

# The Murray Anglican

december 2018

## Bishop John Ford to Retire

Bishop John Ford has announced that he will retire by the end of May 2019. He announced with mixed emotions to the Diocesan Council in September his decision to retire from being the fourth Bishop of The Murray.

Bishop John, in making this announcement, referred to his earlier advice, before accepting election as the Bishop, he would not expect to work much beyond his 67th birthday which is in January 2019.

Bishop John added that it had not been an easy decision as he was so committed to the Diocese and its renewal in the service of the gospel. He said he was aware of how much needs to be done to place the Diocese on a firm footing for the future but is convinced that the Diocesan Council has both the resolve and the commitment to take things forward.

Bishop John said he prayed that the Bishop Election Committee would be able to complete its task in a way that would minimise the length of any vacancy.

The Committee has since met twice and has elected a Chair, the Chancellor Robert Tong. The Committee at its first meeting began with a time of bible study taken by the Vicar-General, Bishop Lindsay Urwin.

After some reflection on the process forward, the committee resolved to seek the views of the parishes and pastoral districts, and other key people

in the Diocesan family, on what they believed were the strengths and challenges, the thanksgiving and the hopes of the Diocese. The committee also asked for responses on the strengths and giftings it should be looking for in a new pastor. It also asked for names worthy of consideration to be the next Bishop.

There were 21 responses up until the deadline of submissions on the 23rd of November. They will be considered as part of the process of prayerfully choosing a new pastor for the diocese. The bishops' election committee comprises of 12 people. Ten were elected at Synod in May, comprising of five clergy and five laity, and two are ex officio, Bishop Lindsay Urwin and the Chancellor, Robert Tong.

Bishop Urwin said the task of the group is to take counsel, reflect on the strengths and the needs of the Diocese going forward, to listen to the diocesan family, and to have regard for the needs of the wider Church too.

"It must be remembered that while a bishop is above else the chief pastor of the Diocese, he or she also becomes a member of the College of bishops of the whole Church and must make a contribution beyond the Diocese".

He said that while it is the responsibility to listen carefully outside of itself, the Election Committee is not a group of representatives.

"They, and they alone, are charged

with coming to a mind, and as much as possible, a unanimous mind about the person whom God may be calling to lead the Diocese for the next chapter of its life".

Bishop Urwin said people often, understandably, ask how long does the process all take.

"Those of you who were in the Diocese during the last vacancy will know that it took a considerable time, and it was without rancour."

"We must have a good hope, though without any undue haste, that this time the discernment will not be so protracted," he said, adding that it is not good for a Diocese to be without its spiritual leader.

"Much has been achieved in these most recent years, and without minimising the challenges in this and every Diocese, there is so much to build on".

Bishop Urwin has encouraged the use of a prayer to be used regularly at public worship but also by all people in the Diocese personally.

"From my point of view, those who do not share in the prayer will have little to contribute to the discernment process. Let's pledge ourselves to soak this weighty task in prayer, so that a worthy successor may be found to Bishop John and the Gospel continue to be lived and proclaimed."

*Fr Paul Devenport*

# St John the Baptist Cathedral Rededication and Service of Thanksgiving

The last few months has seen the re-organisation of the life of the Cathedral in Murray Bridge.

The building, erected in 1887, was dedicated and licensed by Bishop George Wyndham Kennion on 2nd February 1887. When Bishop Robert Porter was enthroned as the first Bishop of The Murray on 16th April 1970, the Church became the Pro-Cathedral of St John the Baptist and was recognised at the time as the "Smallest Cathedral in the World." However, no further provision was made for its mission, ministry and governance.

Due to a degree of ambiguity concerning the status of St John the Baptist in Murray Bridge, Bishop John Ford decided to rectify this by producing a set of Statutes for the Cathedral. These were published under episcopal direction on 29th August – the Feast of the Martyrdom of John the Baptist – during a Eucharist service which was attended by approximately seventy people from around the Diocese and interstate.

These Statutes provide that the priest of St John's Murray Bridge is ex officio Dean and this meant that Fr David Price was installed as Dean by virtue of holding his Licence as Priest in Charge.

