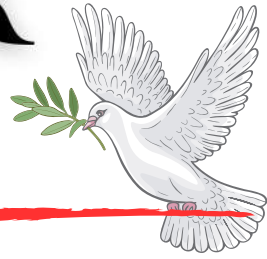


JOURNEYING TOGETHER



DECEMBER 2023

A Publication of Redlands Uniting Church



Jesus is the Reason!

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Redlands
UNITING CHURCH

Sit back, relax & catch up on the news & events coming up @ RUC.

Capalaba



9:00am

Cleveland



8 & 10am, 6:30pm

Redland Bay



10:00am

Victoria Point



8:30am

Wellington Point



9:00am

(Some service times may vary over the December - January period - Please check the website)

Our Ministers: Rev Beth Nicholls 0407 170 573 / Rev David Ferguson 0417 790 330 / Rev Peter Elliott 0409 629 356

Website: <https://clevelandunitingchurch.com/>



We preachers have our work cut out for us in the Sundays of Advent. The Advent scripture tends to be apocalyptic, that is revelation, uncovering of our future with God.

Isaiah speaks to a people who are filled with yearning. The exiles are languishing as strangers in a strange land. They are at the end of their rope, utterly without hope, particularly if their hope is dependent upon their efforts or initiative. Therefore, they cry out, "Tear open the heavens and come down" (Isa. 64:1).

Jesus turns to his followers, toward the end of this journey toward the cross in Mark's Gospel, and tells them to keep awake, alert (Mk. 13:24-37). An old age is dying, a new age is being born. Stand on tiptoes and see what God is birthing among us.

Tomorrow need not be like today. The poetic message of apocalyptic is hope to the oppressed, threatening to those who are at ease in the present order. The consistent message of the strange, poetic images of apocalyptic tends to be this: There can be a future because the future is God's and the God of Israel, and the "church," is a God who intervenes and makes a way when we thought there was no way.

What will the future bring?

What about the future? When the economy is booming, and the stocks are producing well, it is odd how we are confident in the future. The future will be a lot like today, only more of it.

But let the economy go south, just let us have some crisis or hard times, and we seem to instinctively become terribly unsure and uncertain about the future. No longer are we confident about what tomorrow holds. Perhaps, in such a time, we need to focus on who holds tomorrow.

Grace and Peace
Rev Peter



AGORA
 Sunday December 3
 Redlands Uniting Church
 36 Passage St, Cleveland

Christmas Light Launch

5:30 Prayer Walk
6:00 Barbeque
6:30 Dedication
7:00 Switch-on!

Don't forget to sign up!



EVENING WORSHIP
 6:30pm @ RUC Cleveland
 ALL WELCOME

December Roster

- 3rd - Agora - Christmas Light Switch On
- 10th - Ecumenical Carols Service (a team)
- 17th - Communion Service (Rev David Ferguson)
- 24th - Christmas Eve (Rev David Ferguson)
- 31st - 11pm Ecumenical Covenant Service

An interdenominational Covenant Service

**Committing ourselves to Christ
 for the
 new year**

Redlands Uniting Church @ Cleveland: 36 Passage Street, Cleveland
 Sunday 31 December (New Year's Eve), 11:00PM
 All welcome





Church Council Update



Key Topics Discussed at RUC Church Council Meeting
23 November 2023, 7:30pm, Wellington Point



- Discussion of the outcomes of the Appreciative Inquiry process
 - Clarification that no votes on proposals will occur in Sunday's congregational meeting
 - Working on the process that will lead us to be able to make decisions on our future direction at the first congregational meeting in 2024
- Combined service at Trinity, Wellington Point on at 9am Sunday 26 November with Congregational meeting to follow straight after
 - An update on the Appreciative Inquiry process will be provided at this meeting
- Discussion of support for Chaplains at state schools in Redlands
- Finance: we have lost less than \$10,000 per month recently owing to injections from fund raising, particularly from the Capalaba Catering Group
 - Weekly offerings have increased very marginally

Any questions about these and any other Church Council matters, feel free to approach your local Church Council member.



Church Council Members

Chairperson: Lance Carey
Deputy Chair: Neil Gilmour

Treasurer: Mervyn Head
Secretary: Julie Carter

Capalaba John House john@hendrikshousecleveland.com.au
 Cleveland Lance Carey lancer.carey@gmail.com
 Redland Bay Nerida Shannon robnerida@bigpond.com
 Redland Bay Verena McGowan jpvm@optusnet.com.au
 Victoria Point Gayle Pollard ranvier@iprimus.com.au
 Victoria Point Julie Carter jules3660@outlook.com or
 Victoria Point Mervyn Head mervyn_head@bigpond.com
 Trinity Heather Proellocks heatherproellocks@gmail.com
 Trinity Neil Gilmour neilcgilmour@gmail.com
 RUC Admin Alex Coombes admin@redlandsuc.com.au 0491 068 256
 Minister Rev Beth Nicholls revbethdnicholls@gmail.com
 Minister Rev David Ferguson..... david.ferguson@redlandsuc.com.au
 Minister Rev Peter Elliott peterlor57@gmail.com

Councilor Vacancy

Please email all correspondence to the Church Council via the Secretary or RUC Admin
secretary@redlandsuc.com.au | admin@redlandsuc.com.au





Christmas Service Times



Capalaba

Sat 23rd December: 7:00 pm Community Carols
 Sun 24th December: 9:00 am Sunday Worship Service
 Mon 25th December: **8.30 am Christmas Day Service**
 Sun 31st December: 9:00 am Hymn Songs & Praise

Regular Service Time: 9:00 am Worship Service (3rd Sunday Bi-Monthly @ Capalaba)

Cleveland

Sun 24th December: 9:00 am Christmas Eve Service (combined morning services)
 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service
 Mon 25th December: **7:00 am Christmas Day Service**
8:30 am Christmas Day Service

Sun 31st December: 9:00 am Worship Service (combined morning services)
11:00 pm New Year's Eve Ecumenical Covenant Service

Regular Service Times: 8 & 10 am Worship Services (For January only 9 am & 6:30 pm)
 & 6:30 pm Evening Services (commence on the 7th January)

Redland Bay

Sun 24th December: 10:00 am Joint Worship Service with VP
 Mon 25th December: **7:00 am Christmas Day Service**
 Sun 31st December: 10:00 am Worship Service

Regular Service Time: 10:00 am Worship Service (3rd Sunday @ Victoria Point, 8:30 am)

Victoria Point

Sun 24th December: 6:00 pm Christmas Eve BBQ sausage sizzle/Ice Cream and
 7:00 pm Carols Service

Mon 25th December: **8.30 am Christmas Day Service**

Sun 31st December: 8:30 am Worship Service

Regular Service Time: 8:30 am Worship Service (4th Sunday @ Redland Bay, 10 am)

Trinity - Wellington Point

Sun 24th December : 9:00 am Sunday Worship Service
 6:00 pm Christmas Eve on the Lawn (Sausage Sizzle & Carols)

Mon 25th December: **8:00 am Christmas Day Service**

Sun 31st December: 9:00 am Songs, Photos & Praise

Regular Service Time: 9:00 am Worship Service (3rd Sunday Bi-Monthly @ Capalaba)





THE VISION

Shine the Light of Jesus into the community and not leave Christ out of Christmas.
Can you help to share the Christmas message with our community?



