

March 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



Above: Before the austerity of lent, the traditional Shrove Tuesday celebration of pancakes at St Margaret's. (See p. 4)

Below: Making Palm Crosses is challenging – and fun! Come and try: St Nicholas', Friday 20th March, 1pm. (See p. 6)



LENT IS WITH US ONCE AGAIN!

The season of ashes, fasting, Bible studies, prayer, palm crosses, foot washing, the last supper, the crucifixion... and finally the joy of Easter itself

PALM SUNDAY Sunday 29th March

11am Christ Church
9am St Ann's
10.30am St Margaret's
10.30am St Nicholas' Ecumenical service

MAUNDY THURSDAY Thursday 2nd April

7pm Christ Church
7pm St Margaret's

GOOD FRIDAY Friday 3rd April

11am Christ Church
10am St Ann's
9am, 3pm St Nicholas'

EASTER VIGIL Saturday 4th April

7.30pm St Stephen's

EASTER DAY! Sunday 5th April

9am St Ann's
10.30 St Margaret's
11am Christ Church
10.30am St Nicholas'



Fr Simon writes to the Diocese

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ, Grace and peace to you.

As we reach Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, and the holy season of Lent, I write to you with affection and gratitude. It is a gift to serve among you, among clergy who labour faithfully and congregations who continue, often quietly and without recognition, to love God and neighbour as self in your local communities.

The rhythm of the Christian year carries us gently once more into the heart of the gospel. Shrove Tuesday invites us to gather in simple joy, to share food, laughter, and fellowship before we turn toward the more reflective days of Lent. In these moments of warmth and community, we glimpse something of the Kingdom: reconciliation, hospitality, and belonging.

Ash Wednesday then comes as a tender and honest beginning. When we receive the ashes and hear the words, "Remember that you are dust," we are not diminished. We are reminded that we are loved creatures, held in God's mercy, dependent upon grace, and invited always to return home. I encourage you, where you are able, to invite others to join you and begin Lent together at the altar, in humility and hope.

Lent itself is not meant to weigh heavily upon us. It is a season of gentle realignment. Through prayer, simplicity, generosity, and self examination, we allow Christ to draw us closer. Like Francis of Assisi, we learn again the freedom of walking lightly, trusting deeply, and loving generously. Even small, faithful practices, a few minutes more in prayer, a deliberate act of kindness, a quiet turning away from distraction, become openings for grace.

Holy Week will soon draw us into the great mystery at



the centre of our faith. Walk it slowly. Let Palm Sunday hold both joy and sorrow. Let Maundy Thursday shape us in humble service. Let Good Friday teach us again the depth of Christ's self giving love. There is no need to rush toward Easter. The path itself forms us.

At the Chrism Mass on Holy Monday as clergy renew their vows and the holy oils are blessed, we are reminded that we belong to one another in Christ. Please hold that day in prayer for your priests and deacons, and for the unity of our diocesan family.

And then, in God's time, Easter dawns.

The resurrection of Jesus is quiet, steady hope breaking through despair. The risen Christ comes among frightened disciples and simply says, "Peace be with you." I pray that our Easter worship across the parishes will be marked by that same deep peace, joyful and grounded. May I encourage you where and however you are able to invite others to come. Many people outside our regular faith communities carry questions, grief, or longing. The Easter liturgies are for them too.

As we move through these sacred weeks, may we remember that the world is watching not for perfection, but for authenticity. In a time when many feel uncertain about faith, your steady love, your willingness to pray, your openness to share why Christ matters to you, these are powerful witnesses. We do not need grand strategies. We need hearts shaped by the gospel.

Dear friends, the Church's strength has never been in numbers alone, but in holiness, compassion, and trust in God. May this Lent draw you gently back to the heart of Christ. May Holy Week deepen your gratitude. May Easter renew your courage. And may we, together, become ever more a people of peace, joyful, humble, and radiant with hope.

With my prayers for each parish and every household,
In the peace of Christ

Ven. Simon Waters.

