



The Murray Anglican

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Synod Endorses the Bishop's Vision for the Diocese

The Synod has endorsed a motion which encourages Diocesan Council and all parishes and pastoral districts in the Diocese to work with Bishop John Ford in all areas of his mission action plan.

The synod on the 29th and 30th of May was held for a second year at Woodcroft College at Woodcroft, and was contained within the celebration of the Eucharist, which began at 4 pm on Friday afternoon and finished just after midday on Saturday.

The motion was put on the second day of the Synod, before discussion groups involving synod members and observers, were asked to consider the Bishop's Mission Action Plan.

The plan titled *"To walk the way of holiness"* outlined a mission program to equip people for service and ministry through an ongoing discipleship course open to all, in organising an education, training and formation programme for authorised and ordained ministry, in delivering a 'a light touch structure' based on the principles of subsidiarity resulting in a praying and worshipping community in every settlement in the diocese and regular evangelistic events.

The Bishop's mission action plan outlined several priorities, to pray, worship, study and learn, to support the mission of the parishes and pastoral districts, equipping parishes and pastoral districts to become effective in outreach, nurture and service, to be a community which lives eucharistically for the sake of others and to provide well trained and formed ministers of word and sacrament.

In moving the motion, Margaret Adams reflected on what had already happened in the Diocese with the "Following Jesus" program, the Bishop's Lenten Studies, the mission

action plans for parishes and the "Leading Your Church into Growth conference.

"It is equally important for our growth as a Diocese that we combine to work with Bishop John on his vision. We must look outwards and upwards, and depend more on our evangelistic skills than our structures, both physical and organisational."

"We are in a position in the Diocese of The Murray where we can become a flagship diocese, full of worship, nurture and support, sustained by the gifts of the Holy Spirit" she said.

In Fr. Peter Carlsson seconding the motion, he said it had been an amazing year.

"What is so encouraging is that the huge amount of passion, energy, commitment, zeal and love of people, love of the gospel and love of God that Bishop John shoots out....you can't help but want to be a part of it."

Before the motion was passed unanimously, Bishop Ford spoke on how his vision for the Diocese may be considered.

He believed the Diocese had too many buildings and that in many small communities, it may be more effective if a group of believers met around a table to pray, study and learn and also, when the priest came, to celebrate the Eucharist in that context. He suggested that a small gathering in familiar surroundings is more likely to be welcoming to others as they seek meaning and purpose in their lives.

Bishop Ford believed communication was another important area to be looked at over the next year. He thought many of our church signs were 'appalling', adding



that it was no wonder that other people found it difficult to join us when we met in secret. He also mentioned the formation of a communications strategy group - headed by Fr. Paul Devenport, to have a proper strategy to be considered at Synod next year. This will include the use of information technology, a more dedicated approach to the website and Facebook page and help with forming creative relationships with the media.

He announced that the use of a service in some churches in the Diocese, titled "Extended Holy Communion" will not be allowed from Advent this year. He will meet with all Pastoral Assistants during his visits to each Archdeaconry later in the year so that they, in consultation with Chapters and Church Councils, can work on forms of services that fit with each parish's mission action plan, evangelistic and catechetical strategy.

The Bishop emphasized that the goal for all the baptised is to be present around the table of Word and Sacrament Sunday by Sunday but reflected that there must be a whole variety of liturgical developments which can be celebrated alongside evangelistic events to draw enquirers and catechumens towards full Eucharistic communion.

Bishop Ford spoke of having to work out a proper collaborative ministry between priests and lay people. He believed it was clear that the Diocese needed to develop different forms of ministry and simplify the process of licensing for pastoral assistants and discover how disciples can be called to a variety of commissioned or authorized lay ministries; he told Synod that in most parts of the world where the Church is growing, the key ministry is that of a catechist.

The Bishop also mentioned a possible way forward with the ordained ministry with the re-establishment a permanent diaconate in the Diocese. They would be people who became deacons but not priests. He wondered whether this ministry could be for men and women in the Diocese, given that in the early Church, men and women were admitted to this Order.

The unanimous passing of the motion will result in Diocesan Council and every parish and pastoral district being encouraged to work with the Bishop in all areas of his mission action plan. It also requests the Diocesan Council bring back to Synod next year proposals for a restructure of our 'common life' which reflects the desire to grow the church.

During the ministry of the Word on Friday night leading up to the passing of the motion the next day, there were also several presentations made by three members of Synod who attended the "Leading your Church into Growth" conference at West Lakes between the 13th and 16th of April.

Joan Small from the Port Elliot Goolwa Parish spoke of the need to grow as a community in all the manifestations of the life of the Diocese.

"We must walk away from discouragement and grumbling, confronting this outlook in a spirit of love when we feel it is appropriate to do so, and to pray for those who would hold back the work of the Holy Spirit that is taking place".

"We need to be open to change and to the renewing work of the Holy Spirit and our loving God will lead us to new life. The church will grow, how and in what way may not always be clear to us, we must seek His way not ours." She said.

Rick Fisher from the Mt. Gambier Parish spoke of how the church can grow in numbers by four actions: prayer, presence, proclamation and persuasion.

"We can't grow or even exist as Christians without prayer; it is our greatest planning resource. We also need to be out there with God's people, showing ourselves wherever we can, and not hiding but worshipping in our secure churches. We need to be evangelists, sharing Christ with people. The church is excellently placed within our communities, we are well established, in most cases well regarded, and we are networked very well."