The occasion also included the creation and installation of two Lay Canons. Murray McFarlane of the Murraylands, and member of Diocesan Council and the Finance, Audit and Investment Committee, was installed into the Porter stall, named for the first Bishop of The Murray. Michael Bleby from Millicent-Penola, and Chair of ac.care, was installed into the Walden stall, named for our second Bishop.

The second stage of celebrations took place on 15th September where the Cathedral was re-dedicated in the service of God, the people of Murray Bridge and its environs, and of the Diocese at a Service of Thanksgiving. Invited guests included politicians, local councillors, other church ministers, teachers, emergency service representatives and leaders of local community groups.

This was an opportunity to give thanks to God for all the people of Murray Bridge and surrounding communities who willingly serve others to build up our communities. There was a particular focus on *Health & Wholeness*, *Education*, *Social Care* and *Industry & Commerce*, with representatives from these areas presenting a symbol of their area during the service.

*Education:* High School teacher Helen Peake presented an Apple Laptop – apple for teachers, laptop for modern learning.

*Industry & Commerce:* Kevin Prosser presented a "tree" with a piece of cheese for the cheese factory, mushroom for the mushroom farm, orange for the orchards, ham for the meat works and a bolt for building and manufacturing.

*Social Care:* Shane Maddocks, CEO, and Teresa O'Brien, Senior Program Manager from ac.care, presented a pot plant with two hand prints on the side. This represented; a helping hand for ac.care clients, hands hold a living plant (life) firmly to protect and nurture, the plant itself for new life, growth, strength.

*Health & Wholeness:* Day & Night Surgery Practice Manager Wendy Ziersch, presented a tray with a nurse's hat, some bandage, a stethoscope and a small lamp.

The congregation were also fortunate to have members of the Murray Bridge Children's Choir and students from Tyndale Christian College perform throughout the service. The celebrations of the day were rounded out by a wonderful spread of food provided for lunch.

Jasmine Irvine



*Bishop John receiving the vows of Michael Bleby, Fr David Price and Murray McFarlane*



*Education*



*Industry & Commerce*



*Social Care*



*Health & Wholeness*

## Further Canons Announced

Bishop John recently announced that he would install two clerical Honorary Canons at the Cathedral.

The Reverend John Warner was installed as *Honorary Canon Missioner for Evangelism and Church Planting* at the Cathedral Eucharist on Sunday 9th December. He had already begun contributing to the life of the Diocese and it is envisaged that his future ministry will be very much one of encouragement for local communities of faith as they seek to grow the Church both inwardly in holiness and outwardly in number.

A further cause for celebration is that the Right Reverend Stephen Pickard will be installed as *Honorary Canon Theologian* on Sunday 3rd February 2019. Bishop Stephen will give lectures in and around the Diocese once a year, and will be available to Bishop John and the Synod for theological guidance and reflection.



*The Reverend John Warner  
and Bishop John*

## Christmas Reflection



One of my favourite videos on YouTube is a five and a half minute clip of a flash mob in a busy multi-level mall. You can watch it for yourself at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f7baFMmSv4k&t=3s> or just search for "Flash mob Christmas carol at mall" and you should find it.

What is so amazing is that out of nowhere, first one and then many join in singing a series of Christmas carols while hustling and bustling shoppers are stopped in their tracks at the joy and light, that for a few moments, these people bring into their world. And then, as abruptly as it started, it is over, the singers disappear and the shoppers go back about their business.

When I reflect on this video, which I inevitably watch every year, I can't help but wonder if there is a greater

message for us all to take away from it. It seems as if these days the pumpkins, artificial cobwebs, plastic bats and specially labelled haunted chocolates from Halloween are quickly replaced with candy canes, turkeys and hams, lights and tinsel as the next big marketing event rolls around. It all can leave us either completely caught up in it or completely disillusioned by it. Then as quickly as it got here, it is gone again and hot cross buns are being put on the shelves ready for Easter (known by many now as "the Great Chocolate Holiday").

In some ways though, it does reflect the reality of the Nativity. A great event, heralded by angels, signs in the stars, attended by shepherds and wise men bringing gifts. But what happened next? The sky returned to normal, the wise men went home and the shepherds returned to their fields. Life went on.

