

Surfcoast Uniting Churches Newsletter

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Newsletter email: newslettersurfcoastuc@gmail.com.. All items in by Thursdays at 4pm



Sunday December 21st 2025

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

Lectionary this week **Advent 4:** Is 7:10-16 Ps 80:1-7, 17-19 Rom 1:1-7 Mt 1:18-25

The Pastoral message from Rev Charissa Suli, President, Uniting Church in Australia, written on Dec 14th.

"This morning, we wake with heavy hearts following the tragic events at Bondi. As the Uniting Church in Australia, we hold in prayer all who have been affected — those who have lost loved ones, those who are injured and recovering, the first responders and health workers, and the wider community carrying shock and grief. We stand in solidarity with the Jewish community and with all who were gathered in peace. Violence has no place in our shared life, and fear must not have the final word.

In the light of Christ, we commit ourselves again to compassion, care for one another, and the work of peace. May God's love hold all who are hurting today.

Prayer

God of mercy and peace, we come to you with hearts that are tired and grieving. We entrust to you the lives lost, the wounded, and all who are holding sorrow this day. Surround the Jewish community and all who have been affected with comfort, safety, and hope. Strengthen those who serve and protect, and grant wisdom and gentleness to all who lead and respond.

In a world shaken by violence, teach us again the way of Christ — the way of love, courage, and peace.

Hold us, heal us, and lead us forward. Amen.

Message from Rev Tina in response to the tragedy.

It has been a week of horror, suffering and grief. Please hold the victims and their families of the tragic event that took place on Sunday at Bondi, NSW, in your prayers. We stand in solidarity with those who gathered together in peace on Sunday and the Jewish community. This Sunday our Surf Coast Linked Congregations will offer prayers for the victims of the Sunday Massacre and for the Jewish community. Violence and hate do not have a place within the Australian community. May hate and violence never win or divide us.

The theme for this fourth Sunday of advent is love. God is love. May we always choose to love one another and act with love.



WEEK 5: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



EMPOWERING GIRLS THROUGH EDUCATION IN PAKISTAN

In rural Pakistan, many girls still face barriers to education. With support from Act for Peace's partner, Community World Service Asia (CWSA), families are learning about the importance of schooling and gaining access to healthcare and training.

Sunia proudly shares how her daughter's courage inspired others. "When my daughter began attending school, other girls started too," she says. Your gift helps more girls receive the education they deserve.

Aliza Khan/Act for Peace

Surfcoast Uniting Churches



Due to recent events at Bondi, Torquay Uniting Church will be open on Friday 19th December 12:00 noon - 2:00pm

All welcome for quiet contemplation.

WORSHIP for Advent & Christmas

Sunday 21st December: Aireys Inlet 9.30 am Rev Tina; Bellbrae 11 am Rev Tina ; Torquay 9.30 am Carol Service

Christmas Eve Torquay 7pm Family Carols (NEW this year) Rev Tina

Christmas Eve Bellbrae Carols 10.30pm Rev Tina

Christmas Day Aireys Inlet 9.30 am Rev Tina

Christmas Day Torquay 9.30 am Rev Stephen Rowe



A JOYOUS CELEBRATION AT AIREYS INLET UC PUB CAROL NIGHT. GREAT SINGING, A FULL HOUSE, LOTS OF LAUGHS AND EVEN SANTA!



Please take note:

- ◆ OP shop and Book room close after Sat 20th Dec and reopen Friday Jan 4th.
- ◆ Bomboras coffee on Thursdays is having a break too until Jan 8th, when we will meet in OTP over January offering coffee, cake and chat to anyone who passes by and all the usual gang.
- ◆ I will send a newsletter out on Dec 24th for Christmas Day, including information on following weeks until late January, as the editors have a break.
Happy Christmas everyone.

Earlier on Sunday 14th, Aireys displayed their Rainbow flag for the first time.. Here are Jamie, Keith and Ross putting it together before it went street side.



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

www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au

Facebook: Surf Coast Uniting Church

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

Your Offering for all our churches, programs and outreach is welcome. Direct Deposit or Cash

BSB:083 929 ACC: 93009 8403 Quote TQ, AI or BB