



TMA Summer 2015

# The Murray Anglican



## Diocesan Ordinations

The Bishop's desire for new priestly and diaconate vocations in the Diocese has started to pay dividends, with two priests and four deacons being ordained in three ceremonies in recent months.

Father Brenton Dick was ordained to the sacred priesthood at St Catherine's Keith on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July while Father Andrew Forder was priested at Woodcroft College on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October, St Luke's Day. Prior to this, the last ordination to the priesthood was Father Paul Devenport, also on St. Luke's Day in 2010.

And on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July, at Tyndale Christian School, Murray Bridge, Des

Ackland, Bruce Hicks, Daniel Irvine and Ian Jansse were ordained Deacons in the Church of God. The ordinations were before a packed auditorium at the school, where the Rev'd Hicks is the Principal.

The candidates had been part of a formation course undertaken by Bishop John Hind and Bishop Michael Langrish, while visiting the Diocese earlier this year, and had also been attending formation weekends near Keith in recent months before they were given approval by Bishop Ford to be ordained.

The Director of Formation, Archdeacon Peter Carlsson, who led them on retreat

leading up to the ordination preached at the ordination Eucharist.

"Bruce, Des, Ian and Daniel, like all the baptised, your mission is to speak words that proclaim the Good News in a time and place and where people really do need Good News."

"However, as Deacons you have an extra responsibility in terms of the proclamation of words. As a Deacon, your liturgical role is to process in the Gospel at the start of the Mass and to read the Gospel in the Eucharist," Fr. Peter Carlsson said. Archdeacon Carlsson also urged the Deacons to practise what they preach.

“The words we proclaim must inspire to act, the Good News we proclaim must arouse passion and excitement in the lives of the faithful to want to do something, to want to make a difference, to want to be Christ in our time and place.”

“Our sermons, homilies, reflections, prayers, talks, liturgies and teaching must motivate people to love differently, to have an overwhelming passion for sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.”

Father Carlsson believes as Deacons, they stand in the doorway between the altar and the outside world, between the sacred and the secular.

“At the dismissal of the Mass, you are calling all the faithful gathered to join with you in this great mission of proclaiming the Good News in what we do and what we say.”

“These four men are here today because in their heart, they truly believe, they believe God has made a real difference to their lives and through them, they want to make a difference in the lives of others.”

Bishop Ford then ordained them as Deacons and they were dressed with stoles and dalmatics, before they were presented to the people of God present. The Reverend Des Ackland from the Parish of Mt. Gambier will serve in the Limestone Coast Archdeaconry, the Rev'd Bruce Hicks from Mt Compass will serve in the Fleurieu Archdeaconry, while the Rev'd Daniel Irvine, a maths teacher at Murray Bridge and the Rev'd Ian Jansse from Meningie will serve in the Murray Riverland Archdeaconry.

The next day at Keith, Bishop Ford ordained the Rev'd Brenton Dick, who himself was made a Deacon 12 months before at St Catherine's Keith.

Around 130 people attended the ordination on Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup> of July, with people from far and wide, from Adelaide, the South-East and Mt. Gambier. There was also a strong local representation from Keith.

Just three months later, the Rev'd Andrew Forder was ordained as priest at Woodcroft College. He was ordained a Deacon in the Diocese of Adelaide last year but was priested in The Murray, given the college is in the Diocesan boundaries. His ministry will continue at Woodcroft College as a self-supporting Chaplain within the Pastoral District of the Southern Suburbs. In recent months, he has also been assisting at Christ Church, North Adelaide.

Both Father Dick and Father Forder have written reflections following their ordinations for The Murray Anglican.

## Ordination Reflection

Life indeed has some interesting twists and turns. If anyone 5 years ago told me that I would be ordained to the Priesthood I would have thought that they were quite literally bonkers.

But here I am writing this reflection as a newly ordained Priest. How did this happen? My parents were both Sunday School teachers and Church was a regular activity for the whole family. Of course when I grew to teenage years there were other things to pursue, like pretty girls and cars and sport. It wasn't until I married and had children that I started to realise something was missing from my life.

I got back to church after my wife and I had children. We had a daughter Kirsty and then our son Nigel. Kirsty was born with Prader Willi syndrome (Google if

you need to know more) but it is a chromosome deficiency basically resulting in intellectual disability and being unable to stop eating. Kirsty died aged 14 but in her short life she taught me about faith. Kirsty loved going to church and showed an incredible love for our Lord. Sunday was probably the best day of the week for her. She was incredibly spiritual, you could sense and feel it. As a consequence I became more involved in our church and started to serve and then became a pastoral assistant.