Yet in some ways the lives of those witnesses to Jesus' birth would never be the same again. Indeed the world itself would never be the same again. But still it goes on.

On that fateful night over two thousand years ago a brilliant ray of light burst into the darkness of the world and illuminated the lives of those who took the time to notice it.

For each shepherd and wise man, however, there were multitudes for whom that night seemed to hold

nothing special or significant. No memory of light and warmth to be treasured when things seemed dark or cold.

But the reality is that the world was changed for everyone that night – it is just that some chose to take notice, while others, for whatever reason, did not.

It was like the time world renowned violinist Joshua Bell went busking in a New York City subway...and no one cared enough to stop and listen (you can look that up on YouTube too). People just passed him by, without realising they were witnessing one of the greatest violinists in the world playing for them for free!

At Christmas we are reminded that God chose to enter this world in the form of a helpless child, born to a peasant couple living in the dusty back blocks of the Roman Empire so that he could redeem and restore us...for free!

Such is God's love that it changed the world forever, all we need to do is take the time to notice, to hold on to this great message of hope, long after the shopping is done, the presents are opened and the decorations come down. In the true Christmas spirit we should also share this great gift whenever the chance arises; after all, you may never know the light you may reflect into the lives of others.

*Fr Daniel Irvine*

## Anglican Futures Conference



### “Grace and Truth in Uncertain Times”

This was the theme of a three-day conference at which the Diocese of The Murray was represented in Melbourne in September.

The ‘Anglican Futures Conference,’ organised by the Evangelical Fellowship in the Anglican Church and the Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans, Australia, was held in a central city church which addressed the future direction and opportunities for the Anglican Church in Australia. Nineteen of the twenty-three dioceses were represented, including the Dioceses of Adelaide and Willochra. Those representing The Murray, included Bishop John Ford, Fr Paul and Helen Devenport and Mark Taylor, pictured above.

The conference particularly sought ways of equipping ourselves better, for mission in the world, to study the scriptures and to examine the culture and how better to engage in it. One of the keynote speakers on the opening night of the conference was the former NSW Premier, Mike Baird. He spoke about the highs and lows of being the Premier and provided an insight into being a Christian as a former MP. He spoke of how he and the NSW Police Commissioner, Andrew Scipione prayed together before facing the media after

the siege at the Lindt Café in Martin Place. They prayed for unity in the city, which he said became very apparent with the outpouring of grief by many people from different communities and faiths. He said, “Whether it be a church or a charity you are leading, bring people together”.

One of the striking aspects for me at the conference was the emphasis on Bible Studies. On the first night of the conference, and on the two subsequent days, there were three key note bible studies looking at ways we as a community contend with the challenges of bringing God’s message of hope to others in an increasingly secular society. These one-hour bible studies at the beginning of each day looked at just one bible passage each and reflected on the challenges at the time and how they translated to what we are facing today.

One of them was delivered by Guy Mason, the senior pastor of Melbourne’s largest Anglican Church, City on a Hill. He spoke from the book of 2 Chronicles on the opening night of the conference.

“I feel that in Australia, we have a love-hate relationship with confidence,” Pastor Mason said. “By that I mean we love to hate it. We cringe when sporting stars talk up their success, we expect comedians to be self-deprecating, we

want politicians to be less assured, we want pastors to play it safe.

“Perhaps there is good reason to justify that lack of confidence because when it comes to ministry we are living in a post-Christian, post-modern world, constantly bombarded by the secular media with the message that God is dead. The church is often depicted as a defeated fighter swinging from the ropes, about to go down. And sometimes I feel we accept that image as true.

“We accept that the odds are stacked against us,” he said. “We accept the lie that our future is bleak and there is no hope on the horizon, so we hold back – we retreat from challenge, we retreat from big prayers and bold visions to make much of God. And that’s devastating. It is devastating because our churches need us and our cities and this nation needs us.”

Pastor Mason drew on 2 Chronicles 20:1-12 in pointing to the future. The bible passage refers to King Jehoshaphat, the Godly leader of Judah who was informed of a large army that was going invade Judah. The King was afraid; he prayed to the Lord and declared a nationwide fast. They did and pleaded to God, knowing that this great army was about to overtake

## Anglican Futures Conference

them. God answered their prayers and the army was destroyed and of course they were saved.

