

Surfcoast Uniting Churches

19th December 2021 Edition 148

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

Airey's Inlet, Bellbrae and Torquay.

www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au

Worship Services: Sunday December 19th– Advent 4



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

Love is the theme of the Fourth Sunday in Advent. Projects supported by the Christmas Bowl can help find loving support for people, particularly those undergoing great hardships.

Our focus this Sunday is on the lives of refugees who have fled from destruction in Syria and are now living in Jordan, many in tent cities.

Ten years into the devastating Syrian crisis, the challenges that refugees face no longer make front page news. But the COVID-19 pandemic has made their lives even harder. Your Christmas Bowl gift will bring love and lifesaving support to Syrian families in Jordan – and show them they're not forgotten. Your gift can help families in these places to find the strength to carry on.

Envelopes are now available and you are invited to make your gift at any time or to be put aside to make a special part of the offering on Christmas Day. You can mail your gift directly to Act For Peace. You can also pass on an envelope to a friend.

May we continue to generously support this appeal as we have done in the past.

A PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO HAVE FLED SYRIA

We pray for Syrian refugees in Jordan.

We can only glimpse their despair facing a future destroyed by conflict and violence.

We barely comprehend the experience of raising a family in temporary shelters for years.

We cannot fathom that nearly six million people have fled Syria, nor the six million who have been internally displaced in Syria, and have lost their homes and livelihoods.

Be with these people.

**Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.**

Amen

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Sharing God's love this Christmas

It's been 10 years since the civil war broke out in Syria with thousands of families still living in neighbouring countries like Jordan. The challenges refugees face no longer make front page news, and now COVID-19 has made life even harder. Through the Christmas Bowl, you are helping our local partner provide support for families, including food rations and hygiene kits, along with psychosocial care. **Please give today.**



Christmas Bowl

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

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
online

Lectionary Readings
December 19th– Advent 4

Mic 5:2-5a
Lk 1:46b-55 or Ps 80:1– 7
Heb 10:5-10
Lk 1:39-45, (46-55)

Our OPSHOP is open

Friday Dec 17- Noelene, Joan and Lyn

Sat Dec 18– AM: Val, Doreen

Carleen

PM: Ro, Marg D, Suzie

Christmas is worshipping together at the Surfcoast Uniting Churches

www.surfcoastunitingchurch.org.au

Sunday 19th AM: usual time in all 3 churches.

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

Friday Dec 24th: 11pm @ Bellbrae

Saturday Dec 25th: 9.30am @Torquay

9:30am at Aireys Inlet

Sunday Dec 26th:

9:30am Aireys

9:30am Torquay

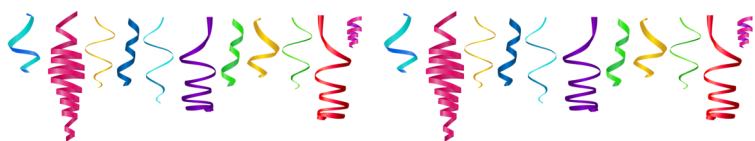
11:00 am Bellbrae



Torquay Church Council is pleased to announce that Sylvia Peck was nominated and approved as the Congregation Secretary, and the following candidates received nominations and approval as TUC Council members starting January 2022.

John Peck (2 years), Robert Packett (1 year), Ro Thompson (2 years), Robyn Harper (3 years), Sam Nolan (1 year) and Cheryl Duncan (2 years).

Thank you, Patricia Genat Congregational Chair.



Let's celebrate together to say farewell to 2021 and hello to 2022.

Everyone is welcome to Oak Tree Place for an extravaganza

New Year's Eve get together.

There will be games tables set up for those inclined, a fire pit for relaxed conversation, Finska for the athletic throwers and plenty of good will and music.

We suggest you bring a plate to share for the Super Supper Smorgasbord which will be shared at 9.30/10ish, allowing early birds to head home as needed. BYO drinks (of any kind), Coffee & Tea will be available. 7.30pm start. Children and visitors welcome.

Email the Newsletter team with any questions.

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

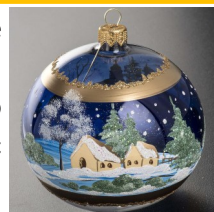
Messages of THANKS.

The Aireys Inlet congregation would like to thank all of the people from Bellbrae and Torquay who so kindly supported our recent Community Carols. Your presence was greatly appreciated. Last week we delivered a lovely collection of donated gifts and \$355 in cash to **Barwon Uniting** for their Christmas hampers for families in need.

Your donations have been put to good work! Thank you from all at Uniting for your contributions. Clients will receive a hamper packed with basics such as pasta, rice, milk, cereal and some canned food. They will then select some items from the Christmas table. Those with children will be able to select toys to suit their children. All items are allotted points and client can choose how they spend those points. There are also some great free items, including lots of clothes generously donated by Cotton On. Thank you again!



The Torquay Congregation are reminded to bring along a favourite Christmas tree decoration to add to the Tree in the church this week Dec 19th.



Luke 1:39-45 ³⁹At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴²In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³But why am I so favored, that the mother of my LORD should come to me? ⁴⁴As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵Blessed is she who has believed that the LORD would

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