

June 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

## ***St Stephen's Fifth Saturday Contemplative Service: a church facing changes***

Tuesday 9am Meditations will be continuing, but there are no scheduled Saturday Services at St Stephen's from the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2026.

*(see pp. 4, 11)*



On Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May the Fifth Saturday Contemplative Service at St Stephen's, Willunga, led by Fr Brenton, was one of reflection, silence, and Taizé music; a wonderful conclusion, for now at least, of scheduled Saturday services in this church.

Afterwards the congregation chose to make the occasion a party, not a wake—a celebration of joy shared as the Body of Christ.



## ***Parish Combined Service: celebrating Trinity Sunday at St Margaret's***

*(see p. 7)*



Following the parish tradition of making fifth Sundays an opportunity for members of all five of our congregations to gather together in worship and fellowship, a wonderful service was held at St Margaret's on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May, filling the church with prayer and rousing hymns, and the Sunday School Room with friends, food and good spirits.





## *Rev Beck writes...*

In my studies this past semester, I have been undertaking a topic in sacramental theology. This has involved an in-depth exploration of the seven sacraments: Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation, Ordination, Holy Matrimony, Reconciliation of the Penitent, and Anointing of the Sick. As part of this topic, I had the opportunity to research one sacrament in greater depth and present a seminar paper to the class. I chose confirmation.

I wonder what your own experience of confirmation was like. What were you taught that it meant? My understanding, when I was confirmed at the age of twelve, was that it was essentially an admission to communion: a moment in which I publicly took ownership of my faith and affirmed the promises that had been made on my behalf at baptism. While there is

truth in this, contemporary sacramental theology reveals a much deeper meaning to confirmation than simply a graduation or coming-of-age ceremony.

Traditionally, confirmation is connected to the events of Pentecost in Acts 2, when the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples in tongues of fire. Empowered by the Spirit, the disciples were able to speak in different languages and proclaim the gospel to the diverse crowd gathered in Jerusalem. Later, in Acts 8, the apostles laid hands upon baptised believers so that they might receive the Holy Spirit. Paul, too, writes in Ephesians of believers being “sealed with the promised Holy Spirit.” Contemporary scholarship develops this early Church understanding of confirmation as commissioning.

As an ordained person, I felt a calling to ministry from a young age. Yet every Christian is called to active participation in the life of the Church. Whether through lay ministry, governance, music, hospitality, Bible study leadership, pastoral care, prayer, or works of charity and justice, each person has a unique vocation within the Body of Christ. As Paul explains in his first letter to the Corinthians, these diverse gifts all come from the same Spirit, and no one is more important than another.

Perhaps, then, confirmation is not best understood as a graduation from faith formation, but as a commissioning into Christian life and service. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, the Church recognises and affirms that each person has been called and equipped to participate in God’s mission in the world.

Confirmation reminds us that faith is never merely private or passive. The Spirit who descended at Pentecost continues to work through ordinary believers today, calling each of us into lives of worship, witness, compassion, and service. Whatever our vocation may be, confirmation points us toward deeper participation in the life of Christ and in the ministry of the Church.

Perhaps that is the enduring significance of the sacrament: not simply that we confirm our faith in God, but that God, through the Holy Spirit, confirms and strengthens us for the work to which we are called.

*Rev Beck*

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the extra pages in the  
online  
supplement:  
[www.  
southernvalesparish.org](http://www.southernvalesparish.org)*

## June

**Mon 1<sup>st</sup>** Mothers Union: Information Centre  
**Sun 7<sup>th</sup>** Gold Coin Collection\*  
 St Nicholas' shared luncheon  
**Tues 9<sup>th</sup>** Mission Action Planning (MAP)  
 St Margaret's 2pm (*see below*)  
 WFA Council St Margaret's 4pm  
**Thurs 11<sup>th</sup>** BARNABAS  
 Prayers for Peace, St Ann's 11.15am  
**Sun 14<sup>th</sup>** Edenfield service, Yankalilla  
**Tues 16<sup>th</sup>** Friends of St Ann's 4pm  
**Fri 19<sup>th</sup>—Sun 21<sup>st</sup>** SYNOD, Mt Barker  
**Sun 21<sup>st</sup>** Walking With Jesus Christ Church 10am  
 Prayer in all churches for the 150<sup>th</sup>  
 anniversary of the Mothers Union  
**Fri 26<sup>th</sup>** Family Tea, St Ann's 6 for 6.30pm  
**Sun 28<sup>th</sup>** Healing Service, Christ Church 11am

