



The Murray Anglican

TMA Summer 2015



Age No Bar to Entering the Kingdom!

A Baptism and several Confirmations, age range from 7 to mid-80s, in the Diocese have shown that there is no age limit for either Sacrament.

Woodside

St Mark's Anglican Church at Woodside in the Parish of Onkaparinga was abuzz with a 'full house' comprising parishioners and family and friends who attended in support of the confirmation of Rhian Broderick, Faith Clayton, Jordan Clayton, Maya Maya and Edward Tilbrook.

Bishop John Ford celebrated a joyous Eucharist at St Mark's on Sunday 31st August.

The congregation was enlightened by the Bishop's inspirational sermon which gave an valuable insight into the importance and meaning of confirmation; a taking on of discipleship which will remain with us for our lifetime.

Our five candidates had the Laying on of Hands, were anointed with the Oil of the Chrism and blessed by Bishop John.

Five members of our congregation, Margie Wells, David Fyfe, Jan Palmer, Pat Nommensen and Gerri Hupfeld, also reaffirmed their faith and received the Laying on of hands.

After the service a three course buffet luncheon was held at our church Hall at Prince of Peace in Lobethal, at which all the confirmees took part in the cutting of the Confirmation Cake.

It was a delightful afternoon, the weather was wonderful and the fellowship and friendship that followed was enriching.

It was a truly special day and we were delighted that Bishop Ford and his wife Bridget were able to make this first visit to our Parish of Onkaparinga Valley.

O'Halloran Hill

Most people when reflecting on Baptisms and Confirmations in church will think of babies and teenagers. Holy Cross Day at O'Halloran Hill provided a different perspective. At the Sunday morning Mass, Bishop John confirmed two people - Abigail Elis and Brian Hammer; one 11years and the other up in his 70s.

In the afternoon, at Old Reynella Lodge, a baptism and confirmation took place, and the candidate, Dennis Stopps, was in his mid-80s! Dennis, originally from the UK, was uncertain whether he had ever been baptised, so a conditional baptism occurred, followed by the confirmation, and then the bishop celebrated the Mass. Young and old, the Kingdom increases!

Mount Torrens

Sunday the 7th of December, 2014 was a day of great excitement at St George's Church at Mt. Torrens. Sisters Lily and Sophie Bedford were presented to Bishop John to be confirmed.

Although the children were younger than the usual candidates, they had spent a long time in preparation and

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demonstrated their understanding of confirming their baptismal vows. It was a beautiful day and everyone present was of good voice. Following the service was a grand lunch. "A feast day altogether". Both Lily and Sophie are now willing servers at the altar.

Father John Devenport has been assisting at the Mount Torrens and Mount Pleasant Churches for several years on a fortnightly basis and prepared Lily and Sophie for confirmation.

Photos

Front page (left to right)

Edward Tilbrook, Jordan Clayton, Faith Clayton, Maya Maya and Rhian Broderick, Woodside
 Brian Hammer and Abigail Ellis, O'Halloran Hill
 Dennis Stops, O'Halloran Hill
 Lily and Sophie Bedford, Mt Torrens

This page (from top)

Woodside confirmees
 Bp John and Faith Clayton
 Confirmation cake
 Conditional baptism at O'Halloran Hill
 Mount Torrens
 Confirmees, Lily and Sophie Bedford, receiving Holy Communion at Mt Torrens

Below

No celebration in the Diocese would be complete without a good spread



Deacon on the Run



Fr Brenton Dick baptising Charlie, son of Tilli Jarman and Joshua Tink.

Since being ordained a Deacon in July 2014 the Rev'd Brenton Dick has hit the ground running with a busy first five months in ministry in the Pastoral District of the Tatiara.

