

Keeping in touch . . . Sunday 3rd December 2023

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

Welcome! to our new minister Rev. Fa'amata'u Letoa. His Induction Service is today **Sunday 3rd December** at 2pm, followed by afternoon tea.

Remembrance poinsettias are now displayed in the church and looking good. Please collect a card from Nancy or Jackie to write your message. Collection day is Christmas Day or your last Sunday at church before then. There are just a few left to purchase at \$15 each and you can pay in cash to Nancy Prewer or Jackie Cowan, 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.

UCAF (Uniting Church Adult Fellowship) Our final meeting for this year is at 1.30pm on **Thursday 7th December** at the church. Because this is our last meeting, could those who are able please bring a small plate of afternoon tea to share. All welcome! *Enquiries to Robyn on 0423 277 450.*

Pernaperna Group The final meeting for the year is from 1-3pm on **Thursday 7th December** at the Sunbury Neighbourhood House (531 Elizabeth Drive). *Enquiries to Joan Koren on 0418 302 676.*

Carols at Rupertswood Carols this year will be again held at the same Rupertswood location on **Saturday 9th December**, commencing at 5pm. We would welcome anyone who can spare some time on the day – in the afternoon (from 2pm) or evening (or both!) to help set up tents, arrange chairs, help the choirs on and off the stage etc.

For a full description of where/when help is needed please take a flyer from the holder on the bench near the tea/coffee window. If you can spare even a couple of hours, you will help will be very much appreciated and will contribute to making the day a success!

Carols at Rupertswood Prayer Requests

- Pray that people will come with open hearts and receive and understand the Christmas message, and that through the nativity stable, the *Jesus' Birthday* children's activities and gift bags, the children will understand the true Christmas story.
- Pray that all goes well in the food stalls.
- Pray for protection from accidents and mishaps.
- Pray for good weather on the day, as that has a major influence on the attendance and atmosphere of the event.

. . . see overleaf

December Birthdays



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

~ A glimpse of the past ~



**Sunbury Station (3 of 4) train crash
17 Apr 1919 (driver error, no fatalities)**

Minister

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Restoration Fund coin containers Please bring your containers to church on **Sunday 10th December**.

The Congregational Annual General Meeting will be held after the Service on **Sunday 10th December**.

The positions due for re-election are:

- Congregational Chair
- Congregational Secretary
- Congregational Presbytery Representative

There are no Church Council members due for re-election. Nominations must be submitted in writing to Amanda Woods. Permission of the nominee must be obtained before the name is submitted. Also to be discussed at this meeting is the number of people who should be on Church Council. The suggestion is that we should reduce the number of representatives, and after discussion a motion will be drafted to reflect the wishes of the congregation.

The Combined Churches of Sunbury Traditional Carol Service

This year this 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.

KYB (Know Your Bible) – meets at Pat Hay's home **every Thursday** at 10am for a cuppa, chat and Bible Study, until approximately 12pm. *If you'd like to join, or just visit now and then, please speak to Pat.*

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.*

CareWorks The current needs are: chocolates, mince pies, puddings, Christmas cakes. *Any Christmas fare* will be greatly appreciated! Distribution of the Christmas hampers will begin on **Tuesday 5th December**.

Please note: *CareWorks will be closed from Tuesday 19th December 2023 until Tuesday 16th January 2024.*

News and Notes

Bereavement It is with great sadness that we advise of the passing of our dear friend Bruce Palamountain on the 24th November. The Funeral Service will be held at 11am on **Wednesday 6th December** at our church, conducted by Rev. Fa'amata'u. Please keep in your prayers – Tricia, Ruth, Helen, Kay, Yvonne, Michael and Chris and their families (13 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren) and the wider family. The Tobins webcast will be available from 11am at the following link (available for viewing for 12 months). <https://tobinbrothers.com.au/tribute/details/30437/BrucePalamountain/obituary.html#tribute-start>

We will be assisting with the catering on the day. Please contact Margaret Mitchell if you are able to provide some food so she can finalise the catering.

Get well – Doris Bremner is doing well after a stay in Echuca Hospital, having broken her femur in a fall. Doris is amused that she spent some of the time in the maternity section! She is now recuperating at her daughter's home.

Rosters for Sunday 10th December:

Door: J. Unwin, G. Warne

Morning tea: R. Flett, J. Hay

Readings for Sunday 10th December – Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40: 1-11

Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13

2 Peter 3: 8-15a

Mark 1: 1-8

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

www.cleanup.org.au/buy-recycled

