

February 2026

*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



**Bishop Brad Billings will be the new Archbishop of Adelaide and the Metropolitan of the Province of South Australia (*map, R*).**

**He follows Archbishop Geoff Smith, who retired in 2025.**

**Bishop Brad will be installed in St Peter's Cathedral, Adelaide, on the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2026.**

**We still await the outcome of our episcopal situation in The Murray.**

Diocese of  
WILLOCHRA

Diocese of  
ADELAIDE

Diocese of  
THE  
MURRAY



Ash Wednesday (February 18<sup>th</sup>) marks the beginning of Lent in our liturgical calendar. Lent is a quiet and honest season in the life of the Anglican Church—a time when we are invited to slow down and turn our hearts again toward God. Marked by prayer, fasting, and self-examination, Lent calls us to face both our frailty and our deep need for grace. The liturgy grows simpler, the tone more restrained, helping us listen more carefully to God's voice and to the movements of our own hearts.

As we walk with Christ through the wilderness and toward the cross, we are reminded that repentance is not about shame, but about restoration. Lent gently teaches us to tell the truth about ourselves: where we have fallen short, where we have loved poorly, and where we resist God's transforming work. Yet this season is never without hope. Every act of self-denial and every honest prayer is oriented toward renewal. In letting go of what distracts or hardens us, we make space for God to heal us, deepen our compassion, and

draw us more fully into the life of Christ, so that we may enter the joy of Easter with hearts made humbler, freer, and more ready to love.

I encourage you this Lent to engage in a Lenten study, whether with a group or on your own. Or to observe the Daily Offices each day. You might purchase a study book, access online resources, or use the ePray app on your phone. Find something that works for you. And if you have any questions about this, please feel free to ask me.

Blessings,

*Rev Beck.*

**If you have news of coming events or happenings in the Western Fleurieu area to share with the rest of the parish, please contact the Editor, Anne Chittleborough at 23 Esplanade, Pt Willunga 5173, ph 85565078, or machit5@bigpond.com, preferably by 15<sup>th</sup> February.**

***And please notify the Editor if you wish to avoid the chance of being mentioned in the newsletter.***

### **A Personal Testimony: Revolution of the Spirit**

When I walked the Camino Frances—797 kilometres across the top of Spain—I did not go with expectations. I did not set out with a clear purpose or a religious agenda, though as an Anglican priest many assumed that was my reason. I went simply to listen, to let the journey itself reveal why I was there.

What I found was a journey of the soul. The Camino gave me times of joy and laughter, times of sadness and loneliness, and times of deep silence and prayer. It stripped away the familiar and placed me in a world where each day was uncertain, each step a choice to keep moving forward. In that space, God spoke—not always in words, but in presence, in the rhythm of walking, in the courage to keep going.

I learned that we all need moments when we step out of our comfort zones. When we leave behind the safe and familiar, we discover resilience. We begin to ask the deeper “why” questions. And in that questioning, something stirs within us—a revolution of the spirit. This revolution changes how we see ourselves, how we see the world, and how we choose to live.

For me, the Camino became a call to speak truth with courage. Too often we are told how to act, how to speak, how to avoid offence. Too often we hide from the rawness of reality. But the real world is not always gentle—it can be harsh, demanding, and broken. And yet, it is precisely there that God calls us to live faithfully, to stand for justice, to walk with integrity.

Revolution begins with you. It begins when you step out of the familiar, when you allow God to stir your spirit, when you refuse to be silent in the face of oppression or fear. My Camino taught me that transformation is not found in comfort, but in courage. And that courage, once awakened, can ripple outward to change the world.

