



The Murray Anglican

TMA Summer 2016



Synod Approves Women to the Diaconate

The Diocese of The Murray has legislated for the ordination of women to the permanent diaconate.

At a special session of Synod at Woodcroft College on 5th November, the move was endorsed by both houses of clergy and laity. The laity approved it almost unanimously with only one person voting against it; there was a two thirds majority, 15 votes to five in the House of Clergy.

Bishop John who was instrumental in bringing the motion to Synod, came after a round of consultations throughout the Diocese in May, titled "The Murray Progress", which

addressed the way forward for the Diocese.

The legislation will allow for the ordination of women to the permanent diaconate, in supporting the role of the Bishop and priests in the Diocese.

Bishop John believed the role of a permanent deacon had been missing in the life of the church for some five centuries and that it was an important structure for evangelism in the Diocese.

He said it was important to think of the restoration of the permanent diaconate as it was, not as a natural

transition in being ordained a priest.

The CEO of Anglicare SA, the Reverend Peter Sandeman who is a permanent Deacon in the three Dioceses in South Australia spoke of the order's role.

The Rev'd Sandeman said he had been ordained a permanent deacon in the Diocese of Canberra-Goulburn while he was CEO of Anglicare in that diocese.

He had been approached by the Bishop, Stuart Robinson who challenged him to consider it.

"The Bishop detected he had a vocation to be a Deacon and after much prayer he had realised that he

did have this vocation to this order of ministry.”

The Rev'd Sandeman believed Deacons live in the Church and in the world and are called to be at the edge, in ministering to the vulnerable, but also in teaching and preaching as it was for St Stephen the first Deacon in the Church.

“Deacons have to pass on the message of God to others and therefore have to be grounded in a Christian community; they may be lonely but never solitary” he said.

The Reverend David Patterson, in providing Synod with an historical review of the diaconate believed there were probably more deacons than presbyters in the second century with evidence of women deacons in the 3rd century. He believed that over the past century there has been a progression of the order of Deacons to Priests in the Anglican Church: hence the two orders have been ‘bundled together’.

The Vicar-General, Fr Peter Carlsson gave a theological reflection on the diaconate and stated that in the Church, the order of Deacons, Priests and Bishops was a genuine three fold sacrament.

Fr Carlsson stated that the role of a Deacon was a distinctive ministry, but to be aware that it was the Bishop's decision who he will or not ordain.



Synod observers from the Diocese of Willochra, the Dean, Dr Mary Lewis and her husband, Dr Owen Lewis.

In opposing the motion, Fr Dirk van Dissel believed the permanent Diaconate was an impossibility in the Book of Common Prayer. In the foundational prayer book for the Anglican Church, Fr Dirk said a Deacon was able to become a priest.

“If you are voting for the permanent diaconate, you are also voting for priests in this Diocese” he said.

Fr Dirk believed women's ministry should be recognised by the Diocese but not by a permanent order of Deacons.

Joan Dare from the Southern Vales Pastoral District spoke in favour of the motion, while the seconder of the motion, Ken Pidgeon said he was happy to support it, even though he was not happy for someone to be confined to a permanent or distinctive order.

The vote was passed by the House of Bishops, Clergy and Laity and now means The Murray joins the Dioceses of Sydney, Armidale and North West Australia in having distinctive orders for Deacons.

Bishop John's Christmas Reflection

In July 1969 when man set foot on the moon a plaque was placed which read: “we come in peace for all mankind”. I assume the plaque is still there but I wonder to whom the message is addressed? It would seem to me that the point of a message is that it conveys to others some kind of news, a story or a greeting. The purpose of this message is for me to wish all readers and their families and friends a happy, holy and peaceful Christmas. It is not written to be left in the middle of nowhere but I imagine it will end up in some re-cycling bin or wrapping

someone's fish and chips! I hope that between now and then at least one person has received the greeting!

I could be wrong, but I don't suppose many have been inspired as they have read the plaque left on the moon! But I do hope that all who read this can hear and in some way be inspired by that same message which is, of course, the news announced in Bethlehem on the first Christmas day. The good news story and greeting is sent by God who, in the baby of Bethlehem, became what he was not at a

particular moment in an identifiable place; who came into particular human circumstances, the creator of all taking the flesh of his creation - one small step for God but a seismic shift for humanity.

It is fascinating to me that humankind took to a different world, to an alien planet, greetings of peace. This is God's message too – as he takes that one small step into the Bethlehem cave. Peace is the message of the Christmas angel; the baby born is called the prince of peace. And yet

peace is what we so often plainly fail to communicate to each other, but we can purport to send it elsewhere. Peace is so clearly absent not only in the countries of the Middle East but in other places in our world; it is also not a lived reality in many homes and families in this Diocese or in the dwellings of our fellow citizens of this State or Country. This Christmas as in so many of the recent past, all over the world anxious parents, partners and children will once again be apart from their loved ones who serve to bring or keep peace in other parts of the world.

The world political situation still prevents people from resting in quiet assurance during this season when none of us are immune from the

effects of multinational corporations and their decisions; nor from the consequences, intended or otherwise, of democratic voting in other parts of the world. In addition we are bombarded daily by news of atrocities of all sorts and kinds. All of this and more that each person reading this could add, make it almost inevitable that we are tempted to say, "Look what the world is coming to." However I would encourage us rather to take time and in the real situations which confront us to look towards the person of Jesus Christ and say "Look what has come into the world."