He has conducted his first funeral service for his best mate's father, helped coordinate two weddings with a special thanks to Fr Wayne from Naracoorte, and on the same day as the weddings there was a Safer Ministry Training in the hall at St Catherine's where 18 attended including Bishop John; conducted his very first baptism at St Barnabas in Bordertown, a garage sale at St Catherine's and Christmas Eve services in Bordertown and Keith and other services over Christmas. At the combined churches carols in the rotunda, Fr Brenton read a lesson and gave the Christmas address.

While holding down a full time job with Farmers Centre in Keith, Fr Brenton has a full schedule. He said he is enjoying his ministry and has been very well received in the wider community and looks forward to their continued support. He is working on some more fund raising activities for next year with a look at the Cared for Clothing shop in Bordertown opening an extra day.

Fr Brenton continues to meet with Fr Peter Carlsson in Penola for training and is undertaking some more intensive training early in 2015. He will be ordained to the Sacred Priesthood on Sunday 12th July at Keith.

Black Tie Glamour Dinner

We are eager to build a new Cathedral/hall and our Parish set out a five year plan more than three years ago and started the hard work of fund raising back then towards this goal.

On Friday 19th September a Black Tie Dinner was held in the John Dohler Hall. This event was hosted by the Murraylands Anglican Parish, St John the Baptist Cathedral Church and was organised by the Building Fund Committee.

60 people enjoyed fine food and wine and became involved in the fun of an auction of some 'High Class' fashions and artistic floral arrangements, carried out by a very entertaining auctioneer. Also we were able to hear a speech by our Federal member for Barker Mr Tony Pasin. As our keynote speaker he spoke about development and infrastructure in rural towns and cities. He was encouraged by the project to build a new Cathedral and Hall for the Church as well as being a very good development for the community of Murray Bridge.

The evening, which was highly successful was held to raise funds towards the exciting project of building the new Cathedral and Hall on the existing site here in Murray Bridge. The plans are for a larger area for worship and outreach and will also be a wonderful community asset for the people of Murray Bridge. Most of the guests also were interested and excited for the new project.

We thank all the people who were involved to make this dinner successful and also we thank our brothers and sisters in the Diocese who supported us by their prayers, help, encouragement and finance. We were able to raise over \$3000.

Praise God for His blessings and love for our Parish.

*Lee Lyons
Church Warden*



First Annual Youth of the Murray Retreat

On Friday 26th of September, the young people of the diocese of the Murray gathered at Woodhouse, in the Adelaide Hills for a weekend of fun and fellowship. The weekend began with a “get to know you” dinner. We had gathered from all around the diocese and we made an interesting group of people – teachers, students, doctors, vets and a lot of part time Woolworth’s workers.

After dinner we were introduced to a style of worship unique to a part of France called Taize. This style of worship is very musical and is very much a youth based culture with young people from different churches all over the world travelling to France in order to take part in this musical worship.

Saturday began early with a pancake breakfast, followed by a trip to the picturesque Mt Lofty Botanical Gardens. A group chat gave the youth of the Murray a chance to “grill the bishop” and to ask the questions most relevant to the young people of the diocese. A wide range of topics was covered, including the significance of the colour purple and the role of Mary in our faith. After a quick photo session some time was taken to explore the spectacular gardens.

Later in the day a team building exercise called Challenge Hill was undertaken. Walls were climbed, “swamps” were crossed and ropes were swung on Tarzan style and a brave few crossed a stream on a tightrope. It was a much wearier looking group who made their way back to the dorms for dinner. During this time a conversation about the youth of the diocese was begun. Saturday ended with a campfire before the exhausted campers retired to bed.