When we had no priest I would travel to the various churches and take services. I was asked if I would like to take on more study and in this I felt a call to serve in a much more leadership role. God knocked on my door. I must admit I tried to say no and walk away but I felt this

*If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.  
Matthew 16:24*

gentle push towards my calling to the Priesthood. It was gradual call over four or five years. From then on it has been a bit of a rollercoaster ride. I was ordained to the diaconate in July 2014 and then this July 2015 I ordained to the priesthood in what must be the most amazing day in my life. I have truly been blessed.

You might see a photo of a large wooden cross. Well when Bishop John had a meeting with me two weeks before my ordination I told Bishop of my early morning walks. He then asked me if I found any sticks by the side of the road, and I said yes I do. Bishop then said 'I want you to find two sticks and make a cross for your ordination'. I said that would be no problem. He then said that I should make a cross big enough that I could be crucified on. He had that look in

his eye, no joke, this is what I want you to do. I said yes Bishop. So the next weekend, armed with an axe I found some fallen trees and proceeded to cut some lengths of timber. I got them back to my shed where I formed them into a cross and what a cross it turned out to be. All of eight feet high.

At my ordination I stood at the back of the church while the congregation finished saying the creed, when they had finished and all was silent I carried, dragged my cross to the altar. You could have heard a pin drop. I could hear the scrape of my cross on the floor as I walked down the aisle. It was a profound moment in my ordination as I carried my cross with Jesus to Calvary.

*Fr Brenton Dick.*



## Ordination Reflection

*The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Luke 10:2*

Jesus appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. 'Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'"

*Luke 10:1-9*

On St Luke's Day, 18 October, I was ordained to the priesthood by our Bishop at a Pastoral District of the Southern Suburbs Eucharist at Woodcroft College; host of Diocesan Synod and a number of district combined services. I was the only candidate for ordination which is in stark contrast to being one of eleven ordained last year at St Peter's Cathedral! I am grateful for the support and prayers of my wife, Debra, my family, friends, colleagues, students and members of the pastoral district who attended the service and performed the liturgical setting. The choice of the date was very important to me and when I was talking with Bishop John about this, it became clear that St

Luke's Day was ideal; given he was a healer, an educated man and a teacher as well, of course, an Evangelist. It seemed somehow apt that given my job as a teacher at the College, a place of learning was where my ordination should take place. It was also apt given that I continue in my role as a Teacher and Chaplain at the College in a self-supporting ministry paid by the College.

The Gospel reading for the day; Luke 10: 1-9 challenges all disciples to proclaim their faith out and about, just like Christ sent his appointed ones "on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go." Not

alone, but in pairs. This reminds us of our collective ministry; both lay and ordained alike. Bishop John's sermon was focussed on that central point and he talked about the virtues of Crabtree and Evelyn hand crème to soothe rough, worked hands much to the amusement of the congregation. Healing hands. Hands of outreach, welcome, connection and ministry that was quite poignant to me when I received the laying on of hands and had my own anointed with chrism oil.

I am very grateful for the spiritual counsel, guidance and hospitality of Fr David Withers and his wife who

conducted my retreat in Kingston, SE from the Wednesday to the Saturday prior to the service. The former rectory serves as a parish centre and a comfortable residence on the church grounds. I joined with Fr David in saying the offices of the day along with the Eucharist. In my private time, I was able to relax, reflect, meditate on the passages of Scripture from the offices and enjoy the calm serenity of Kingston. Since my ordination to the Diaconate last December, I have continued working at the College where in addition to my teaching, I have been responsible for services for staff and students as well as assisting in the Pastoral District services held at the College. I have also enjoyed serving as Deacon at Christ Church, North Adelaide under the mentorship of Fr Keith Brice and I have recently completed my studies at St Barnabas' Theological College.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my Principal, Mr Mark Porter and my colleagues at Woodcroft College who have supported me in my vocation and for hosting the ordination service. I also



thank the clergy and people of the Diocese and the Pastoral District of the Southern Suburbs for their prayers and welcome and a special (and humble) thanks for the particular care and confidence Bishop John has placed in me. One of my students recently asked if I could no longer give homework because I am "supposed to be all nice" now I am a priest! My reply does not need to be printed. But it is my students

I want to mention last because teaching and serving them is why I feel called to Chaplaincy. They have learned that the more I talk, the less they have to "work" and I have learned that when I am talking and responding to their fascinating and insightful questions, I have a very real opportunity to spread the Gospel and with God's grace, tend to an important part of the vineyard.

*Fr Andrew Forder*

## Christmas Reflection

The Christmas Season is now upon us. What is the high point of this event for you, your family and friends?

Before us we have a scene from the original Christmas story. I refer you to the crib. This story is made up of many parts, such as, the manger, the straw, Jesus, Mary, Joseph, angels, shepherds, sheep, a donkey, and wise men. Though there maybe elements of embellishment in the story the essential and main character is the baby Jesus himself.

When a child is brought into the world, presented before us, most of us stop for a moment; we may comment affirmatively or negatively and then refocus to a former activity. Some of us

may even place aside our previous activity and approach the child, if not the mother and child. Why? Why not?

