

July 2025

*Proclaiming Christ in word
and action;
growing in care, love and
service.*



The Grapevine

Newsletter of the Western Fleurieu Anglicans, Diocese of The Murray, SA



Synod 2025



The following is an extract from the Synod Address by the Administrator of the Diocese. The full text can be found on the Diocesan Website.

This evening we opened Synod in worship... The gathering of the Church in worship is itself a prophetic act. It is an embodied declaration that Christ is risen, and we are not alone.

Synod is not merely a meeting. It is, at its best, a sacred assembly where we seek to listen not only to one another but, more importantly, to the whisper of the Spirit. Our purpose here is not only administrative, but spiritual. We are gathered not to curate an institution, but to steward the gospel.

....Like St Francis let us be clear that what God asks of us is not nostalgia but renewal. ...The pathway forward may include restructuring but is not about an ending of what came before. It is an invitation to continue to refashion our diocesan life around mission, not repair or maintenance. It is the opportunity to ask whether our buildings, boundaries, and financial models are freeing us or entangling us. In the spirit of poverty and most importantly simplicity that Francis so loved, we are being called to strip back, to discern what is essential, and to let go of what no longer serves the mission of God.

This is not easy work. Change brings grief, and grief must be honoured. We lament the decline in Sunday attendance, the closing of churches, the loss of familiar patterns and identities. But we must not confuse the Church with its furniture. The Body of Christ remains. And so, we seek new models of shared leadership and ministry, where lay and ordained collaborate more deeply, where parish boundaries may be changed not to diminish but to unify, where congregations over fifty can act as anchor communities, sharing resources and spiritual leadership with those around them...

We are being asked to steward our finances wisely and perhaps pooling our resources for more strategic impact..

Our goal is not survival. It is transformation. The Church that will thrive after Christendom is one that has shed the illusion of cultural dominance and embraced the vulnerability of love. It is a Church that chooses the margins, listens more than it speaks, and offers welcome rather than judgment. This is the Church I believe the Diocese of The Murray is called to become. This is the holy calling before us.

And so, I invite you not into a project of efficiency, but a journey of faith. ... Even our weaknesses and failures are taken up into the grace of God. Even decline can be holy ground, if it leads us to greater dependence on the Spirit. We do not need to be big to be faithful. We need only be honest, open-hearted, and willing to be led.

In this Synod, I ask us all to engage not with defensiveness, but with holy imagination. Speak the truth, and listen for God in the voice of our neighbour. Let our hearts be broken if they must be, but never hardened. ...

Let us leave here Sunday afternoon not with answers but with better questions. Let us seek not comfort but clarity. Let us remember that Christ is risen, and because he lives, we are free to risk everything for love. The Spirit is with us, and will not abandon us. May we go from this place with hope in our hearts, humility in our hands, and the gospel ever on our lips.

In the face of the enormous challenges faced at the present time, by our diocese as a whole and by individual parishes, Synod 2025 was a gathering of prayer, praise and positivity. Inspired and encouraged by the stirring address by the Administrator (*above*) procedures were followed, decisions made, questions asked and answered, issues discussed, ideas shared and refreshments consumed, in companionship and good humour. Addresses by Fr Wayne Longford at the opening service and Fr Daniel Irvine at the Sunday service (at which Synod was joined by parishioners of WFA, the Uniting Church and the Church of Christ) were an inspiration. Thanks go to Greg and Brian, too, who raised the roof with the organ, and huge thanks to the catering team and volunteers who helped the wheels of the weekend turn smoothly.

AC (For photos see p. 13 of online supplement)



July

Thurs 3 rd	THOMAS
Sun 6 th	Gold coin collection for PCWs*
Mon 7 th	MU St Ann's, 9.30am
Thurs 10 th	Prayers for peace St Ann's 11.15am
Sat 12 th	Saturday Night Out, Willunga
Sun 13 th	ACH service, Yankalilla
Mon 14 th	WFA Council St Ann's 4pm
Tues 15 th	Friends of St Ann's 4pm
Sun 20 th	Walking with Jesus Christ Church 10am
Tues 22 nd	MARY MAGDALENE
Fri 25 th	JAMES
	Family tea, St Ann's 6 for 6..30pm
Sun 27 th	Patronal Festival St Ann's 9am 160 th Special Service Healing service Christ Church

*PCWs

Pastoral Care workers (Schools Chaplains)

If you have news of coming events or happenings in the Western Fleurieu Anglican area to share with the rest of the parish, please contact the Editor, Anne Chittleborough, ph 8556 5078 or email machit5@bigpond.com.au preferably by 15th July

Please notify the Editor if you wish to avoid the chance of being mentioned in the newsletter.

