

April 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



**On the first Easter Day, life changed.**

**On that morning long ago, when the women went to the tomb of Jesus and found that he was not there, our ideas about life and death, and time and eternity changed.**

**And the world has never been the same.**

There's more in *The Grapevine* online—read it in colour, and see the extra pages in the online supplement. [www.southernvalesparish.org](http://www.southernvalesparish.org)



28 people met at St Margaret's for the Western Fleurieu's Annual Vestry Meeting. Vestry reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.

### Adopting Reports

Rev Beck was commended on her Report, especially for her conclusion:

*"In small communities especially, renewal often comes not through novelty but through rediscovering the quiet strength of faithfulness. If we continue to gather around Christ in Word and Sacrament, to care for one another, and to remain open to the Spirit's prompting, I believe we will find that God is gently shaping our future."*

A vote of thanks was passed to Anne Chittleborough for her work as Editor of *The Grapevine*.

### Finance & budget

Speaking to her report the Treasurer said that 2025 had resulted in a significant surplus for the Parish. She explained that this was mainly due to paying a full stipend for only six months of the year, and the full year's rental of two properties. This has allowed us to return funds to our savings accounts held at the Diocese that had been drawn on during the period of paying two full time stipends.

She said that many parishes in the Diocese are currently unable to fund even part of a stipend. We are fortunate therefore with the recent sale of Delamere, and a predicted surplus for 2026, to be in a position to review the Parish's mission and outreach strategy into the future. Whilst this may well bring challenges, we should approach it with hope and enthusiasm.

### Elections and appointments:

Stephen Banner, who has been the sole Warden at St Stephen's, Willunga has resigned as Warden as he and Christi plan to be away for some time. Doreen Rushbrook has resigned as Synod Rep for the parish. Greg John was elected Synod Rep and Gail Filsell as second substitutional rep for the parish. No other elections were called for this year.

The meeting concluded with a call from the Administrator to think about leadership and resources as we review and update our future plans for the parish.



## For your Diary

### April

- Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> **MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
7pm Christ Church  
7pm St Margaret's
- Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> **GOOD FRIDAY**  
9am, 3pm St Nicholas'  
10am St Ann's  
11am Christ Church
- Sat 4<sup>th</sup> **EASTER VIGIL**  
7.30pm St Stephen's
- Sun 5<sup>th</sup> **EASTER DAY**  
9am St Ann's  
10.30 St Margaret's  
11am Christ Church  
10.30am St Nicholas'
- Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> **Prayers for Peace** St Ann's 11.15am
- Fri 10<sup>th</sup> **Saturday Night Out** (*changed—see p. 7*)
- Sun 12<sup>th</sup> **ACH service**, Yankalilla
- Tues 14<sup>th</sup> **WFA Council** Christ Church 4pm
- Sun 19<sup>th</sup> **Walking With Jesus** 10am Christ Church
- Tues 21<sup>st</sup> **Friends of St Ann's** 4pm
- Fri 24<sup>th</sup> **Family Tea**, St Ann's 6 for 6.30pm
- Sat 25<sup>th</sup> **MARK**  
**ANZAC DAY**
- Sun 26<sup>th</sup> **Healing Service**, Christ Church 11am

### May

- Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> **Saturday Night Out**
- Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> **PHILIP & JAMES**  
**Gold Coin Collection**  
**St Nicholas' shared luncheon**
- Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> **Mothers Union** SCC, 9.30am
- Sun 10<sup>th</sup> **ACH service**, Yankalilla
- Tues 12<sup>th</sup> **Ministry Team meeting** 3pm  
**WFA Council** 4pm
- Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> **ASCENSION DAY**  
**Prayers for Peace**, St Ann's 11.15am
- Sun 17<sup>th</sup> **Walking With Jesus** 10am Christ Church
- Tues 19<sup>th</sup> **Friends of St Ann's** 4pm
- Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> **Family Tea**, St Ann's 6 for 6.30pm
- Sun 24<sup>th</sup> **PENTECOST**  
**Healing Service**, Christ Church 11am
- Sat 30<sup>th</sup> **St Stephen's Contemplative service** 5.30pm
- Sun 31<sup>st</sup> **Combined Service**, St Margaret's, 10am

*\* Pastoral Care Workers (Chaplains)*

*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

**Jumble Sale!**  
Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April  
at St Ann's

**JUMBLE SALE POSTPONED**

See p. 6  
New date t.b.a.