Often this looking at what has come into the world will require us to behave rather differently, perhaps to

stop when everything else is go; or to be silent when all around is noise; or to hesitate when all is impulsive; or even to peace in the face of aggression. In other words, to an alternative view of the world which has been turned upside down by the message of Christmas and can indeed become a place of peace and justice, but that must begin with me. Perhaps each of us might become the message that could be read by others? Quite possibly more than are likely to read the plaque on the moon!

I wish all who read this a happy, holy and peaceful Christmas and an appropriately prosperous New Year.

+John The Murray

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Church of the Holy Nativity

Upcoming Diocesan Ordinations

Bishop John Ford has ordained a Deacon in the Southern Suburbs Pastoral District, in the first of several ordinations in coming months.

Richard Burr was ordained Deacon at St Hilary of Poitiers at Morphett Vale on Saturday 3rd December.

On 21st January, Daniel Irvine will be ordained a Priest at the Cathedral at Murray Bridge at 11 am, while on 4th February Ian Jansse will be ordained Priest at 11.00am at St John the Evangelist, Meningie, and Bruce Hicks will be ordained a Priest at 6.00pm on 17th February at the Mt Compass Football Club.

Daniel, Bruce and Ian were ordained Deacons at Tyndale Christian School at Murray Bridge on 11th July last year.

For I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11

Richard Burr gave this ordination reflection, as he prepared to be ordained.

When I was first considering that God might be calling me to ordained ministry, these words seemed to be

following me. I would hear them on the radio, and read them in daily devotionals. For me the early stages of discerning a vocation were intimidating. I found myself filled with questions I didn't yet know the answer to such as, "What if I'm not up to the study? What will my friends and family think? What if the church doesn't affirm this calling that I feel... And scarier still, what if it does?!" I held tight to those words, that God had a plan, and I had faith that His will would be done.

Four years ago seldom could I have imagined that those plans would have included being ordained to serve His kingdom, and with it a relocation for myself and family to the Southern Suburbs after having spent our whole lives in the North of Adelaide. It is difficult to express how I feel about being called to serve the church, somehow I feel equally humbled and elated at the same time.

Myself, my wife Rhiannon, and our two girls Teigan and Annabel-Grace are very excited to be moving to the Southern Suburbs. Everybody so far has been incredibly warm and welcoming to us all and we are sincerely looking forward to being

involved in the life of the community. I will be continuing my studies at St Barnabas College in Adelaide, and living and working in the Southern Suburbs Pastoral District. I am excited to be serving in such a vibrant and authentic community as the SSPD, it has many blessings and its share of challenges, but I know that God has a plan for this place and His people here. I am incredibly grateful to be an instrument in that divine plan. As you read this, this new chapter of my life is still very much in its infancy, I have a lot to learn about the Southern Suburbs, the community, the pattern of worship here, and not to mention everyone's names. Please of your charity brothers and sisters, grant me your patience and your prayers.

Bishop John said they will serve in the parishes where they are ordained. He asked that everyone remember the ordinands in their prayers as they continue their journey, but also to remember the parishes where they will be serving. Bishop John also asked the Diocese to also pray for the Director of Formation, Fr Peter Carlsson and others involved in the ongoing training process.

Locum Tenens for Mt Gambier

Bishop David McCall was installed as the locum tenens priest at Christ Church Mount Gambier on 10th July. The service was celebrated by Bishop John Ford, assisted by Archdeacon Peter Carlsson. Bishop David and his wife Marion were warmly welcomed into the Mt Gambier parish community at a luncheon following the ceremony.

Bishop David said he was pleased to have the opportunity to serve the Church and the Mount Gambier community. He brings a wealth of wisdom and experience to the role. After being ordained as a priest in 1964, Bishop David McCall was ordained as Bishop of Willochra, based in Port Pirie in 1987 and then served as Bishop of Bunbury in West Australia.

Bishop David leads worship in Mt Gambier for three weeks out of four in most months. When he is away, services are taken by Deacon Des Ackland, or informal Pathways Services are conducted by lay people in the parish.

Bishop David believes that our lives are enriched by our relationship with God and he and Marion are working with great energy and commitment to strengthen and build that relationship with God within both the parish and local communities.



Entering Into the Mystery of God's Activity

Prayer must not be thought of as a way of changing God's mind or of persuading God to alter his plans. If that is what prayer is about, the universe becomes a very uncertain place. The idea that God is there simply to fulfil our requests, or even worse to obey our will, is absurd. The prayer Jesus taught us is not about changing God's mind; it prays that God's will be done and that God's kingdom should come on earth.

Prayer is the means of opening our innermost beings to God's love and grace. We pray for the grace of God's Spirit so that we may become co-workers with God and instruments of

God's love and grace for others. God calls us to live in communion with God. The greatest good we can ever experience is to be in communion with God. In John's Gospel Jesus is recorded as saying: *I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.* God always desires the greatest possible good for us.

