



Uniting Church in Australia

## Linked Congregations of the Bellarine



Portarlington



Drysdale

### News sheet for Sunday, 26 January 2025

#### THIS WEEK IN OUR CONGREGATIONS

##### Sunday, 26 January

###### **Portarlington**

9.00am Manning Lay Team

###### **Drysdale**

10.30am Rev Karen Eller

##### Thursday, 30 January

10.00am Drysdale Coffee and Chat, Café Zoo

##### Sunday, 2 February

###### **Portarlington**

9.00am Rev Karen Eller

###### **Drysdale**

10.30am Rev Karen Eller, *Holy Communion, Food Bank and Loose Change, followed by Congregation Annual Meeting and shared lunch*

#### LECTIONARY READINGS

##### **Sunday, 26 January**

**Epiphany 3** Nehemiah 8:1-3,  
Psalm 19  
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a  
Luke 4:14-21

##### **Sunday, 2 February**

**Epiphany 4** Jeremiah 1:4-10  
Psalm 71:1-6  
1 Corinthians 13:1-13  
Luke 4:21-30

#### Theme Ideas from Ministry Matters

According to the psalmist, day and night pour forth speech and reveal knowledge, but no words can contain their truth (Psalm 19:2). Additionally, God's law is perfect, reviving the soul. The very decrees of the Lord make the wise simple (v.7).

How do we understand these teachings? When shared by creation, do we even know how to listen? When Nehemiah read the Book of the Law of Moses to the people, he had to give the meaning so that they would understand. In Corinth, Paul looked for the Spirit to bind the church together through the power of Christian baptism, because teachings on Christian unity were falling on deaf ears. Even the people in Jesus' hometown could not see the truth of who he was, as Jesus read from the scroll of Isaiah. The very heavens reveal the knowledge of our God, and the precepts of God in scripture are perfect, but without help understanding them, we often remain blissfully unaware.

#### **Prayer from Ministry Matters (Nehemiah 8, Psalm 19, Luke 4)**

God of Wisdom, we have come to sit at Jesus' feet and learn to what he would teach us.  
With the heavens above and the earth below,  
we rejoice in the good news he brings:  
succour to the poor, release to the captives,  
recovery of sight to the blind,  
and freedom for the oppressed.

Reveal the mystery of your precepts,  
that we might hear the music of the heavens—  
the whisper of the land and roar of the seas,  
the prayer of the caterpillar and song of the flea.  
Speak to us through the fullness of creation, we pray.

*Amen.*



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**Drysdale Uniting Church Op Shop:**  
High Street DRYSDALE  
Monday to Friday (11.00am – 4.00pm)  
Saturday (10.00am – 12.30pm)  
0490 452 325

## Prison Fellowship – Theme for 2025 is ‘Good News’

*“The Spirit of the Lord is on me. He has chosen me to tell good news to the poor. He sent me to tell prisoners that they are free and to tell the blind that they can see again. He sent me to free those who have been treated badly and to announce that the time has come for the Lord to show his kindness.” - Luke 4:18-19 (ERV)*

The gospel is good news for all people, including those affected by crime, whom our society so often neglects or forgets. **Through your partnership in this ministry, in prayer, through donations and volunteering, you share this amazingly good news with inmates and their families every day of the year!**

We have some big goals for the year ahead, including:

- Continuing to grow the reach of our Gospel-sharing and discipleship course, ***The Prisoner’s Journey***
- More children attending camps and being mentored through our ***Extraordinary Lives*** program
- The launch of a brand new prison program, ***The Forgiveness Project*** (more to come about this later in the year)

We know these can only be achieved in God’s strength through his transformative power in each person’s life, so **we would love you to join us in prayer for these things and more!**

Glen Fairweather,  
CEO Prison Fellowship Australia

## Holiday report -

It was a shitty cruise, rained a lot. But they had a great buffet, I had two of everything.



## DRYSDALE

### Annual Meeting

The Congregation annual meeting will be held at the end of the church service next week and then be followed by a shared lunch in the hall. The meeting will receive the various reports, will elect elders and congregation office bearers, approve the budget for 2025 and consider the recommendations for loose change recipients for the year. The meeting will not be too long and we look forward to your attendance.

Wayne

### Breakfast Bible Study

This study group will restart on Saturday 15 February. The study book for this year is "Sermon on the Mount" by John Stott. If you haven't been before you will be most welcomed. This will be about our fifteenth year.

Wayne

### Pancake Dinner

**Tuesday 4 March** will be our pancake dinner fundraiser for Uniting's Pancake Appeal.



The Dinner provides an opportunity to eat wonderful pancakes (with savoury and sweet toppings) with people from the congregation and invited guests. Come along from 5.30—7.30pm; invite your friends and neighbours.

Tickets from Jenni Nickelson—\$15 cash to Jenni or direct to the bank account (BSB 083623 ACC 03533 3892 Ref: Surname Pancakes).

Jenni

**KYB – Know Your Bible** studies are commencing for the new year.

Drysdale is well represented with one group led by Lynda Smith and another led by Carol Lascelles, who is also our Area Co-ordinator.

Lynda's group met last week, welcoming three new members, two from outside of our church.

KYB is an initiative of CWC – Christian Womens' Communicating International.

**A Senior Moment** - When you find yourself wondering how it is possible to have a hundred channels on your TV but nothing worth watching on any of them.

To place a church-related notice in this news sheet, email the wording to the church office, drysdaleuc@yahoo.com.au, by Tuesday evening. Notices are generally repeated once, or twice if there is sufficient space. Please send them in ahead of the event or desired date and indicate in which section you would like your notice to appear.