## July

**Wed 1<sup>st</sup>** COMING OF THE LIGHT  
**Sun 5<sup>th</sup>** Gold Coin Collection  
 St Nicholas' shared luncheon  
**Mon 6<sup>th</sup>** Mothers Union St Ann's 9.30am  
**Thurs 9<sup>th</sup>** Prayers for Peace, St Ann's 11.15am  
**Sun 12<sup>th</sup>** Edenfield service, Yankalilla  
**Tues 14<sup>th</sup>** Ministry Team St Nicholas' 3pm  
 WFA Council St Nicholas' 4pm  
**Sat 18<sup>th</sup>** High Tea, St Ann's, 3pm  
**Sun 19<sup>th</sup>** Walking with Jesus Christ Church 10am  
**Tues 21<sup>st</sup>** Friends of St Ann's 4pm  
**Wed 22<sup>nd</sup>** MARY MAGDALENE  
**Fri 24<sup>th</sup>** Family Tea, St Ann's 6 for 6.30pm  
**Sat 25<sup>th</sup>** JAMES  
**Sun 26<sup>th</sup>** Healing Service, Christ Church 11am

*\* for Pastoral Care Workers (Chaplains)*

*And also,*

- \* *each Tuesday, at St Stephen's, Willunga: Christian Meditation 9am*
- \* *each Wednesday, at 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

### MISSION ACTION PLANNING (MAP)

Come and share your thoughts about future mission for our parish.  
 Next gathering at St Margaret's, Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2pm All welcome.



### St Margaret's Bottles and Cans COLLECTIONS FOR MISSIONS.

Our total YTD since we started in 2022 is now \$1026.  
 Thank you to all our regular collectors and, this  
 month, thanks for a couple of major  
 contributions from St Ann's which brought the May  
 figure to \$43. You are all doing wonderful work for  
 this worthy cause.

*Di Best*

Our 2026 YTD total is now \$220!

### *Save this date!*

*Another fantastic*

### High Tea

at St Ann's

**Saturday  
18<sup>th</sup> July**

**3-5pm**

**\$35**

*Musical interludes.*



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> June.

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

## News from St Stephen's, Willunga

At a meeting of the congregation following the service on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May, chaired by John Strachan as Priest's Warden, it was finally time to make some hard decisions. Steve and Christi Banner had been Warden and Sacristan at St Stephen's for the past four years, and had given due notice that after their extended holiday from 1<sup>st</sup> June they would not be taking on those roles again. They had made a detailed and useful list of the tasks they had undertaken over those years, but it was clear at that meeting that there was no-one present at this time who was able or prepared to take their place. Hence the decision (see p. 11) that while there would continue to be Christian Meditation at St Stephen's at 9am on Tuesdays, with morning tea to follow, there would be no scheduled Saturday services. Phil and Ann Duguid kindly offered to take responsibility for arrangements needed for the Tuesday Meditation.

*I write as a member of the St Stephen's congregation, who together with the rest of the parish, owe a lot to Steve and Christi for the tremendous work they have put into St Stephen's church over those years, largely single-handedly. (Do I hear Steve correcting me to say "That would mean four-handedly"?) We have admired their commitment to tasks which occupied their time on up to five days a week, including preparing and leading services, Warden's duties and seeing to menial housekeeping tasks, and also their hospitality in building up community in the worshipping congregation. We thank them, wish them a wonderful and carefree holiday, and look forward to seeing them (but no longer as Warden and Sacristan) on their return.*

Anne Chittleborough

*Below: Red was the colour to wear for Pentecost!  
R: Fr Brenton thanks Steve and Christi, 30<sup>th</sup> May.*



**Retiring  
Warden  
Steve  
Banner writes:**

The fact that there were five Saturdays in May meant that we celebrated a Contemplative Prayer service during the

month in addition to our usual schedule of Evening Prayer, Prayer, Praise & Proclamation and two Holy Eucharist services. It was very fitting that it was Fr Brenton who conducted this Contemplative Prayer service, since it was he who originally introduced this type of service to St Stephen's several years ago and conducted the first such service there.

This service on May 30<sup>th</sup> gave all in attendance the opportunity to reflect not only on the scriptural readings they had heard, but also on the nature and location of their future worship in the parish now that scheduled Saturday services at St Stephen's have been suspended until further notice. This is not to say that the church at St Stephen's will go unused, or that the spiritual needs of our small congregation will be neglected. The weekly Tuesday morning Christian Meditation services at 9am will continue uninterrupted at St Stephen's, and parishioners are always welcome at other nearby churches in our parish for Sunday services: St Ann's, Aldinga at 9am, St Margaret's, McLaren Vale at 10.30am or St Nicholas', Seaford at 10.30am. There is also a Wednesday morning service at St Margaret's, 9am. The change also means that our Saturday Night Out events each month at the middle pub have been suspended until further notice.