High Tea
at St Ann's
Sunday 17th August
3-5 pm
\$25



Part of St Ann's 160th Celebration!

August

Sun 3 rd	Gold coin collection for PCWs*
Sat 9 th	Saturday Night Out, Willunga
Sun 10 th	ACH service, Yankalilla
Mon 11 th	Mary Sumner Day Diocesan MU meeting, St Ann's (see p. 11)
	WFA Council Christ Church 4pm
Thurs 14 th	Prayers for Peace St Ann's 11.15am
Fri 15 th	Giving envelopes to be made at SCC 1.30pm
Sun 17 th	Walking With Jesus, Christ Church 10am
	High Tea at St Ann's 3-5pm (see below)
Tues 19 th	Ministry Team meeting 10.30am
	Friends of St Ann's 4pm
Fri 22 nd	Family tea, St Ann's 6 for 6.30pm
Sun 24 th	Healing service Christ Church
	Christmas in August Concert, St Margaret's (see below)
Sat 30 th	Contemplative Service, St Stephen's
Sun 31 st	COMBINED SERVICE St Ann's 10.30am

And also,

- * each Tuesday at St Stephen's, Willunga Meditation 9am
- each Wednesday at St Margaret's, McLaren Vale Holy Communion/Morning Prayer 9am, Bible Study 10am
- and each Friday Meditation at Christ Church, Yankalilla 9.15-10am

St Nicholas' would appreciate help on 15th August, 1.30pm, please, to make up the parish's giving envelopes



BY POPULAR DEMAND
ANOTHER



CHRISTMAS IN JULY AUGUST CONCERT
24th August 2025 at 2.30 pm

at Seaford Christian Churches, Grand Boulevard,
Seaford

in support of the
Bush Church Aid (BCA) Mid Year Appeal 2025

focussing on Coober Pedy where Dave and Margie Wood
are in their second year of ministry at the
Catacomb Church

Admission \$15 – OR MORE!

with guest artists

CHOIR: Cantate Dominum, Conductor: Sue Russell
Accompanist: Rosalind Gallasch

Refreshments will be served afterwards

News from St Stephen's, Willunga

Without a Parish Priest or a Warden, St Stephen's has faced a few challenges this month, but with everyone pulling together and lots of help from others we are getting there! Many thanks to Fr Alex and Fr Peter for the Eucharist on the first and third Saturdays and Judy Wells for assisting them, to John Strachan (Evening Prayer), Jenny Walker (Contemplative service), Margaret Cale (powerpoints, and supervising testing and tagging), Brian McMillan (Music,) Anne and Phil Duguid (opening and closing the church, morning tea and after-service drinks and for doing the bins, the grass and the toilets!), Cherise and Geoff for standing in while the Duguids are away in July, Anne C for cleaning and some gardening and Trish for pruning the roses, those who read at each service, and the group who continue to attend and take turns to lead the meditations on Tuesday mornings. It's real team work!

We owe thanks, too, to Val and Bill Higginson, who donated attractive biro pens inscribed "St Stephen's Church Willunga", to be given to those attending the church.

In spite of the careful preparation and instruction from Steve and Christi before they left on holidays, it has been quite a steep learning curve, bringing home to us how much we take for granted when someone else does everything! We pray for safe travel for them in the US, and we pray too for Stephen Carthew and Julie who have also been absent, with Stephen having had serious after-effects from surgery. Wendy Sandercock will be leaving us to attend St Margaret's when she returns from Darwin to live in McLaren Vale, and we will miss her greatly. She and Ted were the strength of St Stephen's for many years, and her presence is part of the fabric of the place. I need hardly say that we miss Fr Brenton's care of St Stephen's, but are always glad to see him if he slips in as a parishioner!

One of the lights at the front of the church failed for the service on the 14th, but the sanctuary by candle light looked even lovelier than usual, and there were enough temporary lights to serve for reading. The Duguids' grandchildren, Jimmy and Ella, joined the group for dinner at the pub after the service, and charmed us all.

On the weekend of the Synod, all other Sunday services in the parish were cancelled so that people could attend the Synod Eucharist. Fr Peter Simmons, assisted by Judith Wells (St Margaret's) took the Saturday evening service at St Stephen's. Judith wrote:

The service at St Stephen's on Saturday was not cancelled. It was to be a said service and we were unsure of numbers as most of the congregation were at Synod. However Anne and Philip Duguid came, bringing two of their grandchildren. Anne told her granddaughter, who was wearing "clicky" shoes, to avoid walking on the



The softer light in the sanctuary enhances its peace and beauty.



