



Minister:

Rev Linda Driver:

Mobile 0458 500 656

Linda's day off: Monday

Sunday 12th December 2021

A note from Linda

Peace be with you! Welcome to Week 3 of the Advent season, when we light the candle of Joy.

Each week during this season, we are exploring the unexpected story of Jesus' birth, through the characters of the nativity. We began with a flock of sheep and then spent some time with Mary. Who will we focus on this week?

Come and see!

Blessings and peace,

Linda

UPCOMING WORSHIP

Christmas services



Sunday 12 December

4.00pm Messy Christmas

Tuesday 21 December

7.00 pm Blue Christmas

Friday 24 December

6.30 pm Christmas Eve Family Service

9.30 pm Christmas Eve Carols and Candles

Saturday 25 December

9.30 am Christmas Celebration Service

Sunday 26 December

The service on Sunday, Dec 26 will centre around praise, prayer and reflection in light of the birth of Jesus and will be led by Dean Brook, Dean and Nola Pearce and Brian Ball. Music from Shelley Walker and Chris Pritchard.

Messy Christmas

Come along on December 12th from 4-6pm for a Christmas celebration focused around the nativity.

Register online:

<https://athelstone.elvanto.com.au/form/839cf935-4e45-4450-8849-149afc692103>

Any questions speak to Meg Edwards .

A copy of the Messy Church Flier for 2020 is attached with this newsletter. Please share with friends and family.

Postal Address: PO Box 307, Athelstone, SA 5076

Office Email: office@athelstonechurch.org.au

Minister Email: minister@athelstonechurch.org.au

Newsletter: newsletter@athelstonechurch.org.au

Office Coordinator: Carol Lang

Office Hours: Tues & Thurs: 9.30am – 12.30pm

Office Phone: (08) 8336 9905

Web: athelstonechurch.org.au

Please email newsletter items to newsletter@athelstonechurch.org.au by 5pm Wednesday.

Worship on-site

Every person who attends activities on our church property is required to register their attendance by using the COVID SAfe Check-In. Please ensure you bring your mobile phones to church. A sign in sheet will be available when use of the QR code is absolutely impossible. Please ensure you print your name and phone number neatly so that it can be read by contact tracers. Please don't come if you are unwell or if you have been in any high risk locations identified by SA Health. Please **wear a mask** unless you have a valid reason not to wear one. This is currently a mandatory requirement for indoor public spaces, including our church building.

Worship Online or at Home

If you wish to join in our online Zoom service on Sunday morning at 9.30am, you can view the service as it is happening, using this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88191652947?pwd=M1pMZCtXY2FGOENtaGN3M3EwcVh6Zz09>

or enter this **Meeting ID**: 881 9165 2947 and **passcode**: 7777

Worship and Discipleship resources will be sent out on Saturday. Services are recorded each week. To request a copy, contact Paul Driver who will send you a link to download the video. Paul: 0428-161-918

or pddriver@gmail.com.

Worship by Zoom

If you have a device on which you can watch YouTube videos, then you have all the technology you need to be able to view our Zoom services. This could be a desktop or laptop computer, tablet or Smartphone which is connected to the internet. It is helpful to have a camera and microphone so you can interact if you choose, but you don't need to. If you have never tried Zoom or are unsure about whether you can connect to our online service, please call Paul Driver (M 0428 161 918) before Sunday morning. He can talk you through what to do and test your connection so that you will feel confident on Sunday morning.

EVENTS

Christmas Service Posters – Help wanted

Does anyone want to take some posters to put up around the community to advertise our Christmas Services? Please see Linda.

Christmas Lunch

Good news! We have an enthusiastic team planning for a Christmas lunch to be held in at the church: providing a community for those who don't have a community to celebrate with on Christmas Day.

To register to attend the Christmas Lunch, please go to the following link:

<https://athelstone.elvanto.com.au/form/c35d03b6-b75f-425c-b449-f6fb08b3ff6f>

If you would like to contribute in some way we are in need of some food donations:

We need -

Single serve Pavlovas

Long life custard

Cans of Coke - sugar free or normal

We can also take cash donations for the fresh food we need to buy as well. We appreciate any and all support for this opportunity to build connections and community.

CMLA Arts Workshop at Athelstone

A ticket to this event may be a special Christmas present idea for a loved one!



Participants will learn simple watercolour and pen and wash techniques suitable for creating an illustrated and annotated personal journal. Journaling with supporting images enriches the reflective practice and offers time for sustained reflection and for more deeply mindful noticing of the world around us and slow travel. A Starter Visual Art Journal, pen and watercolour brush will be yours to keep after the workshop. Paints, pencils and other materials supplied for use on the day.

10am - 2pm, **18 January 2022**, Athelstone UC. BYO Lunch.

