

From Peter

DECEMBER 2010

My Dears,

It's been an extraordinary year, and there's much more to look forward to! Soon we celebrate the feast of Christmas—and we have a wonderful variety of ways in this parish where we can gather and give thanks for our Lord's coming among us. There's something for every age across a broad spectrum of traditional to contemporary styles. Please add as many of these dates and times to your diaries as you can.

One of the special insights of Christmas is the way God comes to us most tangibly in vulnerable people — particularly in children who need our love and care. The Christ Child had barely arrived when he was forced to become a refugee. And of course, he ended up a condemned prisoner. This connection of Christ with the vulnerable is underscored in the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 25 where

Jesus talks of the King at the last judgement.

Matt 25 ³⁵ [...the king will say] ... I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we [*did that?*]' ... ⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

This passage resonates as the heartbeat of our parish's mission—we offer our thanks to Jesus through our care of his little ones. This has certainly inspired our long and active association with the Magdalene Centre. But we are always called to more, and so we have seen exciting developments in this year of our new *Mission Action Plan*.

Last July, I wrote about two new projects involving this parish partnering in ministry with Aboriginal people.

The first is our partnership alongside *Bush Church Aid* with the ministry of Grant Hay. Grant is the Anglican Aboriginal Chaplain to Aboriginal Prisoners and their Families in SA. He's also Anglican Pastor to the Point Pearce Aboriginal Community on the Yorke Peninsula.

This partnership has blossomed in all sorts of wonderful ways. Take a look a little way down this page on our website and enjoy finding out about what might be called our *Grannies and Bikies friendly ministry partnership*.

<http://www.stirlinganglican.org.au/news.htm>

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Alex, Elle, Shekayla, Peter & Katrina



.. and Tobias (in the white top) – the smiles tell it all.

THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF STIRLING
Christmas Services 2010

Friday 17 December

8.00 pm FESTIVAL OF CAROLS AND READINGS
Church of the Epiphany
Epiphany Place Crafers.

Friday 24 December, Christmas Eve

6.30 pm CHILDREN'S CRIB SERVICE
Church of the Ascension,
2 Arkaba Road, Aldgate

11.00 pm MIDNIGHT EUCHARIST
Church of the Ascension, Aldgate

11.00 pm FESTIVE CHORAL EUCHARIST
Church of the Epiphany, Crafers

Saturday 25 December, Christmas Day

8.30 am SUNG EUCHARIST
Church of the Ascension, Aldgate

9.00 am ALL AGE EUCHARIST
Church of St Michael & All Angels
435 Mt Barker Road, Bridgewater

10.00 am FESTIVE CHORAL EUCHARIST
Church of the Epiphany Crafers

As we approach Christmas, one of the things the parish is doing is providing Grant with toys and money so he can ensure that children of the prisoners in his care will get something for Christmas this year. Can you help? Then please get on to Betty at email silverswan7@westnet.com.au.

Our second Aboriginal ministry partnership is with the remote NT Aboriginal community of Papunya. The project is to host Tobias and Shekayla—two promising, primary-school-aged children from Papunya—here in the parish, and to see them through to year 12 and beyond. This time, we are working in partnership with Papunya's school and wider community, the elders and the two children's families—and at this end, with an extraordinary parish family who have offered to welcome Tobias and Shekayla into their home, with *Anglicare*, and with a local primary school here. This is a partnership—mutual reconciliation at work—and the children, their families and

community are very keen to make it work.

Once again, it's a long story with dramatic ups and downs—God seeming to close obvious doors, only to open farm gates where we least expect. Again, you'll find much of the story at <http://www.stirlinganglican.org.au/news.htm> Start at the bottom and work your way up.

We believe we're called to a mission where God wants us to help offer opportunities to Aboriginal children whose circumstances deny them access to much hope of fulfillment in life. Through no fault of their own, opportunities we take for granted are out of their reach. We have heard the gospel challenge to do all we can to put those opportunities within their grasp. Our fervent prayer is that we may be a part of God's desire for Shekayla and Tobias to be children of Papunya who will be both a blessing to us, and then enabled to return home as people who are a blessing to their country and their people.

Like the Magdalene Centre Mission has, these two new missions need lots of resources—emotional resources, material resources, people resources and community solidarity. And in the area of financial resources, they call for much, much more than our—already very stretched—parish budget can encompass.

Might I ask you to pray about this; talk about it in your families, with friends in or out of the parish. Please consider what you might be able to offer these children—images of the Christ Child to us—and think in terms of a decade-long commitment. Please let us know what you can do, and join in something wonderful that God is doing.

Every blessing to you and yours this Christmas, and health, safety and joy into the new year.

Peter

Crafers Memorial Garden

As Christmas festivities absorb us, we wonder how our future guests, Shekayla and Tobias, will enjoy their new lifestyle far from their homeland.

