

# Surfcoast Uniting Churches



10<sup>th</sup> March 2019



## Sunday Worship Services

### Today

Anglesea	9:00	Rev Kevin Yelverton
Torquay	9:30	Rev Suzie Castle
Aireys Inlet	10:30	Rev Kevin Yelverton
Bellbrae	11:00	Rev Suzie Castle

### Next Week

Anglesea	9:00	Rev Margaret Russel
Torquay	9:30	Rev Suzie Castle
Aireys Inlet	10:30	Rev Margaret Russel
Bellbrae	11:00	Rev Suzie Castle

## The Minister's Desk

Dear friends

We place before you for another three weeks the offer to review what works and what doesn't in our newsletter. Bear in mind, the central focus of the newsletter communication is to capture our community's interests and information - and so we thank you for your comments, suggestions and write-ups over this time. We have incorporated, as best we can, the changes you requested. I take this opportunity to share what those changes and decisions are so that communications are made as clear as possible around what's happening amongst the four linked congregations. Given that the intention of the newsletter is for Church communication we decided a simple structure, succinct news and clear explanation on activities will serve us best.

In order to ensure your news items are not overlooked, and to support Andre, we now have an editor to help as the task has become quite large. Welcome Jane Skelton, we greatly appreciate your help with the Church comms. Andre, Jane and I have access to a centralised email account that aims to capture and order the items you send. In future send all articles and requests to:  
[newslettersurfcoastuc@gmail.com](mailto:newslettersurfcoastuc@gmail.com)


The central parts of the newsletter will be: Scripture reference and worship times, locations and preachers, The Minister's Desk, Calendar, What's on the Coast – your news items different from regular activities (e.g. Pancake Day, Morning Tea Baskets), Regular on the Coast- brief description of your congregation's regular activities.

Going forward, while we love your enthusiasm for, and are inspired by the amazing outreach and fellowship activities we are doing, it's not possible to publish the number of photos that are coming through. We have received 13 for this week which would make the newsletter four pages long. It does of course offer us an opportunity to get creative about how we share these visual delights.

## Minister

Rev Suzie Castle  
0421 023 197  
[suzie.castle@gmail.com](mailto:suzie.castle@gmail.com)

## Congregation Information

(03) 5261 2369  
[surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au](http://surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au)  
 Surf Coast Uniting Church

### Aireys Inlet

St Aidan's Church  
29 Great Ocean Road  
Aireys Inlet.  
[aireysinletunitingchurch@gmail.com](mailto:aireysinletunitingchurch@gmail.com)

### Anglesea

Trinity Uniting Church  
Murch Crescent  
Anglesea.

### Bellbrae

Bellbrae Uniting Church  
Cnr School and Anglesea Roads  
Bellbrae.

### Torquay

Torquay Uniting Church  
27 Anderson Street  
Torquay.

## Bookroom and Brick A Brac at Bellbrae

Ph: (03) 5261 5139  
E: [bellbraeopshop@gmail.com](mailto:bellbraeopshop@gmail.com)

 Bellbrae Op Shop  
and Book Room

## Opening Times

Thursday, Friday 10am–4pm  
Saturday 10am–1pm  
Tuesday sorting: 1pm–4:30pm  
Helpers are very welcome

Maybe one way is emailing them to the people doing the notices in the other congregations to share during worship. I look forward to hearing your plans on how you will share with each other remembering I am just one link between you all. Finally, this article will appear over the next month giving everyone the opportunity to read it. Keep Andre, Louise and Jane in your prayers as they serve Jesus and minister to us through the Church communications.