Buen Camino

*A thankful pilgrim.*

## February

Sun 1 <sup>st</sup>	Gold coin collection for PCWs*
Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup>	St Nicholas' shared lunch and meeting <b>PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE</b> Mothers Union, McLaren Vale Information Centre, 9.30am
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Saturday Night Out, Willunga</b> (see p. 7)
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup>	ACH service, Yankalilla, 2pm
Tues 10 <sup>th</sup>	WFA Council St Nicholas' 4pm
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup>	Prayers for Peace, St Ann's, 11.15am
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>TRANSFIGURATION</b> Walking With Jesus, Christ Church 10am
Tues 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>SHROVE TUESDAY</b> (see below) Friends of St Ann's 4pm
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> 9am St Margaret's 7pm St Ann's
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Vestry Reports to be in to Parish Secretary</i>
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Healing Service, Christ Church 11am
Tues 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>MATTHIAS</b>
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup>	Family Tea, St Ann's 6 for 6.30pm

## March

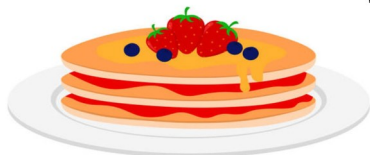
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Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup>	Prayers for Peace, St Ann's, 11.15am
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Walking With Jesus</b> , Christ Church 10am <b>Parish Vestry Meeting</b> , St Margaret's 2pm Friends of St Ann's 4pm
Tues 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>JOSEPH</b>
Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Palm Cross making</b> , St Nicholas', 1pm
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Healing Service</b> , Christ Church 11am
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>MATTHIAS</b>
Tues 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>LADY DAY, MU Diocesan celebration</b> 150 years
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Family Tea</b> , St Ann's 6 for 6.30pm
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>PALM SUNDAY</b>
Sun 29 <sup>th</sup>	

\* Pastoral Care Workers (Chaplains)

*And also,*

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

## Celebrate Shrove Tuesday



## With Us!

Come for pancakes, fellowship, and a fun community gathering before Lent begins.

Tuesday 17th February  
6-8pm

St Margaret's Anglican Church  
99 Main Road McLaren Vale  
Donation appreciated

## ALL WELCOME

## Explore God's Invitation to Care for Creation

Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2026  
9.30am-3.30pm

St Chad's Anglican Church hall,  
Cheltenham St. Highgate

Creative ways to learn how to care for  
God's creation,  
& biblical discussion/reflection

Enquiries: Sally Shaw 0418 154 195





## News from St Margaret's, McLaren Vale

### Church Services

We have had a satisfying January. However this report commences with the last Sunday in January. Rev Beck celebrated Holy Communion for us with her usual warm, succinct and right-on-target sermon. And a really joyous



*We love welcoming visitors!*

*Above: from the UK, Joan, with her family, Julianne, Dave and Cooper.*

*R: Jac's grand-daughter tries out the drums, with Fran Pettigrew looking on.*



moment came when Joan from England, who was last here for six months when Australia closed its borders during Covid, and returned to visit her daughter, was present in church with her daughter Julianne, son-in-law Dave and grandson Cooper. It was great to see Joan and family again.

Epiphany was celebrated with Morning Prayer, and during the first hymn the three wise men made it to our nativity scene (see p. 14). Again John Strachan gave us

food for thought with his address.

Our second Sunday in January was Holy Communion celebrated by Fr Ian. It was lovely to see him and Jan again. Jac's sister Tracie was also present and it was great to catch up with her again. Curtis played the organ that day as Greg was unavailable. Thankyou Curtis; it is always a joy to see you. The third Sunday continued as Prayer, Praise and Proclamation with Greg organising the power point. I led the service and gave the address, John taking the general intercessions and Jac providing mementos to help us remember during the quieter times in our lives that Jesus is the Lamb of God. Morning tea was delicious, of course. It was also a pleasure to have Fr Peter Simmons as part of the congregation with us. Jac had her little grand-



daughter with her: she was very quiet during the service but much preferred playing with one of the toy drums we have in the hall afterwards. Next time she comes we may give her the drum to accompany the organ during the hymns.

Fr Peter will be with us again celebrating Holy Communion on the fourth Sunday and Brian McMillan will be playing the organ as Greg is away with his family. Thankyou Brian.

We recommenced the Wednesday morning services with Morning Prayer on the 14<sup>th</sup> followed by Bible study in the hall afterwards.

