

Surfcoast Uniting Churches

Aireys Inlet 9.30am, Bellbrae 11am, Torquay 9.30am.

www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au

NOTE: Rev. Suzie Castle is on Long Service Leave from 28th Feb to 8th May 2022

For assistance, please contact your Congregation Council Chairs :

Jane Skelton:0400 190 580

Maxine Flakemore:0422 632 809

Keith & Mary Bremner:0427 701 276

13th March 2022 Edition 160



As we journey through Lent the newsletter front page will use ideas and reflections from the Uniting World Lent Event booklet called “How to be a Good Global Neighbour”

This is available to download [HERE](#)

Neighbouring requires Vulnerability

A Uniting World Story.

Emily was a mum of two girls, 8yr old Anna and 10yr old Sophie. They were planning a wonderful summer holiday, going on a cruise through the Pacific Islands. Emily was very much aware that her girls, raised in middle class suburban Sydney, had no real idea of what poverty was. She was keen for them to understand some of the realities of the wider world, understand some of their privilege and to feel compassion for those not as well off as they were. Emily struck upon the idea of using the cruise ship stop in Fiji to visit a local school with her girls. Because she wanted to teach her girls to be generous, she helped the girls do a bake sale at their church to raise money, so the girls could buy stationary supplies to take as gifts when they visited the school. They approached UnitingWorld to ask to be introduced to a school in Fiji, so they could visit and give the gifts.

Philippians 2:1-8 1

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

IDEAS FOR REFLECTION

God knew we needed God to help us out of where we had got stuck. The path God chose to reach out to us was Jesus. God chose to show solidarity with us, to come and be present amongst us, to taste and feel and experience life the way we did. He did not decide to ‘fix us’ from afar, without sharing our lives first. For Jesus to be able to relate to us in this way, he had to set aside his power. He needed humility and self-emptying. Our relative wealth in Australia is a significant source of an imbalance of power when we seek connection with our global neighbours. This can tempt us to believe that we are, or have, the solutions to other people’s problems. Paul challenges us to follow the example of Jesus in setting aside our power. Jesus’ willingness to put the needs of others above his own led to his death. This self-emptying approach to being a neighbour is costly, it will make us vulnerable and may require sacrifice.



We acknowledge that we meet and 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.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

***The SCLCC AGM March 15th @ 10:00am in Oak Tree Place.** Everyone welcome to attend to look to the future together. Presbytery Minister Linley Liersch, Mission Development Strategist, will be attending and speaking to us about the challenges we are all facing as a church in today's world.

***Torquay AGM is** Sunday 20th March 2022. after the morning service.

LOCAL NEWS & DIARY DATES:

***Our Thursday Cuppa's are back.** It's very casual! There may be three or thirteen! Meet at Bombora's in Torquay about 10.30 for a coffee and chat. P.S. there were 8 of us this week!!

***Sat 2nd April. Coffee & Kids Bunnings BBQ. A few more hands are needed. Please see roster at church this week.**

***Surfcoast ARTS Trail is back on 6/7 AUGUST.** Registrations open on 16th March. See Robyn Harper if you are interested.

**SAFE THE DATES

The return of the **Mother's day High Tea** in Oak Tree Place on Saturday 7th May.

The next **Torquay Trading table** will be on May 23rd. More information to come soon, but a good time to get busy with your craft creations, pickles and jams.

A Thankyou from Marg Manley

"Please thank the Church Council for the effort they went to in acknowledging my 50 years of ministry. I can't believe it is that long ago I was commissioned from this congregation!

Thank you too for the certificate and especially for the plant and bowl, which were most unexpected. Congratulations too, to Geoff and Alan for all the painting work (and other work) they have done to freshen up the interior of the church building, it looks terrific.

Yours in Christ, Marg Manley"



A letter of thanks from Ray Lancaster at SAMMY STAMP.

A big thank you to all who save their stamps in our Surfcoast churches. Please continue this great effort. The COVID lockdowns have really not hindered this project and in 2021 raised \$44,319 (2020 \$19,252). Sales since it started in 1977 have now reached \$1,058,974 with interest \$1,100,758.

The Grants given varied from: toilets for East Timor; building a Theological Seminary in Solomon Islands; transporting goods overseas; Vanuatu Prevention of Blindness project; 'welcome night' for refugee men in Swan Hill; extension of Cow Shed to increase milk supply for school children in Kenya; Frontier Services Bush Chaplains; enabling Aborigines to record scripture and songs in their own language at Gove, NT; supporting project for clean water & toilets in PNG & Solomon Islands; Loddon-Mallee Presbytery to assist the UC Chaplain's Ministry at Bendigo Hospital and more. Grants totalled for 2021 \$58,000.

Lectionary Readings

March 13th: Lent 2

Gen 15:1-12, 17-18

Ps 27

Phil 3:17 - 4:1

Lk 13:31-35 or Lk 9:28-36

March 20th: Lent 3

Is 55:1-9

Ps 63:1-8

1 Cor 10:1-13

Lk 13:1-9

You are invited to join with the Aireys Inlet Christian community for a Bible Study entitled,

"Restoring freshness in the time of Lent".

It will be held on Thursdays during Lent at St Aidans church Aireys Inlet, starting on March 17th at 10:30 AM. The material is scriptural, thoughtfully broad, relevant, and above all refreshing, as the title suggests. It invites participation. In order to have enough study booklets available, if you wish to attend, please contact Noni on 0418360807.

SURFCOAST UC BBQ

A reminder that there will be a BBQ at 52 Cowie Rd, the Harper's home, on Sunday March 27th at 1:00pm. This is a way of sharing with and thanking Natalie Sims from Brunswick Uniting Church who will be leading worship at Aireys Inlet and Bellbrae that morning.

Please bring your own meat plus a Salad or sweet to share.

Contact Robyn to confirm your attendance and what you are bringing on 0407829926

Inspired by Nature

20²²

Deakin University
Waterfront Exhibition Gallery
Cnr Cunningham Street and Western Beach Road, Geelong

5 March – 1 April
Tuesday - Saturday
10.00 am to 4.00 pm

Artwork: Judy Lavery

Geelong School of Botanical Art

Supported by:
The Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens
fbg@geelongbotanicgardens.org.au
Ph: 03 5222 6253

Sponsored by:
[hayeswinckle]

Our Bellbrae Opshop & Book Shop

FRIDAY 11/3: Mary and Keith, Carol M

SAT 12/3 AM : Cheryl P, Geoff, Carleen

PM: Fran Griffiths, plus others.

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

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 Friday & Saturday