Southern Vales Website
Our website is now in operation thanks to Mr G. Laundy of McLaren Vale. We now have something to build on as a vehicle for communicating with the parish and with the wider community. I look forward to its continued development. Greg Judd
Check out our website, http://www.southernvalesparish.org
NOTE: The Grapevine can now be read on-line—and in colour! Some contact details are normally included in this newsletter to assist people to make enquiries, and photographs are regularly published. Remember to notify the Editor (contact details p. 2) if you do not want anything about you included in The Grapevine in this format.

St Stephen’s Day
The ‘Feast of Stephen’ was celebrated at Willunga on Sunday 27th December, and parishioners stayed to enjoy lunch together in perfect weather in the shade of the spreading peppercorn tree.

(Above) Fr Phil Anderson celebrated the Eucharist with Paul Devenport and servers Judith Wells (L) and Margaret Cameron (R).
(Photos: D. Best)
Parish Council again enjoyed the hospitality of Fr Phil and Carol, with the December meeting held in the Rectory. General business was abbreviated, as Bishop Ross attended the first part of the meeting to discuss future directions for the parish and outline proposals to be looked at at a later date.

Knowing that the parish was considering a memorial to Shirley Garfit, possibly to be an icon, the Bishop also provided photos of icons written by his wife Christine as one option. This matter was deferred for consideration next year.

Matters discussed in the rest of the meeting included:

- There had been no response to the appeal for help to upgrade the Rectory Garden. However, Greg Judd thanked Fr Phil for the work that he had done in the garden. The comment was made that the soil was very hard and digging was difficult.
- Rabbits were still proving a problem at St Margaret’s. Despite poisoning, rabbits still came from next door.
- Discussions with Anglicare re developments on St Margaret’s grounds had been approved in principle by Diocesan Executive but could not progress further until Diocesan Council could look at it. Their next meeting would be in April.
- The Diocese has raised the annual targets for parishes and pastoral districts to support the Ordination Candidates Fund and the Home Mission Fund from $460 (2009) to $550 (2010).
- ABM Sunday is traditionally held on the last Sunday before Lent, but this year the date will mark the Ordination Candidates Fund appeal, with Paul Devenport, one of those supported by the OCF, as a guest speaker in the parish. Southern Vales will plan another date for the Anglican Board of Mission, and hope to have a mission speaker on that occasion.
- The 2010 Vestry Meeting is to be held on Sunday 28th February. Reports to Wendy Sandercock before 31st January please.

### Financial Report for November:

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<tr>
<td>Total Income:</td>
<td>$6,663.75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Expenses:</td>
<td>$2,650.56</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operating profit:</td>
<td>$3,989.19</td>
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<td>Donations to missions (ABM, BCA, Home Mission Fund &amp; School chaplaincies):</td>
<td>$744.10</td>
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<td>The actual figures for January to November show a total income of $68,796.04 which is $3,421.04 over budget (assisted by Rectory rent). Total expenses of $39,215.87 are $8,825.13 under budget. YTD surplus is $29,406.17</td>
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You may recall from your schooldays Shakespeare’s “The Merchant of Venice” There is one famous scene where Portia’s portrait is placed in one of three caskets. Her three suitors were invited to choose between three caskets, one of which contained her portrait. The one choosing the correct casket she would marry.

Each of the caskets carried a message inscribed which would guide one to the correct choice. On the casket of gold was written: “Who chooseth me shall gain what many men desire.” On the casket of silver was written: “Who chooseth me shall get as much as he deserves,” and on the lead casket, dark and uninviting, was written “Who chooseth me must give and hazard all he hath.”

Notice the words that occur in each case: Who chooseth me shall GAIN, GET or GIVE.

It was in the lead casket that Bassanio found his heart’s ideal. Shakespeare surely wanted to point out that the best things in life are discovered not by getting but by giving.

That principle seems to have been lost among us lately. You might have noticed that in the pre-Christmas advertising the emphasis was on “buy”, with the suggestion that buying was both essential and beneficial; there was little or no mention of giving.

Shakespeare understood, as the early Christians understood, the value of giving. St Paul once wrote as is recorded in Acts 20:35: “It is more blessed to give than to receive”, attributing the words to Jesus Himself, who within Himself was the supreme example of giving.

To quote St Paul again, Philippians chapter two: Jesus “took upon him the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross”. Jesus is the great gift of God to all people and like all true gifts is freely offered to those who accept.

We look for happiness in life, sometimes not even knowing what it is. We shall find it if we are prepared to give ourselves to God in the same way God has given Himself to us in Jesus, freely and without reservation.

