their local corps bands, range in age between 60 and 80, and present a concert of instrumental and vocal music from a wide variety of genres, toe-tapping to reflective to 'something extra special'.

The concert will be preceded by a light lunch commencing at 12.00 noon. Tickets (\$25.00) are available from Joan Richardson (ph: 5289 7029) at Aireys Inlet, Jan Hale (ph: 5261 9660) at Torquay, and Ken McCasker (ph: 5263 2954) at Anglesea.

## **ANGLESEA NEWS**

### **JANUARY FAIR**

This annual event was even more successful than in previous years, despite the fact that we had asked the Baptists to take over the Trash and Treasure with the sales going into their budget. A generous gift back from them was received soon after the event.

Joe and Barbara Fraser organised the different stalls and duly tagged all those involved in serving at different stalls. As usual, the church sanctuary was a place where people could sit quietly.

Campers and other holiday families crowded in for breakfast from 8 a.m. in a continuous stream, with the later ones enjoying a lunch. \$686. was \$50 up on 2011. The Cake Stall was 50% more than the previous year and the Craft Stall almost doubled the previous year's total!

Thousands of books went off with satisfied buyers as usual. \$1120 was nearly double the previous total, but this was largely because, after many years, we increased the prices for the various items. \$1.00 for a hard back book is still a bargain.

The majority of the \$4,100. goes into the Anglesea General Account. We have a beautiful church complex and timber buildings need constant maintenance.

### **ECUMENICAL CO-OPERATION**

With four denominations active in Anglesea, we have visited each other's normal church service on the fifth Sunday, whenever it turns up on the calendar. The Anglicans are our hosts for the first quarter, and we had a memorable service of worship at the beautiful church of the Transfiguration at the end of January. The Rev. Lynton Wade, like our Rev. Helen Robinson, is near the end of his first year in a five year appointment. They are looking at possible ways of sharing our witness to the Anglesea community.

### **SPAN - Sing, Pray and Natter**

This group, with an average attendance of over twenty, meets monthly on the third Thursday to have a shared meal and a program that is presented by various members, each taking a turn throughout the year. Programs have varied from a report from the fire brigade, to a fun night, to the occasion when Joe Fraser mimicked a TV show with the launch of my book last September. Last month we were amazed at the variety of autographs, which Elizabeth McKenzie had managed to collect in her youth. Bradman and Hammond and all the cricketing "greats" were there for us to see in her special book. That program was modelled on the popular ABC show "The Collectors". New members are most welcome; we start at 6 o'clock and aim to be back at home soon after 9 p.m.

### **DROP-IN**

Every second Wednesday a minibus with a dozen clients from the U.C. Kalkee Centre in Belmont arrives, bringing them to join us when we have our lunch, which Margaret Murdoch's team provides for us oldies who live on their own.

**JEAN YULE**

## **BELLBRAE NEWS**

Our little church in the pines has seen lots of happy times in the last three months. We have enjoyed all our services and have taken particular pleasure in taking our own services on the second and fifth Sundays of the month. Everyone contributes something to these services and we see it as a time of fellowship as well as worship. We have enjoyed the company of visitors from the Bellbrae Timeshare and have also welcomed other locals to our little church for the first time.

Bellbrae Op Shop and Book Room have been having a very busy and rewarding time in the last few weeks. Marilyn and Neil Sewell recently took a very full car load of donated goods to Bendigo from where they were to be collected and taken to the flood area Op Shop of Kerang. We are planning to invite Kerang people to visit us and take some more donations home with them in the near future. Our recent takings have been very pleasing and a few weeks ago we took over \$700. We had a sale of clothing and children's toys on Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup> of February in order to reduce some of our excess stock. We advertised quite widely and had a good day despite the fact that the 38 degree heat kept our number of customers lower than we would have hoped

The Book Room came to the attention of a customer from the Geelong Advertiser, who passed our details on to The Echo. The article that resulted in the paper with Carleen Thoernberg's photograph has been a marvellous boost to sales. Many people have come to browse and shop as a result of the article and have said that they didn't know we were there but are delighted to discover that we are. We have also received many quality book donations as a result.

Other exciting news was the naturalisation of John Adams on Australia Day. Several church members joined Fran and John at this wonderful event and we are all delighted that John has joined us as an Aussie. He has since flown home to visit his mother in America as she has had some health problems and we have been keeping him in our prayers.