In the midst of challenge and uncertainty in this modern world, we were encouraged to do the same, to pray to God for intervention. We were reminded that we live in a world which has become very individualistic and materialistic, where we tend to take control of the situation and don't ask God for help and to be our guide. We should instead live as God's chosen people, to recognise that God is sovereign and that through his Son, Jesus Christ who took the horror of the cross, he is alive, victorious and the reigning King over creation.

"What will transform us into humble, courageous and sacrificial leaders who step out to impact our world for God's glory?" he asked. "Two words, Gospel confidence. Gospel confidence is the living, active trust that God is sovereign, that God is powerful, that God can do immeasurably more than we ever think or imagine. Gospel confidence is sharply distinct from self-confidence. Self-confidence looks in the mirror and says 'hey, I can do this.' Gospel confidence recognises that God can do it. In the words of Jehoshaphat: 'God will hear and God will save.'"

The 300 or so people who attended the conference were encouraged to take part in seminars on various topics,

including one which Bishop John Ford was part of a panel on the challenges facing the Anglican Church in Australia.

One of the seminars that Mark Taylor and I attended focussed on ways to revive small and struggling churches. Prayer was identified as being paramount in reviving churches. It was in fact regarded as the biggest factor in a case study in reviving a church in the Diocese of Tasmania. The power of prayer was followed by good preaching, loving the people, and for church leaders in being emotionally intelligent in leadership. Connecting with the local community, particularly with the local school was essential in growing family services.

*Fr Paul Devenport*

## Mount Gambier Mission Work

Meditation based zones for parishioners, increasing numbers of young people and strong fund raising for mission work are becoming very noticeable in Mount Gambier-Pastoral District of late.

The Pastoral District [which includes historic old churches at St. Luke's Mount Schank and St. Thomas' at Port MacDonnell, as well as Christ Church in Mount Gambier] has live wire priest Fr Neil Fernando encouraging his parishioners to 'get out and do' in any area where the Christian faith can be sown.

Fund raising for the special Pastoral District mission a.c.care has been particularly strong over a number of years with a notable effort this year being the Recycled Runway competition for best designs manufactured from a mixture of second hand clothing.

Organised by Trudy Ann Doyle the sixth showing [2018 best designs] was seen by a sell-out crowd in the church hall... raising just under \$2,000 for a.c.care as part of a bright fashion scene in a well decorated venue.

All up, the active Pastoral District will have raised \$6,000 this year for its mission activities through the Church Op Shop, and David Glover and Jeff Bowman have organised and led some highly successful Bunnings BBQs plus a couple of great wine auctions and wine raffles.

The 2018 Church Fair fell just short of last year's record, despite heavy rain, and the organiser Jeff Bowman and his happy archers exulted in their effort of \$12,030.00; a result no-one, watching the clouds, could have expected.

Activities in the successful parishioner zones have continued on a monthly basis and included Bible quizzes as well as studying specially selected bible texts.

And there was a well-attended church service to mark St. Luke's feast day at Mount Schank: a BBQ as well as some energetic amateur tennis followed.

Fr Neil has announced a special service of old-style Christmas Carols to be held at Christ Church from 7pm on 5th December... and the old one 'A long time ago in Bethlehem' is more than likely to be sung in six languages... "but not all at the same time," Fr Neil makes clear.

A non-fund-raising special 'getting to know other parishioners' function titled 'Solos and Spares' is a monthly dinner run by Robyn Sweetnam and Raylene Milligan.

*Submitted by Joan Tremelling for Fr Neil Fernando*

## Ordination to The Diaconate at Morphett Vale

Over the past two years, six people have been ordained to the Diaconate in the Diocese. The most recent was Jonathon Jackson who was ordained as a Deacon at St Hilary's, Morphett Vale on Sunday 4th November.

Jonathan has been involved with the Diocesan Formation programme and attended a discernment day some months ago. Circumstances surrounding Jonathan's employment meant his ordination was slightly delayed.