Phil Duguid with grandchildren Jimmy and Ella at dinner

wooden floors as it made a lot of noise, so said granddaughter organised kneelers as stepping stones to avoid the problem! Their grandson, Jimmy, held Philip's hand while he read the first reading and led us in the psalm, in order to keep Philip focussed. We had two visitors from Willunga that day, who had never attended previously, so it was a very cheerful service.

St Stephen's is in an enviable position, opening onto a busy street in Willunga. If there are times when we wonder why this church, with its small congregation, should not be closed, it is the spirit of mission of those who do attend the services and the meditation, and unexpected visits like those mentioned above and that of a man who one morning recently came in from the street urgently seeking a place for prayer – which, to me, answer this question. One day we may better understand what is God's plan for this centre of worship.

Anne Chittleborough

Well it is now the end of June and things still haven't slowed down. June has been a very entertaining month and continues to be as this report is written.

Fr Alex was rostered to take our first Sunday Eucharist of the month and following that the congregation as a whole was invited to the Bests' for lunch. However just a few days beforehand we discovered that the starting point of the McLaren Vale marathon had changed, compromising access to church to such a degree that it was impossible to hold our service there. After a few phone calls and then quite a few more, and with Rupert and Di's consent, the service venue was altered to the Bests' residence and we shared in a Home Service. The service was lovely, a little shorter and more intimate as 22 of us crowded into the Best's lounge and dining rooms. Lunch was great as well. Thank you Di and Rupert, and Fr Alex and Cheryl, for your flexibility.



The following Sunday was Pentecost. The banners behind the altar were replaced with red ones showing many bright flames in various hues; and once again bright red balloons in the shape of hearts and stars helped decorate the church representing the flames above the apostles' heads and reminding us of the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Fr Ian celebrated the service giving us words of wisdom during his sermon. He and Jan (welcomed back after a health break) joined us for morning tea.



We are so blessed to have Fr Alex and Cheryl, Fr Ian and Jan and Fr Peter (Wednesday services) in our lives. The third Sunday was Prayer, Praise and Proclamation; prepared by Greg, conducted by Judy and the "dreaded" sermon on the Trinity preached by Jenny. The sermon was very insightful and Jenny had obviously spent many hours in preparation. Jac as always provided mementos, this time demonstrating one way in which three can become one. Morning tea was delicious.

The fourth Sunday was part of Synod weekend, therefore the Sunday service was both the Synod service and the Parish service. As Synod was hosted by our parish and held at St Nicholas', Jane Cuthbert and Helen Cook were very involved in both the initial preparations and the day to day management, particularly in regard to catering and technical troubleshooting. All the Churches in the parish were involved and from St Margaret's we provided Synod Reps, assistance with services and kitchen help. A very busy and satisfying weekend.

The fifth Sunday was a combined Parish Eucharist held at St Margaret's and involving all the other congregations. One of the themes was "Exploring Prayer" and after a small introduction, various members of the parish introduced their favourite prayers or ones that had significance for them, then led the rest of the congregation in the prayer. *(For example, see p. 11)*

Under the guidance of Fran, the hall was readied on the Saturday and after the service a light lunch followed, with ample food provided by everyone, including some left



over from Synod. It was a very pleasant day and an opportunity to catch up and to develop closer bonds with fellow parishioners. Thank you to all those who were involved one way or another—and there were many. Greg continues to oversee the maintenance of St Margaret's grounds and is keeping an eye on our newly graded and gravelled driveway as the winter rain impacts it. As always thank you to all those people throughout the Parish who generously give their time and energy to help us as needed. May God continue to bless us all as we continue to step forward in faith.

Judy Wells for Julia Drought and the Congregation of St Margaret's

St Ann's has a monthly get-together with anyone from the congregation who would like to contribute to or simply hear about our little church's direction. Once called the "Guild", it has morphed over the years to what we now know as "Friends of St Ann's". Many of our reflections for the *Grapevine* come from the discussions we have at Friends and our thanks must go to Anne, who writes up in a coherent way the "goings on" in the daily life of our small but active church. Worship, Caring matters, Property and Management are among topics discussed. One succinct description of "Worship Matters" that was discussed was an observation that Brian made regarding our services over the past month. We had a visiting priest for a communion service, and two lay-led services, both linking current world and local issues. The beauty of having such variety in our Addresses is that we now have a whole range we didn't have before. In one of our lay-led services, Victoria commented on the people mentioned only once in the Gospel reading of that day who are never mentioned again. She left us with questions about what happened to them afterwards? We don't tell our speakers what to say, but simply ask the Spirit to lead them and ultimately speak to us. So often the congregation goes home pondering the Spirit's leading.