### St Margaret's Bottles and Cans

#### COLLECTIONS FOR MISSIONS.

*With lots more full bags, buckets and boxes coming in this month we have another \$35 to add for the year— total to date is \$135.*

*Again we thank all the keen collectors for their generous donations. You are doing wonderful work for this worthy cause. Most bags are returned—some are at the back of St Margaret's church and also some in the Sunday School Room so please take them as needed.* Di Best

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> April.

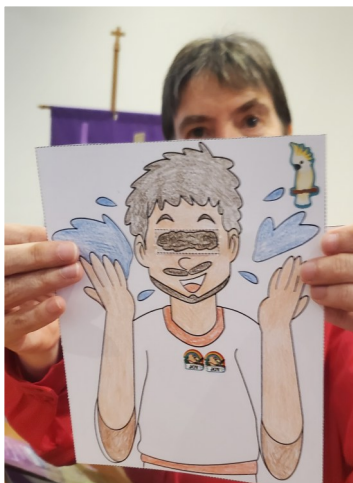
*And please notify the Editor if you wish to avoid the chance of being mentioned in the newsletter.*

By the time this goes out our Lenten observance, and Easter, will be over for another year. We will have reflected over the past six weeks and hopefully been renewed in our purpose as once again we have followed Jesus to the cross, ending or should we say beginning, in the glory of His resurrection on Easter Day.

Our service on the 1<sup>st</sup> March, the second Sunday in Lent was led by Reverend Beck. We continued with the Lenten readings for Year A, hearing again those familiar words from St John's Gospel, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." Meeting with Nicodemus, Jesus told him important spiritual truths which have been passed on from generations: how it was important to be born again in water and the Spirit, so that we may enjoy the fruits of eternity. We too must find our way by answering God's call to be willing to listen and follow where we are led, knowing we are loved and forgiven, with the promise of eternal life to come.

We again shared different fruits together in a shared lunch following the service. **The Meeting with God** service on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March followed the Samaritan woman who becomes an unlikely witness of Jesus. She comes to the well as part of her daily life, not expecting to encounter Jesus or be changed by Him. Jesus talks to her and offers her something much greater than ordinary water. He gives her hope, truth and new life. This story shows us that God can use many different people and ways to make himself known. It also asks us, "What are we looking for?" If we open our hearts to Jesus he offers us living water and the promise of salvation. Lots of interesting thoughts were shared about those on the outskirts of society, often deemed unworthy by society, but wholly acceptable to God.

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March, being the Fourth Sunday in Lent was Mothering Sunday.** Reverend Beck led us in our worship and blessed the simnel cake and posies to be shared amongst us all. The Gospel reading shared the story of the blind man healed by Jesus and prompted the question - "Was the man sinful in a previous life or was it his parents?" Does God inflict blindness, pestilence or disaster on people as a punishment for their sin? Jesus made it very clear, nobody had sinned. It was not a punishment from God. But Jesus did take the opportunity to make the man well and show that God cares for us as we suffer. It was an appropriate reading, as the third Sunday in the month is also



our Healing Service, with several people being anointed and prayed for following our communion service.

This was followed by a shorter than usual morning tea, as several of us were attending the Annual Vestry Meeting at St Margaret's in the afternoon.

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March**, the fifth Sunday in Lent, was our lay-led Prayer, Praise and Proclamation service. The raising of Lazarus, the brother of Martha and Mary, is a turning point in Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. It almost seems as if Jesus delays answering the sisters' call for help as their brother lies dying, taking his time and apparently arriving too late to be of any help. In the dialogue between Martha and Jesus showing Martha's absolute belief in Jesus as the Messiah, there is a sense in which resurrection is both an experience to be lived now and a future hope. For those who believe in Jesus, there is a daily dying and rising to be done – dying to sin and rising to holiness.

Helen Cook read the message written by Fr Rodney Fopp and also played the piano for our last couple of hymns as Cathy More had to leave early. Our worship ended with one of our favourite hymns, "And can it be" and the service was followed by morning tea and the finishing of the Simnel cake from last week.

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March was Palm Sunday** Our lay-led service was enhanced by joining with our Christian brothers and sisters in the Liturgy of the Palms outside in our Grace Garden. The palm crosses were blessed following the



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



short service and we joined in walking and singing together as we moved into our separate worship spaces. A joyful service with a solemn ending as Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem ended in his betrayal and death. The crowds who lined the road to cheer him into Jerusalem would soon change and call for his blood. The disciples themselves were fickle and ran away when the going got tough. We are asked what kind of Christians we are. Are we "fair weather" friends of Jesus, or are we prepared to follow him through the difficult times as well? Father Ted led us in a short communion service, a remembrance of the Last Supper, as we continued our journey towards Good Friday and the Cross.

