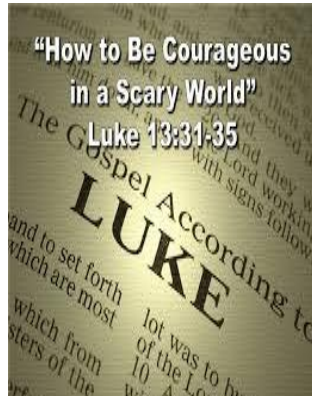


Surfcoast Uniting Churches



17th March 2019



Sunday Worship Services

Today

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

Next Week

Anglesea	9:00	Rev Bernie Long
Torquay	9:30	Rev Suzie Castle
Aireys Inlet	10:30	Chris Macher
Bellbrae	11:00	Rev Suzie Castle

Minister

Rev Suzie Castle

0421 023 197

suzie.castle@gmail.com

Congregation Information

(03) 5261 2369

surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au

 Surf Coast Uniting Church

Aireys Inlet

St Aidan's Church

29 Great Ocean Road

Aireys Inlet.

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



Bellbrae Op Shop
and Book Room

Opening Times

Thursday, Friday 10am–4pm

Saturday 10am–1pm

Tuesday sorting: 1pm–4:30pm

Helpers are very welcome

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

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.

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 17 – 31

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

Coastal Calendar for March 17 - 31

25 th	Torquay Dine Out Lunch	12:00pm
26 th	Beaut Beanies	10:30am
26 th	Prayer Shawl Knitting Group	02:00pm
27 th	Afternoon Fellowship	01:30pm
28 th	Aireys Ecumenical Bible Study	10:30am
28 th /29 th	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.

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 13th April at 2.00pm at the Anglesea Church**. 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 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.

Aireys Inlet Ecumenical Bible Study/Discussion group will start a Lenten Study on Thursday 7th 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.

Anglesea

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 27th April at 9.30 is a Working Bee please keep this date free.

Linked Council

Linked Congregations Council Report

New Executive

I am delighted to announce that two members of the Torquay Congregation have stepped up to take on the executive positions on the Linked Congregations Council. At our annual meeting we elected Rosemary Thompson as the Chairperson and Robyn Harper as Secretary. Robin Dennis continues in the role of Treasurer. We should all join in thanking these people for their willingness to give of their time, talents and energy to this important work, so necessary for the effective functioning of our four congregations. Robin, Noni (the outgoing Secretary) and I received a lot of positive affirmation for our contributions over the past three years and really appreciated the prayers of Linked Council members, giving thanks for the past and asking for strength and guidance into the future, for the incoming executive.

Finances

The Linked Council budget is on the positive side of the ledger, partly due to the extended period without a minister. However Linked Council has asked congregations to consider actions that should be taken to ensure that we remain on a sound financial footing into the future.

Church Maintenance

The Anglesea Church Council is facing up to a serious program of repairs and maintenance to their buildings. Linked Council supports the need for our buildings to be kept in good order for the safety and comfort of all users and to ensure their longevity into the future and is working with Anglesea on this. Our thanks go to John Russell and the Property Committee for the time and effort they are taking to tackle this project.

Other items:

Suzie had invited Presbytery Minister, Jeanne Beale, to attend the meeting, to find out more about how Linked Council operates, but Jeanne was unable to be present due to health issues. Jeanne will be supporting Suzie in running two sessions for us on mission in May. The Anglesea congregation has an exciting outreach activity underway, involving sponsorship of practice singlets with the UC logo for the Junior Football and Netball teams along with a weekly encouragement award. John Russell is also providing chaplaincy support to the junior club members. The Torquay congregation is experimenting with a program offered by Synod that provides for online storage of church documents, such as meeting minutes and emails. Office bearers would be given email addresses and access to the data base of documents. This is something that other congregations might wish to adopt and the Torquay congregation is willing to provide training.

The Bellbrae congregation has had the op shop opened over a considerable number of extended hours over the holiday period and this has proved to be very profitable for the church. The op shop now has its own Facebook page, where items of special interest are advertised. The church website is still undergoing renovation. We are very appreciative of the increased promotion and connection to the wider community that we are receiving through Suzie's use of the Surf Coast UC Facebook page. Suzie is working with the Anglican priest for the Surf Coast, the Rev Sharon Valentino, on the need for the provision of ministry to the aged care facilities that are proliferating on the Surf Coast. One option under discussion is the possibility of the employment of an ecumenical aged care chaplain. Linked Council supports the Aireys Inlet initiative to run a forum titled the Biblical and Theological Case for Same Gender Marriage – this will be led by the Rev Dr Geoff Thompson and held at Anglesea church on Saturday the 13th of April at 2.00pm. Our congregations all face the important decision of whether or not to welcome same gender marriages in our churches. It is very important that everyone who is free to do so attend this meeting, no matter what view on the subject you may already hold. The Rev Sue Townsend of the Aireys Inlet congregation will attend and has offered to run follow up discussions. Linked Council has approved Suzie's holidays from June 17 – 30 and September 2 – 8 and study leave from September 30 – October 6.

My thanks

Noni and I wish to thank all of you who have supported us over the past three years in our leadership positions on the Linked Congregations Council. I will not pretend that the job has always been easy, as it has been a period of considerable change for our churches and we have had a number of challenging issues to face. The Uniting Church rule book only takes you so far –we have relied heavily on God's guidance, as we were best able to discern it, to assist us in our decisions, words and actions. There have been many of you who have provided words of praise and encouragement, sometimes accompanied by hugs, at just the right moment. It has been these small gestures, along with your much needed

prayers, that have helped us through the more difficult times. Personally, I want to thank Noni and Robin for their dedication and wonderful professionalism in the way they have carried out their roles. Together, we have worked hard to create a better understanding of the role of the Linked Congregations Council and to bring our four congregations together in greater unity of purpose. I dedicate my support to Rosemary, Robyn and Robin (the 3 Rs) as we work together to see our Christian witness, grow and thrive on the Surf Coast.

Mary Bremner (Out-going Chairperson, Surf Coast 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 27th 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 4th Monday of the month at 12 noon at a local restaurant. Next meeting March 25th 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; Kooringa 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

Deadline Thursday 05:00pm.