These new forms of service and worship seem to be confirmation of the direction we are going in as a congregation.

On Saturday May 31st, as an unofficial Hope 25 outreach, a much larger group of us than had been expected attended a BBQ lunch provided by our local biker group and the "Barossa Heathens". Many thanks to Chef Terry (above) for his amazing culinary skills, Tas for cooking the BBQ and everyone who brought a salad or contributed in some way. The day was cool, but conversation and connections were invaluable. It's always amazing that when people start chatting to each other and take that plunge out of their comfort zones, how much we have in common— jobs, interests or people we know.

Before lunch, Fr Peter Chapman took the guys into the church where they held a meeting. The day was a great success and we hope to have another get-together later in the year. For more about this, please see what Fr Peter has written on page 7.



That same night ten of us went to the Waldorf School in Willunga for a quiz night. Invited by the daughter of one of our now deceased parishioners, we found ourselves with 140 others keen to try their skills. It was noisy but warm. We didn't win, but we also didn't disgrace ourselves! Money raised was to buy balls for a local rugby team in Tonga, which happened to be a part of a year 12 lad's school project.



It's good to realise that church isn't just about being with your familiar congregation once a week, but about getting into the community, showing people with alternative views that Christians are people on a life journey as they are; not threatening, but approachable and happy to speak about what they believe. The following day was a celebration of the life of Shelley Philpott (see p. 7). It was a month of activities!

On to more mundane matters, we have a saga with our green waste bin. It was emptied at the beginning of the month and has been missing since - possibly dropped into the truck with the green waste. On contacting the council to replace it, we were told that churches are not given a green bin. Looks like we'll have to buy one to replace it! On a more positive note, the rain has been welcomed by the gardening team and a lemon tree and three agonis have been planted.

Julianne Bates & Brian McMillan, Wardens

STOP PRESS: Changed access to St Ann's
We are advised that the new Link Road between Stonehouse Lane and Aldinga Road will be opened on 4 July 2025 with the consequence that access directly to and from Main South Road into Stonehouse Lane will then cease. This will mean that a person approaching St Ann's from the South, say, Sellicks Beach, would turn right from Main South Road into Aldinga Road, then left into the Link Road and follow that Link Road to Stonehouse Lane. A person approaching St Ann's from the North would proceed on Main South Road past St Ann's and turn left into Aldinga Road, then left into the Link Road, following that Link Road to Stonehouse Lane. A person from Willunga would turn right from Aldinga Road into the Link Road and follow it from there.

Fr Peter Chapman ("Chappy"), formerly of St Ann's, now Priest In Charge of the parish of Campbelltown, Diocese of Adelaide, writes:

THE HEATHENS CAME TO CHURCH.

On Saturday the 31st May, the Heathens came to church. St Ann's has always reached out to our community, to connect with community projects and allow people to come and be involved in various events and services. One such group in the past was a Social Motorcycle Group. A few months ago, they reconnected with St Ann's to establish the coming together of two clubs, one in the Barossa and one in Aldinga, called the "Heathens".

This was a perfect opportunity for us to open our hearts and church for them to come. It was also a chance to bring the hope of Christ to men and their families who had never had this opportunity before. "Hope 25" for us was to open our doors and invite them in for their meeting, and follow this with a lunch where we could mix and share with one another. A member of the "Heathens" is the Priest they call "Chappy" (Chaplain), who helped to bring this together.

Before the Lunch, the Heathens held a formal meeting in the church itself, which they asked "Chappy" to open in prayer. They then turned on a magnificent lunch, to which St Ann's congregation was invited and mingled with the bikers, their wives and their children. Some of the bikers were surprised how open we were to meeting them, but they enjoyed our company and at the end of the day they expressed their desire to continue to meet at St Ann's.

When the two chapters have combined meetings they plan to meet in Paradise, at St Martin's, where "Chappy" is the Priest in Charge; this being a halfway place between the Barossa and Aldinga, and they hope to establish financial support for St Martin's work with the homeless. As one Biker said, "Who'd have thought it! The Heathens are supporting the church!"

We pray that our relationship will grow with the Heathen bikers, where we can continue to offer them the love of Christ and they come to receive Him and His love for them, the hope of Christ.

Fr Peter



Next day, on the 1st June a gathering of about 30 people was held at St Ann's in memory of Shelley Philpott, daughter of (then) Seaford parishioners Trevor and Margaret Philpott. Shelley was killed in a motor accident on Saltfleet Bridge in 1994, soon after graduating from Bible College.