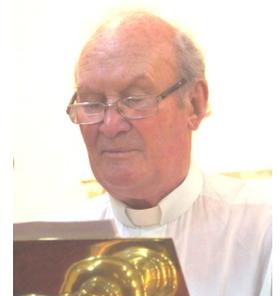
Administrator of The Diocese of The Murray

Vale Fr Ed Pumphrey 1933-1926

Ordained Deacon in 1985 and Priest in 1986 (both in The Murray), Fr Ed ministered in Naracoorte as Assistant Deacon 1985-86 and Assistant Priest 1986-87, in Yankalilla (which was not part of our parish at that time) as Priest in Charge 1987 and Rector 1988-94, and at Millicent as Rector 1994-99.

It was during his time at Yankalilla that the main room in the Christ Church hall was refurbished, and the interior of Christ Church was repaired and repainted prior to the installation of the pipe organ in 1990.

After his retirement he and Pat moved back to Yankalilla, where they stayed until they moved to Woodcroft in about 2010, taking quite a few services at St James', Delamere, and later taking some services in Southern Vales parish. He is remembered as a loving and caring priest.



March

Sun 1st Gold coin collection for PCWs*
St Nicholas' shared lunch and meeting
 Mon 2nd **Mothers Union AGM**, St Nicholas', 9.30am
 Fri 6th **World Day of Prayer:** Jesus Community
 Church, Yankalilla, 7pm (*see p. 10*)
 Sat 7th **Saturday Night Out, Willunga** (*see p. 7*)
 Sun 8th **ACH service**, Yankalilla 2pm
 Tues 10th **Ministry Team meeting** St Margaret's 3pm
WFA Council St Margaret's 4pm
 Thurs 12th **Prayers for Peace**, St Ann's, 11.15am
 Sun 15th **Walking With Jesus**, Christ Church 10am
Parish Vestry Meeting, St Margaret's 2pm
 Tues 17th **Friends of St Ann's** 4pm
 Thurs 19th **JOSEPH**
 Fri 20th **Palm Cross making**, St Nicholas', 1pm
 Sun 22nd **Healing Service**, Christ Church 11am
 Tues 24th **MATTHIAS**
 Wed 25th **LADY DAY, MU Diocesan celebration**
 150 years

* *Pastoral Care Workers (Chaplains)*

April

Thurs 2nd **MAUNDY THURSDAY**
 7pm Christ Church
 7pm St Margaret's
 Fri 3rd **GOOD FRIDAY**
 11am Christ Church
 10am St Ann's
 9am, 3pm St Nicholas'
 Sat 4th **EASTER VIGIL**
 7.30pm St Stephen's
 Sun 5th **EASTER DAY**
 9am St Ann's
 10.30 St Margaret's
 11am Christ Church
 10.30am St Nicholas'
 Thurs 9th **Prayers for Peace** St Ann's 11.15am
 Sun 12th **ACH service**, Yankalilla
 Tues 14th **WFA Council** Christ Church 4pm
 Sat 18th **Jumble Sale**, St Ann's
 Sun 19th **Walking With Jesus** 10am Christ Church
 Tues 21st **Friends of St Ann's** 4pm
 Fri 24th **Family Tea**, St Ann's 6 for 6.30pm
 Sat 25th **MARK**
ANZAC DAY
 Sun 26th **Healing Service**, Christ Church 11am

And also,

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



PARISH VESTRY MEETING

Sunday 15th March
St Margaret's, 2pm
 99 Main Road McLaren Vale
 followed by afternoon tea.

This is our parish's Annual General Meeting; our chance to hear and discuss matters affecting our churches and our future. It's a time to ask questions, to share the decision-making. Meet fellow parishioners from the other centres.

Jumble Sale!

Saturday 18th April
at St Ann's
8.30-12.30

As good as a treasure hunt! Something for everyone!
And when you've found your treasure, refresh with a sausage sizzle or Devonshire tea.



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 15th March.

