

signatories to the Refugee Convention and do not offer a safe and secure place to start a new life.

The Uniting Church encourages the Government to end the trade in human life through people smuggling. However, we do not support punishing refugees and asylum seekers under the guise of "smashing the people-smugglers' business model".

Incidents of tragic loss of lives at sea have highlighted the lengths that desperate people will go to in order to find safety and freedom. The Uniting Church advocates for policies that are informed by the Refugee Convention and Protocol, and that are developed in partnership with our regional neighbours to ensure the safety of vulnerable asylum seeker men, women and children.

Justice for Asylum Seekers –
A call to prayer. Uniting Justice

Another thought on the lectionary:

In all her well-known social and economic vulnerability in the ancient Middle East, few biblical characters embody the poor and oppressed more fully than the widow. In today's stories, it is clear that the widows of the world are precisely whom God cares about. Elijah is sent by the Lord to a widow (1 Kings 17); Jesus is moved by a widow's plight (Luke 7). Both of these prophets of God become agents of miracles, showing holy love for those who have no refuge in society (Psalm 146).

Abingdon Worship Annual

Rosters for 16 June

PORTARLINGTON

Managers: Keith & Heather Pigdon
Morning tea: Cath & Alex Eagleson
Pastoral Care & Prayers: Malcolm Campbell
Reader: Elizabeth Kefaloukas
Communion Preparation: Jan Dryden
Communion Serving: Margaret Campbell, Keith & Elaine Farnell
Power Point Preparation: Catherine Eagleson

DRYSDALE W@9

Kitchen: Wayne's Team
Counting: Ian McLaverty

DRYSDALE 10.45am

Duty Elder/Prayers: Gerald Edgar
Readings: Marguerite Edgar
Door: Hazel & Angus Wyllie
Morning Tea: Margaret & Tony Freemantle
Flowers: Mary Grieve

ST. LEONARDS

Welcome: Shirley Hadden
Reading: Marion McGillivray
Prayer: Marj Wilson
Brass & Flowers: Shirley Hadden

THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA



St Leonards



Portarlington



Drysdale

Pentecost 3

Sunday 9 June 2013

God's healing love is boundless. Sometimes we might forget that – that everyone is included. Similarly, sometimes we might feel as though we are beyond God's love, or that we are unable to share it. The readings for this week remind us that all are capable of both showing and receiving God's love, even when faced with difficult odds. The readings this week remind us that God's compassion and grace is limitless, and knows no boundaries. Each and every one can both receive and share this wondrous power; each and every one is a worthy candidate of God's grace and favour, and a minister of the same.

Seasons of the Spirit

LECTIONARY

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| June 9 Pentecost 3 (10) | 1 Kings 17:8-16 (17-24) Galatians 1:11-24 | Psalm 146 Luke 7:11-17 |
| June 16 Pentecost 4 (11) | 1 Kings 21:1-10, (11-14) 15-21a Galatians 2:15-21 | Psalm 5:1-8 Luke 7:36 – 8:3 |

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Village Walk Drysdale
 Phone: 5251 3640

THIS WEEK IN OUR CONGREGATIONS

SUNDAY 9 June

Portarlinton

9.00am Celtic Service
Rev. Al MacRae

Drysdale

9.00am Worship @ 9 Cafe Church
Wayne's Team assisting
10.45am Mr Martin Kent

St Leonards

9.00am Combined HC Anglican

MONDAY 10 June (Queen's Birthday Holiday)

WEDNESDAY 12 June

9:30am -12:30pm Drysdale mainly music
10:00am Drysdale Coffee and Chat

THURSDAY 13 June

9.00am Drysdale & Portarlinton
Choir Practice
2.45pm – 3.45pm Coryule Choir

FRIDAY 14 June

9.15-10.00am Drysdale Friday School

SATURDAY 15 June

7.30am Portarlinton Fellowship
Breakfast

SUNDAY 16 June

Portarlinton

9.00am Rev. Marion Latham HC
Loose change and food bank

Drysdale

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

St Leonards

5.00pm Rev. Marion Latham HC
Loose change and food bank

OUR CONGREGATIONS NEWS

DRYSDALE

Loose Change

Thank you for all contributions that totalled **\$115.30** for this month's loose change.

This will be forwarded to Uniting World for a water project in Papua New Guinea.

Fundraising Dinner and Concert

Members of all congregations are invited to attend Drysdale's Annual Fundraising Dinner and Concert to be held on Saturday, 22 June, 6.00m for 6.15pm in the church hall.

A delicious 3 course meal will be followed by entertainment from the *Coryule* Chorus, and not to be missed.

We have lost our stalwart, Claude Stanley, who has organised the concert for many years, so let's make this a night to remember and a tribute to Claude.

Tickets are now available from Val Lestrangle or Harvey Davis at only \$15 each. Please get your tickets early so we know our numbers.

Messy Church

Sunday, 23 June is our next Messy Church service commencing at 5.00pm. This is a time of worship undertaken with creative activities, a short celebratory service and then sharing over a meal together.

The theme this time is "Seasons". Come along, bring friends, bring a plate of food if you can. Finishes at 6.30pm.

PORTARLINGTON

Portarlinton Fellowship Breakfast Saturday 15 June

The next breakfast meeting at Portarlinton will be on Saturday 15 June at 7.30am. This is one week later than usual, due to the Celtic Festival at Portarlinton over the long weekend.

Guest Speaker will be Mr. Geoff Pryor and his topic will be "Is Family History?" Knowing Geoff as we do, this is bound to be a very interesting address. All members of the Linked congregations and their friends are warmly invited to attend.

Acceptance please to Barry on 52593304 by Thursday evening 13 June.

Please disregard the incorrect entry in a previous edition of the Newsheet – I just got the date wrong! The meeting is on Saturday 15 June, at 7.30am. Barry

FOR ALL CONGREGATIONS

Some truth about Asylum Seekers and Refugees Boat People Should Join the Queue – or should they?

A glance at the statistics shows that there was only a small number of boats arriving at our shores during 2002, and the numbers stayed relatively low until 2006. While some politicians would have us believe that this was because of their policies, there are in fact other reasons for what happened at that time. Global asylum seeker numbers dropped markedly from 2001 to 2006 (asylum applications in *all* industrialised countries fell by 49% over this period) - as did asylum applications in Australia. But over the recent years, global asylum seeker numbers have increased again - and so we see this trend reflected in Australia once more.

The UNHCR has reported that despite global asylum seeker claims increasing, the number of applications to Australia are decreasing - and it is likely that this is a result of Australia's reputation as a nation that does not welcome asylum seekers and refugees. When we do see increases in numbers, we have to think about what are called 'push factors'. This means looking at what causes people to flee, for example, escalating violence in Afghanistan and Iraq, and the famine in East Africa. Some of the people fleeing these regions seek refuge in Australia simply because we are the first genuine safe 'stop' on their journey. Countries such as Malaysia and Indonesia are not