A baby (child) symbolizes a new beginning, the essence of dependence, the fragility of life. The child also symbolizes hope, promise, and opportunity for greatness and the future. The child often directs us to reflect on our own life's journey. We see through the child our past, present and future, and the presence of the child in our midst often inspires us to make more of our life. It is through the child, through children that we see our future being extended into the realm of immortality. The Christmas scene captures all this and more. All eyes are

***Jesus has become a brother to us.  
What would we do without him?***

set upon the child who is to bring love, guidance, purpose and meaning into life.

Christmas captured by our visual story is all about the Incarnation. It captures the essence of God's very own Son coming down on earth, taking on our human nature in order to confer on us the dignity of being a child of God. The mystery of the Incarnation is that of God's ultimate love for us. It captures the very heart of Christian faith. No wonder Christmas is such an important feast.

Through Jesus becoming human, initially and foremost as a human child, God made it possible for us to accept him in

person. He became one of us. He lived amongst us. By giving us his Son God established a loving relationship with us that is possible and acceptable to the human species.

Through the event God not only meets us where we are but shows us how to live out our humanity.

By becoming a child, completely dependent on human care, God took away the distance between the divine and human.

Jesus has become a brother to us. What would we do without him? Abstract talk about God can leave us empty. We need God made flesh, human like us, walking our streets, even in our shoes, teaching us the way of God. And that is precisely what we are celebrating on Christmas Eve/ Night/Day.

The Son of God comes to us not as a judge but as a saviour. He comes to reveal to us our dignity as God's children and the glory of our eternal destiny in heaven. This is the Good News. This is the great joy which the angels announced to the shepherds and which is announced to us on Christmas Night/ Day. Let us open our hearts to accept and receive him.

We live in a competitive world. We are continually called to enhance our physical wellbeing and secure our earthly future. We are encouraged to acquire and gain more and more physical wealth at the expense of some one else. If we allow ourselves to be caught up in this cycle we do ourselves and our society a disservice. This can be both a selfish and a misguided move.

I was once touched by a bishop's insightful gesture one Christmas day. This bishop could recall no doubt this event if he manages to read this reflection. What he did was to gather a band of helpers to put on a Christmas luncheon in the local recreation reserve for those without families and friends



within the Newcastle city. Not only did he help organize the event but he actually served at the tables.

Christmas Eve and Day are busy and sometimes disruptive times for clergy and their families. Often by the time all service are completed the day has advanced well into the late afternoon.

There are occasions when families reach out to their clergy. I remember when assigned to the Parish of The Holy Apostles within the Ballarat Diocese when after the last service a family extended their hospitality to both Judy and I to join their family Christmas celebrations. We were made welcome to their table and were spoilt with the produce that came from the land. To be welcomed and included was touching. Acts of kindness does compensate for distance and isolation.

A similar opportunity was offered to us on our first Christmas in the Parish of Pt. Elliot-Goolwa. It is touching to be included when one's own family is so far away. This is what Christmas is meant to be, a time to give life, hope and meaning to all. A little kindness goes a long way.

Let the true Christian story of Christmas work its message: God created all of us and has made it clearly know, through His Son's coming into the world as a human being, that the real focus on life is our spiritual wellbeing collectively. Maybe this is why a deliberate act of self giving is called for at Christmas- so that we do not lose sight of the true importance of human life- the giving of praise and honour to God and to immerse into his greater glory.

May the true spirit of Christmas be with you all. Yes let us be appreciative of the presents we are to receive but even more let us not over look the spirit that underlies the actual giving of the gifts in its own right.- the efforts, thoughts and love of the actual giver and presenter of those gifts. Let us also not forget who the greatest giver of all happens to be, no doubt God himself.

Learn to trust, accept and give in return - the focus of the Christmas story.

Have a holy and joy filled Christmas.

*Fr Richard Litjens*

*Image: Church of the Angels, Beit Sahour, Palestine.*

# From the Bishop

I write this in PNG just before returning home for the last of my three visits to our Archdeaconries. I have been struck by how the themes emerging from all three of the visits so far are remarkably the same and I have no reason to doubt that similar issues will be discussed in the Limestone Coast.

I clearly shouldn't be too surprised that the major questions and challenges that face our Diocese are realised and understood (to some degree at least) all across each of our archdeaconries. During the two visits so far I have met with our pastoral assistants and these have been absolutely wonderful occasions when I have been able, I hope, to encourage this fantastic band of lay ministers in their present ministries and open for them the need for us to deepen and broaden the ministry of laypeople. This will be essential if we are going to grow the Church in our area.

