



THE MURRAY ANGLICAN

TMA WINTER 2012

SYNOD VOTES FOR EVANGELISTIC FUTURE



The Diocese of The Murray has been urged to take evangelism seriously before it is too late, and appoint a person who can support evangelistic projects.

The move was endorsed at the first session of the 15th Triennial Synod at Taillem Bend on the 18th and 19th May.

The Synod considered almost 30 motions, mostly related to procedural matters.

One motion though put forward by Dr E. Gordon-Mills requested the Diocese employ a person who could give guidance and support to all parishes and pastoral districts in evangelism.



Dr Gordon Mills believed the person appointed should be a mature young person between 30 and 50 years old and have a passion for the renewal of the Anglican Churches in the Diocese. She suggested the person would especially aim to attract and keep young families within the life of the church for its future survival.

In backing the motion, Dr Gordon Mills questioned who would run the church in 30 years time, with many of the churches in eternal decline.



"Some churches are running family services and need to be congratulated," she said. "In assuming though that the Bishop's Election Committee includes a commitment to evangelism in its criteria for the new Bishop, the new Bishop when appointed will not be able to do the nitty gritty of developing evangelism projects."

Dr Gordon Mills said something so important could not be put off necessarily until a new Bishop is appointed.

"We seem to have lost the skills of evangelism" she said. "There is a narrow window of opportunity for a specialist

person to look at ways of helping the clergy minister to thousands of people.”

Fr Chris St John in seconding the motion said the Diocese did not need to wait for a Bishop to be appointed for such a position to be created.

“It is not an easy job in this in between time in the Diocese and we are not wanting the end to come.” he said. “There is a real need for a person firstly as a Christian and secondly as an Anglican who would be able to seek out and educate people.”

Another motion to amend the ordinance for the election of a Bishop was defeated. The mover of the motion Lee Lyons believed an amendment to clause 9 of the ordinance would enable the Primate to intervene in appointing a Bishop, if the Bishops Election Committee was not able to elect a new Bishop by February, 2013.

Mrs Lyons believed the Diocese had been without a Bishop for too long and the change to the ordinance in 2005 had not worked.

The Administrator of the Diocese, Fr Richard Seabrook suggested the move would change the discussion within the Bishops Election Committee from twelve members to three. Fr Richard believed the twelve representatives of the committee were involved in a prayerful consideration for a new Bishop and were canvassing various opinions. He said the change would not allow the committee to have an adequate discussion on the election of a new Bishop and urged Synod members to reject the motion.

The motion was lost in the House of the Clergy 4 to 15 but was supported by the House of the Laity 36 to 12.

Dr Ken Pidgeon put forward a number of other motions, most of which were

lost. One related to a Diocesan Council decision on Diocesan Travel.

Dr Pidgeon proposed to rescind a recent decision made by Diocesan Council on travel which would see the Archdeacons and others paid 40 cents a kilometre to attend Diocesan meetings, to help compensate for the wear and tear on their own cars.

Synod was told that the decision had been made by Diocesan Council in light of the Archdeacons having to do extra travel to attend meetings due to no Bishop. The motion to revert back to the original decision of 17 cents a kilometre for travel was overwhelmingly lost in both Houses.

Another motion put forward by Dr. Ken Pidgeon requested that Diocesan Council approve all claims for reimbursement of expenses before any payment be made. Mr David Fleming assured Synod there were proper procedures in place and that the move would cause unnecessary delays, especially with monthly credit card payments. Again, this motion was lost.

A third motion by Dr Ken Pidgeon requested the Synod to review the boundaries of Rural Deaneries in the

Diocese. The Chancellor, John Harley explained that it was up to the Bishop to determine the boundaries of Rural Deaneries, not the Synod. Again the motion was defeated.

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At the conclusion of the Synod, a motion was passed in sending a letter expressing its good wishes to Queen Elizabeth the 2nd in celebrating her Diamond Jubilee. Fr Dirk van Dissell in moving the motion believed Queen Elizabeth II was a model of a fine democratic institution in the world. He believed the Diocese should wish Queen Elizabeth II all the best and assure her of our prayers.

The Administrator, Fr Richard Seabrook in supporting the motion said the Queen had taken her vocation very seriously as a Christian monarch and that we should pray for Christian Kings and Queens.



