

The Flow

BARWON HEADS
& OCEAN GROVE



18 NOV 2024



Advent heralds the new season of Christ

One of the things we love about the Church is its alternative accounting of time. Because we are Christ's disciples 'in this world,' we normally experience time in a straight line, adding events to our diaries and thinking about the calendar and weeks ahead.

But because we are not 'of this world,' we also experience time cyclically as we move through the different seasons of the lectionary, witnessing the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

In a couple of weeks, this cycle of time will start again, with a new lectionary year to coincide with the birth of Jesus. Year C, or the Year of Luke, begins on Dec 1. It includes Mary's great affirmation of faith 'the Magnificat' as well as her famous journey to Bethlehem on a donkey. We will also hear the Nativity as it is first proclaimed by the angels, not to princes and priests in their palaces, but upside-down, to shepherds minding their flocks in the fields at night.

Advent is a season when the whole world is turned upside down in the name of Christ, and we should embrace it.

It is also a season when our coastal communities change considerably. We look forward to welcoming the 'swallows' as they return for their holidays and relaxation.

We look forward to the excitement of children as they enjoy a break on school holidays laughing and relaxing on the beaches and in front of the gelato shops.

We look forward to family and shared meals and the joy of our seasonal traditions as we gather with people we love, yet mindful of Jesus' call to extend our tables to strangers.

Amidst it all we gather with the Christ-child to receive again God's gifts of hope, peace, joy and love at a time when the world needs them the most.

Annie & Kyle x

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Christmas Arts Trail at Barwon Heads

This year the Combined Churches of Barwon Heads will sponsor a Christmas Arts Trail. Over the month of December and into January there will be five works of art by local artists displayed in shop windows in Barwon Heads.

These art works will pick up on the four advent themes of: HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE.

This will be a public art exhibition with passers-by invited to respond via Instagram or Facebook.



Post your responses to:



Some of the venues will be the IGA, Kin & Ko, the Post Office and Frith. Keep an eye open for the last one! We also thank Peter Gador-Whyte and Lydia & Ian Cover for their work getting the trail off the ground, and the artists for their work.



All Saints & All Souls

In the last week of October, both congregations remembered those who have recently died as part of an All Saints & All Souls commemoration, traditionally held on the 1st of November.

Members prayed with a fallen leaf to remind us of those who made us, before combining the leaves to shape a cross out of the lives we remember.

Tapers were lit as a sign of the lights that continue to shine in our lives in the hope of Christ's resurrection, a promise which never fades.



BOOK SALE

30 November 2024

Oxfam Book Sale

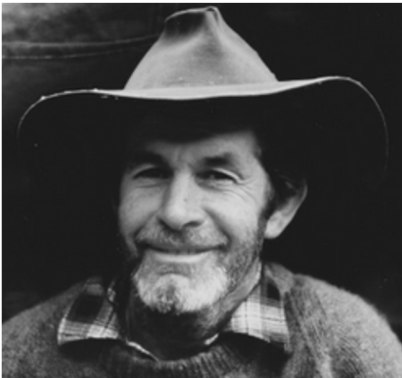
The biannual Oxfam Book Sale is on again at the Ocean Grove Uniting Church Hall on **Saturday, November 30** from **9am to 1pm**.

There are many titles to choose from, all of them new!

Many of these books are donated by publishers and reviewers and are current to the market.

Come and support a good cause while finding something to read on a rainy day or beside the seashore.

What's Been Happening



Thanksgiving for life of Neil Derrick

Our beloved brother in Christ, Neil Derrick, died last month in hospital. A Service of Thanksgiving for his life was held at Ocean Grove Uniting Church on Oct 17. We continue to keep Mandy, Clay, Wayne and their families in our prayers as they mourn. We will remember Neil as a man who so often showed us what it means to be a true disciple of Jesus in word and action.



Peter Mac Walk

Annie and Kyle just walked 100km in 10 days to support research at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne. We dedicated our pilgrimage to two congregation members who recently died from the disease. We raised \$605 and wish to thank all those who supported us, but especially Carol & Geoff Naylor, whose encouragement helped us meet our objective!



Community Market BBQ

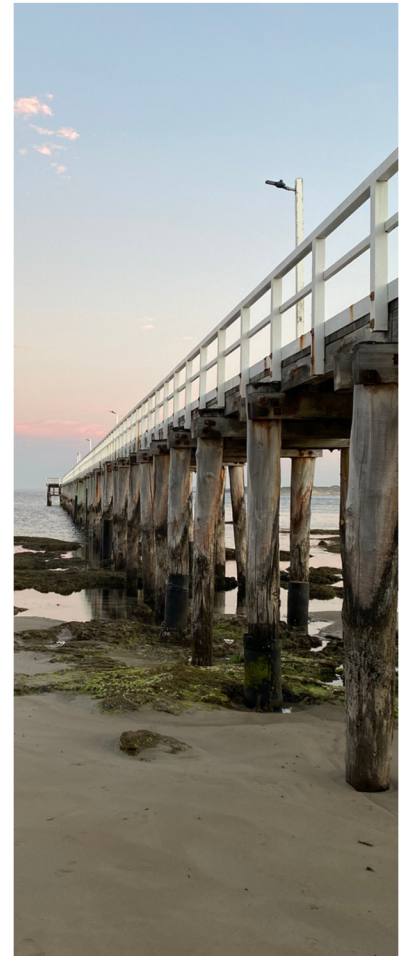
The snags flew off the barbecue at our Community Market stall this month in Barwon Heads! We thank all members who helped out on the day, but give a particularly loud shout-out to Geoff Tamblyn who donated the sausages and operated the grill. The money raised will support the congregation in its local mission and community outreach.



Study Leave Report

All ministers in our Synod are granted two weeks' study leave for continued education. We used our leave recently to comply with our commitments to Orientation to Ministry Practice in Melbourne and for completing higher degree coursework.

We thank Rev. Peter Burnham for leading worship in both congregations.



Other things we want to share:

- We appreciate the many people who have prayed for our son Henry and offered encouragement as he completes his VCE. He is happy to report that he has accepted an offer at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga where he will study History & Politics.
 - Kyle and Annie are now alternating weeks so that at least one minister can be at each congregation for morning tea on Sunday.
 - Last month we reported a new wedding booking. We can now report two enquiries for baptisms in 2025. Hopeful news for the Church next year!
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Worship in the Season of Advent

Our worship pattern will change at Ocean Grove Uniting Church as we move into Advent. We anticipate a more participatory service with members seated in the round. A 'Christingle' Service will also be held at Ocean Grove Uniting Church on Christmas Eve at 6pm. This will be a traditional Moravian style service that will include the popular making of Christingle oranges as a part of worship.

Our calendar of **Advent events** follows:

Nov 24th (5pm) - Barwon Heads Combined Churches 'Season of Advent' service and meal

Dec 8th (7pm) - 'Carols in the Park' at Ocean Grove

Dec 15th (TBA) - 'Community Carols' at Barwon Heads in the Community Hall

Dec 24th (6pm) - Christingle Service at Ocean Grove Uniting Church

Dec 25th (9am) - Christmas Services at Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove Uniting Churches



A 'Christingle' orange

Grace and Peace!

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