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

Some members of the Parish joined us on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March to make Palm Crosses for everyone. It was a fun time as we tried to remember how to make them, getting the folds and the knot just right! As always a great time of fellowship, lots of love and laughter, and of course, tea and biscuits.

Blessings

*Helen Cook and Jane Cuthbert, Wardens.*



*Pat, Gail, Helen, Margaret, Jane*



## News from St Ann's, Aldinga



Late summer and autumn has brought more pleasant weather, and calmer and cooler mornings have been most welcome each Sunday. We know the weather in our area is changeable, but one thing has remained the same in spite of new incarnations. Formerly called the Guild, the Friends of St Ann's has continued to be a reliable get-together of parishioners who meet monthly to discuss the on-going life at our little church. While property and maintenance of the building matters are a given, much more discussion is on worship and services, events, church life and caring matters.

Lately a concern for wider ministry and care in our local community has become prominent. Some of our parishioners volunteer at the local Christian Care and Support Centre (CCS) at the Aldinga Community Centre. We've been informed that this space will now be shared with Vinnies (St Vincent de Paul), whose space at the Community Centre is being taken over by an employment organisation. Many of our parishioners provide weekly groceries or money to support the centre, but this is not

all we can do. Br Simon is concerned about our mission going into the future, so much prayer, conversation and pooling of ideas is to come. Thankfully the Aldinga and surrounds community has an abundance of resources, services and community groups providing for those with various needs. We must also remember that God hasn't called us to make church members! We are called to make disciples, followers, set free from sin and eternal separation from God, free to love God with all we have and to love our neighbour as ourselves.

With this in mind, our services have continued to be fulfilling. Some are joyful while others are thought – provoking or sombre. Many thanks must go to Brian, our organist, who puts so much effort into choosing the hymns for each service. The Lord took care of our Mothering Sunday service after one of our "preachers" was unable to give the address, with Rev Beck kindly offering her sermon to be read out. One of the points she made was that "Spiritual blindness is not about a lack of information. It is about refusing the light." She left us with four questions to reflect upon:

*(Cont'd over page)*

"How do we respond to suffering? Are we growing in our understanding of Jesus? Are we open to the Light of Christ? and Do we truly see Jesus for who He is?"

Our Bible studies during Lent went well, with up to thirteen attending, offering interesting questions and sharing in discussion.

Plans can go astray, though. The World Day of Prayer was on the 6<sup>th</sup> March, and on 26<sup>th</sup> February we found that St Ann's was to host it this year. As we hadn't until then heard anything from the organisers it was too late to arrange and promote it, but thankfully other churches in close districts had services for people to attend. We have indicated that we will lead WDP in 2027.

It was a joy to have the baptism of seven year old Harrison this last month. This was Rev Beck's first baptism and all went very well. Trish Frith presented Harrison with a book from Mothers Union and the family celebrated with him afterwards in the hall. We were delighted when we received a card thanking us for allowing them to have Harrison baptised at our church and making them all feel welcome. We pray that more in our community would reach out to us for such a significant part of a person's life.

Speaking of significant events, we had a funeral and graveside burial too. One young family member came and worshipped with us over the two consecutive Sundays, and it was lovely to get to know him.

Our Family Tea on the 27<sup>th</sup> was, as ever, a good time of fellowship, food and laughter.

*Below: Rosie Day and De Badgery.  
(More photos on p. 14)*



More progress has been made toward the noise attenuation works. New, thicker glass was put into the vestry windows and the vestry and church doors have new seals to close air and vermin gaps. The church doors have been re-hung and joinery added to make them fit perfectly. Water issues are still to be resolved between

the bike path and church, as is provision of thirteen car parks on Council land and re-surfacing the adjacent road. Unblocking the drain running from the church site is still a matter being investigated. Hopefully all will be resolved soon.

Our wonderful gardening team has always been aware of the importance of trees to take up the underground water. After a visit to the McLaren Vale Native Tree Nursery, De and Victoria returned with a variety of well grown trees to plant. Many thanks to the owner for her amazing assistance and discounted price: now for the hard work of planting!