We celebrated one extra service this month as Julia and Michael reaffirmed their wedding vows for their

40<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary (see next column). They then treated us to afternoon tea in the hall.

### The More Mundane

After the Epiphany service we needed to take down the Christmas tree and the Nativity scene, reset the banners behind the altar and generally put the church to rights. We decided that Tuesday was a good day and set the time for 1:30 to allow those going to Fr John Devenport's funeral time to get back. However Julia got restless, and by the time I arrived, just before 1:30, she and Michael had dismantled the Christmas Tree and the Nativity scene, packed the figurines and the Chrismons and were replacing the banners behind the altar, leaving very little for Greg and me to do. Thankyou for that. Unfortunately for Julia it meant that she and I had time to complete the annual OH&S audit on the church and the hall and once she and Michael had departed it gave me time to finalise the Church stats for the year.

We have had two donations: a beautiful set of angel ornaments that will be on display next Christmas, and a barista coffee machine. Greg has taken the machine home to learn how to use it and become competent before he shows some of the rest of us what to do. The machine will be used on special occasions. Thank you to both Meryl and Richard for their generosity. Thank you also to Bill Cale who came and fixed a leaking tap in the rectory garden.

### For the Future

Rev Beck and I are in the process of organising pancakes in the hall to celebrate Shrove Tuesday on the 17<sup>th</sup> February from 6.00 to 8.00pm (see p. 3). Anyone who would like to help, please give me a call; all offers are welcome.

The 9am service the next day will be one of the two Ash Wednesday Services held in the Parish that day and although our regular Bible Study will not follow a specific Lenten study, we will be studying the readings for Lent.

And as always may God continue to be with us in all we do and say, and thankyou to all those who continue to help us as needed, not just physically but in prayer and advice.

*Judy Wells on behalf of Julia Drought and the  
Congregation of St Margaret's*

Father, may we never forget that  
"The God who made the world and everything  
in it... does not live in temples built by human  
hands" (Acts 17:24).

Rather, it is your people, who are your  
dwelling place (Ephesians 2:22).

May we be worthy vessels of your presence.



The next meeting of the WFA Mothers Union will be on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 9.30am at the McLaren Vale Information Centre. New members are always welcome.

The Mothers Union will be 150 years old in 2026. Diocesan celebrations will be held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March (Lady Day) at Seaford Christian Churches, with a service of Holy Communion at 11am, including the Commissioning of the new Executive Committee, followed by lunch in the Seaford Church Café.



*Julia writes:*

*Michael and I were delighted to celebrate the renewal of our wedding vows after 40 years of marriage. Although it wasn't the actual date of our wedding, we had all our immediate family visiting and wanted to celebrate together. Special thanks to Rev Beck for a thoughtful homily, reminding us that without God's grace in our lives we would struggle to relate with love. Thanks also to Greg for providing appropriate wedding music at very short notice. The day provided us with many happy memories.*

*Julia*



### St Margaret's Bottles and Cans

#### COLLECTIONS FOR MISSIONS.

*2025 finished on an amazing figure of \$335!*

*2026 is off to a great start already with \$55  
half way through January from many  
generous donations.*

*A big thank you for continued collecting by all  
parishioners, their families, friends, neighbours,  
consumers, and for the bags which mysteriously  
appear. You are doing wonderful work for this  
worthy cause.*