The power of the lights to draw people in is remarkable. God's blessing on this mission means that we are continually given opportunities to plant the seeds of Christ's hope in the hearts of those who visit and our congregation has been blessed by some of those coming to join us. We are incredibly thankful for the many ways that so many people contribute to the success and the blessing that Christmas Light represents. We would love you to consider being a part of the team.

How can you help?

- Full day working bees (8am - 5pm) - 2nd Dec
- Donations of new art & craft items & knitted or crocheted items for the Bethlehem Stall.
- Kids Corner - coordinator and helpers required.
- Stable dress ups and photography - helpers needed.
- From 3rd Dec (Switch On Day) - donations of food for supper @ the Cattle Trough Café.
- Welcomer (say hello, hand out a star and direct to the various areas)



Please let Wendy Ruwoldt (0412 051 021) know where you can help!



Combined Churches

Carols on the Lawn

Sunday 10 December
Cleveland Uniting Church: 36 Passage Street

- 5:00 Sausage Sizzle
- 6:00 Carols, Nativity Play
- 7:00 Enjoy the Christmas Light display

Supper available
BYO Rug or chair, battery candle





PRAYER



Dear Heavenly Father,

As we gather together this Christmas, we come before you with grateful hearts, overflowing with love and appreciation for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ. Thank you for the miracle of Christmas, for the hope and light that Christ brought into the world. May this season be a reminder of your boundless love and the incredible sacrifice made for our salvation.

We pray for all those who are in need—those who are lonely, grieving, or facing challenges. May your comforting presence surround them, bringing peace and reassurance. Help us to be instruments of your love, reaching out to those in need and spreading the true meaning of Christmas.

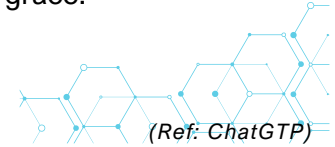
We pray for those who are suffering from war, poverty, and injustice. We pray that the light of Christ would shine brightly in our world, dispelling the darkness of hatred and fear. May this Christmas be a time of peace and reconciliation and may we all work together to build a world that reflects your love and compassion.

Grant us the wisdom to appreciate the simple joys of this season—the warmth of family and friends, the beauty of traditions, and the spirit of giving. May our hearts be filled with generosity and kindness as we reflect the love that you have showered upon us.

As we exchange gifts and share meals, let us not forget the greatest gift of all—your Son, Jesus Christ. May His love be the guiding light in our lives, leading us to a deeper understanding of your grace and mercy.

Lord, bless our homes with peace, our hearts with joy, and our communities with unity. May the spirit of Christmas extend beyond this season, inspiring us to live lives that reflect your love and grace.

**In Jesus' name, we pray.
Amen.**



Join a Prayer Group & Transform Your Spiritual Journey

Cleveland Prayer Group

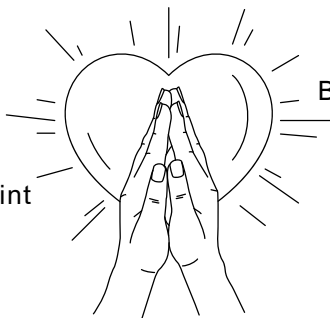
Wednesdays 10:45am, @ RUC Cleveland
Contact: Lance Carey 0468 838 550
lancer.carey@gmail.com

Victoria Point Prayer Group

Fridays 9:30 –10:30am, @ RUC - Victoria Point
Contact: Geoff Hill (07) 3207 7648
lynandgeoffhill@bigpond.com

Combined RUC Prayer Group

1st Thursday of the Month
3:00-4:00pm @ RUC Victoria Pt
Contact: Jan Davis 0413 587 466, etjd@bigpond.net.au



One City One Heart Ecumenical Prayer Meeting



Monday 11th Dec, 6:00-8:00pm
Break up party supper (bring a plate to share)
followed by prayer
@ Redlands Church of Christ,
51 Allenby Rd, Alex Hills
For Prayer Request Email:
admin@redlandsuc.com.au

People to Pray For...

<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
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PRAYER REQUESTS

*Do you or someone you know or a business even, need prayer? We can pass your request on to our ministers and prayer groups.
Email admin@redlandsuc.com.au*



Bible Studies Spend Time with God

*the Bible
is our
compass*

Tuesday

Birkdale Home Group
1st & 3rd Tuesday
9:30am

Contact: Jan Furnivall
0488 015 217
furnjan5@bigpond.com

Check with Jan on 2023 finish date & recommencement.

Cleveland Home Group
Every Tuesday
2:00pm

Contact: Joy Parry
(07) 3286 6439
joy.parry@optusnet.com.au

Check with Joy on 2023 finish date & recommencement.

Cleveland Home Group
Every Tuesday
7:30pm via ZOOM

Contact: Darryl Jackson
0481 536 555
dwljackson@gmail.com

**Finished for the year
Stay tuned for 2024!**

Wednesday

Capalaba Bible Study

2nd & 4th Wednesday
9:30am for 10am Start

Contact: RUC Capalaba
(07) 3390 2557

capalabaunitingchurch@gmail.com

**In recess from 13th December
Recommencing 24th January - tbc**

Cleveland Home Group

1st & 3rd Wednesday
9:30am

Contact: Glenys O'Malley
0417 637 731

glenysomalley@bigpond.com

Now in recess until 07/02/24

Matthew 4:4

"But he answered, 'It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"



Growing Disciples Together

The Coming of Jesus Christ: Past, Present, and Future

Four studies will take us through the Advent season on the theme of Hope: Waiting in Hope, Assured Hope, Joyful Hope, and Confident Hope. This will be a time for fellowship and enrichment through sharing together. We are invited to consider what the biblical texts have to say to us in our context.

The material is written by Rev Dr Christopher Walker, a Uniting Church Minister.

4 studies are offered at Victoria Point Church on Wednesdays, 2-3.30 pm, Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13, & 20

The cost of the book is \$13.