It is truly wonderful how our prayers for others bring rich blessings upon them. Every two or three years I read an article in the press noting how people with faith keep better health on average than those who have no faith. Usually the same article goes on to say that people who have faith

recover from illness more quickly. I recall reading an article which noted that when people are prayed for there is an improvement in their well-being. All of this is a pointer to the true nature of prayer.

Prayer is about opening the doors of our hearts to God. Prayer is about opening the hearts of others to God. Prayer achieves miracles of grace and healing. Our hearts are often closed tightly. God never forces our hearts to open, but prayer in a wonderful way helps our hearts, and the hearts of those for whom we pray, to receive what God is always offering us.

+ David McCall.

Formation Training Weekend

4-16 October 2016 - Cockatoo Downs Farmstay, Keith SA

Really?!! Two and a half days to cover half the Old Testament!

It is a testament to the stamina of those who attended the weekend that this was accomplished.

Martin had been asked by Bishop John and Fr Peter Carlsson to lead the formation weekend on the Pentateuch and Deuteronomic history in the Old Testament scriptures, and I went too in order to relieve Martin of the driving, as we had just returned from the long trip from Alice Springs.

How glad I am I was there! Twenty members of the Diocese of The Murray gathered together primarily for those in formation, but open to all people who wished to come to study, learn and develop their understanding of the scriptures and their faith.

If you have ever thought 'this is not for me' then let me encourage you to think again!

The studies focussed on how the Old Testament, as part of the whole plan of God, points to Christ – and it was



amazing! Quite an eye-opener for many, and it opened the scriptures in a way we may not have thought of before.

But there was even more. As a visitor, what impressed me was the wonderful sense of enjoying each other's company – the feel of community – with gatherings at the end of the long days to socialise, enjoy time together over good food and a glass of wine (or two). A time for those present to be

vulnerable, to share parts of their life journey with God and to pray. Many had been to previous weekends and hence the sense of community continues to be built each time – yet still open to those who come for the first time.

If you haven't been before, do consider joining in next time. I'm pretty sure you won't be sorry.

Vivien Bleby

A Retirement and a Move

Father Dirk van Dissel was officially thanked for his many years as a priest to the Diocese at Synod by Canon Michael Bleby and former parishioner at St Francis of Assisi, Christies Beach and now member of Diocesan Council, Margie Philpott. He received a gift at the farewell, presented by the Registrar, Donna Jones. Bishop John also announced that Fr Dirk would be made Canon and Dean Emeritus for the Diocese. Here is an excerpt of Canon Bleby's speech to the Synod in thanking Fr Dirk.



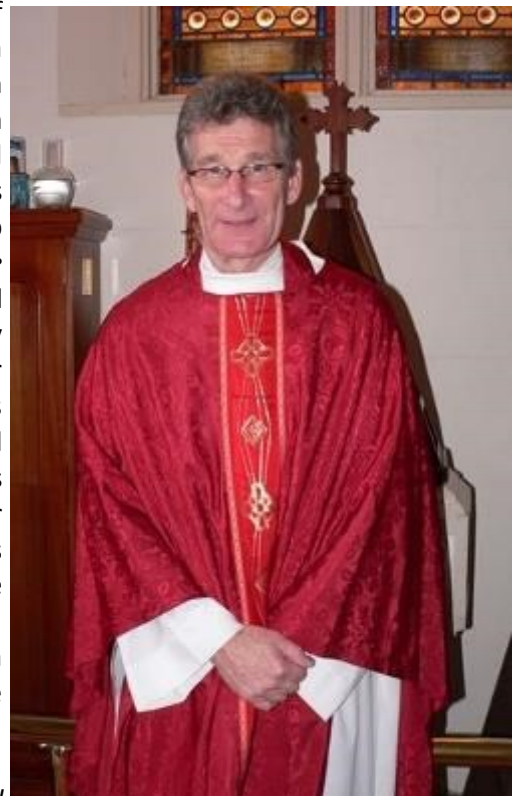
Father Dirk studied his theology in Victoria at Trinity College and the Melbourne College of Divinity. He was made Deacon in 1974 and Ordained Priest in 1975. His first appointment was as an Assistant Curate at Moorabbin until 1976, when he took up a curacy at Geelong until 1978. He then accepted an appointment to the Parish of Keith and remained there until 1983, when he moved to the Parish of

Christies Beach. He has held various offices and positions in the Diocese over the years – as a member of the Diocesan Council, the Bishop Election Committee, Provincial Council, General Synod representative, the Panel of Assessors, Professional Standards Committee – the list goes on. In 1995 he was installed as Canon and was subsequently appointed as Dean.

I don't have first-hand knowledge of his involvement in the area of Church music, but clearly this has been a particular strength. It seems that if you would like to procure and install a pipe organ – then Fr Dirk is your man.

Fr Richard Litjens was also thanked for his years of priestly ministry to the Diocese at Synod. Fr Litjens was appointed Rector of the Parish of Naracoorte in 2009 and became an Archdeacon of The Murray two years later. He was appointed Rector of Port Elliott Goolwa in 2013. Fr Richard has been appointed as the Rector for the Parish of Bacchus Marsh in the Diocese of Melbourne. His induction at Bacchus Marsh will be on 6th December.