I have also met with clergy chapters to discuss similar issues and have done so against the background of the clergy studying a wonderful book called *Take the Plunge* by Timothy Radcliffe OP. This book is about the meaning and impact of the sacraments of initiation and how, properly understood and pastorally implemented, they can transform communities of faith as they prepare to welcome new disciples. It would be very beneficial if our parishes and pastoral districts engaged with the major themes of this book and I encourage the clergy to make this possible.

Celebrating the sacraments of initiation and the preparation for them, and follow up after them, are critical matters in our common life. Not surprisingly they are high on the agenda in our sister Diocese in

Popondetta. In fact all over PNG (and in other places in the world where the Church is growing) the lay ministries of evangelist and catechist are intimately bound up with these sacraments. I would like us to find ways of developing these ministries in our Diocese since there are a number of lay people who have the skill and ability to be involved. However, there is a need for us to provide appropriate education, training and formation for them. Perhaps we can look to our sister Diocese for help and advice?

In addition to these areas of common concern, my visits over the past three months have revealed how central the ministry of music is to our worship. In PNG the human voice is delightfully employed, apparently spontaneously, to underline the sacredness of the gathering. When indigenous instruments are added and blended with the voice, the resulting chorus always results in the lifting of the heart and mind to God.

The development of lay ministry and an increased attention to the style, quality and variety of our worship are two major themes that will occupy our attention next year. Both will be necessary as the Diocesan Council make very significant changes to the way our parishes and pastoral districts are organised, funded and resourced. The Diocesan Council meeting in December will be a most important meeting, please pray for the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit. The suggestions and recommendations that arise will be the subject of presentations to the whole Diocese after Easter and the fruits of that consultation will then be taken into a further Council meeting before clear plans are placed before our Synod next May.



*An Ordination and Confirmations in PNG*



*Celebrating the sacraments of initiation and the preparation for them, and follow up after them, are critical matters in our common life.*

We have so many possibilities opening up before us and the future is looking pregnant with opportunity. We can learn so much from our sister Diocese in the areas mentioned here and in many others.

Whatever the future holds it will be our prime ministry to follow in the footsteps of the shepherds and the magi, to fall in worship before God incarnate, and be sent by Him in the service of his world as we witness to his love for all. When you worship at Christmas, please ask the grace to be sent willingly and lovingly to hold up the Christ-child in one continual celebration of his epiphany.



*Confirmation candidates in PNG*

## Riverland Confirmation

*Centenary celebrations  
at St Alban's, Berri*

Bishop John Ford confirmed four candidates while on an Archdeaconry visit to the Riverland in September.

Three candidates from Waikerie, sisters Sophie and Emily Taylor and one of their cousins, Jac Taylor along with Josh Crook from Renmark were confirmed at St Alban's, Berri on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September.

They had undergone several months' preparation with Fr Paul Devenport at Waikerie and at Renmark. They remain active members of both congregations with Josh serving fortnightly.

The confirmation service coincided with the centenary of the church at Berri. The first Anglican Church in Berri was consecrated in September 1915. A new church was built on the same block of land and was opened in 1961.

Bishop John during his time in the Riverland also took part in a fundraiser for the Pastoral District at a drink stall at the Riverland Field Days, and was also interviewed by local radio station 5RM by breakfast announcer, Trevor Joseph.



*Bp John with Jac Taylor, Josh Crook,  
Sophie and Emily Taylor  
and Fr Paul Devenport.*

# Farewell to a Vicar General

The gratefulness for Fr Richard Seabrook's ministry in the Diocese and in the Parish of Mt. Barker over the past six years was reiterated in a number of speeches on the last day for him in the Parish, on All Saints Day.

Fr Seabrook, the Vicar General of the Diocese, and the Administrator for three years, announced in July that he had accepted a chaplaincy position with the Anglican Diocese of Europe, based in southern Spain.

His last service, Evensong at Mt Barker on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November, was followed by an afternoon tea and champagne in the hall.

Most of the parish community, along with Bp John Ford and his wife, Bridget, clergy and other invited guests were present for the farewell.

Bp Ford told the gathering that Fr. Richard had been an exemplary leader in the Diocese. He had known Fr Richard in England and came to see him while on holidays with Bridget six years ago at Mt Barker. At that time, Fr Richard had only been here two months and knew nothing what had been going on in the Diocese. "Six years later, here I am in the Diocese and he is going," said Bp John. He added that Fr Richard was a deeply well-read theologian and knew how hard he prayed. Bp John thanked him for all his work in the Diocese and said that he would miss him.

Fr Dirk van Dissel, on behalf of Diocesan Council, thanked Fr Richard for his work in the Diocese over the past six years.

"He came during an extremely difficult time in the Diocese and then ended up presiding over six diocesan synods as the Administrator."

"As the Administrator, he administered the Diocese with wisdom, care and commitment. Because of this, there was



*Lyal Hampel, Margie Philpott, Bp John Ford, Fr Richard Seabrook and Fr Dirk van Dissel*

a Diocese to hand over to Bishop John when he arrived in 2013" he said.

