

The Grapevine

December 2010

Newsletter of the Pastoral District of Southern Vales, Diocese of The Murray,
SA



Knitted nativity figures, St Stephen's, Willunga

Christmas Services in the Southern Vales ***A Festival of Lessons and Carols***

Sunday 19th December

7 pm St Ann's, Aldinga

Christmas Eve Friday 24th December

Christingle Service - a Christmas Eve service for children

6 pm St Margaret's, McLaren Vale

Vigil Mass

9 pm St Philip & St James, Old Noarlunga &

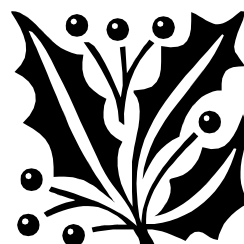
9 pm St Stephen's, Willunga

Christmas Day Saturday 25th December

Holy Communion

9.30 am St Margaret's, McLaren Vale &

9.30 am St Ann's, Aldinga, with children setting up the crib.



Fr Paul writes...

I'm sure preparations are already being made for this Christmas as we make arrangements for Christmas Day and for many a holiday with family and friends.

We also need to take time to prepare spiritually too in preparing for the way of the Lord, as we do in the season of Advent, which takes in the four Sundays before Christmas. Preparing the way for the Lord means we must examine our prayer life to see that our efforts have not slackened off over the past year. In the preparing for the coming of the Lord you may decide to spend extra time in prayer and meditation.

Associated with our ongoing spiritual growth as believers in Christ is the gradual understanding of the exact nature of our true selves and our place in God's world. As we endeavour to live out God's wisdom as it is revealed in the scriptures (Romans 13:9-14), believers can show others through their example how to prepare for the Second Coming of Jesus.

We should listen to our bodies. They are God given and precious but we should not become addicted to them, in the sense that their satisfaction is all-important. As Christians, we know that life is more than the body. We have to be ready when Christ comes again, we must discipline ourselves and instead of indulging every craving for our immediate satisfaction, we should be setting our eyes on the far more deeply satisfying joy of living in tune with our body's creator and sustainer, God himself.

I thank you all for your continuing welcome to the Pastoral District of the Southern Vales. I thank you also for adjusting to the new times of the services on Sundays. The changes (0830 at Aldinga and Old Noarlunga and 1030 at McLaren Vale) have enabled me to attend two of the three services each Sunday. It has enabled me also to spend time with you at the conclusion of the services and allows me to be properly prepared mentally and physically for the next service, which has been appreciated. For those children unable to attend Sunday School at Aldinga at 0830 because of the earlier time, there is the opportunity for them to take part in Sunday School at McLaren Vale at 1030.

I also want to urge everyone to consider bringing their children or grandchildren to the Christingle and Carol Service at St Margaret's McLaren Vale on Christmas Eve at 6 pm. This is a non-eucharistic family service and is in addition to the 9 pm services at Willunga and Old Noarlunga on Christmas Eve, and at McLaren Vale and Aldinga at 0930 on Christmas Day.

I take this opportunity to wish you all a blessed, holy and joyous Christmas.

Fr Paul



SHARE CHRISTMAS
In our time of feasting and celebration, let's not forget those in need.



There were three baptisms in the Pastoral District this month, welcoming three new members to the Body of Christ. Above, Melissa and Samuel Hage with their daughter Maggie May being baptised by Fr Paul Devenport, and below, at St Ann's Isabella Abbott proudly holds her sister Evie's baptismal candle while Trish Frith holds the service book.



The Parish Prayer Group will meet next at 10 am on Wednesday 23 February. (No January meeting because of the public holiday.)

Enquiries: Gillian Clampett 8556 5998.

'Prayer and praise are like a bird's two wings: with both working, you soar; with one out of action, you are earthbound.'



But birds should not be earthbound, nor Christians praiseless.'