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

News from St Margaret's, McLaren Vale

We began February with Morning Prayer ably led by John Strachan. We are so grateful to John, and other laity who are willing to continue meaningful worship when our priest is taking services elsewhere. Our second Sunday in the month was Holy Eucharist taken by Father Ian Young. As with our laity, we are very grateful to the retired clergy who continue to serve others with their service and prayers.

The third Sunday, a Prayer, Praise and Proclamation service celebrating the Transfiguration of Christ, gave Greg John the opportunity to share his ideas on this significant event. Jac Bishop created some clever mementos using little battery candles



and wadding for clouds for us to take home. She also treated us to small pavlovas, like clouds, for morning tea.

Ash Wednesday was low in numbers, but it was a meaningful service, led by Rev Beck and some beautiful music from Greg John...he's a very versatile bloke... thanks Greg.

We have been saddened by the recent death of Greg Pettman. Greg and Leonie (who is now in Penwood, previously known as Colton Court) were faithful parishioners of St Margaret's for many years.

Bible study continues at 10am every Wednesday and we are following the lectionary readings as set. Everyone is welcome to join us for the study any time.

We are looking forward to Father Peter Simmons taking our service on the fourth Sunday this month.

Blessings

Julia Drought and Judith Wells, Wardens



Shrove Tuesday

Shrove Tuesday - "Pancake Day" - was well attended with many parishioners coming from around to parish to enjoy great pancakes, toppings and even better company. Thankyou to those who came and those who catered, set up and packed up. Greg John did an interesting impersonation of a parking supervisor.....



There's more in *The Grapevine* online—read it in colour, and see the extra pages in the online supplement.
www.southernvalesparish.org



Above: Rev Beck frying pancakes
L: Judith, Jac and Wendy in the kitchen
R: Jane Cuthbert stirring the pot. (See also photos p. 1, p. 13)





St Margaret's Bottles and Cans

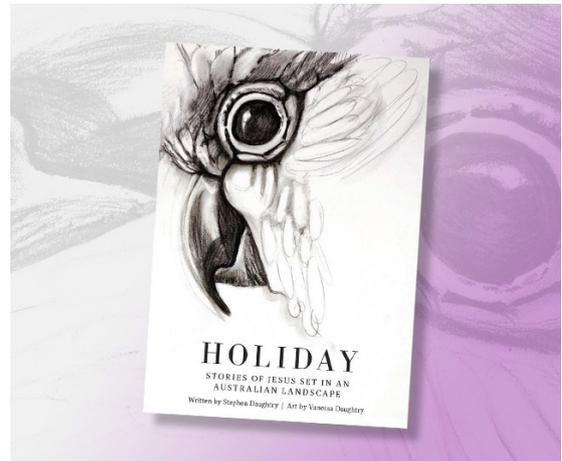
COLLECTIONS FOR MISSIONS.

2026 is off to a great start already with \$45 collected in February, so our year to date total has already hit \$100! Also exciting is the total for the past four years which is \$806!

We thank all the keen collectors for the generous donations. You are doing wonderful work for this worthy cause. Most bags are returned to the back of St Margaret's church, so please take some as needed.
Di Best

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



ABM's brilliant new story/study book for Lent 2026—or any time!
Gospel stories from the adult ministry of Jesus, starting with his baptism by John and finishing at the Resurrection, reimagined in an Australian landscape.
Paperback \$12 or PDF \$10 per copy.
Order from ABM's website www.abmission.org



Rupert, "the bottles and cans man"

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

It has been great to see how everyone at St Nicholas was helped out whilst Helen Cook has been away. We look forward to Helen and Colin's safe return from their travels.

Lent is upon us, and as we begin our walk towards the cross and Easter, we all look forward to a time of reflection, renewal and a closer relationship with our God.

Our service on the 1st of February was centred on the Beatitudes, a lovely service led by Rev Beck, with Ian Richter playing the piano as accompaniment to our raised voices. Rev Beck took the Gospel reading from *The Message* translation which gave a different aspect to the story. She spoke about how we are blessed when we seek a relationship with God and put him above all other considerations. Even if times are hard and difficult, God still blesses those who follow him. The special relationship this gives as we come to see God in our everyday lives, cannot be understated. It also enables us to go out into the world and share his blessings with others, inviting them to become part of the whole. Our shared lunch followed the service as usual, with everyone joining in a wonderful time, catching up and sharing stories.



