

# December '23 & January '24



The Uniting Church in Australia  
QUEENSLAND SYNOD

## MARYBOROUGH PARISH

Maryborough, Tiaro & Bauple Congregations

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Making Christ Visible

## December Maryborough Services

### SUNDAY 3rd December

9.00am St. Stephen's Church - Rev Delma

Advent 1

READINGS: Is 64:1-8 Ps 80:1-7,17-19  
1 Cor 1:3-9 Mk 13:24-37

### SUNDAY 10th December

9.00am St. Stephen's Church - Irene Leegwater

Advent 2

6.00pm **SIMPLY WORSHIP** Wesley Auditorium  
'Let's Celebrate Jesus' Birth'

READINGS: Is 40:1-11 Ps 88:1-2, 8-13  
2 Pt 3:8-15a Mk 1:1-8

### SUNDAY 17th December

9.00am St. Stephen's Church - Rev Delma

Advent 3

READINGS: Is 61:1-4, 8-11 Ps 126 or Luke 1:48b-55  
1 Thes 5:16-24 Jn 1:6-8, 19-2

### CHELSEA CHRISTMAS SERVICE 21st December

3.00pm Chelsea Retirement Living Community Hall - Rev Delma

### SUNDAY 24th December

9.00am St. Stephen's Church - Rev Delma

Advent 4 Christmas Eve Carol Service

READINGS: 2 Sm 7:1-11,16 Ps 78:1-8  
Rom 15:26-27 Lk 1:26-35

### CHRISTMAS DAY MONDAY 25th December

8.00am St. Stephen's Church - Rev Delma

READINGS: Lk 2:1-7 Ps 96 Tr 3:4-7  
Lk 2:1-11 Jn 1:1-14

### SUNDAY 31st December

9.00am Wesley Auditorium - Rev Delma

READINGS: Is 61:10-62:3 Ps 148  
Gal 4:4-7 Lk 2:22-40

Country Tiaro Services & Bauple

Home Group:

Please contact Rev Delma for details.

Have you got a notice to share?

Submissions for inclusion in the  
February 2024 Bulletin end 19/1/24

## January Maryborough Services

### SUNDAY 7th January

9.00am Wesley Auditorium - Rev Delma

READINGS: Gn 1:1-5 Ps 29  
Acts 19:1-7 Mk 1:4-11

### SUNDAY 14th January

9.00am Wesley Auditorium - Rev Delma

READINGS: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 11-20 Ps 139:1-6,13-16  
1 Cor 6:12-20 Jn 1:43-51

### CHELSEA SERVICE 18th January

9.00am Chelsea Retirement Living Community Hall - Rev Delma

### SUNDAY 21st January

9.00am Wesley Auditorium - Rev Delma

READINGS: Jen 3:1-5, 10 Ps 82:5-12  
1 Cor 7:29-31 Mk 1:14-20

### SUNDAY 28th January

9.00am Wesley Auditorium - Rev Delma

READINGS: Dt 18:15-20 Ps 111  
1 Cor 8:1-13 Mk 1:21-28

## February Maryborough Services

### SUNDAY 4th February

9.00am St Stephen's Church - Rev Delma

Leaders Commissioning

READINGS: Dt 18:15-20 Ps 111  
1 Cor 8:1-13 Mk 1:21-28

## Maryborough Christmas Services

10th December

Simply Worship @ 6:00pm

21st December

Chelsea Retirement Village @ 3:00pm

24th December - Christmas Eve

St Stephens Church @ 9:00am

25th December - Christmas Day

St Stephens Church @ 8:00am



Dear Friends

# Minister's Message

I waited patiently for the Lord to help me, and he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the pit of despair, out of the mud and the mire. He set my feet on solid ground and steadied me as I walked along. He has given me a new song to sing, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see what he has done and be amazed. They will put their trust in the Lord. (Psalm 40:1-3 NLT)

So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever. (2 Corinthians 4:18 NLT)

It could be said that our life is marked by the changes in seasons and years. This Bulletin starts at the beginning of Advent (3 Dec) and carries us through until the end of January. Our next Bulletin will have a very different focus heralding in the beginning of Lent (Wed 14 Feb). It is good sometimes to take stock. My mind has gone back to Advent 2021, where we had come out of a lot of COVID restrictions, but thankfully we didn't know then that we would have our first COVID community transmissions and two floods all within six weeks. We have managed to navigate our way through so much in the past two years.

