



Our Web Site surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au - Our Facebook Page www.facebook.com/surfcoastunitingchurch



Rev. Helen Robinson - Telephone 0408 527 521 - email helenrobinson12@bigpond.com.au

We welcome all visitors to our services this day; we trust you are enjoying your stay on the Surf Coast.
Please take our greetings to your Congregation with you when you return home.

Helens Space

Dates for your diary:

- Torquay Church Council Thursday 23rd at 4pm. Please forward reports to Rosemary Thompson at your earliest convenience.
- Bellbrae Church Council will meet after worship today, the 19th, to finalise some documents for the Synod Keeping Children Safe Policy.
- The Torquay Congregation AGM will follow worship on Sunday 26th March.
- "Dine Out" will meet at the Jan Juc hotel at 12md Monday 27th March. All are welcome.
- School holidays commence 31st March, conclude 18th April.

Our gospel reading for today is John 4:5-42, the story of Jesus and the woman at the well in Sychar. It is, of course, one of the many very important theological discourses in the gospel of John. The woman comes seeking water, and Jesus promises her living water. "The water that I give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." No wonder the woman thirsted so for that water.

I would be surprised if you- like me- had not had 'dry' periods when it was hard to imagine that God was with you and watching over you with grace and love. I don't imagine that even those we name as saints felt that all the time. We, in our vulnerable humanity, find it difficult to hold on closely to our relationship with God, even when our conscious mind reminds us that God has promised to be with us always, to the end of the age. People ask where God is in our suffering. It could be that when we are consumed with all the feelings which go with our suffering, that this prevents us from truly experiencing the nearness of God at that time. It's like the old example of a toothache. Nothing else really has our attention while that toothache lasts.

We experience the nearness of God most clearly when we ourselves are quiet and still inside. Who, I ask you, is going to be quiet and still inside when they are in the midst of suffering? The noise inside us drowns out the silence of God's presence with us. I believe that the more we practice being quiet in the presence of God, the more we will be able to "access" that presence when our world is being turned upside down by some misfortune.

With the result that it becomes more and more true for us that the Spirit of God is like a stream of living water, welling up to eternal life. That happens when we draw near to God in whatever way suits us: walking, painting, playing music, knitting, sewing, reading, praying, singing. God meets us as the person we are, not as someone we might try to be or even convince ourselves that we are.
That is how God knows us and loves us. Thanks be to God!

Today

Anglesea 9.00
Rev Bernie Long
Aireys Inlet 10.30
Worship Team
Torquay 9.30.
Bellbrae 11.00
Rev Helen Robinson

Next Week

Anglesea 9.00
Aireys Inlet 10.30
Rev Helen Robinson
Torquay 9.30.
Bellbrae 11.00
Jean Murray



Bellbrae Bric-A-Brac and Book Stall

Sorting each Tuesday
from 1pm – 4.30pm
helpers are very welcome.
Opening times
Thursday, Friday 10am–4pm
Saturday 10am–1pm

Anglesea Reminders

- Anglesea has a Combined morning tea with the Baptists Today.
- New "Giving Envelopes" are now available.
- A recent Survey at Anglesea, indicated a wish for additional Social Activities . There is to be a Social Activity held at the Church at 1.30 pm this coming Wednesday 22nd March . The struggling Fellowship Group are asking for help from the Congregation . Not asking for much commitment, 2 hours a Month and the bringing of some goods for Concern. This month the Article is Tea or Coffee. Why don't you try and come - you might even enjoy it. Matthew.22 1-9

Torquay Congregation Annual Meeting after worship next Sunday March 26.

The meeting is to receive the Congregation Annual Report, and to elect its Chair, Secretary and Presbytery Representative. Please tell Robert Packett if you have any other items you wish considered.

St. Christopher's Catholic Church (Anglesea) is conducting the Good Friday service at Trinity Uniting Church. The Service is at 9am, led by Simon and Liz Clark, followed by a March of Witness. Booklets - (Simon and Liz will bring them) for the service will be given out at the door, music will be played through Simon's IPod and Liz will play 2 recitals on piano. **We require 3 Readers from Trinity to read passages of scripture during the March.**

Our Web Site is in for a "Face Lift".

We met on Thursday afternoon with a least one person from each church, it was a very interesting meeting with lots of good ideas. Each of our four churches will now look after their own portion of the site.

So please talk to your representatives and ensure that the information for your group is on our site and up to date, if we all work together who knows what we can achieve.

Alan Harper, (Torquay) alanharp@bigpond.com

Louise Venter, (Torquay) pajventer@optusnet.com.au

John Adams, (Bellbrae) waytoolongtobeawebname@yahoo.com

Mary Bremner (Aireys Inlet) bremnerkm@gmail.com

Noni Johnson (Aireys Inlet) celebrant.noni@internode.on.net

Peter Heath (Anglesea) peter.heath@me.com

John Russell (Anglesea) j.m.russ@bigpond.net.au

Money Talk

A one dollar bill met a twenty dollar bill and said, "Hey, where have you been? I haven't seen you around here much."

The twenty answered, "I've been hanging out at the casinos, went on a cruise and did the rounds of the ship, back to the United States for a while, went to a couple of baseball games, to the mall, that kind of stuff. How about you?"

The one dollar bill said, "You know, same old stuff... church, church, church."

Sunday May 7th, 2.30pm at Aireys Inlet Community Hall

"The Victoria Welsh Choir in Concert", who are renowned for their humour, sense of fun, and rich singing in spine-tingling four-part harmony

Tickets \$30.00 includes afternoon tea. Tickets available Margo 5263 – 3276 / 0412742117 .

All profits of afternoon to Australian Red Cross



Information about this event is available this morning as is a Sticker for a Jar or Tin to collect your small change.

SOCIAL JUSTICE - INFORMATION EVENING

The combined Belmont and St Luke's Uniting Church Social Justice Group is hosting an information evening to hear about the work being done to support newly arrived refugee students at North Geelong Secondary College.

Sunday 26th March, 2017

Presentation at 5pm

A light meal will be provided

Suggested donation, \$5

Belmont Uniting Church, Thomson St., Belmont. 0414431006

