



THE MURRAY ANGLICAN

TMA Winter 2013

SYNOD URGED TO CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR A NEW BISHOP

The Administrator of the Diocese, Fr Richard Seabrook has used his presidential address at this year's Diocesan Synod at Taillem Bend to share his frustration in not being able to announce a new Bishop of The Murray.

Fr Seabrook said he had written a pastoral letter to the Diocese concerning the Bishop's Election Committee in February, stating there was no need to call a Special Synod for the election of a new committee.

He also wanted to inform Synod that even though there was an election for a new Bishop's Election Committee, there was no need for this committee to meet at the present time.

"I share my frustration of many in the Diocese of The Murray that I have not been able to announce the appointment of a new Bishop of The Murray and that, indeed, more than eight weeks have elapsed since I wrote my Pastoral Letter."

"You will understand that I cannot release any name until such an appointment has been fully made. God's time is not our time and we must leave this matter in God's hands – and he knows who our next Bishop will be – and invite you to pray for our next Bishop.



The Chancellor, Dr Robert Tong, with the Administrator, Fr Richard Seabrook.

"I know there have been rumours circulating and some of these not have only been spurious but plain wrong." He said.

"The day will come when we can thank God for such an appointment, but in the meantime, I thank all those who are committing this cause to their daily prayers."

"I have been the Administrator of the Diocese since April 2010 and the See has been vacant since September 2010. Until a new Bishop is enthroned in the Diocese, we are very much in

caretaker mode, despite that mode having lasted much longer than I and many would have wanted." Fr Seabrook said.

A motion before the Synod that the Diocese be informed of the progress of the Bishop Election Committee and that the name of the Bishop Elect be released, was subsequently withdrawn.

Fr Seabrook used the opportunity to welcome the new Chancellor of the Diocese, Dr Robert Tong AM.

“Dr Tong has been the Acting Chancellor of the Diocese of Sydney and is now its Deputy Chancellor. He is a member of the Standing Committee of General Synod and sits upon the General Synod Church Law Commission. In the wider Anglican Communion he has been the Australian Lay Representative to the Anglican Consultative Council and for three years was a member of the Archbishop of Canterbury’s Panel of Reference.” he said.



Fred Smith from Millicent/Penola, Natalie Jones from Mt Barker and Andrew Jeffrey from Victor Harbor

Standing Orders were used correctly for the first time to allow the Registrar to present the Diocesan Council in the correct place.

One issue highlighted from the report was a motion that was passed at the last Synod about a commitment to evangelism in the Diocese.

Dr Liz Gordon-Mills who put forward the motion last year to have a person employed who could specialise in evangelism, questioned why the Diocese had not moved forward with the idea. Fr Seabrook replied saying the issue had been discussed at several Diocesan Council meetings.

“Dr Gordon-Mills’ comments are valid but until we have a Bishop, it would be very wrong of us to appoint someone. There would have also been at least a three per cent increase in the rate of assessment to cover the cost.”

Mrs D. Jones then presented the financial report.

Mrs Jones said Diocesan Council had been aware of some comments being made throughout the Diocese regarding insolvency concerns of the Diocese.

“The ‘net loss’ position of \$36,408 for the 2012 year reflects ‘non cash’ type

items which have led to the loss this year rather than actual cash outflows.” “These are strictly book entry movements which relate to a write down of values associated with six parish rectory rental property market valuations” Mrs Jones said.

“The audited cash flow statements which form part of the full financial statements tabled before Synod show a positive cash flow position for the Diocese across operating, financing and investing activities and there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Diocese will be able to pay its debts as when they fall due.”

“Legal expenses in 2012 were significantly higher than the previous year and relate predominately to the one professional standards matter outstanding in the Diocese.” she said.

There were a number of motions up for consideration at the Synod.

One motion related to extending the time of Synod next year from Friday night until Sunday afternoon.

The mover of the motion, Mrs J. Malpas believed there would be a backlog of motions to consider with a

new Bishop and that the extended Synod would also enable time for fellowship and worship.

After some discussion, the Administrator believed it would be improper for priests not to be in their parishes on Sunday. Fr Seabrook said that it would be incorrect to be laying on a new Bishop the time frame for it. He did not object to a suggestion that a Diocesan Conference be held as well as a Synod.

