

JustAct – another success from people action – and more action

Uzbekistan is a land-locked nation in central Asia, to the north of Afghanistan. Every year, millions of people in this country, including children, are forced by the government to pick cotton. Failing to take part in this can mean fines, imprisonment and even state-sponsored torture. Eventually this cotton will end up in fabrics and then in garment factories, and ultimately, it can end up in your favourite t-shirt.

Pressure from decent people has secured commitments from over 170 companies to ban use of cotton from Uzbekistan in their products. These companies include well-known brands such as Adidas, Levi Strauss, The Walt Disney Company, Target, Cotton On, Myer and Kmart. It has taken more pressure to wring a similar pledge from Super Retail Group (owner of brands such as Rebel and Ray's Outdoors). The strength of these commitments is uncertain. JustAct has an on-line petition calling on cotton-using companies to ensure that they do not use cotton from Uzbekistan. More people signing this petition will reinforce the need for garment companies to honour their promises if they want the business of decent people. The petition can be found on the website @

http://www.justact.org.au/stop_forced_labour_in_the_cotton_fields

And we can also give thanks to God that we live in Australia, where no government would dare to use our children as forced labour.



A new Vision for UnitingCare
Attached is a letter relating to the governance and high level executive structure arrangements for the new Unitingcare agency, developed by the UnitingCare Network Project Control Group.

More information will be publicly available on the Synod website shortly.

Rosters 15 May

Portarlington

Managers: Keith & Heather Pigdon
Morning Tea: John & Jan Hall
Pastoral Care & Prayers: Graham Vohmann
Reader: Brenda Vohmann
Power Point Preparation: Graham Vohmann

Drysdale

Duty Elder & Prayers: Jen Davis
Readings: Margaret Freemantle
Morning Tea: Val Place & Audrey Shepherd
Welcome: Wilma Mansell
Flowers: Colleen Diamond

Worship @ 9

Kitchen: Jenni's team
Counting: Val Lestrangle

St Leonards

Welcome: Margo Jones
Reading: Marion McGillivray
Prayer: Margo Jones
Flowers and Brass: Shirley Ratcliff, Marj Wilson

THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA



St Leonards



Portarlington



Drysdale

Easter 7

Sunday, 8 May 2016

Ascension Day begins a period of waiting for the followers of Jesus. The risen Christ, who has been wonderfully and unexpectedly present with them since Easter—comforting, teaching, challenging—leaves them to return to the One who sent him into their midst in the first place. Christ leaves those early followers with many unanswered questions, but also with the promise that the Spirit will come to empower them for a future that they can hardly imagine. The time between Ascension Day and Pentecost is what we might call a “retreat.” It is a time when the disciples gather together to wait and ponder all that has happened to them, and to prepare for this new moment in the mission they will share. “Why are you looking up to heaven?” is the challenge posed to the disciples by the two strangers in dazzling robes. The prayer, the work, the mission, the very Spirit of Christ is discovered here on earth, in new and surprising ways.

Abingdon Worship

LECTIONARY

| | | |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| 8 May Easter 7 | Acts 16: 16-34 Rev 22: 12-14, 16-17, 20-21 | Psalm 97 John 17: 20-26 |
| 15 May Day of Pentecost | Acts 2: 1-21 or Gen 11: 1-19 Romans 8: 14-17 or Acts 2: 1-21 | Psalm 104: 24-34, 35b John 14: 8-17, (25-27) |

CHURCH OFFICE:

Phone: Drysdale Church Centre
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, 8 May (Mother's Day)

Portarlington

9.00 am Rev Bob Thomas, *HC*,
Loose change & Food Bank

Drysdale

9.00 am W@9, Cafe Church
10.45 am Rev Bob Thomas

St Leonards

5.00pm Rev Ian Porter, *HC*
Loose change & food bank

Monday, 9 May

9.30 am KYB .at Lynda's
1.30 pm Portarlington UCAF

Tuesday, 10 May

7.30 pm Drysdale Property
Committee

Wednesday, 11 May

9.30 am mainly music
1.00 pm Drysdale Communal Prayer

Thursday, 12 May

9.00 am Portarlington Choir Practice
9.30 am Drysdale Choir Practice
11.00 am Portarlington Arcare Chapel
Service
7.30 pm Portarlington Church
Council