J.I.Packer

December

Sunday 5th

ADVENT II

Gold Coin Collection for CPS* workers

Monday 6th

Mothers' Union SEM Seaford, 9.30. Guest speaker Judy Price, Diocesan Vice President. Intercessions/hostesses Helen Cook, Kathy Squire. Followed by Christmas Lunch at SEM Cafe

Enquiries: Barbara Jeanes 8556 4440

Thursday 9th

Colton Court singers 11 am-12

Enquiries: Sylvia Francis 8323 0007

Sunday 12th

ADVENT III

Monday 13th

St Ann's Guild Christmas lunch, Goolwa

Meeting at St Ann's Hall 10 30 am

Enquiries: Val Martin 8556 6100

Tuesday 14th

Parish Council 7 pm, St Margaret's

Sunday 19th

ADVENT IV

Service of 9 Lessons and Carols,

St Ann's, 7 pm (see next column)

Tuesday 21st

THOMAS

Friday 24th

CHRISTMAS EVE

6 pm Children's Service & Christingle

St Margaret's (see next column)

9 pm Vigil Mass St Philip & St James,

Old Noarlunga

9 pm Vigil Mass St Stephen's, Willunga

Saturday 25th

CHRISTMAS DAY

9.30 am Holy Communion St Margaret's, McLaren Vale

9.30 am Holy Communion St Ann's, Aldinga

Sunday 26th

ST STEPHEN'S WILLUNGA

PATRONAL FESTIVAL (see next column)

Combined service 10 am

HOLY INNOCENTS

Tuesday 28th

January

Sat 1st

CIRCUMCISION of JESUS

Sun 2nd

Gold Coin Collection for CPS* workers

Thurs 6th

EPIPHANY

Sun 9th

BAPTISM of JESUS

Sat 15th

St Ann's Jumble Sale

Tues 25th

CONVERSION of PAUL

Wed 26th

Australia Day

* Christian Pastoral Support

ADVENT BIBLE STUDIES

It's not too late to join!

'A Time of Waiting Expectation'

10 am Sundays at SS Philip & James, Old Noarlunga

10 am Sundays at St Ann's, Aldinga

10 am Wednesdays at St Margaret's McLaren Vale

7 pm Thursdays at the Rectory, McLaren Vale

Enquiries: Ted Sandercock 8556 4535



A FESTIVAL OF 9 LESSONS & CAROLS

Sunday 19th December

St Ann's, Aldinga, 7 pm

Refreshments in the hall afterwards

Gold coin donation.

Any profits will go towards the extra Christmas needs of the Christian Care Centre, Aldinga.

CHILDREN'S SERVICE AND

CHRISTINGLE

6 pm Christmas Eve

at St Margaret's

With symbols made with oranges, candles, ribbons and fruit, celebrate the coming of Christ our light into the world.



**On Sunday 26th December.
celebrate St Stephen's
Patronal Festival.
Combined Service, 10 am**

**Stay for a
relaxed shared ploughman's lunch
in the shade of the
peppercorn tree afterwards**



'Let the children come to me...'

As we enter the Christmas season, your children, grandchildren or other children you know may be keen to learn more about how Christmas festivities and symbols originated and why this time continues to be relevant in many people's lives today.

Bring them along to Sunday School

Aldinga 8.30 am

or

McLaren Vale 10.30 am

Ph: Anne 85565078

Jac 83837496 0427827909



News from Parish Council

The November meeting of the Pastoral District Council was held in the Sunday School room, with Fr Paul in attendance and Archdeacon Richard Seabrook in the Chair. Matters discussed included the following:

* **Shirley Garfit's Memorial:** Donations had been given for a memorial for Shirley Garfit, and a decision had been made to purchase a seat for the verandah of the St Margaret's Sunday School room. However, it had been discovered that in the terms of her will, Shirley had stipulated that there should be no memorial. That being the case, it had been decided that the seat for which the money had been given would serve as a memorial for Cyril McGaffin, another parishioner whose work for St Margaret's had been invaluable over many years. Lorna McGaffin was happy that this should happen.

* **Changed service times:** Fr Paul had found the changes beneficial in that he was able to spend time with congregations after the services. Disadvantages included the fact that the 8.30 service was not likely to attract children to Sunday School, and was not suitable for baptisms where people needed to travel to get to the service. Fr Richard believed that while it was preferable to hold baptisms in the normal Sunday service, afternoon baptisms would be necessary where there were early services.