Another special event was Maxine Flakemore's book launch of her wonderful true magpie story – *Lucky Maggie – the Bird Who Made a Tree Change*. The event was held at the home of Maxine and Noel on Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup> of February when the weather was even hotter than the garage sale weather of the day before. Despite the heat over 100 people came together to share the launch of this beautiful book, the culmination of three years' work.

**Carleen Thoernberg**

## **TORQUAY NEWS**

**The Annual General Meeting** of the Torquay Congregation took place after worship on Sunday, 26 February with 26 members present. The results of the election of office bearers for the ensuing year were: Chairperson – vacant; Secretary – Jean Murray; Treasurer – John Angus; Representative on Presbytery of Port Phillip West – Robert Packett. Rod Lingard thanked all Elders, members of Church Council and sub-committees, office bearers of the various organisations, and all members of the congregation for their work and faithfulness. Rev Bernie Long thanked the retiring Chairperson, Rod Lingard, for his work over the past years. Bob Hale spoke on the report to the congregation on the Proposed Property Development. There were no other matters raised in General Business. The meeting concluded with the saying of “The Grace” together after which members enjoyed morning tea in the cool atmosphere of the foyer – with the air conditioner doing a fantastic job on such a very hot day!

**The various organisations** of the church have resumed their activities for the year catering from the babies and toddlers in Coffee and Kids through to the more senior participants of Afternoon Fellowship and Dine Out.

I have been able to obtain, free of charge, multiple copies of **choir music** from the Rosanna Uniting Church (Bellevue Avenue) which has now closed, and from Scots Presbyterian Church, Geelong West (where there is no longer a choir). So in a short while you may be hearing some new anthems from our choir. Choral music is very expensive to purchase, and as we are no longer permitted to photocopy music, because of very strict copyright laws, it is hoped these gifts of music will be appropriate for our use and beneficial to our worship.

**Our ministry at Elouera Aged Care Facility**, in the form of the monthly ecumenical services, commenced in February. This ministry is greatly appreciated and gives a wonderful opportunity for care and outreach. Our four church members who are permanent Elouera residents, as well as all others who attend the services really appreciate the fellowship of our members who support the services. All are invited to come along to assist with the singing and to be involved in this valuable ministry. Services commence at 2.15 pm and are over in half an hour, so it is not a huge commitment of time or effort. Of course, we are always invited to stay for afternoon tea, but this is not essential if you don't have a lot of time to spare. Forthcoming services at Elouera will be at 2.15 pm on - TUESDAY 13 MARCH (with Rev Helen); TUESDAY 10 APRIL (with Jean Murray); TUESDAY 8 MAY (with Rev Helen); TUESDAY 12 JUNE (with Rev Helen).

It was reported recently in “Crosslight” that **Rev Marg Manley** is to retire from ministry. Many years ago Marg (nee Pargeter) was commissioned from the Torquay Church as a Deaconess and was later ordained as a Minister. Marg is sister of Heather Jackman. We wish her well in her retirement.

**Jean Murray**  
**Congregation Secretary**

## TAKEN FOR GRANTED

Sometimes we need to stop and think about the things we take for granted. I recently spent a fortnight in Vietnam where we had a young, well-educated, multi-lingual, charming Vietnamese guide. The stories he told of his life caused us to reflect on how lucky we are to live in Australia.

When his parents were unable to afford the costs associated with his schooling, he left school and worked in the fields. He only obtained an education as an aged villager managed to enrol him as a boy monk in a Buddhist monastery. There he had breakfast and lunch, but no dinner (monks do not eat dinner), worked long hours during the day and studied late into the night. He did well enough to pass the exams to enter high school. He chose to become a guide and managed to find a Canadian sponsor to support him at guide school. Every three years he must re-sit his guiding exam, which is designed to ensure that he knows what he may tell the tourists and what he must not tell the tourists. If he's caught breaching these guidelines, not only will he lose his job, but could end up in prison or worse. He knows many people who have been imprisoned or executed for lesser offences, so this is not idle threat. If caught telling us the "wrong" thing, he plans to blame his poor understanding of English. Many things were conveyed to us as part of his own life story. When he was married, he learned that the aged villager who sent him to the monastery was the grandfather of the woman it had been decided that he would marry.