Peace be with you  
*Rev Suzie Castle*

#### Coastal Calendar for March 10 - 24

10 <sup>th</sup>	Anglesea AGM	10:00am
12 <sup>th</sup>	Anglesea Age Care Service	10:30am
12 <sup>th</sup>	Linked Council Meeting	02:00pm
12 <sup>th</sup>	Beaut Beanies Torquay	10:30am
12 <sup>th</sup>	Prayer Shawl Knitting Group	02:00pm
14 <sup>th</sup>	Aireys Ecumenical Bible Study	10:30am
14/15 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee and Kids Torquay	09:30am

#### Coastal Calendar for March 10 - 24

15 <sup>th</sup>	Aireys AGM	02:00pm
17 <sup>th</sup>	Torquay Congregation meeting	09:30am
19 <sup>th</sup>	Beaut Beanies Torquay	10:30am
19 <sup>th</sup>	Prayer Shawl Knitting Group	02:00pm
21 <sup>st</sup>	Aireys Ecumenical Bible Study	10:30am
21 <sup>st</sup>	SPAN Anglesea	06:00pm
21 <sup>st</sup> /22 <sup>nd</sup>	Coffee and Kids Torquay	09:30am

## WHAT'S ON THE COAST

### John Bell is coming to Melbourne

John Bell is a preacher, hymn writer, composer, lecturer and broadcaster. You can research more about him and the Ion Community on the website: <https://iona.org.uk>. The big news for us is that John will be visiting Melbourne from May 11, 12 and 13 during which time he will take part in conversations on God, Delight and Diversity, Non-Violent Peacemaking, Celtic and Indigenous spirituality. He will conduct a Quiet Day for ministers and ministry students in the Macedon Ranges, and will deliver a public lecture, Space, Rumour and Hospitality at an inner-city venue still to be confirmed. I wondered how many of us would value attending the public lecture. I have requested information on times, dates, location and pricing and will update as they come to hand.

Rev Suzie

### Aireys Inlet

## THEOLOGICAL CONVERSATION ON MARRIAGE

Early this year, the decision of the Assembly of the Uniting Church to allow ministers the right to conduct Same gender marriages was upheld. Our minister, Suzie, indicated there will be time offered for a theological conversation on marriage before individual Church Councils make the decision whether same gendered couples will be welcome to be married in their church buildings.

The Aireys Inlet Church Council reported to the November meeting of Linked Council that they would like to sponsor a forum for the Surf Coast Congregations to open this subject up for discussion. This was supported by Linked Council.

We are mindful that this is a subject on which our members will have widely differing opinions, all based on our understanding of scripture and our Christian beliefs. The idea is to promote an open, respectful and informed discussion that will assist each Church Council to reach a consensus decision that will sit comfortably with their congregation.

The first theological conversation will lead and facilitated by Rev Dr Geoff Thompson on **Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> April at 2.00pm (location to be decided)**. Geoff is our Associate Professor in systematic theology at the VicTas Synod Pilgrim Theological College. His research has focused on Karl Barth, the functions of doctrine in the church and the theology of the Uniting Church (especially the Basis of Union). Current research is on the relationship between the doctrine of creation and contemporary discussions of sexuality and gender. Geoff blogs about systematic theology and the theology of the Uniting Church at [www.xenizonta.blogspot.com.au](http://www.xenizonta.blogspot.com.au) To see further credentials: <https://pilgrim.edu.au/about-pilgrim/faculty/research-profile-geoff-thompson/>

**Please put this date in your calendar and do your best to attend this important event in the life of your Church.**

Following this conversation, there will be discussion forums offered over a period of time, so everyone has the opportunity to engage and reflect. For example, Rev Sue Townsend (an Aireys Inlet "swallow" and worship leader) is available to lead and facilitate a follow-up workshop further exploring a theological understanding of same gender relationships.

Mary Bremner  
(Chairperson, Linked Council)

Church Council AGM and regular quarterly meeting will take place on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 2 pm in the church meeting room. Election of officers will take place at the AGM. Please have nomination forms in to Noni by Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

Aireys Inlet Ecumenical Bible Study/Discussion group will start a Lenten Study on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 10:30am at the Aireys Inlet church. It looks like a very meaningful study and is entitled, "All I have is yours - Forty days to Freedom by Michael McGirr". You can view a sample chapter at:

<http://garrattpublishing.com.au/pdf/SampleChapters/GarrattLentProgramYearC-SampleChapter+OrderForm.pdf>

The study will go for 6 weeks. Everyone is welcome to attend.

