



# Linked Congregations of the Bellarine



Uniting Church in Australia

Portarlington

Drysdale

## News sheet for Sunday, 14 April, 2024

### THIS WEEK IN OUR CONGREGATIONS

#### Sunday, 14 April

##### **Portarlington**

9.00am Rev. Karen Eller  
*Holy Communion*

##### **Drysdale**

10.30am Lay team - Denise

#### Tuesday, 16 April

10.00am Portarlington Church Council meeting

#### Thursday, 18 April

10.00am Drysdale Coffee and Chat, Café Zoo  
11.00am Arcare Portarlington Monthly Worship  
Rev. Marg. Manning

#### Saturday, 20 April

8.00am Breakfast Bible Study, Café Zoo

#### Sunday, 21 April

##### **Portarlington**

9.00am Rev. Karen Eller  
*Loose change and foodbank*

##### **Drysdale**

10.30am Rev. Karen Eller

### LECTIONARY READINGS

**14 April** Acts 3: 12-19  
**Easter 3** Psalm 4  
1 John 3: 1-7  
Luke 24: 36b-48

**21 April** Acts 4: 5-12  
**Easter 4** Psalm 23  
1 John 3: 16-24  
John 10: 11-18

### Theme Ideas

Beloved, we are the children of God.  
Even in our joy and disbelief, Christ is with us.  
Even in our sinfulness, God's forgiveness is ours in Christ's name.  
Even in our humanity, we are called to be Christ-like, righteous and loving.  
These are not easy lessons, and yet, they are the lessons proclaimed in 1John and Luke 24.  
Bringing these lessons to life, that these lessons might be our lives, is the task before us.

### Prayer (Luke 24)

Miraculous God,  
Come to us now,  
Even as your Son came  
to those first disciples  
on the shores of Galilee.

Speak your peace to our hearts.  
Touch us with your Holy Spirit.

Reveal your word,  
that we may hear your message this day,  
and live as your disciples  
in the days and years to come.

In Christ's name, we pray.  
Amen.



### World Council of Churches prayer cycle

Prayer is at the very heart of the ecumenical movement.  
Jesus prayed that we – his followers – may all be one.  
When we pray with and for one another, we can feel God's gift of unity.

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**Drysdale Uniting Church Op Shop:**  
High Street DRYSDALE  
Monday to Friday (11.00am – 4.00pm)  
Saturday (10.00am – 12.30pm)  
0490 452 325

## ALL CONGREGATIONS



As we reach the end of Lent Event, and our challenge to take "40 days of faithful action for God's creation", we're grateful for so many people of faith who have stepped up in different ways to help build the world we want to see.

The urgency of people of faith becoming more involved in collective action on climate change is hard to overstate.

Just last week, the World Meteorological Organization reported that 2023 was not only the hottest year on record, but also broke records for all the key climate indicators including greenhouse gas pollution, ocean heat and sea level rise (via ABC News).

The news remains filled with terrifying stories of worsening heatwaves, cyclones, floods, and habitat and livelihood loss, here in Australia as well as around the world. Many young people lack hope for the future and psychologists talk about a mental health crisis among the youth.

One of the key themes of Lent Event this year was that the church can help be that hope, not just through our words, but through the witness of our lives in responding to the climate crisis.

Thank you so much for playing a part in that and for reading this series.

We hope you were encouraged, challenged and inspired along the way, and that you can stay with us on the journey beyond Lent.

*UnitingWorld is the international aid and partnerships agency of the Uniting Church in Australia.*

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### **Climate Action Workshop – (please also read notice following this one).**

The Port Phillip West Presbytery Climate Action Group warmly invites you to a workshop with afternoon tea. The focus will be creative planning for the coming week-long International Campaign of Faith Groups, organised by Faiths 4 Climate Justice, for early May. We look forward spending time with you developing meaningful and attention grabbing actions in solidarity with many peoples of faith across the world.

SATURDAY 20 APRIL, 2.00pm to 4.00pm  
WESLEY UNITING CHURCH (100 Yarra Street, Geelong)

Please RSVP to Sue at email [susanannestrong@hotmail.com](mailto:susanannestrong@hotmail.com) or mobile 0437 741077, by 19 April and indicate any dietary needs.

Everyone is welcome and we will spend time sharing with one another, while designing postcards for sending to our leaders and designing climate action banners, as well as eating yummy food.

*Sue Strong, Richard Arnold, Kate Scull, Richard Allen (Presbytery of Port Phillip West Climate Action Group).*

### **(The above meeting is still occurring despite the following information.)**

This is not easy news to pass on. GreenFaith International has reluctantly taken the decision, after some painstaking discussions, to postpone the Faiths 4 Climate Justice Global Week of Action.

They consulted us (ARRCC) yesterday and we could see their reasons were sound.

GreenFaith International's capacity to coordinate the week internationally has been completely up-ended by some unforeseen events. Two weeks ago, the Tanzanian government began to systematically harass, intimidate and detain ten GreenFaith Circle leaders and members who have actively opposed the East Africa Crude Oil Pipeline, one of the world's 'carbon bombs', if it is built. GreenFaith has responded by supporting their Circle members and securing their release. Now, they are mounting an international effort to tell the Tanzanian government, and Total (the multi-national oil giant behind the pipeline project) that faith communities will not stand for this illegal, immoral behaviour. As a consequence of needing to do this, nearly all of GreenFaith's time and resources have been suddenly taken up. They are in no position to coordinate a major week of action right now. Furthermore, there will be some new opportunities for faith-based work on climate justice later this year, all leading to the decision to postpone.

The new dates are 14 to 24 September 2024.

Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC).

To place a church-related notice in this news sheet, email the wording to the church office, [drysdaleuc@yahoo.com.au](mailto:drysdaleuc@yahoo.com.au), by Tuesday evening. Notices are generally repeated once, or twice if there is sufficient space. So, please send them in ahead of the event or desired date.