* **Ross Davies:** Wendy had written to Ross Davies on behalf of PDC thanking him for good things he had done during his episcopacy. Fr Richard reported that Mr Davies had resigned his episcopacy and his Priestly Orders, and had been received into the Roman Catholic Church. Fr Richard was still offering pastoral care to him although he no longer had any connection with the Diocese.

* **Noticeboard:** Di Rickard thanked Greg Roberts for seeing to the St Margaret's board changes.

* **Wardens:** Fr Richard indicated that we would return to the system of having an elected People's Warden and also a Priest's Warden for each centre, with one warden being the priest's appointment.

Financial Report: Owing to changes in dates of PDC meetings, the financial report covered 2 months. Acting Treasurer Rupert Best reported the following figures:

* Total income for September	\$4,806
Total expenses for September	\$5,339 (including unbudgeted R & M costs to the Rectory)
Missions	\$786
* Total income for October	\$4,858
Total expenditure for October	\$6,626
Deficit	\$1,768 (includes Rectory door & curtains)
* Total income YTD	\$54,158
Total expenditure YTD	\$48,985
Missions YTD	\$4,126

Lenten Soup Suppers: St Ann's would welcome suggestions of interesting speakers for the Lenten Soup Suppers next year.

The next meeting will be held on 14th December in St Margaret's Sunday School room. There will be no meeting in January.

Around the traps...



St Margaret's Patronal Festival

Parishioners from all four centres joined together at St Margaret's McLaren Vale on Sunday 14th November to celebrate St Margaret's Day.

The choir led the congregation in Psalm 122, 'I rejoiced when I heard them say, "Let us go to the house of the Lord"' in a setting by Barry Bowden, and the Sunday School children showed how they believed St Margaret, Queen of Scotland, would have looked.

In true St Margaret's style the service was followed by a delicious lunch in the Sunday School room.

*Above: Jac Hocking with Sunday School children Georgia Copeland and Matthew and Bethany Hearn showing their representations of St Margaret.
Below: Yum! Lee Edmeades and Lorna McGaffin were among many enjoying the shared luncheon.*



Congratulations to...

Nicholas and Trish Tassie on the birth of Joshua Willem Karel Tassie on 16th November. A beautiful brother for Annalise, Christopher, Benjamin & Rebekah.



Sausage Sizzle

It was the Anglican Church's turn in October and November to run the sausage sizzle at the Quarry Market at Willunga to raise funds for the SV Schools chaplaincies. On both days the sausages sold well and further supplies had to be bought in. Thanks to Ted and Wendy Sandercock, to Rupert and Di Best, Trish Frith, Anne Chittleborough, Val Martin and to Fr Paul and Helen who joined in with a will and spent a whole morning sweating over a hot BBQ.



Thank you ...

Gordon Burnard, who contributed an electric whipper snipper for use at the Rectory.

Cath Davidson who provided a TV ad DVD player for St Ann's Hall.

Ben Paxton, Geoff Johnston & Greg Pettman for the wines contributed to the Christmas luncheon.

From St Stephen's, Willunga

* The driveway still needs to be poisoned as the recent rain has upset the planned activity. We still need to finish the slate paving and decide what to do with the area under the peppercorn tree. We need to reconsider the signage; it would be useful to consult with Wallace Mausolf.

* Thank you, Bevan & Lucy Creed, for cleaning the church during Advent.

* The Christmass period will be busy with a Vigil Mass at 9 pm on December 24 and then on the Sunday, the 26th, St Stephen's Day Mass at 10.00 am. Please bring food for a ploughman's lunch to share; refreshments provided.

* Please join us for the Vigil Mass on a Saturday at 5.30 pm if at any time you are unable to attend a Sunday Service.

* We have had a request for baptism information from around the 1860s. Assistance is also provided by the Willunga National Trust research facility.

Margaret Cameron & Ted Sandercock

From St Philip & St James

* A new notice board has been made by Nick Mausolf of Rip Digital, free of charge to the parish. It is a replica of the old board, with appropriate alterations, and Wallace Mausolf has approached the Onkaparinga Council requesting appropriate signs at either end of Church Hill Road.

* Stephen Wells has been working hard oiling the timber in the church and dead-heading the roses. He and Rupert Best have also been spraying weeds to keep the grounds in order. A large snake has been seen in the cemetery. There will be a special pre-Christmas cleaning day on December 11th.