"People need to be actively welcomed....and followed up on. "Persuasion is gentle and loving and best one to one or in small groups, got together for any reason imaginable but of simple common interest. It is where conversation is informal but deeply personal. How well do we also follow up those who came so close, glanced in to our care then bounced off again." He said.

Mr Fisher concluded saying the journey to God for most people will take many steps and much time.

"However, we must work toward growth and always prepare for it, expect it to happen, behave as if it is, and rejoice and give thanks when it does."

Natalie Jones representing the Mt. Barker Parish spoke of growth in the depth of discipleship.

"If we are to grow, we must have a clear vision of our



situation, our people, ourselves and our God. When we examine all of these prayerfully, and are open to seeing what God reveals to us, we shall be able to see clearly, from the perspective afforded to us by the Holy Spirit.”

“Now it is likely that being so open will cause us ‘painful discontent’ and it is this disturbing reaction that we should embrace in order to be able to discern and invest in God’s vision, his passing-inspiring picture of our future, both personally and corporately.” She said.

Ms. Jones urged everyone to set aside their “negative attitudes and work in partnership, clergy and lay people together, trusting one another, discovering our gifts and supporting one another to employ them in the realisation of God’s vision.”

Synod was also an opportunity for a number of parishes and pastoral districts to share their evangelistic events over the past 12 months. The Southern Vales spoke of its Advent outreach program using placards depicting the Christmas story, the Riverland in its involvement with Fr Paul Devenport and emergency services in two Christmas community carol events at Renmark and Waikerie, and the Mt Barker Parish in a wine event at its new Parish Centre, a commemoration service for the Centenary of Anzac with the Girl Guides keeping vigil on Anzac Eve and having the church open during the day.

The Pastoral District of Penola Millicent highlighted a thanksgiving service for staff at ac care, while the Pastoral

District of the Tatiara spoke of a garage sale at the church at Keith. In the Parish of Victor Harbor, they spoke of a Festival of Flowers in the church, with flower arrangements coinciding with bible verses, a Railway Fest with a model railway display and a fete surrounding the theme of apples.

Mark Porter the Headmaster at Woodcroft College was the guest speaker at the Synod dinner on Friday night. He spoke of his life at the college over the past 25 years and his prior life as a teacher at Woomera Area School. He believed the Diocese of The Murray was in a time of transition. He said Woodcroft College had embraced a vision of the school and now this is what is happening in the Diocese of the Murray. He believed the Diocese and the college were in the same business of converting people to God.

At the conclusion of the Synod, David Fleming moved a motion where Synod expressed its ‘heartfelt thanks to Bishop John for a wonderful and inspiring Synod, the likes of which none of us would have experienced.’ The motion also thanked the Vicar-General, Father Richard Seabrook, Mark Porter and all at Woodcroft College for their hospitality and facilities, Fr. Peter Simmons and his helpers who worked closely with Woodcroft College and to Donna Jones, the Registrar for her ‘as always perfectly executed preparation of Synod and her continuous work with the Diocese’. The motion was passed unanimously.

Fr Paul Devenport

Presidential Address 2015

I was talking about compass points and means of travel at the start of the synod. I have been a frequent visitor to Rome and on one occasion Bridget came with me for a few days before we set off elsewhere for our summer holiday. She hadn’t been to Rome before and the stay was very short. Rome, like most cities, is best seen on foot – but we didn’t have time. So I had to overcome my prejudice, eat a great slice of humble pie and travel on one of those hop on/hop off tourist buses. The kind of thing that I had always said I wouldn’t use, thinking that they were for first time visitors who knew nothing. Whereas I, on the other hand, had been there often and knew loads!

Well how wrong and arrogant I was! It took us round in a circle, showed us all the sights, explained how they related one to another and made it possible for us to order the rest of our stay profitably. It didn’t matter where you got on, provided you stayed on long enough you would see and come to experience all of the treasures and, gaining an overview, helped to prioritise the places and sites that needed revisiting for a deeper and more profound encounter. And, what’s more,



you could even use the same means of transport to provide the deeper encounter – all you had to do was get off and pause and ponder; and you were free to not get on again! But why wouldn't you?

In New Testament Greek they use the same word (erkoimai) for come and go. You don't know which translation to use until you discover the context! So, it's not so bad if you don't know whether you are coming or going! Going around in circles isn't always a recipe for disappearing painfully. This is a really important thing for us to understand and it is especially significant today as we assemble within a week of Pentecost and just before the Feast of the Holy Trinity. In many ways the Church should never know whether it's coming or going since, like the gathering of our forebears on the first day of Pentecost, we are to constantly assemble in the upper room and be thrust out from there, tumbling down the stairs to create a commotion in the market place. It's not one and then the other – worship and then service – but both at the same time!

The icon by Andre Rublev so often wrongly called that of the Trinity is really entitled the Hospitality of Abraham – tells much the same tale. The figure on the right as you look at the icon is the representation of the Holy Spirit (robes the colours of creation). It is his work to draw you (the viewer) into the life of God. The iconographer tells us this by the inclination of that figure's head and the way the torso is portrayed – pulling the one who looks at it, into the circle of the love of the Godhead.