He can leave the country, but he cannot take his family with him. They are left as security in case he fails to return. He has two pre-school children. Driving past the maternity hospital in Ho Chi Minh City he told us that if the father wants to be present at the birth of his child, he must pay \$US40 (a lot for people who often only earn \$1 a day). When there is an announcement on the TV screen that his baby has arrived, the father must run round the hospital to find a bed for his wife – many wards have 20 beds with two women in each bed!

A child cannot be given a birth certificate if the parents are not married. If the child does not have an official birth certificate, the child cannot attend school. Contraception is considered taboo, but abortion is common as women fear having children who will be uneducated and doomed to a life of poverty, and, at best, subsistence survival.

The people are small and lack physical stamina due to their poor diet. A person's primary responsibility is to his family - to his children, and to his parents. Many families, of at least three generations, live in a single room and share "bathroom" facilities with many other families. The people eat on the street as there is nowhere to eat in the house. It is often quicker and cheaper to buy breakfast on the street as it takes a long time to cook the breakfast soup and many start work very early.

Only members of the communist party can afford western-style houses or cars. The two class system is evident in all aspects of life with little chance for advancement.

Yes, we must take time to reflect on the things we take for granted.

Val Clarke

## **FORTHCOMING ANNIVERSARIES**

**THE HEATHER CLUB** which originated at Torquay Presbyterian Church, and has continued in an informal way since 1977 when the Uniting Church was formed, is soon to celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! In days gone by, members of the Heather Club were energetic in their fellowship and fund-raising, catering for balls, wedding receptions and other gigantic events! Decades later the fellowship continues with the ladies now gathering regularly for coffee and a chat! Congratulations to all members of the Heather Club! You have been a long-serving and very faithful group of friends!

### **On Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September FRONTIER SERVICES will be celebrating 100 YEARS SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AUSTRALIAN INLAND MISSION**

with a gigantic event in the Dallas Brooks Hall, Melbourne. I am sure Rev John Flynn would be suitably proud (in his humble way) of the way this mission has developed over the last century and has kept abreast with modern developments. For example, the pedal wireless, established by Alf Traeger for John Flynn, has been replaced by lap top computers and the latest digital communication satellites! A 23-day Outback Travelling Seminar celebrating 100 years of John Flynn's Frontier Services will be led by Ann and Rev John Connan from 5 September. \$3,575 includes coach travel, meals, camping and 9 nights in motels. For further information phone Connans on 9781 2636 or [jconnan@hotmail.com](mailto:jconnan@hotmail.com)

### **HAVE YOU SEEN SOME FAMILIAR FACES IN THE PRESS RECENTLY???**

Four of our members have recently had their photograph and/or article in the local press for various reasons.....

**JEAN YULE** (Anglesea) featured in an article "Women's rights hard won". If you would like a copy of her book "Women in the Church: A Memoir", please contact Jean on 5263 2450.

**COLIN ARTHUR** (Anglesea) was taking advantage of classes conducted by Matthew Flinders students on iPads, mobile phones and other mysterious gadgets!

**CARLEEN THOERNBERG** (Bellbrae) was photographed amongst the hundreds of books in the Bellbrae Book Room – great publicity! If you haven't yet visited the Book Room, please do so – you'll be very pleasantly surprised. It's at the Bellbrae Church, School Road and open 10 am to 4 pm on Thursdays and Fridays, and 10 am to 1 pm on Saturdays.

**MAXINE FLAKEMORE** (Bellbrae) and **LUCKY MAGGIE** featured in an article prior to her book launch held on Sunday 26 February. Lucky Maggie is a delightful children's storybook suited to mid-primary age group, written and illustrated by Maxine. For further details contact Maxine on 5266 2068.

And while we're on the subject of books, "**UNJUST JUSTICE**" was written by **Val Clarke** (Torquay) and is a true story of how the police and judicial systems failed an innocent scoutmaster. Will you be next? You can contact Val on 5261 4207.



**YES, IT'S ON AGAIN !!!!**  
**OLD TIMERS FETE**  
**ALICE SPRINGS**

An article in the UCAF magazine "Network" states: "Each year UCAF groups in Victoria put in great efforts to make the Old Timers Fete in Alice Springs a resounding success. Friends and Staff at Old Timers are most grateful for the support they receive from "Down South" - they are always surprised and delighted as they unpack, sort and price the fete goods.

Hand-made goods for the Work Stalls – knitted and crocheted rugs, tea cosies and jumpers always sell well. Also needed are baby wear, jewellery, tea towels, aprons and tote bags."

