



Keeping you up to date

Presbytery representatives Iris Blyth and Adam McIntosh attended our Linked Council meeting last week to discuss the matter of supply ministry and the process of appointing our next minister.

Supply ministers are scarce and no one is available at the moment. I would like to express enormous gratitude to Robyn Harper from the Torquay congregation who has done such a great job of finding people to cover all of our worship services up until mid-July. Presbytery will continue to assist us to find a supply minister to fill the gap until an appointment is made. The first step in the process of appointing a new minister is a Mission Study during which we assess our current situation and determine our hopes and dreams for the future. This will guide us to the qualities we need in a minister. We also have the choice of following two paths – the Regenerating the Church program or the conventional path.

A Joint Nominating Committee (JNC) is formed consisting of Presbytery and congregational representatives. The JNC draws up the profile for the minister. Conversations then take place with interested ministers and an appointment is made.

Your Linked Council representatives can provide you with a more comprehensive explanation of this process.

While we all have our own ideas about the qualities we would like in our minister, we need to remember that this is a two-way process. The best ministers available for appointments have many vacancies to choose from. What impression will a minister looking at the vacancy on the Surf Coast have of our congregations? Will they see a group of four churches linked by geography but little else? Will they sense disharmony or a unity of purpose? Will they see people fearful of the future or looking forward in optimism and faith? These are very important considerations in all of our conversations and deliberations at the meetings that will take place in the months ahead.

The appointment of a new minister is always a time of great change for a church, but I believe we are at a very significant point in the life of the Uniting Church congregations on the Surf Coast. We are doing some great things in our communities – the exciting building development at Torquay, their successful Coffee and Kids program, Aireys wonderful Pancake Day and sell-out speaker dinners, the popular Anglesea fete and support of the Starfish Nippers program and the dynamic outreach program conducted through the Bellbrae Op Shop and their involvement in the Surf Coast Arts Trail, are all cases in point. However, we all know that our congregations are ageing and that numbers are dwindling. It sometimes feels that there are fewer people available to carry the workload. At times it is hard to imagine what our churches will look like in ten years or twenty years' time if we keep doing things in the same way.

We are now about to be asked to envisage our future and this will involve asking ourselves some hard questions. We need to discern and come to an agreement on what God is calling our churches to do, both as individual congregations and as a collective community on the Surf Coast. We are going to have to examine our own commitment and our willingness to give our time, energy and enthusiasm to God's work in this place. Without that we have no future. We need to ensure that our words and actions are deeply rooted in God's love and to pray earnestly for His wisdom and guidance in our decision-making.

Mary Bremner (Chairperson of the Linked Congregations Council)

Today

Anglesea 10.00
Aireys Inlet 10.30
Margaret & John Russell
Torquay 9.30
Bellbrae 11.00
David Walker

Next Week

Anglesea 10.00
Aireys Inlet 10.30
Rev Kenneth Ralph
Torquay 9.30
Bellbrae 11.00
Robert Packett



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

**Mission Study sessions will be held at Anglesea Uniting Church on June 27th, 2-4 PM and July 18th, at 6:30 PM. Please save the dates and plan to attend both sessions if you are able.
We are entering a time of discernment for our congregations.**

As you know, our congregations will soon have a ministry vacancy. In the Uniting Church, this signals the beginning of a time of discernment. It is a time to ask the question about where God is leading us and what ministry is needed for the next phase of our journey as a congregation.

Where are we going as a congregation?

As part of this discernment process, the Presbytery will lead a Mission Study. The purpose of this is to help us think and pray together about what God might be calling us to in mission and ministry in our life together over the next phase of our journey. This then will help us understand more about what kind of ministry we will need to help us achieve this.

What ministry do we need?

Part of these Mission Study sessions will involve thinking about the particular gifts and skills of ministry needed. But beyond this, the Port Phillip West Presbytery also asks congregations to make a decision about the options of 'Regeneration' or 'Traditional' ministry. This will be explained on the day. However, to put it simply, a congregation may choose to call a 'Regeneration Minister' if their key focus is about exploring mission and growth and new forms of church. Whilst of course all ministries and congregations have this interest, a regeneration ministry will state that intentionally from the start, and time will be specifically dedicated to this as a priority, along with worship and pastoral care.

Mission Study questions

An integral part of the Mission Study sessions is the consideration of the following four questions. The responses to these will also provide the basis of the Congregational Profile, which is given to ministers whom you may choose to have a conversation with. It would be great if individuals give this some thought before the Mission Study sessions.

1. WHERE ARE YOU?

What is your local community like? What are its characteristics, its needs? Where is it changing?

2. WHO ARE YOU?

Can you describe your congregation? (Worship, mission, and life together).

What are you good at? What do you enjoy doing? What are your challenges – where do you need help?

3. HOW ARE YOU REACHING OUT?

What are you doing in mission/outreach? How might you build on that?

WHAT IS GOD CALLING YOU TO DO

Is there a new way that you feel God might be leading you? Perhaps there's something you've been thinking about that might be important for the church to consider. Is there something that needs to change or end?

'Biggest Morning Tea at Torquay.

Thank you to Beaut Beanies for your kind offer to hold the Biggest Morning Tea at Torquay this year.

This will be held on Tuesday 6th June in the form of a Devonshire Tea morning. Sounds yummy.

So please put this date in your diaries and support these ladies as they raise funds for Cancer Council.

I presume this is from 10 am but will check and advise you all.

Anglesea Meeting after church today

To ratify (As a Church Council) the Working with children Documents - Statement of Commitment - Code of Conduct
- Recruitment & Selection Elect Culture of Safety of Contact Person - Identify First Aid Officers



Ocean Walk for Orphans

A small group hiking 100km along our Surf Coast have raised over **\$11,000** to enable Kenyan orphans to receive an education and lift them of the poverty cycle. Participant Rhondda Boer said it was a real privilege to be able to make such a difference to vulnerable children's lives, and wanted to pass on the group's thanks to all who supported the walk financially or through prayer.

For more information or to donate go to <https://www.gofundme.com/ocean-walk-for-orphans> or contact Rhondda on 0403 065 567.

The Funeral of Ron Leeman will be held on Tuesday 9th. May at 2pm, at the Linden Grove Centre Torquay Rd Grovedale.

Our love goes out to Doreen and the family. No flowers please donations to Anglesea Lions