



Surfcoast Uniting Churches

24th January 2021

Welcome to the Surf coast Uniting Church newsletter.
All our congregations are meeting in their churches now. Great celebrations!
See page 2 for details

Rev. Suzie Castle : m:0421023197 e: suzie.castle@gmail.com

"FOLLOW ME" is all Jesus ever asked us to do. We aren't taking a break from following during this period of YAWNING. It's a time set aside to go deeper spiritually through prayer, scripture and devotion. It has begun this week with an invitation to pray the prayer that follows. This week is about reflecting on how you understand the Bible and what the Good News has meant to your life. This week the USA has new leadership. In many ways the inauguration has been ground breaking with Madam Vice President Kamala Harris the first Black, first South Asian, and first female occupant of the office. In many ways it stays the same. Hopefully the balance will bring peace to the country that has endured much division these past 4 years. America could do with a period of YAWNING, to take a break, reflect and listen for God and for each other. It benefits us to break at times for renewal and refreshment. And so let's stop, and breathe and pray as we explore where to from here as Jesus continues to lead us and we continue following after God's Word.

'God, forgive us, when we clean up the gospel, domesticate it in an attempt to make it less offensive. Your good news is offensive— to church going folk, to politicians, to high living folk, to governments. Sanitising the gospel makes it weak and insipid and reveals you as a chocolate teapot God. So forgive our attempts to water down the challenge and the fervour of your call to follow you. May we take seriously all that following you demands. Following you may result in us being rejected by friends, dumped by acquaintances and treated with suspicion by authorities.

Following you calls for us to not only rock the boat but to overturn it, exposing injustice and corruption that keeps your children in oppression. Following you demands that we get involved, become unpopular and stand up for what is right. So, revolutionary God, make us cautious when speaking of the good news because that good news is very bad news for some. But give us boldness and your revolutionary spirit to take it seriously. Amen.'

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

"There are two ways of spreading light:
to be the candle
or the mirror that reflects it."
- Deb Dewit Marchant

Let us remember in our prayers this week:

The many children and young people who will be returning or starting school soon.
Those awaiting the results of medical tests and possibly bad news.
The many countries where there are struggles throughout the political parties.
And the many places where Covid has taken too many lives, and many are still suffering.
May the light of Christ touch all our hearts.

Rev Suzie's worship plan

Rev. Suzie will be leading worship in Aireys Inlet followed by Bellbrae on the 1st and 3rd Sundays.
Then Torquay on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. As before the 5th Sundays will be organised by each congregation.

Lectionary Readings:

Epiphany 3: Jan 24th

Jon 3:1-5,10
Ps 62:5-12
1 Cor 7:29-31
Mk 1:14-20

Epiphany 4: Jan 31st

Dt 18:15-20
Ps 111
1 Cor 8:1-13
Mk 1:21-28

WORSHIP FOR 2 WEEKS

Sunday 24th January

Aireys 9:15am Chris Machar Congregational Worship team

Bellbrae 11:00am Chris Machar Congregational Worship team

Torquay 9:30am Rev Suzie Congregational Worship team—
Australia Day theme

Sunday 31st January

What's happening this next week:

Sat 23rd: OPShop Roster this week: 10am— Mary & Keith
Bremner, Carol Meade, Carleen Thoernberg. 1:00pm
Jane Skelton & Cheryl Peel

AIREYS INLET Church Services resume.

Here's a photo from church at Aireys last Sunday. We (8 members) thoroughly enjoyed being able to come together physically to worship and successfully trialed the COVID safe communion "snack packs". Our Occupational Health and Safety Officer, Ross Lamont, supervised the signing in and adherence to COVID guidelines. We adjourned over the road to Truffles cafe for some great fellowship afterwards. ... Mary B



Inspiration can come with small good actions.

Coffee and Kids resuming in this beautiful space.

Coffee & Kids has moved into our new space, Oak Tree Place at 25 Anderson St. We're getting ready for the 2021 to start on Friday 12th February 9.30am-11.00am

All of the familiar toys and some new ones, a lovely deck and lawn area under the Oak Tree.



Save the Date: Sunday 14th February .

The opening of the Oak Tree Place multi purpose building.

"Adventures in Colour" is an art exhibition at Bellbrae Uniting Church. Open days are 10 to 4pm every Friday & Saturday in January. **Frances Griffiths** is the artist and says "It's an exhibition of work I recalled from my adventure travelling around Australia solo last year. It's about colour and the mood of colour and many interesting things I observed." There are also some interior images and a couple of special places I travelled overseas.

Come & Enjoy. Every Friday and Saturday in January. 10am to 4pm

We acknowledge that we meet to worship on the land of the Wadawurrung people and pay our respects to their elders past and present. Find out more at www.wadawurrung.org.au.

Airey's Inlet St Aidan's Church, 29 Great Ocean Road, Airey's Inlet. aireysinletunitingchurch@gmail.com

Bellbrae: Bellbrae Uniting Church. School & Anglesea Roads, Bellbrae

Torquay: Torquay Uniting Church, 27 Anderson Street, Torquay

BELLBRAE BRIC-A-BRAC OP SHOP & BOOK ROOM :Uniting Church Hall, School Road, Bellbrae. Ph: 5261 5139

Weekly offerings can be made via direct debit or credit to the congregation account :

BSB: 083-929 and Account Number 93-009-8403 Please add notes in the deposit area to identify your congregation:

Aireys Inlet:3231AI, Bellbrae:3228BB or Torquay:3228TQ

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS and all queries to: newslettersurfcoastuc@gmail.com DEADLINE: Thursday at 4pm