Fr Andrew Forder said the ordination was one of great joy to the Southern Suburbs Mission Partnership, with parishioners donating money to purchase a set of stoles. The Rev'd Jackson will be serving on Sundays at either St Hilary's, Morphett Vale or Christ Church, O'Halloran Hill – in a self-supporting capacity.

He was prepared for his ordination by Fr Ross Morony who conducted a series of preparatory meetings in lieu of a residential retreat.

The Rev'd Jackson offered this reflection as he begins his ministry.....

*His Word will always be a lamp to my feet and a light to my path*

What a journey this has been and it's only the start! Growing up in a Christian family and being PK (priest's kid, as known affectionately) certainly has had a huge impact in my life.

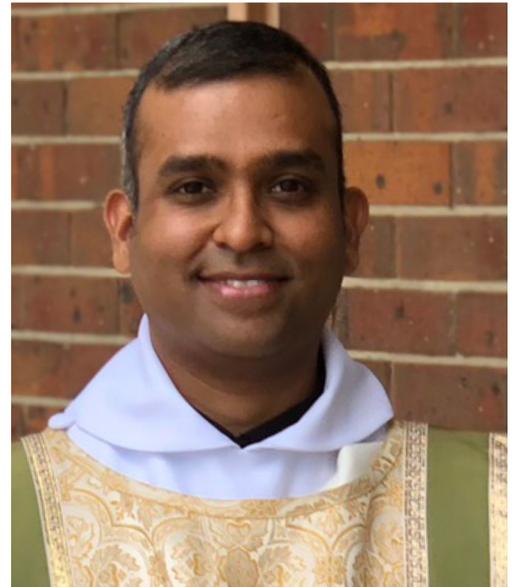
It was a steady progress in my faith from Sunday School to Youth Meetings and being involved in the Church choir. I knew from a very young age that God had wanted me to serve Him and had a slowly growing awareness of a deep need to help others by ministering to them. Even when I started working in the corporate world, I constantly felt God was making it possible through the different stages of my career to remain close to this 'call', be it from finding a university to complete my theology studies to being able to serve in different capacities within the Church.

God had made it possible for me to talk about my faith openly on many occasions at work and share my testimony with people of different cultures.

A big decision was made when we as a family (Rebecca – my lovely wife, Abigail and Ashlyn – my 2 gorgeous girls) decided to migrate to Australia in 2016.

We were worshipping at different Churches in Adelaide and our worship in the Southern Suburbs Mission Partnership brought a sense of belonging for us as a family.

I believe this is the right time to share a testimony. There was for a brief moment, a feeling of anxiety, when we moved interstate to Melbourne thinking we were doing the right thing,



but it was only when we got there an even stronger feeling to come back was instilled in us and our minds were opened to God's plan.

That was enough for us and we knew God's plan for us was to serve in the Southern Suburbs Mission Partnership. I feel humbled to know that God has accepted me to serve Him in a clergy role. I truly believe that my journey has just begun and know that God will lead me on and His Word will always be a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. May the LORD's name be praised!

*Deacon Jonathan Jackson*

## Mission Trip to Malaysia 2019 (22nd April to 1st May)



This will be the last trip to Malaysia lead by Fr Paul Monash. He has already conducted two exciting trips where members of our diocese, clergy and laity have been inspired and challenged by the Anglican spirituality, worship, enthusiasm and programs carried out by the elderly and youth with Mission in the cities and rural context of Malaysia.

This is open to church goers and non-church goers with the theme "Come & See." The cost for the trip, which covers **Flights, food and lodging, is \$1300.00**. We will be visiting and staying in a few states in Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur; Ipoh; Kota Baru-Kelantan and Penang). You will meet the Malaysian tribal community and also city Anglicans. Please look at a Malaysian map to see the places mentioned.

It will be fun filled and spiritually exciting. Please get in touch with Fr Paul Monash (email [rperth2008@gmail.com](mailto:rperth2008@gmail.com) / Mobile 0487080087).

## Opening of Mum's Kitchen By Bishop John

"This is what the church needs to do in Christies Beach and probably needs a bigger place" said Bishop John as he opened the "Mum's Kitchen" on Monday 15th October at midday. The mum's kitchen came into being on the 9th of April when Fr Paul Monash tried preparing a hot lunch for homeless people with the help of church members. As winter came the numbers grew from six guests to around 25-30 regularly each week. Today, there is a community among the strangers who meet on Mondays at church for lunch.

