

# Surfcoast Uniting Churches

27th November 2022 Edition 197

[www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au](http://www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au)

For assistance, please contact your Congregation Council Chairs :

Jane Skelton:0400 190 580

Maxine Flakemore:0422 632 809

Keith & Mary Bremner:0427 701 276

Rev Bob Thomas : 0479 169 931



*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](http://www.wadawurrung.org.au).*

## A COMMENT ON FAITH by Maxine Flakemore



Faith is a term mentioned a lot in everyday life. The dictionary lists 7 different uses of faith. Commonly, people refer to faith as, belief in something despite lacking any evidence for it.

The bible states in the book of **Hebrews 11: 1**, ***"faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things unseen."*** The whole chapter goes on to list the many examples of faith without sight, over centuries, starting with Abraham. **Gen: 15:6**. In this passage we learn that ***the central feature of faith means to place your complete trust in God having confidence that He will fulfill His promises,*** as Abraham demonstrated so faithfully.

In **James 2:17**, is the statement that ***"Faith apart from works is dead."*** It's no good having faith if you're not prepared to do something about it. The obedience that pleases God comes only from faith, **Romans 1:4-5, 16:25-26**, rather than just a sense of duty or obligation, ***faith is important because it brings us into a relationship with God.***

**Ephesians 2:8** states: ***"For by grace (God's love) you have been saved, through faith."*** Faith is the only way we can receive the benefits that Jesus earned for us. Jesus lived a life of perfect obedience to God and bore the punishment for the sins of humankind on the cross.

***By putting our faith in Him, we receive forgiveness for our sins, the gift of eternal life and faith with sight. (An awakening within.)***

This is a simple statement but also very complex. It seems like the easiest thing in the world to do and yet....***It requires a step in faith, with unwavering belief (a change of heart), to become action..... BUT.....Only the infilling of the Holy Spirit, God's gift to us through Jesus' sacrifice, can make this possible.***

We can theorise and intellectualise about faith but it simply remains dormant, until we individually take the step to believe and act. ***That, remains the eternal mystery of faith.***

Throughout history the church has been challenged with change many times. The Uniting Church at the moment is working through a process dubbed 'Sustainable Gardens'. Options are presented with flowery language and wording that can be confusing. No changes can ever really occur however, without the inspiration and infilling of the Holy Spirit in people's hearts. In this time of challenge in our church, answers to all challenges will only come, as we individually seek a refreshing of our faith in God and a trust in Him alone.

***"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God" Ephesians 2:8***

### Lectionary Readings

#### Nov 27th: Advent 1

Isaiah 2: 1-5

Psalms 122

Romans 13: 11-14

Matthew 24: 36-44

#### Dec 4th: Advent 2

Isaiah 11: 1-10

Psalms 72: 1-7, 14-19

Romans 15: 4-13

Matthew 3: 1-12

### Sunday 27th November

Airey's @ 9.30am & Bellbrae @ 11am

Torquay @ 9.30am with Rev Bob Thomas

### Sunday 4th December

Holy Communion: Airey's @ 9.30am & Bellbrae @ 11am

Torquay @ 9.30am

**Thurs 8th December: Elouera Service at 2pm**

### Diary Dates and local events:

- ◇ **Thursday Coffee Gatherings at Bomboras in Torquay.** From 10.30am. Come one and all.
- ◇ **Every Thursday at 5pm at Torquay U C :** Choir practice. All welcome to come and join in.

### Uniting Barwon

Needs: Tins, Tuna, Cereal, Rice, Coffee, Tea, Custard, Ham, Sweets, Chocolates, Juice, Jams, and grocery gift cards. Please bring to church or drop at the Harpers home. Help make another families Christmas better.

### UNITING BOOK SALE

Friday 2nd December  
& Sat 3rd December

@ UNITING BARWON

10am to 2pm

### Cooks , Bakers & Sewing People ...

**Thursday 8th Dec: Our last Surfcoast Fundraiser for 2022**

**Trading Table at the Bunnings Community Market. 6pm to 8pm**

Your cakes, biscuits, jams & chutneys and all sewn goods & Christmas delights are very, very welcome.

Please label and wrap all food.

**Deliver** to the Church foyer on Thursday 8th December from 2pm or directly to Bunnings at 6pm.

Please call or text Tricia Genat with all your queries: 0419 340056.



### More from UNITING:

The Christmas Card order will be placed this week—Sunday is your last chance.

Contact Robyn H

And a reminder that toiletries & pamper goods are perfect for the UNITING hampers which also close this week.

### ROSTERS REMINDER:

**Rosters for Worship and for the OPSHOP all need your input ASAP.**

**THANK YOU**

Aireys Inlet Uniting Church presents

## Aireys Inlet Community Carols

Sunday December 4th at 7.30pm

Aireys Inlet Community Hall

Featuring children's nativity play



Entry by donation.  
Bring a present to place under the empty Christmas tree for families in need.

### First Sunday of Advent



## Hope for families forced to flee their country

Eugene and her family were forced to make the heartbreaking decision to flee their country Ukraine when the fighting escalated. They are just one of the millions of families who have been forced to flee their home in recent months. Your gifts through the Christmas Bowl can help local partners, like HIA, respond immediately to emergencies, giving families like Eugene's safety in exile – and hope for the future – when they need it most. **Please give today.**



**CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: [actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl](http://actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl)**

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

Thanks to all who are honoring their financial pledges and those who give what they are able, so we may continue to worship and serve our communities. Gifts are valued in electronic or paper format.

**Surfcoast Uniting Church. NAB : BSB: 083-929 & Acc No: 93-009-8403.**  
**ADD notes: Aireys AI3231; Bellbrae BB3228; Torquay TQ 3228**

**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, School Road. Bellbrae

OPEN Friday & Saturday 10am to 4pm.