Fr Richard's ministry in the parish of Port Elliot/ Goolwa began at the beginning of Holy Week 2013 having previously served the diocese of the Murray as parish priest in Naracoorte. He and Judy were made welcome and the Rectory soon became a beautiful home where anyone who visited was always sure of a warm welcome. During Fr Richard's time with us the Rectory was the venue for several varied study groups. Confirmation class was held there, Following Jesus programme and Lenten study groups, under the leadership of Fr Richard a group studied the book by Jean Varnier *Drawn into the Mystery of Jesus through the Gospel of St John*. These evening studies had an added dimension as Fr Richard provided the DVD to help us. Hospitality in many ways was experienced by parishioners during this time and Hot Cross buns on Good Friday was popular. Fr Richard continued to serve the diocese in his position as an Archdeacon and this entailed much travelling. Three and half years is not a long tenure but it was a full and productive time during which a new parish hall was completed and new ways of outreach into the community were made possible. During his sermons Fr Richard often related his love of God and his trust in Him as he combined episodes of his life into the sermon material. His care, compassion, his openness and the hospitality he so readily gave, not only of their home but of himself will be missed. Judy and Fr Richard will be remembered by anyone who sees the lovely garden they so painstakingly created and we thank them both for their time with us. We give thanks for Fr Richard's ministry and pray God will continue to bless him, and Judy, as he serves God in the diocese of Melbourne.



Joan Small

Eight Ministry Districts

A plan to create eight ministry districts in the Diocese has been given overall approval at Synod, despite reservations in one of the proposed areas.

The eight ministry districts have been proposed in a bid to share resources amongst Parish and pastoral districts, in a bid to grow the Church. Within the eight ministry districts will be hubs for training and formation, based in the Riverland, at Murray Bridge, Mt Gambier and Woodcroft College.

The plan was put forward at a second round of meetings in the Diocese in September, as a result of the consultations undertaken from the "Murray Progress" meetings around the Diocese in May.

The eight areas would encompass the Murraylands with Mannum/Mt Pleasant, the Upper Limestone Coast taking in Kingston/Robe, Naracoorte and the Tatiara, the Lower Limestone Coast encompassing Mt Gambier and Millicent/Penola, the Southern Coast taking in Victor Harbor and Port Elliott/Goolwa, the Southern Vales with Yankalilla and Delamare, the Southern Suburbs, the Hills with Onkaparinga Valley, Mt Barker and Strathalbyn and the Riverland with Lameroo.

The Bishop in his pastoral letter to all churches on 23rd October 2016 said each of the eight areas, if they were committed to standing together and sharing resources and expertise, would be more able to undertake the task at hand.

"It is very plain that small congregations need to be released from some of the unnecessary tasks that prevent them from taking their proper stance in the service of God and his people" he said.

"I hope that within each of the areas, people will try to grow closer to God and each other by regular prayer, study and acts of service to others who know not of the love of God."

The pastoral letter coincided with the release of a diocesan document prepared by the Vicar-General, Fr Peter Carlsson for all congregations, on how the eight ministry structure on how it would work.

The document highlighted more resources which could be shared as a larger group, to see things afresh as larger faith communities and worshipping as larger communities. Ministering as eight districts would establish each of the areas for growth with education, training and formation, with better skills resources amongst parishioners and others across a wider area.

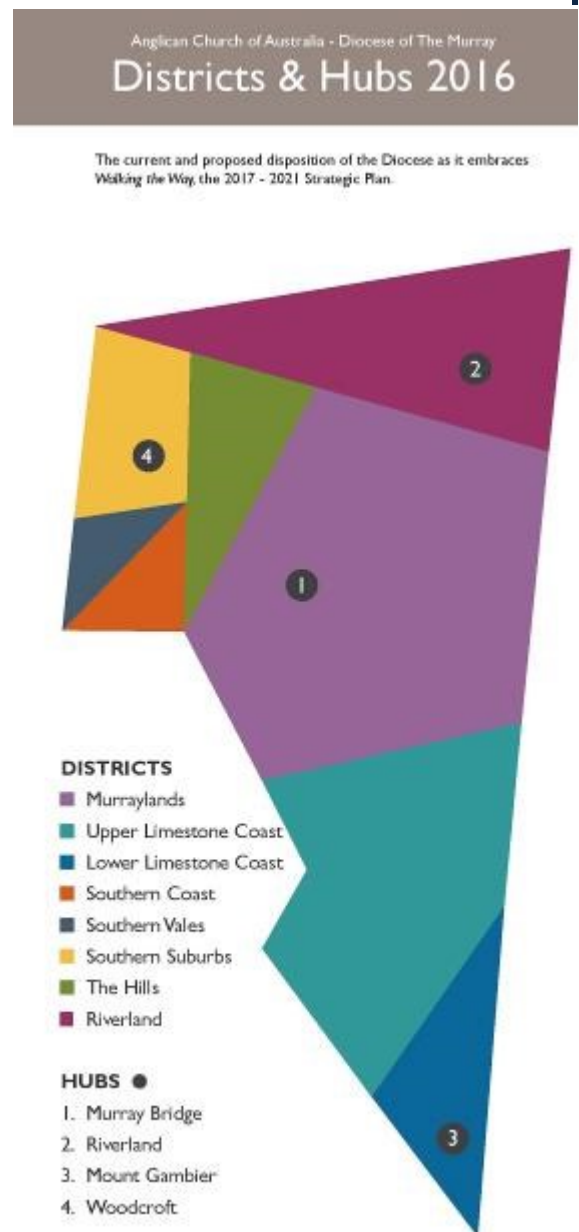
Rick Fisher, a Diocesan Council member who gave a presentation on the plan at Synod, said the eight ministry districts which shared geographic and demographic circumstances could share resources and free up time and resources for mission and outreach through local centralisation of aspects of management.

