



# The Murray Anglican

TMA Spring 2014



## DIOCESAN SYNOD ENDORSES A MISSION ACTION PLAN FOR THE DIOCESE

The Synod of the Diocese of The Murray has unanimously supported a move to implement a Diocesan mission action plan developed by Bishop John Ford.

The plan which is part of the Diocesan program "Taking the Plunge Together" was tabled at the conclusion of the Synod at Woodcroft College at Morphett Vale on the 23rd and 24th of May.

It was adopted following the Bishop's President Address at the Synod Eucharist, a presentation by Fr. Damian Feeney from Oxford on the way forward for the Diocese, and further discussion amongst synod representatives.

Before it was endorsed, Bishop Ford put forward his vision of the mission action plan titled "To walk the way of holiness". It outlines several priorities, which ultimately aims to see every parish and pastoral district become a serving and witness community in every settlement in the Diocese.

This will be achieved through studying, worshiping and learning

together, organising everyone's common life so as to equip parishes and pastoral district to become effective in outreach, nurture and service, and providing well trained and formed ministers of word and sacrament.

As well, the vision aims to support the mission of parishes and pastoral districts and to be the 'president of a community' which lives eucharistically for the sake of others.

This will involve regular evangelistic events at all levels of diocesan life, not just through the proposed Advent evangelistic events at this point later this year, but by encouraging debate on the prophetic word through the media.

To help implement the vision, Bishop Ford announced his intention to divide the Diocese into three areas with an Archdeacon responsible for each area. The first area would take in the Fleurieu Peninsula from O'Halloran Hill to Victor Harbor, the second the Murraylands, the Riverland and the Adelaide Hills, and the third the south east of the state.

As part of the structure, Bishop Ford announced that Fr Richard Litjens will be the Archdeacon for the Fleurieu, Fr Richard Seabrook would be Archdeacon for the Murray-Riverland and Fr Peter Carlsson the newly appointed Archdeacon for the Limestone Coast.

Bishop Ford announced that each of the Archdeacons would support and assist in the delivery of the Gospel in the three regions. As well, Bishop John would visit the three regions each year, with the expectation that he would baptise and confirm new Anglicans in each area.

A motion was then put forward supporting the mission plan as integral to the mission of the Diocese, and that each parish takes seriously the call of Jesus Christ to faithful discipleship, loving witness and prophetic lifestyles.

The motion was moved by Bruce Hicks and seconded by Fr. Paul Devenport, both of them urging everyone to embrace the mission action plan. In speaking for the motion, Fr Richard Seabrook said the resolution was vital

as many people had been praying for years for a right appointment of a Bishop. He believed our prayers had been answered not only for a Bishop but where the Diocese is now going in the future. Fr. Seabrook said he sensed for the first time in the Diocese a new beginning with witnessing the most extraordinary Diocesan Synod he'd ever been to. He felt the Synod had been a moment of conversion in the Diocese and urged all synod members to support the motion.

After further supporting comments, the motion was put and it was carried unanimously.

The adoption of the mission plan on the Saturday was preceded by a business session the previous day which lasted just 50 minutes. Just three of the 12 business items on the agenda were objected to. One was the passing of a long service canon, the other was a report on Anglican Community Care, which gave the Board Chairman, Michael Bleby to speak on the report and the third was a motion requesting the Legislation Review Committee to consider

reviewing the number of synod representatives for pastoral districts.

This motion was moved by Ruth Daws representing the Pastoral District of the Riverland. Mrs Daws questioned why a Pastoral District such as the Riverland could only have two synod representatives given there would be soon four areas taking in Renmark, Loxton, Berri-Barmera and Waikerie. She believed each area should be represented by one person.