The Meeting with God service on Sunday 8th of February had the parable of Salt and Light as its main theme. Do we cease to be "salty" when we lose an awareness of our poverty of spirit? or when we cease to engage with communities as merciful peacemakers who thirst for justice? Is Jesus making a point about the way we engage with those around us?



Light, on the other hand, makes an environment safe. In the past travelling at dusk or in the dark must have been very difficult. Imagine the relief that someone would feel

on spotting the light in the distance. The discussion was on what it means to be salt in our world, and what things could and should be used to revitalise our area and community. Lots of interesting discussion over tea and biscuits, a great time of fellowship and sharing our faith.

On Sunday 15th February we were delighted to see Fr Brenton again as he led us in our worship on Transfiguration Sunday. Not quite so happy to realise the reason for his visit; that Rev Beck was unwell and could not join us. Fr Brenton spoke of the events leading up to the trip up to the mountain top, how the disciples, especially Peter, found it hard to think of Jesus as sacrifice rather than as a leader, a king, the Messiah. In taking James, John and Peter up the mountain, Jesus wanted to show them what he truly was. When the voice from above called to them. "This is my beloved son, listen to him" they were awed and afraid.

The disciples wanted to stay on the mountain, but Jesus knew that the valley called. Perhaps strengthened by the meeting and assurance from his Father, knowing he was on the right path, Jesus and the disciples turned away from the mountain top to the valley and whatever awaited them.

Sunday 22nd February, the first Sunday in Lent, will be Morning Prayer. The temptations in the Gospel reading were Jesus', but they are ones we all face, and Jesus calls us to follow his example and be different: to seek to give rather than to receive, to choose service rather than power. It is a time when we are called to think through our inner values and attitudes; to seek the mind of Christ in the decisions we are called to make.

Jesus went into the wilderness, but he did not go alone. Neither do we go alone, even in dangerous places. God is with us as we seek to walk in his ways.

Fellowship – Our prayer chain has been especially active over the last month, with several prayers for healing as well as thanksgiving for prayers answered.



On Friday 20th March from 1pm we will be making Palm Crosses at SCC. All welcome to join in the fun of remembering how to make them and just how to hold your tongue as you fold and knot the palm leaves! Always a great time of fellowship, lots of love and laughter, and of course, tea and biscuits will be provided.

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



Tuesday morning Christian meditation

Do you remember the movie from 1989 called *Field of Dreams*? The plot concerned an ordinary farmer who was unsure about whether anyone would ever come to play on the baseball field that he was thinking of creating on a corner of his land. After much introspection and soul-searching about the decision facing him, he finally received an answer when he heard a voice tell him, "Build it and they will come". This line later became a catchphrase that has lived on for decades, similar to the way the line "Play it again, Sam" has lived on from *Casablanca*.

I have never seen *Field of Dreams* myself, but I personally interpret the famous line as an encouragement towards having faith and a sense of purpose in one's endeavours even when we are unable to see the finish line. We could even adapt it to Noah in the face of the scorn he encountered from his neighbours while building the ark. In this case the message would have been "Build it and the rain will come". (Or in the modern day, "Wash the car and the rain will come"!)

Where am I going with this? Well, as I have mentioned in past issue of *The Grapevine*, attendance at our regular Tuesday morning time of Christian Meditation has been steadily growing during the last year or so. In February we saw our largest numbers yet, with attendees including a handful of local residents in addition to parishioners from St Ann's and St Margaret's and Fr Andrew from the neighbouring parish of the Southern Suburbs. The original idea of holding a Christian Meditation was suggested to Fr Brenton by Anne Duguid during the winter of 2024. Clearly, both Anne and Brenton had the same belief as the farmer we mentioned above, and after starting from ground zero less than two years ago we have seen the numbers grow such that total monthly attendance at our time of Meditation consistently exceeds that at Holy Communion. As can be seen from the photo, we have reached the point where we need to start adding a second row of seats. A nice problem to have indeed! In

other words our faith has been rewarded, just as that of Noah and of the farmer in the movie.

