



# Surfcoast Uniting Churches

## Lectionary Readings

### Christmas 1 :December 29th

Isaiah 63:7-9

Psalm 148

Hebrews 2:10-18

Matthew 2:13-23

### Christmas 2: January 5th

Jeremiah 31: 7-14

Psalm 147: 12-20

Ephesians 3: 1-12

Matthew 2: 1-12

## SERVICES ON THE SURF COAST

### This Sunday 29th December

**Anglesea:** Rev Bernie Long 9:00

**Airey's Inlet:** Rev Susan Townsend 10.30

**Torquay:** Rev Kenneth Ralph 9.30

**Bellbrae:** Rev Kenneth Ralph 11.00

### Next Sunday 5th January 2020

#### Holy Communion

**Anglesea:** Rev Margaret Russell 9:00

**Airey's Inlet:** Rev Suzie Castle 10.30

**Torquay:** Mr Matt Voodge 9.30

**Bellbrae:** Mr. Matt Voodge 11.00

(Matt speaks to us as a representative of  
Scripture Union Beach Mission )

29th December 2019

### **Minister: Rev Suzie Castle**

Sunday to Tuesday

Thursday & Friday

M: 0421 023 197

E: [suzie.castle@gmail.com](mailto:suzie.castle@gmail.com)

### **Congregation Contact Information**

Ph:(03) 5261 2369

P.O. Box. 536 Torquay. 3228 VIC.

### **Aireys Inlet**

St Aidan's Church

29 Great Ocean Rd, AireysInlet.

[aireysinletunitingchurch@gmail.com](mailto:aireysinletunitingchurch@gmail.com)

### **Anglesea**

Trinity Uniting Church

Murch Crescent. Anglesea.

### **Bellbrae**

Bellbrae Uniting Church

School &Anglesea Rds Bellbrae.

### **Torquay**

Torquay Uniting Church

27 Anderson Street Torquay

The wonderful simplicity of the Christmas story reminds us that God brings the revelation of love and new beginnings through humble everyday people, who are faced with difficult life choices. *This is a gift indeed.*

Over the centuries, there have been beautiful paintings, delightful sculptures, rich music, wise poetry, tomes of wisdom to ponder and feasts of rich food and wine to enjoy, all for the sake of this tiny presence. One wonders why God brought this revelation of life to us in this story.

Perhaps it is *because* God understands humanity and all the illusions of grandeur we use, rather than celebrating the simple delight of God's presence in the midst of creation.

God's revealing light of living in the best way, of being at peace and of seeking justice with all creation, begins in the daily choices we make. The inner stillness we find, when we sit in prayerful presence, pondering the wisdom offered us, considering the wellbeing of all creation and all nations, and our part to play, is when God's light is revealed.

And then the thunderous glory of God echoes in the silent breath of the Spirit.

What a gift!

Peace be with you  
**Rev Suzie Castle**  
Minister of the Word

### **Thank You for your Christmas Bowl Donation**

**It's not too late to share God's Love  
this Christmas**

<https://www.actforpeace.org.au/>



[www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au](http://www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au)

**Check our website regularly!**



## THANK YOU from the CHRISTMAS BOWL APPEAL

Thank you for being part of the Christmas Bowl in a world so full of disaster, conflict, injustice and pain, you've joined with Christian communities across Australia to make a powerful difference for people in need. Thank you for being a part of a tradition of Christian compassion and unity that has been helping to feed the hungry, heal the sick, and welcome the stranger for 70 years. Through the Christmas Bowl, we come together across ages, places and denominations to continue Reverend Byatt's legacy and bring hope, peace, joy, love, and light to those who are suffering. Your gifts and prayers will help mothers in Zimbabwe to become conservation farmers, can raise healthy crops and support their children through the toughest of seasons. You'll bring them back the hope they've lost to years of terrible drought. For Sri Lankan refugees, your generosity means the chance to return home and build peaceful futures. Through skills training and financial support, you'll help families like Vijayakanth's to forge safe, harmonious lives after years of displacement and civil war. By supporting the Christmas Bowl, you are also giving the vulnerable people of Tonga the training to stay safe through worsening disasters. People like Asana now have the joy of knowing they are helping their loved ones and neighbours to survive a calamity. Together, we can make an enormous impact for Syrian refugees in Jordan. Your compassion brings families like Rima's lifesaving food and basics and the support they need to heal from enormous loss. You share God's love through your own, and give people who have suffered greatly the strength to go on. Through the Christmas Bowl, you are also shining Christ's light on families who are struggling to survive in drought-stricken South Sudan. You are bringing them lifegiving water – the simple blessing that sustains us all. Your Christmas Bowl gifts support vulnerable people around the world, helping them to survive conflict and disaster and build stronger, fairer and more resilient communities. You are helping those who are displaced and disadvantaged to access what we all deserve: food, water, shelter, healthcare and education. Thank you for sharing your blessings this Christmas Bowl, so together we can care for people who are hurting and build a better world for all.

Torquay congregation donated and delivered five baskets full of gifts to the staff at all the units at ELOUERA Aged Care this week to say thank you for caring for the residents.



**A reminder to everyone to make sure changes to telephone numbers and addresses are updated so that our church directories are current.**  
**ALWAYS USE THE LATEST DIRECTORY**

## Sammy Stamp makes Something from Nothing

**Sammy Stamp** continues this tradition, proving the long-term efficacy of this approach. For more than 30 years, volunteers have gathered to collect, trim, sort and package **stamps** received from **Uniting Church** members and synod employees. The **stamps** are sold and the money directed to various programs connected to the **church**.

**SO this summer remember to cut all the stamps from the cards you receive and bring them to church!**

BOOK ROOM & BRIC A BRAC AT  
BELLBRAE

CONTACT: Ph: (03) 5261 5139 OR

**We are open throughout Christmas  
and January except for public holidays.**

**OPEN BOXING DAY!**

## DIARY DATES : December & January

**31st: NEW YEARS EVE** **6pm**

**Long Table LINK gathering**, @ Elephant Walk in Torquay; BYO everything—table, chairs, food and fellowship.

**11th January: Anglesea Annual Fete**  
8.30am to afternoon

## Happy Birthday

Congratulations and best wishes to **Mrs. Coral Buckley**, who celebrated her 101st Birthday on Boxing Day. Coral, of the Anglesea congregation, thought she was only going to be 100, but one of her family discovered her Birth Certificate, which showed she was one year older than she thought! Coral now lives at Anglesea Aged Care, 5 Weir St.



EACH WEEK WE LIST MEMBERS FROM OUR COMBINED CHURCH DIRECTORIES  
FOR YOUR PRAYERFUL CARE (IN ALPHABETIC ORDER)

TORQUAY: Ro THOMPSON	TORQUAY: Jim & Norma TURNER
TORQUAY: Margaret TYACK	TORQUAY: Andre, Louise, Luzanne & Henri VENTER



**YOUR NEWSLETTER** can be delivered to your INBOX every Friday, just email us to be included.

**NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS** and all queries to: [newslettersurfcoastuc@gmail.com](mailto:newslettersurfcoastuc@gmail.com) DEADLINE: Thursday at 4pm