Speaking for myself, it has been an honour to serve as Warden and Lay Minister at St Stephen's for the past few years.

Steve Banner



## News from St Ann's Aldinga

It is always a pleasure to see new people, or those who haven't been for a while, arrive to a Sunday service, whether it is a "one off" or the occasional holiday visit. We do live in a beautiful seaside holiday destination surrounded by well known vineyards and cellar doors offering not only the fruit and labour of the vine, but delicious food and hospitality! And, it is gratifying to know that our regular people delight in introducing themselves and having extended conversations with our visitors. It is especially joyous seeing visitors who have now become friends—and really our church family—arrive for an extended time throughout the year. Brian and Irene from the Philippines, John and Barbara from Sydney and Jo from the UK have blessed us with their presence so far this year and how we enjoy catching up with all their news! It certainly helps one understand how the small churches planted in the New Testament derived much joy from having a visit from their friends or mentors who came to share the good news with them.



*We're glad to have you with us!*  
*Jo Parsons, Sue Smith*

It is timely to remind ourselves that as a faith community we can become absorbed in our own interests and complacent towards those regular parishioners who haven't been able to come to services due to illness or other circumstances that have hindered them. It is always good to touch base via a quick phone call or message, a card or short visit. For anyone unable to attend a church service regularly or for a period of time, there is an on-line table service that can be sent via a phone message and it can be read in conjunction with "Songs of Praise" on Channel 2, Sunday mornings at 11.30am. If anyone would like Home Communion, please contact one of our Wardens (phone numbers on the back of *The Grapevine*) and we will be able to organise for someone to come to you. If you would like prayer, we have a prayer chain. Please contact Julianne 0422 817 169 to have your details included.

Once again, services have been well attended. Sunday sermons/messages have been spot on. Some of our

recent readings were taken from *The Message* Bible translation and the person reading gave a very helpful introduction, including part of another more familiar translation, to give us background and context. Small things like this do help to round out all that God wants us to learn that day.

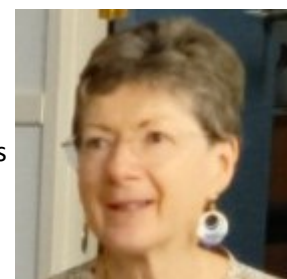
We are very pleased to welcome back Fiona Broadbent who worshipped here some years ago, and look forward to the baptism of her husband Ryan and their baby, Hope, at our service on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June.

Our morning teas after the service are very popular, and the hall becomes quite crowded. Thank you, all you faithful kitchen warriors who provide and serve our refreshments!

Church business continues as ever. We are currently updating our St Ann's Directory. If you are a parishioner who is happy to have your phone and address details in the Directory and your photo possibly included in *The Grapevine* and the Parish Website, then please see or contact Julianne (mobile above and on back of *The Grapevine*). If you are already in the Directory but your details have changed, you will also need to contact Julianne please. These Directories are for personal use only. We have had a few scam emails pertaining to come from one of our priests requesting a copy of the Directory. Please DO NOT email or send anyone a copy. Only the Wardens or Parish Secretary should forward this information on. Our priests already have their own copy.

On a cheerier note, our wonderful Barbara is running another of her popular raffles. Tickets are available at \$5 for one or \$10 for 3, and the raffle will be drawn on 7<sup>th</sup> June. Be in it to win it! Our High Tea was very popular last year, so we will be having another one on the 18<sup>th</sup> July (see p. 3). Bookings are essential, but costs and further details will be in next month's GV.

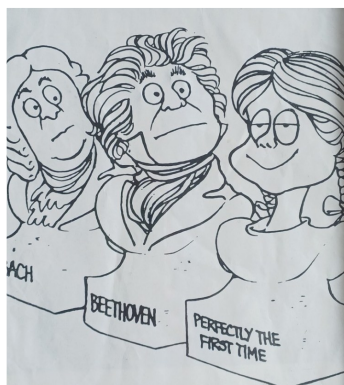
With new roads and more and more land taken for housing, our natural environment is being greatly challenged. At a recent Nature Crafts and Native Bee Nests event Sally Shaw, who is the State Director of the Christian environmental organisation, A Rocha, was awarded a Green Adelaide Certificate of Appreciation by the Conservation Council of SA, for A Rocha's ten years of voluntary work restoring the Hart Road Wetlands, Aldinga. Congratulations, Sally!



Synod is approaching (at Mt Barker 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> June). Please pray for Brother Simon who, as Administrator of the Diocese, will lead the proceedings, and for those attending who have responsibility of representing our parish, and for all members of Synod as they seek to ascertain

## News from St Ann's Aldinga (cont'd)

and accept the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the course of their discussions and deliberations. Four of our people



will be attending, so helpers to operate the PowerPoint and take up the collection on the 21<sup>st</sup> will be needed. Julianne is going to attempt to play the organ—which may turn out to be a one fingered concerto!!! At least everyone will have a note to begin with! Please pray she can play through any mistakes.