Elizabeth Blades, wife of Fr Jim Blades, was organist at St Ann's at the time, and she and Fr Jim (and their dog) were active in the building of St Ann's Room. Elizabeth created a memorial window for Shelley, reflecting Shelley's words on her graduation:

When I came to Sydney, to college, I had a candle burning inside me. I was full of love for [God] and I wanted to share it so much - but I didn't really know how and had lots of fear... And the candle has grown from the pale flickering light to a fire in my heart. It'll be so good to get out of college and help light fires in other people - for them to experience the indescribable love I have for God and the love I know He has for me."

The window is a special feature of St Ann's, and many have commented on it over the years, especially as the sun sets and the rays of light from the west beam through the flame and the other colours.

The gathering this month was an opportunity for those who had known her to remember her and join in celebrating her life, and it was especially moving that two of the Blades' children, Mary-Ann and David, flew over from Perth to be present.

In the photo: David, Mary-Ann, Shelley's sister Gabby, her parents Margaret and Trevor, and friend Anthony Laube.

Read *The Grapevine* in colour, with additional pages of photos, on our parish website, southernvalesparish.org



(More photos p. 15)

On 1st June our service was taken by Fr Peter Randle, who introduced the monthly topic of Jesus' statement, "I am the Gate"; a foretaste of the discussions we would have later in *Walking with Jesus*. On the next Sunday, the Festival of Pentecost, Fr Peter Simmons celebrated the Eucharist. The original Jewish festival of Pentecost was 50 days after Passover, the day that the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples and others, gathered in an upper room in Jerusalem, and it is now celebrated by the church on the fiftieth day after Easter.

On 15th June our *Walking with Jesus* gathering started with tea or coffee and yummy cakes made by Marlene Stone and Gail Filsell. In our initial informal chat session we took the opportunity to plan and look ahead. On the fifth Sunday in November (the 30th) it will be our turn to host the combined Western Fleurieu Anglicans service. Following a suggestion by Peter Filsell we are planning to hold the service at the Yankalilla Museum, either outside if the weather is fine or inside the main display shed, with the other Christian churches in our area being invited to attend—a good opportunity to publicise the service to the general community.

On the 22nd June Fr Alex Bainton led us in the Eucharist and the laying on of hands. The reading from Kings about God speaking to Elijah, not in the earthquake, wind or fire but in a still small voice (or a gentle whisper as some translations put it) was particularly powerful in helping us think about our healing.

Synod 2025 was held at Seaford Christian Centre over the weekend of June 21-22nd. Peter Filsell attended as a parish representative and Liz as an observer on the Saturday morning and the lunch that followed.

On Sunday 29th there was a Combined Service at St Margaret's, McLaren Vale, where the congregation was invited to offer their favourite prayer and speak about it. Peter Filsell contributed a prayer by Hamish Stokes, who was unable to attend the service. (See on p. 11).



This month's **Walking with Jesus**, led by Liz Gordon-Mills, was on Jesus' statement "I am the Gate" John 10:1-10, where Jesus describes himself as both the Good Shepherd, whose voice is recognized by his sheep, and also as the Gate through which the sheep must pass to go into the shelter of the fold or to be let out into the wider pastures.

We examined the function of the gate to the sheep fold in the time of Jesus and how we can apply this concept to our own lives. As his "sheep" we can rely on his compassionate care of us in all our daily activities. Being inside the fold can be thought of as being in a safe place, such as in our churches surrounded by fellow believers. We realized that in going out into the pasture of our everyday world we can also share the light of Jesus with others. It is important that as Christians we participate in secular groups such as service clubs, sporting clubs or social clubs if we are able. Jesus is with us both inside the fold of our church and outside in the wider community.

We also thought about the saying "When God closes a door, He opens a window" - popularized from "The Sound of Music". We wondered whether this was true in our own lives. Sometimes what we want may not be truly the best for us, and we need to pray for guidance along another path.

We realized that this concept of the gate or the door has been widely used in the New Testament. Jesus said that he knocks at the door of our hearts, waiting to be let in and that the gate is narrow leading to eternal life. In the Book of Revelation there is mention of the twelve gates of heaven, each being one pearl. Such rich imagery opens up many more aspects to "the gate" which may be explored!

Music at Christ Church in June

The first reading on 1st June was about Paul and Silas, in prison after having been stripped and beaten, with their feet in the stocks (Acts 16: 16-34). Far from feeling down-trodden and depressed, these two sang and prayed at midnight and were heard by the other prisoners. What wonderful evidence of the presence of the Holy Spirit in their hearts! We chose to make this story the basis of our "New Hymn of the Month" (sung every Sunday), which was *How can I keep from singing?* The tune was composed by American Baptist minister, Robert Lowry, while the words were by a "Pauline T". The Quakers have now adopted it as their own in the twentieth century.