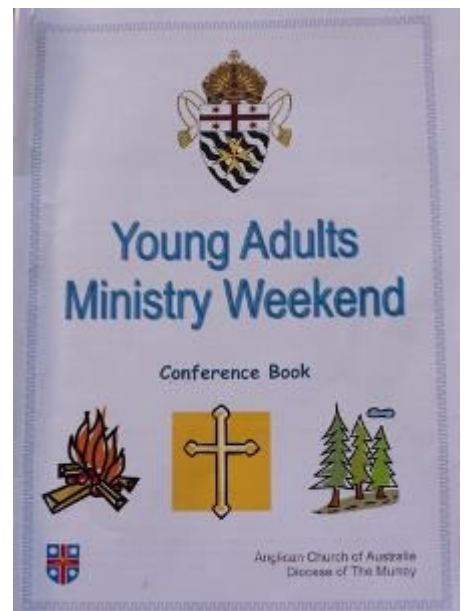
Sunday began as early as Saturday with a wonderful bacon and egg breakfast. Sunday worship was led by the Bishop and we shared in the Eucharist.

Clean up of the rooms commenced before a final group discussion about



the achievements of the weekend and how to further the youth programme in our diocese. As a result a new face book page dedicated to youth connection has been created. Email addresses were exchanged with plans to share ideas and a commitment to meet again next year with an aim to increase the number of young people attending.

Overall the weekend was a fun time away, a chance to meet new people and discuss common ideas and issues young people of faith face in the world today. We encourage all young people in our diocese to check out the Facebook page – Youth of the Murray.



New Priest for Mannum - Mount Pleasant

The Reverend John Thompson has begun his ministry as the Priest Assistant of the Pastoral District of Mannum – Mt Pleasant. He was licenced in both instances at a Eucharist in St. Andrew, Mannum on the 25th of November, 2014. On the same night, Fr George Kirreh was licenced as the parish priest of this pastoral district, in addition to his responsibilities for the Murraylands Parish.

I was born in England in 1939 and migrated to Australia with my mother, brother and sister in 1945-46 and lived in the Pennington migrants' village for a few weeks, and then moved to a house in Largs Bay. From there I, with my brother, was sent to the Salvation Army home at Mt Barker for three years, and from there to a youth hostel on Grange Road. I had limited education and from Grange Road I would walk to Urrbrae agricultural college and home again. At the age of 12 I went to work on a farm on Eyre Peninsula where at the age of 26 I bought my own farm married and had two daughters, Rosemary who is in western Australia and Wendy who lives in Clare. I have a grand son aged 21 and a 15 year old grand daughter. Fourteen years later when I was 40 I answered God's call to Holy orders and went to St. Barnabas college for three years, while there I was Sacristan, works manager and senior student. When ordained I trained under The Ven. Archdeacon Ian Barlow, in Port Pirie from there I went to



Ceduna. I resigned from Ceduna in 1988, and moved to Adelaide where I was chaplain to three nursing homes, assisting priest in Semaphore -Pt. Adelaide, and now I am an assistant priest at Mannum Mt Pleasant and Mt Torrens.

Although my life has not been the smoothest I give thanks to God for what He has given me to deal with.
Fr John Thompson.

Kingston Op Shop Luncheon

This year for the first time we used the Holy Trinity Church building as the venue for the Annual Op-shop Volunteers Luncheon. Pews were rearranged and tables set up attractively. 37 people were there for the luncheon and with the extra room available were able to circulate freely. There was a real Christmassy spirit amongst them. We draw our volunteers from right across the community and the op-shop is a point of contact for many social interactions. We consider the Op-shop fulfils a very strong Mission in the district.

A sound system has been installed to the exterior of Holy Trinity with a view to playing Christmas Carols to the community and also to have this facility available for the times when large congregations, particularly at funerals, are unable to be accommodated within the church building. This will enable everyone to participate in the service.

2014 has been a busy and productive year for us as we continue to do our best to continue to carry out God's work. We hope that eventually we will have a priest appointed but in the meantime our Pastoral Assistants tend faithfully to our needs with the support of Father David Withers who continues to conduct Mass once a month.

This past year, we have established a Sunday School with two young mothers taking on the challenge. Currently, due to family commitments (both have had a baby in the last six months) they are holding the school once a month but have plans to do so more often and regularly. It is a great step forward we hope to getting some younger people into our congregation.



