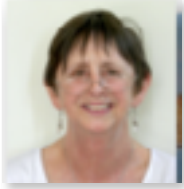




Our Web Site surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au - **Our Facebook Page** www.facebook.com/surfcoastunitingchurch



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

Today we are delighted to celebrate the baptism of Alby Jolian Worner at Torquay. Alby is the son of Adele and Joe, and baby brother for Lucy who was baptised in September 2015. We will also be having a Church Council/ Congregational meeting at Bellbrae after worship this morning.

On Monday 6th at 2:15 pm we have our worship service at Elouera, and I invite anyone who would like to come along and chat with the residents and join in the singing to join us. The residents really love these services and the social contact that goes with them.

Messy Church commences for this year on Tuesday 7th, now that the school term has begun. Thank you very much to those who are able to assist with this important outreach.

On Sunday 12th we will celebrate the Commissioning of Elders, Church Council Executive and Lay Leaders (e.g. worship, Afternoon Fellowship, Property Board) We are very grateful to all these people who tend to fill a number of roles in the life of the congregation.

On Monday 13th we celebrate worship at Anglesea Aged Care at 10:30am. I have changed the day for this event to allow for my commitment to other duties.

Surf Coast Linked Congregations Finance Committee meets at Torquay on Wednesday 15th at 2pm.

Presbytery of Port Philip West meets in council at Hoppers Crossing Church from 9:30-12:30 on Saturday 18th February.

Commissioning of Church Councillors will be celebrated during worship at Torquay on February 19th.

Linked Council meets at Aireys Inlet at 2pm on Tuesday 21st February.

Anglesea Elders meet at 4pm on Thursday 23rd of February.

Lent is fast approaching. Tuesday 28th February is Pancake Day, and of course Aireys Inlet will be doing their always sterling job of serving pancakes at the Community Hall from 11am until after the post-school rush is completed. Wednesday 1st March is Ash Wednesday. We will celebrate this at Torquay with worship at 7pm, including reception of ashes and Holy Communion. I also hope to do as has been done in years past, and celebrate an afternoon service with Fr. John Webster at St Aidan's. This is yet to be confirmed.

I very much want to encourage you to find your own way of spending time reflecting on your relationship with God and your spiritual life during Lent. Times of reflection can lead to times of growth- personal and spiritual. Perhaps you might even want to choose to give up something for Lent, which is a time-honoured Christian Tradition.

Today
 Anglesea 9.00
 Aireys Inlet 10.30
John & Margaret Russell
 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
Worship Teams



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



Remember Our Fire Plan

No Church Services will take place on any Sunday declared Extreme or Code Red in the Central district of Victoria



OUR LINKS WITH TWO AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

Anne Horrigan Dixon, former director of Fitzroy Learning Network, was awarded a Medal (OAM) for more than 30 years of work supporting waves of refugees arriving in Australia from Europe, Asia and the Middle East

In Ararat, Multicultural Harmony Awards were presented to Fr Andrew Hayes and Imam Manzoor A Mian Jp for their work to make sure that people of all race, colour or religious creed feel included in the community.

Both awards have resonance for us and also show the spirit of Romans 12.21. In November 2004, our Shire became a designated Refugee Welcome Zone. This was largely instigated by Anne Horrigan Dixon. Earlier in 2004, Anne had liaised with a Surf Coast refugee support group to bring 40 asylum seekers from Melbourne down to the coast for a holiday weekend. Our old Torquay Church hall was the venue for a big welcome meal where all joined hands and sang 'Salaam Aleicum'. The Shire helped to fund the visit and people from Torquay down to Aireys Inlet opened their homes and hearts to the visitors. On his retirement, the Rev Murray Little said the visit was the best thing that had happened in his time with us.

Last November Fr Andrew Hayes staged one of his Boundless Plains fundraisers for refugees in our Torquay Church. His bold vision for social inclusion had already involved using his music to raise money for building an Ararat mosque. The recent Australia Day Service at Andrew's St Mary's Church included Christians and Muslims with readings from the Bible and the Koran.

Congratulations also go to the Rev Alistair Macrae on his "Officer of the Order of Australia (AO)" award.

A slightly embarrassed Mr Macrae said he accepted the award because it captures the work of the whole of the Church, not just his own. "The way that I rationalise accepting the nomination is that it was very much on behalf of the Church," He believes the award is an acknowledgement of the Uniting Church's courageous stance on important social issues such as rights for the LGBTIQ communities, the preamble to the UCA constitution recognising the First Peoples and refugee activism.

Mr Macrae hopes that all Uniting Church members will have a sense of sharing this award, and remember that Christian churches still have an important and distinctive role to play in their communities. "Every day I am with people who are practising Christ's love with other people, often for no financial reward and very little public recognition," "These people are my heroes. They are breathing God's hope and love into the community."

Mr Macrae is currently minister at the historic Wesley Church Lonsdale St in Melbourne's CBD. When asked if he had set his sights on an Australia Day award when he first went into the ministry, he jokingly replied, "no, I went into it for the money".

A New Revised Preaching Plan is available on our Web Site, the revisions are coloured purple.

A thought for today

The habit of expressing appreciation is oil on troubled waters

It is the essence of graciousness, kindness, and fair dealing.

Fortunately, it is a habit that can be formed by anyone who will take the trouble