All Synod representatives in the eight districts gave their support for the move, although those representing the Upper Limestone Coast thought it was geographically difficult to achieve and believed it would not work for their area. The Bishop promised to further look at this concern for the Upper Limestone Coast.

At the conclusion of the Synod, Jill Herve representing the Parish of Onkaparinga Valley believed this plan represented one of the most major changes for the Diocese and that it needed a lot more time for consideration.

Bishop John responded saying he believed he had heard a commitment to proclaim the gospel through this plan and to equip him for a way forward.

Fr Richard Litjens, a member of Diocesan Council said the Diocese had been given a plan to go forward and that everyone needed to have a positive attitude towards it, along with joy and strength in their hearts for it to work.



New Diocesan Logo

A new Diocesan logo has been designed following a competition by students at Woodcroft College at Morphett Vale.

The colourful logo with icons of each of the planned eight ministry districts in the Diocese was designed by Lucy Robinson.

Lucy along with other students and their arts teacher came up with the design, which was launched at Synod.

The design highlights the cross and the resemblance of the River Murray flowing through the Diocese.

Lucy was personally thanked by the Bishop and members of Synod and given a gift as a token of their appreciation.

Priests in the Story

The Archdeacon of Maitland in the Diocese of Newcastle and Rector of St Peter's Anglican Church at East Maitland, Fr David Battrick was the retreat director at this year's clergy retreat at Sevenhill Winery near Clare between 12th and 16th September 2016.

The title of the retreat was "Priests in the Story". In that Fr Battrick spoke of priests as a walking sacrament through the vows they made to God. He stated that the priesthood is a gift for the people of God, but without the power of the Holy Spirit, priests can do nothing. He spoke of what it means to be a priest in a changing world but where God never changes in his love and mercy. Fr Battrick urged priests not to look back at the glory days of the church over the past 50 years but to realise that God is in charge and that we don't have to be.

"We are who we are as his priests and we serve him in this changing world'. He believed with the decline in church membership, the mission field is greater than ever before, with a generation of adults who are not baptised. Fr David said it was privilege for him in bringing people to faith, with every single Christian being a product of evangelism. He urged the priests of the Diocese to have great joy in continuing to serve God and for churches to be like 'maternity wards', in bringing new people to Jesus Christ.



Extra Stipends for Diocesan Clergy

A proposal for a 12 per cent one-off gift to help fund an extra five stipends in the Diocese for the next five years was discussed at the special call of Synod.

The proposal originated at the Diocesan Finance Committee and was endorsed by Diocesan Council as a way forward. It was then put forward to councillors of parishes and pastoral districts around the Diocese in October.

The suggestion is that a gift from the special purpose funds to the Diocese's Home Mission Fund, amounting to an estimated 470-thousand dollars, would pay for an extra five priests in the Diocese.

Rick Fisher speaking at the Synod said the extra funds would make a huge difference encouraging and achieving recovery and growth, and in time working towards self-sufficiency with stipends.

Mr Fisher said the Diocese was desperately short of clergy and that our churches need priests. He gave the example of

the Riverland where there is just one priest covering 40-thousand kilometres a year from Waikerie and Morgan to Renmark and Loxton.

"Some parishes have been without priests or locum tenens for a long time. Many more cannot afford a full time stipend even though they may desperately need one. We have to address this now" he said.

"We have some millions of dollars in the funds and while some of this is quite appropriately reserved for good and holy purpose, much of it is not, and sits there achieving nothing of God's purpose and probably not much interest either. Invest some of it in clergy, in home mission now, and it could reap more interest that it is ever likely to otherwise."

There was support for the move by five of the proposed mission districts, although the Southern Suburbs, the Upper Limestone Coast and the Murraylands expressed reservations about the plan.

Kingston-Robe

In June we celebrated the anniversary of Father David Patterson's Licensing as Priest-in-Charge to the Kingston-Robe Pastoral District. The time seems to have passed very quickly and everyone seems to be happy. He is still adjusting to the distances to be travelled, in particular to Adelaide for the various meetings of Diocesan Committees of which he is a member. Father David Withers is able to assist with weekly Mass when this occurs. It is heartening to see these two priests working together so harmoniously which says quite a deal about their Christian approach to service.

Parish Council Meetings have been restored to being held alternately at Kingston and Robe and this is working well.

In August we celebrated the 25th Anniversary of Father David's Ordination with a dinner at the

Woolshed Restaurant in Kingston. Parish members, friends and other clergy attended and spent a pleasant evening together.

A Blessing of the Animals service was celebrated at Holy Trinity and also St Peter's.