*Victoria and De show Margaret and Brian the new trees*

We had hoped that Shadow the donkey and her owner Jim Lekkas would have been able once again to make their welcome appearance at our Palm Sunday service, but as Jim was away, that was not to be. As we write, preparations for other Easter services are in full swing.

*Julianne Bates, Brian McMillan, Wardens*



*Gathering for the Palm Sunday procession.*

**STOP PRESS:**

**Due to various factors, including the likelihood of increasing fuel shortages, a decision has been made to postpone the Jumble Sale. New date t.b.a.**

## News from St Stephen's, Willunga

The month of March saw a total of 9 worship services take place at St Stephen's church (2 Holy Eucharist, 1 Evening Prayer, 1 PPP and 5 Meditation). The Eucharist services were ably led by Rev. Beck, while the remaining services were lay-led. This mixture of services each month represents a variety of worship experiences for those who attend.

The Eucharist services are the most traditional in nature, with both Rev. Beck and her Eucharistic Assistant wearing robes while Brian McMillan leads us ably through the Choral Eucharist mass with his keyboard skill—and sometimes also his voice on the occasions when we are unfamiliar with the melody of one or more of the hymns!

The lay-led Evening Prayer service is slightly less formal, but in every case three hymns are sung, based on videos displayed on the screen during the service. The service follows the format provided by *A Prayer Book for Australia*, concluding with a Thanksgiving Prayer and followed by our Saturday Night Out fellowship event.

The Prayer, Praise and Proclamation service (also known as PPP) is less formal than Evening Prayer, and once again it is led by a member of the laity and contains the weekly liturgy readings and three video-based hymns. All of the above services are held on Saturday evenings, starting at 5.30pm.

But in addition Christian Meditation is conducted every week, being held each Tuesday morning from 9am. This short service begins with the worshippers gathered in a seated semi-circle in front of the altar, with a small prayer candle being lit by each person to symbolize the presence of the Holy Spirit. After a short prayer led by one of those present, a series of 3 gong sounds is used to mark the beginning of 20 minutes of silence while each person enters a period of contemplation based on a reading. 3 more gongs sound to mark the end of the silent 20 minutes, and then the service concludes with a short prayer before the group retires to the rear of the church for a period of fellowship over tea, coffee and

biscuits. As may be seen from the photo below, numbers have grown to the extent that we need to start adding a second row of seats.

For those who may be planning to join us for our monthly **Saturday Night Out** in April, please be advised of a change of date for our April celebration. While this dinner event normally takes place on the first Saturday of the month at the middle pub in Willunga immediately following the 5.30pm service, **for this month we will meet on 10<sup>th</sup> April**. As usual, all are welcome to join us. For reservations, please contact Steve Banner at [LMESTBA@YAHOO.COM](mailto:LMESTBA@YAHOO.COM) or 0404163940.

This change has been made because the first Saturday is the night of our Easter Vigil service, which commences at 7.30pm, with the Lighting of the New Fire and the first celebration in our parish of the resurrection of Christ.

*Steve Banner, Warden*



*Palm Sunday at St Stephen's saw a healthy-sized congregation including a cyclist who dropped in. Rev Beck blessed the palm crosses, and Christi decorated the altar with palm branches.*





## St James' Cemetery

The Anglican Church property at Delamere comprising the St James Church, Hall and Cemetery has been sold.

The new owner of the property is aware of his responsibilities regarding access to the cemetery: access is available from Main South Road via the entrance gates located at the western end of the section of land on which the cemetery is located, between the hours of 9am-5pm.

There are no toilet facilities in the cemetery, but public toilets are located adjacent to the Delamere Store. Access to the cemetery through the section of the land on which the hall is located needs to be arranged in consultation with the owner as this will become a private residence.

Details about graves located in the cemetery can be found online at [www.map.chronicle.rip/StJames\\_Delamere\\_Anglican\\_Cemetery](http://www.map.chronicle.rip/StJames_Delamere_Anglican_Cemetery) or scan the QR code (above). For further enquiries contact the new owner (0430 440 933) or Peter Filsell 0427 534 095.



## An afternoon of adventure

Last year Fr Brenton Dick walked over 800km on a Camino de Santiago trek in Spain, and Peter and Gail Filsell went on a luxury trek through Africa. On Sunday afternoon of March 22<sup>nd</sup> we enjoyed two slide and video shows which illustrated these trips.

