



# Surfcoast Uniting Churches

12th January 2020

Dear friends in Christ,

As the fires keep raging across the east and north east of Victoria, I invite us all to keep the people and communities of those regions in our minds, hearts and prayers.

Amidst the unprecedented intensity, veracity and destructive force of these fires, and the heartbreak they are bringing to so many, we are receiving messages and prayers of support, love and concern from across the life of the Church.

These have come from the President of the Uniting Church, Deidre Palmer, from the Moderators of other Synods who are facing their own devastating bushfires, and even from the General Secretary of the World Council of Churches.

When one member of the body is suffering, the whole body suffers with it, as we care for one another. We keep in our prayers the communities of New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia currently facing fires, and those in Queensland so recently affected.

Together we are bringing our prayers and support for those who have died; for those who have lost loved ones, their homes and livelihoods, animals and pets; for those who don't know if loved ones are safe or not; for those who don't know if they have homes to go back to or what the future holds for them.

We are praying for those who are fighting the fires, risking their own lives, leaving behind family and work and forgoing income, out of a commitment to protect others and our unique bush land and wildlife.

We are praying for community leaders and the myriad of volunteers donating their time, food, feed for livestock, and other items ... to support firefighters and those in evacuation and relief centres.

We are grateful for the untiring dedication of those working behind the scenes in planning, logistics, supplies, transport, the Red Cross and other relief organisations.

We are grateful for those who are calming children, caring for vulnerable older ones, and soothing angry and distressed ones.

We are grateful for those who are caring for injured and homeless wildlife. Human kindness is being seen all around, as people open their hearts and homes to give of their own possessions and time to support neighbours, friends and strangers. The generosity and hospitality of so many is astounding.

We are thankful for the care, concern, leadership and service being offered by Emergency Chaplains, ministers and so many members of our Church communities in the middle of this crisis. They have brought spiritual and practical support in the form of clothes and food, and teams are already organising to commence repairs to damaged fences and properties.

**Minister: Rev Suzie Castle**

Sunday to Tuesday

Thursday & Friday

M: 0421 023 197

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From news received so far, those of our Church communities in affected areas are safe, though some have suffered damage to properties and many have evacuated. The situation is fast-changing. As needs become clearer, the ways in which further help might be offered will also become clearer.

We are in the middle of the season of Christmas and Epiphany. It is at this time that we mark the visit of a few wise strangers who recognise Emmanuel, God-with-us, present in a vulnerable child, born into a situation of threat to human existence.

In these times, we are acutely aware of the very real threat to vulnerable communities and environments from the effects of climate change, not least through drought, extremes of weather and devastating bushfire.

As we tackle questions of climate change, we recognise the influence of our own human activity ... or inactivity. Amidst the threat to human life and to our unique environment and wildlife, may we see where God is with us in a different way of living: in generosity, hospitality and compassion for the people and world God loves.

May the God who walks with us, give us the strength, courage and hope we need, now and continuing over these coming days.

May the peace of God, which is beyond all understanding, fill your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Grace and Peace,

Rev Denise Liersch  
Moderator

## Lectionary Readings

### BAPTISM of JESUS: Jan 12th

ISAIAH 42: 1-9  
Psalm 29  
ACTS 10: 34-43  
MATTHEW 3: 13-17

### EPIPHANY 1: Jan 19th

ISAIAH 49: 1-7  
Psalm 40: 1-11  
1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-9  
JOHN 1: 29-42

## SERVICES ON THE SURF COAST

### This Sunday 12th January 2020

**Anglesea:** Rev. Dr. Kevin Yelverton 9:00  
**Airey's Inlet:** Mr. Brian Shaw 10.30  
**HOLY COMMUNION**  
**Torquay:** Rev. Suzie Castle 9.30  
**Bellbrae:** Rev. Suzie Castle 11.00

### Next Sunday 19th January 2020

**Anglesea:** Rev Bernie Long 9:00  
**Airey's Inlet:** Rev. Suzie Castle 10.30  
**MEDIA MINISTRY:** Rev Suzie Castle  
**Torquay:** 9.30  
**Bellbrae:** 11.00

IN A  
WORLD  
WHERE  
**YOU**  
CAN BE  
ANYTHING  
BE  
kind

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

*Check our website regularly!*

### Aireys Inlet

St Aidan's Church  
29 Great Ocean Rd  
[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

## DIARY DATES : January



**BUNNINGS BARBQUE**  
**TUC Fundraiser on**  
Sat. 25th January @  
TORQUAY BUNNINGS.

**N.B.** Do you have any 2020  
dates for the Newsletter—email  
ASAP.

BOOK ROOM & BRIC A  
BRAC AT BELLBRAE  
CONTACT: Ph: (03) 5261 5139

**Open all January except public  
holidays**  
**Thursday & Friday 10 to 4**  
**Saturday 10 to 1**  
**Come on in & grab a bargain**

## THANK YOU FROM SAMMY STAMP

This summer remember to cut  
all the stamps from the cards  
you receive and deliver them to  
the containers at church so this  
special ministry may continue.

The stamps are sold and the  
money directed to various pro-  
grams connected to the church



Men, women and children from Torquay  
Uniting dropped in on Wednesday to make  
animal foodballs for wildlife affected by  
bushfires. Thanks to all who came & rolled!

## Vale Margaret Ganley

Margaret passed away quietly last Satur-  
day at the age of 104. She was a much  
loved figure at Bellbrae. We will all miss  
her regular quiet, presence amongst us  
at church. Margaret volunteered at the  
Op Shop up until the age of 102 and reg-  
ularly provided flowers for the church  
from her lovely garden. Our condolences  
to Carleen and Michael, Margaret and  
Margaret's wider family

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

AIREYS INLET: Ray & Phyllis MILL	AIREYS INLET: Harry & Marilyn WENDT
AIREYS INLET: Jim & Nancy WHAN	ANGLESEA: Jocelyn ATKINSON



**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