Barry has tinkered with the latch on the church doors which after re-hanging by the Alliance's contractors would not latch and kept blowing open in the strong coastal winds. It does latch now, but seemingly won't open easily. It has come to our notice that we now have to *turn the knob to open the door!* Who would have thought!

True to their word, the Fleurieu Connection Alliance has constructed our new car park. Bitumen has been laid and markings are to follow. The water problem evident on the church walls is still a work in progress. The front wall of the Hall will have two coats of a breathable waterproof membrane once the weather is dry enough to do it.

*Julianne Bates, Brian McMillan, Wardens*

## Mothers Union



The May Mothers' Union meeting for our parish was held at the Seaford Christian Churches Café. It was good to see so many members attending, and lovely to have Jo Parsons with us again for a meeting. Gail having been appointed President of the Branch, outgoing President Trish took the opportunity to hand over into her keeping various MU documents and treasures, including

gifts from the MU at Agenehambo, PNG.

The Southern Vales MU is currently preparing "Emergency Necessity Bags" for those who have had to leave home urgently due to domestic violence. To begin with, 10 bags will be made. Items to be included are toothbrushes, toothbrush holders, tubes of toothpaste, sanitary items, bars of soap, soap holders, bottles of shampoo, deodorants, hairbrushes, packets of tissues and care/

antibacterial wipes. Donations to the cause are welcome. Gail Filsell has volunteered to make individual material bags to be filled at the July meeting. Lucy had brought to the meeting some pairs of warm crocheted slippers she had made, to be donated to the Quickest Warmth project.

On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June there will be prayer offered in all churches for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the MU. Future meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> June at the information Centre, McLaren Vale, 9.30am and 6<sup>th</sup> July at St Ann's, also at 9.30am.

*Helen Cook, Secretary*



*Above: Trish Frith ("Trish 1"), Jo, Lucy, Rosie, Doreen, Trish Simons ("Trish 2"), Gail, Helen, Joanie*

*Below Left: Gail and Trish with a tapa cloth hanging, gift of the Agenehambo MU.*

*Below Right: President Gail Filsell and Secretary Helen Cook, with Lucy Creed (standing) and the crocheted slippers.*

## News from St Margaret's, McLaren Vale

### Church Services

Easter is always "full on" with many services, some sad, some joyous and some both. With the commencement of May, the Church's year has slowed a little.

John Strachan continues to guide us through Morning Prayer on the first Sunday of the month, sharing his wisdom with us. Greg John and I continue to prepare and celebrate Prayer, Praise and Proclamation services. Greg gave a very interesting address about heaven; in June it will be Julia Drought's turn to give the address. It is very interesting to see the different approaches we take to explain/enhance the readings.

Fr Ian Young was with us for Holy Communion on the second Sunday and Fr Alex Bainton for Pentecost (the fourth Sunday). Thankyou to both, we enjoy your presence, insight and care. The church was again decked out in red for Pentecost with most of the congregation wearing red. As a church, St Margaret's looks good in red.



The Wednesday services remain as Communion or Morning Prayer, necessarily adapted depending on the availability of the clergy. However both have a quietness and a contemplative feel that can be very refreshing. Bible study follows at 10.00am. The sessions are always informative, and any red herrings followed with enjoyment. We often go where the Holy Spirit leads us. Everyone is welcome.

The fifth Sunday of the month, Trinity Sunday, was a combined service held at St Margaret's, with Rev Beck Newell sharing her spiritual strength with us. It was a lovely service with 52 parishioners present, coming from all our churches. The light lunch of finger food was a success with a lot of food all looking and smelling delicious, and "doggy boxes" were provided for those

present to take home leftovers. Thank you to all those who helped set up and provided kitchen support and those who helped clear up afterwards.

### The More Mundane

Unfortunately we haven't found a cost effective method within our funds to repair the west wall of the hall. Any suggestions are welcome.

### OH&S

Greg John has attached a rain guard to the bottom of the toilet door to restrict water entry and decrease the risk of slips following rain, and is researching carpenters/handyman to replace the door frame.

### For the Future

With representatives from all the different congregations in the Parish we are revisiting and updating our future goals and their implementation.