Evangelistic Events

The Southern Vales



The offer of a 250-dollar grant from the Home Mission Fund to help support an evangelism project in the Diocese has been supported in the Southern Vales, with a float depicting the nativity scene.

The project initiated by the Pastoral District of the Southern Vales aimed to give churches in the outer part of southern Adelaide taking in Aldinga, Willunga, McLaren Vale and Old Noarlunga a higher profile in the Advent and Christmas season. The project as part of its Advent outreach project provided a float for an Aldinga Christmas beach pageant and subsequently at various other events. To add to the community contact with the project, young people from the Onkaparinga Council's youth programme VOLT were invited to paint two nativity scenes on either side of the float. Young painters Matt Rendina, Billy Soan and James Best were keen to be involved. Provided with spray paint and 8' x 6' boards they created two beautiful scenes.

The pageant was later cancelled in favour of a Christmas Fair at the local surf club at Aldinga, but all was not lost - the nativity trailer was given a place at the site of the fair, and it also took its place at the annual Advent Pageant at the Aldinga shopping centre. Its next appearance was at the Aldinga Community Carols, and later at the service of Lessons and Carols at Willunga on the 21st December and at the various Christmas services in the Southern Vales.

Its ultimate fate was to be dismantled so that the paintings could grace two of our four churches. "We are delighted with their work", said Anne Chittleborough from the Pastoral District. "Everyone is most impressed, and now the story of the first Christmas can be shown wherever Christmas is being celebrated."

The Riverland

The Riverland's emergency services were thanked and prayed for by Father Paul Devenport at two of the region's community carols.

The idea came as part of the Anglican Church's efforts to better evangelise with the communities of the Riverland. Father Devenport proposed the idea to the committees of the community carols, organising the events in the gardens by the Anglican Church at Renmark on December the 7th and in parkland near the community centre at Waikerie on December the 14th.

All the emergency services were invited to attend, of which representatives came with their fire trucks, ambulances and service vehicles.

In Renmark, there were representatives from the Metropolitan Fire Service, St John's Ambulance, the SES, the CFS, Renmark Hospital and police. In Waikerie, there were representatives from the CFS and St John's Volunteers.

At the conclusion of Father Devenport giving the Christmas message at both events, he invited representatives of the emergency services to come forward.

He personally thanked them for all they did recognising them for some of the work they did in attending fires and road accidents and then prayed for them for the coming Christmas New Year period.

During the last carol at Waikerie, there was a collection for the emergency

services, of which more than 700-dollars was raised. It was equally divided between the CFS and the St John's volunteers and presented to them at a photo opportunity with the local paper, The River News in January.

Father Paul thought it was a great opportunity to better evangelise to the community, in recognising the efforts of emergency services at a time when many people are preparing for Christmas and holidays. The photo opportunity was another way of showing the Anglican Church better connecting with the local community.

The events could not though have not have been achieved without the organisation of the two committees. In

Waikerie, it was the Anglican Church's turn to organise the community carols and in Renmark, a committee representing the various churches met regularly during the year.

One of the church wardens at Waikerie and the chairperson of the carols committee, Janet Grosse co-ordinated the planning of the carols at Waikerie, while another parishioner, Mark Taylor was the MC on the night. Mark also helped with the planning stages of the event, especially with the requirements of the local council such as floor plans and signage for different area.

About 500 people attended the community carols in Corbett Gardens at Renmark and about 250 on the lawns near the Community Centre at Waikerie.

Father Paul Devenport also spoke at



Photo courtesy The River News

third community carols at Bonney Lodge at Barmera on the 18th of December but had to decline another invitation to be the guest speaker at the carols at Loxton, due to the Waikerie

carols. However, he has promised to deliver the Christmas message at Loxton this year!