Some dedicated church members cook for 30 people with a budget of \$50.00 provided. It's never enough but—that's all they get from the church. God has blessed us with generous hearts who cook, a few donate cash. On Monday 15th October, the church hall was filled with celebration as about 54 people turned up for the opening and the Shed Boys from St Hilary's provided some music. The Mayor was present too.

As well as the weekly lunch, we also give food parcel handouts throughout the week to the homeless who knock



on the rectory door. Thanks be to God, St Hilary and St Aidan's Churches in the Southern Suburb support St Francis of Assisi at Christies Beach with dry food collected from Sunday worship. According to census data, there are about six-thousand people homeless

and sleeping on the streets at any given night in S.A. As a church, we are trying to help. By the grace of God some of these people do surprise us by appearing at Sunday worship. That's a blessing.

## Mission Conferences in The Diocese

Fr Damian Feeney who led the Diocese in an intensive course titled "Leading your Church into Growth" in 2015, will return to Australia in February to lead a conference for clergy and several gatherings for laity in the Diocese.

At the invitation of Bishop John Ford, Fr Damian will visit the Diocese for two weeks, where he will spend time with clergy at Murray Bridge and at gatherings around the Diocese staging workshops for people, in preparation for local outreach and evangelism later in the year.

Bishop John says the opportunity is designed to provide practical steps towards preparing for a time of mission and evangelism in each of the areas.

"As you know, 2020 marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of our Diocese. What better way to celebrate this milestone than using next year to beef up our profile in all the communities we serve in the name of Jesus and move towards a specific time of missionary renewal across the Diocese in preparation for and during our celebration year?"

The conference and workshops will address topics such as "the Priest as Evangelist", "Contemporary Challenges", "Collaborative Ministry", and several sessions on Prayer, Preaching, Liturgy, Pastoral Care and Catechesis and how that all fits as an Evangelistic Witness.

Fr Damian Feeney is the Catholic Missioner in the Diocese of Litchfield in the Church of England.

He is also the parish priest at The Most Holy Trinity at Ettingshall Park in Wolverhampton. He was former Vice Principal of St Stephen's House at Oxford.

As well as leading the Diocese of The Murray in 2015 with the conference "Leading Your Church into Growth" at West Lakes in Adelaide, Fr Damian was the guest speaker at the 2014 Diocesan Synod.

## Confirmation at St Hilary's

On Sunday 30th September The Feast of St Michael and All Angels, Bishop John confirmed four candidates from the Southern Suburbs Pastoral District at St Hilary's, Morphet Vale.

Bishop John preached a thought-provoking sermon on the similarities between Eikons in the church, and icons as on a computer desktop which especially engaged the young confirmees.

Congratulations and Gods every blessing to Hazel, Rhys, April, and Joshua.



## Valedictory Service at Woodcroft

On Friday 26th October, the Year 12 Graduating Class of 2018 enjoyed its Valedictory Service during which a number of awards were presented. These included the Diocese of The Murray's Community Service Award which is presented each year to a Year 12 student who has demonstrated outstanding service to the school and community. This year's recipient was Kuok Long Yu, aka Lennox.

In this photo, Bishop John is talking with Lennox at the luncheon which was held after the service.



## Remembrance Day at the Cathedral



*They shall grow not old,  
as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them,  
nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun  
and in the morning  
We will remember them.*

At memorial services all over the world these lines from Laurence Binyon's poem "For the Fallen" were recited once again this year marking the 100th Anniversary of Armistice Day.

The Dean, Fr David Price, used these wonderful words penned by Binyon as he paid tribute to the fallen during his homily. At the end of Mass, the congregation took part in a service of remembrance, placing candles at the foot of the altar, holding in their hearts and in their prayers all who are remembered at this time – the men and women who have died in war.

The cathedral was decorated with knitted red poppies that were lovingly made by members of the community.

# Remembrance Day at Monash in the Riverland



A suggestion made at the Berri Barmera Monash Ministry Group meeting in September to have a centenary Remembrance Day Service at Monash on Sunday 11th November snowballed and resulted in it becoming one of the biggest events in the small town for years.