*Di Best*

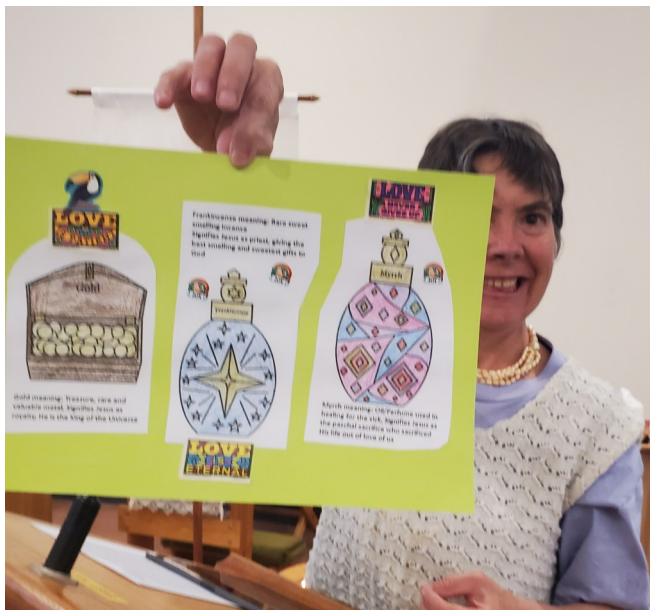


## News from St Nicholas', S.C.C., Seaford

We have had a quiet time at St Nicholas' for the last month: our numbers have been a little lower as people travel to visit family, and the sudden hot days have affected us as well. However, it does give us time to catch up on other things and slowly begin our planning for Lent and Easter. There will be several Bible studies in the parish and at SCC. At St Nicholas', our study will involve preprinted readings and reflections for our congregation to do in their own time. We set aside a time each Wednesday morning with a phone message reminder to spend time in prayer and reflection on the coming Sunday's readings.

As Helen Cook, Warden, was planning to be away from now until late February, we decided to hold our Pre-Vestry meeting early, on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January. Rev Beck chaired the meeting, which followed our Healing service. Reports were tabled from both SCC and WFA as well as a report from the Wardens. The meeting went smoothly with no major issues. Those items raised will be followed up in the coming months.

Our service on the 4<sup>th</sup> of January celebrated Epiphany, the visit of the Wise Men to the Holy Family. Our Nativity group was finally all together. Rev Beck led our service and talked about who and what the wise men were, and how their persistence was rewarded in the meeting with Jesus and the offering of their gifts foretelling Jesus' sacrifice and kingship, and his ministry to come. We, like the Wise Men, can also offer our gifts to Jesus—the gift of praise and worship, love, and submission as we follow his lead in faithfulness and grace. Sunara as always added her artistic version of the gifts and what they meant.



The Meeting With God service on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> of January discussed the Baptism of Jesus and the beginning of his ministry with an act of submission. Submission is not a popular word these days. It may be

confused with being a doormat, letting others walk all over you, but this is the opposite of what Jesus was doing. Submission to God's will means knowing and doing what is good and right and true. We discussed how this translated into our world today. We need the same attitude of humility and submission to the will of God, the same desire for justice that comes from the heart of God, that Jesus showed at his baptism. And through the power of the Spirit within us we can find the strength and determination to follow God's will, just as Jesus did.

On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> of January Rev Beck again led us in our worship and healing service. This week's Gospel from



John began with the words, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" Words from John the Baptist to his followers, whom he led to Jesus, knowing him as the Messiah. No doubt urged on by John, his disciples followed Jesus and asked where he was going. He invited them to Come and See! Which they did. Later Andrew, one of the disciples, went and brought his brother Simon, who as we know, came to be called Peter. We all are invited to Come and See, to follow Jesus' teaching and learn to walk in his way in fellowship with God.

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January is our Prayer, Praise and Proclamation service following the theme from the Gospel. Jesus proclaims, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven (or God) is near."

If repentance is just saying "sorry", what has that got to do with the kingdom being close by? To see the kingdom of God we need to turn, to re-orientate ourselves and our lives. We need to ask ourselves, "What's stopping me from seeing God's kingdom today?" That might, of course, involve saying sorry – but it's not the whole story. Jesus calls us to repent and follow him. So—**about turn!**

Blessings, *Helen Cook and Jane Cuthbert, Wardens.*



## News from St Stephen's, Willunga

As always, January was a big month for Willunga with both the men's and women's Tour Down Under cycling races passing through the town. With the opening stage of the women's race scheduled to start and finish in Willunga on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> we were presented with an opportunity to publicise St Stephen's church. This was because the route of the race would take the riders right past our front door on no less than three occasions during the day, and it was a chance to have the church open to the public all day.