Shakespeare’s Bassanio was a wise man. He knew that the secret to the good life is found in giving rather than getting, then committed himself to it. Jesus knew that secret too, so did the first Christians—and so can we.

With every blessing

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If you have news of coming events or noteworthy happenings in the Pastoral District of Southern Vales which you would like to share with the rest of the parish, please contact the editor, Anne Chittleborough, 23 The Esplanade, Pt Willunga 5173, Ph 8556 5078 or email machit@comstech.com.au, preferably by 15th January.
**What's on**

### January
- **Sunday 3rd**
  - Gold Coin Collection for CPS* workers
- **Wednesday 6th**
  - EPIPHANY
- **Saturday 16th**
  - St Ann’s Jumble Sale
    - Enquiries: Val Martin 8556 6100
- **Friday 22nd**
  - St Ann’s Family Tea 6.30—8.30 pm
    - Enquiries: Bill Cale 8556 5236
- **Wednesday 27th**
  - Parish Prayer Group, St Margaret’s 10 am
    - Enquiries: Gillian Clampett 8556 5998

### February
- **Monday 1st**
  - Mothers’ Union 9.30 am
    - Enquiries: Barb Jeanes 8556 4440
- **Tuesday 2nd**
  - PRESENTATION OF CHRIST AT THE TEMPLE
- **Wednesday 3rd**
  - Anglican Service at Colton Court 11 am
- **Sunday 7th**
  - Gold Coin Collection for CPS* workers
- **Monday 8th**
  - St Ann’s Guild 1.30 pm
    - Enquiries: Val Martin 8556 6100
- **Tuesday 9th**
  - St Margaret’s Guild 2 pm
    - Enquiries: Fran Pettigrew 8323 9366
- **Thursday 11th**
  - Colton Court singers 11 am-12
    - Enquiries: Sylvia Francis 8323 0007
- **Sunday 14th**
  - ORDINATION CANDIDATES SUNDAY
- **Tuesday 16th**
  - SHROVE TUESDAY
    - Pancakes at St Margaret’s 6.30 pm
- **Wednesday 17th**
  - St Margaret’s 9 am
  - St Ann’s 7 pm
  - Women’s Fellowship St Margaret’s, 10 am
    - Enquiries: Margaret Cameron 8556 2343
- **Wednesday 24th**
  - MATTHIAS
    - Parish Prayer Group St Margaret’s 10 am
      - Enquiries: Gillian Clampett 8556 5998
    - St Ann’s Soup Supper & Speaker
      - 6 pm Evening prayers in the church
      - 6.30 Soup & speaker in the hall
- **Friday 26th**
  - St Ann’s Family Tea 6.30—8.30 pm
    - Enquiries: Bill Cale 8556 5236
- **Sunday 28th**
  - COMBINED SERVICE, ST MARGARET’S 10 AM
  - ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING FOLLOWING

*Christian Pastoral Support

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**Social Activities December 2009**

The Parish Christmas lunch at the Seaford Hotel was well supported, with 50 people attending.

Sadly the hotel did not maintain the high standard set last year, and both service and food were disappointing. The committee will do some research before next year’s Christmas function to find another suitable venue.

We plan to have another Parish breakfast before Lent and then reschedule a Parish picnic when the weather is a little cooler. Please watch Church Chatter and The Grapevine for details.

*Wendy Sandercocck*
Around the traps...

**St Philip & St James, Old Noarlunga**

* The Advent Studies have been well attended. We are grateful to Judy Wells for again conducting them very meaningfully.

- We had the baptism of Marni Jade and Daniel James Jackson on 13th December. The family was well supported by other members and friends and Fr Phil helped to make it a happy occasion for all.
- The hay in the paddock has been baled and the area has been made tidy.
- On Sunday 20th we had a special morning tea and also presented hampers to the Carroll family for their accompaniment to our services.
- Attention will need to be given to the vestry ceiling which has been invaded by pigeons, causing the failure of the security lights. The Archdeacon has been to inspect the situation and Joe Griffiths has affected initial repairs.
- The township of Old Noarlunga has a good selection of festive lighting and the main street refurbishment has almost been completed.
- It was a great joy that Fr Dennis was able to celebrate the Christmas Eve service for us. It was a full church, with a number of babies in the congregation—very appropriate for Christmas!

* Wallace Mauzolf & Mary Blagrove

**St Margaret’s, McLaren Vale**

* Paul Bell continues to do a wonderful job of mowing the main yard. It is a time-intensive exercise that is much appreciated.
* Miriam Drought married Andrew Hage at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church on the 12th December. A sumptuous spread for wedding guests was provided by St Ann’s, and a gift of $80 was given by the parish.

