



THE MURRAY ANGLICAN

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News from Tatiara

January being traditionally the time for review and new resolutions, I decided to give a short report on some of the 2007 highlights from the Tatiara Pastoral District.



The Port Elliot/Goolwa parish finally managed their return visit on 12th August. They had kindly donated some money towards our parish expenses, and a group of our people had been there for an evensong in 2005. This time they came for a week-end, commencing with evensong and dinner at the Keith hotel, and then a combined service and pooled lunch the next day. It was a good time, where new friendships were made and old ones revisited. (see photo)

7th October saw our "Blessing of the Pets" service. We were fortunate to have a journalist from the local paper, and son of the priest in Nhill, come and take photos, plus give us a plug before and afterwards, in the Border Chronicle. It was in school holidays, and at the height of the horse flu epidemic, so the ponies missed out on a blessing this year, but there were several dogs to make up the number.)



On 28th October we had a 'Kirkin of the Tartan' with approximately 40 people from SA, NSW and Victoria, resplendent in their tartans, a Black Watch Piper, and a high morning tea. It was the 10th anniversary for the Highland Society in Keith, so was also celebrated on the Saturday night with a dinner at the pub, complete with haggis and a Scotch or two. The town ecumenical

group had a picnic and barbeque tea that afternoon, which, despite the weather, was well attended.

On 2nd December we had a confirmation service, ably presided over by Bp. Stuart Smith. There were 5 baptisms and 7 people confirmed, which is the largest group here in the Tatiara for several years. The pooled lunch gave everybody a chance to mingle afterwards. The foundation stone of the first Keith church was laid in 1907 and the Bordertown rectory had also made it's century, which we celebrated that evening at Bordertown with a programme presented by the A'cappella group. They repeated this for us in Keith on 9th December.



We had our Keith Combined Churches Carol service in the hospital grounds on 16th December. This time we started with a parade from the rotunda to the site, with people dressed as nativity characters, sang 'Happy Birthday' to Jesus and handed out lots of birthday cake. This was supplemented with a sausage sizzle and a series of interactive games, before the service proper.

These events cover some of the highlights of the year as I saw them. Financially, our parish as I suspect, is the case with many of the smaller ones, is a bit shaky. Perhaps some Lenten study, fasting and praying, may be in order all around, and I, personally, am looking forward to seeing our Bishop back at the helm of 'The Murray' vessel, to take us forward with our 20/20 mission endeavours. 2 Chronicles 7:14.

Nan Wilson

Update from Kingston-Robe.

Well, we've done it! More accurately, that "retired" rector's wife, with all her negotiating skills, has successfully secured 2 grants, one for \$35,000 from Community Benefit SA, and the second of \$52,800 from the Federal Government, through the

Lent - Easter March 2008



Group outside the Opp Shop at Kingston for the announcement of the grant from the Federal Government. From left to right they are Vicky McBride of Limestone Coast Area Consultative Committee, Patrick Secker MP, Father David Withers and volunteers Ann Moran, Kathleen Smith, Pat Redman, Ron Redman, Betty Dick and Phyl Richards.

Regional Partnerships Programme, together with \$1000 from the Kingston District Council and \$7000 pledged by the parish, to enable the expansion of the Anglican Opp Shop in Kingston, so much needed to service our community and to sustain our financial head-above-water. Thank you so much Ann Moran.

With few to fill the pews each week, we maintain an energetic social and fund-raising calendar, with a recent Garden party raising \$1000 to support an ABM-A project in the Diocese of Popondota. A film day for 80 people in the Robe Cinema, yielding a profit of \$971 to be used on the much needed maintenance of our Parish buildings and a Card Day, also at Robe, raised \$1,910.

Meanwhile "retired" rector, Fr David Withers, has literally taken his life in his hands (or those of the rower - as seen in the photo), once again to perform the Blessing of the Fleet ceremony at the beginning of the fishing season in Robe. St Peter would have been impressed with the capability of our priest to "sit on water"!



Heather Landers

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'RESURRECTION NOW'

The challenge that Jesus presented to Martha, “I am the resurrection and the life.