The idea by Fr Paul Devenport came in light of the naming of the town in 1920 after Sir John Monash, an Army General who was instrumental in bringing an end to the first World War on the Western Front in 1918.

It was originally thought the service would be held at St Oswald's Anglican Church in Monash, but it soon became apparent that the church would be too small to hold such an event.

Spurred by parishioner Joy Stoeckel, the community got behind the concept and a committee was formed which met regularly. Hundreds of posters were printed for distribution around the district, while painted sheets of iron were placed on both ends of the

entrance to Monash by the side of the Sturt Highway.

On the day, the Monash Memorial Hall was filled to capacity, with some 250 people attending the church service. The service, led by Fr Paul, was represented by students of the Monash Primary School, the Vietnam Veterans Association, local councillors and the CFS. Direct descendants of World War One settlers said prayers, did readings and set up a display in the hall. The hall was also provided free of charge for the service.

We had set out 60 chairs but it became evident more would be required and eventually all the 150 hall chairs were used, with people still standing for the service. Wreaths for the 11 am ceremony were supplied by many local organisations, including the Anglican Church.

Numerous others assisted in so many ways. The Monash Primary School provided Peace Posters; Max Binding from Vietnam Veterans Association

shared his knowledge of correct protocol for an 11.00 am wreath laying service; the Monash CFS were an amazing help with their cadets carrying the three flags to both our 9 am service and the 11 am Remembrance service, PLUS serving over 200 egg, bacon and sausage breakfasts; the Lone Gum and Community Assoc. defrayed all our costs for the three days hall hire; Bruce Lieven provided the sound for Last Post and Reveille; Arnotts' Anzac biscuit tins were complemented by the 'Lone Pine' standing as a symbol on the stage; soldier settler family histories and artefacts were mounted; a large \$100 note depicting Sir John Monash was hung at the bottom of the World War 1 Honour Board; Fr Paul led a wonderful Christian Service which he and Deacon Scott had prepared.

Joy Stoeckel says our forefathers would have been so pleased with 'Monash Remembers' ... thanks to that little seed that Fr Paul had sown at our Ministry Group meeting.



## How to be a Welcoming Church



On 24th August, Carole and Peter Hawkins and Deacon Carol Cornwall conducted the course “How to be a Welcoming Church” for the Riverland. This was the second time that the course has been run in the Diocese, the first was 2 years ago in the Ministry District of the Southern Suburbs.

About 25 people attended at Barmera from the churches across the Riverland, and the day provided fruitful teaching and discussions on how we could be more welcoming in our churches. Topics included why welcome, who should be a part of this ministry, and

then looking at how welcoming and accessible our church exteriors and interiors are. We then considered the art of welcoming, watching some videos of “good” and “not so good” welcoming examples. Finally, we looked at the joys and realities of welcoming and how we follow up people in a sensitive manner.

The foundation of welcoming is Jesus’ teaching from John 13: 34; “A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another”. If we keep this verse in mind, we will always want to consider

new ways of welcoming people into our churches; showing the love that Jesus freely gave, to all whom we come into contact with.

I want to thank Father Paul, Deacon Scott, and the people of the Riverland for making us feel so welcome and for the hospitality that they provided. It was a pleasure to worship with the people at Barmera and Waikerie, and to enjoy life in the Riverland for three days.

*Deacon Carol Cornwall*

## Advent Pageant at Aldinga

The day of the Pageant was the day a spectacular storm hit Aldinga and it was amazing that we were able to go ahead at all, with heavy rain, blasting winds, and power cuts, but nothing dampened the spirits of the children or the crowds. A play, written by local man Nigel Camac, approached the nativity story a different way – in the living room of an “average” Australian family, who are exhausted and maxed out financially in the run-up to Christmas. They question, “What’s it all about, anyway?” and are approached by a Wise Man, who agrees that that is a good question. With the help of the choir and the nativity characters, who appear and take over their living room, he helps them rediscover the true meaning of Christmas.

The Advent Pageant involves children walking in to the local shopping centre to put on the play. It was the State School’s turn this time, and they did brilliantly.