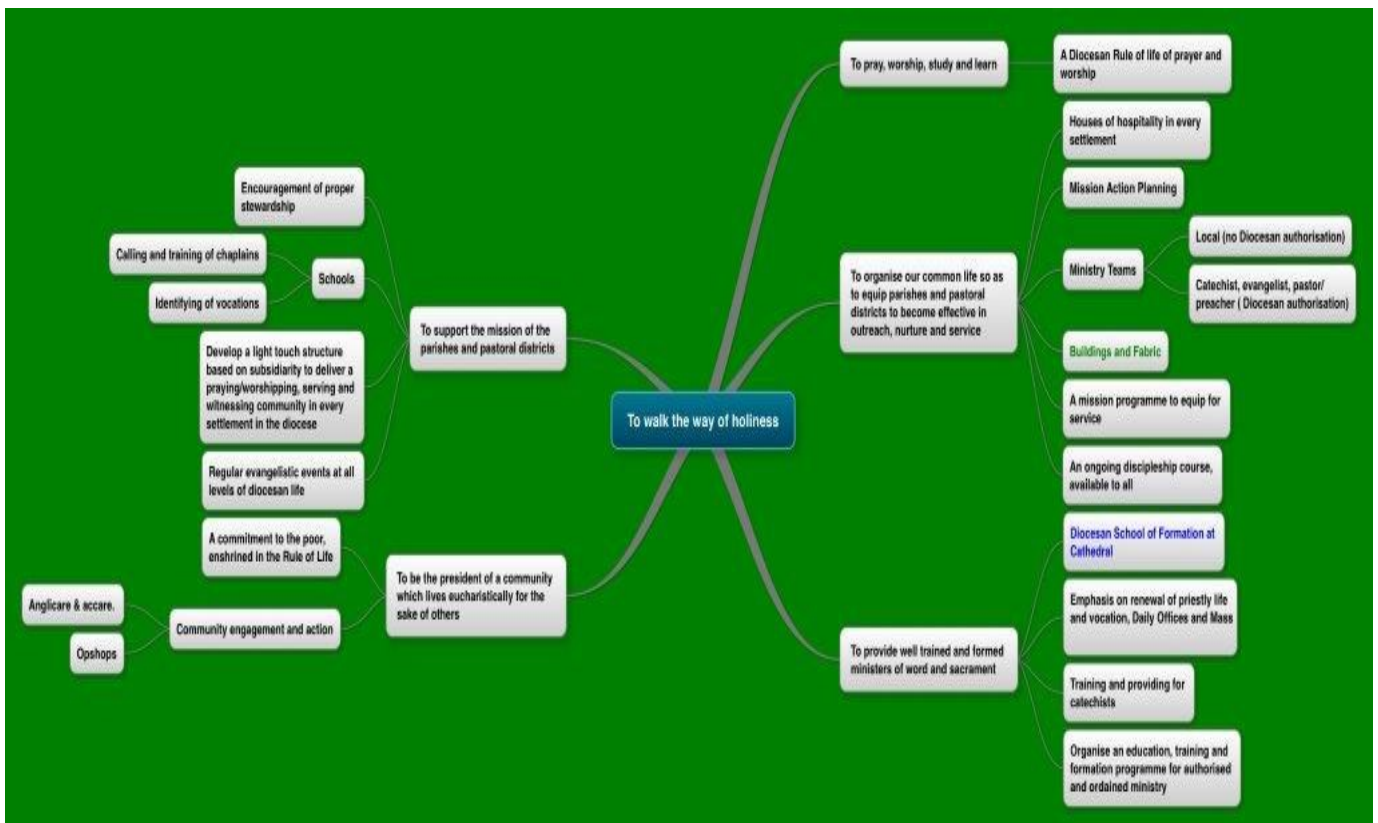
Bishop John Ford welcomed the motion and believed it raised fundamental questions about how the church placed itself in the Diocesan mission action plan and in having a Christian presence in every community. He added that he did not necessarily want to make Synod larger, but that we needed to make it more representative of the Diocesan area. The motion was then passed.

At the start of the Synod, Fr Dirk van Dissel made a presentation to the Vicar General, Fr Richard Seabrook in appreciation of his work and pastoral care of the Diocese as Administrator

during the vacancy of the See. Fr Seabrook responded with thanks. Mr. David Fleming also addressed Synod and made a presentation to the Registrar, Donna Jones, in recognition of her hard work and care of the people of the Diocese and in keeping the Diocesan Registry functioning during the vacancy of the See. Mrs Jones responded with thanks.

The observers from both the Diocese of Adelaide and the Willochra were also welcomed by the Bishop. They included the Reverend Peter Sandeman, Canon Simon Bailey and Daniel Harris from the Diocese of Adelaide. Michael Ford and the Reverend Anne Ford also brought their greetings from the Diocese of Willochra.

During the suspension of standing orders on the Saturday, the CEO of ac.care, Rob Foggo and the Head of Woodcroft College, Mark Porter gave presentations on the subject of how the Diocese can share in God's mission with the welfare organisation and the school.



# DIOCESAN SYNOD 2014

## Acts 16: 1-10 and John 15: 18-21

I hope and pray that you my brothers and sisters realise that here, at this moment, we see the Diocese of The Murray as she is meant to be. The answer to the question when do we see the Church being the Church is when brothers and sisters are gathered around their bishop at the Eucharist. In addition a synod is an occasion when those who remain faithful to the teaching of the apostles, the breaking of the bread and the prayers are assembled in fellowship one with another. So a synod at the Eucharist (and you can't have one without the other) is par excellence one of the ways that you see the Church as she is – and as she is meant to be. And it is the task of a synod so assembled to sincerely seek the mind of Christ for its own particular manifestation of the Church Universal.