In September Holy Trinity members mourned the loss of Maureen Starling who had been a lifetime member of this church and in latter years, a valuable Pastoral Assistant. She is sadly missed.

The Parish Centre continues to be the meeting venue for:

ac.care Emergency Relief across the community; Kingston-Robe Mental Health Group every month; A counsellor from ac.care once a fortnight; Ron Hallam, a counsellor from Mind Australia and Naomi, a Bowen Therapy Practitioner

These are valuable services across the

community and it is good to be able to provide premises free of charge for the work to be carried out.

The Op-Shop held its six monthly change-over from Winter to Summer in September with various people from Holy Trinity and the community assisting.

The weather has been horrific and has not been encouraging for getting together.

We all want to sink into our lounge chairs and hug our fires. However, when and IF some fine weather happens we may start to openly socialise again.

Christmas approaches with special services and the Annual Op-shop Volunteers Luncheon on 15th November.

Seaford Ecumenical Mission to Be Sold

For some 20 years, the Seaford Ecumenical Mission (SEM) has been a joint venture of Anglican, Catholic, Church of Christ, Lutheran and Uniting Church congregations through which, jointly and severally, they minister in Seaford.

At a meeting held at SEM on Monday the 31st of October 2016, called by the Lutheran, Uniting and Catholic Churches (which initially funded SEM and which control the property), the SEM community, which includes St Nicholas', Seaford, was informed that all three parties had come to the decision that the SEM building was to be sold. The timing of the placement of the property on the market has not yet been announced.

On the 11th of November 2016, Bishop John met with 30 members of the St Nicholas congregation and seven members of the Southern Vales Pastoral District Council to hear and discuss people's concerns. During the meeting it was agreed that the Diocese and the Pastoral District needed a presence in the growing Seaford Region. This situation could be an opportunity for a different approach to ecumenical cooperation.

Those present recognised the need for change no matter what the final outcome of the building situation may turn out to be. Bishop John encouraged those present to be faithful to the Gospel and to continue to pray for God's guidance. The meeting thanked Bishop John for his presence and support in these difficult times.



Pastoral District of the Riverland

Work For The Dole Programs Underway At Two Church Properties

About a dozen Work for the Dole participants have been taking part over the past six months in rejuvenating the church properties at Renmark and Berri.

The two projects approved by the Federal Government involve upgrading the Rectory and Church Garden at St Augustine of Hippo, Renmark and the hall, church and garden at St Alban's, Berri.

Both community projects were finally signed off and approved in early June after the Federal Government agency, Job Prospects had earlier identified these projects as suitable and as good community projects in two key locations where the unemployment rate was much higher than the state average.

The Bishop of The Murray, John Ford had also given his support from the outset, given they were good outreach opportunities for both churches.

Fr Paul said the projects were fully costed through the Federal Government with an experienced supervisor, who had done a previous work for the dole program at Blanchetown, was appointed.

Jenny Siviour was appointed coordinator of the projects by Fr Paul and now works closely with the supervisor Aleks Duvnjak and the Diocese, through the Registrar, Donna Jones in managing the costings with the supervisor and the suppliers.

About six work for the dole participants on average are working on each project, Tuesdays and Wednesdays at Renmark and Thursdays and Fridays at Berri.

Fr Paul said he saw the projects as a great opportunity to have the church properties upgraded and at the same time be an outreach in helping those who could gain work skills.

Fr Paul said the first part of the project at Renmark has been to provide a total make-over of the

Rectory Garden, which was in a terrible state and embarrassing along a busy section of a walkway by the river.

Enlarged garden beds have also been laid with new plants and mulch along with new lawn. A vegetable and herb garden has also been created. The river pump used years ago to provide water for the garden has been re-installed.

At Berri, the property surrounds have been improved, with planter boxes installed. As well, the hall has been upgraded with revarnishing the floor,

repainting the exterior doors and walls and repainting the window exteriors to the church.

Project Co-ordinator, Jenny Siviour says both projects are a great opportunity for the work for the dole participants to gain more skills and knowledge and they are certainly embracing the opportunity.

Approvals are pending for the projects to continue for the first half of next year. An event was held at each location in December to thank the work for the dole participants for their efforts so far.



Ecumenical Service

St Augustine of Hippo, Renmark held an ecumenical service in September as part of the South Australian Rural Women's Conference on the 10th and 11th of September.

The conference was a major event in the Riverland, with at least 300 rural women from around SA attending.

The theme of the conference was "Our River, Our Environment", so the service had an environmental theme about it and drew resources from the Prayer Book of Australia, the Church of England and the Anglican Church of South Africa.

The service also coincided with theme of Creationtide during September and was held as one of a number of the key conference activities over the weekend.



New Priest for Millicent/Penola

On Friday the 8th July at 2pm. in St Michael and All Angels, Millicent, Bishop John Ford celebrated the Holy Eucharist to a well attended service of parishioners, locals and visitors from Adelaide for the induction of Fr John Thompson as priest in charge of Penola, Millicent, Kalangadoo and Beachport.

After the service the congregation moved into the Parish hall for a wonderful country style afternoon tea, with great fellowship, reminiscing and meeting.



