

ALL OUR CONGREGATIONS

Many thank to our friends at St Andrew's and the Drysdale congregation for the prayers, cards, emails, phone calls, offers of support and the invaluable *Meals on Wheels* that were so helpful when I first returned from hospital after my surgery. We are blessed to be part of such a warm loving church community. Thank you all.

Joy Porter.

questions

Matthew 3: 1-12

all I have, as we walk on
are questions...
loud and long.

what is this wilderness
why are we there

will we have what we need
how will we fare

how will we know the vipers
are they strange

if God made us so good
why must I change

how can I know already
how fruitful I could be

who wields the axe of judgement
that lies beneath the tree

is there a middle path
that's safe and clear

and who is coming next
and should we fear

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Prepare the Way!

The clenched fist
Cannot receive:
Must be pried open,
The fingers aching
With throbbing tension.

Another reflection on the lectionary:

Isaiah promises that a righteous branch shall grow out of the shoot of Jesse—a branch bringing justice and peace to all of creation. In Advent, Christians prepare to receive this branch in the birth of Jesus. Matthew warns that the peace promised by Isaiah will be accompanied by the destruction of the wicked. Indeed, the axe is already lying at the root of the tree. In the name of the one who baptizes us with fire and the Holy Spirit, it is time to lead lives worthy of repentance. Such living promises us hope for the future.

Abingdon Worship Annual

Rosters for 15 December

PORTARLINGTON

Managers: Keith & Heather Pigdon
Morning tea: Meryllyn & Bruce Bertram
Pastoral Care & Prayers: Malcolm Campbell
Readings: Margaret Campbell
Power Point: Margaret Campbell

DRYSDALE

9:00 am W@9
Kitchen: Jenni's Team
Counting: Ian McLaverty
10.45 am
Duty Elder & Prayers: Bob Stevenson
Readings: Irene Stevenson
Door: Ken Handley
Morning tea: Joy Krahe & Merylyn Lloyd
Flowers: Jonnie Mander

ST. LEONARDS HC

Welcoming: Shirley Hadden
Reading: Marj Wilson
Prayers: Margo Jones
Flowers and Brass: Margo Jones & Marj Wilson



St Leonards



Portarlington



Drysdale

Advent 2

Sunday 8 December 2013

Today's texts challenge both our inner and outer lives. As is so often the case, Isaiah's prophecy pairs hopeful vision with incredible challenge, upending our ideas about what constitutes strong leadership.

The toddler plays over the snake hole, and models the biblical paradigm of power, where vulnerability trumps violence. Human communities generally tend towards leaders with strength and wisdom. But today's prophetic text points to the particular power and wisdom found only in a vulnerable child, and the unexpected movement of God's Spirit through a newly visioned leader, guiding us to a time when predator and prey gently coexist, when power is finally equalized. Advent invites us to revisit the ways power is defined.

Seasons of the Spirit

LECTIONARY

December 8 Advent 2	Isaiah 11: 1-10 Romans 15: 4-13	Psalms 72: 1-7, 18-19 Matthew 3: 1-12
December 15 Advent 3	Isaiah 35: 1-10 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11: 2-11	Psalms 146: 5-10 or Luke 1: 46-55

LINKED MINISTER:

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THIS WEEK IN OUR CONGREGATIONS

Sunday 8 December

Portarlinton

9.00 am Rev Marion Latham HC
Loose change & Food Bank

Drysdale

9.00 am W@9 Denise's team
10.45 am Rev Ann Key
5.00 pm Messy Church @ Drysdale

St. Leonards

9.00 am Combined HC Anglican

Monday 9 December

9.30 am KYB
1.30 pm Portarlinton UCAF

Tuesday 10 December

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

Wednesday 11 December

9.30 am Final mainly music for 2013
10:00 am Drysdale Coffee and Chat

Thursday 12 December

9.00 am D'dale & Port. Choir practice

Friday 13 December

9.15 am -10:00am Friday School

Saturday 14 December

7.30 am Port. Fellowship Breakfast

Sunday 15 December

Portarlinton

9.00 am Rev Marion Latham

Drysdale

9.00 am W@9 Graeme's team
10.45 am Rev Marion Latham

St. Leonards

7.00 am Rev Marion Latham HC
Loose change and Food Bank

OUR CONGREGATIONS NEWS

DRYSDALE

This morning at Drysdale 10.45 we welcome Presbytery Minister, Pastoral Care, Rev. Ann Key, who has graciously taken time from her busy schedule to lead our worship this morning.

A very warm welcome, Ann.

Loose Change Offering

Our final loose change offering for Uniting World's Solomon Island's Womens Project resulted in \$133.30.

This will be added to so that our total offering will be \$500.00. Thank you for supporting our loose change projects this year.

Loose Change 2014

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

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.

Messy Church

This evening: Messy Church 5 pm @ Drysdale. Christmas theme. Bring a friend, neighbour or family member. No age limits!

mainly music Christmas Celebration

The final mainly music sessions for 2013 will be held this week. This will include our Christmas Celebration, where we present a special Christmas music program, give each child a gift and provide a special morning tea.

Families are encouraged to bring along other family members, grandparents etc and we also invite our church family to come along and celebrate with us!

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.

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 last week's offerings.

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.

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.

Portarlinton Fellowship Breakfast

Our final meeting for the year will be held on Saturday 14 December commencing at 7.30am. We have sufficient funds in 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.