The motion was defeated but at the conclusion of the Synod, a motion by Lay Canon M. Bleby stating that the organisers of the 2014 Synod requests the organisers that more time be given next year, was passed.

There was discussion about the use of the Prayer Book of Australia for the Chrism Mass and the use of consecrated wine to be reserved as well as consecrated hosts at Sunday services, and also nursing home services or home communions.

The first motion related to the Chrism Mass during Holy Week, where priests annually reaffirm their ordination vows. The motion moved by Canon Alex Bainton was asking the next

Bishop to consider replacing the service from the Roman Missal with one drawn up from the Prayer Book of Australia or the Australian Prayer Book or other Anglican liturgical resources.

Fr Seabrook in response reaffirmed the Chancellor's comments that the responsibilities of the services remained the responsibility of the Bishop.

He added that Anglican resources for the Chrism Mass were virtually non-existent. The motion was passed.

The second motion also put forward by Canon Bainton relating to the use of reserved consecrated wine was defeated by a vote of houses. Clergy 14-4 Lay 29-16.

There was also discussion in a motion put forward by Fr Peter Simmons about hospitality to those ordained in the Anglican Church. It was passed with an amended motion stating that



Observers from Willochra - Michael Ford and the Reverend Anne Ford

'while acknowledging that recognition of orders and authorisation to function is for the diocesan Bishop, this Synod asks the Bishop to consider showing hospitality to those who have been ordained in the Anglican Church and are in good standing in their own diocese.'

Another motion put forward by Mrs J Malpas asking the State Government

to stay firm with its pro-active gambling measures and as well urging the Federal Government and other State Government to enact similar reforms was passed.

The Synod concluded with Mr David Fleming asking for a show of acclamation for the Administrator and the Registrar in organising this year's Synod.

REFLECTION - THE TRUE PEACE IN THE SPIRIT OF GOD

Jesus said to his disciples, in St. John 14:25-27 **"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the father will send in my name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all the things that I said to you...do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let it be afraid."**

Two words; troubled and afraid. Jesus mentions these words to his disciples and to us, as we as the church are considered to be Jesus' disciples. He assures us not to be afraid and troubled on our mission in this world when we minister his word and spread his love to the community. He assured his disciples that he was going to send them a helper who would help them in everything; the Holy Spirit of God.

In our present time, anxiety has become part of our daily life; we cannot pass a day without being worried. We basically become anxious about almost everything in our lives. As a result, it can harmfully influence our personal being, attitude and behaviour. We become fearful and live unsettled lives that can lead us to making bad decisions that turn out to affect our lives, our loved ones and can make our lives difficult, unpleasant, unkind and unfriendly. Anxiety and worries are life destroying, all of this because anxiety and worry can drive us away from the peace that can affect our lives positively.

From a cultural and worldly perspective, we feel that we are not



living in a peaceful state. There are wars everywhere, economic problems that make our lives hard, as well as the challenges against the church and its ministry. These tensions negatively influence our inward peace, our outward peace and our ability to feel the peace of God by his Spirit. Sometimes we think that true peace will only be attainable when a group of people sit together and decide to live harmoniously in peace together. Yes

REFLECTION - THE TRUE PEACE IN THE SPIRIT OF GOD

that may bring one kind of peace, but even so we have institutions such as the United Nations whose focus is to promote peace in the world that are active, yet not very influential. This kind of peace is like a fantasy, especially because we find it hard to comprehend and recognise the true peace that Jesus gives to the church.

So what prevents us from recognising true peace? It may be because as individuals we choose to love the world and the things that are in the world, such as selfishness, hatred, bitterness, gossip, greed, pride, and revenge. These are embraced by the human race that contributes to the cause of creating wars and instability in the world; but also in ourselves as a church and within our families. Sadly, these things blind us in understanding the true peace that comes from God and as a consequence the world is unstable and people are living in tragedy and chaos, away from true peace.

The prophet Isaiah wrote; **“For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.”** (9:6-7)

The true peace then is God’s peace that encompasses the sacrificial and eternal love, who was born and given for us and for the whole world. His name is Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, the true peace is in Jesus

Christ. In him we have internal peace within ourselves; we have external peace with one another and eternal peace with God.

Jesus said in St. John’s Gospel **“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.”** This peace is our foundation, the peace that Jesus has given us with love that also includes comfort and assurance. This is the eternal peace which has been given to us by the Holy Spirit of God, a peace in which the world cannot give us and is found in a trusting relationship with God.