Do you believe this?” hits all of us when things are difficult for us.

I often think of the newly-converted St. Paul. He hurried back to Jerusalem, bursting with the good news, only to meet with a very cool reception. Soon after this, he needed to go away for an extended time of reflection and re-orientation.

Later he and Barnabas were sent on a preaching mission by the Church. Again and again they were frustrated by circumstances, and by the opposition of other people.

They were “kept by the Holy Spirit” from going into the province of Asia, and again from going to Bithynia.

So they waited at Troas, where St. Paul had a vision of a man from Macedonia, who said, “Come over to Macedonia and help us”. They took this as a message from the Spirit of the risen Lord that God was calling them, and set sail – so the Gospel was taken from Asia to Europe. St Paul found a new direction for his life and work.

Similar experiences happen to

us. We face difficult circumstances in the life of the community or the church; illness or death in the family; a closing down of an opportunity in our work.

We experience grief, rage, frustration, even despair. We may even feel like Martha, caught between despair and hope, or her sister Mary, waiting in the house, caught in grief.

But the risen Lord is present, though invisible: the resurrection and the life, who frees us from the chains in which we were caught, calls us into life with himself.

Often we are not taken away from the painful experience, but are delivered through it.

Like St. Paul in his journeys, the frustration is part of the learning.

So, three ways are open to us in difficult circumstances:

- Keep our eyes – our minds – on the presence of God. As we wait, try to discover what new thing he is teaching us, how and where he is leading us.
- Bear in mind our Lord himself and his trust. We can think about the significance of what he went through – the apparent triumph of evil over good – and how he was delivered through that process.
- Claim the power of God and his guidance.

Bishop Stuart Smith

PASTORAL LETTER

(To be read out at Services on Sunday 9th March)

On 13th August 2007, the Bishop of The Murray directed Dr Steven Churches to enquire into the way certain allegations of sexual abuse were handled in the past by the Diocese of The Murray.

Diocesan Council has now received the report but regrets that acting on legal advice, it cannot release the report.

However, all of the complaints arose prior to the Synod of the Diocese of The Murray held in May 2007 when the Synod passed the Professional Standards Ordinance 2007 which addressed most of the problems identified by Dr Churches.

The same Synod requested that the personnel who formed the Diocese of Adelaide Professional Standards Committee and Board, perform the same service for the Diocese of The Murray. The Diocese of Adelaide agreed to this request. This Committee has now been dealing with the complaints.

The Diocesan Council has been actively monitoring the situation and is confident that the Professional Standards Committee is proceeding as quickly as possible.

It is the view of the Diocesan Council that communication to the Anglican Community is paramount and, for that reason, we will be releasing information on this issue initially by way of a pastoral letter rather than through the media.

It is my intention to continue with this practice during my period as Administrator of the Diocese.

Brian Ashworth
Vicar General.

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CHRIST CHURCH O'HALLORAN HILL

Once again O'Halloran Hill is a busy place to be.

Christmas services were beautiful, as always, and well attended. The highlight though would have to have been the Children's service. The Nativity play, performed by the Sunday School children featured 'first person' accounts from the inn keeper and one of the shepherds. In an unusual twist, Baby Jesus was delivered into the manger via the sleeve of Balthazar. This correspondent is not sure how theologically or anatomically correct this method of delivery is but I am sure that, during other Sunday School performances, stranger things have happened. Major drama occurred when Milly, Fr Tony's youngest child, decided that the 'bubby' was hers and promptly kidnapped Baby Jesus. Jesus was returned to his manger and order was restored.

The crew in the Opp Shop took the opportunity during January to have a really good clean out and re-organisation of stock. The H.A.T.'s group donated funds which, when augmented by parish coffers, enabled an air conditioner to be purchased and installed, much to the delight of the volunteers and their customers.

Groups took a break during the holiday period and are now getting back into the rhythm of life in the parish. The Grumpy Old Men and Ladies of Leisure groups have amalgamated, the Drop-in Group are in the throes of organizing their 2008 programme and the Luna(tics) have decided that this is the Year of International Food and will be eating their way round the world.