If you are interested to enrol or find out more about the studies,

please contact Rev Peter

peterlor57@gmail.com or 3134 2900



Giving helps build God's Kingdom

Dear Heavenly Father,

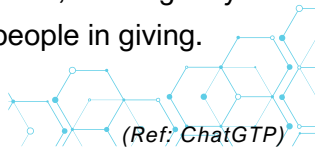
We come before you with hearts overflowing with gratitude for the generosity and faithfulness of your people. Thank you, Lord, for the cheerful givers who have faithfully offered their tithes and offerings to support the work of your kingdom.

We recognize, Father, that everything we have comes from you, and we are grateful for the opportunity to partner with you in the work of spreading your love and grace. Thank you for entrusting us with resources, and may these tithes be used to further your kingdom, bringing hope, healing, and salvation to those in need. Bless each giver, Lord, abundantly. May their obedience be met with your favour, and may they experience the joy of knowing that they have played a vital role in advancing your purposes on earth.

We pray, Lord, that you multiply these offerings and use them to touch lives, transform communities, and bring glory to your name. May the impact of these tithes be far-reaching, sowing seeds of faith and blessing into the lives of many.

In Jesus' name, we offer this prayer of thanks, trusting in your provision and celebrating the unity of your people in giving.

Amen.



"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."
Malachi 3:10 (NIV)



How Can You Give?



BANK TRANSFER

BOQ Account Name:
 Redland City Uniting Church
 BSB: 124-152
 Account: 232 584 80
 (preferred)



EFTPOS

No cash? No worries!
 We have Eftpos machines at our worship locations. Please let us know if you'd like to tithe by Eftpos.

CASH



If you like to tithe via cash, please place your tithe or offering in the collection plate/box at your church.

BEQUEST

Leaving a gift in your will to RUC will touch generations to come. Call to find out how.
 0491 068 256



Raising Funds by Recycling



- Cleveland: Scheme ID C10002868
- Victoria Point: Scheme ID: C10142795
- Wellington Point: Scheme ID: C10221568

Every Little Bit Helps



GRANTS...HELP!

Do you know your way around a grant application? We desperately need someone to take charge of applying for grants for RUC.

Please call or email Alex

- 0491 068 256
- admin@redlandsuc.com.au



A Great Month of Fundraising



Cleveland Street Stall

Our fundraising month started off with a Street Stall in Cleveland, raising \$1,037! Many thanks to the people who contributed to the street stall, set up the street stall and manned the street stall.

Capalaba Carboot Markets



Our second fundraising event was the Capalaba Carboot Market. Capalaba held six carboot market days during the year with the local community enjoying the opportunity to search for bargains and hidden treasures. Capalaba folk ran stalls for plants, books, DVDs, household items, pre-loved clothing, homemade cakes, slices, preserves and sweets as well as a sausage sizzle and Devonshire teas. The Op shop also attracted many browsers to wander among its beautifully presented shelves. Approximately twelve to fourteen regular carboot stall holders set up their marquees each time with an impressive variety of goods and plants to sell. Early starts for setting up at dawn for the June market were quickly followed by an early queue for coffee and freshly baked scones. Friendships have been developed among the 'regulars' and some have commented that they love coming along for the atmosphere even if they don't sell much! Thankfully this year none of the market days were washed out by downpours of rain.



Always pleasing to see people returning time after time every year and be able to catch up on news. We were fortunate at the last market day in November to have our local Council member, Adelia Berridge, set up a marquee and chat to members of the community.

The carboot markets provide a wonderful opportunity to interact with the local community and share information with them about the church and its other activities such as the CAFE craft group and men's Leisure Blokes. The Capalaba Carols evening was also widely promoted at the November market. The dates have been set for 2024 as follows: 10 February, 13 April, 8 June, 10 August, 12 October, and 16 November so mark those calendars now.

Redland Bay Plant Sale & Market

The third fundraising event was the Redland Bay Plant Sale & Market day. Many thanks to all who contributed. It was a lovely day with the rain holding off until pack up! Thanks to the Bunker's for the generous donation of plants for the sale.





Christmas FOOD APPEAL

29 Loraine Street, Capalaba
PHONE: 3245 2117

REDLANDS COMMUNITY CENTRE

Merry Christmas

*All donations must be within their use by or best before date

From Redlands Community Centre CHRISTMAS Food Appeal

Join us in spreading joy this holiday season! Our community Christmas appeal is in full swing, and we need your help to make it a success.

This year, let's come together and make a difference by donating festive food items to families in need. Your generosity can bring smiles and warmth to their tables during this festive season.

Every contribution counts and can make someone's Christmas truly special. Drop off your donations at 29 Loraine Street, Capalaba between 9am to 3pm (Mon/Tues/Thur/Fri) or 9am to 12noon on Wednesday. Let's show our community's strength and compassion by supporting one another during this wonderful time of year.

Together, we can make this Christmas season a little brighter for those who need it most. Share the holiday spirit and join us in giving back this festive season.

Please phone us on 3245 2117 if you need assistance out of hours.



Thank you for continuing to support those in need in our community.

A HELPING HAND 🧡

Birkdale Fair

Birkdale Fair is proudly partnering with our amazing local charities to help collect non-perishable food items this Christmas 🛒

From now until 20 December 2023 you can donate food items in-centre at BOQ Birkdale. We will then distribute them amongst Redland Community Centre, Night Ninjas Inc. and the **BASE** at Trinity Uniting Church Wellington Point.

Not sure what to donate?

- ✓ Pasta, rice, noodles, cereal, oats
- ✓ Long life milk, bottled water
- ✓ Canned items such as beans, stew, soup, vegetables
- ✓ Nuts, crackers muesli bars
- ✓ Hygiene staples like toothpaste, soap, deodorant etc

Find out more here 🖱️ <https://bit.ly/40QHA91>



You can also help stock RUC's Food banks...

The NEED is REAL!

Capalaba 'Love Cupboard' & Op Shop * Trinity Food Pantry & Thrift Shop * Cleveland 'Can Do Canteen'

What is Needed?

- Traditional porridge, Weetbix, 1l milk, plain biscuits, jam and coffee. At Trinity - items for Christmas hampers – look for specials now. Items we give out in hampers include: tinned ham, Christmas cake, custard, canned fruit, tinned vegies, bottles of apple juice, tins of apple sauce, Christmas lollies and treats, wrapping paper, cards, bon bons, tinsel. We will also be requesting some toys but that will come later when we know how many, gender and ages of the children.
- Dignity Packs: sanitary items, toothbrush, toothpaste, travel size shampoo/conditioner, soaps or body wash. shampoo, body wash, tissues
- Clothing and Shoes





PAY IT FORWARD - An Act of Kindness
Bake/Buy a cake or fruit platter for your neighbour.