PHOTOS

Front page top to bottom:

*Fr Richard Seabrook, Bishop David McCall, Fr Dirk Van Dissell
Fr George Kirrerh, Hilary Reddrop, Lee Lyons
Ruth and Marie Daws, Fr Phil Anderson*

This page: *Lucy Bedford, Jill Herve, Fr Arthur Savage*

SYNOD HOMILY MAY 2012



One of the most popular television programmes in recent years was the American comedy series “Friends” following the lives of a six roommates sharing an apartment in New York.

Sharing the same house can be fraught with difficulties - you may have had such an experience yourselves at some time of your life. There has to be a lot of give and take or the living under the one roof experience can end in disaster. It teaches us a lot about ourselves and how to live with each other’s joys and sorrows, foibles and failures.

Last week in Kowloon, Hong Kong, ARCIC (the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission) met to examine the concept of Church as communion, and the related issue of how to alight on right ethical teaching. Such ecumenical discussions have been a feature of the two churches since the 1960s. The word ecumenical comes from the Greek word for a house “oikos” and ecumenical discussions teach and inform us how we are to come together in the one house, the Church, as one household, the Body of Christ learning to live

under the same roof as each other with the same joys and sorrows, foibles and failures with our common baptism uniting us.

Thank goodness, we have moved away from those dangerous, prejudiced and partisan days when anti-Catholic sentiment was so rife in our society. Of course, the Anglican Communion is involved in other ecumenical discussions with other churches, but perhaps quoting the most recent reminds us that first and foremost we are Christians and working together to bring about being “in the same house” is a sign of God’s blessing and the breaking down of barriers can only be helpful on our pilgrim journey.

Yet the Anglican Communion herself finds edges of Anglican polity often stretched and we wonder whether we can live in the same house at times. The recent attempt, spearheaded by the present Archbishop of Canterbury, to bring about a covenant to help the Communion stay together has been met with limited success. Our friends to the north in PNG have adopted it; the Church of England has rejected it. We shall only see in God’s good time how the members of this house of ours will be able to live together in the bonds of fraternal charity and peace.

In the series “Friends” six different people lived under one roof. In today’s gospel reading Jesus says “You are my friends if you do what I command you.”

Jesus commands are simple: to love, to teach, to preach, to baptise, to celebrate the Eucharist, to evangelise, to proclaim the Kingdom of God and so on. Jesus will call us, in this Diocese, his friends if we do what he

commands us. We are, as it were, living under the same roof, in the same house in this Diocese of The Murray. We must be able to look at each other and call each other friends. That is what the gospel tells us – for surely if Jesus calls us friends, we must call each other friends. Yes with our joys and sorrows, our foibles and our failures.

Our Diocesan Synod will be a spirit-filled opportunity to show that the business of being friends of Jesus and of each other must be at the heart of our life in this Diocese. We are not here to trip each other up – we, in the commandment of Jesus, are here to love one another.

The word Synod comes from the Greek word meaning a meeting. Yes we meet as three houses; bishop, clergy and laity and, in our synodical government system, those three houses make up the one synod. But those three houses also fall under the same roof, as it were, of the Diocese. The individual decisions of those houses have to be respected and honoured. We, of course, pray that the house of the Bishop may be filled soon.

But it is these words from the gospel, used by many Anglican churches around the world as the approach to Holy Communion, that seem appropriate with which to conclude this homily:

Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof, but speak the word only, and my soul shall be healed.

Father Richard A. Seabrook
Administrator of the Diocese of The Murray during the vacancy in the see.

A REFLECTION ON FUNERALS

There are a number of reasons why people go to funerals - among them:

To pay our respect for the departed
To collect the Eulogy for our memoirs
Our presence will be noted
It is the celebration of a life

Or

To pray for the soul - and perhaps our own

There is a relatively new custom which is now common when funerals are conducted. Not customary by tradition, but customary by usage. This is the *Power Point Presentation* with the overhead projection of past life events and baby pictures. Then follows a resumé of a life of wholesome goodness, virtuous aspiration, unfailing loyalty and generosity. Any departure from this path is described as *quirkiness* and is greeted with chuckles from the assembly. At many funerals a series of speakers from the family in its generations is added and can add three quarters of an hour to the Service and so, in both length and emphasis, reduce the liturgy to an incongruous and subordinate role.

What is notable about all this is that there is no mention of the death, nor, more importantly, the soul, of the person who lies in the coffin. We have then what is called a *Celebration of Life* rather than a funeral.