In true Aussie "summer barbie" style we decided that a sausage sizzle next to the footpath outside the church would be a good way to attract the attention of passers-by making their way to and from the shopping and sightseeing attractions of Willunga's High Street. With a good team—Steve Banner, Margaret and Bill Cale, Stephen Carthew, Fr Brenton, Phil Duguid, Anne Chittleborough, Judith Wells, Rev Beck and Jason—we were able to put our idea into practice. We were soon selling sausages to all comers. One of our first customers was a senior policeman on a motorbike, who stopped directly opposite our stand and came over to sample our wares. He parked his motorbike in the middle of St Andrews Terrace while he enjoyed his snack of a bread-wrapped beef sausage with fried onions.

And then just as he was about to get back on his motorbike to ride away, he came back and ordered another round. Credit goes to the culinary skills of Chef Bill who got us off to a flying start. To add to the excitement of the day we rang the church bell every time the cyclists and their team went past. In addition to the cooks, there were helpers behind the scene—Trish Frith who cleaned up weeds, and Joanie Lunn who came and polished brass candlesticks in the afternoon. While the church itself was not swamped with visitors, there were some who were glad of a chance to come inside to look around. There are a number of people who have lived in Willunga for years but have never seen inside the church. It's a challenge!

At the end of the day there was some talk of perhaps setting up a sausage sizzle for the men's race on the following Saturday when it was due to pass through the town. As the planned route for the men's race did not include riding past the church, the idea was abandoned. But in a twist of fate caused by very hot weather (who ever said God does not have a sense of humour?) the route for the men's race for that day was changed at the last minute to take the riders past the church twice. This was obviously too late for us to set anything up, but in

any case an ice cream stall would have been more appealing than hot snags 'n' onions!

With the TDU excitement over we are getting back to normal. With five Saturdays in January our worship schedule for the month will conclude with our Contemplative Prayer service on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January.

The Meditation services held each Tuesday continue to attract worshippers from our local community in addition to other members of our parish.



As a reminder, our monthly Saturday Night Out takes place on the first Saturday of the month at the middle pub in Willunga, immediately following the 5.30pm Evening Prayer service. For the next two months, these dates will be February 7<sup>th</sup> and March 7<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome. For reservations please contact Steve Banner at [LMESTBA@YAHOO.COM](mailto:LMESTBA@YAHOO.COM) or 0404163940.

*Steve Banner, Warden*



## News from Christ Church Yankalilla

We are glad that Rev Beck has been able to get here at last! Seen here (R) with George Poysden after her first service at Christ Church.

### Christ Church Pre-Vestry Meeting and lunch

Our Pre-Vestry meeting will be held after our 11am Service on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will be looking for a second Warden, and also for representatives to go on the Yankalilla District Inter-Church Council and World Day of Prayer Committee. This will also be our chance to discuss the replacement of the front fence, maintenance and building repair work and any other issues that need to be raised. The service will be taken by Rev Beck and we will go to the Normanville Hotel afterwards for a relaxing and social lunch. Please give numbers to Belinda Rosser by February 15<sup>th</sup>.

### Shrove Tuesday

Belinda is looking at organising pancakes in the Christ Church Hall on Shrove Tuesday (17<sup>th</sup> February). More details will be announced nearer the date.

### St James Delamere update

It is hoped that in the next few weeks we will know the outcome of the sale process for the Church, Hall and Cemetery. There were quite a lot of people attending the open inspections and following up with requests for further information. Numerous offers were submitted and a successful conditional offer was accepted.

We are pleased to report that some of the items from the Church that were gifted to Investigator [Anglican] College in Victor Harbor have been put to use.

*R: the altar, Royal Doulton vases and candlesticks and sacramental vessels being used in January for their Staff Commencement Service.*

### Replacement of the exterior kitchen door in the Hall

This has been a slightly drawn-out saga, but I am pleased to say that Stansfield Joinery installed the new door in late January. We are very grateful to the Yankalilla Community Op Shop who gave us the funds for the new door.