The readings we have had are those set for the day – not specially chosen – and therefore they are an example of a God-incidence since they are especially apt for our assembly. In the verses from John 15 we have two conditional clauses and a statement either side of the heart of the matter! If ... if ... and then the statement you are not – followed by the heart of the matter – then if ... if ... and the statement that this is what they will do. And the heart of the matter? **“servants are not greater than their master.”**

In our terms, not only today in synod but also for our daily living ... but essential for our life in synod ... the master is the call to be the Body of Christ in mission. This is true in the generality but also very particularly at this synod ... it is the one item that is currently on our agenda; it is the only game in town and nothing can distract us from hearing afresh this call and commission.

And the servants of this master are this synod and each of its component

parts – the bishop, the clergy and the laity and also those whom together we are – that is the various parishes and pastoral districts of our diocese.

What is the mind of Christ for us, in our context? Not that the mind of Christ is in any way relative but the context does vary. What is the mind of Christ for us in the political, social and communal reality of our situation in South Australia? Normally in a presidential address to the synod these are the issues that I would wish to address; however, I am new here and my learning and understanding is very limited. But I am aware of the unjust economic systems that pertain in the world and that there are many threats to the peace of tribes and nations. I am also keenly conscious of the way in which we are driven by consumerism and the proliferation of choice resulting in the seemingly endless round of acquisition by those who can and marginalisation of those who can't. And this is to say nothing of the insidious ways in which values are relativised with the result that human dignity is trampled upon.

Without in any way wishing to retreat inwards – a besetting sin of the Church in my opinion – today we need to think about our task ... our master, the one of which we are all servants. We must give our undivided attention – in the context of all that I have just mentioned – to how we are to be God's holy people on our pilgrim journey in such a way that we can be a sign and an instrument and a foretaste of the Kingdom – **for the world.**

So the cultural setting is unavoidable – it is in the reality of life taken seriously – with all its joys and sorrows that we receive our call to be the Body of Christ in mission.

The reading from Acts 16 is a prime example to us. It comes straight after the Council of Jerusalem when the

leaders of the Church gathered together to decide a number of perplexing questions that had arisen as disciples proclaimed the gospel. One of the decisions they made was that it wasn't necessary to circumcise Gentile converts. And here we have, immediately at the start of the next chapter, Paul doing exactly what they had said was not necessary. Why? Actually the textual stuff is quite complicated but, believe me, it is a cultural question. In order to be alongside that particular culture at that time, in the very special circumstances that pertained especially concerning how leaders of the community had, as it were, fallen out – notwithstanding the fact that we have decided not to do it ... we will!

This interchange between decisions of the Church and particular cultures and which should prevail in matters of proclamation and practice is not an unknown phenomenon in the worldwide church today – it is even particularly poignant for Anglicans. Whilst these questions are beyond the scope of what I want to say today I would be failing in my ministry if I didn't point out that culture is relative and transient whereas the gospel is true and eternal. This ought to give at least a clue as to the relative weight to be given on either side of this particular scale.

And this is exactly what Paul was doing in these matters concerning Barnabas and then, in today's reading, Timothy. Pondering, weighing and deciding. Doing this over internal matters concerning the church and her internal relationships and ministry and then ...

... circumstances developed that there was only one option open to them. A bit like us – circumstances are unquestionably such that the growth of the church is the only item on our agenda; we cannot afford the luxury or indulgence of diversion

from the task which is our master. Their call was unequivocally to go and evangelise in Europe – ours is, I'm rather glad to say, to stay here and do likewise!

But that call to Paul and his companions represents an incredible potential for culture clash and the resultant need to weigh, ponder and decide. They were on the boundary or the edge of Asia and Europe – being on the edge is not an easy option – theirs was to be a cross-cultural mission. Crossing cultures with the gospel is not a new experience – there was a pretty fundamental difference between time and eternity when the Word became flesh, but he wasn't daunted and neither should we be.

He lived as the truth in the complexities of the day and calls us to do the same. It places us in interesting situations that are often, by definition, strange, unknown and indescribable. However, this is just

like our foundational call to live on the edge of eternity – to be prepared to occupy that space which is inviting and enticing; which invites an adventure and an encounter with mystery – that is totally other and beyond our experience. And this boundary between here and eternity summons us to attend to something other than ourselves. We are called to attend to things other than our daily round, apart from the distractions of society and even invited to leave behind the passing differences and difficulties of our church belonging. We are called to a place where stillness and silence are the only possible responses to that which is revealed. It is in the knowledge of our destiny that we are enabled to cross the minor barriers and divisions presented by the cultures of today. The knowledge of this destiny is the revealed truth of the incarnate Son, the one who is our master, whose body we profess to be.