It is when we find this inner peace we become able to reflect it outwards towards the world and one another. This peace through the Holy Spirit also helps us to love one another and live in harmony with one another. This is the wisdom to a successful life without war and enmity. As St. James

says in his letter, **“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.”**

This wisdom comes from God through his Spirit who teaches us, which is what we are reminded of at Pentecost. Jesus said ‘the Father will send you the Spirit in my name’ and it is the Spirit of God that is necessary for us to understand the true peace and freedom from fear and trouble that Jesus has given us. It is through the Spirit of God we become united in knowing that we are on a mission for the glory of God and that we do not need to be afraid or troubled because God is with us for ever and ever.

Father George Kirreh

CHRISM MASS



A NEW RECTOR FOR THE PARISH OF PORT ELLIOT- GOOLWA

Archdeacon Richard Litjens was inducted as the new Rector of the Parish of Port Elliott Goolwa in March, taking over from Fr Reg Farnell who retired as the Rector of the Parish in December last year.

Around 120 people, including the Mayor of Alexandrina Council, Kym McHugh, attended the induction at the Holy Evangelists Church at Goolwa on the 24th of March. As well, there were visiting clergy from the Diocese.

The appointment of Fr Litjens to the Parish comes after several years as the Rector of the Parish of Naracoorte.

The Administrator of the Diocese, Fr Richard Seabrook celebrated and preached at the service.

Fr Seabrook urged the Parish community to support Fr Litjens in his ministry.

“His task is to bring you more deeply in God’s love for you through Jesus Christ.”

“With all our failings, we become channels where the faithful can come into a deeper relationship with God.” He said.

“You must go out and bring others to know Christ”. Fr Seabrook said.

He thanked Fr Reg Farnell for his ministry in the Parish and Fr Michael Varnish for his ministry during the interregnum.

Fr Seabrook concluded by urging the Parish to put Jesus Christ before all of us, then the grace will flow abundantly in this place, He will be truly present here.”

Fr Litjens said the offer to become the Rector of Port Elliot-Goolwa had come out of the blue and he was honoured to be thought of as in walking in the footsteps of Fr Farnell.

“Even though we are over the moon to be here, there is a little sadness and hoped that the Parish of Naracoorte will have a new priest.”

He thanked Fr Seabrook for his support saying it had not been easy on him during his administration of the Diocese.”

“In so many ways, if we did not have someone like him, we would not be so far down the track.”

He urged the Parish to work together with the spirit of the Lord. Fr Litjens also gave credit to his wife Judy, as the shift had not been easy for her.

He concluded saying he hoped he could match the legacy that Fr Farnell had left behind in the Parish.

The induction concluded with supper in the hall.



Vicki Plummer (hidden) and Lorraine Pomery handing Fr Richard a chalice and paten



Joan Small and Godfrey Sherwin handing Fr Richard a stole

SOME PEOPLE ARE AMAZING

Some people are amazing, and Fr Reg Farnell is one of them!

Ordained into the Ministry as a young man some 35 years ago, Fr Reg has made a difference wherever he has gone, whether in his home town of Coolangatta, or Yarrawonga or Port Elliot – Goolwa, or the many parishes in-between.

In those years of ministry he has been selfless with his dedication, passion, and love of Christ and taking this love to his many parishioners. A true shepherd.

For the last 8 years Fr Reg has been Rector of the Parish of Port Elliot-Goolwa being inducted on the 9th December 2004 on one of those unsettled summer nights where the rain competed with the sound of voices. What an introduction to the task of bringing two parish centres together to operate as one and to swell the congregations in both centres.

During this period Fr Reg was appointed as an Archdeacon and his dedication continued to be evident wherever the role took him.

At the ripe age of 60 Fr Reg, after very deep soul searching, made the decision to retire, officially leaving the parish on 30th December 2012.



Although we are saddened by the loss of Fr Reg, the parish is now looking forward to the arrival of a new rector during March when a new era will begin. So in true Port Elliot-Goolwa tradition a joyous send off was arranged where Bishop Stanley Goldsworthy gave a blessing to Fr Reg, then 170 parishioners adjourned to the local hotel for a proper send off, to hear the speeches and give Fr Reg a gift from the parish together with many well wishes.

Yes he will be missed but he leaves us all with many happy memories.