Mount Barker Parish



In response to Bishop John's call to organise an Evangelistic Event, the Mount Barker Parish hosted a wine tasting evening to kick off the Australia Day long weekend.

The Parish Centre Committee worked tirelessly over several months organising the event. Invitations were designed and printed. Letters were written, printed and folded, envelopes were "stuffed" and around 220 local businesses and community groups were invited to the event. Promotional/informational material to be given to our guests was also prepared.

Howard Vineyard, Nairne, provided the wine, Mark McDermid of Echunga provided the background music and Liz Hampel created some stunning floral arrangements. Guests enjoyed a selection of cocktail finger-food prepared by the Committee. Though response to the event was a little disappointing, those that came had a very enjoyable evening. Also, as part of our ongoing evangelism, we now have a Parish brochure to be placed in the porches of all our churches, fliers to be handed out at our markets, a business card for the Parish Centre and a Facebook page.

Diocesan Workshops

The first of a series of seminars in the Diocese over the next three months has been completed, with a "Safe Encounters" workshop at Millicent. The seminar, the first of three in the Diocese concerning safe ministry was delivered on 28th January at Millicent by Janet Hind, a senior family social worker and sometime Church of England national advisor for

safeguarding. Janet Hind is the wife of Bishop John Hind who is one of two visiting Bishops in the Diocese over the next two to three months. The other workshops are being held at McLaren Vale on 20th February and at Loxton on 12th March. The workshop is in addition to the safe ministry training seminars being held in the Diocese, which will be offered

again this year along with refresher courses for those who completed the safe ministry training three years ago.

The seminar at Millicent was followed by three days of theological studies in the Archdeaconry of the Limestone Coast. Bishop John Ford and the former Bishop of Chichester, John Hind, took part in the training session

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for clergy and those in theological training, at Pendleton Farm, 15 kilometres from Keith.

Two other workshops are being held in the Diocese over the next two months by another visiting Bishop, Michael Langrish, and his wife, Esther. Bishop Langrish will conduct a Rural Theology Day at Mt Gambier on the 24th February and at Mt Barker on 21st March. This seminar will reflect on the stewardship of our land, the theological principles of farming, agriculture, viticulture and land care and the concerns of the rural communities today from a Christian perspective.

The third series of seminars in the Diocese will be delivered by Esther Langrish. This seminar, titled "The Importance of Listening Workshop", aims to increase awareness of listening amongst Christians so that they may listen better at work, at home and within the church. This seminar is being delivered at Port Elliott on 27th March, at Naracoorte on 1st April and Mt Barker on 28th April. All seminars are aimed for pastoral assistants in the Diocese but are open to anyone who has a ministry position or has an interest in any of the areas being delivered in the Diocese between now and the end of April.



Australia Day Award for Trevor Rayson

Community involvement is embedded in Trevor Rayson's veins. The well-known Hatherleigh identity has recently been named as Wattle Range Council's 2015 Australia Day Citizen of the Year for Kintore Ward.

Mr Rayson's dedication to the Hatherleigh farming and sporting community, St Michael and All Angels, Millicent, and the South Australian Country Fire Service has seen him volunteering for over three decades.

Mr Rayson's community involvement began soon after his arrival to the region, where he became heavily involved with the Hatherleigh Football Club.

In addition to his sporting association, Mr Rayson has been an active member of St Michael and All Angels for over 30 years, including more than a decade as a warden.

"Through the church there have been people who trust me in their lives and if people entrust you that's a bit of a privilege in life," he said. "I have enjoyed church activities and they have led me to looking after other people and I do a bit of visiting to a lot of our older members."

For the past 10 years, Mr Rayson has regularly visited the senior citizens of Sheoak Lodge, Mary Cecelia Hart Court Hostel and the Millicent and District Hospital.

Mr Rayson also gives time to the CFS Argyle Unit and uses his public speaking skills at a number of charitable and sporting events including the Mid South East Grand Final, Beachport Coast to Coast Fishermen's Ball and Millicent Cancer Support Group fundraisers.