I am called – and so are you – to

immerse myself in that truth so that we can grow in our understanding of it; that thus growing we can live it and in the end inhabit it for eternity. This is of more value than anything; this is longer lasting than any culture and we, the Diocese of The Murray exist to encounter Christ and be handed over by him to God the Father in the power of the Spirit. And this is indeed counter cultural since it demands that things that our beyond us and cannot be either bought or achieved by human effort or acquisition are the things that really matter and, therefore, that mysticism and living with what we don't understand is more significant than consumerism, atheism or any other ism you might dream up. Indeed that the master of all for every culture at all times is him who, in Christ, gives himself to us and calls us to continue the giving by being the love and life of his Son in the world.

“Servants are not greater than their master.”

## GENERAL SYNOD

General Synod started with a Eucharist at St Peter's Cathedral on 29<sup>th</sup> June and the business session actually started on 30<sup>th</sup> June at St Peter's College. Our Diocese was represented by Bishop John, Fr Richard Seabrook and Murray McFarlane. This was the last Synod presided over by Archbishop Philip Aspinall who finished his duties as Primate at the end of the Synod.

Each day the sessions started with Morning Prayer and an evening prayer was held at around 5.30 pm. In many ways it was very similar to a Diocesan Synod but on a broader scale. Legislative changes were finished ahead of schedule and this ultimately enabled Synod to finish a day earlier. Canons that were passed included an amendment to Canon concerning Confessions 1989. A proposed change to allow priests to marry non baptized people in Church was lost.

The key feature was a discussion on the Viability of Dioceses which included a series of small group discussions. One thing that did become clear is that something like the program that our Bishop has put in place is vital for the mission and growth of the Church so we need to be thankful that we have started the process. The small groups worked well which was an innovation for this Synod and they will only be effective if there is a specific issue that needs addressing.

*Murray McFarlane, Lay Representative, Monday, 11 August 2014*

### Special Call of Synod – 8<sup>th</sup> November 2014

Following discussion at the August meeting of Diocesan Council it was noted that the Bishop and the Chancellor are in agreement that it is not critical to have the Special Call of Synod scheduled for 8<sup>th</sup> November 2014. The Chancellor reported there are four items, two are constitutional amendments, two are theological issues, as well as outstanding matters of Canons from previous Synods. These can all wait until next year's Synod. In light of this information please make it known to your Parish Synod Reps that the Special Call of Synod previously advised for 8<sup>th</sup> November 2014 has been cancelled.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> August a large number of people gathered for what was going to be the last Mass ever celebrated at St Paul's, Glencoe. Indeed this was a moving liturgy as each sacred symbol of the Church was slowly processed out with responses and prayers. At the end of the liturgy we were left with nothing but a stripped altar. If the walls of St Paul's could talk you would hear stories of the faithful gathering in this place to celebrate many joyous events and some times of sorrow and grief over a 101 year period. It is always sad when the time comes that our most loved and cherished church buildings have to be closed and sold off. Sadly, this is the second church I have decommissioned this year in the Limestone Coast Archdeaconry.



At the same time – the Limestone Coast Archdeaconry has much to celebrate in terms of growth potential, new ministry opportunities and a greater sense of team ministry with the ordination of Brenton Dick to the diaconate in Keith and the licensing of Fr Wayne Corker at Naracoorte and Fr David Price at Mt Gambier. All three diocesan Masses celebrated by Bishop John brought large crowds together from not only the archdeaconry but the wider Church. These are exciting times not only for the Limestone Coast Archdeaconry – but also the diocese as together we explore and experiment different ways of being Church and being missionaries in our own neighbourhoods.



*Fr Wayne Corker and Bishop John*

The events I have just spoke about most certainly show us a little about what it means to Take the Plunge Together. As we create our mission plans, explore new ministry and evangelism events and trial new and exciting ways of proclaiming the Good News in word and action – there will be times doors close – when things don't work out as planned – when we don't get the results we had hoped for – even after lots of hard work and planning. This indeed will be disappointing and perhaps frustrating. It is in these times we know that God will bring us comfort and new direction.



*Fr David and Lesley Price and Bp John*

In being good stewards of the buildings and properties God has given us while being better prepared for our future – there may be some hard decisions needed to be made – some of these may include closing doors on church buildings, worshipping in different places and in different ways – and this may

not at all be comfortable. Change and new ways of doing things can most certainly challenge all of us.

At the same time, it is evident that if we don't change, we don't explore new ministries, we don't become proactive in planning mission events and if we aren't prepared to make some sacrifices – we as parishes, as a diocese and as God's Church – will just not grow. Hence, it is paramount

that we look for the “doors” that God is opening for us. As individuals and as faith communities we have so much to offer in terms of gifts, abilities and skills. These are the very things that will make the difference between being vibrant growing and passionate faith communities and just surviving.