*R: Jeremy Stansfield installing the lock assembly.*

*Peter Filsell, Warden*



### An afternoon of adventure!

Last year Fr Brenton walked over 700km on his Camino trek, and just prior to that Peter and Gail Filsell went on a bit more of a luxury trek through numerous parts of Africa. On Sunday March 22<sup>nd</sup> we have organised for them both to do a presentation on their trips. It will be from 2—4pm in the Christ Church Hall and we will have an intermission for afternoon tea. Entry will be by a donation to the Yankalilla District Inter-Church Council for the Pastoral Care Workers Program in our local schools. It would be appreciated if you could let Peter Filsell know numbers for catering purposes.



**Walking With Jesus. Christ Church Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month, 10am.**

**The one who offers the Water of Life.**

The January Walking With Jesus, led by Belinda Rosser, studied the last topic of the series on the “I am” statements of Jesus—his claim to offer the Water of Life to the woman at the well (John 5:5-14). Jesus’ gentle approach to her started with a request for something she was already familiar with—water from the well—before revealing the spiritual aspect of the topic, that of “Living Water”. The group realised that we can help people find Jesus by starting with something simple in our own lives and gradually revealing the love of Jesus, rather than “diving in the deep end” straight away. Some of the outward experiences that the church may offer, such as baptism and “holy water” are really symbols of an inner experience which can sustain us.

The number attending these gatherings has increased once again, making discussions more interesting. They are found to be a time of spiritual uplifting, helping us understand the message of Jesus in a much deeper way.

Our first *Walking with Jesus* for 2026 was on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January. We announced our theme for the coming year, which will be **“The Year of the Hymn”**.

This gathering discussed the beautiful hymn “Just as I am without one plea”. Each verse ends with the words “I come” which fit in with the season of Epiphany, when we think of the wise men coming to Jesus as we do. To many of us, the strength of the hymn lies in the fact that none of us is perfect, but Jesus is always ready to “welcome, pardon, cleanse and relieve”.

Liz asked those present to submit hymns that are meaningful to them in some way, be it inspirational, comforting, calming, or associated with a particular event such as a wedding. A schedule will be drawn up for the rest of the year. We are blessed that there are six people who are willing to lead at least one gathering during the year. Marcelle Habib has been brushing up her playing skills and will be our pianist, and Gail and Marlene continue to supply delicious cakes for us to have with our coffee or tea.

*Elizabeth Gordon-Mills*

**The Mayor is Cooking!**

**Mayor Darryl Houston is teaming up with Club Fleurieu on Sat. 8<sup>th</sup> Feb for a charity fundraising dinner, with the proceeds going to support the 5CY (Five Churches of Yankalilla) Community Pantry. Dinner 6pm onward.**

**Bar, raffles, music, auctions!**

**\$40 per person. BOOKINGS REQUIRED.**

[yankover50s@gmail.com](mailto:yankover50s@gmail.com)

**Co-ordinator for the 5CY Community Pantry.**

Kerren Webber has announced that she will be stepping away from the coordinator’s role at the end of June. If there is anyone that may be interested, or wants more information, please speak with either Peter Filsell or Kerren (0448 803 793)



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## News from St Ann's, Aldinga

January has come and gone in a blink of an eye! Hot weather and high winds bring the threat of bushfires upon us, but like all stages of life, nothing stays the same. Cooler and calmer days intersperse with heat and January has been the rest that many of us have craved after the bustle of 2025 and the celebrations of St Ann's 160<sup>th</sup> year of worship and fellowship.

We have had time to take stock of what has been achieved and are now praying about and preparing and planning for events in the coming year. Those who have attended the Friends of St Ann's spent some time drawing up a draft outline of this plan. Three immediate things coming up are a pre-vestry meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> February, straight after our service, to consider what item(s) of business we would like to submit for discussion at the Parish Vestry meeting in March. Parishioners are asked to consider prayerfully what or where God is leading us in this matter.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> February our Ash Wednesday service will be held at 7pm and the following day our Lenten Bible Study will commence at 4pm. This will be a six session study titled "Living in the Light". Please see Anne Chittleborough if you wish to attend or, if you would like to follow it but cannot attend on Thursday afternoons.