From an article written by Raquel Mustillo and published in The South Eastern Times



Father James Stacey

Around 250 people attended the funeral of Father James Stacey at St Augustine's, Renmark on the 17th of October, 2014. He died a week earlier at Renmark Hospital of a brain tumour. He was diagnosed with the brain tumour shortly after he fell at the conclusion of the induction of Fr Paul Devenport at St James, Waikerie on August the 9th. He was 90.

Bishop John Ford presided at the Funeral Eucharist and Fr John Beiers preached the homily. Here is an edited version of the eulogy, read by daughters Ruth and Kate.

First and foremost in his life was the real and positive relationship he had with God. God who created him, sustained him, and was his constant companion. This is what he showed us in his everyday life. He grew up in the suburb of Black Forest, Adelaide. Played Lacrosse. Cubs and then scouting was a main interest – when he was a Kings Scout he would ride his pushbike from home to Port Noarlunga twice a week YES up O'Halloran Hill. He was baptised into his parents' denomination, but found his own spiritual home in his early teens at Good Shepherd, Plympton and as you know, he stayed an Anglican for the rest of his life. During WW2 he was quick to enlist as soon as he turned the obligatory 18 years, having been in the reserves for the previous year. His years with scouts stood him in good stead to becoming a corporal gunnery instructor, until he had a life changing experience of God and he chose to transfer into the medical corps as a private. The true nature of this story has only recently come to light. After he was wounded in the left knee, he was able to guide a fellow soldier with face wounds by talking to him while at the same time dragging another soldier with back and leg wounds to safety. He said that he still had one good leg so had to help his fellows in their time of greater need and never wanted to "big note" himself. Following his return from the war, he thought that God was calling him to be a priest, but his parents were adamant that he have a trade first, so he



honoured their wishes and apprenticed to be a plumber eventually becoming a master plumber with his own business. He met and married his lifelong companion, Joy. They had been friends for almost 10 years and they celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary last year. James and Joy offered themselves as missionaries and went to Papua/New Guinea. James continued to feel the call to the priesthood and honed his preaching skills and what later became his trademark 'servant heart' in the blossoming church there. They took with them Ruth as a baby and Mark was born whilst they were away. After 3 years as missionaries, they returned home to South Australia. The call came from Australian Board of Missions to move from Adelaide to Newcastle, New South Wales, to help promote the important work that ABM does overseas and James was delighted and took up the challenge with glee. So off the family went for the next chapter. During the last of their 6 years in Newcastle, the Bishop of Bathurst, the Right Rev'd Kenneth Lesley saw the potential and hand of God on James and made him a deacon. Then, once he was priested it was a move to Dubbo. His first parish was west- to Nyngan- and it was here that James' desire to learn to fly came to fruition.

James was the first rector of Katherine

NT, taking over from the Bush Brothers there and his flying skill made it much easier for him to get around this parish which was larger than the state of Victoria in size, stretching from the Queensland border to West Australia. During this time he exchanged with a priest from Manchester, England for a year. Although that was 30 years ago the family have received messages of appreciation this week, of his loving ministry there. He was almost retirement age when he was asked to come to the Diocese of the Murray in Waikerie and as most of you know he served there for 5 years before the busiest retirement anyone could ever imagine, from here in Renmark for the past 21 years.

We his family, 4 children and their spouses, 12 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren joyfully remember and will cherish the memories of long walks along the river bank, fishing and yabbing as well as the sense of fun and laughter with the fullness of a life passionately lived. He often would quote the old chorus. "Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in his wonderful face, and the things of this earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace".