So, what is a funeral? There is the established liturgical context of sin, mercy and forgiveness with its associated prayerful pleas, and the blessed dead, with the sure and certain hope of resurrection in Christ. And within this lies the core, the heart of the liturgy - the bearing in prayer by the faithful of the soul of one of their own into eternity. As the body is borne

on the catafalque in the Chancel, so the soul is borne on the catafalque of the prayers of the faithful.

There is a theme in our Prayer Book (APBA) which is insistent in its constancy. It relates to the relationship of the soul and the body. It is the *parallel dimension of existence*. We see it for instance in the Sacraments. The natural function of water by grace becomes the washing of spiritual regeneration, the ring of matrimony the binding as between Christ and His Church. And again, to give another example, the bread, by grace, as the sustenance of the soul, as of the body. Each has its natural physical function enhanced by grace with a spiritual dimension.

We see it also in the Catechism, with the first four and the second six commandments expounded as our duty towards God creating our duty towards our neighbour and thereby giving that duty rationale, depth and purpose of meaning.

And so the seven great crises of life - birth, maturity, love, sin, vocation, illness and strength for our daily tasks - each has a sacrament, or, in other words, a spiritual dimension which is just as real as its physical existence, whether it be my agonizing choices, my broken heart, my depression in guilt, or my leaping for joy in love.

And thus we come to the nature of the soul. The who you are. The essential character of your being. The non-tangible principle of your life and existence. The constant in your life. The child you remember as the same person as the teenager you were, as the one you are now, whatever the changes time has wrought on your physical self.

And so our souls are not imprisoned in our bodies at the mercy of the sins of the flesh, but rather, our bodies are an expression of our souls, whatever their shape or form in this world.

For by Baptism we are born into the Body of Christ and by grace we remain, through repentance, a living soul to be carried to the Church Expectant on the prayers of our Godly family.

May this be our funeral and the true testimony of our life and death in Christ Jesus Our Lord. So therefore let us pray for grace and forgiveness for the souls of the faithful departed, as for ourselves.

*Fr Graham Cooling
(from the Easter 2010 edition of "Deacon's Treasure", a publication of Christ Church St Laurence, Sydney)*



O God, the Maker and Redeemer of all believers:

Grant to the faithful departed the unsearchable benefits of the passion of thy Son; that on the day of his appearing they may be manifested as thy children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and ever. Amen

A SAD DAY IN THE MALLEE

On Sunday 15th April 2012 the building we know as All Saints' Church, Pinnaroo was secularised (or de-consecrated). There had not been a Service at All Saints' for 5 years and the building was in a sad state of repair, and occupied by pigeons and rodents.

At 11am on that day Fr Richard Seabrook, the Administrator of the Diocese of The Murray celebrated the Eucharist while Fr John Beiers preached and John Strachan was Liturgical Assistant.

The Altar was moved down from the Chancel out of the danger of falling plaster, the pews were dusted and a card table served as a credence table. The Service was no less spiritual and the singing was performed with great gusto, but there were some tears of sadness.

Some of the congregation told of their memories of the Church. Jane Farley spoke of her memories of playing in the Hall at the rear of the Church as a child as others spoke of weddings in the Church. Connie and Irwin Koch were married there 55 years ago and their two daughters and one son were married there. Ken Goody's oldest daughter was married in the Church. Dr D B S Murray who was the local GP was a regular worshipper for 42 years. He died two years ago.

The foundation stone of the Church was laid in 1923. All Saints' Patronal Festival was well attended each year and I am told there was standing room only for late comers.

The remaining Anglicans in the town of Pinnaroo, namely Ken Goody, Dot Laurence, Muriel Knutsen, Veronica Sporn, Hamilton Wilson, Donald Marshall and Keith Lester were present



Back Row: Veronica Sporn, Ken Goody, Donald Marshall, Jonathan Woore, Keith Lester, Hamilton Wilson, Erwin Koch.

Middle Row: Kathleen Gregurke, Dorothy Laurence, Win Sheldon, Julie Schroeder, Jane Farley, Valda Abbetmeyer, Muriel Knutsen, Connie Koch.

Front Row: Fr. John Beiers (Priest-In-Charge at Lameroo), Fr. Richard Seabrook (Administrator, Diocese of The Murray) and John Strachan AM (Liturgical Assistant)

at the de-consecration. Ken, Dot and Muriel are now faithful worshippers at St John the Baptist Lameroo.