Friday, 13 May

9.15 am Drysdale Friday School
10.15 am Portarlington Justice &
Mission Letter Writing Group

Saturday, 14 May

7.30 am Portarlington Fellowship
Breakfast

Sunday, 15 May

Portarlington

9.00 am Rev Bob Thomas

Drysdale

9.00 am W@9, Graeme's Team
10.45 am Rev Bob Thomas

St Leonards

5.00pm W@9 Graeme's Team

OUR CONGREGATIONS NEWS

DRYSDALE

Worship @ 9 - next week

We encourage you to wear red for our
service next week, Pentecost Sunday,
15 May.

Loose Change

This month's offering for the work of the
Corio-Norlane Uniting Church was
\$121.75. This is to be used with their
literacy and numeracy program.

Thank you all.

Annual Church Dinner

Please come along with friends and
family to support this major fund raiser
and have a great night out . A three
course meal, all dietary requirements
provided for, will be followed by
community singing lead by David & Sue
Gibbons and Vicki Wills.

Saturday, 21 May,

6.00 pm for 6.1 5pm serving
Adult \$20, Children under 12 \$10,
under 6 \$7.

Please purchase tickets early, from Val
Lestrangle, phone 5251 3125, so
numbers are known!!

PORTARLINGTON

Fellowship Breakfast, 14 May 2016

Guest Speaker will be Ms Elena Hobson.
Elena owns Portside Physiotherapy in
Portarlington. Elena has been part of a
Physio support group for a long distance
runner who has been running to highlight
awareness of water shortages around
the world. Elena has been part of the
crew in Uluru, South Africa and Chile
and she will tell us of her experiences.

All members of the Linked
Congregations and their friends are
warmly invited to attend. Acceptances
please to Barry Ruler on 5259 3304 by
Thursday evening 12 May, 2016.

U.C.A.F.

This month's meeting is tomorrow,
Monday, 9 May at 1.30 pm in the
Meeting room.

Rev. Bob Stevenson will lead us in a
Bible Study. Everyone most welcome.

Goods for Frontier Services Old Timers Fete

Are you are knitting or sewing goods for
the Old Timers Fete? We need your
items by 15 May.

We need **shopping bags, knee rugs,
beanies, bed socks, fingerless
mittens, knitted toys, aprons, tea
cosies, and anything else that is your
craft specialty.**

Please place your finished goods in the
box in the Church Narthex or give to
Wendy Quill, by 15 May. Phone Wendy
with any queries 5259 3556.

FOR ALL CONGREGATIONS

Selected Minister

The congregation meetings accepted the
recommendation of the Joint Nominating
Committee to call the Rev Temukisa
Amituana'i-Vaeluaga, currently at
Traralgon District Uniting Churches..
Temukisa is married to Rev Sani
Vaeluaga and has 5 adult children who
live in St. Albans Park and New Zealand.

Temukisa was born in Samoa, educated
in New Zealand and Australia, and is
now an Australian citizen who speaks
perfect English.

Traralgon was her first placement after
ordination in 2014. She is a gifted
minister with a commitment to working
with members of the congregations to be
worthwhile witnesses of Christ.

Her ministerial focus is very God centred
and open to new programs. She will
commence with us at the beginning of
September. Please pray for Temukisa as
she receives our call and makes the final
commitment to our congregations.

**The Annual Reconciliation in the Park
Event** will be held again in Johnstone
Park, 10 am to 3 pm, Sunday 29 May.
Many activities for all ages.

Please consider supporting our
Wathaurong people and the One Fire
Reconciliation Group by attending this
free celebration.

Merilyn Bertram