Tickets: \$100 (includes materials) Limited tickets available so book soon. For bookings visit cmla.org.au

Annual General Meeting of the Congregation

Church Council wishes to advise all members of Athelstone Uniting Church that we will be holding our AGM on Sunday 28 February 2022 at 10.45am.

There will be vacancies to be filled, so we ask you to prayerfully consider whether this is for you and if you would like to nominate.

If you are a Convener, run a small group or a leader in any capacity please can you provide a written report, I will be sending out a template for these reports so please watch out for it in your email.

If you could please send your completed report to Carol **by Thursday 9th December** at:

office@athelstonechurch.org.au.

Please also cc your report to Allan Amber (Chair of Congregation) at allan.amber@mga.com

More details about nominations and voting will be advised early in 2022 but if you have any questions please contact Jeff Dry 0408 254 489.

Robyn Fry

Secretary Church Council and Congregation

FROM THE OFFICE

Church Directory

I have been working on updating our Church Contact Directory. Any changes will appear automatically in the online directory and I plan to email out an updated pdf version on the 14th December. Please let me know if you want me to print you a copy that you can collect from the office on Thursday 16th December.

Remember that if you, or someone you know, do not appear in this new version of the directory then it is because you/they have not given prior approval, or your/their details need to be updated with the church office. Approval is generally done via email as our church management program, Elvanto, requires a digital opt-in approval process for the contact directory. We can over-ride this digital approval in exceptional circumstances, in which case, then please complete the form attached at the end of this newsletter and we can ensure you appear as desired in future.

Christmas Office Closure

Please note that the church office will be closed after Thursday 16th December and not open again until February 1st 2022. Please get any newsletter items for the January period in to the office prior to Thursday 16th December

CHURCH COUNCIL

Church Council update

At its last meeting for 2021 Church Council a number of key items were discussed and a summary is provided below.

1. A Grounds Maintenance Plan has been developed which identifies a team of volunteers who have taken responsibility and care for looking after designated sections of our church grounds. A huge thanks to these people: Joy and Bruce Stewart (Wirra), Wendy and Lyndon Rowe (Peace Garden and Community Garden) and Di and Trevor Curtis (Vestry entrance garden). There is an opportunity for others in the congregation to show their support so if you are interested in helping with the care of these gardens then please speak to our team of volunteers.
2. At our next AGM in February 2022 we will be conducting an election for our next team of Church Council representatives. Potentially we will have a large number of positions available as from our current Church Council, 7 are up for re-election but we expect a number of the current members will not be seeking re-election. This presents a wonderful opportunity for new nominations for the 2022 Church Council so please pray about this opportunity and if you wish to discuss further what this involves then please speak to Rev Linda or Jeff Dry. An attachment has been provided which details important information for potential candidates to consider.
3. Medical HQ has advised their contract to offer Covid testing and vaccinations is currently due to end by 31 December. They are still in negotiations with the Federal Government as to what services will be offered in 2022. They have informed Church Council that their last day of operating for 2021 will be 23 December. A number of our congregation may be due for their booster injection as it is 26 weeks since their second vaccination. If this applies to you and the due date falls before 23 December then you need to book using the following link:
<https://www.hotdoc.com.au/medical-centres/athelstone-SA-5076/athelstone-respiratory-clinic/doctors>
It is the responsibility of everyone to check when their booster is due as Medical HQ will not be sending reminders. Once more details are known about any contract extension we will update in future newsletters.

Jeff Dry - Church Council Chairperson

CONNECT GROUPS

At Athelstone Uniting Church we encourage everyone to find ways to find connections within our church community. Here are some of the Connect Groups you might consider joining.

Triple C's

Were you part of the record breaking group of Chaps, Chatting and "Coffeeing"? Nineteen Chaps were gathered, thus breaking a year long attendance record. Thank you to everyone who attended not only last Wednesday but throughout the year. The next big meeting will be Feb 08 2022, so please keep safe and have a really wonderful CHRISTmas. Remember if going to be on your own this Christmas Day contact Robyn Fry to register for the Lunch at the Church, or reach out any time you need a Chat or Coffee.

Regards Ray

Threads

If you enjoy creating with thread, or would like to learn, and/or enjoy a chat over a cuppa, come join us on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 2-4 pm at the Indigo cafe.

Book Club

We meet regularly to read and discuss books together. We normally meet on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 9am in the Indigo Espresso Cafe in the Athelstone shopping centre across the road. We are reading, "Faith after Doubt" by Brian McLaren. You are welcome to join us! For more info, ask Rev Linda.

Stay and Play @ Home

On 7th December at our last Wirra Play Day for 2021, we celebrated Christmas with a "Peace Hunt" and sorted a nativity wooden jigsaw together. Each child received a small gift and a Christmas Faith Booklet.