Let us pray that God will give us the wisdom to know when a door has

closed, the strength to move on and the faith to realise it is God's Church – not ours. Let us also pray that working together with enthusiasm, passion and hope we will notice the doors that God does open before and that we will plunge forward in confidence and with strength.

*The Venerable Dr Peter Carlsson*

## ORDINATION IN THE TATIARA

The Anglican Church in the Upper South East has been given new life with the ordination of the Parish Administrator of the Pastoral District of the Tatiara, Brenton Dick.

Bishop John Ford ordained Brenton Dick to the Diaconate in a ceremony at St. Catherine's Keith on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July.

More than 100 people attended the ordination, many of them representing the churches of Bordertown, Keith and Tintinara, which the Pastoral District of the Tatiara encompasses.

The Pastoral District has been without a full time priest for six years and has been assisted by visiting clergy on a mostly monthly basis since then, providing ministry and services to each of the three towns.

In a statement announcing the ordination of Mr Dick in April, Bishop John Ford stated that Brenton had been selected to train for ordained ministry and had started a course of training.

“Through no fault of his own, this period of training has been interrupted. Despite this disturbance this has caused to Brenton, he has remained faithful in his ministry as a pastoral district. All of this is to his credit and I am most grateful to him for his persistence and faithfulness”.

Bishop Ford after ordaining Brenton Dick to the Diaconate announced that his ordination was bringing new life to the Pastoral District and he would be ordained a priest.

“He is now set amongst you as a Deacon and soon a Priest so that he can give life to these communities.”

Bishop Ford thanked Brenton and his family and anyone else who has supported him to bring him to this point. He also thanked God in giving the Diocese a new Deacon.

Earlier, Canon Alex Bainton from Victor Harbor who led Brenton's retreat leading up the ordination gave the address.

“May Jesus be a model for you Brenton in showing humble service to others, his model of leadership is one who serves. A role that Brenton is committing himself is to be an ambassador of Christ, by leading through example and to promote loving fellowship with those he ministers to.”

Brenton's examining chaplain, Fr. Alf Stringer presented and robed Brenton Dick with a stole once he was ordained in the presence of the Archdeacons of the Diocese and visiting clergy.

The ordination ended with afternoon tea in the hall. It was then that the now Rev'd Brenton Dick thanked everyone for being present and especially his wife, Lynn and their children for their support.

Bishop Ford says he would be consulting his colleagues about the shape, style and length of the Rev'd Dick's ongoing formation, and would ensure that this happens.

*Fr Paul Devenport*



## A NEW PRIEST FOR THE RIVERLAND



More than 100 people turned out at Waikerie on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August for the licensing of Father Paul Devenport as the new Parish Priest of the Pastoral District of the Riverland.

Bishop John Ford licensed Fr Devenport at St James Waikerie during the Mass, in front of representatives of each of the churches of the region along with visiting clergy, family members, and representatives from the Southern Vales Pastoral District and the Mount Barker Parish.

The Mayor of Loxton-Waikerie, Leon Stasonoski and his wife Lyn, priests, ministers and representatives from the Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Uniting and the Apostolic Churches in the Riverland were present.

The Pastoral District of the Riverland which takes in Renmark, Loxton, Berri, Barmera and Monash has recently been enlarged to take in the Pastoral District of Waikerie, which includes St James, Morgan and a congregation at Swan Reach.

Bishop Ford in his homily spoke of Fr Paul's role in the new Pastoral District of the Riverland.

"The new parish priest is one who has received a gift of ministry that relates to three dimensions of the task committed to the Church by the great commission of Jesus to his disciples on the Galilean hillside - that is word,

sacraments and to pastoral care and oversight."

"The new parish priest in the Pastoral District of the Riverland, along with all other parishes and districts in the Diocese now have to consider themselves and their relationships in terms of relating to mission and growth across the whole "Taking the Plunge Together" program." He said. Bishop Ford said Fr Paul's priestly ministry is set within the context of a number of communities of faith and must also relate to other communities beyond. These comprise of people who today receive this new gift from God with great expectation and, I hope and pray, real joy."

"Fr Paul is called to be among you, not aloof from you, not separate and apart, but amongst, alongside with people. This kind of description is one that is constantly applied to Jesus - He was with people in teaching, learning, nurturing, forming, calling, growing. Sometimes as their leader, at other times as their guide, their teacher, their pastor, the one that opens for them the gift of God in word and sacrament." He said.

"A Church engaged in the participation of the word, celebration of the sacraments, the pastoral care of others in a responsible and reasoned way will grow, since it will at least be trying to be faithful to the call of God to participate in his

mission. But only if we bring people to Jesus."

