

Surfcoast Uniting Churches

12th December 2021 Edition 147

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Airey's Inlet, Bellbrae and Torquay.

www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au

Worship Services: Sunday December 12th– Advent 3



Airey's Inlet @ 9.30 am : Torquay: @ 9.30am : Bellbrae @11:00am

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.

CHRISTMAS BOWL APPEAL

Joy is the theme of the Third Sunday in Advent. Projects supported by the Christmas Bowl can help encourage people to find joy even if times are difficult.

For 35 years, Sri Lankan refugees in India have dreamt of returning-home. Now the COVID-19 crisis has put another barrier in their way. Through the Christmas Bowl, you can help Sri Lankan families survive COVID-19 and rebuild safe, joyful lives in their homeland.

Daniyel was a young man when he and his parents fled the conflict in Sri Lanka for a refugee camp in India. More than a decade later, he was still in the camp, with a wife and four children of his own. But without the freedoms of a citizen, Daniyel often struggled to feed his family. When his oldest daughter fell sick with a heart condition, life became even harder. Thankfully, Daniyel could turn to our local partner, the Organisation for Eelam Refugees Rehabilitation (OfERR). With the help of your generosity, OfERR cares for Sri Lankan refugees in India and supports them to return home after decades in exile. Such support can help bring joy to families such as Daniyel's.

Envelopes are now available both at your church and also as an insert in the December issue of Crosslight. Take an envelope and you are invited to make your gift at any time, or put something aside to make a special offering on Christmas Day. You can also pass on an envelope to a friend.



Third Sunday of Advent

Finding Joy in times of COVID-19

Many families who have been living in crowded refugee camps in India for decades want to return home to Sri Lanka. Sadly, the COVID-19 crisis has meant that many are unable to travel. Through the Christmas Bowl, you are helping our local partner keep refugees safe by providing medicine and protective clothing and equipment. Once the emergency is over, they will continue helping families experience the joy of returning to their homeland in Sri Lanka. **Please give today.**

CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188



Jane Skelton and the UCA group with OfERR in Chennai, India in 2002

SERVICES can be found online at
www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au
Use your phone camera
and the QR code below to
access all our services



Lectionary Readings
December 12th- Advent 3
Zep 3:14-20
Is 12:2-6
Phil 4:4-7
k 3:7-18

Our OPSHOP is open
Friday Dec 10- Cheryl P, Carol,M, Geoff
Sat Dec 11– AM: Bev, Karleen Carleen
PM: Jane, Tricia , John A.

Christmas is worshipping together at the Surfcoast Uniting Churches

www.surfcoastunitingchurch.org.au

Sunday 19th: Torquay Carols @ 6pm (a story of Big star and Little star) with dinner to follow

Friday 24th: 11pm @ Bellbrae

Saturday 25th: 9.30am Torquay

Sunday 26th : 9.30am Torquay



Saturday Dec 18th. Another Queenscliff event well worth attending.

Tamil Welcome Feast 6pm

Experience an exciting three-course feast of colourful, aromatic, spicy & sweet Sri Lankan Tamil food, prepared by local Tamil refugees. Share in stories of lived experience and celebrate an evening of culture, community and fabulous food.

\$40 per person, bookings essential. Presented by Queenscliff Rural Australians for Refugees (QRAR)

<https://www.trybooking.com/BVQSL>

The Christmas Community Carol service at Aireys Inlet last Sunday evening was enjoyed by many from our three congregations plus others in the community. The two STARS shone brightly as they shared the Christmas story around carols, bible readings and solo performances.

Don't forget that **Torquay** are also presenting a Carol service on **December 19th at 6:00pm** followed by a shared meal. This will be \$5 per person. The meal will be cooked chicken, hams and salads. Come one, come all. Bring your family and friends. Please RSVP Robyn to help with catering.



Linda as Mary, Jamie as Joseph, Suzie as Young Star and Mary as Big Star.

The Elouera Service in Torquay Thursday also used this great Star Christmas script with carols. The residents enjoyed the singing, the story and the jokes.

Sunday 12th December: Torquay Congregational Meeting following worship to elect new Secretary of Congregation and new Council members. Nominations in before service begins on 12th.

Torquay Coffee and Kids had their final session for this year on Friday this week.



There were Santa greeting cards and nativity scenes to colour in. Suzie shared the Christmas story, and fun was had by all.



SEA of UKES

Queenscliff
Uniting Church
Wednesday 15 December
6pm Community
Christmas Dinner
7.30pm Concert

Book online
www.unitingqueenscliff.org.au



www.unitingqueenscliff.org.au
contemplation creativity compassion

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

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