Thirty years ago there were six Churches in the Mallee – Geranium, Peebinga, Peroona, Lameroo, Pinnaroo and just across the Victorian border, Murrayville. Now the only Anglican Worship Centre is St Johns' Lameroo.

Worship is now held on the third Sunday of each month at 10.30am at St John the Baptist Lameroo. The Church building is in good condition thanks to those faithful people who have maintained it with loving care.

Since the Patronal Festival in 2011 the attendances at the Eucharist at Lameroo have averaged eighteen and these people come from as far east as Murrayville and as far west as Geranium. We are working to ensure

that further improvements are made to the plant at Lameroo by the demolition of the old buildings at the back of the Church and hopefully the installation of a transportable building to serve as a vestry and meeting room. It is hoped that a corner of the new meeting room and vestry can be dedicated to the history of All Saints' Pinnaroo and St Michael and All Angels Geranium. Mention should be made at this point of Father Graham Cooling and his dedicated work in the Mallee between 1963 and 1968 and the late Father Malcolm Little whose later years of Ministry included the Mallee.

Fr John Beiers and John Strachan will continue to take services on a monthly basis at St John the Baptist Lameroo for as long as they are able to do so.

John Strachan

CONFIRMATION AT PORT ELLIOT-GOOLWA

May the 17th was a special evening at St Jude's in Port Elliot as we celebrated "The Ascension of the Lord" with Bishop Stanley Goldsworthy gracing us with his presence as he confirmed 5 confirmation candidates.

Bishop Stanley was in fine form delivering his message as well as confirming the five candidates. His message was extended to the whole congregation to reinforce the faith of everyone.

On completion of the service, supper was served and the normal hospitality of St Jude's was enjoyed by all.



Pictured from left to right: Esther Foster, John Cunningham, Sister Beverley, Bishop Stanley, Fr Reg Farnell, Yvonne Rossiter, Kimberley Blandford, Helen Blandford and Doug Hewitson at the rear.

ST AUGUSTINE'S FRIENDSHIP SERVICE

On the first Sunday of the month we have a Friendship Service in our Parish Hall. It is warm and friendly and we encourage people to invite their friends and acquaintances.

We use a 'power point' presentation expertly prepared by Michael Murdoch.

We usually start with two or three hymns sung by all, as the congregation come in and get settled. The service then proceeds with more hymns. We also enjoy music presented by two of our talented parishioners, who are known as 'Renewal'. Liz and Peter Ormsby play guitars and sing wonderful songs with catchy rhythms and helpful words, with which we all join in.

We have the usual prayers and readings from Scripture that we would have in our Church services.

In April, the service was led by Rev. Keith George. The theme was 'Jesus, the True Vine'. Rev. Ian Robertson gave the sermon and he had with him a grape vine, on which he hung bunches of grapes, as he spoke, to show how our lives become full of the fruit of the spirit when we are part of the vine, which is Christ. (After the service at our morning tea, we ate the grapes!)

After notices of coming events, we break and have morning tea and coffee and 'goodies', and celebrated the birthdays which are to occur during the month. There is often a trading table where we can buy goods, and the proceeds go to the repair of our church tower.

We find it has become a service which encourages evangelism and one we look forward to each month.



PASTORAL DISTRICT OF KINGSTON-ROBE

Although we have very few men in our congregations, we are blessed by a number who work tirelessly including our priest's warden, to remove unwanted, dumped and unsaleable goods at our Op Shop, and who erect and dismantle (in cooperation with other churches) such important symbols in our community as the nativity scene in the Christmas season and the Easter crosses display.

The photos to the right demonstrate their ingenuity in wrapping the inside and outside of our Holy Trinity church with giant palm fronds for Palm Sunday services and we wish to recognise their loyal work.

We held another successful film day in the small cinema at Robe, with over 70 attendees (full house) for whom we prepare lunch trays of sandwiches, fruit, dessert, slices, sweets and a glass of wine or fruit juice. This is our twice yearly missionary effort to raise money for an ABM programme assisting a "train the trainer" women's resource in Popondoto, Papua New Guinea.