At Fr Reg's last service, he presented his normal thought provoking sermon, not about his retirement, but in

keeping with the Gospel reading, he introduced the teenage Jesus and compared him to today's youth. He finished the sermon with the following: "As a parish community may we always be open to receive all who enter within the walls of our temples no matter what age they may be or what colour their skin without judging them, just accepting them in true Christian love.

May the Lord continue to bless you the people of this parish as you become more truly a holy family, a community of people who yearn for holiness and inclusiveness, where all may feel welcome."

Enjoy retirement Fr Reg.

Marc Adams

BISHOP WILME FROM BURMA VISITS THE MURRAY

A Bishop from the Diocese of Taungoo in Myanmar has outlined the benefits of ABM funded programs on the Church in his country, at a gathering at Mt Barker in March.

The visit by Bishop Saw John Wilme was sponsored by ABM as part of an Australian visit in association with Bishop David McCall, the Chair of the S.A. ABM Provincial Council.

Bishop Wilme has been the Bishop of Taungoo since the Diocese's inception 25 years ago, located 300 kilometres north of Rangoon. It is one of six dioceses in Myanmar and has 36 priests and six deacons.

He spoke of the work the ABM is undertaking in his diocese in training health workers and developing water and sanitation projects. Through funding from the ABM, the Diocese has been able to supply fresh water to a number of villages and provide health care.



Since 2004, the Diocese has set up a centre where it trains 200 young people each year in English. The government banned the teaching of the English in the 1960s.

A further grant from the ABM three years ago has enabled the Diocese to provide internet training and English studies. As well, another pre-school has been established for 120 children. In all 250 people in remote villages are housed in the boarding houses from remote villages. And last year, a Bible project was started in providing bibles to young people through money provided by ABM.

Bishop Wilme said through the love and care of Australians, they were able to go ahead with such projects. He thanked the Mt Barker gathering for their love and support and prayers.

He said just seven per cent of Burma's population is Christian. Of that, just 65-thousand people are Anglicans; the remainder are Roman Catholic and Baptists.

Bishop Wilme said the government now did not see a problem with churches in Myanmar. Some people though travel by truck for up to 10 hours to attend church!

The gathering finished with prayer and a blessing from Bishop Wilme and a collection for an ABM project in the country.

Fr. Paul Devenport ABM representative for the Diocese of The Murray

RELIGIOUS ART PRIZE IN THE SOUTH EAST

The Needham Religious Art Prize competition, an initiative of the Parish of Mount Gambier since 1998 encourages artists to visually explore an event, story, character or truth from the Bible.

The competition at the Riddoch Art Gallery in March led to Helen Sherriff taking out the award for her depiction of Mary Magdalene meeting Jesus on Easter morning.

Former Mt Gambier resident and Bishop of Ballarat, Garry Weatherill judged the award this year and praised entrants for their expression of the Christian belief.

Bishop Weatherill told the Border Watch newspaper that it was a joy to see the diversity of the work in the exhibition, which encompassed a wide range of religious expression."

"All good art enables us to see something different and see the world with which we are familiar through different eyes, and there are some wonderful examples of that in this competition."

Ms Sherriff, who was unable to attend the event, was awarded the \$7,500 prize.

Bishop Weatherill said the piece of artwork on an old MDF table top was beautifully executed as well as being very clever.

"It takes an old dead lifeless thing and turns it into a marvellous picture of the living nature of Jesus Christ."

