



Minister:

Rev Linda Driver:

Mobile 0458 500 656

Linda's day off: Monday

Sunday 19th December 2021

A note from Linda

Peace be with you! Welcome to the last newsletter for 2021.

This is Week 4 of the Advent season, when we light the candle of Love.

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 and Joseph. Who will we focus on this week? Come and see!

Soon we will be celebrating Christmas together, and light the candle of Christ – the reason for the season. I hope and pray that you have a blessed Christmas and are able to connect with those you love during this special season.

I will be having a break in the New Year, from Jan 1st to 17th. I'll return for the CMLA Watercolour Journaling Workshop on January 18th. Maybe I'll see you there?

Blessings and peace,

Linda

UPCOMING WORSHIP

Christmas services



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

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.

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 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

Messy Church

Thank you to our Messy Church team for coordinating a wonderful Messy Christmas event last Sunday afternoon. Families created their own nativity scenes, we told the story of the first Christmas in an interactive way, and then shared a delicious meal together. We can't wait for Messy Church 2022 (a flier with 2022 dates is attached at the end of this newsletter)!

We have left the Manger Prayer Station in the foyer, so you can add your own prayers.



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 and have not yet sent in your completed report to Carol then please do so before the end of January 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

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

FROM THE OFFICE

Church Directory

An updated version of the AUC Contact Directory has been produced and was emailed out to congregation members as a pdf this week. If you did not get a copy then there a limited numbers of hard copies available. Please ask Linda.

Christmas Office Closure

Please note that the church office is now closed. The office will reopen again on February 1st 2022.

For urgent pastoral concerns please contact Linda Driver.

The next newsletter will be published on Thursday 3rd February. Please submit any newsletter items by Wed 2nd Feb 2022 for this first edition of the New Year.

The latest version of the church roster for Dec through to Feb has been posted in the vestry and emailed out to volunteers.

2022 Calendars

These are available in the Church Foyer – a gift for you! Please take one.

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 yearlong 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

Threads meet today for the last time this year. First time in 2022 will be 8th of Feb.

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 MacLaren. You are welcome to join us! For more info, ask Rev Linda.

Fellowship Group

Nola's Fellowship Group will meet at Indigo Cafe, at 1.30 pm on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month in 2022.

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 enroll for Stay and Play @ Home, get some ideas for preschoolers at home, make new friends through Face book and Buddy Play Dates, or explore the Wirra Blog.

Joy and Bruce Stewart



MISSIONAL

Knitted Angels

Have you had a chance 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!

Please bring your knitted angels to church this Sunday morning, so they can be blessed and sent.

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

Red Dove Café

Thanks to all who supported the Moderator's suggestion to donate to Red Dove Café Day this year. Although the cafe could not operate at the Royal Adelaide Show again this year, they have still managed to raise \$22,000 which will go towards supporting various mission initiatives.

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent



It's been 10 years since the civil war broke out in Syria with thousands of families still living in neighbouring countries like Jordan. The challenges refugees face no longer make front page news, and now COVID-19 has made life even harder. Through the Christmas Bowl, you are helping our local partner provide support for families, including food rations and hygiene kits, along with psychosocial care. **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 #2



The advertisement features a blue border with white stars. On the left, a photo shows people loading supplies into a van, with a vertical credit line: "Richard Vainwright/Act for Peace". Above the photo is the text "Christmas Day" and a circular logo "SINCE 1949". The main heading "Merry Christmas!" is in large blue font. To the right is the "Christmas Bowl" logo, which depicts a blue bowl with a white anchor inside, held by two hands. Below the heading is a paragraph of text. At the bottom, a dark blue banner contains contact information, flanked by white stars. Below the banner is a small line of text.

Christmas Day SINCE 1949

Merry Christmas!

Thousands of refugees are arriving in Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa, after fleeing conflict in their home countries. Our local partner provides care for women and girls who have survived gender-based violence and those who need specialised medical care. Through the Christmas Bowl, you are helping support people to overcome the challenges and trauma they've faced, and live life in safety and dignity. **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

Update on Shoeboxes

I received the following emails from Alison and would like to share them with you all.

Greetings Friederike,

I am delighted to let you know that we have completed our Processing of Shoeboxes and they are now packed in cartons and ready for their journey to Cambodia!

We have received more than 19,400 shoeboxes to date in SA and NT, which are 2,000 boxes more than last year; however this will not be the final total!!!!

Some folk have opted to "Pack a Box Online" which will be done in our Sydney Processing Centre, and they will advise us how many of these we will be able to add to our SA/NT total. I will let you know when we can share this number with you.

At present we are waiting for shipping containers to be available to transport our shoeboxes to Cambodia.