The Spirit draws us into the life of God to approach the Father, through the Son. The Son is in the middle, with clothes that are more substantial than the others and it is through him that we come to the Father. The whole is written to draw us into the circle of God's love and life. And the centre of that circle is the two fingers of the hand of the Son – the two natures of Christ, human and divine. Again a circle with the invitation to go around, to travel, to journey ... into mystery. It is this inter-relatedness of the three persons of the Godhead that I liken to centrifugal and centripetal forces – holding together in unity and going out of themselves towards others with their love and life – this is the dynamic power at the heart of all that there is and the word used to describe this movement and power ... is mission. A holding together in unity – the upper room ... and a going out of oneself in love – tumbling down into the market place. The end of mission? Each created being taking their place in this action ... at the space left at the bottom centre of the icon.

So mission is about God and his life before it is anything to do with the Church, our activity or lack of it. And the end of mission, please never forget, is not bottoms on seats in church buildings but being seated at the heavenly banquet in the eternal all loving presence and company of God – being made one with him for ever.

So all evangelism is mission; all church growth is mission ... but the totality of mission is neither of them!

This is our goal, destiny; the end game. It is that towards which we are drawn, for which we journey and without which we have no meaning or purpose. We exist to be made one in the circle, the crucible of the Father's love and it doesn't matter at which point of the circle we join the trip, or how often we get off whether it be to ponder or pause – or, frankly walk away – what does matter is that we get back on, travelling and experiencing and thus being shaped and moulded to take our place with the author of the mystery of life.

We sang at the end of that last piece of music the words, "Safe in your hands all creation is made new". To be made one in the unity of the Godhead, to be "safe in his hands" makes us and everything new ... renewed ... not necessarily new things but renewed in the image and likeness of Jesus – that we can be his Body in and for the world. To be held metaphorically in his hands is only safe in that, being in him, conforms us little by little to his life and sends us out to love like Christ. According to many definitions, love like that is not safe but risky in the extreme. This is in that whole area of where we are swimming – with or against which tide?

As we continue with both the synod and the Eucharist tomorrow, we will engage in some discussion about what it is that we are for. I commend to you for your consideration overnight: what difference does knowing Jesus make in your life? We will begin our discovery together by looking prayerfully at the gospel reading. We cannot possibly hope to be Christ to the world if we are not steeped in the Scriptures and the teaching of the Church, both of which are assimilated through prayer. What does it really mean in your life to know that this ... the heavenly banquet ... is your end and destiny? What difference does it make? Which way are you swimming?

The gospel reading is all about mission. You know it well and have heard it often. Every version in English says, at verse 19 something like, "Go therefore ...". However the grammatical construction could equally well – and probably ought to be translated, "As you go ...". Mission is not sending anyone somewhere else! The Church is not the sender of missionaries ... we are the people sent ... as we go about our daily lives, so ... make disciples. It isn't going to another place, it is rather do it where you are. And this has to be the subject of our conversations and decisions tomorrow morning. How can we, the people of

this Diocese, whose synod is assembled here, how can we all, in every place in the Diocese, go about our daily lives in such a way that we are effective at making disciples? That can only begin with an answer to the questions that I posed for you to think about overnight ... it has to start with you.

Although it must start with you – with us – it can't stop here. We are not the sum total of the life of the Diocese. Our task at this Synod is to think differently about our common life and dream some dreams of how it could and should be different going forward. If I was wanting to be controversial ... or should I say ... honest. I think most of our life is like a stairgate. Meant to keep things safe and comfortable. Do we really have a passion for the destination and the way we journey towards it? Really????? Or rather, do we or have we allowed other things to take over and drain us of our enthusiasm for Jesus and his gospel. I watched Gordon Ramsay the other evening in one of his kitchen nightmares. The restaurant had gone down the pan – but the staff wouldn't face up to it. What they needed was to re-create themselves – offering what they always had but in a way that contemporary society could receive it ... They had to restructure the building, redecorate, have a new way of staffing it ...

Mission is to participate in the life of God and that is a risky business and we participate in his life in a variety of ways. From the gospel – the 11 set out and met Jesus and the

first response was to worship – to fall down in obeisance as to the Lord and Master. That is what worship is, to offer ultimate worth, to place it where it belongs ... It is from this place of worship and surrender that the church is sent out ... to make disciples. The making of disciples is two pronged – outreach and nurture. If the community that is reaching out is not itself being nurtured and providing nurture to others, the outreach degenerates into in drag. It is essential that this synod and the Council we elect this evening are passionate about the Church, our life, work and witness. Passionate about Jesus and his Body; not about the things that we allow to get in our way. People who are prepared to risk all for the sake of the Kingdom. And that risk begins when we break out from the apparent safety of the things we place around ourselves. This is true of each of us individually; we need to break away from the masks that we present to others. It is also pre-eminently true of the life of our Church – its proceedings, councils, committees and groups – the things constructed with the best will in the world originally which have, over time, become precisely the things that entomb us. But we are not made for the safety of a coffin, no matter how comfortable; but rather for the challenge and excitement of eternity.

Do you know whether you are coming or going?

This is an edited extract of Bishop John's presidential address to the Synod which also contained further teaching material and a variety of pictures and images.

Conference Equips Anglicans to Grow the Church in The Murray



Representatives from parishes and pastoral districts from across the Diocese converged at West Lakes in Adelaide for nearly four days in April for what was claimed as the most important week of the Diocese.

More than 50 people, comprising of the priests of the Diocese and lay people met from Monday, April the 13th to Thursday April the 16th to be part of the intensive course, titled "Leading your Church into Growth".

The conference delivered by Father Damien Feeney from England was the 'last plank' in the "Taking the Plunge Program" in the diocese. The program spread over 12

months comprised of the bible study program titled "Following Jesus", evangelistic events in parishes and the Bishop's Lenten Study.

