

# Surfcoast Uniting Churches Newsletter

For assistance, please contact :  
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Sunday 24th 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](http://www.wadawurrung.org.au).


Lectionary readings : ADVENT 4: 2 Samuel 7: 1-11,16, Psalm 89: 1-4,19-26, Romans 16:25-27 Luke1: 26-38

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

**Love** is the theme of the Fourth Sunday in Advent. All projects supported by the Christmas Bowl can help find loving support for people, particularly those undergoing great hardships. Our focus this Sunday continues to be on the lives of refugees. Your Christmas Bowl gift will assist in bringing care and support to Sri Lankan families who fled from the civil war years ago and are still sheltering in India. Any help they receive shows them that they are not forgotten. Your gift can help those who have been living in camps for many years to find the strength to carry on. Your gift may be placed in the Christmas Bowl today, or you can make it your special offering on Christmas Day. You can also mail your gift directly to Act For Peace.



**Fourth Sunday of Advent**




**Showing Love to the most vulnerable**

Sisters Srinidhi\* and Mahira\* are Sri Lankan refugees who have been living in refugee camps in India for decades and aren't able to access medical care outside the camps. OfERR, a refugee-run organisation supported by Act for Peace, has been providing crucial support in the camps for over 40 years. Through the Christmas Bowl you can help send health workers into the camps and provide medical care to those who need it. **Please give today.**

\*Names changed for safety reasons

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



*Thank you for all your generous support for this appeal.*

*Every dollar raised makes a difference.*

*Blessings.*

## Sunday 24th Dec. ADVENT 4

<sup>35</sup> The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the **Son of God.**"

Luke 1:35



# LOVE

## *Our Christmas Services on the Surfcoast*

**Sunday 24th December**

**Usual Services in the morning**

**And 10.30pm at Bellbrae Christmas Eve with lots of Carols & Candles**

**Monday 25th December**

**Christmas Day Service.**

**9.30am at Aireys Inlet and Torquay**

**Sunday 31st December**

**9.30 am Torquay & Aireys Inlet**

**11am Bellbrae**



**Sunday 24th December : Advent 4**

Torquay 9.30am Rev Bob Thomas  
 Bellbrae 11am Worship Team  
 Aireys Inlet 9.30am Worship Team

**Extra Christmas Services**

**24th:** Bellbrae Carols at 10.30pm  
**25th:** Aireys Inlet & Torquay at 9.30am

**Sunday 25th December**

Torquay 9.30am : Worship C'tee  
 Aireys Inlet 9.30am Rev Bob Thomas

**January with the Surfcoast Uniting Churches**

*(cut this out and pop it on the fridge!)*

**Sunday 31st December:**

AIREYS INLET at 9.30am  
 TORQUAY 9.30am: Robert Packett  
 BELLBRAE at 11am Worship Team

**Monday 1st January:** New Year's Day Public Holiday

**Thursday 4th January:** 2pm at Elouera

**Friday 5th January:** Bellbrae Opshop Reopens

**Sunday 7th January**

AIREYS INLET at 9.30am Holy Communion  
 TORQUAY at 9.30am: Rev Bob Thomas  
 BELLBRAE at 11am Worship Team

**Sunday 14th January**

AIREYS INLET at 9.30am Worship Team  
 TORQUAY 9.30am: Holy Communion  
 BELLBRAE at 11am: Holy Communion

**Sunday 21st January**

AIREYS INLET: Rev Bob Thomas at 9.30am

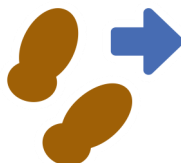
**Our Camino Walk at 12 noon More details soon**

TORQUAY 9.30am: Worship Team Rev Bob Thomas AV  
 BELLBRAE at 11am Worship Team

**Friday 26th January :** Australia Day Public Holiday

**Sunday 28th January**

AIREYS INLET at 9.30am Worship Team  
 TORQUAY 9.30am: Rev Bob Thomas  
 BELLBRAE at 11am Rev Bob Thomas

**Regular Weekly activities include:**

Thursdays at 10.30am Coffee at BOMBORAS on the Torquay Esplanade.  
 Beaut Beanies—10:30am Tuesdays in Torquay church foyer  
 Coffee & Kids—9.30am every Friday during Term. @ Oak Tree Place  
 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 of these activities will be taking a break for a few weeks during late December & January.

**Uniting Christmas Shelves/ Torquay Food Aid**

Our Christmas tree in Oak Tree Place was full of donations this week **THANK YOU! Everything has been delivered to Uniting or Torquay Food Aid**

**Notes from our Congregations:**

Bellbrae members invite you to share a Christmas Eve service at 10.30pm. Come and share in the anticipation.

Torquay members remember to bring a special bauble for our stick tree. Pop it on a branch before the service.



Also - Congratulations to Phyliss and Ray Mills who celebrate 65 years together this month  
 And our thoughts are with Michele Hardy who is recuperating from surgery this week.

**Many thanks**

to all who came, ate, chatted, shared, sang, washed up and cooked for our happy Christmas Lunch at Oak Tree Place today. We served over 50 friends to a delicious roast & veggies.  
 We're a special lot with gifts to share & plenty of love to go around and out.

**January/February Community Dates:**

- Night Jar Festival 4/5th Jan & 11th/12th January. At Torquay & Geelong.
- **Cottage By The Sea Annual Fete:** Sat 13th January Always a winner!
- Cowrie Market at Torquay Esplanade: Sunday 21st January
- **Camino Walk** at Aireys : Sunday 21st January NOON
- Study with Matt Harry: at Aireys from Feb 8th at 10.30am
- **Pancake Day** at Aireys Community Hall: Feb 13th.



*Please note*—the Surfcoast Newsletter Team will take a break over January. This week's edition has a full list of all the January Services to pop on your fridge! We'll be back on Sunday 28th. Stay well, stay cool, stay connected

**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