Rev Beck has also asked that we consider other ways of reaching out, such as the "Share the dignity" programme where we provide toiletries for people who are homeless or coming from domestic violence. These can be bags of needed products for teens, mums and bubs. We could look into sponsoring a bag or hosting a packing party. Arranging Prayer Partners or fliers: "Can we pray for you?"



have also been suggested. Your suggestions will be greatly appreciated.

Services continue to be inspiring, thought-provoking and definitely challenging. We are waiting for the return of Christ. May we be mindful that we are prepared, with our lamps full of oil, for we do not know the hour in which He will come!

Other matters range from the near-exciting to quite mundane! The shared footpath between the church and slip road are in the process of being finished. It is going to look quite smart when the fence is cleared away but it seems alarmingly narrow as it is intended for use by cars and other vehicles. We look forward to the completion of the work and an end to some of the inconveniences. One Tuesday the gardening team found the noise horrendous, and what's more the

water had been turned off without warning. Our liaison Warden notified the Alliance and water was turned back on 2 days later— just in time for our morning coffee after choir. We are also expecting repair work to

be done on our 160 year old church doors and sound-proofing for our windows, to cut down the noise from the upgrade of South Road. Drainage and our damp problems can't be attended to until all work at the front of the church is completed.

Cockatoos, pigeons, rats and mice are making their presence seen, heard and smelt. Thankfully the resident snake hasn't made its way under the church doors!

However frustrated we may become, though, we praise God for all of His creatures as they remind us that we all have a special place in His creation.

*Julianne Bates, Brian McMillan, Wardens*





## Snippets from January Ministry Team meeting and Parish Council

In her clergy Report Rev Beck thanked everyone for their support, saying she considered it a privilege and honour to spend her first Christmas as our parish priest. She asked for prayer: she can only do it through Christ, who strengthens her. Looking ahead she would like to spend some time with the Wardens and ministry teams of each church to plan for 2026.

**Palm Sunday:** The month of March having five Sundays, there would normally have been a Combined Service planned for Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March, but that will be Palm Sunday. After discussing the possibility of combining for a Palm Sunday service it was decided that each church should mark the occasion according to its normal tradition. The next Fifth Sunday Combined Service will be on 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2026.

**Church audits** have been done for each church. The question arises of how to record pilgrims to Christ Church, Yankalilla. The numbers are not insignificant—Peter noted that there had already been 230 prayer requests this year—but they do not fit into the categories offered in the parish audit.

**St Stephen's:** Steve felt that the Crib and Carols service had been a great example of everyone working together for the common good.

The location of the church in St Andrews Street was an asset. The coming Tour Down Under would also be an opportunity to connect with the community (*see p. 7!*)

**St Margaret's** reported that the trial use of their hall by Southern Vales Funerals for meetings had commenced and the arrangement was working well.

A marathon that had closed Main Road, McLaren Vale for a Sunday in June 2025 and prevented access to the church had attracted complaints from a number of

people and businesses. It would not happen this year.

**At St Nicholas'** Fr Ted was assisting in the Communion services.

**St Ann's:** The Alliance was doing soundproofing work on the church. Work on the road in front was leading to road closures and access difficulties. (*See STOP PRESS below!*).

**Making Palm Crosses, Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March:** St Nicholas' invites parishioners from all centres to help with the annual fun activity making palm crosses for the whole Parish. Those wishing to come to lunch at the café beforehand, please book.

**Several scam/phishing emails and messages have been doing the rounds purporting to come from clergy or admin. Please check the email addresses/phone numbers before replying.** If you have any issues or wish to see information of e safety please use the link below. [Be Connected - Every Australian online](#) .