Father Feeney who was the guest speaker at the 2014 Diocesan Synod, had delivered the course on numerous occasions in England, but it was the first time that it had been presented in Australia.

Bishop John Ford told the conference delegates, that the Diocese had invested a lot of money in the conference for potential leaders of the diocese.

“This week is about mission, there is only one thing on the agenda and that is growing the Church.”

Bishop Ford encouraged everyone to be transformed and changed by the grace of God and to be open to what God had planned for each person during the conference.

The course was split into 10 sessions interspersed by the Eucharist each morning, lunch, evening prayer and dinner. The sessions included introducing aspects of church growth, establishing positive leadership, becoming a mission church from maintenance to mission, basic mission strategies, useful evangelistic events, the priest as the evangelist, missionary worship and the church as a loving community.

Father Feeney spoke passionately and continually inspired everyone during the conference about the vision of proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God to the outside world.

“What if the church could be caught up in the same atmosphere as what happens at the Adelaide Oval each week with the AFL, are we all agreed that the kingdom of God is more important than that. How do we therefore encapsulate that same sort of vision, bought with the price of Jesus Christ’s blood! The saints recognised the passion of this, they realised there was nothing more important, we need to have that passion too.”

Father Feeney spoke of God having a mission, not the Church and how church goes made it such hard work in inviting people to the ‘heavenly banquet’.

“Church growth is not purely a numerical exercise; it is about spiritual growth, in becoming mature Christians in being part of a community which through our awareness and action, we become aware politically, socially, local and globally in issues that affect all people.”

“Church growth is not about being big and successful, small churches grow once they reject the concept of failure by intimacy and unity, the leader being much closer to the members and being much better at welcoming new faces” He said.

In becoming a mission or emerging church, Father Feeney spoke of establishing positive leadership and on ideas of how to lead a positive team.

In turn, “Leaders in the Church will see evangelistic opportunities to share the ‘good news’ of Jesus Christ.”

Father Feeney believed a basic mission strategy had to be done firstly through prayer, which is the ‘greatest resource we have’; then in the presence of the community, in the opportunities for outreach; through proclamation in

publicity and in showing ourselves where we can and finally in persuasion either one on one or through small groups sharing Christ with other people.

Useful evangelistic activities were discussed and various areas in which a point of entry for people becoming part of the church community. The role of the priest and also the importance of corporate worship for insiders and outsiders were highlighted.

Father Feeney believed there was nothing more important, than worshipping together...he said it was central to whole of the church life.

“There needs to be user-friendly worship, not throwing out liturgical practices and not making it entertainment. It comes through a life-giving encounter with Jesus Christ, in trying to offer an icon where people will experience Jesus Christ in word and sacrament.”

Father Feeney added that Sunday to Sunday worship must not become a chore but should look at something distinctive in the lectionary.

“It needs to be a teaching process; liturgy is about drama, in music, tears and colour. Time needs to be invested in attractive worship and making people welcome. There is no substitute for worship of excellence.”

A range of worship opportunities were discussed, amongst those was finding a niche market, in a time suitable for most people, the improvement of music, and serving decent coffee!

The church as a loving community was also highlighted, by establishing a family culture, in creating a welcoming experience, through small groups, effective pastoral care and with children and teenagers.

In summing up, Bishop Ford believed change was important but the church is not in the business of changing everything and we shouldn’t.

“There is one church – one body – it is a unit; it is through that the Bishop is here to make that possible and through that we experience the fullness of the church.”

Father Feeney said growing the church was one of the biggest challenges in their ecclesiastical life, but it will be worth it.

“We have to own this and draw others into it as well.” He said.

He encouraged everyone to follow up on the conference outcomes with their own parishes and pastoral districts within the next 10 days and to take further steps to energise church communities into growing the church.

Fr Paul Devenport

Formation of a Diocesan Communications Group

The Bishop has announced the formation of a diocesan communications strategy group. The group will comprise of members who have an active interest in the media and communications.

The group will be headed up by Fr. Paul Devenport. Other representatives include Fr. Max Bowers, Annette Schirmer who works closely with Fr Paul in putting together and formatting The Murray Anglican; John (“Fred”) Luckhurst Smith, a journalist with the South Eastern Times in Millicent and Pat Derham, who collates the parish newsletter for the Parish of Port Elliott and Goolwa.

Bishop John Ford says the group will have a wide ranging brief to produce an effective communications strategy for the Diocese and to offer help to parishes and pastoral districts as we seek to communicate the Good News in today’s culture.

Visiting Bishops

The Diocese was supported by two English Bishops and their wives earlier this year. Bishop John Hind and his wife Janet came in January and spent three months in the Diocese, undertaking formation programs, speaking with clergy at archdeaconry meetings and conducting safe encounters seminars. Their visit was followed by Bishop Michael and Esther Langrish. Bishop Michael was able to join Bishop John Hind in formation and teaching programs and in confirming 12 people at two Easter Vigils at Millicent and Mt Barker. Bishop Michael also conducted two Rural Theology seminars while Esther delivered seminars on the Importance of Listening. Both Bishops were able to be present with Bishop John Ford at the Chrism Mass in Holy Week at Mt Barker and at a residential for ordinands near Keith.

Fr Paul Devenport conducted interviews with both Bishops during their time in the Diocese. He firstly spoke to Bishop John Hind and his wife Janet on their experiences in the Diocese and their thoughts on the Bishop John Ford's vision.