Fr Dirk said the Diocese was losing a competent and effective priest and the clergy of the diocese will lose a true and committed colleague.

"I think I speak on behalf of my brothers, the clergy of The Murray, when I say, the Spanish Riviera's Te Deum is The Murray's Miserere."

Fr David Keay in an impromptu speech said Fr. Seabrook was a true Christ-like parish priest, who put his life at the centre of the Eucharist. Fr Richard was a man of prayer and was generous with his time and fellowship with him. He thanked Fr Richard for all he had done and how he had been instrumental in bringing Bp John and Bridget to the Diocese.

Margie Philpott, speaking on behalf of the Parish of Mt Barker, said she looked back and recalled a very busy six years in the parish and also being thrust into coping with the administrative duties of the diocese.

"In what we came to recognise as your

style, with great grace you faced all the challenges big and small, you relentlessly pursued all the demands made on your time, at times to the detriment of your health."

"Together we have been guided through new waters of faith. We have grown under your prayerful guidance, liturgically and through the availability of weekday masses, Lenten Studies, fresh teaching from your personal friends, and exposure to new music," she said.

Mrs Philpott highlighted also the pilgrimage to the Holy Land under his leadership, how he had encouraged people to step out in faith and open the doors of the church to the community, and with the printing of the weekly service to make it easier for new worshippers.

"You have also helped to further unify the Parish through the arrangement of a service timetable that enables and encourages parishioners to worship across the Parish."

"Because of your initiative, we now have a beautiful rectory, a multi-functional Parish Centre and the improvements

*“There is sadness in leaving but I am looking forward to the new challenge. I have enjoyed my time in Australia very much and look forward to being in a warmer climate and closer to my family.”*



*Reg Farnell, Fr Richard Litjens, Fr Richard Seabrook, Fr Dirk van Dissel and David Fleming*

made to our parish buildings mean that you are leaving a Parish to be proud of,” she said.

She concluded that while we are sad to see you go, we are comforted by the knowledge that your new appointment fits you like a glove.”

Fr Richard thanked everyone for their kind words. He realised that six years of being a Parish Priest at Mt Barker was a

very short time, but that he was not one who had sat on his backside during that time. He was happy to get the rectory back, to bring some unity in the Parish, and to be together as a Eucharistic community.

One of the highlights of being the Administrator of the Diocese was his visit to Papua New Guinea for the consecration of Bishop Lindsley Ihove in the Diocese of Popondotta.

There were some difficult times while being the Administrator and he wanted to thank particularly Fr Richard Litjens, Fr Dirk van Dissel, Reg Farnell and David Fleming for their help.

“They were pivotal in assisting me and without their help; it would have been very different.”

Fr Richard also highlighted the pilgrimage to the Holy Land and the preparation involved in Bp John and Bridget’s arrival.

“There is sadness in leaving but I am looking forward to the new challenge, I have enjoyed my time in Australia very much and look forward to being in a warmer climate and closer to my family.”

The farewells continued for some time after the speeches.

As Fr Richard picked up Bishop John and Bridget when they arrived in South Australia, so the Bishop returned the favour, taking Fr Richard to the airport the next day for his flight to Europe.

*Fr Paul Devenport*

## And Welcome to Another

*This will provide a most appropriate synergy between ministry.*

Bishop John Ford has appointed Fr Peter Carlsson as the new Vicar General and Archdeacon of the Diocese.

Fr Peter Carlsson has been the Archdeacon of the Limestone Coast since earlier this year and the Parish Priest at Millicent/Penola for the past 11 years. Bishop Ford said this new appointment will benefit from his recent experiences in creating the first official ministry team in Mt Gambier, where clergy and lay ministers work in partnership in the service of their mission action plan.

Bishop Ford said the new appointment also fits in with his own particular field of academic study which fits in very well with our future shape and the need for re-organisation in the Diocese. He said Fr Peter would continue his role as the Director of Formation.

“This will provide a most appropriate synergy between ministry (of both the baptised and the ordained) and the new ways of developing our common life in the service of the Gospel.”

Bishop Ford said the appointment of Vicar General also has attached the designation Archdeacon of The Murray, since the Diocesan Council has accepted my contention that we need a central Archdeacon who will not have specific parochial responsibilities.

“This is a return to the practice of former years. Fr. Peter will relocate to Murray Bridge during December.”

“We will continue with the three geographical units with which we have become familiar recently.” Bishop Ford said.

Fr Peter will be licensed to this ministry at the Eucharist at the end of Diocesan Council at midday on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December at Mount Barker and the appointment will take effect from then. All are welcome to attend this celebration.

# Sesquicentenaries at Aldinga and Balhannah

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of October St Ann's Aldinga celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in a special service led by the Bishop.

