

THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

ALL CONGREGATIONS

Listening to the Language of the Bible
Exerpts from a book by Lois Tverberg.

7. Hebraic insights that deepen our thinking – **Zakhar**
Remembering sins. Often the Bible says that God ‘remembered’ or ‘forgot’ something, which implies that God’s mental capacity is limited. In particular, we read that if we repent, God will not remember our sins. While it is comforting, it is hard to imagine how God can have no memory of them. We also wonder if God also expects us to forget the sins of others in order for us to truly forgive them. *Zakhar* can give us an important insight. It includes both remembering and the actions that result from remembering. The verb focuses on the action, not the mental activity. When God says our sins will not be remembered against us, he means he will not punish us for them. God chooses to put them aside. We know what it is like to be hurt by someone we love, but then ‘decide to forget’, to put it out of our mind even though the memory doesn’t go away. This allows us to forgive and yet to remember, in order to deal with a less than perfect reality and make it better. It shows more love to *choose* not to remember than if we could just erase it from our minds.

ROSTERS FOR 14 DECEMBER

Portarlington

9.00 am

Managers: Bruce and Merylin Bertram

Morning Tea: Graham & Brenda Vohmann

Pastoral Care & Prayers: Dorothy Knights

Communion Preparation: Dorothy Knights

Communion Serving: Lorraine Hughes

Readings: Alex Eagleson

Power Point: Bruce Bertram

Lawn Roster 10th: Barry Ruler, Keith Knights, Alex Eagleson

Drysdale

9.00 am

Kitchen: Denise’s team

Counting: Lynda Smith

10.45 am

Duty Elder & Prayers: Jen Davis

Readings: Gerald Edgar

Door: Vince King

Morning Tea: Margaret & Tony Freemantle

Flowers: Jonnie Mander

St Leonards

9.00 pm Combined Service with Anglicans

Brass & Flowers: Beryl Woodcock



Advent 2

Sunday, 7 December 2014

As wonderful as it is to ponder God coming to us as a helpless infant, Advent is much more than remembering the birth of Jesus. Today’s readings call us to live in hope of the fulfilment of God’s vision for humanity and creation. The prophet Isaiah and the psalmist remember God’s decisive action of bringing the Hebrew people out of exile. Yet these same people struggle with disappointment as they find the work of restoration gruelling and seemingly unrewarding. The epistle calls for hope as the early Christian community struggled; Jesus had not returned to make everything right. Advent recalls God’s blessing in our past, even as we seek to know God’s presence here and now in our ordinary lives. Advent demands that we see our lives, our world, and all reality through God’s eyes, that we may long for what God desires: for all things to be made new and whole. Into this whirl of human memory, need, and hope steps the wonderful figure of John the Baptist, who reminds us that Jesus is knocking at the door, ready to enter our world.

Abingdon Worship Annual

LECTIONARY

7 December Advent 2	Isaiah 40: 1-11 2 Peter 3: 8-15a	Psalms 85: 1-2, 8-13 Mark 1: 1-8
14 December Advent 3	Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24	Psalms 126 or Luke 1: 46a-55 John 1: 6-8, 19-28

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THIS WEEK IN OUR CONGREGATIONS:

Sunday, 7 December

Portarlington

9.00 am Mrs Michelle Hardy

Drysdale

9.00 am Rev Marion Latham, HC
Denise's Team assisting
10.45 am Rev Marion Latham, HC
*Loose Change and Food
Bank both services*

St Leonards

7.00 pm Rev Marion Latham

Monday, 8 December

1.30 pm Portarlington UCAF
7.30 pm Port. Advent Study - *Making
of the Messiah*

Tuesday, 9 December

7.30 pm Drysdale Advent Study – *We
are all your people*

Wednesday, 10 December

9.00 am – 12.45 pm Drysdale mainly
music Christmas Celebration
Final Session for year
10.00 am Drysdale Coffee & Chat

Thursday, 11 December

9.00 am Portarlington Choir practice
9.30 am Drysdale Choir practice

Friday, 12 December

9:15-10.00 am Drysdale Friday School

Saturday, 13 December

7.30 am Portarlington Fellowship
Breakfast

Sunday, 14 December

Portarlington

9.00 am Rev Marion Latham HC
Loose change & food bank

Drysdale

9.00 am Wayne's team
10.45 am Brian & Thelma Sha
5.00 pm Messy Church at Drysdale

St Leonards

9.00 am Combined Holy Communion
Anglican

OUR CONGREGATIONS NEWS

DRYSDALE

Drysdale Flower Roster for 2015

A provisional flower roster is on the table as you go out from Worship this morning. Please see if the dates are suitable with you.

If you are unable to do the flowers any longer please cross your name off. Anyone not on the roster, but is willing to do the flowers, write your name alongside the dates you can fill in.

Wilma Mansell

Empty Christmas Tree

There will again be an empty Christmas tree in church for us to place gifts under. The gift can be for a boy, girl, woman or man of any age. Please leave the gift unwrapped under the tree.

These gifts will be taken to Uniting Care Geelong for distribution to those in need. Thank you.

Messy Church

Sunday 14 December 5.00 - 6.30 pm is our next service with the theme of "Animals at Christmas." There will be six creative craft activities to undertake whilst considering a related question, followed by a short service in the church and then a shared meal. It is a great way to introduce non-church people to an informal church setting.

PORTARLINGTON

The Justice and Mission Team

has provided a box in the Narthex for collection of used batteries and computer print cartridges. These will be taken to the appropriate collection points for recycling. The JAM team encourages you to participate in this small but important way of caring for our environment and our planet.

U.C.A.F.

The U.C.A.F.'s Christmas Celebration is on Monday, 8th December at 1.30 pm in the Meeting Room. Those attending are invited to bring an item that has made the story of Christmas real for them. These will form part of our Christmas service. Everyone is welcome to share this time of fellowship.

Rosters for 2015—Portarlington

I am soon to prepare all the rosters for the first half of the year and would appreciate details of any known absences for the first half. Please email details to me bruler@bigpond.com within the next week. Thanks. *Barry Ruler.*

ST LEONARDS

Christmas Story in Song

At 7 pm on 21 December at St Leonards Uniting Church, Dudley Parade, the Portarlington UC Choir will be bringing to us the Christmas Story in Song.

Everyone welcome. Supper after the performance. Further information from Marj 5257 1096.

ALL CONGREGATIONS

Lord God,
you are the one found on the trail
of our brambled lives.
You have sent us path blazers
to clear the way.
Now with you we walk,
only to be sent on another by-path,
to clear the way for others,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. Amen

Bob Eldan, Lander, Wyoming