

Surfcoast Uniting Churches



31st March 2019

Lectionary Readings

Lent 4C

Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Lent 5C

Isaiah 43:16-21
Psalm 126
Philippines 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8

Sunday Worship Services

Today

Anglesea	9:00	Ecumenical
Torquay	9:30	Worship Team
Aireys Inlet	10:30	Worship Team
Bellbrae	11:00	Worship Team

Next Week

Anglesea	9:00	Rev Suzie Castle
Torquay	9:30	Rev Kenneth Ralph
Aireys Inlet	10:30	Rev Suzie Castle
Bellbrae	11:00	Rev Kenneth Ralph

Minister

Rev Suzie Castle
0421 023 197
suzie.castle@gmail.com
Days off: Wed & Sat

Congregation Information

(03) 5261 2369
 Surf Coast Uniting Church
surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au

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

 Bellbrae Op Shop
and Book Room
bellbraeopshop@gmail.com

Opening Times

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

The Minister's Desk

Dear friends

Theological Conversation on Marriage - led and facilitated by Rev Dr Geoff Thompson, Saturday the 13th April at 2.00pm at the Anglesea Church.

It has been my experience that the same gender marriage decision has polarised the Church. Either members have experienced or heard many painful stories of our members who have struggled with the process and the decision. As well, there are many who have sat with this alone feeling they haven't been heard or they don't know what to think of it. As Church Council's move towards making a decision on the use of their church building to hold SGM, Aireys Inlet Uniting Church is inviting you to a theological conversation on marriage with Geoff Thompson. We are mindful that this is a subject on which we may have widely differing opinions based on our understanding of scripture and our Christian beliefs. We are also mindful that many have not had the opportunity to engage in an open, respectful and informed discussion that may assist Church Council's reaching a decision that has God at the centre. Due to catering as well as limited seating capacity, please RSVP to Mary Bremner as soon as possible.

Peace be with you

Rev Suzie Castle

Coastal Calendar for March 31st – April 7th

Tues 2 nd	Torquay Beaut Beanies	10:30am
Tues 2 nd	Prayer Shawl Knitting Group	2:00pm
Thurs 4 th	Aireys Ecumenical Bible Study	10:30am
Thurs 4 th	Torquay Elouera AC Service	2:15pm
Thurs 4 th	Torquay Coffee and Kids	9:30am
Fri 5 th	Torquay Coffee and Kids	9:30am
Fri 5 th	Aireys Inlet Coffee and Chat	10:00am

Coastal Calendar for April 8th – April 14th

Tues 9 th	Torquay Beaut Beanies	10:30am
Tues 9 th	Prayer Shawl Knitting Group	2:00pm
Thurs 11 th	Aireys Ecumenical Bible Study	10:30am
Thurs 11 th	Torquay Coffee and Kids	9:30am
Fri 12 th	Torquay Coffee and Kids	9:30am

WHAT'S ON THE COAST

John Bell – please let Rev Suzie know if you want to travel together to any of the sessions. The website to see what is available and book is www.wellspringcommunity.org.au

Newsletter mailout – We are establishing an email data base for the newsletter. If this is the way you would prefer to receive your church communications each week, please let us know at newslettersurfcoastuc@gmail.com
This move helps lessen our footprint on the environment as well as monetary cost to the church.

Passover Meal and Tenebrae service

You are invited for the Maundy Thursday Passover meal on April 18th at 6:00pm Star of the Sea Community Centre. This will be followed by a Tenebrae service (otherwise known as the service of Shadows) which ends in silence and darkness as we journey towards Good Friday. Please note the space will be darkened rather than dark to prevent falls or trips. For further details on the services or to participate in the service please contact Suzie. If you wish to help in food preparation and serving, or have questions on logistics, please contact Robyn Harper.

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 were 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.

Torquay

A Response to the UCA's Assembly lack of action in relation to the National Redress Scheme.

At our Congregational meeting in Torquay on March 17th, 2 motions were put to the congregation and carried. The outcome of these motions was a letter sent to the General Secretary of the UCA Assembly, asking them to advise us as to why the National UCA Assembly has not yet signed the National Redress Scheme and when this will be happening, and to urge them to do so as a matter of urgency.

Lent Event 2019 is themed *Live Simply* which is found on the website. <https://www.lentevent.com> Donations to assist the work of Uniting World through this link as well the **Lent Event** information booklet available from your church.

Cottage by the Sea Afternoon Tea

On Thursday 4th April 2019 at 2.00 pm, the Geelong Branch of Cottage by the Sea Queenscliff Inc., presents an Afternoon Tea with "Music Trivia & Know that tune". The venue is Waurin Ponds Community Church, 48 Waurinvale Drive, Belmont. Cost \$10. Inquiries & Booking of Tickets – Robyn – Ph 0407 829 926. *RSVP 29.03.2019.*

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.

The Afternoon Fellowship meets monthly on the last Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 24th April at 1.30 pm.

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 Thursday 4th April; Koorringa Place, Torquay. All invited to support this outreach.

Minister Dates for Leave

2019 holidays - June 17th - 30th and September 2nd - 8th (3 weeks)

2019 study leave - September 30-October 6

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 5:00pm.