



Uniting Church in Australia  
**SEACLIFF WEEKLY NEWS**  
Sunday 4 December 2022  
**Advent 2**



**John the Baptist Prepares the Way**                      **Mat 3: 1 - 12**

**3** In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea <sup>2</sup> and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." <sup>3</sup> This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.<sup>9</sup> And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. <sup>10</sup> The axe is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup> "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with<sup>[c]</sup> the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

## This Week.

**Contemplative Worship** 7pm Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> Dec.  
**Advent Reflection** 10.30am Tues. 6<sup>th</sup> Dec.  
2pm Thurs. 8<sup>th</sup> Dec.

## What's News

**Second Sunday of Advent** **Peace through food rations**



Karen McGrath/Act for Peace

It's been 11 years since the civil war broke out in Syria with thousands of families still living in neighbouring countries like Jordan. But as the cost-of-living increases, many refugee families are struggling to earn enough money to put food on the table.

Act for Peace's local partner, the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR), supports Syrian refugees by providing vital food rations along with psychosocial care. **Please give today.**

**CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: [actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl](http://actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl)**

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international humanitarian agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188



**Christmas Bowl**

## SEACLIFF SPIRITUALITY- COMING PROGRAMMES

### Contemplative Worship

A Contemplative (Quiet) Worship service tonight, Sunday, **December 4<sup>th</sup>**. at **7:00pm** will reflect on an often-overlooked figure in the story - Joseph. We know of Mary's courage in being open to God's desire for her life, but Joseph too, displayed a radical strength in his response to the events that were unfolding.

### Advent Reflection

Each Advent we, at Seacliff, have offered a three-week reflection exploring the events we have celebrated many times, Advent, and Christmas.

The theme for this year will be, *"The Birth of Jesus - a Fresh Look"*. We know the Christmas story well, but what if there is more to the story? Session 2 of 3 will be held **on Tuesday 6/12 at 10.30am and Thursday 8/12 at 2:00pm.**

Gary



## *Notes from the Treasurer*

### **1. Oodnadatta Appeal**

Following Max's Soapbox announcement last week about the construction of an Oodnadatta Church, I have checked my records and can confirm that from 2018-2021 we contributed a total of **\$4017**. Last year the congregation decided to no longer support this particular venture as one of our Mission Projects.

### **2. 'Act for Peace' Appeals**

The organisation 'Act for Peace' conducts several international Appeals including the annual 'Christmas Bowl' and the current 'Ukraine Emergency' Appeal. Envelopes including information about how the money is used for both Appeals are available from the table near the main entry. *There are several ways that donations can be made:*

- a. By **Card or Cheque** in which case please post it directly to them, donations are tax deductible and you will need to fill in the details if you wish to claim.
- b. By **Cash** which they suggest should not be posted but can be placed in the Offertory Bowl in their envelope and at the **end of January** I will collate all of the donations to both Appeals and forward the money. It is too cumbersome for me to organise Tax deductibility if you pay with cash please. *Any questions will be most welcome.*

*David*

### **Adult Fellowship**

Our final meeting for 2022 will be a special Christmas afternoon organised on **Wednesday 14th** at **1.30pm** by the Executive and Social committees.

Members are asked to tell us about a special Christmas tradition or memory (The ones we were going to bring to our last meeting! Which was once again, Cancelled through Covid!)

Also, please bring your favourite, special or different *Christmas Wreath*...it may be a jewellery wreath or ornamental wreath or the same old sentimental one you bring out every year!

Executive and Social members please meet at 1pm at the hall.

*Chris*

## **Election to Church Council**

A reminder that nominations for election to Church Council are due by **February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023**, for the conducting of the ballot at the AGM on Feb 19<sup>th</sup>.

Nomination is open to Confirmed Members and Members-in-Association of Seacliff UC; nomination forms are available from Rosemary Thomson, secretary of the congregation.

## **Reports for AGM**

A reminder that annual reports from your group / activity are due to Rosemary by ***the end of January***; thank you for making Rosemary's life easier by getting them in on time.

## **Mission Projects**

With today being the first Sunday in the month, a reminder that it's the day when we are particularly reminded of our Mission Projects.

Please place your contributions in the envelopes provided – available on the table by the glass doors to the sanctuary – or any other clearly-labelled envelope.

Thank you for your continuing support; one of the decisions we need to make at the AGM is which project(s) to support in 2023.

*Max*

## Cogs n Coffee

It was a ride to Grange on a great sunny day to help Howard celebrate his birthday.

Meet at church carpark at 8.30 for next weeks ride, which will be to Esculent in Old Reynella for coffee. Brian will be looking for no. for the following weeks brunch at Oxenberry in McClaren Vale.

*Brian*



Howard at Grange celebrating another birthday.

## BACK PAGE

Worship Leaders for Today: Rev. Gary Stuckey **HC**  
Lectionary for Today: **4 December 2022: Is 11: 1 - 10;**  
**Ps 72: 1 - 7,18 - 19; Rom 15: 4 - 13; Mat 3: 1 - 12.**  
Reminder for Stewards: 11 December 2022  
Dennis Wood                      Bob Heywood

### **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. According to our **Covid plan**, please note the seating arrangements within the building for your safety.

### **Items for the Newsletter**

Please email items to [newsletter@seacliffuc.org](mailto:newsletter@seacliffuc.org) by 5pm 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 :**

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