*Chrism Mass
Christ the King, Mount Barker*



Bishop John Hind



The former Bishop of Chichester, and a personal friend of Bishop Ford for 40 years, said it was a great to be in a place where there is a new sense of vision and mission in the Diocese.

He said, given his former role as a Principal of a Theological College, his interest in Church History and in his understanding of the Church, he was pleased to come to the Diocese to help the ordinands and to help build up confidence.

Mrs Hind, a former social worker and child protection advisor with the Church of England said they knew at some point they would come and see Bishop John Ford, but

seeing we were coming, he thought we could be useful, so he organised quite a complicated and busy program for us. Bishop Hind said the Church needed to find fresh ways of encouraging people in their spiritual life.

"When Christianity has been around for so long, we need a breath of fresh air, for too long we have actually tried to jolly people along, to maintain the congregations we have got, and that is all very important but do we actually have share the good news of Jesus Christ."

"One of the things I am excited about, is seeing here and there people getting that glimpse of having to shift from simply maintaining the churches to something that is more outgoing and being much more engaged in the needs of the communities and sharing people around about us; not that is easy and Australia is just like England where it is a very secular society and where very much of the church language used is totally alien." he said.

Bishop Hind believed the problems of maintaining church buildings are not unlike the situation in England.

"There are many rural parishes in England with that kind of number, yes, they are lot closer to each other and in England, they are still fighting to maintain their independence as congregations and their small buildings at huge expense, so all the energy and effort they have got, goes into the institution without actually making them grow as Christians."

"There are differences but the fundamental issue is how to play out the good news of Jesus Christ in a world that is disillusioned, which is rather chaotic and meaningless and wants to chase after gods of all sorts" he said.

Bishop Hind believed Bishop's Ford's vision for the Diocese is achievable.

"What Bishop John is trying to do with his tactics seems very interesting to me but you have to build a sense of being a Diocese, he's got to build up a sense of loyalty amongst clergy. Also, to get Pastoral District's to think about themselves in unity, in supporting one another and also identify the resources that they have, mobilising, investing it in the best possible way."

He commented on the number of people that have been enthused by the "Following Jesus" course and how many took part in it.

"One of the things we have noticed in England is the way the Alpha course has actually helped people and rekindled their enthusiasm of their faith, it has also encouraged people who have got stuck in their faith to think about it, to think more deeply and realise you are not just going through the motions, not trotting out a set of sung responses but actually knowing that in a personal way, your life has been changed." He said.

"That is why Bishop John has a wonderful combination of being very firm in the doctrine of the church and what it actually means to live and believe in the triune God and in Jesus Christ crucified and risen, no compromise at all but a freshness and approach with a willingness to try new things."

Bishop Hind supported Bishop Ford's move to explore other forms of worship.

"The centrality of the Eucharist means that if we can't always get to mass on Sunday because of distance or shortage of priests, we have to think of ways of worshipping that are still Eucharistic, even they are not centred on the Eucharist itself."

"We need to encourage people to give thanks in a reflective way on all the good things that God has done in

our lives, asking that the Holy Spirit to transform our lives, feeding on Christ through faith and interceding with him for the particular part of the world in which he has placed us" he said.

"How can we find forms of worship that meet people where they are and draw them into the ministry of Christ before we actually introduce them to the sacraments, so I think there is a challenge there particularly in more remote parts of the Diocese."

"So I think we need to get people who really have the ear of the local culture and particularly things that young people are interested in." he said.

Besides supporting Bishop John Ford in The Murray, they managed to spend time exploring Australia elsewhere by travelling on The Ghan, visiting Uluru and some national parks.



*Bishop John and Janet Hind
Fish and Chip Supper, Mount Barker Parish*

Bishop Michael Langrish



Fr Paul Devenport asked Bishop Michael Langrish near the end of his visit to the Diocese whether he felt Bishop John Ford's vision was the right one.

"I have no doubt that at all as you know, Bishop John was the Suffragan bishop when I was the Bishop of Exeter when he received the call to come here, I at the time was very much in two minds as whether he should accept it the call or not and I can remember agonising and praying myself and with him about this, but in the end, I reached that point where it clearly did seem to be the way to go."

"For me, and I am very grateful for him in being asked to be part of this ministry here for three months, one of the exciting things has been to see is just what vision has been given by the Bishop and the help he has in responding."

Bishop Michael believed for all kinds of reasons, the Diocese was in great need when Bishop Ford came.

"I think I have experienced people with a great hunger for teaching and pastoring, which they are getting. I have a sense there is hope around, I have a sense that people are

feeling loved and I do have a sense that there is a realism about the challenges but there is an excitement about where things are going, the challenges about and about where things are going and it is about more than just survival, if we get it right here, we can really be a good news story of the whole church in Australia and I believe that is true." He said.

Bishop Michael thought the sheer physical size of the diocese was daunting.

"I thought I had a large diocese in Exeter but this is just vast, I look at the distances you guys have to travel and the bishop has to travel, and also the resources, I look at the state of South Australia with one point six million people, one point two million are in the diocese of Adelaide, the others split between the two other vast dioceses in SA, what the Bishops of The Murray and the Willochra have to do with such tiny resources is nothing short of extraordinary and yet as I have looked at today, I see this group of small clergy, this could be a real presbytery college, the Bishop can know his clergy, they can know him and they work together, they can shape a vision together, they can really be a team and that is exciting."

He believes the plan adopted by Bishop John Ford which focuses on discipleship as a first priority is essential in growing the church.

