



Uniting Church in Australia
SEACLIFF WEEKLY NEWS
Sunday 1 December 2019
ADVENT 1



Mayday! Mayday !

Calling all Christians!

It is time to wake up,
for salvation is nearer
than when we first believed.

This is **Advent**, the season of great hope.

*I was glad when they said to me:
let us go to the house of the Lord.
For the Lord shall teach us loving ways
and we shall walk in paths of hope.
Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more*

The joy of the coming Christ be with you all!

And also with you!

Bruce Prewer Used with permission

Welcome to Seacliff Uniting Church!

If you are new to the area, visiting friends or family, or on a holiday, to you we extend a warm welcome, and invite you to share fully in worship and fellowship. Our Minister is Rev. Gary Stuckey.

This Week at Seacliff

Christmas Dinner **6pm Wednesday 4th December**
Yarn Sisters **10am Thursday 5th December**
M&M'S **10am Friday 6th December**

What's News

Watery Advent Wreath – An explanation

Today is the first Sunday in Advent – a time of waiting for hope to be fulfilled as we prepare for Christmas. If you look at most litanies for Advent candle ceremonies, it might strike you that they are very 'Northern Hemisphere'. The symbol of light coming into darkness is very appropriate for people heading into midwinter but in southern Australia, 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 much of 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, each week we will pour precious water into a bowl and float our candles on it.
Maureen

Christmas Bowl

The Christmas Bowl appeal has for 70 years been providing relief and assistance to people in war torn countries. That work continues today through **Act for Peace**, an arm of the National Council of Churches. At this morning's service, you will receive a Christmas Bowl offering envelope. If you would like to support the work of Act for Peace all you need to do is put your donation in the envelope and return it through the offering.

If you would like a receipt for tax purposes please hand your contribution to our treasurer David Grieg who can arrange for that to happen.
Gary

Attention all Advent Singers

We are holding our first practice tomorrow (Monday Dec 2nd) in the church from 7.30pm. Please bring along any music you would like to try. All welcome.
Mary (0417 993 555)

'We Dream' fundraising

Thank you to all those who contributed articles to the 'We Dream' stall at the Townsend Park Market last week. We raised a total of \$277 which has already gone directly (within a total of \$500) to Tarcisius, to buy winter clothes for the children. Mary

Cogs n Coffee

The highlight of last weeks ride for coffee at the old Victoria Park grandstand was Grant telling how his grandson, who lives in America, told him a joke on Skype. It went like this: Why do the French like eating snail??? Answer: Because they don't like fast food.

For next weeks ride, meet at Seacliff Station at 9.00am for a ride back from Seaford on the Coast to Vines track. Brian

Takeus2 in 2020

We have had our final meeting for this year. Next year will be the 10th and final year of this group, in its present format at least. If you would like to host a Sunday evening please tell me where you would like to 'Takeus2' and the months that would suit you. I need this information today or asap please. Later next year, members of the group will be able to discuss and decide if/why/how the group might continue in 2021 David

Automatic External Defibrillator (AED)

The cycling group (Cogs 'n' Coffee) have recently been given an AED which we take with us on remote rides in case of a medical emergency. When we are not using it, we propose to keep it on the church property for the congregation or tenants to use if required.

I would like to hear from anyone with ideas or experience regarding placement, access and management of such an AED today or by email (treasurer@seacliffuc.org) or mobile (0418 895 560) asap please (I will not be at worship on Dec 8th).

I intend to present a proposal to Church Council at our next mtg on Dec 10th about the best way to proceed with these matters.

David

Yarn Sisters

Next Thursday is the final get together for Yarn Sisters. Bring along a special Christmas decoration and any ideas you can share and make the morning a special. Heather

Church Council Feedback

Among the **correspondence** to Church Council last Tuesday were 3 letters from organisations seeking financial support. While Council does not use congregation funds to make contributions direct to any organisation, we are happy to endorse these three as worthy of consideration for your personal support:

Second Chances – Christmas Angels programme: Second Chances supports prisoners on their release from prison, and their families while they are inside. The Christmas Angels programme provides Christmas presents for the prisoners to give to their children.

UnitingWorld – Everything in Common: UnitingWorld is the international service and justice arm of the Uniting Church: this programme provides gifts to fight poverty and build hope in some of the poorest places in our world.

The Bible Society has a particular programme running at the moment to provide Bibles for Syria. Information about these programmes will be on the notice board.

Election for membership of Church Council

You may recall that at the recent AGM, the decision about the date of the Church Council election was left unresolved. We can now advise that the election, and the Ordinary Meeting of the Congregation that is needed for it, will take place on **Sunday 16th February, 2020**. Nomination forms and reminder notices will appear from 19th January, 2020. Max

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Worship Leader for Today: **Rev. Gary Stuckey HC**
Lectionary for Today: **1 December 2019: Is 2: 1-5; Ps 122;**
Rom 13: 11-14; Mt 24: 36 - 44.

Reminder for Stewards: **8.12. 2019**

L. Milner

C. Theakstone

.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. More information is available from the Steward's Table and displays scattered around "The Middle Hall".

Items for the Newsletter

Please email items to
newsletter@seacliffuc.org
by 9.30am on Wednesdays.
If you do not have access to email, please phone or call in at the church office and it will be forwarded for you.

Our Minister is Rev. Gary Stuckey.

Contact :

Mobile : 0488 017 187,
Home phone : 8270.2862

email :

minister@seacliffuc.org

Church Office Information

Open Thursday and Friday

9.30am – 12.30pm

☎ 8296 1517

Email: office@seacliffuc.org

Website: www.seacliffuc.org