To celebrate Jesus’ birthday, the children are given cupcake “Birthday cakes”. A team of bakers baked over 550 cakes this year.

## Christ the King, Mount Barker

Christ the King, Mount Barker, celebrated its Feast of Title in style on Sunday 25th November. Nearly 70 people from around the Parish and The Hills Mission Partnership come together at the church to hear a performance by the Hahndorf Town Band.

The afternoon started with a set by the Junior Band, featuring some very talented young people with ages varying between about eight and twenty-four. They set a toe-tapping pace with their first song *Friend Like Me* which appears in the Disney movie, *Aladdin*.

After a short intermission some of the Junior members then returned with the Senior Band to continue to entertain those present. Musical Director Philip Paine kept up a light banter between songs which provided information about the pieces that were being performed. He even called upon a young volunteer to help him conduct the band at one stage.

There was a varied programme of music featuring a mixture of popular music, light classical, and traditional and contemporary brass band arrangements, and also some outstanding solo performances of some pieces by younger members of the band. Jack Flintoft played the flugelhorn solo for "the Orange Juice Song" (or *Concierto de Aranjuez* for those with some musical knowledge), David Wilson played *Blue Moon* on the trombone, Gypsy Cook played *Misty* on the tenor horn, and Orson Paine delighted everyone with his solo rendition of *Satchmo!* (a musical tribute to Louis Armstrong) on the trumpet.

The entire gathering were also wowed by a short organ recital by Alexander Paine. Alexander is a talented young organist who moved to Basel, Switzerland, to further his studies once he graduated from the Elder Conservatorium of Music (Adelaide University). He had returned home to the hills for a visit and agreed to join the performance.

The festivities continued after the concert with dinner in the Parish Centre. The Indian inspired main course was ably prepared by a number of volunteers, including local chef Buddha Tamang. Local restaurant *5 Spice Indian Cuisine* cooked the tandoori chicken. This was followed by an array of delicious home-made slices and fresh fruit.

*Jasmine Irvine*



## The ABM Advent and Christmas Appeal 2018

This year, the theme for the Anglican Board of Mission's Advent and Christmas Appeal is 'Shaping the Future', focusing on projects which support education in Kenya, Myanmar and Australia.

According to the United Nations, "today there are 1.8 billion people between the ages of 10-24 ... Close to 90 per cent of them live in developing countries, where they make up a large proportion of the population." With this statistic in mind, it is vital that youth are given opportunities for education so that they can contribute positively to their own lives and become agents of change for their communities and beyond.

In semi-arid Eastern Kenya where climate change has affected food security and consequently, the health and livelihoods of many people, thousands of school children are helping to shape the future. ABM supports the Sustainable Livelihoods Project which has enabled children to plant trees in their school yards, and to irrigate them with rainwater from water tanks supplied through project funding. The children also learn about hygiene and are encouraged to care for the environment. Funds raised through the Christmas Gift will allow St Peter's Bible School in the Diocese of Toungoo, Myanmar, to establish an English Language Centre where children and youth from low income families can access courses for English language, computing, and music. With life changing rapidly in Myanmar, this can assist them with gaining further opportunities in education and employment.

ABM's Advent Appeal also supports Nungalinya College in Darwin and Wontulp-Bi-Buya College in Cairns. Both colleges are committed to providing culturally appropriate studies for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people so that they may be empowered and equipped to be leaders in their own communities, and to make a difference.

Please consider giving a gift to help shape the future of many others during this Holy Season. To donate, visit [www.abmission.org/Christmas2018](http://www.abmission.org/Christmas2018).

Contact Vivienne For, ABM Communications Coordinator at [communications@abm.asn.au](mailto:communications@abm.asn.au) for more information.



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### Diocesan Council Newsletter

Want to know what is happening  
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## Prayer For Choosing A New Bishop

Raise up O Lord we pray a wise pastor, even a pastor after your own heart, who will serve and strengthen our diocese with love, courage and perseverance.

We bless you for the signs of your faithfulness to us, and pray with a good hope that you will guide those charged with the task of discerning your will, that one may come among us who will lead our diocese with the graces of a disciple who truly walks in the footsteps of your apostles.

We ask our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen