



DU Grape Vine



DECEMBER 2023

ADVENT

Next week is the commencement of Advent for 2023—the time when we prepare for the celebration of the birth of the baby Jesus and the time we call Christmas. It becomes a busy time of year but it is important that we listen to the Advent readings and messages as they help us to remember the true meaning of Christmas.

At Drysdale we celebrate not just through services but also through service to others and through learning. Many have purchased Christmas cards supporting Uniting (35 packs this year). We also have our empty Christmas tree with gifts and food items being added over the next couple of weeks— gifts going to Uniting Barwon and food to the Drysdale Food Bank. An Advent study is being held over the next three Wednesdays at 7.30 pm at the Handleys (6/66 Wyndham St, Drysdale). There is also the opportunity to join with other churches to sing in the supermarkets.

Services will be:

Sunday 24 —10.30 am
Sunday 24—11.30 pm Christmas Eve
Monday 25—8.00 am Christmas Day
Sunday 31—10.15 am Combined Linked
congregations at Portarlington



MODERATOR-ELECT

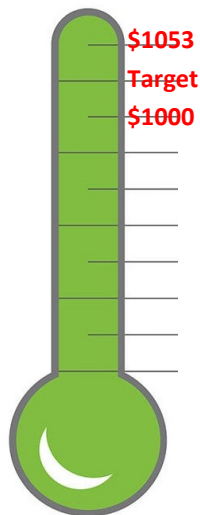
Rev Salesi Faupula was elected at Synod as Moderator-elect, and he will fill the position of Moderator when Rev David Fotheringham's term concludes in mid-2025.

Salesi is currently the minister at Canterbury UC. He was born in Tonga to missionary parents who came to Darwin where he was raised and educated. He worked as a motor mechanic before studying and accepting to the call to ministry. He was ordained in 2012.

He is a very humble man who spoke wonderfully on his elections and sang a blessing in Tongan.



LOOSE CHANGE



Our loose change offering for the Aboriginal Literacy Foundation has reached \$1053 which is above our target. Based on \$5 per book that is about 210 books for aboriginal children so far. The final opportunity to add to this figure will be 17 December.



CAROLS IN THE SUPERMARKET

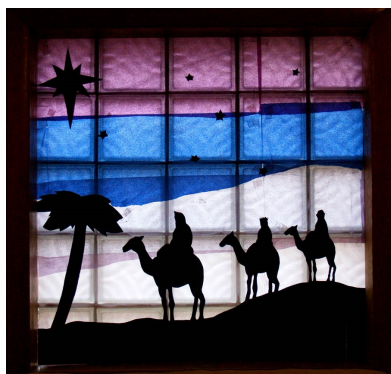
The combined churches of Drysdale, Clifton Springs and Curlewis are again offering the Christmas message through carols at 11 am on:

Wed 20 Dec at Woolworths Curlewis

Thu 21 Dec at Woolworths Drysdale

Fri 22 Dec at Woolworths Curlewis

This is open to all, no matter of your standard of singing. Singing is for about 45 minutes.



This months' services

3 Dec —10.30 am Rev Karen Eller
HC & Loose change
10 Dec —10.30 am Denise's Team
17 Dec —10.30 am Rev Karen Eller
24 Dec— 10.30 am Rev Karen
- 11.30 pm Rev Karen
25 Dec—8.00 am Rev Karen
31 Dec—10.15 am Combined
Linked service at
Portarlinton—Rev
Karen Eller followed
by shared lunch

Happy birthday!

DECEMBER

Jenni Nickelson
Kelly Lestrangle
Indiana Colley
Gerald Edgar
Carol Lascelles

Happy birthday!

	MORNING TEA	WELCOME	VESTRY	READING	PRAYERS	COUNTING FLOWERS
DEC 3	Rhonda &	Ken	Lynda	Margaret	Margo	Ian
10	Win &	Wilma	Rhonda	Denise's	Team	Lynda
17	Marg & Dianne	Carol	Ian	Carol	Marie	Jonnie
24	Melva & Brenda	Brenda	Claire	Val	Pat	Margo
31						-
						Andrea
						Denise
						Margaret

Web site: <http://drysdale.unitingchurch.org.au>

Facebook: Drysdale Uniting Church

Our Vision—Reaching out with God's love and care

SYNOD 2023 OVERVIEW

Moderator Rev David Fotheringham brought the four-day gathering at Box Hill Town Hall to a close, with a closing Eucharist and the commissioning of elected members, after four fruitful days of discernment and discussion around matters of importance to Uniting Church members in Victoria and Tasmania.



**WE BELONG
TO THE DAY**

Synod opened with worship, held at the Salvation Army next door with Brooke Prentis, aboriginal Christian theologian who also provided the theological reflections each day. The daily Bible study was led by Assoc Prof Rev Robyn Whitaker from Pilgrim College. Day one was based on belonging using the 1 Thessalonians focus passage. Robyn noted that Paul's letter was to a diverse community of culture, gender and faith, saying that it is about your identity and not just belonging. It was important to note that belonging implied that some do not belong, which we must try to overcome. Day two's study was based on Matthew 25: 31-46 with the separation of sheep and goats reminding us that God the creator is responsible for separation—light from dark, land from sky. Caring for the vulnerable is equated with the care of Jesus. Day three focused on the present day using Revelation 17 & 18 with its strange imagery. Revelation is Robyn's particular interest and she gave a remarkable explanation of the text. For day four we used Revelation 21 and the coming day when the new Jerusalem is the movement of God towards God's people. In the morning devotions we heard readings given in Tongan and Korean by the Moderator's chaplains and part in aboriginal language from the Tasmanian Congress leader.

There was a Tributes service to recognise Ministers who have been ordained, retired or received from other denominations since last year's Synod Meeting, and those who have celebrated 50, 60, 65, 70, 75 and, in the case of Rev William Morgan, 80 years since ordination or commissioning as well as those who had died. This service included recognition of Bob Stevenson, Leigh Pope and Ian Porter for 50 years service each.

Reports were received from the various bodies of the church including the financial statement to December 2022 that showed a deficit of \$6million.

Proposals resolved related to:

- ◆ the issue of climate change, and it was resolved that all parts of the Uniting Church in Victoria and Tasmania, its members, institutions and councils be encouraged to aim for zero emissions by 2040 at the latest.
- ◆ that a Synod Emissions Reduction Fund, to be administered by the Synod Climate Action Taskforce, be established and that the taskforce report back to the next ordinary Synod Meeting on progress made and what further steps need to be taken, including financial resources required.
- ◆ the ethical procurement issue and to not invest in and to avoid purchases from businesses that have been proven to have been involved in serious human rights abuses, excessive environmental damage and non-trivial criminal activity. We heard from the President of the Australian Uyghur Tangritagh Women's Association, who outlined the human rights abuses that are occurring against the ethnic Uyghur population in East Turkistan, where the almost all the world's solar components are made.
- ◆ reducing the harm of prohibited drugs as part of a move towards a health-based approach, resulting in a request for small quantities of drugs for personal use to be decriminalised.
- ◆ support the concept of secure work, as part of support for greater equality for workers everywhere, including Pacific islanders working on temporary visas and those people working in the gig economy.

There was also lengthy discussions about the national ACT2 project with working groups providing views in the same way as our Church Council did recently. The Synod Faithful Futures project also received the same attention. The statement made was that we need to adapt and face the transition ahead.