More team helpers for Wirra Play Days in 2022 are needed. It's only 4 sessions/year! Help set up/pack up, chat to carers or play with children.

Check out the Church website to enrol for Stay and Play @ Home, get some ideas for preschoolers at home, make new friends through Facebook and Buddy Play Dates, or explore the Wirra Blog.

Joy and Bruce Stewart



MISSIONAL

Knitted Angels

Do you have time to do a little knitting or crocheting? It would be good to bless the community again this year – even if it is just our closest neighbours!

Patterns are available in the Church Foyer or download from our Athelstone Uniting Church Staying Connected Facebook group. (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/scauc/about>)

Thank you to those who have already begun!

Gifts of Good News

Don and Brian will have Tear Fund's Useful Gifts catalogue and cards available at church. When you purchase a Useful Gift you are helping to create opportunities for health, education, safe water, food and stronger communities.

Uniting Communities – Food Donations

The ongoing need for food donations to Uniting Communities continues. Please bring in your donations and let's fill the giving table! The management of Uniting Communities at Beulah Park is very grateful for the ongoing generous support of the Athelstone Congregation.

Brenton Summers

What do you do with plastic bread tags?

Are you passionate about recycling? Would you like to make a difference?

We are supporting the charity Aussie Bread tags for Wheelchairs.

How does it work? We collect up our plastic bread tags and bring them in to Church. (You'll find a container in the Church Entry when we are back worshipping together). The tags are collected and sent to recyclers in Robe. The recyclers (Transmutation) make a donation for the tags. These donations fund wheelchairs for disadvantaged people, currently in South Africa. Transmutation makes door knobs, coasters, bowls, cheese boards, clocks and pens from the bread tags. More details here: <https://ozbreadtagsforwheelchairs.org.au/>.

Christmas Bowl

Third Sunday of Advent



Richard Wainwright / Act for Peace

Finding Joy in times of COVID-19

Many families who have been living in crowded refugee camps in India for decades want to return home to Sri Lanka. Sadly, the COVID-19 crisis has meant that many are unable to travel. Through the Christmas Bowl, you are helping our local partner keep refugees safe by providing medicine and protective clothing and equipment. Once the emergency is over, they will continue helping families experience the joy of returning to their homeland in Sri Lanka. **Please give today.**

CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl

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



Christmas Bowl

Donation request for APY Lands children in need and remote country areas

We have just received this request from Melissa Thompson from Salisbury Congress Indigenous Church. We are mindful that many members of our congregation already support Operation Christmas Child, Tear Australia and Christmas Bowl Appeal each year.

'We are trying to set up a ministry that supplies Christmas toys and resources to children who are in very high needs remote areas. We are calling on all congregations to consider donating resources for children this Christmas of toys, clothing, school supplies and gifts etc which will be transported up to remote communities for children in need. We believe God calls the children and Jesus says in Mathew 18:5 "whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me". In Luke 18:16 he also states "Let the little children come to me." We wish to reach children with Gods word and love this Christmas and welcome any donations of toys and resources you wish to donate not damaged or broken or second hand and thank you in advance for your consideration.

Candice in head office in Uniting Church Congress office will assist to direct toy and Christmas donations up to the end of December. Candice can be emailed on chazeldine@sa.uaicc.org.au. We are situated in 17 Bedwin st Salisbury North and have a Christmas tree on Sunday mornings to put toys for children aged 0-18 years this weekend 12th December or alternatively my number can be called on 0476 461 528 Melissa Thompson, Or Sally McPherson 0404616038. If people label the age of the child on the donation and put in a Christmas bag it doesn't have to be wrapped if in a gift bag. Thank you and God bless you

*Melissa Thompson, first female indigenous pastor of the Uniting Congress Church
Salisbury Congress Indigenous Church*

NOTICES TO MEMBERS

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) If you have something you would like to be included, 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)

Worship and Discipleship Resources

Refer to Worship Email coming on Saturday.

WIDER CHURCH NEWS

Wider Church News

Wider church news: <https://sa.uca.org.au>

You can also subscribe to receive UC E-News personally at <https://sa.uca.org.au/uc-e-news/>

The New Times is available online as well at <https://sa.uca.org.au/new-times/new-times-print-edition/>

Wimala Presbytery News: <https://www.facebook.com/Wimala-Presbytery-109646960529095/>

Wimala Presbytery website: <https://wimala.ucasa.org.au/>

GIVING

How to give electronically

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

Application forms for setting up regular e-giving through UC e-give are available at:

<https://ucinvest.com.au/forms-and-information#page=page-1>.

Those who give in cash offerings are invited to place your offerings into an envelope ready to bring next time we meet face to face. Contact Glen Luestner for more information.

CHURCH BOOKINGS

Special Event or changes to regular bookings or location are highlighted in bold.