Our very committed Pastoral Assistant, Alison Jeffrey led our Anzac Day Service in Kingston, at 6.30am at the Soldiers War Memorial. This was attended by over 200 adults and children and breakfast generously catered by a local hotel for returned service men and women and their families – including "doctored" coffee! We are currently preparing a Post Disaster Ministry team through our Inter-Church Council and Families SA, to co-operate with Red Cross, Salvation Army, SES & CFS, to assist with pastoral care for families in need of solace and practical assistance, after bush fire, school bus roll-over, marine fatalities etc, and we are blessed by this close and easy communion of Christian minds.

We give our Good Lord thanks that we are a co-operating pluralistic rural family.

Heather Landers



NEWTON THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

The college began 2012 academic year with orientation. This involved, introducing college rule of life and expectation; visit to neighbouring villages and visit to our religious communities

Currently there are two fulltime lecturers and two associate lecturers with 19 male learners and 10 female learners. There are nine male learners in year three (and nine male learners in year four. We have a male learner who is doing a. formation year, this programme is specially for persons who feel called to ordination and have done theological training in colleges other than Anglican. Female learners are divided in two classes as their male counterparts that is year one and year three.

The staff academic and staff ancillary is made up of Fr Peter Moi, the Principal, Fr Spenser Kombega and two associate lecturers Fr Leonard Jinga and Fr Giles Motisi. Miss Darlene Embora is the Admin Officer with George Ikoro the aid post worker, two night guards (Mr. Monti

Bouyma, Mr. Graysford Kaumi); Mr. chephas Yabobi is the Librarian and Miss. Iruna Kaunde the Pre-school Teacher The Priest spouses Mrs. Barbara Jinga, Mrs. Rose Kombega and Mrs. Motisi help in teaching the female Learners. Miss. Prudence Paine the National Gender Officer with Miss Embora have both been helping teaching and providing resources in the women's programme. This term a community health worker Mrs. Schola Polongou is engaged with Mr. George Ikoro to teach specialised health topics Lectures takes most part of the morning and afternoons are set aside for gardening, general college work or private time to complete other obligatory college tasks. The college played host to two women from the church in England to prepare for the Archbishop of Canterbury's visit to Popondetta later this year. The college also accommodated Dr Julianne Stewart ABM Projects officer on her visit to meet CPP workers in

Popondetta

The college organised female Learners teach Religious Education in our local Elementary and Primary Schools. During the term break male and female Learners participated in one week workshop called Community Action and Participation (CAP). This is an Anglican Health Services programme co-facilitated by Newton college staff and students with Anglican Health Services.

This term (Term 2) the third year students with be spending weekends in Parish as part of the Pastoral Studies training requirements

Prayer is an important part of college life. Daily prayers with Eucharist is celebrated every day except for Saturday. It is obviously an important part of formation to priesthood. We continue to see work, study and prayer as the fundamentals to priesthood formation.

*Peter Moi
Principal*

THE PARISH OF MURRAYLANDS

MU LADY DAY AT MURRAY BRIDGE

Nearly 50 members of the Mothers Union gathered to celebrate at Murray Bridge on Lady Day in March. We turned our thoughts to the refugee families who are housed at the Inverbrackie Refugee Detention Centre at Woodside.

Sarah Williams and her associate Sara Jane, came from the Immigration Department to describe the conditions within the Inverbrackie Centre.

When a refugee family arrives on our shores, they are immediately given a welfare pack of clothing, food, drink and are given a health check.

Inverbrackie is only for family groups, not single people and there is a daily program of craft, excursions, film nights, and family fun events. Health, nutrition and education issues are discussed and there is a well organised play group. English, Maths and household living and budgeting sessions are available and there are incentives for attending these discussions and sessions.

The children are bussed to local schools and parents are introduced to



Pictured are MU Chaplain, Bishop Stuart Smith, The Rev'd George Kirreh, Rector, and some MU members with banners at the Lady Day celebration.

the school system to familiarise them as well. At the moment 313 children attend local pre-schools and primary schools. Their attendance is higher than local children; they are enthusiastic and play well with their new friends at school.

A Red Cross worker manages relocation into a suburban house and a case-worker will liaise with the family until they are on their feet.

There is expert psychological backup

and support for families in detention as well as the staff members. Staff are not kept on Christmas Island for more than 12 months.

Diocesan MU members have an opportunity to support newly housed refugee families by gathering household items that will make a house a home, e.g. cushions, tablecloths, vases, photo frames etc. This is through an Anglicare initiative.