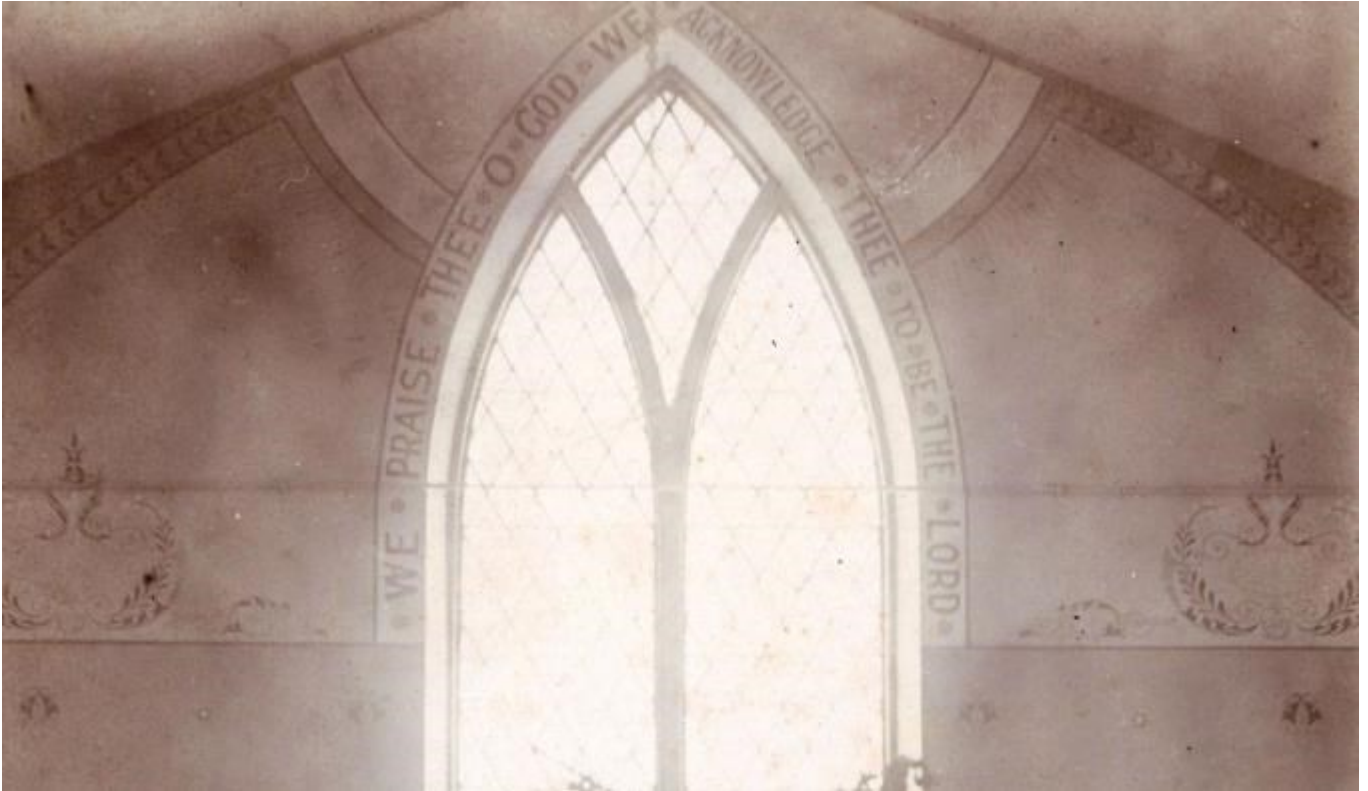
The Mary MacKillop Memorial School was awarded an honourable mention by the Bishop for the collaborative work, "Micah's Call".

"It's wonderful to see such young people making sense of such complicated ideas, such as justice, mercy and humanity" Bishop Weatherill said.



Judge and Bishop of Ballarat Garry Weatherill and new Riddoch Art Gallery director Simon Klose with the winning Needham Religious Art Prize entry by South Australian artist Helen Sherriff. Picture: Connie Bates.

WE PRAISE THEE O GOD



The above photo is of the East wall of St Mary's, Echunga. It was given to St Mary's Archivist/Cemetery Curator several years ago and it is believed that it was taken between 1895 and 1890.

The words around the window are from the canticle "Te Deum Laudamus: We praise thee, O God, we acknowledge thee to be the Lord".

The photo would often be taken out and looked at by members of the congregation or shown to visitors to the church. There was always a sense of wonderment that such a simple church had had such an ornate East wall. Often these questions were asked, "Do you think it is still there?" and "Could it be restored?"

Eventually it was decided to consult with Lyell Rosenzweig, an award winning painter who specialises in restoration work. Lyell investigated the original paintwork with the help of the photos and preliminary scrape

backs. Though the original paint work was still there, it was not only covered by several layers of oil paint but had deteriorated to the point that it was not salvageable. However, Lyell was confident that he could reproduce the paint work with a great degree of accuracy.

Some three or so years after our initial consultation with Lyell, we were finally ready to give him the go ahead. Colours were chosen, the church was closed and emptied and Lyell did what he does best - lovingly and beautifully restored the East wall to its former glory.

The colours are in keeping with what was originally there though some new colours have been introduced. The original colours used on the walls were quite drab so brighter versions have been chosen.

