

Surfcoast Uniting Churches Newsletter

For assistance, please contact :

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Rev Bob Thomas : 0479 169 931



Sunday 30th April 2023

We acknowledge that we meet and worship on the land of the Wadawurrung people and pay our respects to their elders past and present.

Find out more at www.wadawurrung.org.au.

Lectionary readings April 30th : Easter 4: Acts 2:42-47 Ps 23 1 Pt 2:19-25 Jn 10:1-10

THIS Sunday April 30th: Our Combined service will be held at Aireys Inlet.

Sunday, April 30th, you are invited to attend the joint Worship service for the Surf Coast Uniting Churches, to be led by the **Rev. Mat Harry**. Mat is a Synod Minister, who is very highly regarded for his work assisting churches in new ways of thinking about how we engage with our communities. Mat is in great demand and we are very fortunate that he has made himself available to lead our service. It will be an exciting opportunity to hear ideas for ways our churches can adapt to be more meaningful to people of all ages and better serve the needs of our communities. Mat has excellent experience in leading growing and thriving congregations.

The service will be held at St Aidan's church, Aireys Inlet (opposite the General Store), at 10 am, followed by morning tea. It would be appreciated if you could bring a small plate of food to share for morning tea.

Please note that our rental agreement with the Anglican church does not permit animals in the church building unless they are therapy dogs etc.

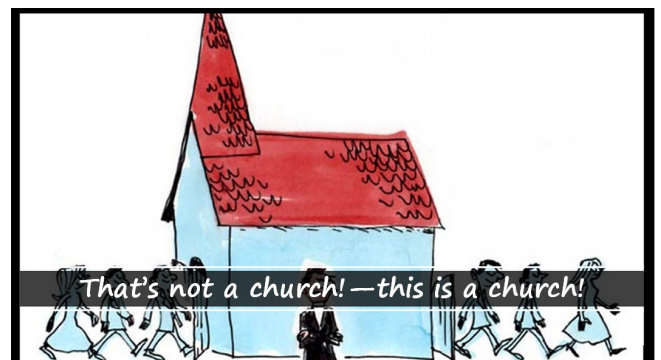
The Aireys Inlet congregation looks forward to welcoming you to this Worship service – one not to be missed.

An excerpt of the Reflection on the John reading By Rev. Deacon Wendy Elson.

When I read the John passage the image I get is of the door in a restaurant kitchen. The door flaps both ways (in my imagination it has a satisfying swiny sound) and it allows us to go both way through it with our hands full. It is not just a door that swings inward to rich green grass and luscious pastures and deep pools of refreshing water. Instead, it is a place for refreshment in order for us to go back out into our places of living and being. "They will come in and go out and find pasture".

We pass through the door on our way in and out. Perhaps Acts provides a way to do this. The way of Christ is to be devoted to teaching and to fellowship. I notice that preaching is not mentioned but rather us being the truly present, living and breathing Body of Christ, in and among our own neighbourhoods. We are called to have glad and generous hearts, praising God and knowing the goodwill of our neighbours. This is a how-to manual for being Christ present, and for growing the church, for using the gate and being shepherds to those around us.

This passage encourages us not to draw lines of in and out, of divisions between genders, generations, sexualities, theological views, functionalities, lifestyles and worldviews. What if our churches were seen as places that connect people? Places that offer life and warmth and welcome. Even a dry pair of socks, and a place to learn to breathe, to be coaxed into life. Surely such goodness and mercy follows abundantly from this sort of living and loving.



You're invited to join other faithful supporters like you from around the world on **Wednesday 10 May** for a dedicated day of prayer **for people affected by leprosy**. You are invited to join us for a special Global Day of Prayer virtual plenary session where prayer partners, Leprosy Mission staff and people affected by leprosy around the world will come together online to pray for a world without leprosy. Please join us for this special time to bless and be blessed! **Global Day of Prayer Wednesday 10 May at 2pm AEST**

The link to join this Zoom Meeting is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87133410990?pwd=eDBJSmtLaTlXWTN4TUMzanBWQjM2Zz09>

Sunday April 30th

Aireys Inlet only :

Combined service @ 10:00am

Sunday May 7th

Aireys Inlet 9:30am Rev Bob Thomas ..HC

Bellbrae 11:00 am Rev Bob Thomas ..HC

Torquay 9:30am Video of Rev Bob

NOTE: All our video sermons are available on the Surfcoast website: www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au

Surfcoast Uniting Events:

Thursdays at 5pm at Torquay: Choir practice .All welcome to come and join in the singing.

Thursday Coffee Morning at Bomboras 10:30am.

Coffee and Kids at Torquay resumes Friday 28th April 9:30-11:00 am Oak Tree Place

Service in Elouera Nursing Home May 4th at 2:25pm

Aireys Lunch at Pub. Friday May 5th @ 12 noon. All very welcome. POP it in the diary now.

SURFSIDE SINGERS
present
AUTUMN MELODIES
Songs to warm the heart



Last Sunday Torquay commissioned the newly elected and re-elected Church Councillors during our worship service.

A big welcome to Marie Harding who has joined the group for the first time.

A thank you to those who have stepped forward once more to help support and lead the congregation of Torquay.



Out & About: Local Dates for your Diary.

April 30th– Orchestra Geelong, @ 3pm The Gibson Centre. Christian Collage Senior School. Pigdon Rd. Waurin Ponds . Adult \$30 Conc: \$20.

Saturday 20th May –a special fundraiser concert featuring the **Surfside Singers** who meet every Tuesday at OTP. More details — see Notice

The Surfcoast Arts Trail is coming again in 2023. Oak Tree Place is registered as a location, so set aside **Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th August** to be involved and bring the family and friends. Check [w.ww.surfcoastartstrail.com.au](http://www.surfcoastartstrail.com.au) for all details.

Bellbrae UC are also hosts again. Along with the 7 or more artists that display their crafts they will be serving Devonshire teas and soups and have a treasures table for the things hidden in cupboards that are too expensive to just put out in the OP shop.

Put the date on your calendar now!!!!

UNITING are in need of Full cream long life milk, Spreads, jams, Cereals, Canned soups and canned veggies. Please give as you are able.

World Vision Australia — 40 hour famine is back!!!

The 40HR Famine will take place on the weekend of the 25th - 27th August and it will involve undertaking a challenge chosen by each participant. We would love to have Surf Coast Uniting Church join us in this year's campaign. We believe that together we can make a real difference in the lives of children and families in need.

Attached is a link to our 40HR Famine website where you can find more information and sign up if you wish to.

<https://40hourfamine.com.au/dashboard>

April 30th is also a **National Day of Prayer for Peace in Myanmar**. Let us remember this and the many other conflict areas around our world.

NB: Newsletter deadline 4pm Thursday. Email: newslettersurfcoastuc@gmail.com. ALL news welcome

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

**OUR CHURCHES
ON THE SURF-
COAST**

Airey's Inlet St Aidan's Church, 29 Great Ocean Rd, Airey's
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 Fridays and Saturdays 10am to 4pm.