A New Diocesan Structure

Synod has been told the formation of the new ministry districts will provide for a greater representation of people on Diocesan Council and those on Synod. Each of the ministry districts will have one clerical and lay member on Diocesan Council comprising of 16 members, along with the six extra appointments by the Bishop. As well, there will be six lay members from each district on Synod, comprising of those who have been elected to Diocesan Council.

Diocesan Council will take responsibility for such matters as finance, buildings, pastoral organisation, staffing, aspects of maintenance, risk and Work Health and Safety. However each community will continue to work out the best way forward, following their own priorities and making their own decisions.

The new plan will also see changes to the composition of local church councils.

Diocesan Council member, Rick Fisher told Synod that mission districts may find it more beneficial to have just one parish council and achieve a better mix of skills and talents from a deeper pool, and reduce repetition of necessary routine tasks that don't lead to mission and growth.

Mr Fisher believed the make-up of the new Diocesan Council would provide equal representation from the districts plus the ability for people with required skills to be appointed.

"If we are going to feel that we are part of the one big family, can I suggest that this is a far better model" he said.

Mt Barker Parish

*Only they asked us to remember the poor,
the very thing I was eager to do. Galatians 2:10*

The Mt Barker Parish welcomed Fr Thomas Karamakuzhiyil in June this year. Fr Thomas very much believes in reaching out to the poor and to those in need. He is also very much a person who practices what he preaches. Prior to coming to our Parish, he spent much time working with BlazeAid, the Mission to Seafarers and the Nepalese Orphanage Fund, Australia, which supports the Helpless Colony Orphanage near Kathmandu, Nepal.

The Helpless Colony Orphanage was started in 2004 by Nanu Rai who continues to run the orphanage today. The children in the Colony come from disadvantaged backgrounds. Some children are orphans, others have a single parent who cannot support them and some have been abandoned.

The main aim of the colony is to ensure that all the children grow up in a safe environment and receive the best education available. The final objective is to help the children become independent. Some children have already left the orphanage and have found stable work places or started university studies.

In April 2015, the orphanage was severely damaged by an earthquake and the Nepalese Orphanage Fund, Australia, was formed to raise money to build a new orphanage.

In October, the Parish hosted a fundraising market for the orphanage which was supported by the local community, the Nepalese Consulate, InFuse Church, Mt Barker, Emmanuel Community Church, Mt Barker and the Mar Thoma Church, Woodville. The market raised around \$4,000.

Shortly after the market, Fr Thomas travelled to Nepal to check on the building progress .



Fr Thomas, Lyn Stokes and Geoff Barnett with the Nepalese Consul, Dipak Dhamala



Fr Thomas and Nanu with the children



Building of the new orphanage progresses

Mothers' Union in Action

The Parenting Education Programme (PEP), written and introduced into Australia by Kate and Ian Pearse in 2005 for Mothers' Union Australia, embodied all that we, as MU members are called to do -

“Sharing Christ's love by encouraging, strengthening and supporting marriage and family life.”

The program looks at

- Parenting Styles
- Childhood Development
- Relationship Building
- Self Esteem
- Discipline Strategies
- Family Growth

The course consists of five weekly sessions of 2 hours which involve discussion, small group work, multimedia presentation, personal reflection time and various activities. It's presented in an atmosphere of learning together. The facilitator is not a guru about parenting, but a person who is able to encourage and support the members of the group to share their experiences, knowing that confidentiality is paramount.

In 2007, I came across the information about PEP. Its content and delivery excited and enthused me. Cheryl Bainton, then president of MU in the Diocese of The Murray, encouraged me to become a facilitator. Since then, with the support of diocesan and parish MU members and people in the Parish of Mt Barker, we have run programs involving couples, single parents, grandparents and friends across the diocese.

The feedback has been nothing but positive:-

- “I have enjoyed this open and honest course. It has helped myself and my husband focus on what is truly important- our child.”
- “Very enriching and encouraging”

- “The first parenting course that I have enjoyed”
- “I would like it to keep going.

Recently, a friend from the original 2007 PEP group suggested at a Strathalbyn Neighbourhood Centre meeting that our parenting course would be an appropriate one to offer as one of their new activities. For the Strathalbyn Mother's Union, this was an answer to prayer - they had been wanting to host a course, but the way just wasn't clear.

With their amazing support, we have just completed a course at the Neighbourhood Centre. It gave us a chance to get out into the community and provided us with two new experiences:

We used the revised PEP course, now called “Families Equip” (FE), written by Kate Pearse with the diocese of Sydney MU. FE has maintained the basic structure of PEP. The bibliography has been updated and “Self Esteem” has been replaced by “Resilience”. It's worth looking at these two YouTube videos included in the program.

1. Tim Hawkins Parenting Songs

2. Resilience by Sam Goldstein.

AND

We had our first ever all men's group.

There were 5 participants ranging in age from early 30s to late 50s. Every one of them cares for at least one

child in his home who was not born to him, either in a blended family or by fostering traumatised children.

The wealth of their combined experience and their willingness to share it, led to in depth discussions made possible by the structure of the PEP/FE course and the knowledge that their personal information is strictly confidential.

Their commitment to the children in their households and in the community was both thrilling and humbling. It was a privilege to be part of this group. AND the food provided by Strathalbyn MU members was an absolute hit with them!! Their comments about the course were interesting.