Liz Gordon-Mills

This month has been very busy with preparations for the Synod Meeting 20th—22nd June at SCC. After lots of emails, phone calls and moments of panic, it all came together very successfully thanks to the support from the local people at SCC and the many volunteers from the Parish. Those who prepared, cooked and served the meals, those who washed and cleaned, those who moved tables, chairs and general handypeople around the place... We will not try to name them as we are sure to forget someone! So please take this as our thanks for all your time and efforts in making the Synod Weekend so successful. We have had some lovely comments from people saying how welcoming and friendly we all were and lots of compliments on how great the meals were. **So — well done us!!**

Our Family Service on 1st of June took the theme of Captivity and Freedom – How many of us are imprisoned by our own actions or thoughts, enslaved by addiction, our own bodies imprisoning us through mental health, illness or infirmity, our faith in God and the Church challenged, restrained by unhelpful attitudes from the past or fears about the future. As Christians we look to the scriptures and we can see how despite all our fears the life, death and resurrection of Jesus assures us that we are loved and free. Our challenge is to use our freedom to engage with God's mission of setting others free too. We do this when we let God's love shine through us, so that his glory is revealed to those around.

To emphasise this feeling of freedom in Christ, Sunara



made lots of paper chains which we symbolically broke as we sang the words from the Charles Wesley Hymn, "And can it be" : "My chains fell off, my heart was free, I rose,

went forth, and followed thee."

On the 8th June We celebrated Ann Wilson's birthday with a rousing chorus of "Happy Birthday" and a lovely cake made by Helen Cook which we all



Fr Ted, Ann Wilson

enjoyed with a cuppa before we began our service. That Sunday was Pentecost, and our Round Table Service took the theme of Fire, Wind and Water as we pondered the scriptures and marvelled at the work of the Holy Spirit. It is difficult to describe something as abstract as the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples. Many different images are used in Scripture including fire, water, and a rushing wind. All of these ideas imply energy and movement. The image of the fire is both communal and individual. All were filled with the Spirit, yet a tongue fell on each separately. God, through the Holy Spirit, recognises us as individuals with our own gifts, passions and personality traits. Together, though, we are more than the sum of our separate identities; we are all children of God, members of the same family, ready and willing to follow where He leads us.

15th June Our Healing Service was taken by Fr Alex. It was lovely to have him join us again in our worship and to listen to his sermon on Trinity Sunday. Fr Ted assisted Fr Alex with the healing component of our service with anointing and prayers for those in need. We heard how God will make all things new and be all things to all people as the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. Jesus also gave us his commandment – to love one another as he loved us – a challenge to us all as Jesus loved unconditionally — through actions, words, and sacrifice.

22nd June was a combined service at St Nicholas', involving the members of Synod, our parish and the Uniting and Church of Christ congregations at SCC. It was an amazing service with so many voices raised in praise and worship of our God. The sermon was given by Fr Daniel Irvine, Bro Simon led the Great Thanksgiving and the choir from St Ann's led us in our singing and with the communion hymns. Sunara's artistic efforts were admired by Fr Daniel's daughter Erin (*see below*). The service was followed by a shared morning tea in the group rooms. The final session of Synod followed and after cleaning up one last time, we all went home for a well deserved rest!

29th June was another parish combined service, this time at St Margaret's, to which we contributed. (See p. 5)

*Blessings
Helen Cook and Jane
Cuthbert, Wardens*



St James', Delamere

A team from St Ann's and St Margaret's had visited and reviewed the items in the church which needed to be removed before sale. An updated list to be sent to Synod members in case they needed any of them. No service or liturgy is needed for a deconsecration – it is a matter of changing the licence. A copy of this needs to be given to the estate agent handling the sale. An article had been published in the local *Gazette*, containing false statements about the sale. Peter Filsell as curator of the cemetery had written to its author and to the Editor of the *Gazette* correcting the wrong facts.

Cemetery insurance is no different from church and building insurance. A safe working environment is a requisite.

Finance (see graphs)

The Treasurer reported that compared to last year income was down in all centres and expenses up in most centres.

Lay Ministry Team

John Strachan (Priest's Warden and convener of the group) reported that it was meeting and was working well. A pattern had been established of working together. He thanked those who were ready and able to assist: it was an example of what a church family could do, and contains some elements of future operations. We are grateful to the retired priests who are assisting.