Fr Brenton looked very healthy after his ordeal and was decked out appropriately in a T-shirt and shell pendant. The clam shell is the symbol of St James who is the Patron saint of the city of Santiago de Compostela

where the pilgrimage ended. St James' remains are reputed to be buried in the Cathedral there.

Fr Brenton showed beautiful scenes of the countryside and the many churches and cathedrals he visited along the way, some of them decorated with much gold. Some people undertake the walk as a religious pilgrimage, but many are hikers who walk the route for travel or sport, along with an interest in exploring their own relationship with themselves, other people, nature, and what they perceive as being sacred.



Peter and Gail's trip was less arduous physically, but nevertheless incredibly interesting, both from the point of view of the wildlife they observed at close range (African



elephants, zebras, lions and giraffes to name a few), and also the peoples and their way of life. Their trip started on Cape Town and moved north to the Serengeti, a national park and UNESCO world heritage site in the Northern part of Tanzania. They were delighted by the Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe - and amazed to find Delamere Yoghurt in Kenya!



## 5CY (5 Churches of Yankalilla) Community Pantry Co-Ordinator

This important role in the Yankalilla and surrounding areas (approx. 8-10 hours a week) will be vacant from 1<sup>st</sup> July. An applicant needs to show compassion, strong leadership and organizational skills, strength of character and conviction to continue to make a difference in many people's lives .

For information phone 0407 792 712

**Walking With Jesus: The Year of the Hymn**

On the 20<sup>th</sup> March Wendy Lindsay led the discussion on the hymn *How great Thou art*, made popular through the Billy Graham Campaign in Australia in 1959. Most of us hadn't realized, however, that the hymn has much earlier origins, having been written in 1885 by Swedish poet and minister Carl Boberg. The English version of the hymn and its title are a loose translation from 1949 by English missionary Stuart K. Hine.

Wendy guided us through each verse of the hymn, the first concentrating on the vastness and beauty of



creation. The very quick regeneration of grass and tree shoots after the recent devastating fires in the recent bush fires in the Deep Creek area was evidence of God's life force within living things. The second verse continues this theme with the invitation to look upwards and outwards, concentrating on God's care for each one of us, despite His grandeur.

The sacrifice of Jesus on the cross (third verse) emphasizes His great love for us, and in the fourth, our joyful welcome to the great home of heaven. No wonder "How Great Thou Art" was ranked second (after "Amazing Grace") on a list of the favourite hymns of all time in a nationwide poll by *Songs Of Praise* in 2019.

Liz Gordon-Mills

An advertisement for Southern Vales Funerals. The background is a photograph of a man and a woman sitting on a wooden picnic table in a park-like setting with trees and ducks. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

**SOUTHERN VALES  
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*...Today I stopped at a small church and lit a candle for Lyn's back. As I stepped back, I noticed the flame shrinking, almost as if it were about to go out. For a moment, I feared that my prayer might be in vain. Then, just as doubt crept in, the flame flickered and grew stronger, steadying itself. Tears filled my eyes as I watched, feeling that perhaps my prayer was being carried upward, heard by a benevolent God. The candle became more than just wax and flame—it was a symbol of faith. Moments like that, don't promise outcomes, but they do offer something just as meaningful: a sense of being held, even briefly, by something larger than our own worry.*



*The way the flame faltered and then steadied feels like a perfect metaphor for how faith often works. Its struggle to stay lit mirrored my own uncertainty, and its renewal reminded me that hope can return even when it feels fragile. This moment taught me that prayer is not about immediate answers but about trust, patience, and the quiet reassurance that we are not alone.*

*Blessings.*

*Bretton*

March, like January and February, has been very busy.

### Church Services

John Strachan continues to help us celebrate Morning Prayer on the first Sunday on the month, giving us the benefit of his insights. Rev Beck (Beck Newell) spent time with us this month celebrating Holy Communion with us and for us not only on the second and fourth Sundays; but also the first and third Wednesday morning services and will celebrate Palm Sunday with us.

The third Sunday was Prayer, Praise and Proclamation. Julia Drought read a very thoughtful address based on the readings of the day. However as it was also Mothering Sunday, we celebrated it with special prayers, posies and Simnel cake. Jac Hocking made special mementos for the day, a biscuit and the wherewithall for a nice cup of tea. The Simnel cake was cut up for morning tea after the service. As it was the annual Vestry Meeting that afternoon, the hall was set up for the meeting after morning tea. Thankyou to all those who brought afternoon tea. We also had the remains of the Simnel cake.