The Church Memorial Garden so pristine and green are in contrast to the brown lands of Papunya; Will it be a place where they can relax and enjoy moments alone, or with new friends; rearrange the rocks in the pond; learn the names of plants and their growth habits; share the Epiphany Sunday picnics; join us in Church for Baptisms, Carols and other special family occasions and watch the four seasons play out their natural terms? We hope so!

We offer our welcome and support to these courageous children who must be looking forward maybe with some trepidation, to enriching their lives among us and to all those who have made their future possible.

May you all find some time to meditate in the Memorial Garden, as well as possibly lend a gardening hand!

Rosemary Perrott

Representing CMG committee

OTHER COMING EVENTS

Monthly Market

Sat 4th December 2010, 10.00am – 2pm.
St Michael's and All Angels
435 Mt Barker Rd, Bridgewater

Mid Morning Munch - Women's Christmas Brunch

Saturday 11 December 2010
10.15 for a 10.30 am start
The Church of the Epiphany Hall,
Crafers

The Kapelle singers present

CAROLS Around the world ...

Beautiful Carols old and new from many countries, Candlelight procession, Favorites for Audience participation,

Anthony Hunt ~ organ, Carolyn Burgess ~ Harp
Readings by Charles Southwood

Tickets through Bass or from choir members:

Adults \$25, concession \$20, under 14 free.



Festival of Readings and Carols

celebrating
Advent & Christmas

featuring
The Crafers Treble Choir
Kapelle Singers
Epiphany Singers

Organist—Anthony Hunt
Harpist – Carolyn Burgess
Director of Music—Colin Curtis

The Church of the Epiphany, Crafers
Friday 17 December—8.00 pm

News from the Aldgate Congregation

Season's greetings to all of you across the parish!

Thank you to all the wonderful people in the Aldgate congregation who are rostered each week for various tasks in and around the church - from the lovely floral arrangements to the cleaning. Two important duties do not appear on rosters. One is the organist. Thank you to Betty Bull and her team who supply the music each Sunday. The other is the sacristan. Jane Lautenschlager prepares and tidies up after three services in the church of the Ascension every week without any fuss and we are very grateful to her.

During the year we celebrated a wedding, baptisms and funerals. We celebrated Easter with breakfast after the service, and our feast of title with the choir singing and supper after. There have been two visits to Point Pearce to support Grant Hay and he has collected trailer loads of clothes and furniture from the parish. Betty Argent has coordinated this with skill and enthusiasm.

We thank all the members of the congregation who have given generously to various appeals during the year. We now have a new access ramp into the church, which makes it much easier for those of us less agile.

To Peter, Wendy, Chris, Sonya and visiting priests, thank you.

To all of you a very happy Christmas.

Rosalind and Vee

Ordination!

After much work, and God's guidance and grace, our beloved Sonya Paterson was ordained as a deacon on Saturday the 27th November at St Peters' cathedral. Sonya has a new job as senior school Chaplain at Pultney Grammar School. We are delighted that she can remain in our parish for Sunday work!

Also ordained at the same service was Sue Burgess, who will be joining our parish as a deacon next year. She will principally working with the Bridgewater Congregation.



Sonya
(back right)
and Sue
(front right)
with the
other newly
ordained
Deacons &
Priests

Mission Action Plan Update

What a remarkable year this has been for our Parish. In February the Annual Vestry meeting endorsed a broad Mission Action Planning framework based on 9 areas that had been identified for possible mission and outreach through an extensive, Parish-wide consultation. In subsequent months our prayer and attention focused on three of these; Garry and Sandie Coff's evening meditation classes at Aldgate; support for the indigenous ministry of Grant Hay across South Australia; and an indigenous education initiative that is now known to us all as the Papunya project.

The guidance and energising influence of the Holy Spirit is abundantly evident in all three. So many things have fallen into place. So many people have become involved. It has been a very exciting 10 months. The first two initiatives were quick to begin and have already had a real impact. The Papunya project is substantially larger and more complex but is also moving at a remarkable pace. There is a great depth of support throughout the Parish demonstrated by practical contributions of time, administrative and professional expertise, and money.

Any plan is simply a means to an end. The purpose of a Mission Action Plan is to discern God's will for us in relation to reaching out to others in serving Him. It is an outward-looking activity that always seems to result in inner strengthening, growth and development. That is how it has been working in our Parish in the year past. Doubtless there are many challenges ahead. But as a Parish working together we can be confident in looking forward to still richer blessings in 2011 and beyond.

Michael Forwood, Convener, Mission Action Plan

GRANT HAY'S ABORIGINAL MINISTRY

Grant has collected a load of furniture and clothing for the
the
Aboriginal Community of Davenport, Port Augusta.