Christ Church

An account held in the name of St Philip & St James, Old Noarlunga (\$49) would be repurposed to a Christ Church SP Fund.

St Ann's

A meeting had been held with the Fleurieu Alliance regarding the road closures. It appeared that no decision had been finalised on how traffic travelling south on South Road would enter the church property. Experts from AUDILAPS had visited to inspect the buildings to see if road works had affected their condition, and to test the actual level of noise generated by the road. St Ann's church and driveway were still suffering from excessive damp.

St Margaret's

A marathon on Sunday 1st June had led to the closure of Main Road with no access to the church (see p. 5). The decision to close had been made on misinformation about church use and had disrupted the community, including three churches. Onkaparinga Council to be contacted.

SCC

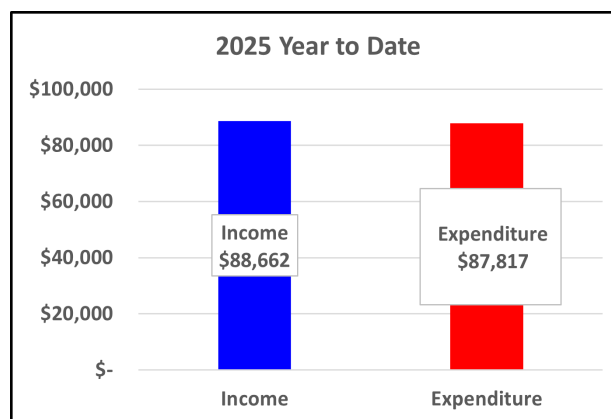
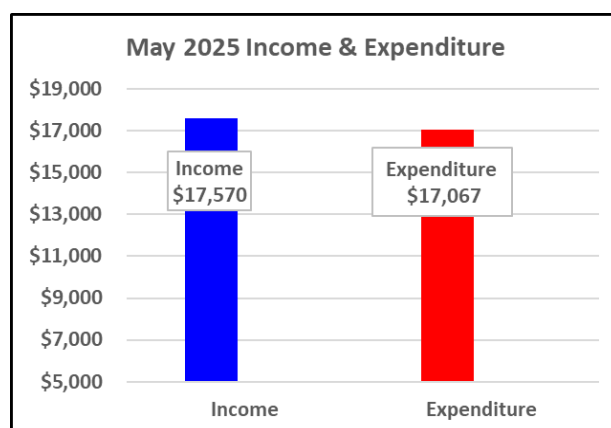
Services were going well, and attendance more than anticipated.

3rd August would be the 29th anniversary of the setting up of Seaford Christian Churches, with ministers of each represented faith attending.

St Nicholas' makes the giving envelopes for the parish and was asking for helpers for Friday 15th August at 1.30pm. Numbers needed would be required from each centre.

The prayer chain was active. Fr Ted has taken some home communions.

Preparations were underway for the Synod.



A good way to support the ministry of our parish is to arrange a weekly offering as a direct debit. This gives a steady commitment to our church even when we miss a Sunday.

**The Anglican Parish of
Southern Vales BSB: 105 071,
Acc no. 029112440**

On listening... From p. 8:

Hamish Stokes, who is currently studying for a Certificate in Aged Care, wrote the following when he was leading Christ Church's "Walking with Jesus" morning in May, and contributed it to the Combined service at St Margaret's.

"Jesus, please open my eyes and let me see those around me that are in need of my compassion. Compel me to listen and hear their needs. Give me the heart to be interested in their interests, so I may offer the support they truly want. Guide me in ways of helping unknown to myself."

Although I think the prayer attempts to speak for itself, it does invite deeper digging. It's almost like a hole one wants to pass through—but squeezing through it is not possible without first losing a little weight—requiring a more substantial change in lifestyle. For us there is a more meaningful adjustment that needs to be made. There is something nagging at my mind like a letting go of "ego", "self righteousness", "knowing" and being open to the unknown; and facing the fact that in faith and other areas of life, we do not know what it is that we do not know, and we may never know unless we make some personal changes to prepare ourselves. It's almost as if one needs to "get over one's self to really help someone else". That might require us to listen, really listen; not just quietening the mouth but also the mind. We need to prepare ourselves.

There is "A time to keep silent, and a time to speak" - Ecclesiastes 3:7.



Our meeting in June was held at the Seaford Christian Churches café. Our time together began with conversation and a time of sharing news, and morning tea with a scrumptious bun loaf brought as usual by Gail Filsell.

President Trish had been given some warm winter clothing, which she planned to pass on to Anglicare.