* The congregation will be having a special morning tea prior to Christmas.

* Gifts are coming in steadily for Christmas hampers for the Christian Care Centre.

* The nesting box hanging from the tower has proved popular with the local Peregrine Falcons who have produced at least two babies. The parents are very active and vocal in protecting them from the fearsome



two-legged intruders below and have certainly frightened off the pigeons. They are surprisingly small birds for their noise.

Photo by R Best shows the nesting box and two falcons (ringed).

From St Ann's Aldinga

- * The jumble sale on 20th November raised \$385
- * We are delighted to welcome Bill and Margaret Cale back into the congregation and have noticed an immediate improvement in the quality of congregational singing!
- * Sadly, we have had no children for our Sunday services since the change in service time. We will have to think of other ways to engage in a ministry to the children of the area.
- * The wall of grass on the block next to the church has at last been cut. A snake has been found on the church porch.
- * There will be a working bee at the church for a pre-Christmas clean-up on Wednesday 23rd December from 9am.
- * On 25th November we assisted in providing a luncheon for the staff at the Aldinga Primary School as a gesture of appreciation for their work with the children of the district.
- * With the enormous increase in fast traffic on South Road. Jack Sanders is no longer able to cross the road safely to clean the brass at St Ann's—a job he has been doing for years. **But the brass still needs cleaning! Please let Val Martin know if you could assist with this (ph 8556 6100).** Jack still continues drawing up the reading rosters and writing parish baptism and marriage certificates



File photo: 2005

in his exquisite calligraphy.

* We look forward to our service of Lessons and Carols on 19th December.



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Thanks to Dad Hengeveld (See Luke 2:1-16)

12-20-2

SORRY FOLKS, WE'RE BOOKED SOLID ... GOD HIMSELF COULDN'T GET A ROOM HERE TONIGHT

An Advent Pageant involving three schools and all the local churches brought the story of Christmas to the Aldinga shopping centre on Friday 26th. (A) Galilee Catholic School children told the story of Christ's birth and (B) a combined choir sang Christmas carols and songs. In a combined churches support group Margaret Hooper valiantly headed a team baking some 500 cup cakes! (C) Margaret with husband Juan, and Nelson & Enid Garwood (Uniting Church) show some of the cakes. (D) the cakes distributed and enjoyed. Other volunteers blew up balloons & walked with the children, and on site at the shopping centre Pam Rowney and Vera Penny (E) provided water for the children. A set-up team from the Baptist, Uniting and Anglican churches set up the stage & stable. Students from Southern Vales Christian College joined the team of marshals (F). Thank you to all who assisted! *Anne Chittleborough*

News of Mitchell Hand

Mitchell's surgery is planned for this week (beginning 6th Dec.) and he will be in hospital for at least a week. A CT scan will show more but the oncologist last week was fairly positive. Mitchell has now completed two cycles of chemo and the blood test results show that the tumour has shrunk significantly.

The family thanks everybody for their prayers and asks for prayers especially this week.



Meet Brian McMillan

As indicated in the November issue, Brian McMillan has joined our team of organists.



He has settled in White's Valley, having retired earlier in 2010 after a 45-year career with the Australian Public Service. He joined the Office of the Crown Solicitor for the Commonwealth (now the Australian Government Solicitor) in Sydney in 1965 and has managed its Offices in Darwin, Perth, Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide, and has worked in National Office in Canberra. He has also delivered legal services in other Departments, such as Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, and, most recently, Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

He commenced piano and organ studies in his home town, Bowral, in the 1950s with O G Beavan LTCL, then long-serving organist at St Simon and St Jude's Church. At various times he has played for services in various places, including Christ Church Cathedral Darwin, Christ Church St Kilda, St Matthew's Wanniassa and St Peter and Paul's Old Cathedral Goulburn—and—for weddings—at St Ann's (in the past when the harmonium was in use).

Brian says that he has greatly appreciated the warm welcome given by the people of St Ann's to him as a new parishioner.

Seen above with Eileen Binns, another member of the team of organists.