We are now busy with Lenten Studies, gearing up for Vestry and preparing for Easter.

It was with sadness that, on Sunday 27th January, the Parish received the resignation of Fr Tony. His last Sunday with us will be 30th March. The parish will farewell the family at a 9:00 am service on 30th March in the Parish Centre, which will be followed by a shared brunch/lunch/time of fellowship. Fr Tony and Fiona, Matilda, Laura, Liam and Milly will be sorely missed. (Oh and Thomas the cat too!).

Judy Turner Parish Secretary

NOVEMBERFESTE AT VICTOR HARBOR

One of our number on Parish Council had what turned out to be a marvellous idea! A Novemberfeste, with stalls, music, children's art competition, Town Crier, choirs, jazz band, Devonshire teas, real coffee, animal nursery, barbecue, Punch and Judy Show.....at one stage in the run up to the big day we all thought we had been rather optimistic.....there seemed to be so many obstacles to be surmounted.....insurance checks, police checks for those supervising children's games, the need for a temporary liquor licence due to the bottle stall, permission from local council to be granted the liquor licence, and to have the Town Crier walking up and down Burke Street...the need to alert our neighbours in Burke Street, ambulance service and local police and so it went on. Poor Donna bore the brunt of many emails asking for advice during the preparation time, and we thank her for her patience. Then there was the weather.....what to do if it rained, as we had so many stalls planned for the rectory lawn...despite the drought a wet weather plan had to be orchestrated, just in case!

However the day dawned overcast and cool, that was good, because as the day wore on the sun came out and it became quite warm. Members of the Jazz band and patrons alike were thankful for the shade of the trees on the Rectory lawn.

At one stage it seemed that all of Victor Harbor had been through the gates; lured perhaps by our Town Crier or by the sound of the Jazz band, perhaps it was the aroma of freshly brewed coffee! It was very re-

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Oil For Chrism Mass



Each year all priests and deacons gather to bless the three sacred oils: 1. For Healing (anointing), 2. for the Catechumens (preparation for baptism) 3. The Chrism (used in baptism, confirmation, ordination and other special Episcopal services) This service is traditionally held on Maundy Thursday but in The Murray we hold it on the Monday of Holy Week to avoid long travelling on the Three Holy Days of Easter. At this service the priests and deacons renew their ordination vows. With so many olive growers in our diocese we are so pleased this year to have a donation of olive oil for the Chrism Mass from a Grower in the Southern Vales Parish.

COMMISSIONING SERVICE AT ST.AIDAN'S ABERFOYLE PARK



Above: Andy & Jenny Bennett

It was a joyful & emotional occasion when Andy & Jenny Bennett, parishioners of St. Aidan's for 18 years, were commissioned as missionaries with the Church Missionary Society. The commissioning was incorporated into the Sunday morning Communion service on the 27th January 2008.

The church was filled with family, friends & members from other churches the Bennetts used to attend. The hymns specially chosen by Jenny & Andy were "Lord of Creation", "Lord Bless Australia", "I cannot tell" & "In Christ Alone".

The service was a combined effort by relieving priest, Fr Michael Varnish, former priest at St. Aidan's, Canon Dr. John Beiers & Bishop Stuart Smith who gave the sermon.

The commissioning was carried out by Lesley McGrath -Woodley the SA President of CMS. The wonderful ending to the commissioning was the laying on of hands by the sanctuary party, clergy, parishioners & special friends & the singing of the "Blessing Song".

Everyone joined for a happy & noisy morning tea with lots of hugs & farewells all round.

They have gone to Tanzania as long term missionaries. At first they will be spending 4 months in Iringa at a language school learning Swahili then will go to the village of Murgwanza in the north very near the Burundi & Rawanda borders. Andy will be a Ministry & Development Adviser with the Diocese of Kagera & Jenny will work in hospital chaplaincy & women's ministry.

Deadline for Next Issue—May 7th 2008

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warding to see members of other churches supporting us, and the many strangers who came along for a bargain. We were also indebted to our St. Christopher's people who manned the barbecue and strawberries and cream stall and who brought along the members of the animal nursery.