More than 20 eager worshippers from the Murraylands Anglican Parish attended a special Communion service conducted by Fr George Kirreh on Sunday 29th April. The service was held in the woolshed on the property of Brinkley Station at Wellington, situated just off the Meningie Road. During the service, there was a ceremony for the 'Blessing of the Fleece' which was moving and uplifting.

It was a fine sunny day and the smell of the lanolin of the woolshed added to the spiritual feeling with the service, prayers and the singing of hymns included.

Parishioners from four of the five centres were able to attend; they were from Meningie, Tailem Bend, Mypolonga and Murray Bridge. All participated in a shared lunch and fellowship.

MT BARKER PARISH CELEBRATES 60 GLORIOUS YEARS

A great time was had by all at Christ the King, Mt Barker, on Saturday 2nd June.

An exhibition of Royal memorabilia was on display in the Parish Hall after many months of planning and organisation.

Fifty parishioners loaned a great variety of material, including medals and one MBE, china with the Royal Cypher intended for the Solomon Islands Government House (how did it find its way to Mt Barker?), many mugs, cups, glasses and much more, all associated with the 60 years of Queen Elizabeth's reign.

Books, magazines and newspapers covering the death of His Late Majesty, King George VI right up to the present day were also on display.

Lady Downer, who with her late husband, Sir Alexander Downer, attended the Coronation, opened the exhibition and kindly loaned two chairs which were used during the Coronation Service. Lady Downer made some fascinating and amusing comments about entertaining Queen Elizabeth to lunch which gave us an insight into a more relaxed and private Queen.

There was a rousing singing of God Save the Queen.

Several hundred people viewed the exhibition during the day and with all the flags, bunting and a myriad of exhibits, it was great fun. Some royal lookalikes also attended and posed decorously around the hall.



Royal Lookalikes: Two Queen Elizabeths and Princess Margaret

Entry to the exhibition was by a gold coin donation and Devonshire Teas and glasses of bubbly livened up the proceedings.

\$850 was raised on the day but it was all really about celebrating our Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

The celebrations continued the following day with Choral Evensong and a party in the Rectory.

KAIROS MINISTRY PROGRAM AT MURRAY BRIDGE

The Kairos Ministry Program is an interdenominational Christian ministry working at the Mobilong Prison at Murray Bridge and the Cadell prison farm. One of the chaplains who helps the ministry program is a retired Anglican priest Fr Alan Dutton. Here is his insight into the ministry program.

Kairos is one of the Greek words for TIME. It means a time of opportunity, not clock time, which is chronos.

One of Jesus most powerful parables is that of the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25.31-46. I had never visited anyone in prison and offered to be involved when challenged to do so.

The aim of Kairos is to build a Christian community within a prison. It is active in Mobilong prison, the Cadell prison farm (built up by graduates transferred from Mobilong), with young offenders at Cavan and we plan this year to run the first course in Port Augusta prison and start also in the Women's prison in the not too distant future.

I have said that the aim of Kairos is to help build a Christian community in each jail. To do so it has to change those who live in these places. We do have a 70% success rate in helping the Holy Spirit (who really does this task) of changing men's attitudes, which locking them up for longer will not do; we do need to change their way of thinking and acting so that when they are released they will not re-offend and be back in jail again. Some one should, as many studies have, persuade vote catching politicians that longer sentences do not do this, whereas spending money of sound rehabilitation programmes could.

There are five dimensions of Kairos prison Ministry Australia.

The four day short course itself.

The ongoing Journey Programme, every Tuesday from 5-7.00pm at Mobilong.

The Torch Programme for young offenders at Cavan.



The Kairos Outside programme for wives, mothers and other significant women in prisoners lives.

The on going fellowship of Kairos graduates now at Cadell Prison Farm.

More about **The Short Course**.

It is normally attended by 24 guests, who are invited by the Prison Chaplain, currently a Salvation Army Officer who is a part time chaplain at Mobilong. A list of about 50, usually trouble makers with leadership potential, has been compiled by service managers in the prison and two Kairos leaders. When invited most say "Yes" – perhaps because they have heard about being well fed! We question no one's motivation. We never ask why they are in jail or for how long, but if this information is told to an individual Kairos team member that information is treated with the greatest confidentiality. When the course begins the guests have their first surprise. The visitors centre has been divided into three, a meeting place set up with four tables, a prayer chapel and a dining area. The leader is totally

honest in saying what our aim is, to offer them a better way of living their lives, a Christian way. Each team member hosts a guest, we introduce each other. The inside team is about 24, on four tables six guests, a leader, a deputy leader, a clergyman and close to it a table servant. That is one more shock, no one serves them in prison – they simply just jump when told to do so.