Remember,
even small acts of kindness can have a significant impact on someone's day or life. By paying it forward, you contribute to creating a more compassionate and caring community.



CAPALABA UNITING OP SHOP

Open every Mon & Fri - 9:30am to 1pm
32 Ney Rd, Capalaba

Last day Friday 8th December 2023
Reopening Monday 22 January 2024

Clothes, books, toys, bric-a-brac and more!
For more information or to drop off donation contact:
(07) 3390 2557 or email capalabaunitingchurch@gmail.com



Thank you to all the volunteers & to our wonderful community for your support & donations during 2023.

TRINITY TREASURES THRIFT SHOP

Open every Thu & Sat - 9:00am to 12pm
47 Marlborough Rd, Wellington Point

Last day Friday 23rd December 2023
Reopening Monday 25 January 2024



Come along for a great time together, meeting & greeting. For more information Contact Eve Boge 0411 476 663 or email eve.boge@gmail.com





How Can You Help?



Bethlehem



Stall

The "Bethlehem Stall" will run throughout our 'Christmas Light Outreach'. While festive Christmas items are especially popular at this time of year, we welcome donations of cakes, slices, pickles, jams and craft items. All funds raised support the ongoing mission of Christmas Light. Enquiries Eunice Palfrey 0407 239 475.

Uniting World

EVERYTHING IN COMMON

GIFT CATALOGUE

Gifts that fight poverty and build hope!



Capalaba and Trinity Wellington Point

Everything in Common stall after worship until 10 December

Purchase a chicken, goats, seeds, schoolbooks, or support different Uniting World Projects in the Pacific, Asia, and Africa.

Purchase colourful Christmas Cards. Take a catalogue and purchase online.



Backpack to School Project

REDLAND COMMUNITY CENTRE IS RUNNING OUR ANNUAL BACKPACK TO SCHOOL PROJECT. THIS IS A FULLY COMMUNITY-SUPPORTED INITIATIVE.

WE WELCOME AND INVITE ALL DONATIONS.

Donations Required

- ✓ Scrap books
- ✓ Exercise Books
- ✓ Binder Books
- ✓ Back Packs
- ✓ Twistable Crayons
- ✓ HB & 2B Pencils
- ✓ Coloured Pens Packs
- ✓ Water Bottles
- ✓ Colour Pencil Packs
- ✓ Scissors
- ✓ Sharpeners
- ✓ Glue Sticks
- ✓ Erasers
- ✓ Rulers



CONTACT - ROANNA
PHONE - 07 3245 2117
EMAIL - SPW@REDLANDCOMMUNITYCENTRE.ORG



Christmas Day @ Bayside Salvos



Bayside Salvos will be hosting Christmas Day at Bayside Salvation Army Community Church. Morning Church Service (time TBA) followed at 11:30am by:

CHRISTMAS LUNCH + ENTERTAINMENT

They have given so much, and its time they receive a helping hand. One City One Heart not only care for & support the community, but we also care for & support one another. Churches supporting one another & having each other's backs. We have your back SALVOS!!!!!!!

They are seeking donations and volunteers. If you would like to help in any way, please contact Bayside Salvos Church on 07 3824 5222



Can You Help?

Stable Dress-Ups

If you have a free evening in the middle of December, please consider helping our stable dress-ups at the Christmas Light outreach at Cleveland. The dress-ups are Mon-Sat from 7pm between 11-23 December & consist of helping people into costume (over their own clothes) & then hanging the costume up again when they are finished. You may need to take a photo too - we think these are the Christian equivalent of Santa photos! If you can be on the roster, please email Admin@clevelandunitingchurch.com or text Donna on 0403 022 139 with your preferred date/s. Thank you!



Spread the word!



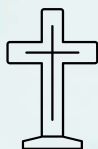
Tennis Court Hire Cleveland

Fancy a game of tennis or know someone who's looking to hire a court?

Contact Jan Furnivall to arrange a booking.
Phone: 0488 015 217
Email: furnjan5@bigpond.com



'Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding' Proverbs 3:5



NEWS

Retirement Announcements

Rev Beth Nicholls

Many would know Beth's supply is due to finish on 31 May 2024. Beth has decided to retire and in preparation for that will take long service leave in May and holidays two weeks before. Beth will finish on 14 April 2024.

"I have totally been blessed and have loved my time in ministry with you. Not many ministers have the opportunity to serve in a place twice and I praise God that I have been able to do that. It has been a privilege. God has not finished with us yet! Together we have some work to do for Christmas and preparing for next year."

God bless,
Beth



Rev Peter Elliott

After much prayer, Peter has decided to retire from active ministry on June 30, 2024. Peter will be taking 3 months Long Service Leave prior to that, so will conclude ministry with Redlands Uniting on March 31st 2024.

The Presbytery has been informed and will work with the Church Council towards providing supply ministry to meet the immediate needs of the Redlands Uniting Church as a more concrete plan for the future is articulated.

"I am committed to continue to share with you in Christ's ministry during the upcoming months".

Grace and Peace,
Rev Peter Elliott



News From the Presbytery - Committees and Presbytery positions

At the recent Presbytery Meeting, the following people were elected to the various committees.

- **Presbytery Standing Committee:** Rev. Faye Talatonu and Rev. Esteban Lievano
- **Pastoral Relations Committee:** Neil Ballment, Rhonda Coleman, Rev. Colin Batt, Rev. Noah Kim, Rev. Ralph Mayhew, Rev. Beth Nicholls and Rev. Beatriz Skippen.
- Mr Dale Ham was appointed as **Presbytery Treasurer**. Dale has also been appointed to the UCA Assembly Limited Board.
- Rev. Dr Peter Lockhart was voted in and will be attending the Assembly Meeting June 2024.

We sincerely thank everyone for their service and ongoing support.



Chairperson, Moreton Rivers Presbytery, Rev. Janet Staines and Rev. David Busch. Rev. Busch was inducted into placement at Merthyr Rd New Farm UC on November 18.



Did you know that **QLD Synod** have a Tuesday night prayer meeting on the first Tuesday of every month, 7-8pm, via zoom. The prayer session is lead by Rev Dave Thomas.

Have a look at your Uniting News update each week for the zoom link or the link below may also work.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81994146488?pwd=VDcird1dCbjluaHZQR3JsM0wySGdWUT09#success>

Our mission is to embark on a spiritual journey to seek God's rejuvenating embrace, both for ourselves and for the wider church community in Queensland and beyond. Your participation will significantly enrich our collective spiritual journey.

For any queries, please get in touch with Paul Wetzig at paul.wetzig@ucaqld.com.au.



TOFFS End of Year Lunch



L to R: Ray Oliver & Ian Lynch with the strawberry farm in the background



Ladies Fellowship Christmas Breakup



CLEVELAND LADIES FELLOWSHIP enjoyed a wonderful Christmas Break-Up recently. 19 ladies joined in the fun & celebrations at Arabica Courtyard, Cleveland. We plan to return once again in the new year on Wednesday 14th February, 9.30am. We strive to be a loving, supportive group of Christian women and would make you feel very welcome if you decide to join us in the coming year. **HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL.**
Val Tanner (0431 967 327)



L to R: Anita, Lance (hidden), Diane, Jane, Val, Stan, Graham, Joan, Ann, Rev David.

JULIET Christmas Breakup



L to R: Lyn Reed, Jean Hedges, Ann Doyle, Janice Auld, Marion Cornford & daughter Kathryn, Irene McAtear



L to R: Diane Carey, Jane Egan and Val Goleby after we'd sung happy birthday to Jane.



L to R: Anne Macarthur, Annie Hampson, Val Mowat, Jessica Jones



L to R: Josie Rodwell, Marilyn Curtis, Marlene Head



November Happenings

KEENAGERS Christmas Luncheon & Performance by MMM's



'Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding' Proverbs 3:5





CAFFE enjoyed another great year of craft and friendship. Our group grew with quite a few new members and our craft mornings regularly have 30 or more attending. Such a wonderful sight to watch old friends and new chatting over craft and a cuppa.



In May we held our biennial Open Day. With a theme this year of **"Then and Now"** there were exhibits of older crafts and those of more modern times. Many comments of "Oh! I remember those" were heard around displays of embroidered tablecloths, doilies and aprons; hand-made wedding dresses; quilts and knitted baby layettes. There were beautiful decorative tea cozies, one dating back to 1912, which in days gone by would have kept the teapot warm but are now replaced by a simple teabag.



Speaking of teabags, one new craft enjoyed by some of the members was teabag folding. This delicate craft involves folding small pieces of paper the size of a teabag and creating tiny flowers and other decorations for cards.



A particular goal for the group was our annual packing of shoeboxes for the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. Members spent the year making clothes, pencil cases, hats, bags, hairclips and toys to be combined with their donations of school items, toothbrushes, soap and other goodies to fill the shoeboxes for this project. Members were delighted to be able to fill 100 shoeboxes this year – a new record and fabulous achievement for this lovely group of ladies (and two gents).



Along with the shoe-boxes several other charities also benefited from the crafts that were made and donated throughout the year. 170 baby beanies and 74 blankets were given to new babies at Redlands Mater Mothers, Caboolture maternity hospital and the special care nursery at Mt Isa hospital. Our other knitted items - 196 beanies, 23 jumpers, and 11 scarves were sent to KOGO which stands for Knit One Give One, a charity which supports families suffering hardship based in Victoria where it is much cooler (Lincraft delivers these free of charge). Closer to home adult beanies and 19 rugs were donated to St Vincents hospital for cancer patients.

A representative from the hospital came to a recent CAFFE day to personally thank the group for their generosity and relate the personal stories of how much they are appreciated by the patients. A total of 32 lovely knitted teddy bears were donated to the Redlands Community Centre which gives them to the children of families needing help. The group was also able to make a significant financial donation to a domestic violence support organisation which operates in the Redlands.



Towards the end of the year a Seniors Enquiry Line representative was invited and provided a very informative presentation on online and phone scam awareness. The session covered topics and examples of the latest tactics being used, outlined a number of useful strategies to avoid being scammed and provided useful resources and helpline contacts for anyone with concerns.

CAFFE will finish the year with its Christmas morning tea in early December and will restart in February 2024 for another year of Craft And Friendship For Everyone!

Sharon Phoenix and Stella Morton





End of an Era



After many years of cooking and serving sumptuous dinners, lunches, breakfasts, morning and afternoon teas and catering for special events such as birthdays and funerals, the Capalaba Catering Group will not be operating from the beginning of 2024.

Our sincere thanks go to Val Surtees for her hard work and dedication in coordinating her team of volunteers, some of whom have been with the group since its inception. Thank you to each of you for your many hours of peeling, chopping, frying, boiling, baking, plating up and serving with a smile - not to mention clearing tables and the washing up afterwards!!! Hundreds of hours of labour resulting in many thousands of dollars in fund-raising for the work of the church - well done, good and faithful servants!!



From Jan Fraser on behalf of the Capalaba congregation



Lord, we lift up our hearts in thanksgiving for the volunteers who have dedicated their time and energy. Lord, you know the sacrifices they made, the challenges they faced, and the love they poured into their service.

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of these volunteers. Their service is a shining light that reflects your love and grace. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Back row: Pauline Roberts, Glenise Orr, Lee Glewis, Val Surtees
Front row: Alma Williams, Avis Eggins, Sharon Phoenix, Ruth Alcorn, Stella Morton
Absent: Lyn Kersnovske, Verena McGowan

That is the final entry for the Catering Team, but let us go back quite a few years to the beginning.... In the mid 1990's we were approached by the ladies of Cleveland church to join with them in catering for the Gideon's monthly meeting. We worked with them for the first twelve months and then the next year we took it month about. After that we did it on our own behalf, but still travelling to Cleveland church each month as that was where the Gideons met. Things went along for a few years and then Capalaba upgraded our kitchen, so when the opportunity arose we asked the Gideons if they would meet in our hall, thus saving much packing up and transporting of food etc. to Cleveland.

Through catering for the Gideons' Faith Fund Dinner in Wynnum one year, I made contact with a lovely gentleman connected with the Wynnum Community Church's outreach to their Living Hope Mission in Zambia. We are proud of what we have been able to contribute to their containers of goods they forward at great cost to Zambia. All the items we send are in good, clean condition thanks to one lady of our congregation. Many thanks to Glenise.

Our catering efforts could not have kept going for so long without the unselfish help of our ladies (and a gentleman or two) who have worked tirelessly over many years catering for meals. They have never refused to come and help which has made my job so much easier. When we first started and the Faith Fund Dinner came upon us, we trembled in our shoes, involving any willing participant from our church to come and help us on the night. Our last big effort was for 107 guests, and we managed it with just eight of us. We all did very well as the saying goes.

I have been proud to have been the co-ordinator of this group of wonderful friends and will miss it greatly.

Val Surtees



www.christianmeditationaustralia.org

Meditation is a universal practice, a way of prayer, a way of connecting with God in a deeper way. The Prayer of the Heart, Contemplative Prayer, Meditation is essentially the prayer of Faith. In silence, we accept that God knows our needs and that this knowledge is the love that creates and will eventually complete us.

In the first part of our Session, we focus on the Bible, meditation on Scripture and group discussion. This is followed by some meditation teaching, music and silence.

The two small groups that commenced meeting 6 months ago are progressing very well. All who attend really look forward to the weekly gathering. Currently there are 14 people overall that come along and there's always room for more! I encourage you to check out the website (see above).



WEEKLY Sessions:

Tuesdays - 8:30 - 9:30am

Wednesdays - 8:00 - 9:00am

Venue: RUC - Wellington Point - Trinity

Finishing 6th Dec 2023 & resuming 6th Feb 2024

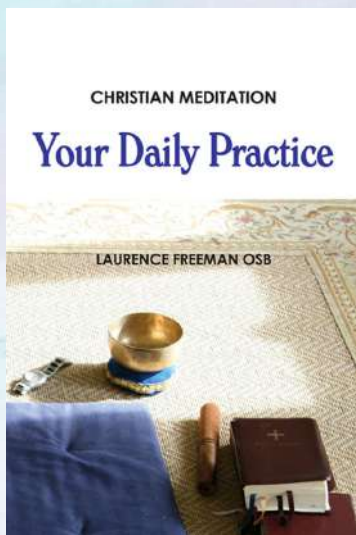
For further enquires talk with
Gill Moloney (0409 580 448) or
Rev Beth (0407 170 573)

Gill's Testimony

The Booklet Christian Meditation, Your Daily Practice tells us everything we need to know about this style of meditation. I am totally committed to this Practice and love sharing the benefits with others.

Since practicing meditation DAILY and most times twice daily, I have become aware of personal inner change and growth in the fruits of the Spirit - Galatians 5: 22-23 *'But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, fidelity, gentleness and self control.* That is a deeper relationship with the Living God which is what I was seeking!

That's why I love sharing the Gift with others.



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LAURENCE FREEMAN OSB is a Benedictine monk and Director of The World Community for Christian Meditation. He teaches worldwide in a monastery without walls. His books include *Light Within, The Selfless Self, Jesus the Teacher Within, First Sight: The Experience of Faith, Christian Meditation: Six-Week Introductory Course, and The Inner Pilgrimage.*

This book is helpful for anyone seeking a deeper spiritual life. It is especially useful to those exploring the basic teaching on Christian Meditation as a way to depth and meaning in their life. Laurence Freeman deals clearly and usefully with the simple but sometimes puzzling questions such as: What is prayer? How do we pray? How do we look at progress on this journey?

The newcomer to meditation will be encouraged to start on the journey of meditation. The practising mediator will find this book a way of refreshing their practice as well as of sharing it with others.

Cover photograph by Laurence Freeman OSB

www.mediamedia.com
www.wccm.org

ISBN 978-0-91-1115-7-7

The Christian Tradition of Meditation

"As Christians, we meditate because we believe in the Risen Christ, that he lives and lives in us. As disciples of Jesus, the teacher, we have faith when he calls us to leave self behind and follow him into the Kingdom of God, to 'Share in the very being of God' (2 Peter 1:4).

It is our faith that makes our meditation Christian. It is also Christian because it is centred in the human consciousness of Jesus in our inmost being. As Christians, we naturally meditate with other Christians, and our lives are guided and enriched in community by scripture, sacrament, and all the different ways of ministering to others in the love and compassion of the Spirit.

The basic theology of meditation is the basic theology of the gospel. Jesus, by his life, death and resurrection, has opened up for us a way to God, and by sending the Holy Spirit to us he has become our way and our guide.

Jesus did not teach any particular method of prayer, but we can see by what he says of prayer in the Sermon on the Mount, that meditation is a way to find him and to follow him. Meditation is wholly consistent with his teaching about prayer."

(Ref: *Christian Meditation Your Daily Practice* by Laurence Freeman)



TRINITY SINGERS

Saturday 2nd of December
Wellington Point Village Christmas Festival
4 pm - 9 pm



Trinity Singers will again sing carols (early evening) in the Village on Saturday evening 2 December. We look forward to this time to share not only our love of music, but also to be able to share the Christmas message with our community. Inquiries to Elaine McFie elaine@mcfie.com



Renate Ayling's

ART & CRAFT
CHRISTMAS MARKET

Sat, 2nd Dec
9am-1pm

Redlands
Uniting Church
36 Passage St,
Cleveland

**PLUS
RUC
SAUSAGE
SIZZLE**

VOLUNTEER CHRISTMAS Morning Tea



Share your heart gift your time...

Meet our volunteers and join us at our Open Day so you can learn more about volunteering for Infinite Care and what is involved.

Tuesday 5 December @ 10am

Everyone welcome to come and share morning tea, and some Christmas cheer and chats.

Infinite Care Cleveland
156-162 Bay St, Cleveland



Any questions, please email volunteer@infinitecare.com.au

TINSEL AND *Tunes*

A SPECIAL AFTERNOON OF ENTERTAINMENT
FEATURING
The Gold Coast City Brass Band

Sunday December 3rd
3:00pm
Tickets: \$20
Southport Uniting Church
23 Short St, Southport

Southport Uniting Church

Ph: 5532 5913 southportuca@gmail.com
www.southportunitingchurch.org.au

www.facebook.com/goldcoastcitybrassband



What's On?




Trinity's WOW
(Women on Wednesdays)

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Wednesday 6th Dec
Arrive 11.30 for 12noon
Cleveland RSL, Sails Restaurant.

Bring a bauble to swap.
Dinner \$15 dessert \$5.

RSVP to
Lorraine 0410 539 303
or Denise 0416 091 948




Community Craft - Redland Bay
End-of-Year Christmas Lunch

Tuesday 12th December
@ Redland Bay Hotel, 11:30 am
For more Information
Contact Nerida 0409 700 797





At Christmas Light during December

A place to meet for a delicious supper, a chat & to soak up the atmosphere of the Nativity Story told through lights



Location:
36 Passage St, Cleveland.
Under the awning of the small hall.



Donations Welcome



End-of-Year Christmas Lunch

Thursday 14th December
11:30 am
@ Redland Bay Golf Club
For more Information
Contact Nerida
0409 700 797

MERRY Christmas




Birkdale Fair
Children's Christmas Craft

Another mission activity funded by monies raised by the Trinity Thrift Shop, is Christmas Craft. It is happening again this December at Birkdale Fair on

Wed 13th / Thu 14th / Fri 15th
two shifts:
8:30 - 11 am & 11 am - 1:30 pm

If you would like to help please contact
Lyn Gilmour gilmours@bigpond.net.au
or Rev Beth 0407 170 573
revbethdnicholls@gmail.com

Location:
Cnr of Birkdale Rd & Mary Pleasant Dr, Birkdale
(Note: Blue Card required to be able to assist)



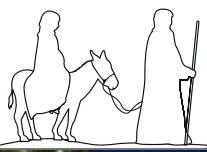

Family Camp 2024
4th - 6th May

Mark it in your calendar now!

@ Reflections Holiday Parks, Lennox Head NSW
Plan and book so you don't miss out!
Call (02) 6687 7249

- * Time Out
- * Relaxation
- * Friendship
- * Fellowship
- * Fun





What's On?

CHRISTMAS EVE on the LAWN

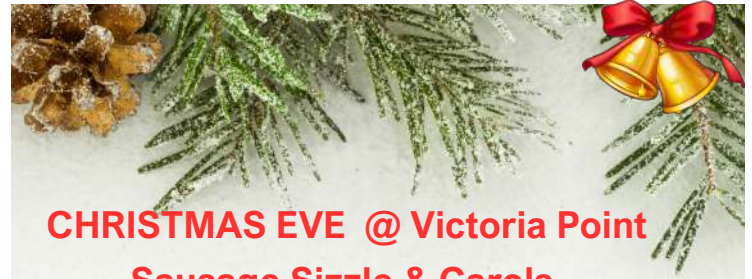
Trinity's annual gathering will be held from

- 6pm with a free sausage sizzle,
- 6.30pm carol singing, and
- 7pm a Christmas sharing.

ALL WELCOME

47 Marlborough Road
Wellington Point

If you can help out please
contact Lyn
gilmours@bigpond.net.au



CHRISTMAS EVE @ Victoria Point Sausage Sizzle & Carols

All are welcome to come along and enjoy a delicious
sausage sandwich, ice cream and carols!

- 6:00 pm for the free Sausage Sizzle & Ice Cream
- 7:00 pm for the Carol Service

15 Point O'Halloran Rd, Victoria Point



Christmas Day Lunch

FOOD - FELLOWSHIP - FUN

December 25, 12noon - 2:30pm

1 - 9 Macarthur Street, Alexandra Hills

Please register through the QR code by
December 22



We can't wait to see you there!



Bayside

Give Hope



Share God's love so refugees
are not forgotten this Christmas

Please give today. 1800 025 101
www.christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au

Please
give
today

Need a House sitter?

Reliable mature gentleman available
for housesitting
(including those with pets!)
over the Christmas
and New Year period.
Please contact Doug
on 0404 266 908.

*(Doug works with Donna Duval at Nazarene
Theological College and is a retired librarian)*

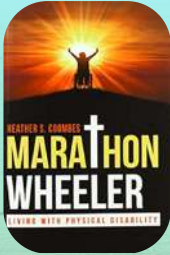




Are you looking for gift ideas? These books might fit the bill.

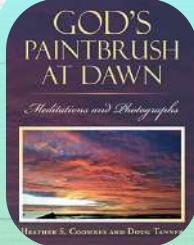


BOOKS FOR SALE BY HEATHER COOMBES



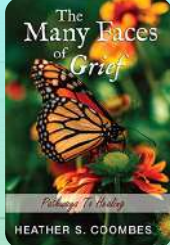
\$20 paperback
+ \$10 p & h

Anyone who has suffered a loss or accompanies others in their grief journey could benefit from reading this book.



Hardcover \$25
Softcover \$20
+ postage & handling
on enquiry.

Photographs: Doug Tanner; Meditations: Composed or compiled by Heather Coombes. Share in the wonder of nature & God's creation.

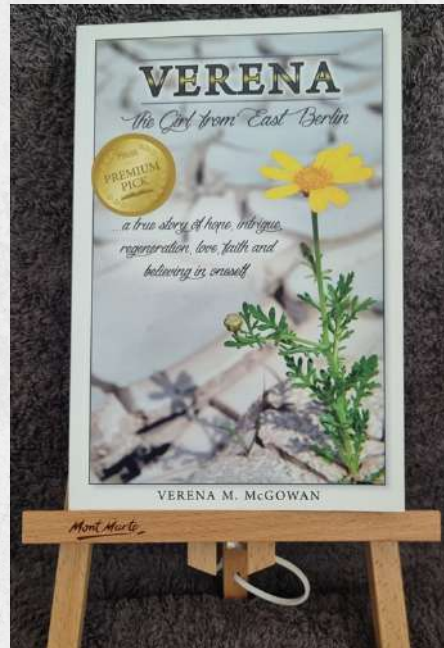


\$20 paperback
+ \$10 p & h

Discover how a woman wheelchair user with cerebral palsy found purpose in librarianship and ordained Christian ministry.

For Purchase enquiries please contact Heather by
Email: hsycoombes@gmail.com
or Mobile: 0439 898 144
Payment by EFT: Westpac Acc Name: Heather Coombes, BSB: 732-377, Acct: 546584
10% of proceeds will be donated to Redlands UCA

For Sale - Verena McGowan's - Autobiography



* To purchase for just \$20.00, Contact Verena who will deliver a signed copy to your Church. Email: jpvm@optusnet.com.au Mobile: 0412 347 513 with your request

10% of proceeds will be donated to Redlands UCA

Faith is what led me to write my autobiography and with every page written I became more and more conscious of the healing taking place. It took me six decades to have the courage to tell my story, leading me to an understanding of "WHY" and what lessons I had to learn. My faith showed me my immense strength and will to survive. I thank God for showing me to trust and bring new and wondrous blessings into my life as I let go of grievances and hurts I have suffered. We are all stronger than we think and have boundless courage. Reach inside and draw out more of the power of the spirit to meet our needs. I will encourage all who need hope; I stand strong with the Lord my father and friend by my side. I am a child of God that is so blessed.



Bethlehem Stall
RUC - Cleveland
Open Sunday Mornings & All through Christmas Light

Have you started your Christmas gift shopping yet? If you want to get in early then a small selection of lovely gift items, including beautiful craft pieces, will be available for purchase from the Bethlehem Stall at RUC Cleveland. Payment will be by the honesty box system or via online banking (payment slips showing bank account details will be available).

Bank Account Details
BSB: 124-152
Acc #: 232 584 80
Ref: Christmas Light - Bethlehem Stall
Enquiries Eunice Palfrey 0407 239 475.



My friend asked me what the ninth letter of the alphabet is. It was a complete guess, but I was right.

Live
Laugh
Love



Want to Help Out?

The Newsletters are now being put together using Canva! Canva is an on-line graphic design tool.

If you would like to help out with the Newsletter I can invite you to be part of the 'Canva Team'. Contact Alex if you would like to be part of the team. 0491 068 256 admin@redlandsuc.com.au

Letters to the Editor

A suggestion came in for a new addition to the newsletter '**Letters to the Editor**'. Let's make our community stronger, kinder, & more vibrant. Write that letter to the editor, share your thoughts & be a part of the change you want to see. Together, we can create a future that we are all proud to be a part of.





RUC Contact Details

Postal Address

PO Box 769, Cleveland QLD 4163
Phone: 0491 068 256

Website

<https://www.clevelandunitingchurch.com/>

Capalaba

32 Ney Rd, Capalaba 4157
Phone: (07) 3390 2557
Email: capalabaunitingchurch@gmail.com

Cleveland

Mon/Tue/Thu/Fri 9.00am - 10.00am
36 Passage St, Cleveland 4163
Phone: (07) 3286 5627
Email: admin@clevelandunitingchurch.com
Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/ClevelandUC/>

Redland Bay

228 Gordon Rd, Redland Bay 4165
Phone: 0491 068 256
Email: redlandbay@redlandsuc.com.au
Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/RedlandBayUnitingChurch/>

Victoria Point

13-15 Point O'Halloran Rd,
Victoria Point 4165
Phone: (07) 3134 2900
Email: peterlor57@gmail.com

Wellington Point – Trinity

47 - 49 Marlborough Rd,
Wellington Point 4160
Phone: (07) 3207 3099
Email: trinityuniting@gmail.com
Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/Trinity-Uniting-Church-Wellington-Point>

To Our Volunteers

You are the best! You make all things happen!
Thank you for all your efforts throughout 2023!



Thank you



Giving via Direct Deposit

Take the hassle out of finding cash each week...organise with your bank to have your tithes direct debited straight from your account. The details you need are below.

- Bank: Bank of Queensland
- Account Name: Redland City Uniting Church
- BSB No.: 124-152
- Account Number: 232 584 80

Thank you

Help Impact
our
Community

Reminder for 2024

Church Council Approval & Risk Assessments



Organising an activity, function or event in 2024? Please email information the details and a risk assessment to the Church Council Secretary or Resource & Administration Officer so approval by Church Council can be organised. This ensures your activity, function or event is covered by insurance

Not Receiving Email Communications?

You don't need to be a member to receive email communications from RUC. However you will need to provide your details via the Membership Register form (name, email address & consent for RUC to communicate with you via email). Please contact the Resource & Administration Officer if you would like a form.

Newsletter Content & Contact

If you would like to contribute to the Newsletter, please have your information in by the **18th December**.

Email: newsletter@redlandsuc.com.au

Phone: 0491 068 256

Resource and Administration Officer

Name: Alex Coombes

Phone: 0491 068 256

Email: admin@redlandsuc.com.au

Office Hours: 8am to 4pm (may vary)

Office Location: 36 Passage St, Cleveland





Wishing you a very

Merry Christmas



“IN RESPONSE TO GOD’S GRACE WE WILL SEEK TO
BE A FRUITFUL, THRIVING COMMUNITY OF FAITH,
INTENTIONALLY GROWING GOD’S KINGDOM
THROUGHOUT THE REDLANDS.”





December 2023



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1 CAP: OP Shop RB: Exercise 9am RB: Library Open VP: Prayer Group	2 CLE: Sausage Sizzle @ Christmas Market WP: Creative Moments WP: OP Shop WP: Trinity Singers @ WP Village CAP: Catering Team - catering for Solos at Wellington Manor	3 8am Service (CLE) 8:30am Service (VP) 9am Service (CAP) 9am Service (WP) 10am Service (CLE) 10am Service (RB) 5:30pm Agora / Christmas Light Switch On (CLE)
4 CLE: Christmas Light CAP: OP Shop CLE: Men's Shed RB: Zumba CAP: Catering Team - catering for Nandeebie Christmas Luncheon	5 CLE: Christmas Light CAP: CAFFE (Christmas Party) CLE: Bible Study - PM Birkdale: Bible Study - AM RB: Craft VP: Craft WP: Meditation	6 CLE: Christmas Light CLE: Prayer Group VP: Bible Study CLE: Men's Shed WP: Men's Coffee WP: Meditation	7 CLE: Christmas Light CAP: Leisure Blokes WP: OP Shop RB: Ladies Friendship Circle CAP: Catering Team - catering for Gideons	8 CLE: Christmas Light CAP: OP Shop RB: Exercise 9am RB: Library Open VP: Prayer Group	9 CLE: Christmas Light RB: Zumba WP: OP Shop	10 8am Service (CLE) 8:30am Service (VP) 9am Service (CAP) 9am Service (WP) 10am Service (CLE) 10am Service (RB) 6:30pm Service (CLE) CLE: Christmas Light
11 CLE: Christmas Light CLE: Men's Shed RB: Zumba 1C1H Ecumenical Prayer Meeting	12 CLE: Christmas Light CLE: Bible Study - PM RB: Craft	13 CLE: Christmas Light CLE: Prayer Group CAP: Bible Study CLE: Men's Shed WP: Men's Coffee	14 CLE: Christmas Light CAP: Leisure Blokes CLE: English Country Dancing WP: OP Shop	15 CLE: Christmas Light RB: Exercise 9am RB: Library Open VP: Prayer Group CAP: Catering Team - catering for Cleveland Manor	16 CLE: Christmas Light WP: OP Shop	17 8am Service (CLE) 8:30am Service (VP) 9am Service (CAP) 10am Service (CLE) 6:30pm Service (CLE) CLE: Christmas Light
18 CLE: Christmas Light CLE: Men's Shed RB: Zumba	19 CLE: Christmas Light CLE: Bible Study - PM Birkdale: Bible Study - AM	20 CLE: Christmas Light CLE: Men's Shed CLE: Prayer Group	21 CLE: Christmas Light CAP: Leisure Blokes WP: OP Shop	22 CLE: Christmas Light VP: Prayer Group	23 CLE: Christmas Light WP: OP Shop 7pm Community Carols (CAP)	24 9am Service (CAP) 9am Service (CLE) 9am Service (WP) 10am Service (RB) 6pm BBQ / Carols VP 6pm Christmas Eve on the Lawn (WP) 7pm Service (CLE) CLE: Christmas Light
25 Christmas Day 7am Service (CLE) 7am Service (RB) 8am Service (WP) 8:30am Service (CAP) 8:30am Service (CLE) 8:30am Service (VP)	26 Boxing Day	27	28	29	30	31 8:30am Service (VP) 9am Service (CAP) 9am Service (CLE) 9am Service (WP) 10am Service (RB) 11pm New Year's Eve Covenant Service



"We acknowledge the Quandamooka People, Traditional Custodians of the lands, waters and seas where we stand today. We pay our respects to Elders, past, present and future."