Fr Brenton has been a regular participant at the time of Christian Meditation each Tuesday after walking (weather permitting) to Willunga from his home in McLaren Vale, Sometimes accompanied by Br Simon. Early in the month he was called upon to help at St Stephen's in another capacity. Unfortunately for her, Rev Beck was temporarily ill, but fortunately for us Fr Brenton was able to take her place to celebrate Holy Communion on the 2nd Saturday. For those who may be wondering, I can assure you that he overcame the almost irresistible urge to walk to Willunga that day and drove his car instead!



On Tuesday 16th February, though, when there was an absolute downpour of rain at 8.45am, both Brenton and Simon, walking to Meditation from McLaren Vale, arrived bedraggled and soaking wet.

Just 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 coming month this means our dinner event will take place on March 7th. All are welcome. For reservations, please contact Steve Banner at LMESTBA@YAHOO.COM or 0404163940.

Steve Banner, Warden

News from St Ann's, Aldinga

At the time of writing this report, we are wondering where this month has gone! Life at St Ann's has continued as usual with the seasonal corellas making their mark both visually and audibly. Pine needles and cones litter the cemetery, but thanks to the gardening volunteers, these get raked up, bagged and relocated to where they can be of better use. Any raking and bagging assistance is welcomed! A special thanks to Tony for his work.

The Fleurieu Alliance which is connected to the South Rd project has contracted "G-Force" to begin work on noise attenuation in the church. The contractor has replaced the windows in the vestry with thicker 6mm glass and the door has been re-hung with a barrier strip placed on the door step to stop the wind or vermin from entering. He has also begun to re-caulk the gaps between the stone and window frames in the church, but the 160 year old double entry doors have required further consideration regarding repairs. Thankfully experience and wisdom in these areas have provided a solution and we look forward to seeing the finished work.



However, two significant items still need to be addressed with the Alliance. The finished shared bike path (which looks amazing) is higher than our driveway, so it looks as if water runoff will drain back to the church before entering the prepared drain! Although it has been a dry summer, we are

still noticing dampness in the driveway and under the church, so this definitely needs attention. We had also been told we would be acquiring an additional car park outside the church. This has yet to be constructed. We will keep you posted.

We have put out a request for volunteers to help with the morning tea, cleaning, flower arranging and gardening. Please talk to Warden Julianne if you are able to help. There are a number of groups that use our meeting place (hall) such as U3A, Friends of Aldinga Scrub, and AA. If you are interested in finding out about these groups feel free to talk to Trish Frith or our Wardens, who can then put you in touch with the coordinators of these groups.

Our 4pm Lenten Bible Study commenced on Thursday 19th February. Thirteen of us are looking into a John Birch study called "Living in the Light" and a couple of others are

studying it at home as our time doesn't suit. Our first time together brought about a lively and informed discussion to help us on our journey through Lent. Eleven people have bought copies of ABM's Lent book, *Holiday* (see p. 5) which sets the Biblical stories and message in an Australian environment, and are finding it an exciting new vision. To know more about the studies talk to Anne Chittleborough.

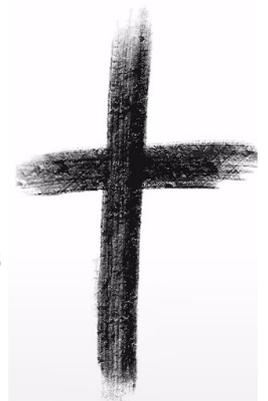
Services and the messages given by Rev Beck and members of the congregation have been very much appreciated. Many of us would appreciate getting printed copies of Rev Beck's messages to re-read at a later time. There is so much to take in, so an opportunity to review the message would give a chance to ponder the thoughts God gives her and us.

Nineteen people attended our Ash Wednesday service; two of whom were visiting from Darwin and just passing by. They saw the church and came in. Thanks must go to everyone who prepared this meaningful service to open for us this season of Lent.

