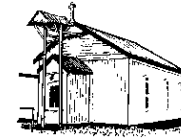


THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA



FOR ALL CONGREGATIONS

.A DESTINY TOGETHER

The Assembly of the Uniting Church is encouraging us all to participate in a week of nationwide prayer and fasting to demonstrate support for Australia's First Peoples. You will probably have seen the reference to this week in Crosslight. The focus is a public prayer vigil outside Parliament House in Canberra on Tuesday March 18. For those of us unable to make it to Canberra, we are being encouraged to commit to being daily involved in our homes, or by initiating informal small groups, to mark this important witness to justice and reconciliation. For information and resources use your search engine and go to A Destiny Together. Choose the 2nd Uniting Church Assembly entry. Scroll down to the red text "A DESTINY TOGETHER: JUSTICE FOR FIRST PEOPLES. Click there then scroll down and click on Resources. There you will find a week of readings, reflections and readings, and daily prayers as well as other information. If you are able to be involved in either of the above ways, please inform Rev Marion or Merilyn Bertram 5251 1102, so that we can pass that on to the Synod JiM Unit.

Rosters for 16th March

Portarlington

Managers: Keith Knights & Peter Gibbs

Morning Tea: Bruce & Merilyn Bertram

Pastoral Care: Rev. Ian Porter

Prayers: : Rev. Ian Porter

Readings: Neil Bell

PowerPoint: Catherine Eagleson

Drysdale

9.00 am

Kitchen: Wayne's team

Counting: Denise McLaverty

10.45 am

Duty Elder & Prayers: Vince King

Reading: Hazel Wyllie

Door: Ken Handley

Morning Tea: Lavina Howard & Merrilyn Lloyd

Flowers: Alma Milvain

St Leonards

Welcoming: Shirley Hadden

Reading: Margo Jones

Prayers: Marj Wilson

Brass : Margo Jones

Lent 1

Sunday, 9 March 2014

Lent is a time of journeying – with Jesus towards Jerusalem but also deep within ourselves – to test and strengthen our faith. The journey may bring experiences that stretch and challenge, or times that frustrate and make us stumble. There are always choices to be made. Wilderness times are times of challenge and possibility, where we may be stretched to our limits or need to make far-reaching decisions. Knowing who to trust and having clear guidelines help us make wise choices.

Seasons of the Spirit

LECTIONARY

9 March Lent 1	Genesis 2: 15-17; 3:1-7 Romans 5:12-19	Psalm. 32 Matthew 4:1-11
16 March Lent 2	Genesis 12: 1-4a Romans 4: 1-5,15-17	Psalm. 121 John 3:1-17

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THIS WEEK IN OUR CONGREGATIONS:

Sunday, 9 March

Portarlinton

9.00 am Rev Marion Latham
HC, Loose change and Foodbank

Drysdale

9.00 am Worship @ 9 Wayne's Team
10.45 am Rev Margaret Manning

St Leonards

9.00 am Rev Margaret Manning
Combined with the Anglicans

Monday, 10 March

7.30pm Drysdale Lenten Study

Tuesday 11 March

1.30pm Portarlinton UCAF
7.30pm Toolbox Parenting

Wednesday, 12 March

9.30 am – 12.45 pm mainly music
10.00 am Drysdale Coffee and Chat

Thursday, 13 March

9.00 am Drysdale & Portarlinton
Choir practices

Friday, 14 March

9.15 am – 10.00 am Friday School
1

Saturday, 15 March

8.00am –Prayer Breakfast at the Zoo
Cafe₁

Sunday, 16 March

Portarlinton

9.00 am Rev Marion Latham
Harvest Thanksgiving

Drysdale

9.00 am Worship @ Jenni's Team
10.45 am Rev Marion Latham

St Leonards

7.00 pm Rev Marion Latham
HC, Loose change and Foodbank

OUR CONGREGATIONS NEWS

DRYSDALE

Pancake Dinner

Thank you to all who attended the Pancake day fundraising dinner. We were overwhelmed with more than 60 people- some who had seen the notice in the hall or on the outside notice board. \$693.50 was raised for Uniting Care. Special thanks to Ian McLaverty for cooking the pancakes , organiser Jenni Nickelson, Val Lestrarange, Tracey Myers, Denise McLaverty and Colleen Diamond for kitchen and serving duties, and those who helped with the washing up.

Lenten Bible Study

The Lenten Studies will commence on Monday the 10th of March at 7.30 pm at the church. The study will continue on 17th, 24th, 31st March then 7th and 14th April. The study is titled "The Way"

Loose Change

Thank you to all for your contributions of \$146.00. Our loose change is going to Samaritan House who look after homeless men.

PORTARLINGTON

Harvest Thanksgiving

On Sunday 16th March at Portarlinton we will celebrate Harvest Thanksgiving. God had greatly blessed us so that we might be a blessing to others. Please bring gifts of non-perishable goods for display and as a sign our thankfulness

for God's grace towards us. After the service these goods will be taken to Concern for distribution to those in need.

Annual Elections and Annual Congregation Meeting will be held on Sunday 9 March, immediately following worship, then morning tea.

Election of Office Bearers for the congregation will take place at the meeting and nominations will be taken from the floor.

After 11 years as our Presbytery Representative, Lorraine Hughes is retiring from this important position. Lorraine has been a wonderful representative, always bringing back to Church Council very full and interesting reports.

Our thanks go to Lorraine for a job very well done. We are now calling for a new Presbytery Representative to be elected to that position. The job entails attending Presbytery Meetings during the year (these are generally held on a Saturday several times a year) and reporting back to Church Council. The Presbytery Rep becomes a member of Church Council.

Any member interested should speak to either Lorraine Hughes (Chair Congregation) David Hughes, (Chair Church Council) or Barry Ruler (Secretary.) Please give this position serious consideration.

There is no need for an election for Church Council this year (other than for the Presbytery Rep.) as no other church councillor's term expires.

Portarlinton U.C.A.F.

Please note this change of day. The March meeting is on Tuesday, 11 March at 1.30pm in the Church when the focus will be on things Irish. Please wear something green and bring interesting photos, stories, items, etc. about Ireland to share.

Letter Writing.

The St Andrew's Justice and Mission Committee were very pleased to have 11 people attend on Friday 28th February at the Letter Writing Opportunity.. As a consequence many letters regarding the current situation for refugees and asylum seekers were sent to Federal and local representatives on both sides of politics. The group has decided to continue on a monthly basis, on the 4th Friday of every month, 10am at St Andrew's. Friends from Drysdale and St Leonards would be most welcome to join in.

FOR ALL CONGREGATIONS

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 Portarlinton on Sunday 4th May, commencing at 2-30pm. Many will remember the Choir's great performance in Nov '12 when they presented 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.