Bishop Ford added the church community may need to organise themselves differently to what has happened in the past.

"But in all of this remember that like those first disciples you are called to proclaim Jesus and bring people to him - in prayer, study of the scriptures and in the Eucharist. With your new priest, you must organise your common life to bring people to Jesus."

Bishop Ford said he was aware of the potential work load for Fr Paul and that it was his desire to see a second priest appointed to the Riverland.

Fr Devenport at the conclusion of the commissioning thanked all who had been part of the special day, especially those who had come from the Pastoral District of the Southern Vales, some of whom had sung in a choir for the day.

He thanked all those who had helped organise the induction and for the support of his family in this next step in his ministry as a priest.

Fr Devenport spoke of his previous connections with the Riverland in being a former ABC journalist who came to the region on several occasions to relieve the journalist based at Renmark.

He said he would do everything he could to the best of his ability to be the Parish Priest in the Riverland but said he could not do it alone and that everyone needed to work together with their differing gifts in the spirit of the Lord to grow the Church.

It was also his aim to see the Pastoral District become a Parish and have a second priest placed in the Riverland as soon as possible.

The licensing concluded with a lunch at the Waikerie Club.

## 160 YEARS AT ST JUDE'S PORT ELLIOT

On Sunday June 22nd, exactly 160 years from the laying of St Jude's Foundation Stone in 1854, descendants of pioneering families joined parishioners of St Jude's Anglican Church to commemorate the event.

At a public meeting held in Pt Elliot on January 27th 1854, a committee was formed to plan the building of a church in what was to be called the Parish of Encounter Bay. Just six months later the foundation stone was laid and by Christmas there were four walls in which to hold a service; no windows, no roof and no floor, but nevertheless it was a moment for great celebration of the first Anglican church on the South Coast.

On this recent occasion however, the congregation of about 100 sat more comfortably. Descendants of the first trustees A H Landseer and P L Hunter (three members coming from Safety Bay in WA), as well as representatives of other prominent founders, such as Richard Smith Newell, Henry Denny and Boucher Welch, attended from local areas and other places in SA and from the ACT.



Photo: Janet Jones. Courtesy of The Southern Argus

The Eucharist was celebrated by Bishop John Ford of The Murray, assisted by the rector of Port Elliot-Goolwa, Archdeacon Richard Litjens. Bishop Stanley Goldsworthy and two former rectors, Fr Graham Roper and Fr Reg Farnell were also present.

Following the service people spent a very happy time (judging by the buzz in the hall) renewing friendships and reminiscing, as they enjoyed a three course meal served to them by the ladies of the congregation.

Mrs Pat England and her small committee are to be congratulated on promoting the idea of holding a series of events to highlight the establishment of a Church of England in this area, beginning with this commemorative service. The success of this day bodes well for other forthcoming celebrations in the form of a Garden Party for the Parish in September, a Fashion Parade of Yesteryear in November and then our Christmas Day services, - this time in a completed building.

Pat and her ladies also planned the printing of the special invitations with charming watercolour images of the church by local artist Chris Rye, the originals now hanging in the hall. And as if this was not enough, Pat organised a limited reprint of the St Jude's Recipe Book with its historical footnotes, which is selling 'like hot cakes'. It is amazing what a nonagenarian and friends can do! The pioneering spirit lives on. Well done, all!

## JUST WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING DOWN THERE IN MOUNT GAMBIER?

Even though the Parish of Mount Gambier has been without a priest for two years, with the help of wonderful locum priests we have kept busy in worship, fellowship and outreach. What follows is a brief summary of the last six months of parish life.

On Thursday January 9<sup>th</sup> 2014, Bishop John and his wife Bridget spent an extended weekend in the Mount Gambier Parish. They lived in our recently purchased rectory for four days. As far as anyone can recall, this is the first time a bishop has spent such a period with us. His agenda was in our hands. "Fill up my time and use



me as you think best" where his instructions.

And so in just a few days this new man from Plymouth UK, became our bishop, our priest and our very good friend. He breathed new life into our parish. Our lay team has done a sterling job, however it was wonderful to have a priest to celebrate the Eucharist, visit the sick, meet and advise most of our parish groups, and to socialise and relax with us. Above all, Bishop John renewed our confidence and optimism in ourselves for the future. He also gave us strategies to get us through until a



new priest is appointed and committed to bringing the patronage process to fulfilment. As many will now know, on August 30, 2014, Fr David Price and his wife of just a few weeks, Lesley, will move from Port Fairy (Vic) to join the church family here in the South East. Fr David will be admitted as our priest at Christ Church on Saturday, August 30 at 12.00 noon.