On Day 2 they get the first of 14 talks on Choices. Bad choices have put them where they now are. Nearly all the talks are given by laymen.

Day 3 is focused on Forgiveness, with a powerful forgiveness ceremony. That day ends with them being given two boxes of biscuits, one to give to the person in the prison whom they find the hardest to forgive. *Who is that person for you and could you do that?*

We end later on Day 4 since at dinner time we go off to the Education Centre, where they eat and then are given a Cross, with the words, "Jesus



depends on you” before going back to the Visitors Centre to be welcomed by over 240 guests representing the wider Christian Community, senior members of the Department of Corrections and Heads of Churches. The CEO of Anglicare Lynn Arnold told me he cried when the guests were telling the effect the course had on them.

Two men who still Journey with Jesus each told me that before they decided to open the door to Christ, each had planned on being released, “to kill my father”. Another told me, “ I still feel guilty that I did not call an ambulance but just scarpered when my mate knifed him”. This man is serving 14 years as an accessory after the fact of murder. He now leads a Christian prison group interstate. I rejoice that a guest in Acacia High Security Prison, run by SERCO in Western Australia,

said to me at the closing ceremony, “I have not been in jail for the last four days. I have been set free and I am now”.

The Journey programme.

At Mobilong, Tuesday evenings 5-7pm. A course designed to help men build up their faith. Prayer, praise, talks on Hope, Spirituality etc, topics suggested by the men, then group discussion, closing prayer, supper. An opportunity for personal prayer or counseling.

Kairos Outside.

We always tell the men the best gift he can give his wife, girlfriend, mother is to say, “Do not visit me on the weekend of.....because there is a short course at Belair you should go to”. She will be picked up, the kids taken care of, she will make friends with others like

herself. Her life will be changed and she will not feel isolated anymore. We hope to soon start Kairos Outside for men for the significant others of women prisoners.

Things you can do .

First and foremost – **Pray**, especially for young offenders and for those who have re-offended. For money to be spent not locking offenders up for longer but to be spent on better rehabilitation programmes.

For men who’ve served out their sentence and for whom the parole board have signed pre-release documents but a member of the Executive Council won’t.

This is clearly an injustice. That future prisons be built in Adelaide, not at Murray Bridge, so that families can visit.

Money – it costs about \$14,000 to put on a four day course, most of that comes from team members. Included in these costs is a substantial fee for prisoner supervision, which we consider unnecessary.

Get involved, by writing letters to a prisoner or visit one. More seriously offer to be a team member, we need women and men and we are trying to widen our work. Make contact through Kairos Prison Ministry Australia, P O Box 242, Highgate, 5063.

Father of Mercy, you offer freedom to all people. We pray for those in prison, especially young offenders. Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist. Support with your love prisoners and their families and friends, prison staff and all who care.

Heal those who have been wounded by the actions of others, especially the victims of crime.

Help us to forgive one another, to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ in His strength and in His Spirit, now and every day.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

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**DEADLINE DATES
FOR 2012**

Spring Issue
10th September

*Submissions received after the
deadline will only be published
at the Editor's discretion.*

**DIOCESAN COUNCIL
NEWSLETTER**

Want to know what is
happening in DC?

After each meeting, the Registrar
will compile a report which
is sent to each parish and
pastoral district council.
If you would like an electronic
copy, please email Donna on
registry@murray.anglican.org

CENTENARY AT WAIKERIE

St. James Anglican Church, Waikerie is celebrating 100 years since the laying of the Foundation Stone at a Special Service to be conducted by The Venerable Richard Seabrook on Sunday July 29th 2012 at 10a.m. This will be followed by a Luncheon at the Football Clubrooms. Enquiries ph. 8541 3131.



A PRAYER AT THE TIME OF CHOOSING A BISHOP

Eternal God, shepherd and guide, in your mercy give your Church in this diocese a shepherd after your own heart who will walk in your ways, and with loving care watch over your people.

Give us a leader of vision and a teacher of your truth. So may your Church be built up and your name glorified; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Prayer Book for Australia (1995)

QUICK CONTACTS

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