Parish Christmas Lunch

Our annual Christmas lunch proved to be a very happy occasion. Fifty people enjoyed the meal provided by Jane Cuthbert and her helpers at the SEM Cafe—this included three couples from St Nicholas. The food was delicious and plentiful, and the buffet presentation meant that people were able to eat as much or as little as they wished. Second servings were also encouraged! Jane was happy to provide gluten free alternatives for two parishioners and *take-away* meals for two couples who were unable to attend due to illness.

The social committee would like to gratefully acknowledge the generous donation of wine by Ben Paxton and Geoff Johnston. We also thank Greg Pettman for facilitating this. *Wendy Sandercock*



Some of the Christmas Party guests:

Top: (L-R) Laurel Putland, Fr Ted Newing, Anne Lear, Joyce Newing, Alf Lear, Hedley Putland. Centre: Sylvia Francis, Susan Richards, Jean & Clarrie Bartlett, Malcolm Richards, Harry Francis. Bottom: Helen Blake, Paul Bell, Vera Penny, Helen Davies, Susan Watson, Bob Smith.

Bob Smith and Susan Watson cordially invite parishioners to attend their wedding ceremony at St Philip & St James, 4 pm on Saturday 18th Dec.



Bush Church Aid Society

Thank you to all who have a BCA box. We raised \$390.90 for the 6 months to October.

I am now receiving monthly newsletters via email from some

of the areas which are supported by BCA. They report on the many activities involving families living in the area. The schools are all seeking their help in the way of chaplains.

All report on the wonderful work carried out by the Nomads and others who travel north during the winter months and assist with general maintenance required to maintain their buildings. Alf and I plan to visit some of these places next year and offer our help. They send their greetings and prayers to all and ask that we keep them in our prayers as they spread the word of the Lord to the outback.

If anyone would like to read these letters let me know. They give a great insight into life in the outback (in places like Kununurra, for example) under conditions which are very trying at times.

Anne Lear ph 8556 5520

St Teresa's Prayer



May today there be peace within,
May you trust God that you are exactly where
you are meant to be,
May you not forget the infinite possibilities that
are born of faith,
May you use those gifts that you have received,
And pass on the love that has been given to you,
May you be confident knowing you are a child of
God.

Let this presence settle into your bones,
And allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance,
praise and love.

It is there for each and every one of us.

Contributed by

Parish Service times

St Stephen's, Willunga

Saturday: Holy Communion: 5.30 pm

St Philip & St James, Old Noarlunga

Sunday: Holy Communion: 8.30 am

St Ann's, Aldinga

Sunday: Holy Communion: 8.30 am

with children's lessons and activities

St Margaret's, McLaren Vale

Sunday: Holy Communion: 10.30 am

with Sunday School

Wednesday: Holy Communion: 9:00am

But please note: From time to time the four centres of the Pastoral District combine in worship to celebrate special events. On those days there is only one Sunday service in the Pastoral District.

On Sunday 26th December the only service will be a combined Eucharist at 10 am at Willunga, to celebrate St Stephen's Patronal Festival.

Southern Vales contact information:

Administrator: Archdn Richard Seabrook

Ph 08 8398 2517

Asst Priest The Rev'd Paul Devenport

Ph 08 8323 9744

Email pdevenport@vtown.com.au

Please respect Fr Paul's day off on Mondays.

Parish Secretary: Wendy Sandercock

Ph 8556 4535

email wendysac@westnet.com.au

***The Parish Office is not regularly attended
but messages can be left on the
message bank 08 8323 9155***

Visit our website!

<http://www.southernvalesparish.org>



**Christmas Cards
now available
at your church.
\$7 pack of 10**



People with news of coming events or noteworthy happenings in the Pastoral District of Southern Vales to share with the rest of the parish, please contact the Editor, Anne Chittleborough, at 23 The Esplanade, Pt Willunga 5173, Ph 8556 5078 or email machit5@bigpond.com.au, , preferably by 15th December. **PLEASE NOTE CHANGED EMAIL ADDRESS.**

With *The Grapevine* now appearing on the parish website <http://www.southernvalesparish.org> and including photos and some contact details, remember to notify me (contact details above) if you don't want to have anything about you included in *The Grapevine* in this format.