Our secretary brought our attention to a Diocesan letter regarding Executive positions for the next triennium. Several positions, including President and Secretary will be vacant and requests for nominations are sought. Helen and Trish, who had both thought they may step down from their positions, (Helen: Prayer and Spirituality, Trish: Social issues and Actions) decided to continue to maintain the presence of Southern Vales on the Executive.

The following meetings were arranged:

- **August 11th, Mary Sumner Day** Diocesan Service, BYO Lunch and AGM, at St Ann's with a cuppa at 10.30am.
Eucharist at 11.00am with Fr Daniel Irvine, our MU Chaplain, preaching. All welcome - not just MU!
- **September 1st** at SCC Seaford at 9.30am
- **October 13th** at D Rushbrook's apartment area at Kalyra Village, 91 Main Road, McLaren Vale.



This Month's Readings: Year C, 2025

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—6th July—2 Kings 5:1-14—Psalm 30—Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-18—Luke 10:1-12 (13-16),17-24

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—13th July—Amos 7:7-17—Psalm 82— Colossians 1:1-14— Luke 10:25-37

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—20th July—Amos 8:1-12—Psalm 52—Colossians 1:15-29— Luke 10:38-42

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—27th July— Hosea 1:2-10—Psalm 85—Colossians 2:6-15—Luke 11:1-13

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—3rd August—Hosea 11:1-11—Psalm 107:1-9, 43 — Colossians 3:1-11—Luke 12:13-21

Western Fleurieu Anglicans

(A parish of the Diocese of The Murray)

Visit our website!

<http://www.southernvalesparish.org>

SCAN ME



Office Tel 0476 754 772

Secretary Mrs Jane Cuthbert

Email: admin@southernvalesparish.org

Administrator of the Diocese

Br Simon Waters

administrator@murray.anglican.org

Currently no parish priest. Enquiries to
Parish Secretary (*above*)

Priests' Warden: John Strachan

0407 605 152



12-8

© 2005 Bill Keanes, Inc.
Dist. by King Features Synd.
www.familycircus.com

**"Hear that? People in heaven have
ever-laughing life."**

Service times & contact details

St Margaret's, 99 Main Road McLaren Vale

Sunday: 10.30am

Wednesday: 9:00am

Wardens:

Judith Wells 0411 502 218

Julia Drought 0432 366 899

St Stephen's, St Andrews Tce, Willunga

Saturday: 5.30pm

Tuesday: Meditation 9am

Warden:

Steve Banner 0404 163 940

St Ann's, 7 Stonehouse Lane, Aldinga

Sunday: 9am

Wardens:

Julianne Bates 0422 817 169

Brian McMillan 8557 6984

St Nicholas', Seaford Christian Churches

cnr Main St and Grand Blvd, Seaford

Sunday 10.30am

Fifth Sundays in the month: a 10am

combined Ecumenical service with the
Uniting Church and the Church of Christ.

Wardens:

Jane Cuthbert 0407 651 606

Helen Cook 0427 679 787 or 8386 3689

Christ Church, Yankalilla

1st, 2nd & 4th Sundays – 11.00am

3rd Sunday – 10.00am Church Hall

"Walking with Jesus" (see p. 8)

Wardens:

Peter Filsell 0427 534 095

St James', Delamere

No scheduled services.

For information contact

Peter Filsell 0427 534 095

*Where there is a 5th Sunday in a month,
as there will be in August
you can expect some service times to
be different.*

*See "For Your Diary" (p. 3) and/or check
pewsheets/noticeboards/website*

July 2025

Colour Photo Supplement



Snapshots of Synod 2025

(see pp 1-2)

Thanks to our roving Photographer, Julia!



Greg and the organ

Br Simon, Fr Wayne Landford, Judith Wells



Above: What a team!
L-R: Rosie, SCC Café
volunteer, Cathy,
Chris, Judith, Pat,
Jane



Workshop



Some
serious
discussion:
Ken Pigeon
and Richard
Anderson

July 2025

Colour Photo Supplement



Combined service

(See p. 5)



The service:

A: Judith

B: Bill, Fran, Kay (Anne, back)

The lunch

C: Heather, Fr Peter, Fr Brenton

D: Marilyn, Wayne, Ian

E: De, Richard

F: Tony and Wendy

G: Susie and Fran

H: Pam and Trevor



St Ann's, Aldinga
Lunch with the bikers
(see p. 7)



Kay, Rosie, Trish and (back) Ken.



St Nicholas', Seaford

Chains that bind us

(see p. 9)

Chains that bind us

"...My chains fell off"



St Margaret's, McLaren Vale

(See p. 5)

Changing the banners

These banners are regularly changed by Michael Drought. Thank you Michael and all those other secret squirrels who make sure things are done.