Arthur Stanley Goldsworthy, Bishop

John 6.39 *This is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.*

Bishop Keith Rayner was the celebrant and preacher at Bishop Stanley Goldsworthy's funeral at St. Philip and St James, Old Noarlunga on the 26th of November, 2014. Bishop Stanley provided sacramental and pastoral ministry to the Diocese of The Murray whilst there was no Bishop in the Diocese between 2011 and 2014. He was also Priest-in-Charge of the Parish of Taillem Bend between 1989 and 1992 before he retired. Bishop Keith Rayner was the Bishop of Wangaratta at a time when Bishop Stanley was the priest at Yarrowonga and Shepparton. In 1977, Bishop Stanley was consecrated as the Bishop Of Bunbury. Both Bishops kept in touch with each other more so in recent years as friends and supported each other during periods of ill health. Following is the homily that Bishop Rayner preached at Bishop Goldsworthy's funeral.

When Stanley Goldsworthy's daughter Louise was at school she was given an instruction by her father. "If one of your friends asks you, 'What's your father's job?', you should say, 'he hasn't got a job: he has a vocation'". That sums up Stan's approach to life. He was destined to be a priest, and that was his lifelong vocation and joy.

At the age of five he became a boat boy in the little church of St Gabriel in the parish of Oakleigh, Melbourne. The parish was predominantly evangelical, but St Gabriel's was an anglo-catholic enclave, and Stanley's father Arthur was committed to the Catholic faith. At the age of 18 Stanley offered for ordination.

In those days candidates had to appear before the bishops of the Province of Victoria, led by Archbishop Joseph Booth who dominated the meeting. At the end of the examination the archbishop announced: "Mr Goldsworthy, you will be a good layman" and dismissed him. As he left the room Stanley declared he was certain he would become a priest. Two of the country bishops followed him out of the room and invited him to contact them.

One of the two was Thomas Armour, Bishop of Wangaratta. He had recognised the dedication and the possibilities of this young man and later accepted him for training at St Columb's Hall and ordained him as deacon in 1951 and as priest a year later.

It was in the Diocese of Wangaratta over the next quarter of a century that his priestly ministry matured and flourished, and particularly in the parish of Yarrowonga where he had a remarkable ministry for thirteen years. Grounded in his life of prayer, centred as it was in the offering of the daily Eucharist, it reached out in a teaching ministry using every opportunity to drive home the truths of the Catholic faith. And it was not just a sacristy religion that he practised. He was constantly engaged in pastoral visiting, and in particular his care of the sick was legendary. In all this his dear wife Gwen was his constant support.

As a parish priest his feet were on the ground, and he threw himself into the building of the lovely church of St Cuthbert, Yarrowonga, which stands as an enduring

witness to his ministry there. It was a church had that real but undefinable atmosphere of a building that is loved and prayed in. Nor was his work confined to the parish. He taught the students of St Columb's Hall on priestly formation and spirituality, and he was a much loved chaplain of the Sisters of the Church in Melbourne and encouraged their forward thinking.

My own first contact with Stanley came in a letter in 1969, a few days after I was elected Bishop of Wangaratta. I was a young priest, with natural trepidation about how I would be received in this diocese which was completely unknown to me. The letter ran:

You will come into the midst of a loving brotherhood of priests, ready to give a deep love and respect for you yourself and the office you will hold. We will come to see you as very much a man, with human temptations and weaknesses similar to those we ourselves possess, which will encourage us to exercise humility and faith and a genuine hope in the leadership you will give.

You can imagine how that letter encouraged and strengthened me. And indeed I did find in that diocese a loving brotherhood of priests, and of laity too, and I came to realise how much Stanley, by his own example of priestly dedication, had influenced the spirit of that diocese. His appointment to Shepparton, the largest parish in the diocese and as archdeacon strengthened that influence.

In 1977 he was elected Bishop of Bunbury and brought his characteristic prayerfulness, enthusiasm and pastoral love of souls to his leadership of the diocese, together with that element of quirkiness which was a mark of his ministry. With his strong sense of liturgy he set about enriching the worshipping life of the diocese, and he encouraged the clergy to share his own high ideals of the priestly life. In the early years of his episcopate the diocese responded eagerly to his leadership.

