



Uniting Church in Australia
SEACLIFF WEEKLY NEWS
Sunday 8 December 2024
ADVENT 2



Prepare the Way

Luke 3: 1 - 6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee. The word of God came to John, son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

⁴ As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,

‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low.

The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. ⁶ And all people will see God’s salvation.”[[]

This Week.

Advent Group 10 am Tuesday 10th December

Adult Fellowship 1.30 pm Wed. 11th December

Advent Group 2 pm Thursday 12th December

What's News

Advent Groups 2024

The Advent Groups will be held on **Tuesdays (3,10 and 17 December) at 10a.m.** and **Thursdays (5,12 and 19 December) at 2p.m.**

The theme this year is: **'The Weary World Rejoices'** an advent study by Kate Bowler. We will consider the Advent themes: **The Promise of TRUTH, COMPASSION, RESTORATION and JUSTICE.**

These will be very informal groups with plenty of opportunity to listen to each other; share our own thoughts if we wish and reflect on a bible passage. **DO JOIN US!!**

If you wish to attend, please sign one of the sheets at the back of the church, indicating your preference for dates.

Please note the Thursday group will be a repeat of the Tuesday group for that week. Just in case one of the days is under subscribed please indicate if you could make the alternative date.

Graham.

Supply Ministry

Graham and Christine Sturdy have kindly agreed to extend their Supply contract with Seacliff UC. They will be with us from February 1st to April 30th, 2025. Graham's present contract finishes on December 31st. We are very grateful for their ministry.

Annette

Christmas in Turlatina Wirra

The gardens at 80 Myrtle Road, Seacliff will be open today Sunday 8th December, from 10am to 6pm for public viewing as part of the Open Garden scheme. This tropical garden is set amongst works of art with plant sales and Syrian food flavours on site. The owners will contribute 20% of sales to the Fred Hollows Foundation.

Kinda



Notes from the Treasurer

The **Christmas Bowl** is the Christmas Appeal of 'Act for Peace', the international humanitarian agency of the in National Council of Churches in Australia. Envelopes are now available for people to make donations to this appeal on or around Christmas Day (and before the end of January please) in several ways:

- o by personal **Cheque** directly to them
- o by **Credit Card** using the form provided in the envelope
- o by **Cash** in the envelope via the Offering Bowl and I will

collate and forward the total amount early in the New Year.

Please note that these donations are tax-deductible and a receipt will be provided directly by the Organisation (not UCA) upon request.

David

Adult Fellowship

ADULT FELLOWSHIP will meet on WEDNESDAY,

11th DECEMBER at 1.30 p.m. for a **Christmas Celebration**.

Please go into the Church when you arrive. After a Christmas devotion we will go into the hall for Afternoon Tea provided by the Leaders. I look forward to seeing you then.

Rosemary

The Advent Season

Materials for the **Christmas Bowl** appeal are available again today. There will be a note about this programme in the newsletter each week, as well perhaps as mention during worship. Please support this programme, an activity of Act for Peace, a programme of the National Council of Churches. This year is the 75th anniversary of the first Christmas Bowl event.

Max

Lessons and Carols Singers

There will be a practice on **Monday Dec 9th (tomorrow) a 7pm** in the Church, please enter via the back Vestry door from the carpark. Music will be handed out today in the Church, near the piano, immediately after the Service. A further Practice will be held on **Saturday Dec 21st at 9 am** in the Church.

Mary

Watery Advent Wreath

Today is the second Sunday in Advent – a time of waiting for **peace** to be fulfilled as we prepare for Christmas. It might be good for a change to think of Advent in terms of what we most long for and hope for at this time of year “down under” – **water!** From a cool drink to a drenching summer storm, to protection from bushfires when our state is tinder-dry, water symbolises what we most need and hope for as we move into summer. So for our Advent season this year, we will fill a bowl with precious water, and float our Advent candles on it. *Maureen*

Uniting Church calendars - reminder

We have ordered 10 copies of the calendar put out by our Synod office. These will be available at no charge. If you wish to reserve one for your use, please let me know very soon – four are already accounted for!! If we need more, we will get them. *Max*

A Call to Churches to Stand Up for Peace in the Holy Land

As mentioned last Sunday, the Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network (PIEN) is calling on churches to show collective support for justice in the Holy Land, and especially in Gaza.

PIEN will, as it did in 2023, produce a video comprising photos of groups of Christians holding signs relating to the situation in Gaza and the West Bank such as “One year on.....Ceasefire Now/Free the Hostages/End the Occupation”.

The video would then be included on social media as a simple but powerful message of support, by Christian churches, for a just peace in the Holy Land including an end to the catastrophic war in Gaza.

You are invited to participate in a photo **after church today**. You can elect whether or not you hold a sign. Being included in the photo will indicate your consent to having your photo shown on social media. *Andrew Telfer.*

CHRISTMAS at SEACLIFF UNITING CHURCH

5-9 WHEATLAND STREET, SEACLIFF 5049

YOU WILL BE MADE WELCOME

SUNDAY, 8th DECEMBER at 9.30 a.m.

WORSHIP SERVICE

SUNDAY, 15th DECEMBER at 9.30 am

WORSHIP SERVICE

Lessons & Carols



SUNDAY, 22nd DECEMBER at 9.30am



Carols Under the Pine Tree

CHRISTMAS EVE

TUESDAY, 24th DECEMBER

at 9 Wheatland Street, Seacliff

6 pm SAUSAGE SIZZLE

7 pm CAROL SINGING

Followed by Supper in the Hall

Christmas Day at 9am.

WEDNESDAY, 25th DECEMBER

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Worship Leader for Today: Rev. Rob Stoner
Lectionary for Today: 8 December 2024: Mal 3: 1 - 4;
Lk 1: 68 - 79; Phil 1: 3 - 11; Lk 3: 1 - 6.
Reminder for Stewards: **15 December 2024**
Dennis Wood Jim Emery

Welcome to our Church.

Things you need to know, especially if you are a visitor.

Fire exits are marked. Please take note. In the case of an emergency evacuation please gather on the Western Lawns under the Pine Tree. **St John First Aid Kit** - on top of the pigeon holes up from the ramp.

Toilets are available through the door front right of the Worship Area or out through the turn around point on the ramp.

Morning tea is held after the service – we hope you will join with us.

Items for the Newsletter

Please email items to
newsletter@seacliffuc.org.au
by 5pm on Wednesdays.
If you do not have access to email, please contact the church office and it will be forwarded for you.

Our Minister is Rev. Graham Sturdy.

Contact :

Mobile : 0474508824
email graham.sturdy3@gmail.com
[ail.com](http://www.seacliffuc.net)

For all general matters other than pastoral care,
please contact the **Church Office** as follows:

Phone contact: ☎ 8296 1517

Email: office@seacliffuc.org.au

Website: www.seacliffuc.net