We decided to open the church, and several of our older members managed the security. It was surprising just how many visitors took the opportunity to come in for a quiet moment and to experience the beauty of our dear old church.

SHROVE TUESDAY & PANCAKES?

Well we will never know at St. Augustine's because for years now we have had pancake suppers....this year has been no exception, and some 30 odd of us shared pancakes, toppings, green salads, cream, fruit salad, tea and coffee. We were still mindful of others not so fortunate, and a voluntary collection plate yielded \$68. this will go towards our Cross of Life project for water in the Philippines through ABM. Not only did we have pancake supper, but the card group (an ecumenical gathering) which meets in the hall every Tuesday was treated to pancakes for morning tea, this too has become tradition.

St. Christopher's also celebrated with pancakes, but they "sang for their supper" with the Rainbow Choir.

ROGER PYNE CONCERT We were the fortunate recipients of a delightful violin, piano and choral concert which was held in the Newland Uniting Church, Victor Harbor on our behalf.

We have been truly blessed with the success of recent events at Victor Harbor Parish, and these successes could not arise if it were not for the enthusiasm and hard work put in by many of our congregation. We thank God for the many talents shared and the opportunity to work together in the name of Christ.

Myrith Barr, Warden/Parish Secretary

Mannum -Mount Pleasant

FAREWELL TO FR. JOHN & ELAINE EDWARDS

On Sunday, 30 December 2007, the Pastoral District of Mannum-Mount Pleasant held a combined service at St. Andrew's church, Mannum to farewell Fr. John Edwards and his wife Elaine and give thanks

for their ministry and friendship. Part of the service was also used to present and bless donations collected by parishioners during the previous three months for our ABM parish project – to provide safe water in the village of Tsarap in Papua New Guinea.

Fr. John has cared for our pastoral district for the past three years and worked very hard to provide spiritual guidance to our community. In particular, his visiting of our sick community members at hospital or their homes was very much appreciated. He represented the Anglican Church in our district by regularly attending meetings of the Mannum and Torrens Valley Inter Church Councils where his advice and input was warmly received. He also prepared four young candidates for confirmation and enjoyed the contributions from our Sunday school students.

After the service, a shared lunch was enjoyed by everyone and Fr. John and Elaine were presented with a gift of a framed watercolour painting, together with cash to spend as they wish. The Sunday school students also gave Fr. John and Elaine a scrapbook of memories, showing the activities the children had done over the years.

Elaine and Fr. John are now looking forward to celebrating the 40th anniversary of his ordination in February 2008 – a wonderful achievement.

We thank them both for the care and consideration they showed us and we wish them well for the future.

Suzanne Sexton Secretary

Waikerie



St James Waikerie celebrated the 50th anniversary of the dedication by Fr John Bleby of the Vestry and Sanctuary on Sunday March 16th 2008 at 10 am being the exact time and date of the original ceremony. It took 46 years from the building of the Nave to the completion of the Church.

Right: The Christening font used on the "Etona". This is now used as a sugar bowl by the family of Jon Arnold of Eden Valley. This was photographed on board the "Incredible" at Blanchetown in October 2006

Mt Gambier

Worship leaders meet each month to review and plan services in the Parish and they then share a meal together along with their spouses using recipes from various Countries—a different one each month.



Pictured above from the left: *Bev Hamson, Jodi Swiggs, Anne Ashworth, Trevor Christopher, Bill Beumer, Margaret Boardman, Des Ackland, Wendy Beumer & Fr Brian Ashworth.*

Absent : Rick Fisher, Trudy-Anne Doyle



Above: Mt Gambier Parish Mother's Union Christmas lunch in 2007. *Glenyse Nott plays Father Christmas's helper to President Pam Millar & member Joy Waller.*

CALLING ALL COMRADES!

All former members of *The Comrades of St. George* are invited to the laying-up of the Banner of the South Australian branch of the Comrades to be held at St. Cuthbert's, Prospect on St. George's Day, Wednesday 23rd April, 2008 with a 10.00am Eucharist, followed by morning tea.

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