"That is the number one priority, growing disciples and I know from my own experience, it was my own priority in Exeter, if you don't grow disciples, disciples of Jesus Christ who are learning from him, learning to be with him and learning in the words of Peter, to be able to give an account with confidence of the hope that is within, the church will not be able to grow. The other thing of course along with the teaching of disciples is the deepening of prayer. Again, I see renewal in that too."

Bishop Michael Langrish believed his time in the Diocese has been of some assistance.

"I have loved the teaching of the formation course, it was very different, the two groups, the group that was residential near Keith and the course spread over two weeks at Strathalbyn but different dynamics but in both cases, there was a sense of people who were on a journey, who were excited about being on a journey who wanted to learn, who were growing as they learned and were seeing all kinds of possibilities for themselves as disciples, in the service of the church in the kingdom and as ministers of the gospel. It was a joy to be part of that, given the way I saw people visibly grow. I left feeling that I had made a positive contribution. I was also encouraged by how people were constantly making connections between what Bishop John Hind had said and what I was saying and clearly something right was happening here, what was happening was part of a seamless whole."

"I have enjoyed my time with the parishes as well. I have found great kindness, the kindness, the generosity, the hospitality of people here has been quite extraordinary, that says something itself about the quality of discipleship so each of my Sundays where I have been, I have enjoyed

worship with the people; Holy Week was a time of very special blessing. The six young people that I confirmed in Millicent, that was a sheer joy as well, I also very much enjoyed the two days I gave on rural theology and was interested to find just what a resonance there was between rural issues in this part of Australia and the rural issues where I served in England, the south west where I served as a Bishop." He said.

Bishop Langrish believed there were some similarities of the church in Australia and in England.

"The cultural challenges are very similar. One of the big differences and I think South Australia is different to other parts of Australia from what I have seen is the church is not part of the establishment in a way that is at home. That means it doesn't have some of the advantages of the resources and the entry points into the life of the community but it has the advantage of getting into tremendous freedom as western culture changes, to be true to the gospel and to model it in a way that is really good news for the society in which it is part."

He felt the extra freedoms could be a real asset for this Diocese.

"I told the Bishop earlier today that after three months here, I feel I am at the top of the highest point of the roller coaster at Blackpool where I feel equally fear and exhilaration, you feel at any moment the resources are so small it could all collapse, on the other hand, the direction of travel is so exciting that if this Diocese gets it right and I do see real signs of growth, if you have a look at the number of people who are beginning to be confirmed, the number of people coming forward as candidates for ordination and other ministries, then if he gets it right, well then in three to five years, this Diocese can really be growing. Also in the PD of the Southern Vales, the people there after coming back from the conference "Leading your Church into Growth", they were so excited and have been so inspired and there is a real will to engage with what is on offer and to move forward under God."



*Bishops John Ford and Michael Langrish
Palm Sunday, St Ann's, Aldinga*

Formation Studies

“It is finished” These words uttered by Jesus on the cross, signified the accomplishment of God’s purpose beginning with the creation and ending with the perfect atonement for the original sin of Adam. Bishop John Hind used this phrase in his opening lecture and Bishop Michael Langrish in his final session in completely different contexts thus bringing unity to an intense series of formation studies.

A group of lay people from various parishes in the Diocese were fortunate to be included with the ordination candidates in two blocks of lectures at Strathalbyn. Each block consisted of eight weekday sessions and one whole Saturday. Bishop John Hind covered early church history and theology, the Doctrine of the Trinity and the development of the traditions and practices we are still familiar with today.

Bishop Michael’s course was entitled “Holy order” and covered the nature of the church, the role of the Diaconate and wider issues of pastoral care, preaching and intercession. We were challenged with some of the issues that can arise in the 21st century church, enabling us to respond in a way that still remains true to the theological foundations and traditions of the early church fathers.

We were not passive listeners, there was great opportunity for interactive discussion, questions and reflections and for many of us, revelations. We were also able to encourage and support our ordination candidates on their journey towards their calling.

We are most grateful to Bishop John Ford, our visiting lecturers and the Parish of Strathalbyn for making this opportunity available to us.

Margaret Adams



Pastoral District of The Southern Suburbs

On Sunday 12th April the newly formed Southern Suburbs Pastoral District celebrated our first service together. The venue was Woodcroft College and Bishop John Ford officiated and our Primate Archbishop Philip Freier preached.

The theme "New Beginnings, New Life" gave us as a new pastoral district the opportunity to start to explore ways in which we could all work together.

A combined choir with choristers from Morphett Vale, Christies Beach and O'Halloran Hill sang alongside a combined music group from Morphett Vale and Happy Valley. We learned in record time "the Gathering Mass" for this service and used both traditional and modern music.

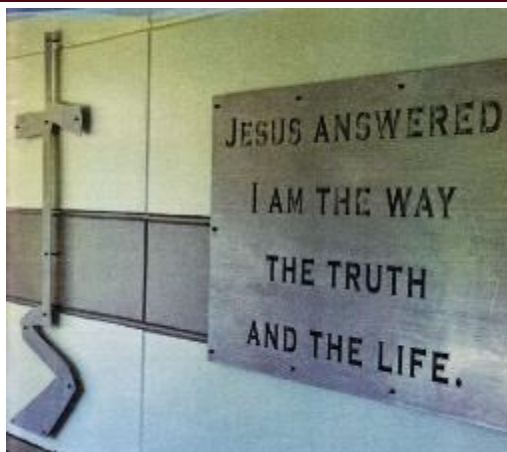
All parishes were well represented among the servers, readers and sidespersons. After a rousing rehearsal of the new Mass setting led by Bishop John, and a welcome by Woodcroft College Headmaster, Mark Porter, the service began. Archbishop Freier's sermon was well received as he spoke of the challenges facing the future Anglican church and how together, we can overcome fear and despair to welcome and embrace the future as we seek to grow God's Kingdom in our Diocese.