We would appreciate your prayers that some containers will be available soon!!

(It is currently a worldwide issue, due to Covid restrictions in Ports)

Thank you Friederike, for all you have done to facilitate the participation of the Athelstone Uniting Church in Operation Christmas Child again this year.

Your shoeboxes will bless 60 children and families, through these tangible gifts and also by giving them the opportunity to hear about God's love for them.

I will let you know when we have further information about our final numbers of shoeboxes for 2021, and also with regard to our boxes being able to commence their journey to Cambodia.

God bless you and all at Athelstone Uniting Church,
Alison

Good Afternoon OCC Friends,

Having sent you all an email in the last day or so about our shoeboxes, being packed and ready to go, I can now share a message I received from our State Manager for SA/NT, Corinne Blom, earlier this afternoon.

2 x 40' containers were due to arrive at the warehouse this afternoon!!!!!!!!!!

Corinne is planning to have a team of our male Volunteers load these containers tomorrow evening.

This is wonderful news! Thank you to all of you who have joined us in praying for some containers to be available soon!

God is good - our prayers have been answered quickly for the first 2 containers.

We are still needing 2 more containers, one 40' and the 20'. Hopefully these will become available soon as we would like to be able to send all containers to Cambodia on the one ship if at all possible.

Thank you all for your prayer support in this matter, let's pray that the final two containers will be available and delivered soon, so these shoeboxes can begin their journey!

Warm regards,

Alison

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

Act2

Act2 is the biggest conversation in the Uniting Church right now - but why are we having it? So we can be a church of vibrant and life-giving local communities of faith; attentive to where the Spirit is leading; honest about our strengths, challenges, and context; and to ensure our ways of being Church truly reflect our identity. Find out more and have your say here: <https://uniting.church/the-vision-of-act2/>

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/>

Churches Together SA – Spiritual Retreat and Women’s Breakfast

Events as Churches Together



Churches Together SA 2022 – Ecumenical Spiritual Retreat
Embracing NOW
Being a People of Hope

Saturday 26th February 2022
9:30am - 3:30pm
Leader: Sharonne Price
Nunyara Conference Centre

As we enter the season of Lent and journey towards Easter, this ecumenical retreat offers a still point in the busyness for prayerful reflection and spiritual refreshment

Register your interest here.



Churches Together SA
invites you to an ecumenical
International Women's Day Breakfast

Friday 4th of March 2022
7am - 9am
\$40

Speaker: Rev'd Assoc. Prof. Vicky Balabanski

Confirm your place at a table [HERE](#)

Venue: Chachemira
137 Magill Road, Stepney

For more Churches Together SA events, [click here](#) to visit churchestogethersa.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 BUILDING - BOOKINGS

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

Day	Time	Location	Hirer/User
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
Tuesdays	9.30 – 11.30 am	Lower hall	Pilates
Wednesdays	9.30 - 10.30 am	Lower hall	Pilates
Wednesdays	6.30 - 8.30 pm	Auditorium	Waratah Calisthenics
Thursdays	7.30 – 8.30 pm	Auditorium	Worship Practice
Thursdays	6.30 - 8.30 pm	Lower hall	Pilates
Friday 17th Dec	3.00 – 4.00 pm	Meeting Room	Pastoral Care Meeting
Tues 21st Dec	6.00 – 8.30 pm	Auditorium	Blue Christmas Service
Fri 24th Dec	6.30 – 7.30 pm	Auditorium	Christmas Eve Family Service
Fri 24th Dec	9.30 – 10.30 pm	Auditorium	Christmas Eve Carol's and Candles Service
Sat 25th Dec	9.30 – 10.30 am	Auditorium	Christmas Day Service
Tue 11th Jan	7.00 – 9.00 pm	Auditorium	Private Hirer
Tue 18th Jan	9.00 – 4.00 pm	Lower Hall	CMLA Art's Workshop
Tue 18th Jan	9.30 – 11.30 am	Auditorium	Pilates
At all times	Clinics operate at various times depending on demand. Top hall remains out of bounds at all other times	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.

Re our regular hirers: Pilates and Calisthenics Dates for Dec/Jan to note:

The last Pilates class will be Saturday, 18th December and the first day back will be Monday, 10th January 2022. Pilates will then finish up again on Saturday, 22nd January and then classes return to normal starting Monday, 31st January. Pilates will be in the auditorium on Tuesday 18th Jan when CMLA workshop in lower hall.

Waratah Calisthenics is finishing up on the 11th Dec but with one catch-up class still on Wed 15th Dec and coming back for classes on Mon 17th and Wed 19th but Saturday classes won't resume until school returns (29th Jan).

CHURCH ROSTER

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