



Uniting Church in Australia

Linked Congregations of the Bellarine



Portarlington



Drysdale

News sheet - Sunday, 1 February 2026

FEBRUARY IN OUR CONGREGATIONS

WORSHIP SERVICES

LECTIONARY READINGS

Sunday, 1 February

9.00am **Portarlington** Rev. Karen Eller.
10.30am **Drysdale** Rev. Karen Eller, *Holy Communion, loose change and Foodbank*

Wednesday, 4 February

2.00pm **Portarlington** Rev. Karen Eller, worship at 34 Batman St., Portarlington

Sunday, 8 February

9.00am **Portarlington** Rev. Karen Eller, *Holy Communion*
10.30am **Drysdale** Drysdale lay team – Wayne

Tuesday, 10 February

11.00am **Drysdale** Rev. Karen Eller, at Regis

Sunday, 15 February

9.00am **Portarlington** Portarlington lay team – Hughes *small change and Foodbank*
10.30am **Drysdale** Drysdale lay team - Jenni

Wednesday, 18 February

10.00am **Drysdale** Rev. Karen Eller, Ash Wednesday service, Linked Congregations

Thursday, 19 February

11.00am **Portarlington** Rev. Karen Eller, at Arcare

Sunday, 22 February

9.00am **Portarlington** Portarlington Lay Team – Porters
10.30am **Drysdale** Rev. Karen Eller

Sunday, 1 February

Epiphany 4
Micah 6:1-8
Psalm 15
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Matthew 5:1-12

Sunday, 8 February

Epiphany 5
Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12)
Psalm 112:1-9 (10)
1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)
Matthew 5:13-20

Sunday, 15 February

Transfiguration of Jesus
Exodus 24:12-18
Psalm 2 or Psalm 99
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9

Wednesday, 18 February

Ash Wednesday
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12
Psalm 51:1-17
2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Sunday, 22 February

Lent 1
Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
Psalm 32
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

Minister's Musings - Starting the year on an even keel.

There are days when the burdens of life weigh heavily upon one's shoulders.

For me right now, the main priority is attending to my wife's needs as she moves into her second week of radiotherapy in a Melbourne hospital. Then there is worship to prepare and overdue pastoral visits, reports to church councils, and preparation for Lenten studies. Managing my diary has never been more important.

What I have learned over the years is that there is a limit to what can be achieved in a week, in a month, in a year. Having realistic expectations of self, of others, of church, helps us set an even keel to approach the year. When things come unstuck (and they do) there is much room for generosity and grace. And what do we expect of God? Imagining myself as a sail-boat, my keel keeps me steady in the water. I am learning to rest into God's embrace, trusting the Eternal Mystery to hold me and direct me, even when currents and winds are not quite as anticipated. As a church too, together we can trust in the Holy Three-in-One to keep our coracle (boat) of community, not simply 'afloat' but flourishing together held in Holy love. Generosity and grace, I think, are the hallmarks of a thriving community. I believe we do this well!

May the Spirit fill our sails and send us to where we are needed. May Christ Jesus give us the courage to offer the world the best of ourselves. May the Creator God continue to inspire new and creative ways of being God's people in the world.

Peace by the bucketful, *Karen*.

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Drysdale Uniting Church Op Shop
High Street DRYSDALE
Monday to Friday: 11.00am–4.00pm
Saturday: 10.30am–1.00pm

Portarlington Uniting Church
(St. Andrew's)
portarlingtonuc@gmail.com
Newcombe St PORTARLINGTON
<https://portarlingtonunitingchurch.org.au>

LINKED CONGREGATION NOTICES

10 February: 2.00pm – **Linked Worship Committee meeting**

17 February: 2.00pm – **Joint Co-ordinating Committee meeting**

25 February: (Wednesday evening) due date for items for March's news sheet. Next news sheet comes out: **Sunday, 1 March.**

PORTARLINGTON NOTICES

3 February: 10.00am - **Portarlington Church Council meeting**

Note that the quarterly reports for October - December 2025 are due at this meeting. *Joan*

4 February: 10.30am - **Pastoral Care team meeting** at the home of Lorraine Hughes *Marg.*

20 February: 9.30am - **Letter writing group** at the home of Marg Manning *Marg.*

Upcoming Events:

Annual Congregational Meeting

St Andrew's Congregational AGM will be held on **Sunday, 15 March** after the morning worship service.

Pammi Pryor would like the 2025 Annual Reports by **Sunday, 22 February.**

Please either email to Pammi at gw.pryor@bigpond.com or give her a hard copy.

This will ensure all are collated and are available for the congregation on the Sunday prior to the AGM. *Joy*

Lenten Study books now available

Conversations at the Edge of the Raft, 1993 by Denham Grierson

Dates and times yet to be confirmed. *Karen*

World Day of Prayer

This year our World Day of Prayer Service will be held at **St. Patrick's Church**, Portarlington, but we (St. Andrew's) will be organising and leading it.

Please note the important date and time:

Friday, 6 March at 1.30pm.

The Service is for everyone.

Hope to see you there. *Lorraine*

DRYSDALE NOTICES

1 February: **Annual Congregational meeting** with a shared lunch to follow worship.

3 February: 9.00am - **Op Shop Committee meeting.**

6 February: 10.30am - **Morning Tea with the Minister** in the church hall.

11 February: 2.00pm – **Ecumenical Committee meeting**

DRYSDALE NOTICES (continued)

17 February: Pancake Dinner: 5.30-7.30pm

The Annual 'all you can eat' Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner is fast approaching.

Savoury and sweet toppings, gluten free and vegetarian options.

\$15/head (children 12 and under \$5)

Tickets available from Jenni Nickelson.

Cash to Jenni or pay into the church bank account.

BSB: 083-623

Account no: 03-533-3892

Reference: (surname) pancakes *Jenni*

19 February: 7.00pm - **Drysdale Church Council meeting**

21 February: 8.00am – **Breakfast Bible Study** at Café Zoo

Loose Change Appreciation

A thank you has been received from Meli who received our second half year loose change on behalf of The Orange Door. Their message said:

"Your support helps us to continue to stand alongside children, families and individuals who are facing some of life's toughest challenges. Whether it's navigating housing insecurity, escaping violence, providing foster care, early years education or simply needing someone to listen - your contribution makes it possible for us to respond with care, dignity, and practical support."

Our loose change recipients for 2026 will be decided at the AGM on Sunday. *Wayne*

Upcoming Events:

Lenten Study books now available

A Cross at the Heart of God: Reflections on the Death of Jesus, 2020 by Samuel Wells.

Wednesday 11, 18, 25 March at 2.00pm at the church.

Karen

Easter Saturday Fete

Drysdale Uniting Church, High Street side

Saturday, 4 April, 10am-1.00pm

Jams, sauces, craft, cakes and slices.

The plant stall will feature some bright colourful hanging baskets and many other healthy plants.

Come along to support us as we also support our local community in many ways.

Have you noticed our freshly painted church, inside and out?

Our Op Shop will be open on Fete day too!

All welcome. *Lynda*