* CPS (Christian School worker) Cheri Love visited St Margaret’s and spoke about her work in Primary School. She gave thanks for the support of the Anglican Church.
* Pastoral assistants - Margaret Cameron and Bev Driver were inducted on 6th December.

**Masked Men in Cemetery!**

Armed with John Carroll’s 50 litre electric sprayer, and masked for protection against the spray, John Carroll (Curator) and Rupert Best continue the ongoing attack against weeds and olives in the St Philip & St James cemetery and the land adjoining the national park. Thank you John and Rupert for your hard work. It’s looking very tidy.

* Thanks from the Christian Care and Support Centre, Aldinga*

Anne Lear reports that our contributions to the Christian Care and Support Centre’s Christmas Hamper appeal this year were generous and were greatly appreciated.

Anne Lear and Vera Penny, together with others from other churches, filled 40 hampers full to overflowing with food and gifts for people in need at Christmas time.

Anne, Vera, Gillian Clampett and Margaret Hooper regularly assist at the centre, which opens again on January 11th, and others assist with the bread pick-up twice a month. The Centre is always glad of volunteers to help with the ever-increasing load.

* Photo: D. Best

A proud father, Michael Drought gives away the bride.

* Photo: G. Judd

A proud father, Michael Drought gives away the bride.

* Photo: D. Best

A proud father, Michael Drought gives away the bride.

* Photo: G. Judd

A proud father, Michael Drought gives away the bride.
Jackson Blacker was baptised on Saturday December 5.

The Church Notice Board situation is on hold until New Year.

Slate paving has been laid under the peppercorn tree. Dolomite was donated by McLaren Vale Landscaping, who suggested that we do not put lawn under the peppercorn tree. Options are: leave with dust and dry grass with winter weeds, lay pavers, cover with slate, cover with gravel or ? The driveway now needs to be resurfaced with gravel.

Minor stone work repairs need to be done to the outside of the church. An inspection is needed by the Maintenance group.

The sign for the St Stephen’s cemetery has still not appeared.

The grass around the church has been cut and the general area tidied.

The local Willunga newsletter The NutShell continues to publish the information re the Pastoral District that we provide, and printed very comprehensive Christmas information.

Thank you Lucy & Bevin Creed for cleaning the church during Advent.

Margaret Cameron & Ted Sandercock

The saga of the failed power supply to the hall has meant new trenching, conduit and cables from the meter box. Peter Chapman was able to get a quick response from Phil Cuffley (electrician) and Anne Lear called in her grandson Paul Baker to do some discount trenching. We are grateful to them all!

Lack of power in the hall was a good excuse to take up Val Martin’s offer to host our November Family Tea, and we descended on Val and Bill Higginson’s for our Christmas Party – thanks to both venues for their great hospitality!

We have a large water bill as a result of the leak underground found in October, and are asking SA Water for leniency.

Thank you to all who supplied food and helped on December 1st at the Staff Lunch at Aldinga Primary School. The churches’ gesture was much appreciated.

We had a pleasingly full church on Christmas Day, with a number of children present to enjoy the Christmas activities.

Peter Chapman & Bill Cale

The St Ann’s Christmas Family Tea was held at Val and Bill Higginson’s home. It was a joyful occasion with items including carol-singing, accompanied by Sue McKirdy on keyboard and Eileen Binns on the accordion. Many thanks, Val and Bill!

(Photo: B. Higginson)

A Special Christmas Celebration for Children

The adults, as much as the 15 children at St Ann’s on Christmas Day, enjoyed participating in Bill Higginson’s telling of the story of Christ’s birth, helping him place the nativity figures in the stable.

Sent to search for three wise men (in another part of the church, still on their way to Bethlehem) one girl located her father and brought him up to the crib, to the delight of the congregation.

In the hall the children opened the box at the base of the Advent tree (see p. 6) finding in it a tableau representing the birth of Jesus, which they readily identified as the best Christmas gift of all. They made bonbons containing sweets, gifts and a special Christmas Grace.

After the service they handed all members of the congregation a personally made bonbon which contained, among other things, a Christmas blessing.
Getting ready for Christmas...

What a month December was! These images capture some of the activity that belonged to the Advent preparations and then the celebration of Christmas.

Lighting the Advent candle: Helen Davies and Trish Frith look on as Thomas McNee lights the third candle.

