

Sunday 15th December 2019

Greetings and welcome to this week's newsletter



A Note from Linda

This Advent we are celebrating the 300th anniversary of the beloved hymn, "Joy to the World." Joy doesn't wait for struggle to be over. Mary "rejoices" in the iconic scripture passage during her pregnancy, a state of affairs that would have put her in a position of dishonor among her people. Instead, she sings out powerfully because she knows that this turn of events will usher in the Presence of justice for the oppressed and freedom for the captive. As we join in a chorus of joy together, we are more deeply bonded as a whole, multiplying and magnifying the exuberance to all: unabashed joy!

This Sunday we will gather to worship at 9.30am with a focus on Unabashed Joy. In the service we will also take some time to farewell Sharyn our Office Administrator and commission all the angels that have been knitted and crocheted.

In the evening we'll be hosting Spirited Sunday at the Rezz with musicians Gerald and Lenard Pederick. Come join us in the alfresco area from 6.30 - the music will begin at 7pm.

Lots of ways to gather to celebrate Christmas as a church community and in our community!

I look forward to seeing you on Sunday!

*Advent Blessings,
Linda*

Coming Sundays -

15 December - 6.30 for 7pm - Spirited Sunday at The Rezz, with guest musicians Gerald and Lenard Pederick

22 December - 6pm - Prayer Walk

29 December - 19 January - no evening services or activities

26 January - 6pm - Prayer Walk

Knitted Angels

This Sunday we will be commissioning all the angels which have been knitted and crocheted so that they can be sent out as 'little blessings' in our community. Please remember to bring your creations and feel free to keep knitting as it's not too late to send out more in future weeks.

Blue Christmas – A Service of Remembrance and Hope

This will be held at Campbelltown Uniting Church on Wednesday 18 December at 7.30 pm, followed by supper. See notice board for more details.

ToFs - what's next?

At the ToFs Christmas lunch it was announced that Jenny Riggall and Ros Howland have decided to conclude their joint role of coordinating ToFs. We are grateful to Jenny and Ros for the way you have gathered folk on the first Tuesday each month for fun and fellowship. Thank you!

What will happen to ToFs next? That is up to you! Come along on Tuesday February 4 at 2pm at the Clay Cup Café at Rostrevor Baptist Church. Linda will lead us in a conversation about what we would like ToFs to look like in this new season. Please RSVP to Linda by 30th January.

Position Vacant: Office Coordinator

With Sharyn leaving, a vacancy has become available. We are almost ready to advertise. Look out for more information coming out soon and please spread the word to those you think might be interested in applying.

Donations for Christmas Lunch

We have been advertising the fact that Athelstone Uniting is hosting a Christmas Lunch this year which is an exciting new venture. We are very thankful that a number of people have volunteered to help with cooking and serving. If you wish to make a donation to help make this event special for all who attend, place it in an envelope marked 'Christmas Lunch' in the offering.

Blessings, Robyn



Tear Fund Useful Gifts

Don and Brian will be available at the Tear Fund Table with Gift Fund catalogues and gift cards. The gifts in the catalogue reflect the way that God's generous heart reaches those who face poverty and injustice as we take up the opportunity to share out of our abundance with the world-wide community in the name of Christ.

Jesus put it this way *"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly"*.

The Christmas Bowl Appeal 2019

This year as we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Christmas Bowl it's a significant time to stop and think about others less fortunate than ourselves and to think about what we can give as we come together to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Your gift through the Christmas Bowl will support local partners in places like Zimbabwe and South Sudan to meet urgent need and create change that lasts; equipping communities affected by conflict and disaster with the skills they need to solve their own problems and get back on their feet.

Let's give generously as we hear again the words of Jesus, *"Whatever you did for one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you did for me"*.

Here at Athelstone there are a number of ways we can give to the Bowl: we can use the Bowl envelope and place our gift in the offering bag until January 5 or we may prefer to make our gift at our services on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. Some may wish to send their gift direct to Act for Peace in Sydney.

Bowl envelopes are available.



Farewell

We will be saying farewell to our Office Administrator, Sharyn Dobroszczyk, in two ways. Sharyn will be attending our 9.30am service this Sunday so we can formally give her our thanks and we will also be having a lunch at The Rezz Hotel on Thursday 19th December at 12.30pm. You are invited to attend the luncheon. Please RSVP to Ann Brown by Tuesday 17th December brownanndon@gmail.com

Summer Office Closure and Linda on Leave

Please note that our church office will be closed from 12noon on Thursday 19 December and will re-open on Tuesday 4 February.

Linda will be on Annual Leave from Monday 30 December and will return on Tuesday 21 January.

During this time, Brenton Summers will be available for any urgent pastoral needs.

Triple C's

Thank you all for your support this year, and especially for the record number of 21 attendees at the Paradise Hotel last Wednesday. This was the biggest gathering to date, and I trust that everyone has got to know his fellow man a little better. Next meeting will be February 12 at a place tba, 'til then keep safe and remember "How are you really? Can I/we help you?"