In October 1865 Mrs Millicent Short, wife of the then Bishop of Adelaide, Augustus Short, laid the foundation stone of a new church for the Aldinga-Port Willunga area. This stone has never been identified – perhaps it lies behind the tower of the church, which was built in 1906 – but on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October 2015, following the Eucharist, our present Bishop's wife, Bridget Ford, unveiled a plaque in memory of that event.

The theme of the service was the living stones of which the spiritual church is built, and members of the congregation were invited to take home a stone as a reminder of the day.

We were delighted to welcome former parishioners and descendants of people who had played a significant role in the history of the church over the years, together with representatives from Seaford Ecumenical Mission and "our friends across the road", the Aldinga Uniting Church. Blessed with perfect weather, we were able to spill out into the marquee for lunch, and those able to stay enjoyed "A Pleasant Sunday Afternoon" programme of hymns and readings.

Later events in the month of October were church and cemetery tours on Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup> and the concluding High Tea on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

**And like living stones be yourselves built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.**

**1 Peter 2:5 RSV**



*Bishop John with Betty Croser, a much-loved former member of the congregation who played a significant role in the re-opening of the church after its closure in the 1950s, and was a prime mover in the building of the hall.*



*Bridget Ford unveiling the new plaque.*

*Photos courtesy Stephen Carthew*

*Lift the strain of high thanksgiving, tread with songs the hallow'd way,  
Praise our fathers' God for mercies, new to us their sons today!  
Here they built for Him a dwelling, served Him here in ages past,  
Fix'd it for his sure possession, holy ground, while time shall last.*

On the weekend of 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> September the Anglican Parish of Onkaparinga Valley celebrated the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first service held at St Thomas Church, Balhannah.

On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> we held an open day and were pleased to welcome a steady stream of visitors to the church and cemetery. Keith Broderick, who is both Parish and Diocesan Curator, conducted cemetery tours throughout the day. Visitors included descendants of the architect Robert Rickman Page and descendants of early parishioners who assisted with materials and labour at the time the church was built.

On Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> we celebrated the Eucharist with a packed church filled with both current and past parishioners and their families and representatives of a number of past rectors. In particular the family of Rev John Bleby, who was rector during the 1970s, was well represented by sons David, Michael and Peter and granddaughter Diana Bleby. We were also pleased to welcome past parish priests and locums including Rev Alex Stone who preached an inspiring sermon, Bishop Stuart Smith and Rev Peter Atherton and their wives and Rev John Beiers.

Bishop John was celebrant ably supported by our Parish Priest Father



*Fr Doug Whittal, Fr Bob Hupfeld, Bp John and Fr Alex Stone*

Bob Hupfeld and Deacon Doug Whittal. It was a joyous and inspiring service and the hymns were sung with great gusto. A plaque to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first service was blessed by Bishop John during the service.

Following the service we all adjourned to the local school hall for an excellent lunch and the anniversary cake was cut by our oldest active parishioner, Frances Tayler (sister-in-law of the late Rev

Bleby) and Bob and Anna Weidenhofer, our longest serving couple who were married at St Thomas.

The whole weekend was a great success and a wonderful celebration of the work and worship of those who have gone before us over the past 150 years as well as a celebration of the vital role St Thomas Church has to play as the parish moves into the future.

## Rev. Ron Keynes releases book!

*"Hear the word - notes and comments on the Sunday readings according to the common lectionary, Year C."*

"Hear the Word" is an 'all-in-one' guide to Sunday by Sunday Lectionary based worship for Year C. Most helpfully it includes all the Bible texts, Notes on EACH reading, including the Psalm, and wonderfully for preachers, Notes for a Sermon. But none of these notes are dry and clinical, but include historical references and many personal anecdotes from a life-time of teaching God's Word. Readers will hear the word of the Lord as they read the Bible texts, and they will 'hear' a life-time of experience from the author, Rev. Ron Keynes as they read his Notes. And there will be much practical application and encouragement from God's word to be gleaned on the journey through the year. "Hear the Word" is a great resource for any person who wants to fully prepare themselves for Sunday worship. It is excellent for busy preachers needing some springboard into fresh sermons."

For purchase, please email [susiekeynes@mac.com](mailto:susiekeynes@mac.com). Cost \$20 (plus postage)

*Historical references and personal anecdotes  
from a life-time of teaching God's Word.*

# Life at Kingston-Robe with a New Priest

The Pastoral District of Kingston Robe has been very blessed with the Licensing of Father David Patterson to our parish in June this year.

He has been very busy acquainting himself with new contacts across the parish and slowly getting to know people by name.

Changes in style of churchmanship have been very well accepted and Fr David works very hard to provide us with familiar tunes to go with new (to us) hymns.

In September, Father David conducted a meditative evening... "An hour with Jesus" on a Sunday, following which participants adjourned to the Rectory to share a meal. Both were enjoyed by all.