The collection taken was earmarked for missions and the congregation was generous to this cause. Immediately following the final song, the Sanctuary Party led the congregation to the school "Breeze way" where a statue was blessed and then onto the newly created school chapel, dedicated to St Hilary.

Following the service we discovered the hall had been transformed by the wonderful Woodcroft staff/parents to provide a dining area. There we shared a grand luncheon provided by Woodcroft College and much fellowship was enjoyed, with both the Bishop and Archbishop taking advantage of the opportunity to mingle.

Upon reflection, we were delighted with the attendance, with more coming than had been anticipated, all congregations and the school being well represented and including our local state member Katrine Hildyard. We are all looking forward to combining services on a regular basis, possibly the 5th Sunday of the month, so we can come together in prayer, celebration and fellowship as we seek to grow God's Kingdom here in the Southern Suburbs.

Rebecca Cranley



Onkaparinga Valley Parish

The Anglican Parish of Onkaparinga Valley will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of the establishment of St Thomas' Church, Balhannah on Sunday 13th September 2015. An invitation is extended to all past parishioners and clergy families to join in our celebrations. Please let the parish secretary, Jill Herve, know if you would like to attend on tel 83884384.

We are also very keen to locate old photos and records, especially for the period pre 1980 as many parish records were lost in a fire. If you have any from this period, please let us know and we will arrange to have them copied.

We will be producing a commemorative booklet and will have a photo display at the church as well as tours of the church and cemetery.

Centenary of Anzac St Hilary's, Morphett Vale

Mrs Barbara Thomas asked if we could decorate our Church with Poppies for Anzac Day. Barbara is involved with Legacy and she saw the vision of a lady in Victoria to decorate Federation Square with poppies and she thought we could do the same. So in late February, a plea went out to the knitters of the Parish that we would like to decorate our Church with poppies thinking we might get 50 to 100. We received 1300 from people from the parish and people from outside and you can see the results of the love that has been shown to those members who served our country in times of War.

Photos courtesy David Rowlands



Mount Barker Parish

A very moving Service of Commemoration was held at Christ the King, Mt Barker, on Anzac Day. During the service, the names of the twenty nine Fallen of the Parish were read out and people were invited to light candles instead of laying wreaths. Music was provided by The Brass Souls and the New Zealand National Anthem, the Australian National Anthem and God Save the Queen were sung.

After the service, a morning tea of pies, sausage rolls and Anzac biscuits was offered in the Parish Centre. A memorabilia display included biographical information of the Parish Fallen, photos, letters, books, and a scale model Spitfire.



332 PVTE JOHN LEWES DAVISON GOWER
10th Battalion AIF

Born: 14th October 1885 at Blakiston
Parents: The Rev. John William
and Elizabeth Ann Gower
Enlisted: 19th August 1914
Killed in Action: 25th April 1915
Commemorated:
Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli.

New Priest For Kingston Robe

Father David Patterson has become the new parish priest for the Parish of Kingston Robe and was licensed by the Bishop at St Peter's Robe on Sunday, 28th June.

Father Patterson has been the Priest in Charge of Christ Church O'Halloran Hill for the past three years. His induction at Kingston Robe comes after the establishment of the newly formed Pastoral District of The Southern Suburbs, which takes in the parishes of O'Halloran Hill, Happy Valley, Morphett Vale and Christies Beach.

The Parish of Kingston Robe has been without a full time priest since 2007, when Fr David Withers retired. Fr. David Withers continued as Locum Tenens until 2010 and has continued to help out regularly since then including Easter this year.

On Good Friday, Father Withers erected a black wooden cross at the front of Holy Trinity and on Easter Day it was festooned with fresh flowers and butterflies to signify New Life and the Resurrection. (pictured)

The Parish has been blessed with visits by Bishop John Ford this year, along with the two visiting Bishops from England with their wives. Bishop John and Janet Hind visited during January and attended an Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony at Kingston.

Bishop Michael Langrish conducted the Ash Wednesday service at Kingston.

Also, the Friends of St Peter's at Robe have raised over \$30,000 with various community functions and donations to erect a new roof to replace the sadly dilapidated one. It is looking very bright, shiny and weatherproof. Thanks to all those involved in this project.

Ann Moran

Fr David Withers with Sunday School class - Cindy Rooke (teacher), Gabby and Elle Rooke, Anna and Katie Rasheed.



Baptism at Millicent

A proud family looked on as baby Lauchlan Kingsley Abbott was recently baptised in St Michael and All Angels Anglican Church in Millicent.

The service during the weekly Sunday morning of Holy Communion was led by Millicent/ Penola parish priest Father Peter Carlsson.

Among those who will support young Lauchlan on his life's journey will be his parents Grace and Jordan Abbott and his four godparents. They are Rohan and Simone Abbott and Amy and Jeff Croser.

