

Surfcoast Uniting Churches Newsletter

For assistance, please contact :
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Sunday 10th 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

Our Christmas Bowl news. Donations gratefully received weekly, on line or on Christmas Day.

We continue in this season of Advent to look forward once again to the coming of the Prince of Peace. Peace is the theme of the Second Sunday in Advent. Peace in our world seems to be illusive. Projects supported by the Christmas Bowl can help to bring some peace to people suffering in times of violence and discord. Many people have become refugees.

As an example, a gift to the Christmas Bowl will assist partner churches in places like Ethiopia to provide medical care and support particularly for refugee women and girls who have survived extreme gender-based violence in their home countries.

Envelopes are available and you are invited to make your gift directly to Act for Peace, or to place your gift in the special Christmas Bowl at the church at any time, or as a special offering on Christmas Day.

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

Second Sunday of Advent



Bringing Peace to refugees in Ethiopia

Sara* fled to Ethiopia from Yemen eight years ago with her four children. In Addis Ababa refugees are at risk of severe exploitation, with little access to education, medical care, or basics like food. Through Act for Peace's partner, the Ethiopian Orthodox Church Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission, you can help provide refugees with medical and psychological care, as well as livelihoods training, giving people like Sara the chance to build secure futures for their families. **Please give today.**

*Name changed for safety reasons

CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au

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



Sunday 10th Dec.

ADVENT 2

¹The Good News of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, ² begins with the words of the early preachers: "Listen! I will send My helper to carry the news ahead of you. He will make the way ready. ³ His voice calls out in the desert, 'Make the way ready for the Lord. Make the road straight for Him!'

Mark 1. New Life Version

PEACE



Our Christmas Services on the Surfcoast

Sunday 10th

Usual Services in the morning

And 7pm at Aireys Inlet Hall.

Community Christmas Carols for everyone

Thursday 21st at Oak Tree Place

Christmas Lunch @ Noon

Sunday 24th

Usual Services in the morning

And 10.30pm at Bellbrae Christmas Eve

Monday 25th

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

Sunday 10th December : Advent 2
Torquay 9.30am Rev Bob. Communion
Bellbrae 11am Taizé Service
Aireys Inlet 9.30am Rev Bob Thomas video

Extra Christmas Services
10th: Aireys Inlet 7pm Carol Service
24th: Bellbrae 10.30pm
25th: Aireys & Torquay at 9.30am

Sunday 17th December: Advent 3
Torquay 9.30am Brian Shaw
Bellbrae 11am Rev Bob Thomas
Aireys Inlet 9.30am Rev Bob Thomas

What's Happening where we live?

Our Community Dates and Events: December Dates:

- **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.

BREAKING NEWS: Over \$500 was raised at the Bunnings Community Day Trading Table tonight—BIG thanks to the sewers and bakers for all the wonderful items donated for sale.

In our Uniting neighbourhood: Regular Weekly activities include:

Coffee on Thursdays at 10.30am

BOMBORAS on the Torquay Esplanade.

Beaut Beans—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!



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.



Is the rush of Christmas sometimes stressful? Remember the words from our sermon last week to bring calm and perspective.

"Waking up this morning, I smile. Twenty-four brand new hours are before me. I vow to live fully in each moment and to look at all beings with eyes of compassion"

from Thich Nhat Hanh (Zen master, poet and peace activist)

Notes from our Congregations:

1. Aireys Inlet members encourage you to attend the stimulating series of Advent studies on Thursday mornings. Details in side box...
2. Bellbrae members invite you to a *Taizé Advent Service* THIS week at 11am.
3. Torquay members are encouraged to bring a Christmas bauble or ornament for our stick tree. Pop it on a branch before or during the services leading to Christmas.



Christmas Trading Table at Bunnings Torquay.

Thursday 7th December 6 to 8pm

We will sell home made goods - baked, sewn, knitted. Christmas goods welcome. Join us at Bunnings for a sausage sizzle and lovely community events

Uniting Christmas Shelves/ Torquay Food Aid

Our Christmas tree in Oak Tree Place was full of donations this week **THANK YOU!** Those items have been delivered to Uniting for Hampers. The last delivery will be Monday 18th. Small toiletries, Packed biscuits, chocolates and cans and packets of festive food are all welcome. Many thanks.

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.

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! Details below...

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