Bishop John's mid-January visit was in a typically quiet time for us. However, many people adjusted holiday plans and took the opportunity to spend time getting to know our new Chief Shepherd and Bridget. Bishop John travelled around our parish to all worship centres; he blessed the reconstructed bell and bell tower at St Thomas Pt McDonnell and joined in luncheons, a parish dinner and numerous morning teas. We fear for what may have happened to his waistline, however there was an unsubstantiated sighting of the Bishop and Bridget at the crayfish factory at Port McDonnell.

At this time, Bishop John announced the appointment of Fr Tony Wilds, an associate of his from Plymouth, UK to be locum. Fr Tony and Mary Wilds who were visiting family in Australia had offered, "if there is anything we can do while in Australia..." The rest is history! In three wonderful months, they became much loved members of our parish family and even though living in France, maintain strong links with us. Fr Tony still sends sermons for our PAs to use each Sunday.

In May, Bishop John confirmed four young people at St Thomas' Pt MacDonnell. The small sea-side church was packed for the first

confirmation there in a very long time.

On Friday, June 27 we celebrated the life and ministry of Fr Brian Ashworth. For 37 years Rector of this parish, it was a day to reflect on all he had given and all he had achieved over such a long period of our 149 year history. Now healed and restored to new life with the Father and the whole company of heaven, we thank God for his life, and pray for Anne and the Ashworth family at this difficult time.



The parish now takes a breath and plans for the next phase. We ask your prayers for us as we move forward.

During June, Dr Ray Booth, SA Chair of the Royal School of Church Music, bought a small contingent of singers from Adelaide for a workshop and choral evensong on Saturday, June 21. On the Sunday we had wonderful music for the 9.30am Eucharist. Ray gave a free organ recital in the afternoon before returning to Adelaide.

In July the popular event, "Men Cook Sunday Lunch" attracted 75 diners to a great three course meal with excellent table service provided by head waiter Bishop John and his team.

Part of our rebuilding process is the

Taking the Plunge Together Mission. Eight study groups are "Following Jesus" with the Diocesan Discipleship Program and our Parish Mission Action Planning process is well under way.

The Parish congratulates Fr Peter Carlsson on his appointment as Archdeacon of the Limestone Coast and we look forward to where the Lord might lead us under his guidance in regional ministry. We thank Fr Peter for his ongoing support of our Parish in our time without a priest.

At present we are in the process of selling the church buildings of St Paul at Glencoe where there has been no congregation or services for many years.

Finally, all in the parish are 'flat out' at present in preparation for the annual Anglican Fair (August 9). This event brings our whole parish and the local community together. It is our major fundraiser for the year and is much anticipated by the 'locals'.

So, together with a wine tasting social event and our Patronal Festival in November and preparation for the Sesquicentenary of Christ Church in 2015, readers can see that while quiet for a while in the Murray Anglican, a lot is happening in the deep south. Why not come down and visit us sometime!

*Rick Fisher*



## THE DIOCESE OF THE MURRAY SAFER MINISTRY SEMINAR

**Saturday 18th October - 9.30 am. Registration from 9 am St Catherine's, Memorial Avenue, Keith**

For all people in new ministry positions including Bishops, Priests, Wardens, Pastoral Assistants, Servers, Choir Directors, Sunday School Teachers, Pastoral Care Volunteers, Youth Workers, Organists and paid Op Shop Managers.

To register contact Br Brenton Dick: dickscot@bigpond.com or 8755 3222 or 0417 831 880

Refresher courses for all licenced people in the Diocese will be held in 2015



*"We use a holistic approach, considering all aspects of people's lives, from housing, finances and learning, to relationships and cultural backgrounds. We design individual strategies with an emphasis on skill development, prevention and early intervention to achieve successful outcomes"*  
Rob Foggo, CEO

## Bishop John Ford visits

### ac.care

It was wonderful to have Bishop John Ford visit ac.care in our head office at Mount Gambier in May. The visit gave him the opportunity to meet with Rob Foggo, CEO and learn about ac.care's history with the Christ Church Parish and the Diocese of the Murray. Rob was also able to provide Bishop Ford information on the work ac.care does and, with over 70 services delivered by ac.care in communities within the Diocese region, there was much for Bishop Ford to digest! He asked many important questions that showed his deep interest of the issues around poverty and disadvantage in the Diocese and how ac.care works to assist people living with this.

## ac.care at Synod 2014

ac.care Board member, Mr Ken Pidgeon, attended Synod 2014, along with Rob and Mike Bleby. Mike is convenor of the ac.care Board of Directors. Ken reported there was a vibrant emphasis on new Ministry and Mission.