Bill Jeanes, Peter Chapman and Bill Cale prepare to hoist the Christmas Star up on the front wall of St Ann’s.

Angae Elmslie lights the candle on grandmother Sue McKirdy’s Christingle at the service on 13th December. Behind them: Sylvia Francis lights one for Margaret Cameron.

(L) Tessa Brenner-McDonald with grand-daughter Georgia Copeland, Sue Judd and Fran Pettigrew with their Christingles.

(R) Thomas McNee helps build an Advent tree.
Festival of Lessons and Carols at St Margaret’s

(L-R) Carolyn Best, Jessica Hands, Di Best, Louisa and Hayden Hands, with baby Mitchell attending his first ever carol service! Background: Gillian Clampett.  (Photo: G. Judd)

Knitted nativity figures are set up at St Stephen’s  
(Photo: T. Sandercock)

Children at St Ann’s watch as Margaret Hooper explains about the box at the base of the Advent Tree (see p. 5)

Bob Smith and Susan Watson enjoy hospitality on the Rectory verandah after the Carol Service at St Margaret’s.  (Photo: C. Best)

Choir members Julia Drought, Mary Eales and Rupert Best  (Photo: G. Judd)
Our bush poet Peter Chapman has written a new poem to tell a side of Christmas that is sometimes forgotten. This is Joseph’s story:

A TRADIE’S STORY
Christmas is a tradie’s day
It’s written down no other way
A chippy, his girl and especially a shed
Are you getting that picture inside your head?

God chose a tradie in his great plan
A real down-to-earth, “hands on” man
A bloke that knew to look after his Missus—
Not with vain promises, hugs and kisses.

So when Jesus was born, what did he do?
He taught Him to saw, to nail and to glue;
He trained Jesus to work with His hands
Gave Him a trade, to take through the lands;

A father and son carpentry team
The answer to any tradie’s best dream.
Jesus, a craftsman until He was thirty,
Didn’t mind hard work and getting all dirty.

Then He preached until He was thirty-three
And that’s when they nailed Him to the tree;
A nail in the hands that created and healed
A nail in His feet that walked and kneeled.

I believe Joseph’s heart must have bled
As he thought of those days back in the shed;
As he’d pick up a nail to hammer in wood—
Could anyone know what he understood?

Joseph knew why Jesus was here—
Working with Him had made it so clear
He had trained and loved Him, and given Him the best,
But nailed to a cross—it was more than a test.

He remembered the day and remembered the star,
The stable, the wise men that travelled so far,
He remembered the angels, the gifts given to keep,
The words “God’s Son came to save His lost sheep.”

God chose a tradesman, not the religious,
Not wealthy, famous or someone prestigious.
Now Joseph knew it was time to let go.
What would happen, he did not know.

In that shed as he worked on a chair
The world was waking up everywhere.
The king has arisen, He paid for our sin—
A whole new story was about to begin.

If Joseph was here with us today
What would he tell us, what would he say?
“Listen to God, trust with your heart
Even when everything tears you apart.

If you are a tradie, there’s always a cost;
You weigh up the risk, take on the loss
The value is there, when you see it right through.”
Like Joseph, at Christmas
Now it’s reached me and you.

Parish Service Times
St Philip & St James, Old Noarlunga
Sunday: Holy Communion: 9.00am
St Margaret’s, McLaren Vale
Sunday: Holy Communion: 10.15am
with Sunday School (but no Sunday School in January)
Wednesday: Holy Communion: 9:00am
St Stephen’s, Willunga
Saturday: Holy Communion: 5.30 pm
St Ann’s, Aldinga
Sunday: Holy Communion: 9.00 am
with special time for children continuing through January

But please note: On Sunday 28th February there will be only one service, at St Margaret’s, McLaren Vale, at 10 am, followed by our Annual Vestry Meeting.

Southern Vales contact information:
Locum Priest
Fr Phil Anderson Ph 8323 9744
Email pja1@westnet.com.au

Parish Secretary,
Wendy Sandercock Ph 8556 4535
e-mail: wendysac@westnet.com.au

The parish office is not regularly attended but messages can be left on the message bank. Phone 08 8323 9155

MAD RUSH
‘The Wodgers’ (the Adelaide musical group consisting of Andrew Clarkson and priests Andrew Mintern, Bruce Stocks and Jeff Oake) who played at St Ann’s for Aldinga on Display, have produced a CD of their own songs, titled Mad Rush. If you enjoyed their music on that day, why not buy the disc?
Copies available from Anne Chittleborough ph 8556 5078

THE WODGERS
MAD RUSH
$20