For some of us the condition of our buildings weighs heavy on our minds, for some of us we have had major changes in our lives and within our families and things we are worried about. Sometimes it can be hard to look to the future with hope. We can get bogged down in all the problems we face and forget to marvel at the promise of new birth and the joy it can bring. Are we like the Psalmist, waiting patiently for the Lord to help us, or do we get stuck in the mud and mire and don't even notice when God has answered our prayers? Perhaps God's answer isn't the one we would like and stubborn as we can be we don't always want to accept God's answer.

Are you ready to step out of 2023 and look with hope to 2024, not looking at the troubles we can see, but rather, fixing our gaze on the things that we cannot see? When I looked back to 2021, I realised that during Advent, we just had our church services. This year, I have really felt the joy of Christmas, first at our November Noel where we heard the musical talents of Denise, Helen, Anna, and the Maryborough Brass Band (and ourselves). Now there is the thrill of putting together a Christmas tree and watching and waiting to see what those who are part of our extended church family provide as their version of a Christmas tree and who out of the community will come to join in this festive activity with us. Then we will have our church services, including a Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Are we looking forward to the coming of the Christ Child?

Loving God, forgive us when we become so focussed on ourselves that we lose sight of you. Help us Jesus to fix our eyes on you and draw us into what you are doing in our world. Open our eyes to new possibilities, hopes and dreams for a future we cannot see or imagine. Be with us, strengthen and guide us into the future, drawing us away from the past. Open our heart to your hope, peace, joy and love through this advent and Christmas season and into a new year full of promise for your kingdom here on Earth. Amen.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and yours!

Blessings  
Rev Delma Lovell

## Moderator's Prayer

Creator God,

You breathe life into all things and made all things good.

Our land, our people, our bush, and our wildlife are hurting and suffering.

We pray for relief through rain. Please soak our land and bring relief with rain from the heavens.

We pray for those who are enduring unimaginable injury and loss through destruction of fires.

Bless them with deep comfort, consolation, and hope in these times where their loss is so keen.

We pray for our heroic firefighters and emergency services who tirelessly give of themselves whilst at times facing great personal loss themselves.

Cover them with your protection and bless them and their families in this time of need.

We pray for our community leaders. Inspire them with courage and wisdom for the decisions that need to be made.

Almighty God, Your people look to you with trusting hearts and the certainty of your love.

With deep gratitude and longing, we ask you to hear our prayer.

Rev Bruce Moore, Moderator  
Amen





## Volunteers CARE

**Lend a hand ... become a pastoral care volunteer.**

Do you want to become equipped with the skills to provide pastoral care and support to people in your church and local community?

The **Volunteers CARE Essentials Course** is a basic introduction to Christian pastoral care where you will learn the foundational skills needed to get started on your pastoral care journey.

Volunteers CARE Essentials is also ideal as a refresher course for Church leaders.

<b>Venue</b>	Hervey Bay Uniting Church 56 Exeter St, Torquay QLD 4655
<b>Date</b>	Saturdays 3 & 10 February 2024
<b>Time</b>	9am - 5pm each day
<b>Contact</b>	Rev Keren Seto keren.seto@uchealth.com.au

[ucaqld.com.au/volunteerscare](https://ucaqld.com.au/volunteerscare)



### UnitingCare Connect100+

Did you notice there has been a name change?

UnitingCare is committed to fruitful mission partnerships with local Uniting Church congregations in communities across Qld. The connect100 initiative began in 2021 with the aim to make 100 connections, in 2023 after passing this stage, Connect100 has expanded as a leading program in community partnerships, now known as Connect100+. Connect100+ provides the framework for relationships that encourage pastoral care of UnitingCare staff and volunteers, mission collaboration, shared mission and innovation.

Did you check out the amazing trees supplied for our Festival of Christmas Trees by our Connect100+ partners?




Clockwise from bottom left corner: UnitingCare Standby, Farmer to Lifeline Farmer, HeadSpace & BlueCare





REPORT ON  
27 NOVEMBER 2023  
MEETING OF LEADERS COUNCIL

Approval was given for the following:

Church services will move to Wesley Auditorium from 31 December and for the month of January.

- Leaders' commissioning service to be held on 4 February 2024.
- Church Office will close from 1.30pm on Friday, 22 December and reopen at 9am on Thursday, 18 January 2024.
- The next Leaders Council meeting will be held on 22 January 2024. The Executive comprising Chair, Secretary and Minister, will attend to any decision-making until that date.
- A pull-up promotional sign for the church which can be easily used and
- transported.

Various building maintenance matters:

- o Repair of broken pipe at West Hall
- o Servicing of Church garage door
- o Testing for water leak at Wesley Auditorium

Leaders Council noted that the Country Congregational meeting, at which their leaders will be elected, will be held on 3 December.

Diana Collins  
Leaders Council Secretary

## FEBRUARY CHURCH TOMBOLA

The church tombola is not far away on  
Saturday 24th Feb.  
Now is the time to collect prizes

These may be given to Elizabeth Booth or  
Dawn Jenkinson or left at parish office during hours.  
Please remember we need NEW ITEMS and  
PERISHABLE to have a good USED-BY date.

## Summer Church

From Sunday December 31st  
until Sunday January 28th  
church services will be held  
in the air-conditioned cool of  
the Wesley Auditorium



### Parish Office end of year closure.

This year, The Parish Office will close at  
1:30pm **Friday 22nd December**  
& reopen at  
9am **Thursday 18th January.**

**Merry Christmas &**

*have a safe and Happy New Year*

*Brodie*



## EMPTY CHRISTMAS TREE

The Empty Christmas Tree will be in the church for three Sundays,

**3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> of December**

allowing members of the congregation to once again support YOORANA WOMEN'S SHELTER with material gifts and the BREAKFAST MINISTRY with much needed money.

*Money for Breakfast Ministry should be placed in an envelope and hung on the tree. These envelopes will be collected each Sunday.*

What to gift?

### FOR WOMEN

- ✓ Christmas Treats
- ✓ Movie Vouchers
- ✓ Toiletries i.e. Shampoo & Conditioner, Body Soap, etc
- ✗ No Candles, Incense, or other ignitable items

### FOR CHILDREN

- ✓ Movie Vouchers
- ✓ Books
- ✓ Toys
- ✗ No musical instruments
- ✗ No toy weapons i.e. toys guns, a bow and arrow set

**PLEASE DO NOT WRAP YOUR GIFT**  
**but simply leave it under the base of the tree.**

Contact Marion Tappenden- 0437 297 761, if you have any queries



**CONTAINERS**  
FOR CHANGE

Our Church is a drop off point for your cans and plastic bottles as we are already registered to receive 10c an item.

If you would like to direct deposit, the details are:







Branch: **BSB 014010**

Account: **Uniting Church Maryborough**

Account number: **3873 956 67**

*Thank you for prayerfully considering these options to support the work of the Church*