A real highlight of this year's Pancake Day at Aireys Inlet was the opportunity to catch up with so many of our friends from other Surf Coast congregations. Thanks everyone for your support. Overall, numbers were down a little bit this year, but the atmosphere was as warm and welcoming as ever and the pancakes every bit as delicious. Thanks to the hardworking team of volunteers who made it all happen. Our profit, to be banked for Uniting Geelong, is \$402.

### **Anglesea**

We received this thank you from Janet Jones, Starfish Nippers Australia, Program Manager. "Sincere and heartfelt thanks to Anglesea Uniting Church for their generosity in sponsoring today's Medals. One little girl called Chloe has gone to sleep tonight with her medal at her bedside table, and a heart filled with love and happiness. This medal means so much to her and will be cherished for a very long time." The event was the Inaugural Starfish Nippers Carnival at Hampton Surf Life Saving Club.

Can you help with watering the Church garden one of three days per week? Please let John Balderstone know and a roster will be formed Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April at 9.30 is a Working Bee please keep this date free.

### **Torquay**

The Congregation Meeting will be held after worship on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March, so could all conveners please forward their reports to Val Clarke by COB Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February at [val.clarke@rocketmail.com](mailto:val.clarke@rocketmail.com).

### **Linked Council**

The next Linked Council AGM and regular quarterly meetings will be held on Tuesday March 12<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm at the Anglesea Uniting Church. Would Church Council secretaries please send the list of newly elected/re-elected Linked Council representatives and other Church Council officers (for the Directory) to the secretary of the Linked Council at [celebrant.noni@gmail.com](mailto:celebrant.noni@gmail.com). Thank you, Noni Johnson, Secretary of the Linked Congregations Council.

### **Lenten Offering 2019**

We have now entered the time of Lent, and in this time the Uniting Church in Victoria and Tasmania is inviting its members to make a special offering. The Lenten Offering is an annual event in the life of the congregations in our Synod. It is conducted during Lent and Easter as a time of reflection, renewal and recommitment. In response to God's love for all people and the giving of God's son to the world, an opportunity is provided for us to make a sacrificial offering to support some important mission projects.

Information about the Lenten Offering is now available from your church. Please look for a copy, read it, and consider how you might be able to assist.

## REGULAR ON THE COAST

### Aireys Inlet

Coffee and Chat: First Friday of every month at 10:00 am. All are welcome to join in this wonderful time catching up with people from the local, as well as the church community. Come rest awhile with a cuppa, cake and chat. Contact Edie for more details at 5289 7415.

### Anglesea

SPAN (Sing Pray and Natter): Third Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm. Enjoy fellowship together over a fabulous meal (bring a plate to share), followed by an interesting program prepared by members of our church. All are very welcome.

Afternoon Fellowship will meet at 1.30 pm Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March. Please remember to bring nonperishable food Item for Concern.

Prayer Shawl Knitting Group: Tuesdays from 2-4:00 pm. Please join us for a time of knitting, inspired chatting (yarning), a cuppa and lots of blessings. This is a linked congregation activity. Contact Marilyn Wendt at 0427750369.

### Torquay

Beaut Beanies: Tuesdays 10:30am - noon in the Church Foyer. We knit beanies, teddies, rugs, and scarves for people in need. Wool is supplied. Newcomers are most welcome to join us - Contact Jan 5264 3519.

Coffee & Kids, Thursdays and Fridays 9.30am-11.00am during term time in the Church. Activities and free play for pre-school children of any age while mums, grandparents and carers meet other families and enjoy a tea or coffee. Kids snack supplied. All welcome. Enquiries: Heather Dennis 0409176319.

Dine Out Lunch Group meets monthly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month at 12 noon at a local restaurant. Next meeting March 25<sup>th</sup> at the Beach Hotel, Jan Juc. Contact Jean Elder on 52615540 to book.

Elouera Aged Care Worship Service 2.15pm-2.45 pm on the 1st Thursday of the month; Kooronga Place, Torquay. All invited to support this outreach.

### Our Fire Plan

No Church activities will take place on any day declared **EXTREME** or **CODE RED**. This includes worship services.

### Contributions

Contributions for the newsletter to [newslettersurfcoastuc@gmail.com](mailto:newslettersurfcoastuc@gmail.com)

**Deadline Thursday 05:00pm.**