We look ahead to the annual Vestry meeting on March 15th at St Margaret's, the meeting of the Friends of St Ann's on March 17th and our Family Tea on the 27th March. We have had a burial and a baptism in one week, so it has been busy! (A heads up also for our Jumble Sale which will be on Saturday 18th April—see p. 3).

We are always blessed when former parishioners or friends /relatives visit us. Beryl and Ross who now live in Tin Can Bay, Queensland arrived for a recent service and later that week met many friends for lunch. We miss them dearly, but we all should be where God would have us. Other couples, John and Barbara from Sydney, Brian and Irene Perry from the Philippines (above, and see p. 9) return regularly and it is wonderful to know they enjoy being with us as much as we enjoy having them.

Julianne Bates, Brian McMillan, Wardens





It was a small group of five members that met at the Visitors Centre, McLaren Vale for the first meeting of the year, following the Form 3 service giving thanks for the world around us. The promotional video of the Fleurieu Peninsula, playing above our table, was a good example of our beautiful world.

Copies of the 2026 Prayer Diary were given out, and to help with forward planning, copies of a Programme for 2026. The theme for 2026 is "Encouraging families through faith in action." The focus of prayer for the following day (Day 3) was the new Diocesan Vice President, Gail Filsell. Congratulations on your appointment, Gail!

Doreen suggested that the MU take up Rev Beck's suggestion (made to St Ann's) to take up an outreach project to provide toiletries for people who are homeless or escaping domestic violence, and the idea was warmly accepted. Gail to get more details from Anglicare at Christies Beach and report to the next meeting.

The next meeting (2nd March) at SCC will be our Annual General Meeting, and on Wednesday 25th March the Diocesan Lady Day service will be held at Seaford beginning with a Communion service at 11am. There will be **no meeting** on April 6th (Easter Monday).



Gail, Doreen, Rosie and Trish. Paddy the platypus, with his Australian flag, came with Trish to commemorate Australia Day.



Books for the Philippines

Two of our visitors to St Ann's in recent times have been Brian and Irene Perry. Through them we have made a connection with their neighbouring school in the Philippines. When Brian was here last year he collected books, soft toys etc for the school, many of them from our jumble sale boxes, and freighted them back to the school. Later, when the boxes had arrived, he wrote back to us:

It is a privilege to visit St Ann's from time to time as we are now retired and living in the Philippines, we have several children and grandchildren in Adelaide so we try to visit them at least once or twice a year.

We support our local integrated school in Talo'ot, Argao, Cebu, Philippines, (Elementary to high school), 700 to 800 children. One of our many support activities is to collect children's books for their special reading programme.

The school principal made a special occasion, inviting us to open the box on stage in front of all the younger students after the prayers and National Anthem, in order for them to show

appreciation (above). This school, as many in the Philippines, lacks proper resources and as they have a special reading project at the moment for under-privileged children, these books add a special bonus.

We sincerely thank all those special people at St Ann's who helped in any way to make this project work.

Brian and Irene

Shrove Tuesday

We had a fantastic pancake night in the hall with a wonderful array of savory and sweet pancakes on offer. In particular many thanks to Belinda and Marlene for your cooking and lovely preparation of the tables. We had several people from other churches join us.



Top: Rose McMullan, Heather Randle
Below: L-R: Kathy Hargreave, Marcelle Habib, Belinda Rosser, Lisha Habib, Gay Robertson. (More photos p. 15)

Ash Wednesday

There were just a few of us at our lovely Ash Wednesday service. But we all felt the power of the ritual of the application of the ashes. Fr Peter mentioned in his sermon that we were not just being reminded of our mortality (dust to dust) but the regenerative power of our redemption through Christ's atoning sacrifice. The preparation that he used for the ashes included a component of Holy Oil to remind us of the healing power available to us through our faith in Jesus.



Fr Peter and Heather discuss the service with Marcelle and Lisha Habib, current occupants of our rectory

Christ Church Pre-Vestry meeting, 22nd February
Peter Filsell still has a year remaining as Local Church Warden. There were no nominations for a People's Church Warden. Appointments were made to local committees, and Belinda Rosser was re-appointed Strawberry Fete Convener.