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*



*Chris and Cathy, served by Margaret*



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

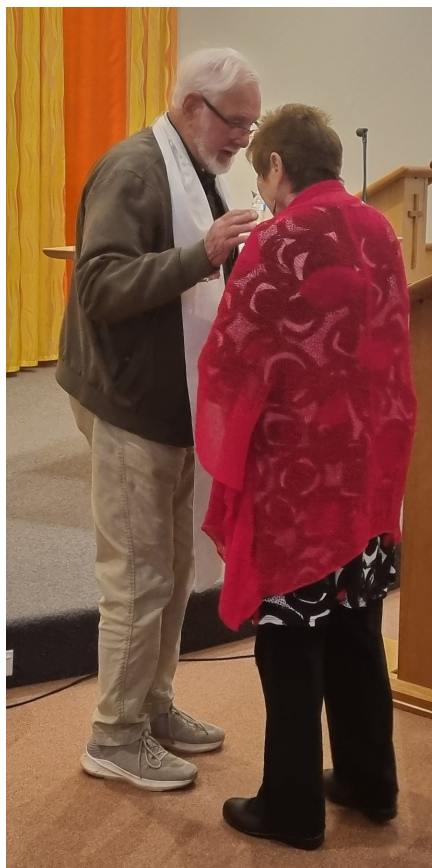
The Easter Season is now over for another year as we all settle into the "Green" months ahead. An opportunity, especially in the Lay Ministry services, to think outside the box and view different readings and meditate on God's word in a variety of ways.

We have had another busy month at St Nicholas', with birthdays and events in the parish and at SCC. At our Service on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May we recognised Domestic Violence Awareness Sunday, highlighting God's concern for those experiencing harm. Helen Cook led the prayer asking for God's help to overcome the attitudes and behaviours that cause pain and suffering to others. Reverend Beck led us in our worship and spoke about Stephen, the first martyr, the challenges of the early Christians and how as Christians we should follow Christ's example in all things. Then as now, we can be troubled and just like the disciples we can find that our fears and disappointments can be trusted to Jesus.

Following the service we enjoyed a shared lunch and fellowship, catching up with Rev Beck and planning for our coming services.

The Round Table Service on the 10<sup>th</sup> May focused on the Gospel and Jesus saying, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few". Jesus sent his disciples out into the world, trusting them to share his mission. He gave them authority to proclaim the Good News to everyone. He didn't ask them to do anything he hadn't equipped them for: he trusted them to follow his instructions and go in his name. It can be tempting to think that this message was just for them and not for us, but we have the same authority to go and tell our friends, our families, our colleagues, everyone, about the Good News of Jesus Christ and that the kingdom of God is near.

Our Healing Service on the 17<sup>th</sup> May was again led by Rev Beck with Father Ted assisting with prayer and anointing. We celebrated the Ascension of Jesus Christ and Rev Beck spoke about how although Jesus was no longer a physical presence,



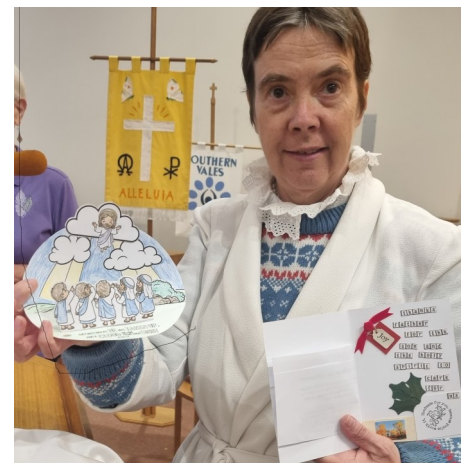
this opened up the opportunity for the Holy Spirit to be given to the disciples to enable them to have God's presence with them intimately, wherever they might be. This is what we celebrated the next week at Pentecost.

Pentecost, 24<sup>th</sup> May, was a Lay Led Service, run by Helen Cook. We watched a youtube presentation which led us through the events leading up to and following the Holy Spirit poured out on the disciples at Pentecost. Like the early disciples we must always remind ourselves that we must not be too busy, too tired, too poor, too spiritually apathetic —to face up to the task which God has called us to do. We must open ourselves to the Spirit of God to move us.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> May, Trinity Sunday, those able to travel will be able to share in a combined service at St Margaret 's, McLaren Vale. It will be a time of great worship and fellowship as we meet with one another in song and prayer, and what is sure to be a wonderful shared lunch following the service.

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

Blessings  
*Helen Cook and  
Jane Cuthbert Wardens*



*Sunara illustrates the Ascension*

## News from Christ Church, Yankalilla

The grounds around the church are looking very neat and tidy thanks to the efforts of Julie Perry. At our pre-vestry meeting in February it was suggested that we get someone to come in and help with the maintenance of the grounds. Julie put her hand up to do a couple of extra hours each fortnight in addition to her cleaning. It has been a very beneficial move. Peter Filsell still comes in as required with his mower to keep the grass under control.

