

hand to purchase food for the breakfast so we are asking attendees to pay \$5 each, which will ALL go to the Christmas Bowl Appeal.

Guest Speakers will be Lorraine & David Hughes, who have been overseas twice this year. (lucky them!) They will tell us a little of one (or maybe both) of their trips.

All members of the Linked congregations and their friends are warmly invited to attend. Acceptances please to Barry Ruler by Thursday evening 12 December on 5259 3304.

ALL OUR CONGREGATIONS

Linked Worship Workshop for anyone involved or interested in planning or leading worship services will be held on **Thursday 6 December** at 7.30 pm at Drysdale.

NB. There are some 'regulars' at the Worship Workshop who need to be elsewhere on Dec. 5. This means we need **YOU** to be there to make this a worthwhile evening of sharing. Come and try it, even if you haven't been before.

Advent 1

At dawn, the stillness
Waits for the first rustle,
The awakening of birds,
The footstep in the kitchen,
The tick of a clock.
It is the season of Advent,
Holding its breath
For something unknown:
The omens of winter,
The impending doom,
The summons to go.
But there is also
A breath of hope

In our rising:
Something to be seen,
Something to hold on to
In the dark days.
The sparrow by the window
Pecks at the fallen millet
And misses the rose-hued flames.

Rosters for 8 December

PORTARLINGTON

9:00am

Managers: Keith & Heather Pigdon

Communion Prep: Jan Dryden

Communion Serving: Ken Farnell,
Elaine Farnell, Alex Eagleson

Morning tea: Marilyn & Bruce Bertram

Pastoral Care & Prayers: Elaine Farnell

Readings: Jan Hall

Power Point: Catherine Eagleson

DRYSDALE

9:00am W@9

Kitchen: Wayne's Team

Counting: Lynda Smith

10.45am

Duty Elder & Prayers: Ken Handley

Readings: Hazel Wyllie

Door: Lindsay James

Morning tea: Margaret Jeffery & Val Place

Flowers: Brenda Jacobs

ST. LEONARDS

9.00am HC Combined with Anglican

Flowers and Brass: Beryl Woodcock



St Leonards



Portarlington



Drysdale

Advent 1

Sunday 1 December 2013

The first Sunday of Advent always leads us to reflect on Christ's Second Coming, which is both problematic and exciting. The problem lies in how we deal with the issue of the Second Coming – especially with the ongoing tendency to try and predict times and dates, and with the possibility that it creates a "pie-in-the-sky" theology for our people. The readings offer us another possibility, though – and this is where the excitement lies. In every reading, the promise of Christ's coming is related back to how we live now – which is as it should be. Isaiah and Paul both invite us into a life lived in God's light – a life of peace, justice and morality. The Psalmist encourages us to pray for peace, and to continue to gather for worship where God's presence and 'judgment' are encountered. Finally, Jesus, encourages us to live in 'readiness' – always aware that Christ's coming is imminent, and avoiding the temptation (unlike those in Noah's day) of growing absorbed in self-interest and personal pleasure (what Paul refers to as 'wild parties').

Sacredise

LECTIONARY

December 1 Advent 1	Isaiah 2: 1-5 Romans 13: 11-14	Psalm 122 Matthew 24: 36-44
December 8 Advent 2	Isaiah 11: 1-10 Romans 15: 4-13	Psalm 72: 1-7, 18-19 Matthew 3: 1-12

LINKED MINISTER:

Rev. Marion Latham
Phone 5253 2199
Email: marlat41@optusnet.com.au
Mobile: 0414383101

CHURCH OFFICE:

Drysdale Church Centre
Phone: 5253 1336
Email: drysdaleuc@yahoo.com.au
Web: <http://drysdale.unitingchurch.org.au>

UNITINGCARE OPSHOP:

Village Walk Drysdale
Phone: 5251 3640

THIS WEEK IN OUR CONGREGATIONS

Sunday 1 December

Portarlington

9.00 am Mrs Pat Williams
Today after Worship Advent Munch – reflective activity and lunch.