As the years elapsed, however, trouble began to emerge beneath the surface. His sense of vocation never wavered and his priestly ideals were as high as ever. But his

confidence in his ability to lead the diocese was waning. Perhaps he made the mistake of trying to run the diocese like a parish priest running his own parish. Criticisms, real or imagined, of his leadership style hurt him deeply. He began to feel an intellectual inadequacy. And alcohol became a refuge. In 1983 he resigned the See, and separated from Gwen, tragically because they still loved one another.

There followed various ministries in Brisbane, Sydney and Gilgandra, until he came in the early 90s to the parish of Taillem Bend in this diocese from which he formally retired. But for Stanley retirement was a concept that sat uneasily with his understanding of priestly vocation, and into the last year of his life he continued to respond to opportunities to exercise his priesthood. In the long period when the diocese was without a bishop he was always ready to perform episcopal functions at the request of the Administrator. Two years ago it was a joyful occasion when many of us joined in this church for the celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of his ordination as a priest.

How are we to sum up this man? He was a man of great faith. He believed and trusted implicitly in the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and in the certainty that this God had called him to priestly service. He treasured the ministry that had been committed to him. He loved the people whom God had given into his charge, and it was his delight to teach them and to minister God's Word and Sacraments to them so that they might come to share the strength and beauty of the divine life.

He was also, to quote from the letter he wrote to me many years ago, "a man with human temptations and weaknesses". The book, the Wisdom of Solomon tells us that "the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God". It is not that everything in the lives of these souls has necessarily gone smoothly, for it goes on:

Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good,
because God tested them and found them worthy of himself;
like gold in the furnace he tried them,
and like a sacrificial burnt offering he accepted them.

Christ offered himself as the holy and eternal sacrifice for the world's salvation, and the human priest at the altar pleads the benefits of that sacrifice for his people. The priest does it not because he is perfect, but because he has been called to share in the priesthood of Christ. He may have been disciplined, and like gold in the furnace tried by fire. We are all imperfect priests but whatever are our flaws, it is a great consolation and joy to hear the words of our Lord in today's Gospel: "And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day".

It is with that confidence that we entrust Bishop Stanley into the gentle hands of the Lord whom he served and

loved. For all of us who have known and loved Stanley there is sadness today at his leaving us. Our hearts go out particularly to Philip and Deb, to Louise and Chris, to Jess and Matt, Tom and Stace, and Sam, to Stanley's surviving brother Graeme, and to Sister Beverly CSBC who cared for him tenderly in his last years. But for them as for us all sorrow gives way to joy as we picture Stanley, refreshed and purified, caught up in the marvellous presence of the One seated on the heavenly throne, who is saying, "See, I am making all things new".

For the glorious newness of the resurrection life, thanks be to God. Amen.



*Photos (from top): Philip and Deb Goldsworthy
Bishop Keith Rayner*

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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

QUICK CONTACTS

The Bishop

The Right Reverend John Ford
08 8532 2270
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The Vicar General and Archdeacon of The Murray-Riverland

The Venerable Richard A. Seabrook
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Archdeacon of the Fleurieu Peninsula

The Venerable Richard Litjens
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Archdeacon of the Limestone Coast

The Venerable Dr Peter Carlsson
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Registrar and Public Officer

Mrs Donna Jones
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PO Box 394, Murray Bridge SA 5253

Director of Professional Standards

Peter Caporaso
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psdirector@adam.com.au

The Importance Of Listening

A workshop led by Esther Langrish
This workshop is one of a number of training courses
run by the **Acorn Christian Healing Foundation**. It aims
to increase awareness of listening amongst
Christians so that they may listen better at work,
at home and within the church.

Friday 27th March at Port Elliot Wednesday
1st April at Naracoorte Tuesday
28th April at Mount Barker
10.30 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.