It is important that we keep the grounds and the church in good condition as we have visitors to the church most days of the week. A lot of these visitors write prayer requests either in a book or on cards which are placed on the board next to the candle rack. Every Sunday we offer up the cards and the book with the following

### Pilgrim's Prayer :

**Heavenly Father, we lay this book of intercessions on your altar in the knowledge that the contents of these prayers will be answered by you in your good time. Lord we are grateful for the miracles you perform daily for those with faith. May this candle symbolise the light of your love on our troubled world. Amen.**

We have been keeping a tally this year of the prayer requests, and to date there have been around 1200 cards filled out and a further 1000 written into the book!

Our Sunday congregations are now supplemented on most Sundays with pilgrims who visit the shrine and attend the Eucharist service. They come from afar, often from the north of Adelaide, but in the case of the family pictured here, from Victor Harbor, Dr Marsh Mulhuthamby with his wife Sharon and children Shiloh and Mikaela. They are from Sri Lanka and now live in Victor Harbor. They were celebrating their fifth wedding Anniversary.



Every fourth Sunday we offer the opportunity of a blessing for healing. At our May service, which was our special service of Pentecost, we had about 10 people come forward to be anointed with oil by Rev Beck.

We were so happy that Beck was able to minister to us at this celebration, after being ill for some time. We also got to meet her husband, Jason, for the first time face to face. Beck's sermon was simple and to the point, emphasizing the importance of having an experience with

Jesus within our hearts as the disciples had after his resurrection when he revealed him-self to them in a closed room. He breathed on them saying "Receive the Holy Spirit" thereby giving them the courage to go out into the world and spread the Gospel (John 20, vs. 22).

Our service of Pentecost included prayers for healing with anointing of Holy Oil.



Introducing this month's Christ Church "parishioner of the month", **Marlene Stone**, Liz Gordon-Mills writes:

Marlene is one of our most faithful parishioners and has put her skills to good use in the church, among other things as a regular reader. She has been our handler of the finances for many a Strawberry Fete and is a cook extraordinaire for our monthly *Walking with Jesus* gatherings.



Marlene describes her early life:

"I was brought up on a farm at Delamere, called 'Sunnybank', with two brothers. I went to a small school at Delamere and after grade seven had to go to College in Adelaide, as the only high school was at Victor Harbor and there were no bus runs to and from Yankalilla.

I went to Immanuel College at Walkerville for three years, then the last year at Novar Gardens. In my days at college we only had boarders but now they have a large number of day students.

On leaving school I got a job at Elders as my parents had built a house at Yankalilla. Our social entertainment was dances on Saturday nights, and this is where I met John, who lived at Torrens Vale. We were married at Christ Church just a month short of 63 years ago".

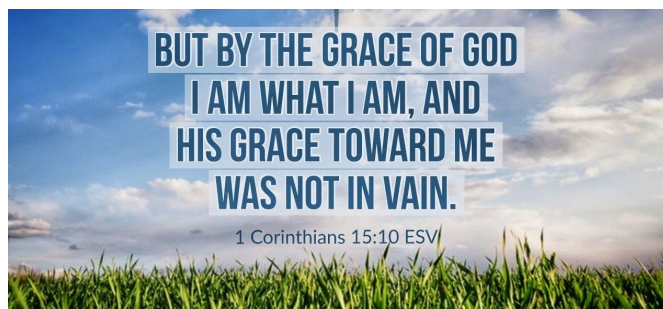
**WALKING WITH JESUS**, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Our gathering this month was taken by Marcelle Habib, who, with her husband Leisha, is resident in our rectory, adjacent to the church. As part of our theme for "The Year of the Hymn", Marcelle chose "Amazing Grace" by John Newton as her favourite hymn.

Our beautiful texts were in Ephesians 2, 4-10 ("by grace you have been saved"), Romans 5, 6-8 ("While we were still sinners, Christ died for us"), and Titus 2, 11-14 ("The Grace of God... teaches us to live self-controlled, upright and Godly lives").

Although we had studied the topic of Grace a couple of years ago, our discussion this time revealed new insights into the enormity of the Grace of God in our lives. Different folks revealed incidents in their lives where they had felt the Grace of God working:

- \* Grace is a gift of Love in situations where we feel helpless.
- \* Grace shows us that we cannot do anything about our past sins except rely on the Grace of God through forgiveness, which is freely available.
- \* Grace helps us realise how much we are in God's



hands when we are saved from a dangerous situation such as an accident on the roads.