Church Rosters for 2020

I will be compiling the rosters for January, February and March 2020 on Wednesday 18th December. At this time it looks as if there will be some problems with one or two rosters. I need more people to come forward and volunteer. Contact me direct or by telephone 8337 0011 or by email: jg.robin@bigpond.com Thanks, Gus Robin



Where do sheep take a bath?

*In a
baaaa-th
tub!*



STAY AND PLAY STOCKTAKE AND CLEANING DAY on 21st January 2020, from 10-00 am, with a lunch break at Indigo Café. Any extra hands will be appreciated.

Commencement Date Next Year - 18th February

Please make contact with Bruce and Joy if you are available to help on Tuesdays or at various times to maintain the wirra. Bruce and Joy Stewart Phone: 8336 2671 or Email: bruceandjoy@bigpond.com

2020 Calendars

UCA Calendars are available – please pick up yours in the main foyer. This is where you will find the Lectionary readings next year. Sharyn

Uniting Communities Eastern Services

The Athelstone UC congregation have been great supporters of the Uniting Communities Eastern Services Christmas Appeal. Donations of "Christmas Treats" – pudding, cake, fruit mince tarts, long-life custard, canned ham, chips, lollies, soft drinks, tea, coffee, milo or toys - will be gratefully accepted towards the hampers. Please continue to support this and place any items on the table inside the Church door. Monetary donations can be made at the office or online at <https://donate.unitingcommunities.org/eastern-service-christmas-appeal>

Thanks, Brenton



Wider Church - <https://sa.uca.org.au> You can also subscribe to receive UC. E-News personally.

Electronic Giving – Forms are available or speak to Treasurer Glen Luestner for more information.

‘Regular electronic giving or one off donations can be made using the following details:

Account name: Athelstone Uniting Church

Account BSB: 704 095 Account number: 110043

Pastoral care - Please contact a member of our Pastoral Care Oversight Team for assistance:

Rev Linda Driver 0458 500 656 Bob Stevenson 0400 641 242

Brenton Summers 0400 632 829 Ann Brown 0413 581 554

Prayer Requests - Can we support you in prayer? Here's how:

Prayer Chain - send an email to, or call Brenton Summers, who will pass your prayer request on to a group of people who faithfully pray in response to Prayer Chain emails.

Confidential Prayers - if the issue is more personal you are invited to contact Linda for individual prayer or one the members of the Pastoral Care Oversight team (Brenton Summers, Ann Brown, Bob Stevenson and Linda). All prayer requests going to the team will be kept strictly confidential within this team.

Prayers for Others (Sunday Worship) – Linda provides our Worship Leaders with prayer points as appropriate. Prayer points are also sourced from the Prayer Chain. If you have something you would like to be included in Prayers for Others, please contact Linda. “We are all called to pray for one another, and so we are all encouraged to offer to pray for, or with others, especially if they share a concern with you.” (James 5:13-16

Sermons are available on our website. So if you missed a Sunday morning service, or find it helpful to reflect on the sermon during the week, check them out. Both transcripts and audio recordings are available.

You'll find Sermons under our News and Blogs tab <https://athelstonechurch.org.au/sermons-2/>

You can now listen online. Click on the link provided on our website or download the sermon.net app <https://sermon.net/for-the-listener/mobile-apps/>

Website – We encourage you to visit our website: www.athelstonechurch.org.au

Newsletter contributions – Please email newsletter@athelstonechurch.org.au by 5pm Wed.

Lectionary readings

15th December - Isaiah 35:1-10, Psalm 146:5-10, James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11

22nd December – Isaiah 7.10-16, Psalm 80.1-7, 17-19; Romans 1.1-17, Matthew 1.18-25

Roster

	15 th December	22 nd December
Preacher	Linda	Music Service
Worship Leader	Meg	Di
Singers	Janet/Friederike/Yvonne	Sylvia/Allan/Ann
Keyboard	Shelley	Celine
Guitar	Scott/Dave	Chris/Shelley
Data Projector	Samantha	Dave
Flowers	Marie H	Ruth
Door Stewards & Offering	Coralie & Brenton	Sheralyn/Pat
Notices	Brenton	Brenton
Scripture Reader	Ray	Friederike
Offering Count	Paul/Sylvia	Ray/Bob
Tea & Coffee	Jan & Gus	Jenny & David
Sound	Noel	Don
Building Steward	Eric	Richard

What's on 16th – 22nd December** These events are organised by community hirers*

Monday	16 th	6.30-8.30 pm	Gain Momentum – Pilates *	Top Hall
Tuesday	17 th	9.30 am	Book Club	Coffee Shop
		9.30-11.30 am	Gain Momentum – Pilates *	Top Hall
		7.00 pm	Church Council	Meeting Room
Wednesday	18 th	9.30–10.30 am	Gain Momentum – Pilates *	Top Hall
Thursday	19 th			
Friday	20 th			
Saturday	21 st	9.30-11.30 am	Gain Momentum – Pilates *	Top Hall
		10.00 am	Garden Working Bee	
Sunday	22 nd	9.30 am	Worship Service	Auditorium
		6.00 pm	Prayer Walk	Rezz