- “Awesome”
- “The sessions could have been longer. Some very great information.

So, if the information about this course resonates with you, excites you and makes you feel that God is speaking to you and asking you to take up this challenge, then contact me, or Eileen Smith, our diocesan president, to talk about running a course in your parish, or becoming a facilitator.

Liz Hampel 0439869702

Eileen Smith 0448786212



Christ Church Patronal Festival

On Sunday 20th November *Christ the King* marked the end of the Church year and the Patronal Festival of Christ Church Mt Gambier. It was celebrated by Bishop David McCall with a sung Eucharist at 9.30am.

Following the service the men of the parish cooked Sunday lunch. This has been a tradition in the parish for a number of years, although this is the first time it has been part of the Patronal Festival. It was a great success. The men served about 50 people with a delicious meal of soup, roast meat and vegetables followed by a dessert of cheesecake with a raspberry coulis and ice cream. The girls of the parish were waited upon in style and to cap off a lovely day, the men did the washing up and putting away – a spectacular effort!

We enjoyed two guest speakers: Julienne Feast who spoke about her recent travels to South Africa, Botswana and Zimbabwe and Charlie Miller OAM, a former Mt Gambier businessman and World War II spitfire pilot, who spoke about his life and passions.

Proceeds for the lunch and raffle which exceeded \$1,800 will benefit both ac.care and Christ Church.

Below: Tucking in at Christ Church



Above: From left: Darren Schunke, John Sullivan, Trevor Christopher, Jeff England, Rick Fisher

Below: Bill Hudd interviewing Charlie Miller



30 years
and there is still
a need for foster carers

ac.care
opportunities for life ... for rural people

30
2016
years
of opportunities

30 years ago one social worker and a part-time administrator were employed to start a teenage foster care service for the South East. At the time there was no such service and young people were removed from their community. Parishioners of Christ Church, in the Anglican Parish of Mount Gambier put their hand up to auspice the service.

This year ac.care celebrated 30 years of service. They now employ over 200 full-time equivalent employees and run over 80 different programs throughout the South East. Foster carer support and recruitment is a major service and now includes running therapeutic care homes in Murray Bridge and Mount Gambier. Therapeutic care homes are for children and young people who cannot be placed with foster families. Other major services include homelessness, housing, Aboriginal, family support and running community centres in Millicent, Mount Gambier and Waikerie.

ac.care operates in the boundaries of the Diocese of the Murray. They are one of the few organisations in South Australia that has been created by and for people living in rural/regional areas, hence their slogan "opportunities for life...for rural people".

Sadly, the community still needs more foster carers and there is a great need for emergency foster carers. This is to help get children out of commercial care, ie, hotels and into family based care. ac.care is now running weekly information sessions on Mondays for anyone to drop in and have a chat to learn more about becoming a foster carer.



MILESTONE: The granddaughters of the late Allan Scott OAM Pru Xanthopoulos and Amanda Jackson, Anne Ashworth, the wife of the late Father Brian Ashworth, former ac.care homeless programs client Shannon Minchen and ac.care chief executive officer Rob Foggo cut the 30th anniversary celebratory cake. Mr Scott was the inaugural patron of the charity and welfare services provider when it started in 1986.

Irresponsible Lending Practice

We have released our annual report, which can be downloaded from our website <http://www.accare.org.au/annual-report> and share a client story from the report.

The Diocese of The Murray and parishes have been instrumental in establishing our financial counselling service when the government funding stopped. This client story shows the importance of continuing to provide this service. The client's name has been changed.

Diane had been advised by a debt collection agency that she had debts totalling \$241,500 relating to three loans from a bank. It appeared that the loans related to Diane's ex-husband's expired business. The debt collection agency (DCA) had supplied only one document which showed Diane to be a guarantor of a loan to the value of \$177,500, the security for which was the house previously owned by Diane and her ex-husband. Diane's ex-husband had sold the house and Diane had not received any proceeds from the sale. Diane had left the marriage with only her clothing and personal items. There had been no marriage settlement. I conferred with South East Community Legal Services' (SECLS) senior solicitor who agreed to take on Diane's case. The solicitor advised that the bank was no more forthcoming with SECLS than they had been with me. SECLS then lodged a complaint with Financial Ombudsman's Service (FOS). The bank's submission was that they "would have" complied with responsible lending practices but they could not provide any proof that they had. Just prior to the matter going to determination by FOS, the Bank offered to settle by releasing Diane from the guarantees and agreeing not to recover any of the outstanding mortgage debt from her. Diane accepted the offer. She did need to go bankrupt and was released from a debt of \$241,500. When I subsequently contacted Diane, she was ecstatic about the outcome and expressed her thanks.

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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
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registry@murray.anglican.org

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**Foster Carer
Information Sessions**
Local kids need local foster carers

Information Sessions
Drop in for a chat with one of our foster
care staff

When: Every Monday
Time: 10:00am - 12:00noon
Venue: ac.care 70-72 White Avenue
Mount Gambier | 8724 9211
ac.care 11-21 Kennett Road
Murray Bridge | 8532 6303
ac.care 5 Kealley Street
Berri | 8582 2344

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