

Keeping in touch ... Sunday 8th December 2024

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

Blue Christmas Service will be held at 7.30pm on **Tuesday 10th December** at our church. This is a time for remembering loved ones who are no longer with us and honouring the changing circumstances of our lives. All welcome.

Christmas at Rupertswood ... organised by the Combined Churches of Sunbury, will be held on **Saturday 14th December**, from 5 to 8.30pm. The day will feature free activities and a nativity stable, concluding with Christmas Carols. On the day there will be limited parking at the venue, but shuttle buses will operate from the Hume Council carpark, and from Bay 7 at the bus station.
Prayer request #9 Pray for protection from accidents and mishaps, and for good weather on the day.

Christmas Services Summary

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

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ★ Tues 10 th Dec 7.30pm | Blue Christmas |
| ★ Sat 14 th Dec 5-8.30pm | *Carols at Rupertswood |
| ★ Sun 15 th Dec 2pm | Lessons and Carols |
| ★ Sat 21 st Dec 7pm | *Lessons and Carols at St. Mary's |
| ★ Wed 25 th Dec 9am | Christmas Day celebration |



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.

... continued overleaf

December Birthdays



- 7 Fa'amata'u Leota
14 Margaret Mitchell 17 Betty Dodd
18 Joyce Wheeler, Graeme Fenton



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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<http://sunburyunitingchurch.org.au>
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





Jane's life was torn apart in 2019, when Cyclone Idai destroyed her village in Zimbabwe and took the lives of 3 of her children. Severely injured with nowhere to go, she lived in an emergency tent for the next 2 years before the government finally relocated her and her baby, and hundreds of other survivors, to a new location far away from her home. When they arrived, there were very few resources available to them, and no access to water or healthcare.

The Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC), a local organisation supported by Act for Peace, has been working with the community to improve their wellbeing, safety and dignity, installing piped water close to Jane's home, and creating a community-led safety network. The Christmas Bowl is empowering families like Jane's to find safety, dignity and independence after being displaced by conflicts and disasters.

Last 2024 and first 2025 dates of regular groups

UCAF	Thurs 5 th Dec 24	Thurs 6 th Feb 25
KYB	Thurs 12 th Dec 24	Thurs 6 th Feb 25
Prayer Group	Fri 13 th Dec 24	Fri 10 th Jan 25
Drop-in Centre	Fri 13 th Dec 24	Fri 17 th Jan 25
Men's Group	Sat 7 th Dec 24	Sat 1 st Feb 25
2pm Service	Sun 15 th Dec 24	Sun 26 th Jan 25

Poinsettia fundraiser If you'd like to purchase one @ \$15 for display at the front of the church during the Christmas season, and then to be taken home before Christmas Day, please contact Nancy on 0421 885 179 or Jackie on 0478 777 044.



A **BIG** thank-you to Bunnings who donated 20 poinsettias for this fundraiser!!

Coin containers Thank you to all those who brought in their coin containers last Sunday. **\$304.35** has been banked in the Restoration Fund. If you did need a replacement or haven't used one before, there are spares in the kitchen foyer – they don't need to be named.

Rosters Sunday 15th December

Door: B. Ashley, R. Coulson

Morning Tea: L. McLaren, M. Mitchell

Readings Sunday 15th December Advent 3 - Joy

Zephaniah 3: 14-20

Isaiah 12: 2-6

Philippians 4: 4-7

Luke 3: 7-18



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

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.

CareWorks SunRanges Inc. Position Vacant – Service Delivery Manager

The Board is seeking a person with great people skills who can co-ordinate a team of volunteers, and work in close collaboration with the Operations Manager. This is a paid, permanent part-time position (15 hrs/week). Applications close 30th December for interviews in late January 2025. To obtain the job description, please email the Operations Manager at opsmanager@careworks.com.au or call Kate on 0412 923 924. Please submit applications, with a cover letter and CV, to that email address or deliver in person to CareWorks (531 Elizabeth Drive). Applications will require two referees – the Minister of your church and one professional/personal referee.

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

