



Keeping in touch ... Sunday 22nd December 2024

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

A Congregational Meeting will be held after the Service **today** to vote for the following: Congregational Chairperson, Congregational Secretary and Presbytery Representative.

The newly-elected Church Council members are:

Jackie Cowan, Tim Hay, Geoff Hitch, Peter Mitchell, Dianne Moon, Nancy Prewer, Chris Prosser, Robin Simpson, Calum Woods, Geoff Woods.

The retiring Church Council members are:

Pat Baulch, Rob Coulson, Robyn Flett, Helen Hall, Margaret Mitchell.

Editor's note: A personal thank-you to the above people for their dedicated service on Church Council – for volunteering their time and efforts over many years to support the congregation and church activities.

2025 dates of commencement

Prayer Group	Fri 10 th Jan 25
Drop-in Centre	Fri 17 th Jan 25
2pm Service	Sun 26 th Jan 25
Men's Group	Sat 1 st Feb 25
KYB	Thurs 6 th Feb 25
UCAF	Thurs 6 th Feb 25

2025

The Combined Churches of Sunbury would like to thank all volunteers for their help with Christmas at Rupertswood. If anyone has any comments or suggestions for next year, please pass it on to any of the committee members. *Praise God from whom all blessings flow.*

Rosters:

Christmas Day Door: L. McLaren, P. Baulch (No morning tea)
29th December Door: C. Simpson, R. Simpson **Morning Tea:** J. Hay, T. Hay

Readings:

Christmas Day
Isaiah 62: 6-12 **Psalms 97** **Titus 3:** 4-7 **Luke 2:** (1-7), 8-20
29th December
Samuel 2: 18-20, 26 **Psalms 148** **Colossians 3:** 12-17 **Luke 2:** 41-52

Dec / Jan Birthdays



25 Dec Chris Morgan

An early happy birthday to the following in January:

3 Sonia Iseli **6** Robin Simpson
18 Jacque Hay **30** Shirley Wellington

Minister

Rev. Fa'amata'u Leota 0401 592 359
minister@sunburyunitingchurch.org.au

The Minister's days off are:

- every Mon and Sat
- every 3rd Fri and 3rd Sun
- 5th Sun when it occurs

Church Council Chairperson

Dianne Moon 0404 266 296
dismale@bigpond.com

Church Council Secretary

Minutes: Jackie Cowan 0478 777 044
Corres: Pat Baulch 0413 567 967
secretary@sunburyunitingchurch.org.au

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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 **75 years ago** in 1949, he knew millions of people were starving in war-ravaged Europe. 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.

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.

Jesu in Sri Lanka Following large-scale violence in Sri Lanka in 1983 and a subsequent civil war, over 100,000 Tamils were forced to seek safety in India. The war ended 15 years ago, but many refugees remain spread across more than 100 camps. For refugees, safety concerns, no documentation, earning a livelihood, securing a place to live and accessing education continue to pose significant barriers to their return. After living in a refugee camp in India for 13 years, Jesu and his family returned to their homeland, only to find their home had been completely destroyed during the war. Undeterred, Jesu built a small, thatched hut on his land to shelter his family.



Through persistent advocacy by Jesu and Act for Peace's local partner for over 35 years, he was able to secure a permanent house under the government's housing scheme. Today, he has successfully built this house and has found work as a fisherman in his village.

News ... Notes ... Advance Diary Dates ... Community Events

Birthday notes

Special wishes to Betty Dodd who turned 99 on Tuesday 17th December. Betty is a resident at Calvary Goonawarra Aged Care.

See recent addition of Chris Morgan to the birthdays at the top of page 1. Chris will be 80 on Christmas Day.

Salvation Army Farewell Service Capt. Kimberly Featherston and Lt. Shaun Featherston of the Salvation Army have been posted to Mildura in 2025. Their last service in Sunbury will be at 10am on **Sunday 5th January**.

Quiet Day Our first one next year will be held on **Saturday 8th February** from 10am to 3pm at 'The White Goose' (old Uniting Church – 3 Sutherlands Road, Riddells Creek). *Enquiries to Barb Ashley on 0410 439 724.*

This is the final issue of 'Keeping in Touch' for this year. The first one in 2025 will be on Sunday 2nd February. *Wishing everyone a blessed Christmas and a safe and restful New Year – Helen Hall.*



Recycling Corner

Use the recycling trolley or boxes in photocopy room for:

- old biros and textas
- medication blisters
- milk bottle lids
- x-ray transparencies
- bread bag tags – plastic only (no tea bag tags or ring pulls please)
- old glasses (spectacles)
- CDs and DVDs (and plastic cases)
- all coffee/Slurpee cups, plastic straws and lids – *or take to 7-Eleven in Gap Road*
- used postage stamps – Joycelyn and Reg collect for Sammy Stamp
- toner/ink cartridges, batteries, small electrical devices
- mobile phones and chargers, to support Melbourne Zoo's 'Gorilla Doctors' program in East Africa



Use the big plastic container for:

- 10c containers such as:



– see flyers on the recycling trolley.

The other side of the story is to BUY recycled:

The other side of recycling is to try to buy products made from recycled materials, in order to create a relevant market. Without a market, the recycled material has to go to landfill.

Check out these websites:

<https://littleecoshop.com.au>

www.onyalife.com/products

www.cleanup.org.au/buy-recycled

