

Surfcoast Uniting Churches Newsletter

For assistance, please contact :
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(Bellbrae) Maxine Flakemore
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Sunday 26th November 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 : Ez 34:11-16, 20-24 Ps 100 Eph 1:15-23 Mt 25:31-46

We Belong to the Day 2023.

The call to worship from the Vic/Tas—Synod meeting 2023.

We are called from across the vivid sea, **as people of the day.**

We are called from small, well-loved places ,**as people of the day.**

We are called from sprawling cities, **as people of the day.**

We are drawn across this sun touched land, **the Spirit of the laughing God leading us.**

Here to pick up ploughshares, **the spirit of the loving God alongside us.**

Here to do the holy work of the body , **with the Spirit of the calling God singing to us joyfully.**

We've been called from the pockets of our lives, **into a space made sacred.**

Here we are at the birth of a new day to engage in thrilling hope.

Here in the presence of so many beloved to meet in peaceful warmth.

Here with hearts open to hear what the spirit is doing....

Let us worship God.



Tricia and Jane, along with Jamie (a Brunswick rep), were amongst many attending the Synod meeting this year held in Boxhill Town Hall.

Here's a few highlights as seen by Jane..

- Powerful singing as 100 people joined together, led by a small band and group of singers.
- New things introduced.... A service of Saturday, Electives, A welcome dinner(see photo sitting on grass) and a very impressive App used to share messages, proposals, reports... everything.
- Noticing the changes over the years, with Synod being even more diverse. First and second peoples, sharing stories, struggles and disappointments post referendum. Larger representation of Tongan, Indonesian and LGBTIQA communities. Such diversity.
- Leadership challenges for the whole church with discussions about the future structure of the UCA. People and properties, an ongoing concern.
- Inspiring Bible studies and guest speakers, including the Moderator Rev David Fotherington and Moderator-elect Rev Salesi Faupula. (See photo to Right.)
- A Tribute service with members recognising those who have celebrated milestones since ordination and those who have died since the last Synod meeting . **This included our own Rev Bernie Long**
- Some proposals included adopting a health based approach to drug use, and supporting the concept of secure work . Another proposal considered aims to address the issue of climate change , with all councils, churches, members urged to aim for zero emissions by 2040.



Sunday 26th Nov— Christ the King

Torquay 9.30am Rev Bob

Bellbrae 11am - Rev Bob

Aireys Inlet 9.30am—Rev Bob/ W. Team

Check out our web page for all the sermons and diary updates.

www.surfcoastunitingchurch.org.au

Sunday 3rd December -Advent 1

Torquay 9.30am- Rev Bob / video

Bellbrae 11am - Rev Bob HC

Aireys Inlet 9.30am- Rev Bob HC

What's Happening where we live?

Our Community Dates and Events:

November Dates:

- **Torquay Church Council Meeting Tuesday Nov 28th at 2:30pm OTP.**

December Dates:

- **Saturday 2nd December:** Amahl & The Night Visitors—a Christmas opera to enjoy as a fundraiser for World Vision Ukraine Appeal. St Lukes Uniting, Highton. See box for further details re tickets.
- **Presbytery Meeting Saturday Dec 2nd...** in person or can be on Zoom too.
- **Thursday 7th December:** Fundraiser at Bunnings Community Event 6pm at Torquay Bunnings. See notice below.
- **Sunday 10th December:** Aireys Inlet Carols Concert 7pm
- **Op shop** closes from Saturday 16th December, reopening on Fri 5th Jan.
- **AND** order your **UNITING Christmas Cards ASAP**

Trading Table at Bunnings Torquay.

Thursday 7th December

We will sell home made goods - baked, sewn, knitted. Christmas goods welcome. Please deliver to Oak Tree Place that afternoon from 2pm or to the Bunnings site from 6.30pm.



Uniting Christmas Hampers/ Torquay Food Aid

On 25 November, the Christmas tree in Oak Tree Place will be raised and with this the opportunity for all folk to bring items for the Uniting Christmas hampers.

Small items of toiletries, Packed biscuits, **Christmas treats and gifts.**

No wrapping please. Please help if you are able.

A message from Pat Lloyd, Jean Murray's sister

"A few weeks ago we had Jean's ashes placed in the niche which she had pre-arranged, namely Wall 11, Western Cemetery, Minerva Road, Geelong West. Several of our cousins were there, Because Jean had ordered a double niche, there was spare room. So some objects were placed there including a photo of Jean with her two dogs; two post cards of our favourite place on the planet - Hallstatt, Austria; a Celtic cross given to her by her friend, Ian; two stones that she had brought home from favourite places, one each from Scotland and one from Alice Springs; the bible she was given when she started big Sunday School; a drawing done for her by Doug's 4-year-old grand-daughter, Olive, an orchid flower from Doug's plant and some maiden hair fern from our father's plant. It felt good to have that done. "

Cheers. Pat Lloyd.

In our Uniting neighbourhood:

Regular Weekly activities include:

Coffee on Thursdays at 10.30am

BOMBORAS on the Torquay Esplanade.

Beaut Beanies—10:30am Tuesdays in Torquay church

Coffee & Kids—9.30am every Friday during Term.

Bellbrae Opshop & Bookroom open every Friday & Saturday from 10 to 4pm.

Regular Monthly activities include:

Pub Lunch at Aireys—Noon, first Friday of the month

Aged Care Service 2pm at Elouera, - First Thursday

ALL activities are for Everyone. Turn up and Enjoy!



Bellbrae OP shop Volunteers

Christmas Breakup

Tuesday Dec 5th 10:30– 12:00

Let's get together and celebrate a wonderful year in our Beloved Op Shop with a lovely morning tea.



RSVP by text to 0420355082 by Dec 3rd please

SurfCoast Churches Christmas Lunch.

Thursday Dec 21st @ 12:00 noon in

Oak Tree Place.

Come and join together and celebrate the coming of Christmas with a **free** delicious lunch of Roast chicken followed by Christmas pudding.

And a few of your favourite carols to sing along too

Everyone is invited.. Bring a friend

We are inviting all the tenants Of Oak Tree Place too.

RSVP Tricia 0419340056 or Jane 0400190580 by 17th December.

Oak Tree Place now has a Defibrillator. Thanks partly to a contribution from the Torquay Lions Club. It can be found in Hall space near storage cupboard. Instructions on use inside.



Airey's Inlet St Aidan's Church, 29 Great Ocean Rd, Airey's *Sunday Service at 9.30am*
Bellbrae: Uniting Church. School & Anglesea Roads, Bellbrae *Sunday Service at 11.00am*
Torquay: Torquay Uniting Church, 27 Anderson Street, Torquay *Sunday Service at 9.30am*

BELLBRAE BRIC-A-BRAC OP SHOP & BOOK ROOM : Uniting Church Hall, School Road. Bellbrae
Open Fridays and Saturdays 10am to 4pm.

Your Offering for our churches, programs and outreach is very welcome. Direct Deposit or Cash
BSB:083 929 ACC: 20987 6337
Quote TQ, AI or BB