Day	Time	Location	Hirer/User
Sunday 12th Dec	2.00 – 6.30 pm	Whole Building	Messy Church (Set up 2-4 pm and Event 4-6 pm)
Saturdays	9.30 – 11.30 pm	Main auditorium	Waratah Calisthenics
Saturdays	9.30 - 11.30 am	Lower hall	Pilates
Mondays	Morning	Main building	VIP Cleaning Service
Mondays	4.45 - 6.45 pm	Auditorium	Waratah Calisthenics
Mondays	6.30 - 8.30 pm	Lower hall	Pilates
Wednesdays	9.30 - 10.30 am	Lower hall	Pilates
Wednesdays	6.30 - 8.30 pm	Auditorium	Waratah Calisthenics
Wed 1 st and 3 rd	1.30 – 3.30 pm	Meeting Room	Fellowship Group (Nola)
Thursdays	7.30 – 8.30 pm	Auditorium	Worship Practice
Thursdays	6.30 - 8.30 pm	Lower hall	Pilates
Fridays	3.00 – 4.00 pm	Meeting Room	Pastoral Care Meeting
At all times	Clinics operate at various times depending on demand. Top hall remains out of bounds <u>at all other times</u>	Top hall & Top car park	Medical HQ Vaccination and Covid Testing Clinics

Note to covid marshals: Current version of covid-safe plan is dated 23 Sept. Copies are located at entrances to the church building. Covid Marshal Badges are located in the cupboard in the vestry for you to wear, along with a hard-copy record of the COVID Marshal certificates, should you need to produce them during an inspection.

CHURCH ROSTER

	12 th Dec	19 th Dec
	Morning Worship	Morning Worship
Prayer with Preacher	Robyn Fry	Sheralyn Robertson
Worship Leader	Jeff Dry	Robyn Stevenson
Preacher	Linda Driver	Linda Driver
Singer	Lyndon Rowe Jeanine Dry Friederike Ashby-Weiss	Ann Brown Jean Richardson Bob Stevenson
Sound Desk	Noel Maywald	Don Brown
Data Projector	David Walker	David Walker
Chair Steward	Don Brown Jeff Dry	-
Zoom Production	Paul Driver	Paul Driver
Building Steward	Eric Hurrell	Richard Read
Covid Marshal	David Walker	David Walker
Flowers	Raelene Anderson	Di Curtis
Door Greeter	Lynton Nicholas Jayne Nicholas	David Riggall Jenny Riggall
Tick and Flick	Brenton Summers	Brenton Summers
Notices	Don Brown	Brenton Summers
Bible Reader	David Walker	Friedericke Ashby-Weiss
Count Offering	Friederike Ashby-Weiss Paul Howland	Lynton Nicholas Bob Stevenson
Morning Tea	Sheralyn Robertson	Sam George
Communion Prep	N/A	N/A
Communion Server	N/A	N/A
Cleaning	VIP	VIP

Please swap with someone if you can't do the date you are assigned and if possible, please also notify the office of the change. It is very important during this pandemic that you do not attend services when you are unwell. Please swap with someone, or if late notice on the Sunday morning, contact Linda Driver or the worship leader for that service. Thank you.

**Practice
Good
Hygiene**



**MESSY CHURCH
ATHELSTONE**



Dates for your diaries for 2022

13th February

10th April - Messy Easter

19th June

14th August

9th October

11th December - Messy Christmas




FUN - FAITH - FOOD - FAMILY

**Come from 4-6pm, no matter how old or young you are, to
have fun, explore faith and enjoy a meal together.**

**For more information and registration details find us
on Facebook or visit www.athelstonechurch.org.au**





An open invitation to join us
to share good food and
enjoy great company!

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

hosted by
Athelstone Uniting Church

December 25th, 12:30pm

33 Fox Ave, Athelstone
Register online at athelstonechurch.org.au

For queries contact

Robyn 0411499125

Judi 0412125175

Registrations close 18th December

ATHELSTONE UNITING CHURCH CONTACT DIRECTORY

PERMISSION FORM

I would like my contact details, as outlined below, to be included in the AUC Contact Directory.

Name:

Street Address:

Mailing Address:

Phone:

Email:

I understand that the contact directory is accessible online via our church management program (Elvanto) which can only be accessed by people from Athelstone Uniting Church who have been set up with a login and password; and/or emailed out as a pdf for printing.

Name: _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Name: _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Note that if you do not want your details published in the directory then your contact information will remain hidden, and only Linda and Carol as administrators can see your contact details, and we can't give them out, or use them for anything except for admin purposes.

Please email the office on office@athelstonechurch.org.au if you would like to request your own access to the online directory and Carol will set you up with a log in.

Thank you

From Carol Lang