- \* The Grace of God has kept us from becoming degenerate; however we do need to avoid arrogance when tempted to judge others.
- \* We need to act on our beliefs about Grace to all who ask for it.
- \* Grace has an element of surprise and joy ("Once I was blind but now I see").
- \* Grace can help us avoid problems of depression when we realise that God's Grace is abundant and freely available.
- \* Remember "My Grace is sufficient for you and my strength is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12, 9).

*On Tuesday mornings we open our meditation with a short reflection offered by someone present, before we begin our time of silence. The following, used recently, is included here at the suggestion of the meditation group.*

### Seeking Silence

In a world which is hyper connected and constantly on the move it is very difficult to experience silence - a silence where we have to listen, to concentrate, to attend rather than to think and achieve a state of alert stillness in our mind and heart.

When we take time and disconnect from input that never ends, it is sometimes in silence that we truly encounter ourselves and also glimpse a greater reality.

In God's beautiful creation, the sound of the wind, the babbling creek and birdsong can embrace us and lead us towards that inner silence where communion with all that exists becomes tangible. A star-filled night can fill us with wonder.

Jesus entered the world in silence : "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us." The One who was with God and was God before the beginning of all things, came to be with us through a humble and lowly birth in the silence of the night : the light which shines in the darkness.

And so this silence is not empty. It becomes a place of encounter. In silence we are not alone. But we struggle with it because our mind is filled with so many things.

As it says in the Rule of Taizé, " If your attention wanders, return to prayer as soon as you notice your distraction, without lamenting over it."

Many centuries ago someone ( David ) prayed, " my heart says of you, 'Seek God's face!' Your face, God, I will seek." In the silence of our heart, will we turn again and again to seek God?

Prayer is often first of all a desire, a silent longing for peace in the presence of God. When we do not know how to pray, the Holy Spirit is there, praying in us in sighs too deep for words. As we listen to that deepest part of our heart, we can realise that it is there that the Holy Spirit dwells. We are confronted with ourselves and with God who is breathing in us.

Living God, teach me to seek you in the silence of my heart, in the beauty of creation, in listening to your Word, in welcoming your humble presence.

Be still and know that I am God

Be still and know that I am

Be Still

Be

## St Stephen's : Notes from May Ministry Meeting and Parish Council

A major matter of concern, discussed at the Ministry Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> May, the Parish Council on 12<sup>th</sup> May and the Mission Action Plan meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> May, and by a congregational meeting at St Stephen's on 16<sup>th</sup> May, was the future of scheduled services at St Stephen's, Willunga.

For various reasons, there had been a loss over the years of parishioners and other people to share the responsibilities of maintaining the church and its services. Steve Banner's resignation as Warden and Sacristan, to take effect from 31<sup>st</sup> May, meant that resolution was required no later than that date.

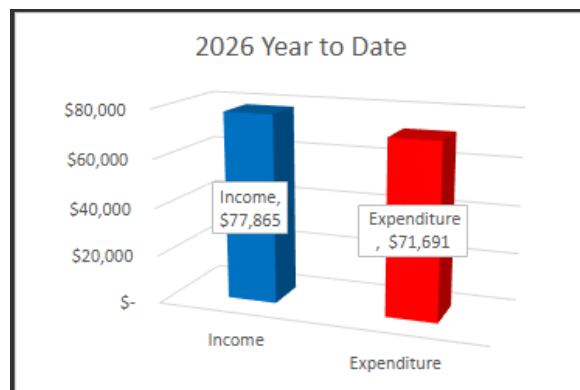
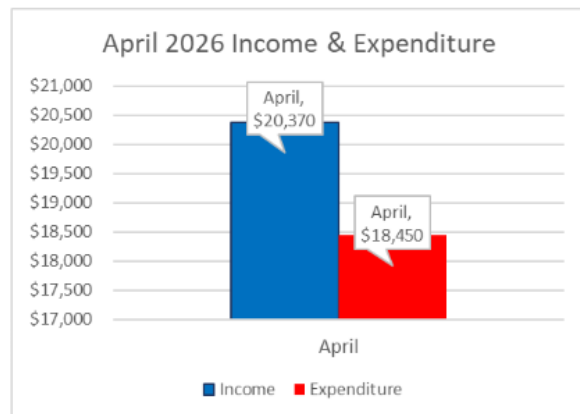
A decision was finally made, and approved by Br Simon as Archdeacon, that there would be no scheduled services at St Stephen's after 31<sup>st</sup> May. However, there are four other churches in the parish where people can worship (see p. 4).

The Christian Meditation group, which meets at 9am on Tuesdays at St Stephen's, and has been growing in numbers, will continue as before.

Factors influencing the decision not to continue scheduled services at St Stephen's after 31<sup>st</sup> May included :

- That there was no person willing or able to take on the responsibility for the church and its services; duties which had been performed by Steve and Christi Banner whose many contributions to St Stephen's have been greatly appreciated.
- That those attending services there also worshipped elsewhere, and there are four other churches in the parish which are open to them.