A Blessing of the Animals Service was conducted on St Francis's Day at Holy Trinity, Kingston and St. Peter's, Robe.

Unfortunately the date clashed with the Kingston Show and its Animal Competitions, and only one dog was presented. However, at St Peter's, 10 dogs were presented with much canine reverence and appreciation!

*Ann Moran.*



## Praise, Prayer and Proclamation

*Evangelical Events in  
The Riverland*

A thanksgiving service for the Riverland Men's Probus Clubs and a classical concert and were among several evangelistic events in the Riverland in October and November.

Nine musicians from Adelaide performed at the church on a warm Saturday afternoon on 31<sup>st</sup> October. One of the musicians was the daughter of the one of the parishioners, Lee Stanford. The church had been approached by the group, keen to gain some experience performing to a live audience.

After an intermission afternoon tea organised by local parishioners in the church's courtyard, a quartet played two 19<sup>th</sup> Century pieces of music.

The group's director, Paul Hampton-Smith worked with Lee and Fr Paul in gaining publicity for the event around the Riverland leading up to the concert. About 45 people attended the concert.

On Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November, about 60 members of the Probus Clubs in the Riverland came together for its annual thanksgiving service. Since 2009, it has been usually held in the Lutheran or Uniting Churches, but Fr Paul was this year asked whether the Anglican Church would like to host it at Renmark.

The format of the service was taken from the service "Praise, Prayer and Proclamation" in the Prayer Book of Australia along with two hymns and a performance by the Loxton Men's' Probus Club Choir. A morning tea was put on before and after the service in the church hall.

The Anglican Church was also involved in the Riverland Rose Festival with a stall at the Fete at Renmark on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October. It sold local produce made by parishioners from Renmark, Barmera and Monash. It turned out to be one of the most popular stalls on the day with more than one thousand dollars being made. A picture of the stall with those partaking in the stall ended up in the local paper, The Murray Pioneer.

In Loxton, invitations were sent to about 50 people, mostly Anglicans who were seen as not so regulars of the church to a dinner at a church warden's home in October. At \$40 a head, they were served a three course meal with wine. They were encouraged to bring their own wine as well, which they did. Fr Paul and his wife Helen served the meals and mingled with the guests, along with other key parishioners who helped on the night. It was a very successful evening with more than \$850 made after costs for the Pastoral District. A similar event has been suggested for Waikerie.

# Three Baptisms and a Blessing

The Mt Torrens congregation joined those at Mt Pleasant in the Adelaide Hills in August for the baptism of Joe Peacock and Joe and Lea's children Jake Gitsham and Mardi Veler, who attend Saint Stephens Anglican College in Coomera, Qld.

Lea is the daughter of Peter and Margaret Gitsham, who are part of the Mt Pleasant congregation. Joe and the young adults had made a decision to be baptised in the same Church as Peter and their cousins, whilst on holidays.

Father John Thompson carried out the baptisms and in keeping it a family affair, Peter and Margaret were sponsors for Joe, and Jacqui, Lea's sister was Godmother for Jake and Mardi, with Joe taking on the Godfather roll. All promises and responses were answered sincerely and enthusiastically by all and the Baptismal Candles were lit.

Prior to Mass, Father John Devenport invited Lea and Joe to the altar to receive a blessing for their marriage which had taken place as a civil ceremony in late 2014. Father John spoke individually to the couple and the blessing was finalised with a kiss. There was not a dry eye in the house – clergy and all!

For the rest of the service, Fr John Devenport was very ably assisted by the Bedford children from Mt Torrens who looked resplendent in their gowns and were invited to gather behind the altar as Mass was held for those present.

After services, morning tea and fellowship was shared in the Hall.



*A Pleasant Sunday Afternoon at St Ann's, Aldinga  
L-R Barbara Walter, Margaret Cale, Sue MacKirdy,  
Tristan Simon, Rupert Best, Felicity Warrington, Julia Drought.  
Organist and choirmaster Brian McMillan*



*Fr Brenton Dick with Joseph Cook,  
Brooke Packham, Kate Jackson,  
Simon Allen and baby Ava*



*Clergy Retreat at Sevenhill Winery, Clare*

*"Times of retreat into the closer presence of God  
are essential for priests and deacons,  
where in silence we may grow closer to God."*

*Bp John Ford*

# **ABM** Anglican Board of Mission - Australia **Working for Love, Hope & Justice**



This Christmas ABM is giving the gift of education to children in Kenya and the Philippines.

Fundraising Manager of ABM, Christopher Brooks said, "Christmas is a wonderful time to give to others but to give to children seems to bring that extra joy. This year ABM is ensuring we give hope and joy to children in our partner countries by having our appeal focus on two Christian Education projects."

"I encourage our supporters to consider a gift to ABM's Christmas Appeal to give the gift of education to children in Kenya and the Philippines," he said.

