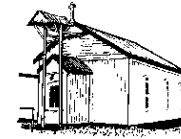


THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA



FOR ALL CONGREGATIONS

Handel's Messiah in Parks Hall. More of the same and plenty of varied music on May 4th. Cost \$12 with a cuppa and home made biscuits and slices afterwards. Details from Barry Ruler on 5259 3304.

Thanks from Joy Porter

Once again Ian and I are indebted to our church family at St. Andrew's Portarlington and Drysdale for the expressions of support following my second bout of surgery. The generous provision of *Meals on Wheels* from so many was very helpful when I first returned home from hospital. We have been strengthened and upheld by your love and support. Many thanks.

Essendon Choral Society PSA.

Would all members of the Linked Congregations please make a diary note that the renowned Essendon Choral Society will present an afternoon of choral music to suit all tastes at Portarlington on Sunday 4 May, commencing at 2.30pm. Many will remember the Choir's great performance in November '12 when they presented Handel's Messiah in Parks Hall. More of the same and plenty of varied music on 4 May. Cost \$12 with a cuppa and home made biscuits and slices afterwards. Details from Barry Ruler on 5259 3304.

Letter Writing Group

The Justice and Mission Committee LETTER WRITING GROUP will meet again at St Andrews next FRIDAY 28 March at 10.00 am. We would love to see you there. Last week a small group met by the Reconciliation Garden at St Andrews on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, to pray and stand in solidarity with our Indigenous sisters and brothers as part of the Assembly's Event – A Destiny Together, Justice for First Peoples.

Rosters for 30th March

Portarlington and St Leonards Combined Service

Managers: Brenda and Graham Vohmann

Morning Tea: Robert & Wendy Sharp

PowerPoint: Bruce Bertram

Drysdale Combined Service

Morning Tea: Jen Davis and Pat Handley

Counting: Linda Smith; Gerald Edgar, Tony Freemantle

Door: Vince King

Flowers: Denise McLaverty

Lent 3

Sunday, 23 March 2014

The waters of faith spring forth in all of today's readings, but most profoundly in Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman in John 4. Whereas the quarrelling and grumbling Israelites rejected God's gift even after Moses miraculously quenched their thirst with water from a rock, the Samaritan woman immediately accepted Jesus' offer of living water. Her faith led to some of Jesus' most profound words in all the Gospels, and dozens of sermons can be crafted from their dialogue. But for today, I am most inspired by the woman's faith and the living water that is ours when we walk in faith with Christ.

Abingdon Worship Annual

LECTIONARY

23 March Lent 3	Exodus 17:1-7 Romans 5:1-11	Psalms 95 John 4:5-42
30 March Lent 4	1 Samuel 16: 1-13 Ephesians 5:8-14	Psalms 23 John 9:1-41

LINKED MINISTER:

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UNITINGCARE OPSHOP:

Phone: Village Walk Drysdale
5251 3640

THIS WEEK IN OUR CONGREGATIONS:

Sunday, 23 March

Portarlington

9.00 am Portarlington Lay Team

Drysdale

9.00 am Worship @ 9 Rev Marion Latham

10.45 am Portarlington Lay Team

5.00 pm Drysdale Messy Church

St Leonards

7.00 pm Portarlington Lay Team

Monday, 24 March

1.30 pm St Leonards UCAF

7.30pm Drysdale Lenten Study

Tuesday 25 March

7.30pm Toolbox Parenting Program

Wednesday, 26 March

9.30 am – 12.45 pm mainly music

10.00 am Drysdale Coffee and Chat

12 noon Drysdale UCAF picnic at St Leonards

Thursday, 27 March

9.00 am Choir practices

Friday, 28 March

9.15 am – 10.00 am Friday School

Saturday, 29 March

9.30 am onwards Drysdale Retreat at Portarlington Guide Hall

Sunday, 30 March

Portarlington / St Leonards

9.00 am Combined Service at St. Andrews, Portarlington

Drysdale

10.15 am Combined Service, (Graeme's Team assisting)

OUR CONGREGATIONS NEWS

DRYSDALE

Messy Church

All are encouraged to come along tonight and bring your friends, to Messy Church. The theme is 'Joyful Noise'. Creative activities, celebration service followed by a shared tea.

Lenten Bible Study

The Lenten Studies will continue on Monday 24 March at 7.30 pm at the church. Then on 31st March and 7th and 14th April. The study is titled "The Way".

Picnic with UCAF

The ladies of the UCAF invite all members of the two congregations to join them for a picnic on Wednesday, 26 March at Harvey Park, St Leonards (by the Jetty) at 12 noon. Please bring lunch, drink and a chair. If transport is needed, contact Audrey Shepherd on 5251 2203.

Amendment to Preaching Plan for Drysdale

Please note, on Sunday, 20 April, Easter Day at Drysdale there will be two services. 9.00 am Worship @ 9 Graeme's Team. 10.45am Rev. Marion Latham.

Drysdale Retreat

From 9.30 am Saturday 29 March Drysdale Retreat @ Portarlington Guide Hall. Open to all from DUC or elsewhere. Come for as much as the day as you are able. Guest leader: Rev.

Peter Gaydor-Whyte. We hope to see you there!

Church Activities Information

Church Council has approved the development of the 'information on church activities' for the Drysdale congregation. This list gives a description of our many activities, and who the contact person is. We hope this is of benefit to all, but especially newer members who are still wondering who to contact for what!

PORTARLINGTON

Advance Notice For Your Diaries

St Andrew's Portarlington Justice & Mission Ministry Team is once again holding a Focus on Asylum Seeker Week in May. At the 9.00 am Sunday service on 4 May there will be prayers and reflections on this issue.

On Wednesday 7 May, A Community Fund Raising Dinner will be held at 6.30 pm Speaker: Sue Longmore AOM, a founding member of Queenscliff Rural Australians for Refugees, has been active in personally assisting asylum seekers and refugees for the past ten years.

Then to conclude the week on Saturday 10 May at 7.30am the Fellowship Breakfast, speaker will be Sr Brigid Arthur csb. Sr Brigid is a founding member of the Melbourne based Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project. More details in later Newsletters.

Please mark the dates in your diary, plan to attend and be better informed on these important issues.

Portarlington Fellowship Breakfast

The next breakfast meeting will be on Saturday 12 April, commencing at 7.30 am. Guest Speakers will be David & Lorraine Hughes who will tell us of their trip to Europe late last year.

All members of the Linked Congregations are warmly invited to attend. Acceptances please to Barry Ruler on 5259 3304 by Thursday evening 10 April.

ST LEONARDS

St Leonards UCAF

The next meeting will be on Monday, 24 March. Members are asked to meet at the Church at 1:30 pm. We will car pool and then proceed to Eastern Beach for afternoon tea. Further inquiries Margo on 5257 1221 or Marj on 5257 1096

Thought for the day
"To me a lush carpet of pine needles or spongy grass is more welcome than the most luxurious Persian rug."

Helen Keller