

# Keeping in touch . . . Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Welcome to our Worship Service. If you're visiting, please join us in the hall afterwards for tea/coffee and a chat!

**The Congregational AGM** will be held **today** after the Service.

**Lessons & Carols Ecumenical Service** will be held at St. Anne's Church (101 Riddell Road) at 7pm on **Sunday 17th December**. We need three readers from our church. Please let Nancy Prewer or Robyn Flett know if you would like to be involved.

**Blue Christmas Service - a Service of healing and hope** ... for those missing loved ones who are no longer with them and for those whose life circumstances mean Christmas is not an easy time. It will be held at 7pm in our church on **Wednesday 20th December**.

**KYB (Know Your Bible)** – meets at Pat Hay's home **every Thursday** at 10am for a cuppa, chat and Bible Study, until approximately 12pm. **Check with Pat or Tim the date of the last one for the year.**

**Drop-in Centre** – open **every Friday** from 10am to 2.30pm. Drop in for a free cuppa and chat, and browse our many books – for sale from 50c to \$2. **Enquiries to Jan Semmens on 0400 404 901. Last meeting for the year is the 22<sup>nd</sup> December, reopening on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024.**

## Christmas Services Summary

The venue for all of the following is St. Andrew's (except \*)

- |                                      |                                   |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ➤ Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2pm    | Lessons and Carols                |
| ➤ Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec 7pm    | Lessons and Carols at *St. Anne's |
| ➤ Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec 7pm | Blue Christmas                    |
| ➤ Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec 8pm    | Christmas Eve Carols (outdoors)   |
| ➤ Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> Dec 9am    | Christmas Day celebration         |



**Members' Directory** I have been asked to produce a new edition, in order to include the contact information of Fa'amata'u. **Please check your entry and if any changes, email me with details by Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December.** Also, if you know of any friends who have changed any information and have maybe not seen this message, please pass it on.

**Restoration Fund coin containers** Please leave your containers in the foyer and take a new one! If you haven't brought yours yet – please do so between now and Christmas Day. Thank you!

## December Birthdays



- 14 Margaret Mitchell    17 Betty Dodd  
18 Joyce Wheeler, Graeme Fenton  
22 Neal Dunkley

~ A glimpse of the past ~



Sunbury Station (4 of 4)  
taken from top of grain silo, 1976

### Minister

Rev. Fa'amata'u Leota 0401 592 359  
[dogcollar61@gmail.com](mailto:dogcollar61@gmail.com)

The Minister's days off are:

- every Mon and Sat
- every 3<sup>rd</sup> Fri and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun

### Church Council Chairperson

Dianne Moon 0404 266 296  
[dismale@bigpond.com](mailto:dismale@bigpond.com)

### Church Council Secretary

Tim Hay 0416 793 728  
[timhay@gmail.com](mailto:timhay@gmail.com)

### Editor 'Keeping in Touch'

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Deadline 12pm Thursday

### Website and Facebook

<http://sunburyunitingchurch.org.au>  
[www.facebook.com/SunburyUnitingChurch](http://www.facebook.com/SunburyUnitingChurch)

### Postal address

PO Box 784, Sunbury 3429



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## Christmas Bowl - Share God's love this Christmas

When Victorian Methodist Minister, Rev. Frank Byatt, sat down to his Christmas dinner in 1949, he knew millions of people were starving in war-ravaged Europe. And he was compelled to offer help.




He put a Bowl of Remembrance on his Christmas dinner table and asked his loved ones to place a gift in it to 'share your good dinner with hungry children in other lands.'

Frank couldn't have foreseen how his simple act of compassion that evening would grow into the powerful Christmas Bowl tradition that we now know is celebrated in thousands of churches across Australia. And he couldn't have known how much it would be needed in our world today.

As you celebrate Christmas with loved ones this year, remember our sisters and brothers who have been forced from their homes by conflict or disaster.

**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](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

At the time of printing, envelopes had not been received, but there is one inside the new December edition of *Crosslight*. You can either place cash in this envelope and put in the offering bag **OR** fill in the credit card details and mail it. If you'd like a receipt in either case, please fill in your name and address.



Christmas Bowl



National Council of Churches in Australia

## Rosters for Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December:

Door: C. Simpson, R. Simpson

Morning tea: C. Morgan, C. Marlow

## Readings for Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December - Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61 :1-4, 8-11

Psalm 126 or Luke 1 :46b-55

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1: 6-8, 19-28



## Recycling Corner

Use the recycling trolley in the foyer for donations of the following:

- milk bottle tops
- bread bag tags
- tea bag tags
- old biros
- medication blisters (empty)
- old glasses (spectacles)
- CDs and DVDs
- coffee and Slurpee etc. drink cups, plastic straws and lids



Also:

- Used postage stamps – Joycelyn and Reg organise these (Helen will deliver to Sammy Stamp).
- Helen is still collecting mobile phones and chargers (the Zoo's 'Gorilla Doctors' collection), toner/ink cartridges, batteries, small electrical devices.



**Buy recycled:**

The other side of recycling is to try to purchase products made from recycled materials to create a market for the material we recycle. If there is no market, it has to go to landfill.

**Check out these websites:**

<https://littleecoshop.com.au>

[www.onyalife.com/products](http://www.onyalife.com/products)

[www.cleanup.org.au/buy-recycled](http://www.cleanup.org.au/buy-recycled)