The second and third Wednesday services remain laity-led Morning Prayer, followed by Bible Study.

We also hosted two Memorial services this month on the 4<sup>th</sup> March for Maurine Pearl Richter and on the 21<sup>st</sup> for Robert Digby Pridmore. These were Rev Beck's first and third as celebrant. For both services the chairs were removed and the pews replaced in their original positions. There were over 50 people present for the



first and over 60 for the second; we needed to set up extra chairs at the back for the second one. Both Greg John and I were present, John to play the organ and myself to direct traffic, so we were able to help set up and clear up after, although both families were happy to help.

### The More Mundane...

The fridge in the hall has been giving us trouble for a few months now and although we kept it in check by ensuring the fridge door was properly closed, it had become a problem as it kept leaking water over the kitchen floor and, without retaining a correct temperature its contents had started to grow mould. It was decommissioned after church on 1<sup>st</sup> March and

cleaned out. Although three quotes for a new fridge were researched for presentation at the monthly Parish Council Meeting, Linda Haigh (who runs the quilting sessions in the hall) offered us her daughter's fridge (two years old and in pristine condition) in lieu of payment for three fortnightly sessions. With the Council's approval, Julia and I checked the fridge/freezer and closed the deal. Tony Young from St Ann's removed the old fridge that Thursday, giving us the opportunity to give the kitchen a clean before Linda and her husband Joel delivered and set up its replacement. My having researched the quotes for a new fridge paid off as I was able to find a new Stick Vacuum Cleaner for the hall at a greatly reduced cost. After one of our Wednesday Bible Studies, Br Simon (Simon Waters) was able to put our new cleaner together, with a little help from Julia and me. It is now much easier to keep the hall floors clean.

### OH&S

The replacement of the fridge ended up an OH&S issue, satisfactorily resolved. All our electrical equipment was tagged and tested on the 17<sup>th</sup> of the month, with the opportunity taken to clear packing debris from the office area.

### For the Future

Palm Sunday and the Easter Season Services are upon us with all their special messages of grief, hope, thanksgiving, praise, worship and joy. For our Wednesday



morning service in Holy Week we will say the Litany.

And as always may God continue to be with us in all we do and say. Thankyou to all those who continue to help us as needed, both physically and in prayer and advice.

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



## MU 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

For Mothers' Union, Lady Day (25<sup>th</sup> March) is the formal annual day of prayer, intercession, and thanksgiving. It was officially adopted by the organisation in 1897.

Lady Day is the traditional name for the Feast of the Annunciation, which commemorates the Angel Gabriel's visit to Mary to announce that she would give birth to Jesus. While Mothers' Union was founded by Mary Sumner in 1876, it wasn't until 1897 that the Central Council formally chose Lady Day as the union's primary day of celebration.

As MU Chaplain, Fr Daniel Irvine, pointed out in his Sermon this Lady Day, the day highlights Mary's "yes" to God as a model of faith and obedience for all members. It aligns with the Mothers' Union mission to support marriage and family life. Today, over 4 million members in 84 countries participate in Lady Day services.

Mothers Union's 150<sup>th</sup> was observed in the Diocese of the Murray with a Eucharist Service, led by Fr Daniel at St Nicholas' Anglican Church, Seaford, with newly elected President of the Southern Vales branch, Gail Filsell, assisting. 35 members and friends gathered to share the uplifting worship service, after which presentations for 60 + Years of Service were made to Lucy Creed, Trish Frith and Doreen Rushbrook, all from our Southern Vales Branch. The new committee members were installed, and it was special to welcome as a new member our own Rev Beck Newell from the Western Fleurieu Parish. (*More photos p. 16.*) The SCC Town Square Café catered for a luncheon where the celebration cake for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Mothers' Union was cut and enjoyed.

Next Meeting for Southern Vales MU Branch will be on May 4<sup>th</sup> at St Nicholas, Seaford. Members pleased be advised there is no informal gathering on Easter Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, so close to Easter, and given the doubt over fuel supplies.



### Domestic Violence Necessity Bags

The Southern Vales Mothers' Union is reaching out to assist women who need to leave their homes in a hurry due to domestic violence or for other reasons. We are putting together a bag of essential goods for each of the women. If you would like to assist, either with goods or a donation for the purchase of the goods, please speak with any Mothers Union member in your church  
Goods to go into the bag are toothbrush, toothbrush holder, toothpaste, soap, soap holder, shampoo, conditioner, hairbrush, small packets of tissue, sanitary pads or tampons and deodorant.

