

Keeping in touch . . . Sunday 24th December 2023

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

Christmas Services

- Sunday 24th Dec 8pm Christmas Eve Carols (outdoors)
- Monday 25th Dec 9am Christmas Day celebration



Remembrance poinsettias Please remember to take yours home today or tomorrow. We made \$543.25 for the Restoration Fund! **A very BIG thank you** to Errel Gray for arranging this fundraiser with Bunnings!

Election results for Congregation and Church Council positions

Congregational positions:

- Chair – Peter Canning
- Secretary – Amanda Woods
- Presbytery Representative – Peter Canning

Church Council positions:

- Chairperson – Dianne Moon
- Assistant Chairperson – Nancy Prewer
- Treasurer – Tim Hay
- Secretary Minutes – Jackie Cowan
- Secretary Correspondence – Pat Baulch

Church Council would like to sincerely thank Peter Mitchell for the many years he has served as our Church Council Treasurer. He has now decided not to continue in that role.

New fundraiser On 1st 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 Thank you to everyone who brought back their containers which raised \$292.35. It certainly all adds up! If you did need a new one, there are spares in the kitchen foyer.



. . . continued overleaf

January Birthdays



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

Congratulations!

to Nancy and David Prewer, celebrating their 40th Wedding Anniversary on 7th January 2024



Minister

Rev. Fa'amata'u Leota 0401 592 359
dogcollar61@gmail.com

The Minister's days off are:

- every Mon and Sat
- every 3rd Fri and 3rd Sun
- 5th Sundays when they occur

Church Council Chairperson

Dianne Moon 0404 266 296
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Members' Directory - new edition (No. 5)

Please check your entry and if any changes, email or call me with details by the end of December (Helen Hall). If you know of anyone who has changed any contact information but has maybe not seen this message, please pass it on. If your entry was not in the last edition (which means you don't have a copy) and you'd like it to be, please email me your contact information. You can have entered as much or as little information as you like and being part of the Directory is entirely voluntary. *Note: for privacy purposes, only those with entries in the Directory will receive a copy, and no copies are left in public view.*

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.

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

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international humanitarian agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 519 970 188

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 31st December:

Door: C. Ely, C. Prosser

Morning tea: D. Moon, G. Woods

Readings for Sunday 31st December

Isaiah 61: 10 – 62: 3

Psalm 148

Galatians 4: 4-7

Luke 2: 22-40

Keeping in Touch With all activities and groups pausing for the January break, this is the final issue of this publication until Sunday 4th February. Wishing everyone a happy and holy Christmas and a restful and healthy New Year! Helen Hall



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

www.cleanup.org.au/buy-recycled