The original ceiling colour was a deep burgundy/maroon and a variation of

this colour has been used for the words and elsewhere on the walls. The colour blue has been introduced and used on the ceiling and in other places. Blue was chosen for three reasons: it is Mary's colour, to echo the blue of the carpet and it is a better background for the gold leaf stars painted above the altar. The stars are a memorial to the 141 children buried in the Churchyard. Another photo, taken in the late 1950s, shows the outline of a Gothic door to the vestry. The project was extended to replicate the arch in plaster moulding.

St Mary's reopened with a beautiful service of Evening Prayer on Sunday 10th February. The service was well attended by people from across the Parish and from the Echunga Uniting Church. Also in attendance were restoration painter extraordinaire Lyell Rosenzweig and Mayor Ann Ferguson from the District Council of Mount Barker.



MILLICENT AND PENOLA

Following High Mass at St Michael and All Angels in Millicent Fr Alf blessed the new statue of an angel which overlooks the memorial rose garden. The memorial rose garden has been a work in progress over the past year or two with the erection of a concrete wall and gate to separate it from the other gardens around the grounds. Thanks to the many donations of rose bushes this area to the rear of the church is indeed a lovely place to just sit and remember our loved ones who are now laid to rest in this sacred space.

This of course is only one of the many recent major building and maintenance projects in the Pastoral District of Millicent and Penola. Thanks to the many donations of parishioners past and present we recently painted the lovely stone church of St Mary the Virgin in Penola and St Michael and All Angels in Millicent. New rich red carpet was laid

up the aisle and in the sanctuary at St Michael and All Angels and we are in the process of having all gardens and lawns watered with a newly installed

water system and bore like we have installed at Penola.

Fr Peter Carlsson



The Rev'd Canon Alf Stringer, The Rev'd Dr Peter Carlsson, pastoral assistant Margaret Bitter and crucifer Jane Reichelt.

PASTORAL DISTRICT OF KINGSTON-ROBE

We are so eager to relate our news, as in Paul's letter to the Phillipians "The one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion".

The five Christian Churches in our Town, rotate the privilege of hosting World Day of Prayer, placing and removing Easter Cross and nativity Display (for the Community). 2012 was Anglican Church's turn, and our parish members responded with enthusiasm and energy.

I previewed the staging of our Christmas play "Infant Holy" in the last edition, of you will see little "Donkey Daniel" in the middle of our photo. This was a resounding success with the Town Hall filled and a record amount raised for the Christmas Bowl Appeal – testimony to the level of appreciation from our warm and caring community and because it included our next precious generation with the knowledge of our Lord's beginning and God's hope for the future.

We had such fun working with the children through rehearsals, although our retired priest's wife, who was



director, might disagree! Everything went perfectly on the night, with 5 little angels trotting around to prompting advice from the wings on occasions.

Retired Priest Fr David Withers, built and painted wonderful stage scenery and props and added musical accompaniment on the recorder. Our Church's choir performed 2 solo carols, the children sang 3 songs and the whole audience joined in singing the other 8 (projected on screen) Battery operated candles sold well and were used during singing, proceeds went to Inter Church council.

We acknowledge much help, freely offered from members of the Uniting Church, with lighting, sound, costumes and dot point presentation and the pastors of the New Life Centre for advertising expertise.

15 Christmas food hampers were packed for 23 adults and 43 children in need of Jesus's love on this special birth day – Chicken, cake, pudding, custard, vegetables, fruit and 3 toys for each child.

We are, thankfully a great pluralistic group. Christmas spirit was alive and well. In Jesus name, well done Kingston Community!

OAM RECIPIENT

On 26th January 2013, Dr John C. Rice, a parishioner at Goolwa parish, was awarded the distinction of "The Order of Australia" for his outstanding service to medicine as an ear, nose and throat specialist.

Dr John headed up the "Paediatric Cochlear Implant" program in South Australia which had the special interest of congenital deaf children. He headed up this program for nearly 10 years before handing the role to his successors.

By the time he retired he had implanted the device in 50 children and some of these children are now obtaining University degrees, who prior to the implant would have had difficulties with their schooling.

Dr John is quoted as saying, "I regard this award as really being the recognition of the team that in the 1990's pioneered the cochlear implant for children in South Australia. This team consisted of professionals from the Cora Barclay Centre; The Women's and Children's Hospital; The Variety Club; and The Memorial Hospital as well as others from Australian Hearing and the staff at my private consulting rooms; and by no means least, the parents of the deaf children who had the courage to embrace a treatment for their offspring, the long term effects of which were at the time by no means proven."