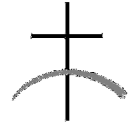
All your donations of these goods are greatly appreciated!

Please continue to give, especially mattresses, fridges, wardrobes, chairs, lounges, tables etc.
Please contact: Betty Argent 8339 3603

Knitted squares: These are for the Aboriginal women near Uluru to sew into blankets.
25 cm square, 8ply, size 8 needles.
Please make use of the wool now available at all three churches.

THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF STIRLING

- ✚ LIVING AS A FAITH COMMUNITY
- ✚ REACHING OUT WITH THE GOSPEL
- ✚ ACTIVE IN THE WORLD AS GOD'S PEOPLE



www.stirlinganglican.org.au

OUR CHURCHES and SERVICES

Aldgate, Church of the Ascension
2 Arkaba Rd Aldgate 5154:

Sun 8:30 am Sung Eucharist,
Wed 10.00am Eucharist,
Fri 5.30 pm Evening Prayer

Bridgewater, Church of St Michael & All Angels,
435 Mt Barker Rd 5155:

1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays 9:30 am Family Eucharist
2nd & 4th Sundays 9:30 am Intergenerational Eucharist

Crafers, Church of the Epiphany,
Epiphany Place Crafers 5152,

Sunday 10:00 am Choral Eucharist
Crafers Treble Choir sings Choral Eucharist
during school term, director Colin Curtis

Sunday Children's Programs Bridgewater 9:30 am
Crafers at 10:00 am

Kids Club at Bridgewater

Fridays 3.45 to 6.00 pm during term time.

Weekday Eucharists

Aldgate: 10:00 am Wednesday 6:00 pm Saturday
Hillside Lodge: 11.00 am Fortnightly
Home Communion: 10.00 am 1st Friday of the month



MID MORNING MUNCH WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS BRUNCH Saturday 11 December 2010

10.15 for a 10.30 am start
Church of the Epiphany Hall, Crafers
\$12 per person

Christmas Entertainment includes:

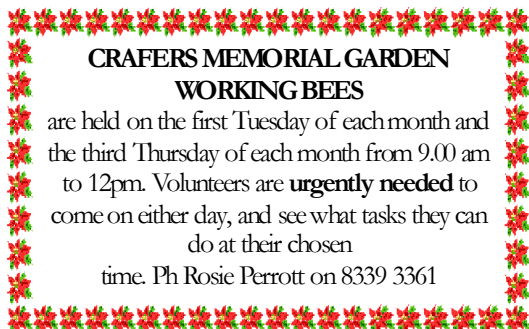
Penny Hay- Soprano

Bookings Essential!!!

RSVP 5 December Rosalind Welsh 8398 0715

Denny Wilson 8339 5752

Also needed: 4 gentlemen to help in the kitchen
this is Ladies' Day after all!!!



CRAFERS MEMORIAL GARDEN WORKING BEES

are held on the first Tuesday of each month and
the third Thursday of each month from 9.00 am
to 12pm. Volunteers are **urgently needed** to
come on either day, and see what tasks they can
do at their chosen
time. Ph Rosie Perrott on 8339 3361

Parish Priest

Rev'd Peter Balabanski
phone 8339 1103
(except Mondays)
peter.balabanski@internode.on.net

Associate Priest (part Time)

Rev'd Wendy Pullin 8339 2848
wpullin@internode.on.net

Honorary Associate Priest (part time)

Rev'd Dr Christopher Pullin 8339 2848
cpullin@labyrinth.net.au

Deacon (part time)

Rev'd Sonya Paterson 8339 8259
sonya.paterson@internode.on.net

Parish Office (hours 10:00 - 3:30 Wed - Fri)

PO Box 45 Crafers 5152
Parish Secretary: Katrina Matthews
ph: 8339 1274 fax: 8370 8777
epiphany@internode.on.net

Some contact people in our congregations (Wardens)

Aldgate: Rosalind Welsh ph 8398 0715
Vee Noble ph 8339 3173
Bridgewater: Michael Forwood ph 8339 1622
Helen Martin ph 8339 1216
Crafers: David Wotton ph 8339 7102
Barb Field ph 8339 2065

Visit our
website for
Reflections
and more
News with
Audio of
recent talks

Do you know of anyone facing a challenge?

If you do, please contact a member of
the Pastoral Care Commission:
Aldgate: Jeanie Clayton 8339 4443
Pat Richter 8390 0484 Libby Parkin 8339 3839
Bridgewater: Annie Mann 8339 4272
Lyn Wuttke 8388 4327 Fiona Stafford 8339 6731
Crafers: Bob & Avril Dalby 8391 6279
Fay Abbott 8339 8201 Wendy Cobiack 8339 3496

**"Be still and know that I am God"
(Psalm 46:10)**