It was decided that \$1500 of the proceeds from the 2026 Strawberry Fete will go to the Yankalilla District Inter-Church Council to help pay costs of additional hours for the Pastoral Care Programme in the three local schools.

Consideration was given to priorities and funding for maintenance work in the church building. Plaster, stonework and woodwork in both the church and the hall need repair, and applications may be made to Heritage SA for grants to boost money raised. The front fence is to be replaced, with \$1500 from the 2025 Strawberry Fete earmarked for this project.

Yankalilla World Day of Prayer Service

Our local Service will be hosted by the Jesus Co Church on Friday, March 6th at 7pm. The focus country this year is Nigeria. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Sale of St James Delamere

A contract has finally been executed for the sale of the St James' property at Delamere (Church, Hall and Cemetery). An earlier contract was cancelled as the prospective purchasers could not meet the conditions of the contract. Settlement is planned to occur on Friday, March 6th. We wish the new owners all the best with their purchase and we look forward to working with them to ensure that there is a smooth transfer of the administration of the Cemetery.

Walking With Jesus.

Our *Walking with Jesus* (3rd Sundays) has continued with good attendance, following our theme for 2026, **The Year**



of the Hymn. This month Liz Gordon-Mills led the discussion on the hymn *How can I keep from singing* by Robert Lowry (1860). We discussed the main themes of the hymn which include the way in which singing about our faith in Christ can lift us above "earth's lamentation" and bring us the Peace which refreshes our hearts. We picked out just a few of the Bible verses about singing, such as Ephesians 5:18-19, "...be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord", and, of course the numerous Psalms which are in themselves mostly songs. There are health benefits, too, including releasing endorphins, the "happy chemicals", getting more oxygen into the blood giving a better mood, increasing the lung capacity, social bonding, releasing anxiety, and boosting of confidence. How blessed we are in the Christian tradition to have music and singing as an integral part of our worship. Liz Gordon-Mills

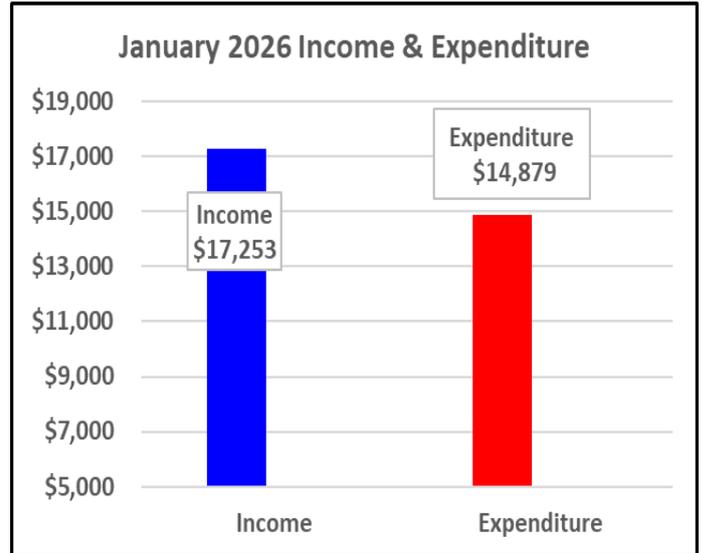
Snippets from February Parish Council

It was reported that the anticipated sale of St James' church had fallen through. However another buyer was interested. Meanwhile, with bushfires burning in the Deep Creek area, the keys to the church had been left with the Council for community use in case of fire.

Rev Beck said prayers would be needed for some time. The Ryans' home, where we celebrated the Blessing of the Fleece on many occasions in the past, had had their land to the south of their house burnt in the fires.

Finance report:

Details of 2025 financials will be presented more fully at the Annual Parish Vestry on March 15th (see graph). The accounts have been audited and will be provided in the WFA Annual Report prior to the meeting—come along and ask your questions.