So, here we go again – collecting suitable goods to send to Alice Springs! As well as items listed above, small soft toys are also needed. So, if you wish to support this wonderful aged care complex in Alice Springs, run by Frontier Services for people of all colours and creeds, **NOW IS THE TIME TO START DOING SOMETHING!** In the church foyer at Torquay is a clearly marked box to receive your donations, and Margaret Murdoch at Anglesea is willing to receive any donations. Rev Helen is also willing to bring goods from Aireys, Anglesea and Bellbrae to Torquay.

**We need to receive all goods by SUNDAY 10 JUNE. Thank you!**  
**Jean Murray, 52 61 2281**

**SAMMY STAMP**

**THANK YOU** to everyone who has been collecting postage stamps for the Sammy Stamp project. In 2011 the amount of \$33,624 was raised from the sale of stamps – this is the highest amount ever!! Sales since 1977 now total \$614,566 – what an outstanding effort. Many worthy causes were supported from the 2011 proceeds. Here are just some of the grants made:

Donald Uniting Church/SHARE – 2011 Victorian Floods emergency relief	\$1,000
SHARE - New Zealand Quake Appeal	\$1,000
SHARE – Victorian Flood Appeal	\$2,000
SHARE – Queensland Flood Appeal	\$1,000
Vanuatu Prevention of Blindness Project	\$1,000
SHARE – Japan Earthquake & Tsunami	\$1,000
Frontier Services – Kununurra Aged Care	\$3,500
Hotham Mission, Asylum Seeker Program	\$1,000
UnitingWorld: support for the Indigenous Subanen of Mindanao, Philippines	\$1,000
SHARE, Care for Christmas Island, Appeal for Chaplain	\$1,000
UnitingWorld, Aid projects in NE India, West Papua, North Korea, Tonga, Fiji	\$1,000
ZAMBIA – towards cost of container for conversion to School Library	\$2,000

Please keep on saving those stamps. Old stamp collections/albums are always gratefully received, too. Rev Helen is willing to bring stamps to Torquay for conveyance to Synod Office.

**Jean Murray**

## A SENIOR VERSION OF "JESUS LOVES ME"

While watching a little TV on Sunday instead of going to church, I watched a church in Atlanta honouring one of its senior pastors who had been retired many years. He was 92 at that time and I wondered why the church even bothered to ask the old gentleman to preach at that age. After a warm welcome, he rose from his chair and walked slowly, with great effort and a sliding gait to the podium. Without a note or written paper of any kind he placed both hands on the pulpit to steady himself and then quietly and slowly he began to speak...

"When I was asked to come here today and talk to you, your pastor asked me to tell you what was the greatest lesson ever learned in my 50-odd years of preaching. I thought about it for a few days and boiled it down to just one thing that made the most difference in my life and sustained me through all my trials. The one thing that I could always rely on when tears and heartbreak and pain and fear and sorrow paralyzed me – the only thing that would comfort was this verse:

**"Jesus loves me this I know, For the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to Him belong, we are weak but He is strong.  
Yes, Jesus loves me... The Bible tells me so."**

The old pastor stated, "I always noticed that it was the adults who chose the children's hymn "Jesus Loves Me" (for the children, of course) during a hymn singing session, and it was the adults who sang the loudest because I could see they knew it the best." Here for you now is the Senior Version of "Jesus Loves Me":

(1) Jesus loves me, this I know,  
Though my hair is white as snow,  
Though my sight is growing dim,  
Still He bids me trust in Him.

(3) When the nights are dark and long  
In my heart He puts a song  
Telling me in words so clear,  
"Have no fear, for I am near".

Chorus: Yes, Jesus loves me (X 3)  
The Bible tells me so.

(4) When my work on earth is done,  
And life's victories have been won,  
He will take me home above,  
Then I'll understand His love.

(2) Though my steps are oh, so slow,  
With my hand in His I'll go  
On through life, let come what may,  
He'll be there to lead the way.

(5) I love Jesus, does He know?  
Have I ever told Him so?  
Jesus loves to hear me say  
That I love Him every day.

*(Thank you to Vivienne Robert, resident of Elouera, for this contribution.)*

### FROM THE EDITORS

**THANK YOU** to all contributors to this edition of the Quarterly Bulletin. The proposed **DEADLINE** for the **WINTER EDITION** (June/July/August) is **12 NOON, SUNDAY 3 JUNE** – hopefully the Bulletin will be ready for distribution on 10 June.

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