"Mike delivered a report on the work of ac.care to the Synod, which was well received and led to a good discussions" said Ken.

ac.care sincerely respects and appreciates the support by way of donations and prayers from the Diocese and welcomes feedback for areas where parishioners may want more information or people from ac.care to visit. Please contact either Amanda McKinnon, Rob Foggo's PA, or Anne Hinkly-Tyler, Marketing and Communications Manager, on 8724 9211 or [care@accare.org.au](mailto:care@accare.org.au)

## Vale Father Brian Ashworth

It was with sadness that Bishop Ford visited Mount Gambier again in June. This time it was to deliver the funeral service for Father Brian Ashworth.

Father Brian played a major role in the formation of ac.care and Rob Foggo and the Board refer to him as the "Founding Father" of ac.care. Without his foresight and passion for social justice ac.care would not exist today.

It was Brian who opened the church hall to the community when the need was identified for a teenage foster care service in Mount Gambier. It was Brian who initiated the support from Christ Church Parish Council to submit a proposal to the then Department of Community Welfare requesting funds for a teenage foster care program. Twenty-eight thousand dollars was provided. Brian then facilitated the local Anglican Church to be the auspicing body. When the fledgling organisation needed people to sit on the Board it was Brian who tapped people on the shoulder.

Brian was always passionate about ac.care and the work we do in our communities. He was also very dedicated to the well being our staff, regardless of faith or no faith, and was very proud to be the ac.care Chaplain for the Mt Gambier offices. He always made time to offer advice or support.

Father Brian was a very determined man who cared greatly for his parish and community, and all people within it. Brian will be sadly missed and our thoughts and prayers go to Anne, David, Rachel, Frances and Jonathon and their families.



Anne and Fr Brian Ashworth

## IT IS A DIFFERENT WORLD

Tuesday, 20 May, was a great evening. The Anglican Board of Mission (ABM) Provincial Committee hosted a reception at Saint Andrew's Walkerville to listen to Meagan Morrison speak about her work in Papua New Guinea (PNG). 45 people gathered in Saint Andrew's Hall to hear a most insightful address.

Meagan reminded us of the changes in the relationship between the Anglican Church of PNG (ACPNG) and the Australian Church (through ABM) that have taken place in the last 30 years.

ABM no longer sends missionaries to PNG; it supports programmes which are initiated by ACPNG. The Church there decides its own priorities and its own timetable. ABM's role is to support and encourage the Church there in its many different programmes. Meagan is employed by ABM as the PNG Program Coordinator and Partner Liaison Officer and is based in Port Moresby, the capital city of PNG. Her role is to represent ABM to the Church in PNG and to represent ACPNG to the Australian Church via ABM. She keeps ABM informed of developments and needs and she offers advice and encouragement to ACPNG.

Meagan spoke of the remarkable variety of activities occurring within ACPNG – community building, health, education, evangelism, church support and being a prophetic voice in society. All of these activities are undertaken by the local Church and the method of undertaking them is determined by ACPNG. The Church is no longer a 'daughter' Church of Australia; it is now a 'partner' Church. Just as PNG is no longer an Australian Colony but an independent nation so ACPNG is a member Church of the Anglican Communion of equal standing with the other churches of our communion. Clergy, teachers, health workers and Church



*Fr Paul Devenport, Meagan Morrison and Bp David McCall*

administrators are Melanesians employed directly by ACPNG.

ACPNG still needs support and encouragement from the Australian Church. It is largely a rural Church and the majority of its adherents have very little money. Although the stipends of teachers and health workers are met by the Government, much of the other support (equipment, teaching material, maintenance etc) has to be found by the Church. In addition the Church has to provide for the training and payment of clergy and evangelists, for supporting its bishops and the administration of the Church at a diocesan and national level. While each diocese is responsible for its own budget and raises what it can locally, the need for support from outside is still essential of the Church is to fulfil its mission effectively.

Meagan spoke movingly of the many ways in which churches of different traditions work together. In some parts where there are very few Anglicans, church members receive Holy Communion at the hands of Roman Catholic, Lutheran or United clergy. ACPNG is a key player in ecumenical work within PNG, including the PNG Council of Churches and the Australian Aid

(DFAT) funded Church Partnership Program (CPP).

The Churches co-operate closely in raising issues with the government and seeking to call the government to account for the way in which issues are dealt with. Two examples given were the way in which the Government and mining companies are called to account for the way in which they treat the environment and for the way in which they relate to local communities. The second example given was in response to a question about the treatment of asylum seekers. Meagan revealed how concerned all the Churches are about this matter and how the pressure of a growing population and shortage of land pose some very difficult issues.

The Provincial Committee was delighted to host the gathering and was grateful to God for the insights we were given in a lively and fascinating address.

*+ David McCall, Chair, ABM Provincial Committee.*

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NEWSLETTER**

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After each meeting, the Registrar  
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