

Surfcoast Uniting Churches Newsletter

For assistance, please contact :
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Sunday 3rd December 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 : ADVENT 1: Isaiah 64: 1-9, Psalm 80:1-7,17-19, 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9, Mark 13:24-37

CHRISTMAS BOWL APPEAL

We begin the season of Advent and look forward once again to the coming of the Christ Child. It is also time to think about the annual **Christmas Bowl** appeal.

Most of you will know that the Christmas Bowl is the Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. More than 2000 churches from 19 denominations are involved around Australia in providing special financial support for those in need.

Hope is the theme of the First Sunday in Advent. There are many refugees now who have fled from their countries to escape danger and to find some hope for a better life. In Afghanistan after the Taliban takeover, many people escaped to Pakistan with next to nothing. Act for Peace's local partner, Community World Service Asia, responded immediately with lifesaving humanitarian aid and continues to provide ongoing support. Act for Peace has helped this work by providing winterisation kits, healthcare support and cash payments for food. Your gifts through the Christmas Bowl will help contribute to this work



Envelopes are now available and you are invited to make your gift at any time or to put it aside to make a special offering on Christmas Day.

May we continue to generously support this appeal as we have done in the past.

Sunday 2nd Dec.
ADVENT 1

"And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us."

Romans 5:5

HOPE



Our Christmas Services on the Surfcoast

Thursday 7th

ELOUERA Carols Service at 2.15pm

Sunday 10th 7pm at Aireys Inlet Hall.
Community Christmas Carols for everyone

Thursday 21st at Oak Tree Place

Christmas Lunch @ Noon

Sunday 24th

10.30pm at Bellbrae Christmas Eve

Monday 25th

9.30am at Airey's Inlet and Torquay
Christmas Day Service.

Sunday 3rd December :Advent 1
 Torquay 9.30am- Rev Bob / video
 Bellbrae 11am - Rev Bob Communion
 Aireys Inlet 9.30am- Rev Bob Communion

Thursday 7th December
 2.15pm at Elouera
 Carols Service—extra singers and helpers welcome!

Sunday 10th December : Advent 2
 Torquay 9.30am Rev Bob. Communion
 Bellbrae 11am and Aireys Inlet 9.30am
 With Worship Teams & Rev. Bob video

What's Happening where we live?

Our Community Dates and Events:

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.
- Presbytery Meeting **Saturday Dec 2nd...** in person or can be on Zoom too. See Jane or Doreen for details
- **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.
- **Thursday 21st December:** Christmas Lunch for Everyone at Oak Tree Place. Bring a neighbour, friend or family. Roast veggies, Plum Pudding, Punch & Carols. Good food, new friends Time to stop and enjoy. Free.

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 friendly morning tea.
 RSVP by text to 0420355082 by Dec 3rd please



Christmas 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 6.00pm. Our last fundraiser for the year!

Uniting Christmas Hampers/ Torquay Food Aid

Our Christmas tree in Oak Tree Place is up and twinkling. This is the opportunity for you to bring items to fill the Uniting Christmas Hampers. Small items of toiletries, Packed biscuits, **Christmas treats and gifts**. No wrapping please. Please help if you are able.

Come & Share an Advent Study.

Surfcoast Anglican church has invited us to join them in an Advent Discussion group/Bible Study. The study will be led by the Anglican priest, Sharon Valentino, and will consist of 4 studies on consecutive Thursdays at St Aidan's Church, 29 Great Ocean Rd., Aireys Inlet. The studies began on Thursday November 30th at 10:30 AM. We are looking at the book by Stephen Cottrell entitled, "*Walking Backward to Christmas*". It offers a fresh perspective on the Christmas story. It does not matter if you cannot attend all four studies, just come as you are able.

All are welcome to join in.

We look forward to welcoming you, 10:30 AM, on Thursday mornings at Aireys Inlet. Dec 7, 14 & 21.



Surf Coast 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, veggies, gravy, Christmas pudding (or fruit salad) and all trimmings.

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 to this email or to Robyn Harper.



Our Ministry Team is the whole Church...

(as written in the Grovedale Uniting Newsletter, thank you)

Money Matters:



1. Are you taking part in the Uniting Coffee Cup Challenge and would prefer to donate online? Deposit directly into the Surfcoast Account and make the notation CoffeeCup. Thank you. (BSB:083 929 ACC:20987 6337)

2. We all plan our finances differently, remember that you may change your direct deposit giving at any time—weekly, monthly, annually—whatever suits you!

(Direct Deposit BSB:083 929 ACC:93009 8403 Please Quote TQ, AI or BB)

Deadline for items for our newsletter to be sent to newslettersurfcoastuc@gmail.com by 4pm on Thursday of each week

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: 93009 8403
 Quote TQ, AI or BB