In Kenya, The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd children's ministry is a Christian Education program which builds young children's faith from ages 3 to 12.

In slum areas such as Kibera, which is

located within the Archbishop's diocese in Nairobi, there is a great need to grow faith in the children.

This program is being well received by the children and their families but even more success is possible if the program continues to grow and strengthens the faith of even more children.

The Archbishop and the Bishops in Council recognise the program is encouraging and effective for the children and are hoping to spread it all across Kenya. The program has now been extended across other Dioceses in West Kenya.

In a recent report the church told ABM, "God is helping the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd to develop strongly in Kenya and nearby countries with about 25 centres either operational or planned. It is now developing in nine schools across Kenya and will provide nurture for children from Nursery to

class eight."

The program is now being delivered in Anglican Churches in Kenya with some assistance also going to development of this ministry in Uganda and South Sudan and Burundi.

Across the world in the Philippines, the Evangelism and Christian education project provides much-needed training and education options for ordained and lay leaders.

The training leads lay leaders to a deeper participation and commitment to contribute to the ministry of the church in the broader society as a whole.

The project also provides opportunities for ordained ministers to specialise in particular pastoral works such as counselling for the young people or conducting spiritual retreats.

The Episcopal Church in the Philippines has a Vision-Mission-Goal – "by the year 2018 we envision a vibrant and dynamic church of caring, witnessing and mission-oriented parishes."

Continued support will help the Church reach 170,000 young members of the Episcopal Church in the Philippines and help leaders realise the vision of 2018.

Your support of ABM's Christmas Appeal will help children learn the love of God. Please give generously at [www.abmission.org](http://www.abmission.org).

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*The Anglican Board of Mission (ABM) is the national mission agency of the Anglican Church of Australia. For over 160 years ABM has been assisting people all over the world to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, provide health and education services, improve agricultural practices and strengthen the Church.*

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*"We use a holistic approach, considering all aspects of people's lives, from housing, finances and learning, to relationships and cultural backgrounds. We design individual strategies with an emphasis on skill development, prevention and early intervention to achieve successful outcomes"*

*Rob Foggo, CEO*

## **New youth accommodation facility to prevent homelessness**

ac.care launched a new accommodation and education program for young people. In the Limestone Coast is named LEAP for Youth and in the Riverland REAP for Youth. The program will be launched in Murray Bridge later this year.

ac.care identified the need to develop a new model specifically for young people who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness. This will be intensively case managed using a collaborative approach with key services agencies as identified in the Limestone Coast and Riverland to ensure a successful outcome for the young people.

The LEAP for Youth program has been financially supported through the funds raised at the Support Homeless People luncheon at The Barn in April 2014. The REAP for Youth has been financially supported by other donations and funding. The program will provide safe and stable accommodation to young people to enable them to live independently. The young person will be provided with regular ongoing support and guidance using a collaborative case management approach with the involvement of key agencies. The young person would work towards developing independent living skills, engage in education and or training and development whilst remaining connected within their local community.

The expected outcomes, once the young person has successfully completed their case plan goals, will be to exit into long term sustainable housing, either through the private rental market or public housing. Another outcome will be to providing them with the opportunity to continue with further education or move onto employment.

*"The new LEAP for Youth program will provided Limestone Coasts' young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness with housing and the opportunity to build independent living skills and engage in learning."* Rob Foggo, CEO

*"We have to continue to think of a variety of solutions and work with other organisations for the best outcomes for our clients and the community when addressing the complex issue of homelessness."* Trish Spark, ac.care Homelessness Services Manager.



## **About ac.care**

ac.care is one of the few organisations created and run by rural people for rural people. We believe in getting in early to bring about change, with a philosophy of building upon people's strengths and focussing on skill development, early intervention and prevention. This we believe makes a real difference to people's lives.

ac.care was formed in Mount Gambier in 1986 after local people identified a gap in services for teenagers requiring foster care. Today we work towards providing opportunities for all who live in rural communities: for safe and stable accommodation, to continue or re-enter formal education, develop employment skills, strengthen family or personal relationships, children to be supported, nurtured and developed.

ac.care's mission is to enhance the wellbeing of rural people through positive social change.

ac.care provides services in the Limestone Coast, Murraylands, Murray Mallee, Riverland and Adelaide Hills. Offices are located in Mount Gambier, Millicent, Murray Bridge, Berri and Waikerie. [www.accare.org.au](http://www.accare.org.au)

*Photo: Barry Stafford, from Barry Maney Group and Chairman of Support Homeless People committee, with Robin Reid, General Manager The Border Watch and Support Homeless People committee member, cut the ribbon of the Mount Gambier unit*

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### **Diocesan Council Newsletter**

Want to know what is  
happening in DC?

After each meeting, the Registrar  
will compile a report which  
is sent to each parish and  
pastoral district council.

If you would like an electronic  
copy, please email Donna on  
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