Drysdale

9.00 am W@9 Rev Marion Latham,
HC, Denise's team assisting
10.45 am Rev Marion Latham, HC
Loose Change & Food Bank both services

Retiring offering for The Philippines

St. Leonards

7.00 pm Rev Marion Latham

Monday 2 December

9.30 am KYB

Tuesday 3 December

7.30 pm Advent Study: *Emmanuel: God is with us.* @ Drysdale

Wednesday 4 December

9.30 am mainly music
10:00 am Drysdale Coffee and Chat

Thursday 5 December

9.00 am D'dale & Port. Choir practice
7.30 pm Linked Worship Workshop @ Drysdale

Friday 6 December

9.15 am -10:00am Friday School

Saturday 7 December

8.00am – noon Drysdale Working Bee

Sunday 8 December

Portarlington

9.00 am Rev Marion Latham HC
Loose change & Food Bank

Drysdale

9.00 am W@9 Denise's team
10.45 am Mrs Pat Williams
5.00 pm Messy Church @ Drysdale
St. Leonards
9.00 am Combined HC Anglican

OUR CONGREGATIONS NEWS

DRYSDALE

Advent Study

Everyone is encouraged to attend all or some of the Advent Studies on Tuesday evenings, 7.30 pm at the Drysdale church. The study will use a book called "*Emmanuel - God is with us,*" which will be available on the night.

You can attend all or some of the sessions.

Working Bee

On Saturday, 7 December, between 8.00am and 12 noon there will be a working bee around the church property. Please write this date in your diary and come along and lend a hand.

Church Council News

1. Culture of Safety - Policies provided by Synod for the protection of children and vulnerable adults have been adopted. Articles will be included in future news sheets.
2. Resignation of Treasurer, Harvey Davis, was accepted with regret. If you may be interested in taking on this role please speak to Wayne.
3. Evacuation plan - Has been prepared and will be posted on exit doors

shortly. An evacuation drill will occur sometime in the new year.

4. Donations - Drysdale Community church Food Bank \$200, Share NSW Fire Appeal \$120 and Share Philippines Typhoon Appeal top up amount to be decided after offerings on 1 Dec.
5. Cleaning and maintenance of the church roof is to be investigated and quoted. Preliminary advice is that this could cost \$30,000.
6. Annual meeting - will be held on Sunday 2 February after a combined service at 10.15 am and followed by a luncheon.
7. Current bank balance \$23536.42.

Pilgrimage

Start the year with a special focus on God by joining in the Pilgrimage on Saturday 4 January. The November event was cancelled because of the weather. This is open to all; you can walk, drive or do a combination.

Empty Christmas tree

Again this year we will have an empty Christmas tree in Church. The gifts we place under the tree will be sent to Uniting Care Geelong for distribution to those in need. The gifts should be left unwrapped and can be for any age.

Messy Church

Come along on Sunday, 8 December at 5.00pm to take part in Messy Church with a Christmas theme. Tell others, apart from it being an informal worship it involves craft and a meal.

Loose Change 2014

Thank you for your generous response to our loose change offerings in 2013.

We have started thinking about who we should support in 2014. If you have any suggestions please talk to Wayne Myers or Denise McLaverty.

Springdale Singers

Most of our Church Choir are also members of Springdale Singers, and once again we invite our friends in the congregation to come and join in our final days singing before Christmas on next Tuesday, 1 December at 1.30 pm at Springdale Hall.

A program of bright and happy music and afternoon tea (don't bring anything!)

PORTARLINGTON

U.C.A.F.

The final meeting of the U.C.A.F. for 2013 will be on Monday 9 December at 1.30pm in the meeting room. Please join us as we prepare to celebrate the coming of the Christ Child. Any enquiries, please contact Elizabeth 52592442.

Advent Munch, Sunday 1 December

Welcome Advent following Church today- if you haven't brought food come anyway- there will be plenty to share!

Portarlington Fellowship Breakfast

Our final meeting for the year will be held on Saturday 14 December commencing at 7-30am. We have sufficient funds in