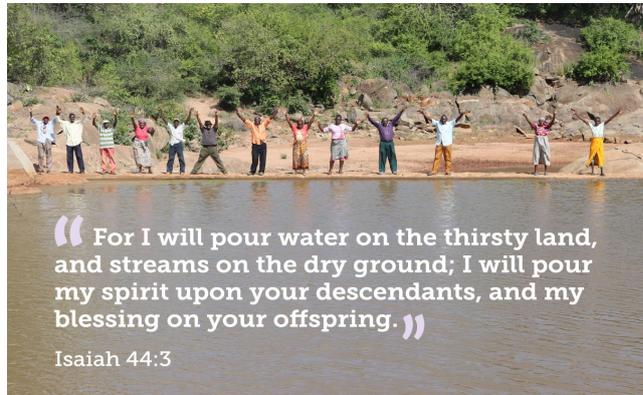
LENT APPEAL 2026

GIVE WATER, GIVE LIFE.

To respond to ABM's Lent Appeal, see www.abmission.org
 Or mail: Locked Bag Q4005, Queen Victoria Building NSW 1230. Ph 1300 302 663

Lent is a time of the desert, of wandering in a spiritual wilderness. It is also a time in which we come to recognize the importance of water and its place as the source and sustainer of life.

And, thank you everyone who has contributed used stamps to ABM. Your used stamps (preferably with about 1cm of envelope left around them) raise money for the work of ABM's valuable work (see their website). Give your stamps to your Wardens or to Anne Chittleborough.



This Month's Readings: Year A, 2026 (For more details of Easter season readings, see Lectionary)

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT—1st March—Genesis 12:1-4a—Psalm 121—Romans 4:1-5 (6-12)13-17—John 3: 1-17

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT— 8th March—Exodus 17:1-7—Psalm 95—Romans 5:1-11—John 4:5-42

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT—15th March—1 Samuel 16:1-13—Psalm 23—Ephesians 5:8-14—John 9:1-41

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT—22nd March—Ezekiel 37:1-14—Psalm 130—Romans 8:6-11—John 11: 1-45

SIXTH SUNDAY IN LENT—PALM SUNDAY—29th March—Isaiah 50:4-9a—Psalm 31:9-18—Philippians 2:5-11—Matthew 26:14-27:66

MAUNDY THURSDAY—2nd April—Exodus 12:1-4(5-10)11-14—Psalm 116:1-2, 11-18—1 Corinthians 11:23-26—John 13:1-17, 31b-35

GOOD FRIDAY—3rd April—Isaiah 52:13-53:12—Psalm 22—1 Corinthians 1.18-31—John 18:1-19:42

EASTER DAY—5th April—Acts 10:34-43:Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24—Colossians 3:1-4—Matthew 28:1-10

Western Fleurieu Anglicans

(A parish of the Diocese of The Murray)

Visit our website!

<http://www.southernvalesparish.org>

SCAN ME



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0438 876 288

Priests' Warden: John Strachan

0407 605 152

jfstrachan44@outlook.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

1st, 2nd & 4th Sundays – 11.00am

3rd 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 5th 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.*

*March 2026
Colour Photo Supplement*

**St Margaret's, McLaren Vale
Shrove Tuesday: Pancakes!**
(see p. 4)



The taste test: Sue Russell and Rod Sandercock found the pancakes as good as they looked!



St Stephen's, Willunga
(see p. 7)
Saturday Night Out
at the "Middle Pub"



These sociable dinners are proving popular. The food's good, too!

*March 2026
Colour Photo Supplement*

***From Christ Church, Yankalilla
(see p. 10)***

Pancakes!

R: Fr Peter Randle

*Below: Alan Mills,
Yvonne Parsons,
Marlene Stone, Gerry
Bown and John King*



The Two pastors at the Christ Church lunch (Normanville pub) February 22, 2026. Rev. Beck Newell and Rev. Nola Gibbons (minister, Yankalilla Uniting Church).



The late Fr Ed Pumphrey (see p. 2) with Ann Ryan and Peter Filsell in 2007 at Dt James', Delamere