## This Month's Readings: Year A, 2026

**FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**—1<sup>st</sup> February—Micah 6:1-8—Psalm 15—  
1 Corinthians 1:18-31—Matthew 5:1-12

**Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE**—Malachi 3:1-4—Psalm 24—  
Hebrews 2:14-18—Luke 2:22-40

**FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**—8<sup>th</sup> February—Isaiah 58:1-9a—Psalm 112—1 Corinthians 2:  
1-13 [14-16]—Matthew 5:13-20

**TRANSFIGURATION**—15<sup>th</sup> February—Exodus 24:12-18—Psalm 2—2 Peter 1:16-21—Matthew 17:  
1-9

**ASH WEDNESDAY**—18<sup>th</sup> February—Joel 2:1-2, 12-17—Psalm 51:1-17—2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10—  
Matthew 6:1-6 [7-15] 16-21

**FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**—22<sup>nd</sup> February—Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7—Psalm 32—Romans 5:12-21—  
Matthew 4:1-11

**SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**—1<sup>st</sup> March—Genesis 12:1-4a—Psalm 121—Romans 4:1-5 [6-12] 13-  
17—John 3: 1-17

# Western Fleurieu Anglicans

(A parish of the Diocese of The Murray)

Visit our website!

<http://www.southernvalesparish.org>

SCAN ME



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Curate: The Rev'd Beck Newell

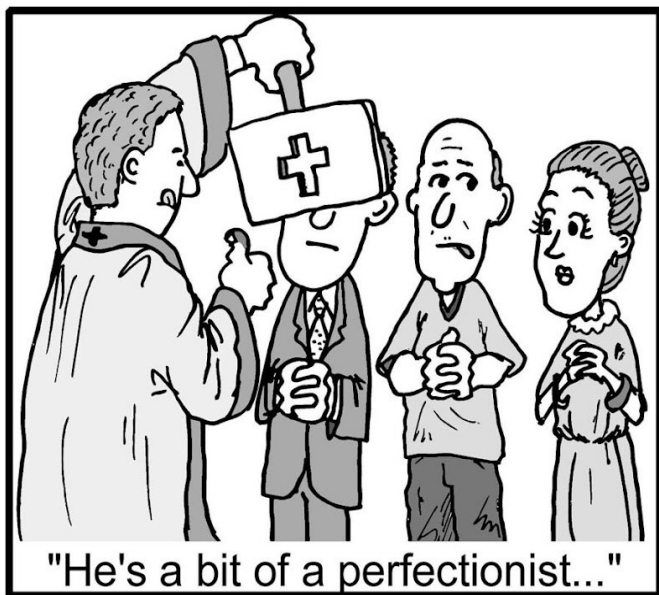
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[www.catholiccartoonblog.blogspot.com](http://www.catholiccartoonblog.blogspot.com)

## 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

**Wardens:**

Jane Cuthbert 0407 651 606

Helen Cook 0427 679 787 or 8386 3689

Christ Church, Yankalilla

1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays – 11.00am

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday – 10.00am Church Hall

"Walking With Jesus"

**Warden:**

Peter Filsell 0427 534 095

St James', Delamere

No scheduled services.

For information contact

Peter Filsell 0427 534 095

*Where there is a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in a month,,  
you can expect some service times to  
be different.*

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

You can read *The Grapevine* in colour, with supplementary pages of photos, on our parish website, [southernvalesparish.org](http://southernvalesparish.org)



*February 2026*  
*Colour Photo Supplement*

***St Margaret's,  
McLaren Vale***  
(see p. 4)

**Epiphany**

*R: The Magi have arrived! (6<sup>th</sup> January)  
Now the nativity scene is complete.*



**Julia and Michael Renew their marriage vows**



*Above: Tom Drought leads his mother into the church.*

*R (above): In the presence of their four children  
Julia and Michael stand before the priest. L-R: Tom  
(partly hidden), Annabelle, Lucy and Miriam*

*R (below): grand-daughters Oakley and Abigail hand  
them their rings.*



***St Nicholas', Seaford***  
*(see p. 6)*



*The arrival of the Magi, and the knitted Nativity set is complete.*