Thank you, *Gail Filsell, President – 0428 980 223.*



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

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

**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER—12<sup>th</sup> April—Acts 2:14a, 22-32—Psalm 16—1 Peter 1:1-12—John 20:19-31**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER—19<sup>th</sup> April—Acts 2:14a, 36-41—Psalm 116:1-4, 11-18—1 Peter 1:13-25—Luke 24:13-35**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER— 26<sup>th</sup> April—Acts 2:42-47—Psalm 23—1 Peter 2:1-10—John 10:1-10**

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER—3<sup>rd</sup> May—Acts 7:55-60—Psalm 31:1-5, 17-18—1 Peter 2:11-25—John 14:1-14**

# Western Fleurieu Anglicans

(A parish of the Diocese of The Murray)

Visit our website!

<http://www.southernvalesparish.org>

SCAN ME



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Administrator of the Diocese

Br Simon Waters

[administrator@murray.anglican.org](mailto:administrator@murray.anglican.org)

Curate: The Rev'd Beck Newell

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

0438 876 288

Priests' Warden: John Strachan

0407 605 152

[jfstrachan44@outlook.com](mailto:jfstrachan44@outlook.com)

A good way to support the continuing 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*



## 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 services. See p. 8

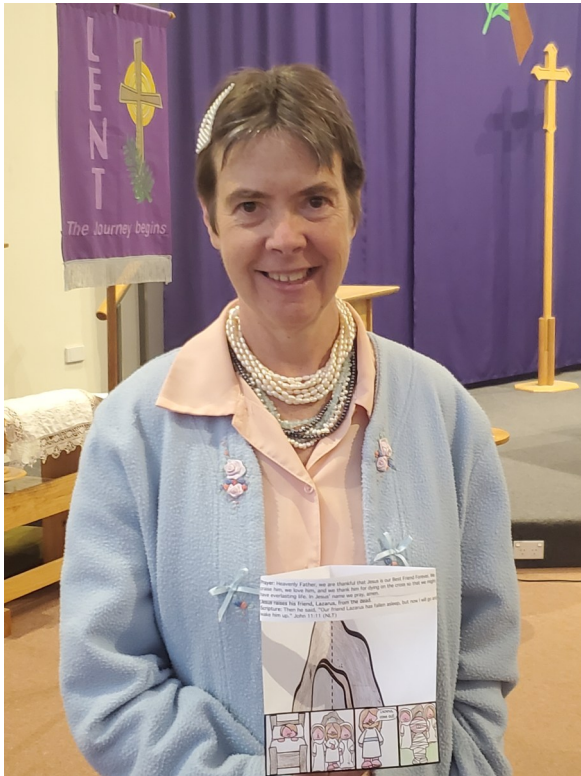
For information contact

Peter Filsell 0427 534 095

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

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

St Nicholas', Seaford Christian Churches  
(see pp 4-5)



Above: Sunara's handiwork: L: Lazarus rising from the tomb, R: Palm Sunday.

Below: L: Ready for Palm Sunday worship, R: Rev Beck, Palm Sunday



*April 2026*  
*Online Photo Supplement*

**Family Tea at St Ann's Aldinga**  
*(see p. 6)*

St Ann's Family Tea (4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month, 6 for 6.30pm) is a time for fellowship, food and relaxation. It's a gathering to which we can bring family or friends—anyone who wants to join us. Clockwise from R: Br Simon and Trish Frith, Patrick and Margaret Park and Margaret Cale, Stephen Carthew and John Badgery doing a wonderful job in the kitchen, Brian and Julianne, Barry, Bill Cale and Brian.



**Christ Church, Yankalilla**

*An Afternoon of Adventure* See p.8



I'm still trying to think of an appropriate caption!



*April 2026*  
*Colour Photo Supplement*

**The Mothers Union celebrating 150 years at St Nicholas, Seaford.**

*See p. 11*



**Members from around the Diocese gathered at Seaford to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the MU.**

**Officers were sworn in, including (from Southern Vales) Gail Filsell (Vice President) and Helen Cook (Prayer & Spirituality). Diocesan President, Caroline Earl looks on.**

**A new member, the Rev'd Beck Newell was sworn in by the Chaplain, the Rev'd Daniel Irvine  
The celebratory cake!**