Steve and Christi were thanked with acclamation by the Council.



On other matters :

Rev Beck appreciated people's patience during her time of incapacity, and thanked Br Simon for his support. She felt encouraged by discussions at the Mission Action Plan meetings.

The trial period of Southern Vales Funerals' use of St Margaret's hall was concluded and the arrangement had proved satisfactory. A 12 months agreement would now be signed.

Maintenance work would be needed at the Yankalilla rectory. No affordable solution had yet been found to repair of St Margaret's Sunday School west wall.

**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**

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

**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST— 7<sup>th</sup> June—Genesis 12: 1-9— Psalm 33: 1-12— Romans 4:13-25— Matthew 9 : 9-13, 18-26**

**THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—14<sup>th</sup> June—Genesis 18:1-15 (21:1-7)—Psalm 116:1-2, 11-18—Romans 5:1-11—Matthew 9:35-10:8(9-23)**

**FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—21<sup>st</sup> June—Genesis 21:8-21—Psalm 86: 1-10, 16-17—Romans 6:1-11—Matthew 10:24-39**

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST— 28<sup>th</sup> June—Genesis 22:1-14—Psalm 13—Romans 6:12-23—Matthew 10:40-42**

**SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—5<sup>th</sup> July—Genesis 24:34-38, and 24:42-49, 58-67—Psalm 45:10-17—Romans 7:14-25—Matthew 11:15-19,(20-24),25-30**

# Western Fleurieu Anglicans

(A parish of the Diocese of The Murray)

Visit our website!

<http://www.southernvalesparish.org>

SCAN ME



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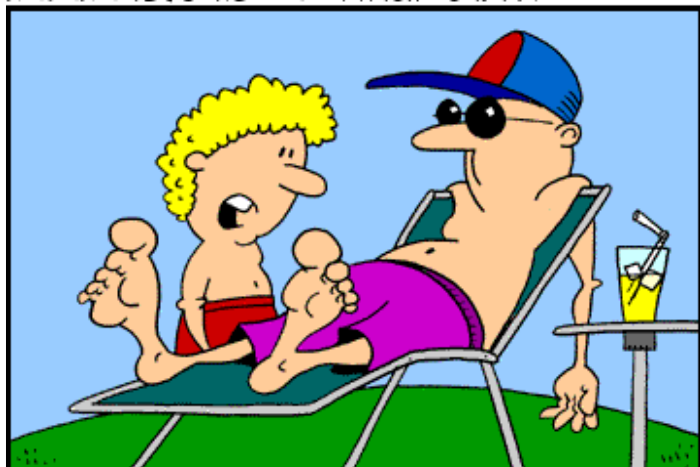
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Thanks to Benoit Paquette

06-30-1998

IF WE ARE BORN AGAIN, THEN HOW COME WE  
ONLY HAVE ONE BELLYBUTTON?

## 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

Tuesday: Meditation 9am

There are no scheduled Saturday services  
after 30<sup>th</sup> May 2026

For information contact

[admin@southernvalesparish.org](mailto:admin@southernvalesparish.org)

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 (closed)

For information contact

Peter Filsell 0427 534 095

*Where there is a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in a  
month, some service times will  
be different on that Sunday.*

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

# May 2026

## Online Photo Supplement: St Stephen's, Willunga



When Ailish came to church with her grandparents, Charisse and Geoff, on 16<sup>th</sup> May, she made each member of the congregation a gift - a paper rose or a coloured cross.



A photo taken to send as a greeting to a fellow-worshipper who was not well enough to be with us, 23<sup>rd</sup> May, L-R: Charisse, Brian, Geoff, Br Simon, Trish, Christi, Julie, Steve, Stephen.



Party time! Celebrating togetherness in Christ.  
Sparklers, food, wine & and party poppers.  
Thanks be to God.

*May 2026*  
*Colour Photo Supplement: St Margaret's, McLaren Vale*



*Gail and Jack*

***Combined Service,  
 McLaren Vale,  
 31<sup>st</sup> May***



*Fran does the taste test!*



*Marilyn, Di and John*



*Celebrating Rupert's 90th!*



*Sue and Wendy*



*Rev Beck and Margaret*



*Dorothy and Felicity*



*Barry, Pam and Trevor*



*Margaret, Pat and Rosie*

*May 2026*

*Colour Photo Supplement: St Margaret's, McLaren Vale Cont'd*



*Jac, assisted by her granddaughter Ada, reads the lesson.*



*A shared lunch to celebrate Margaret's birthday*



*Humble pie—a tasty reminder of the morning's reading.*