



Minister:

Rev Linda Driver:

Mobile 0458 500 656

Linda's day off: Monday

Sunday 5th December 2021

A note from Linda

Peace be with you! Welcome to Week 2 of the Advent season, when we light the candle of peace.

Each week, during this season, we are exploring the unexpected story of Jesus' birth, through the characters of the nativity. Last week, we set the scene with the setting of the manger and were joined by a flock of sheep. 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

A service will be held on Sunday 26 December at 9.30am.

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

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 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 -

Christmas puddings

Single serve Pavlovas

Long life custard

Cans of soft drink - 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.

NCLS – Postponed until 2022

Due to printing and mailing delays, our National Church Life Survey Forms have not arrived in time for us to complete hard copies this Sunday 5th December as originally planned. The survey deadlines have been extended to February 2022 and many churches are undertaking the survey in the New Year instead. Our church will await their arrival and reassess the timing of our participation.

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

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.

Chaps, Coffee Chat Group

The next assembly of the above for Chaps, Coffee and Chat will be @ 1030am again at Settebello on 08 December this coming Wednesday. Remember special is cup of coffee and a cake ☺, the latter may be handy to take home! Should any Chaps need a lift then contact Ray or Bob.

Regards Ray

TOFS

Our last TOFS catch up for the year is on Tuesday 7th December. We will meet at Sosta and Gusta Café 161 St Bernards Rd, Rostrevor at 2pm for tea or coffee and a chat. Please RSVP to SHERALYN.

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

Stay and Play @ Home



We will gather on 7th December face to face at our last Wirra Play Day for 2021 and celebrate Christmas together through "Sense the Peace". 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. New families and wirra workers are welcome. We need more team helpers for Wirra Play Days in 2022.

Joy and Bruce Stewart

MISSIONAL

Christmas Bowl

Second Sunday of Advent



Bringing Peace to children in Gaza

The recent bombing of Gaza and the escalation of tensions between Israel and Palestine can make peace feel more distant than ever, especially for children. Through the Christmas Bowl, you are helping our local partner run three health clinics across Gaza. They provide medical care and psychosocial support, including counselling and a place where children can play and feel safe. Your support gives children in Gaza a chance at the childhood they deserve. **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



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/>.

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
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
Tuesday 7 Dec	9.00 – 11.30 am	Lower Hall, Deck, Wirra, Kitchen	Wirra Play Day Set up (9-10am) Wirra Play Day Event (10-11.30am)
Tuesday 7 Dec	9.30 - 11.30 am	Auditorium	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
Sunday 12th Dec	2.00 – 6.30 pm	Whole Building	Messy Church (Set up 2-4 pm and Event 4-6 pm)
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.

CHURCH ROSTER

	5 th Dec	12 th Dec
	Communion Service	Morning Worship
Prayer with Preacher	Di Curtis	Robyn Fry
Worship Leader	Dean Pearce	Jeff Dry
Preacher	Linda Driver	Linda Driver
Singer	Allan Amber Sylvia Maywald Jean Richardson	Lyndon Rowe Jeanine Dry Friederike Ashby-Weiss
Sound Desk	Don Brown	Noel Maywald
Data Projector		David Walker
Chair Steward	Sharon Tilley Scott Tilley	Don Brown Jeff Dry
Zoom Production	Paul Driver	Paul Driver
Building Steward	Noel Maywald	Eric Hurrell
Covid Marshal	Sheralyn Robertson	David Walker
Flowers	Jenny Riggall	Raelene Anderson
Door Greeter	Robyn Fry Stella Waugh	Lynton Nicholas Jayne Nicholas
Tick and Flick	Brenton Summers	Brenton Summers
Notices	Lee O'Connell	Don Brown
Bible Reader	Ann Tubb	David Walker
Count Offering	Ray Walter Gus Robin	Friederike Ashby-Weiss Paul Howland
Morning Tea	Marie Hickman	Sheralyn Robertson
Communion Prep	Friederike Ashby-Weiss	N/A
Communion Server	Eric Hurrell Sheralyn Robertson	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**



RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL (from UC Regulations)

3.1.2 (a) The Church Council shall give priority in its life to building up the Congregation in faith and love, sustaining members in hope, and leading the Congregation to a fuller participation in Christ's mission in the world. This priority shall be reflected in the agenda of its ordinary meetings.

(b) The responsibilities of the Church Council include:

- (i) Sharing with the Minister(s) in mission and in the pastoral care and spiritual oversight of the Congregation;
- (ii) Nurturing the members and adherents in their growth in grace;
- (iii) Making decisions in accordance with the Regulations concerning baptism, confirmation and membership, and the keeping and reviewing of the rolls of the Congregation; (See Part 1 of these Regulations)
- (iv) Assisting the Minister(s) in the conduct of worship and in the administration of the sacraments;
- (v) Determining the time and place of services of public worship;
- (vi) Carrying out its functions in accordance with the Regulations concerning applicants for the specified ministries;
- (vii) Managing the financial affairs and the general administration of the Congregation including the reception, preparation and presentation of all necessary budgets, statements and reports;
- (viii) Arranging for audit, presentation and examination of the accounts of all the funds of the Congregation; (See Reg. 3.8.7)
- (ix) Managing and controlling property in accordance with the Regulations; (See Reg. 4.4.1)
- (x) preparing and presenting to a meeting of the Congregation an annual report concerning the life and work of the Congregation including its worship, mission and service, and making recommendations with regard to the program for the ensuing year;
- (xi) Exercising oversight of the appointment of officers and leaders of Congregational organisations;
- (xii) Referral of matters to Presbytery as prescribed;
- (xiii) Discipline of members (See Reg. 5.1.2 – 5.2.5);
- (xiv) Carrying out its functions in relation to Ministers-in-Association (See Reg. 2.11.1).