## December 2023

<b>2023 FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS TREES</b>	<i>The 2023 Festival of Christmas Trees will open for 4 days to maximise public attendance.</i>
	Thursday 30th November _ 1:30pm - 4:30pm * Saturday 2nd December _ 11am - 4pm Friday 1st December _ 1:30pm - 4:30pm * Sunday 3rd December _ 11am - 3pm
<b>BREAKFAST MINISTRY</b>	<b>Tuesday 5th @ 6.00am</b> Breakfast Ministry St. Paul's Anglican Hall
	<b>Tuesday 5th @ 9.30am</b> "Chatty Tuesdays". Wesley Auditorium.
	<b>Monday 11th @ 5.30pm</b> Parish Tea at Maryborough RSL 47 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Room. Please RSVP your attendance to Nalda Brett on 4121 3529: 0407 628 072 or email: Nalda.brett@bigpond.com by 10.00am on that day.
<b>BREAKFAST MINISTRY</b>	<b>Tuesday 12th @ 6.00am</b> Breakfast Ministry St. Paul's Anglican Hall
	<b>Tuesday 12th @ 9.30am</b> "Chatty Tuesdays". Wesley Auditorium.
	<b>Wednesday 13th</b> from 11:30am. <b>Memory Support Cafe</b> Come along for a cuppa and a chat with others also affected by their own, or a loved-one's, reduced memory. FREE ATTENDANCE. For more information contact Corryn on 0438 511 681.
<b>BREAKFAST MINISTRY</b>	<b>Tuesday 19th @ 6.00am</b> Breakfast Ministry St. Paul's Anglican Hall
	<b>Tuesday 19th @ 9.30am</b> "Chatty Tuesdays". Wesley Auditorium.
	<b>Tuesday 19th @ 9.30am</b> BOOKS 'n COFFEE_ Wesley Auditorium <i>Join us every 3rd Tuesday for a chat, a cuppa and to share discussions on our reading.</i>
<b>BREAKFAST MINISTRY</b>	<b>Tuesday 26th NO BREAKFAST MINISTRY THIS WEEK. MERRY CHRISTMAS TO OUR VALUED VOLUNTEERS</b>

## Christmas & New Years Celebrations

Go To <https://www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au/festive-events> for a full list of Fraser Coast Festive Events

## January 2024

<b>BREAKFAST MINISTRY</b>	<b>Tuesday 2nd NO BREAKFAST MINISTRY THIS WEEK. HAPPY NEW YEAR TO OUR VALUED VOLUNTEERS</b>
<b>BREAKFAST MINISTRY</b>	<b>Tuesday 9th @ 6.00am</b> Breakfast Ministry St. Paul's Anglican Hall
	<b>Tuesday 9th @ 9.30am</b> "Chatty Tuesdays". Wesley Auditorium.
	<b>Wednesday 13th</b> from 11:30am. <b>Memory Support Cafe</b> Come along for a cuppa and a chat with others also affected by their own, or a loved-one's, reduced memory. FREE ATTENDANCE. For more information contact Corryn on 0438 511 681.
<b>GIRLS BRIGADE LEADERS</b> 	<b>Monday 15th @ 6.30pm</b> Girls Brigade Leaders Meeting _ Wesley Auditorium
<b>BREAKFAST MINISTRY</b>	<b>Tuesday 16th @ 6.00am</b> Breakfast Ministry St. Paul's Anglican Hall
	<b>Tuesday 16th @ 9.30am</b> "Chatty Tuesdays". Wesley Auditorium.
	<b>Tuesday 16th @ 9.30am</b> BOOKS 'n COFFEE_ Wesley Auditorium <i>Join us every 3rd Tuesday for a chat, a cuppa and to share discussions on our reading.</i>
<b>BREAKFAST MINISTRY</b>	<b>Tuesday 23rd @ 6.00am</b> Breakfast Ministry St. Paul's Anglican Hall
	<b>Tuesday 23rd @ 6.00am</b> "Chatty Tuesdays". Wesley Auditorium.
<b>BREAKFAST MINISTRY</b>	<b>Tuesday 30th @ 6.00am</b> Breakfast Ministry St. Paul's Anglican Hall
	<b>Tuesday 30th @ 9.30am</b> "Chatty Tuesdays". Wesley Auditorium.

## February 2024

<b>CHURCH TOMBOLA</b>	<b>SAVE THE DATE</b> Saturday 24th Church Tombola
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