



# Keeping in touch . . . Sunday 17<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!


**2pm Service - 9 Lessons & Carols** is today. All welcome!

**Lessons & Carols Ecumenical Service** will be held at St. Anne's Church (101 Riddell Road) **tonight Sunday 17th December** at 7pm.

**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**.

## 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         |   |

**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.**

**Legacy Torch Relay - update** I am very pleased to announce that I raised a total of \$5,160. Being involved in this event was a wonderful and life-changing experience and I thank everyone who donated and supported me! I was so honoured to have the chance to walk for Legacy and give back for all they did for my family. I'm sure my Mother and Father would be very proud of me. Thanks everyone! ....Errel Gray.

**Remembrance poinsettias** We still have a few left @ \$15 each. So far we've made around \$500 profit but don't want to be left with any so if you'd like one, please pay in cash to Nancy or Jackie **OR** by direct deposit to: **St Andrews UC Fundraising Group, BSB 633 000, Account number 115212300** All proceeds go to the Restoration Fund, thanks to Bunnings' sponsorship.

## December Birthdays



- 14 Margaret Mitchell    17 Betty Dodd  
18 Joyce Wheeler, Graeme Fenton  
22 Neal Dunkley (he will be 95)



### 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)

### Bank details

BSB 063-548 (CBA)  
Account No. 10248671  
St. Andrew's Uniting Church

### Postal address

PO Box 784, Sunbury 3429



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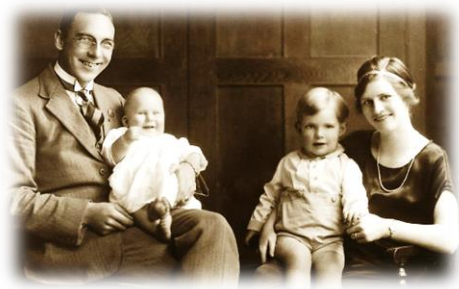
**New fundraiser!** On 1<sup>st</sup> November, Victoria's 'container deposit scheme' commenced. The scheme rewards Victorians with a 10c refund for every eligible can, carton and bottle returned and will go towards transforming Victoria's waste and recycling system. A container will be available in the foyer next to the recycling trolley for your donations. Please take care to bring eligible items only (flyers with details are available from the recycling trolley.) Please collect during your Christmas celebrations! Our thanks to Jeanette McBean for suggesting this and agreeing to recycle the donations!

**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!

**Members' Directory - new edition (No. 5)** Please check your entry and if any changes, email me with details by Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December. If you know of any friends who have changed any information and have maybe not seen this message, please pass it on.

### **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.

**Third Sunday of Advent** **Finding Joy in resilience**



Twelve long years have passed since Rima\* and her family fled their beloved home in Syria as the devastating civil war unfolded. Forced to leave everything behind, they sought refuge in Jordan, carrying with them only the essentials. With your kind gift to the Christmas Bowl, you can support Act for Peace's local partner, the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees, continue to provide vital food packages, hygiene kits, and the long-term support that refugees need to rebuild their lives. **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

Envelopes are available on the bench in either foyer. You can place cash in this envelope and put in the offering bag **OR** fill in credit card details and mail it. If you'd like a receipt in either case, please fill in your name and address.

### **Rosters for Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December:**

**Door:** P. Baulch, N. Prewer **Morning tea:** C. Ely, C. Morgan-Prosser

### **Readings for Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December - Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**2 Samuel 7:** 1–11, 16  
**Romans 16:** 25-27

**Luke 1:** 46b-55 or **Psalm 89:** 1-4, 19-26 :46b–55  
**John 1:** 26-38

## Recycling Corner

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

- milk bottle tops
- bread bag tags
- tea bag tags
- old biro's
- 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)

