



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

20th March 2022 Edition 161

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.



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](#)

ARE WE CALLED TO Generosity or Justice?

1 Chronicles 29: 14

There is a human tendency to believe that all the good things we enjoy are deserved. Either we have worked hard to earn it, or we have been virtuous and been blessed by God – that somehow what we have is to do with us. The shadow side of this is to assume that misfortune and disadvantage are also deserved – that laziness, bad decisions or simple lack of ability cause poverty. **God begs to differ.**

Today the remaining front of the newsletter will have a brief summary of the talk Rev Linley Liersch gave to us who attended the AGM of the Surf Coast Link Congregational Council, which this year was open for anyone from our three congregations to attend.

Linley spoke about the change in Christianity's place in the world over the last 50 years.

Where once all services ,including schools, social support, community dances and other events were all centred around the churches of that community...this has changed. Churches are now on the edge.

We went on to brainstorm some of the **MYTHS** that we believe or have believed about ourselves as members of the church:

- ◆ We are the centre of society.
- ◆ People of faith are superior.
- ◆ All Christians are good people.
- ◆ One ministry per congregation is expected.
- ◆ There's a church on every corner.
- ◆ We need buildings to worship in.
- ◆ The idea that the minister is the Shepherd and the rest of us are the flock, rather than all of us helping the whole flock.
- ◆ That we should attend church every week.
- ◆ That worship should be on Sunday.
- ◆ That worship should have the same format week after week.
- ◆ That getting more younger families and youth will solves our problems.
- ◆ That other people understand what church is about.
- ◆ That a bigger church is a better church.. People wise. Big is beautiful.
- ◆ That we are all on the same page theologically.

These thoughts shared will help us in the process of changing the way we think and do church.

The Mission Mapping strategy coming from the Presbytery is meant to raise some of the hard questions we find difficult to answer as congregations and presbytery. The story is of regeneration—of new and renewing growth and how best we can do this together.

If you wish to hear more please contact one of your SCLCC members.

***Torquay AGM is this 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.

***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 **APRIL 23rd. Incorrect date last week.** More information to come soon, but a good time to get busy with your craft creations, pickles and jams.

The Geelong Progressive Christianity Discussion Group –

Thursday 24th March 1.30 -3.30pm

This discussion group meets at the Waurin Ponds Library Meeting Room (next to Leisurelink)

Our discussion will focus on the short video "A Brief Introduction to Progressive Theology" by Rev Glynn Cardy, a Progressive Christian in New Zealand. Participants are asked to preview the video at the following link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z0ew7zww7fY>

All welcome in person or via zoom. (Please let us know if you want to join us by zoom and a link will be forwarded to you) Enquiries Heather Dennis: 0409176319

Pancake Day Thanks

A huge thank you to everyone who came along to our Pancake Day at Aireys Inlet on Shrove Tuesday. With the support of community volunteers, we were able to churn out and serve hundreds of pancakes to our appreciative patrons. It is always a highlight to see the eager faces of the children who turn up after school for their pancakes. We made \$447.43 for Uniting Barwon. We value the day not just for the money raised for this worthy cause, but for the connections we create with our community.

Mary Bremner (Pancake Day Co-ordinator)



HAPPY Birthdays to Bernie Long, Keith Turrill, Valma Griffiths, Elizabeth Genée and Robyn Harper; celebrating from 72 to 98 years !!! Congratulations!



The SurfCoast Prayer Shawl group have been very busy creating their beautiful shawls over the last year. But they need people to give them to. If you know of anyone who would welcome the comfort and love these shawls provide please contact Marilyn Wendt or one of your church leaders.

Lectionary Readings

March 20th: Lent 3

Is 55:1-9

Ps 63:1-8

1 Cor 10:1-13

Lk 13:1-9

March 27th: Lent 4

Jos 5:9-12

Ps 32

2 Cor 5:16-21

Lk 15:1-3, 11b-32

You are invited to join with the Aireys Inlet Christian community for a Bible Study entitled, "Restoring freshness in the time of Lent".

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.



We would be delighted if you could join us for the launch of the **Sacrededge Festival 5pm Wednesday March 23**. Learn about the many Presenters and Performers Indigenous, Refugee, LGBTQI+ Climate Scientists & Carers for the Earth. Hear about the Tamil Feast, Art Exhibition, Enjoy Wine & Cheese Launch at 5pm Followed by Community Meal. All Welcome

SURFCOAST UC BBQ

A reminder that there will be a BBQ at 53 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

Our Bellbrae Opshop & Book Shop

FRIDAY 18/3: Noelene, Lyn, and Joan

SAT 12/3 AM : Karleen, Val and Carleen

PM: Ro, Marg and Helen

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