John ("Fred") Luckhurst Smith, Journalist, The South Eastern Times newspaper



Sharing the special day with baby Lauchlan Kingsley Abbott were Rohan Abbott, Simone Abbott, Jordan Abbott and Grace Abbott,

Australia Day Award

Lorraine Pomery of the Parish of Port Elliot/Goolwa was awarded an Order of Australia Medal on Australia Day this year in recognition of her tireless work in the Parish over her lifetime, for her work in the Port Elliot Branch of National Trust since its inception in 1982 and for community work. Her dedication to the Parish covers more than seventy years (with a short stint in the Mallee somewhere in between).

St Jude's Church, Port Elliot has been and still is the fruit of a good organiser who contributes to all aspects of church life. Lorraine has been a Sunday school teacher, organist, chorister and still is Verger, Sacristan and on the unenviable rosters of church cleaning, brass and flowers. She "manages" the weddings and funerals and is Curator of the Anglican Parish Cemetery which includes the management of the cemetery grounds. She has been Parish Secretary and since 1996, Secretary to St Jude's Committee of Management. She is President of the Women's Guild and organises St Jude's annual Art Exhibition now in its twenty seventh year. This is an important fundraiser for the church. She is also a jam-maker which is serious business as it raises \$1,000 per year.

Lorraine was awarded Citizen of the Year 2015 by the Alexandrina Council for her work in supporting heritage conservation as an inaugural member of the Heritage Advisory Committee since 1991 and community involvement. Her interest in heritage conservation of Port Elliot includes the upkeep and preservation of St Jude's Church (1854) by successful applications for Government and Council grants.

Last year, she received the State Minister's Award in the Heritage Heroes for 2013. In 1974, she compiled *The First 120 Years of St Jude's Church* to coincide with the celebrations and is currently upgrading information for a reprint in time for the 161st Anniversary to be celebrated on Patronal Festival Sunday 25th October 2015.



Mission Action Events in Victor Harbor

In keeping with our Parish Vision Statement at St Augustine's, Victor Harbor, - "As we go, make and grow followers of Jesus" we recently held an Applefest Fete for our community. Granny Smith told her story, children were entertained, and the pancakes, sausage sizzle and lunch in the hall kept everyone refreshed. The "Adareables", had the toes tapping and the stalls provided produce, cakes, handicrafts, cider, art and much more. Milton Smith played our church organ throughout the day, and many came in to listen. It was a happy and successful outreach day to our community.

The recently formed St Augustine's Railway Men (SARM) is planning to build a raised railway track in the church grounds, and have locomotive events to coincide with social gatherings in the Parish. The Happy Stitchers who meet in the hall on Monday mornings, have made 'quillows' for Anglicare, and stitched and knitted for the Apple Fest Fete with much success.

The church is now open Monday to Friday from 9 am to 5 pm for prayer, reflection and also to view our remembrance wall, and the beautiful gardens at the rear of the church.



Bishop Ordains Four Deacons and a Priest in the Diocese

Bishop John Ford announced in June that he would ordain four deacons in the diocese and would ordain Brenton Dick to the priesthood.

The deacons ordained are Des Ackland who will serve in the Limestone Archdeaconry, Bruce Hicks in the Fleurieu Archdeaconry and Daniel Irvine and Ian Jansse, both of whom will serve in the Murray Riverland Archdeaconry.

The ordinations were held at the Tyndale Christian School at Murray Bridge on Saturday the 11th of July.

Bishop Ford in a circular to priests said he gave thanks to God for the way he has blessed us in the past year and very particularly for raising up new vocations.

He also announced that Brenton Dick would be ordained to the sacred priesthood at Keith on the 12th of July.

Brenton was ordained a Deacon by the Bishop 12 months ago and has served in that role in the Pastoral District of Tatiara, which takes in Keith, Bordertown, Mundulla and Tintinara.

Hungry No More

Hungry No More began at Mount Barker Uniting Church in February 2000 and is a cooperative outreach program supported by various church communities in Mount Barker. The program feeds 50-60 people who are homeless or lonely and particularly those who cannot afford to buy meat.

Led by chef and parishioner, Cheryl Castle, the Mount Barker Parish is responsible for running the kitchen six times a year. Donations to purchase food for the program are given by the congregation. Mount Barker Fresh Market donates fresh vegetables and Mount Barker IGA provides a discount for other necessary ingredients.

Back Row (L-R): Geoff Barnett, Bill Mayne, Paul Stephens, Jonathan Woore, Dan Cregan. Front Row (L-R): Cheryl Castle and Edna Johnson



“Mission is finding out what God is doing and joining in”

Rowan Williams

1300 302 663

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ABM is the national mission agency of the Anglican Church of Australia working with overseas and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities. We have a holistic view of God's mission. We work with Anglican Church partners and others to see lives empowered and transformed spiritually, materially and socially. We help the Anglican Church and the wider community realise and respond to the invitation for all to be a part of God's hope for the world.

ABM Anglican Board of Mission - Australia
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**DIOCESAN COUNCIL
NEWSLETTER**

Want to know what is
happening in DC?

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Diocesan Council

Back row: Joan Small, Fr Peter Simmons, Margaret Adams, Murray McFarlane,
Bp John Ford, Fr Dirk Van Dissel, Fr Paul Devenport.

Front row: Ruth Daw, John Strachan, Fr Peter Carlsson, Fr David Patterson,
Fr Richard Litjens, Mark Porter, Donna Jones, Anna Stanley, Fr George Kirreh.

Absent: Fr Richard Seabrook, Fr David Price, Fr Michael Varnish, Rick Fisher,
David Fleming and Chancellor Robert Tong

