

Surfcoast Uniting Churches

31st October 2021 Edition 141

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Airey's Inlet, Bellbrae and Torquay.

www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au



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

Conclusion of our Stewardship Program

You are all invited to a Combined Service

Aireys Inlet & Bellbrae & Torquay: 11:00am at Aireys Hall led by Rev Suzie Castle

Followed by a shared lunch. BYO picnic & drinks

Cars will be at Torquay church at 10 am if anyone needs a lift to Aireys Inlet

²⁹ Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.' ³⁰ And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' ³¹ The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." MARK 12

We can do it! Or can we?

This weekend brings a close to our eight week long stewardship program. During this time the small group of people from each of the congregations who came together under the team name Forward in Faith, has met almost every week since April, to search for ways of securing our churches' financial future.

We have achieved a great deal in this time. There has been a enormous energy and a feeling of positivity in our meetings and discussions. We all have a strong belief that God is guiding us towards the future of our churches on the Surf Coast. We have developed a much improved mutual understanding of the special characteristics of each of our three congregations and a spirit of even greater co-operation has blossomed. Rev Suzie has provided wonderful encouragement to us all through this difficult process. We have also been supported by our Presbytery ministers.

Our task has been made more challenging with the COVID lockdowns and restrictions on movement and gathering to worship. However our members have stepped up to the plate in amazing ways to use Zoom and recorded services to make sure that our worship services continued. We have contemplated the many ways we use our time, our talents and our treasure to serve God. We have pondered our role in caring for God's creation.

It has been a difficult time to be trying to boost the churches' finances, with the op shop shut for long stretches, rentals at Oak Tree Place down and not meeting for worship in person.

However, we established targets for each church based on the knowledge that we need to contribute a minimum of \$120,000 through the contributions from each congregation, to continue our mission and ministry on the Surf Coast. These targets were calculated according to the number of regular members of each congregation.

The good news is that if we take the average of the pledges in so far, the average is \$28.60 a week. That is close to the average that we suggested of \$30.00.

However, in round figures, based on the offerings pledged, we are \$47,000 short of our target. This will have to be made up from proceeds from the op shop, rental and fund raising. With 49 people having made pledges across the three churches, it would be very helpful if more people were willing to commit their level of financial support to continue our churches' work.

The Forward in Faith team has sent these figures on to the Linked Council Finance Sub-Committee for their use to draw up a budget for the year 2022. Linked Council will make the final decision about the adoption of a budget. Our goal of maintaining full time ministry remains a very high aim.

Our team remains positive. We believe that God wants us to continue in our Christian witness on the Surf Coast. I believe that we need to be prepared for this to be in a very different form to the one we know today.

From Mary Bremner: Chairperson, *Forward in Faith*.

Surfcoast UC Stewardship Calendar of Services

31 October: **Celebration** :11am COMBINED WORSHIP @ AIREYS
BYO Picnic Lunch at Aireys locations. Lifts are available for Torquay members



Common Grace would like to thank all the knitters and the government elected who wore the scarf on October 21st to make a point about our responsibility for climate change and its consequences.

https://www.commongrace.org.au/_wearthescarf_21_october



Our OPSHOP is open

Friday 29th OCT:

Bev, John A, Tricia

Saturday 30th Oct:

AM: John, Doreen, Carleen

PM: Ro, Marg, Robyn

Monday 1st November

YES, we're open for this Monday!

He is the Maker
of heaven and earth,
the sea, and everything
in them—he remains
faithful forever.

PSALM 146: 6

Lectionary Readings

Oct 31st: Pentecost 23

RUTH 1: 1-18

Psalms 146

Hebrews 9: 11-14

Mark 12: 28-34

Our services are back in our
Church buildings.

And can be found online at
www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au

Use your phone camera and the
QR code below to access all our
services online.



The lovely UNITING Christmas
Cards are available to
order NOW

And Uniting still need
groceries especially in small
packets and toiletries and personal
items. Please See Robyn Harper for
Cards or to deliver
goods.
THANK YOU



Airey's Inlet St Aidan's Church, 29 Great Ocean Road, Airey's Inlet.
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, Bellbrae

For Sale: the Piano from Torquay Uniting is no longer needed. It is an ALEX STEINBACH with 3 pedals and in very good order. \$1500. Contact Alan Harper to click and collect. 0417 563 260

DINE OUT is back:

Mon. 8th November at the Beach Hotel at noon in Jan Juc.
Please contact Jean Elder to book yourself a seat.
M: 0409 969 392

What's Happening:

1. Pray for COP26, the Global Climate Change Conference. Glasgow, the COP26 host city, is known as the "Dear Green Place" in the language of Gaelic. Let this be a reminder that for all cities, countries, and nations, greening our world should be a priority for climate action.



The Anglican parish of Queenscliff is offering a 30 minute mid-day meditation during COP26, from **October 31 to November 14**. They will be in the church and on Zoom. The meditation will begin at 12noon with the ringing of the church bell. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81733909876?pwd=WHI4QVNENHRJVFZyWXNLSFJ5cjdrcz09>

2. This week is also the first National Mosque Open Day in Australia. We cannot visit the Melbourne mosques from here, but hope this spirit of openness is ongoing.

Christmas Themed Trading Table and Art Show

Torquay UC Lawns and Oak Tree Place
on Saturday 6th November



TRADING TABLE: 10am to 12.30pm
ART SHOW: 10am to 4pm
(GOLD COIN ENTRY)

All proceeds assist our Surfcoast Uniting Churches

Your baked goods & garden produce are very welcome:
sausage rolls, cup cakes, Christmas biscuits, mid sized
cakes, scones, rhubarb, lemons, flowers, etc ...

PLEASE deliver on Friday at 2pm OR by 9.45am Saturday

Tricia for Trading Goods (0419340056)
& Robyn for the Art Show (0407829926)



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

BSB: 083-929 and Account Number 93-009-8403

Account Name: **Surfcoast Uniting Church**

Please identify your congregation in the notes area:

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