Dr John even in his retirement continues to be The Ambassador for the Cora Barclay Centre. We congratulate Dr John for the receipt of this well deserved award.

Marc Adams

New foster carer support service

ac.care started with a service for teenage foster children back in 1986 and they have recently announced a new and different model of foster carer support.

This is the first time in South Australia that a professional model of foster carer support, based on (a) therapeutic principles and (b) the latest scientific research, and (c) involving multiple members of the foster carer's support team has been implemented.

The 'Side-by-Side' program is being implemented by ac.care to help foster carers build their capacity and confidence to meet the challenges of care giving. The program has been developed in partnership with ac.care by Clinical Psychologist Ivan Raymond and integrates the latest scientific research with best practice resources and practical exercises. The scientific research that is the basis of 'Side-by-Side' includes attachment, trauma, child and adolescent development, mindfulness and neuroscience.

ac.care have been working with Mr Raymond to design a program that brings the child's care team (foster carer, ac.care support worker, Families SA practitioners) together around a common understanding and approach.

'We are committed to continually improving our support to foster carers and to use the latest scientific research to develop the program has been an enormous benefit. Ivan's professional expertise and care has assisted us greatly in developing this program. Thanks to the generosity of donors, we have been able to finance this' said Rob Foggo, CEO ac.care. The 'Side-by-Side' support is funded through donations.

The rewards of fostering

ac.care have their annual Easter

campaign to recruit foster carers. This year there is an urgent need for long term carers for 10 to 15 year olds.

As part of their recruitment campaign, foster carers Ron and Lindy Hill agreed to be interviewed.

Ron and Lindy Hill have been foster carers with ac.care for seven years and have been fostering for 13 years, originally in Queensland before moving to Mount Gambier. Lindy and Ron provide long term, short term, emergency and respite care for local foster children, with their main focus being long term care.

Their daughters, Lisa and Donna, are also foster carers supporting Ron and Lindy. Donna works for ac.care in their foster care team and is now studying her social work degree, after originally starting at ac.care in an administration position.

Why did you become Foster Carers?

Lindy had a desire to foster from an early age and I was keen to foster too. So, we had our own family of four and when our youngest was 10 we decided it was the right time for us to start.

What have been some challenges?

Some of the challenges in fostering have been family visits, difficult



behaviours at times, meeting all the child/ren's needs because they come from very different backgrounds and need lots of love and your time. Some children move on and when the time comes for them to leave, letting go can be a challenge.

What keeps you going?

The privilege of being able to be part of a child's life, to see them grow and develop and become confident and secure in who they are, is very rewarding. We also have a close family that love and support us in what we do.

How are you supported by ac.care?

The ac.care workers have always been supportive and very friendly and always ready to help us.

What would you say to someone who is considering becoming a Foster Carer?

If you have a heart for children and feel you could foster and you think the time is right for you and your family, then don't hesitate because there could be a child or children that needs you and your love.



Ron and Lindy Hill, their daughters Lisa and Donna, with ac.care workers Monica Hart and Ashleigh Ditcham. Photo (courtesy of Fed Creative)

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**DEADLINE DATES
FOR 2013**
To Be Advised

*Submissions received after the
deadline will only be published
at the Editor's discretion.*

**DIOCESAN COUNCIL
NEWSLETTER**

Want to know what is
happening in DC?

After each meeting, the Registrar
will compile a report which
is sent to each parish and
pastoral district council.
If you would like an electronic
copy, please email Donna on
registry@murray.anglican.org

**A PRAYER AT THE TIME
OF CHOOSING A BISHOP**

Eternal God, shepherd and guide, in your mercy give your Church in this diocese a shepherd after your own heart who will walk in your ways, and with loving care watch over your people.

Give us a leader of vision and a teacher of your truth. So may your Church be built up and your name glorified; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Prayer Book for Australia (1995)

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**local kids
need local
foster carers**

Foster caring is sensitivity,
ability and commitment.
*Your care can make
all the difference.*

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

Limestone Coast 8724 9211
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Community Group Category
2012 Winner
Murray SA
Regional Awards

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'A charity started in Mount Gambier in 1986'
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