



Diocese of Willochra

# The Willochran

December 2019  
5th Series No 122

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FOLLOWING Jesus ♦ PROCLAIMING His gospel ♦ CONNECTING with His world ♦ and ENJOYING our common life



## ORDINATION

THE REV'D SARAH WILES, BISHOP JOHN STEAD,  
THE REV'D HELLENA THOM AND THE REV'D SUSAN DOUGHTY

# THE WILLOCHRAN

Published by the Diocese of Willochra

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DEADLINE: Autumn 2020 Edition

## Friday February 14th 2020

Contributions towards the cost of printing publications would be appreciated and may be made to the Diocese of Willochra.

Have your say in The Willochran Suggestions, comments, contributions and insights are welcome

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Anglican Church Of Australia

Diocese Of Willochra

## A PRAYER FOR OUR DIOCESE

God of hope and love,  
you have called us to be the body of Christ.

Inspire us in the Diocese of Willochra  
to worship with joy and energy,  
serve with compassion and be welcoming  
of others in our communities,  
so that all will know the good news of Jesus  
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit  
be honour and glory for ever.

Amen.



## SEEKING A PIONEER FOR COMMUNITY MINISTRY

The Anglican Church of Australia in the Diocese of Willochra  
Parish of Flinders Plain

A challenging and exciting opportunity exists for a Pioneer Minister to start a community ministry in Port Pirie West in partnership with the Cathedral Church of Sts Peter and Paul, Port Pirie and the Diocese of Willochra.

We see the minister (and family) finding a place to live in the community, intentionally building gospel relationships with their neighbours and nurturing and encouraging them in life and faith.

We pray that as they walk and talk and share life, together they will grow the kingdom of God and the Body of Christ.

A Diocesan living will be provided.

Clergy and lay ministers are encouraged to enquire and express interest; an appointment package could then be shared.

Please enquire to Bishop John Stead [bishop@diowillochra.org.au](mailto:bishop@diowillochra.org.au)

COVER: ORDINATION 2019

VEN GAEL JOHANNSSEN	04
BISHOP'S MANDALAY GIRL'S	
ORPHANAGE APPEAL	05
LITTLE TRIBE, BIG VISION	06
COOL WORLD	12
POETRY BY SR SANDRA SEARS	13
ISSUES	15
THE WILLOCHRA HOME	16
CHRISTMAS SERVICE TIMES	17
BUSPA'S CORNER	19
MOTHER'S UNION	20
THE LAST WORD	23

**BISHOP JOHN STEAD**

Advent means the arrival of a notable person or thing.

The season of Advent is the lead up to the celebration of the arrival of God in human flesh, the baby Jesus. We know that the advent of God as the baby Jesus occurred. The season of Advent also marks the advent of the Christ in his 'second coming' – we can have the same level of certainty about that second coming as we have about his first coming.

The advent of Christ, God in human flesh, is anticipated throughout the season of Advent but is marked during the celebration of Christmas – eve, day and for the twelve days of Christmas, ending on the Feast of the Epiphany (6th January).

Anticipation is often marked by a growing excitement as the longed-for event or arrival of the person approaches. For those of us who are adults, we can recall what it was like, particularly on Christmas Eve, as we anticipated Christmas morning. We relive the experience and the excitement with our children and grandchildren; or maybe nieces and nephews. For myself, it's hard to get the image of my grandson's third Christmas out of my mind – an almost ecstatic excitement as each present was received and unwrapped.

For many years Jan and I have celebrated Christmas with both our immediate and extended family on Boxing Day due to commitments to worship on Christmas Day and the challenge of travelling quite a distance to be with family. This includes our two nephews. We had gathered as a family, before I was ordained, early on Christmas morning – ham and eggs for breakfast, Christmas worship and then the tree. With ordination, those arrangements would change. Our two sons and our two nephews, all four in Primary School, were like brothers to each other and it was they who decided to delay the family Christmas celebration until Boxing Day when we could all be together – they put the relationship ahead of everything else. They delayed the fulfilment of the anticipation of Christmas because of the ties of family. They chose to extend their patience by a day.

Advent demands patient waiting in anticipation of 'the long-expected Jesus' who has come and will come again. The patience of Advent is a rehearsal for the patience of waiting for the Second Advent of Christ.

There is much about being the people of God which requires patience of us. A patient waiting upon the Spirit to move and bring refreshment, renewal, or revival to the congregation. A patient waiting for the seed, which has been sown, to germinate and bear fruit. The patience of waiting upon the transformation brought about by an encounter with God: Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier.

May the patience of the season lead to the advent of the baby Jesus in your heart and mind.



The Right Reverend John Stead ♦ Bishop of Willochra ♦ bishop@diowillochra.org.au ♦ Mobile: 0417551 689

## ADVENT—WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?

The Season of Advent is a time of expectation and waiting. I have sometimes heard our waiting described as “We wait for Jesus coming to be born anew in our lives at Christmas AND we wait for his coming again at the end of time.” Often during Advent we say the words, “Maranatha, Amen. Come Lord Jesus.”

What then, is the nature of our waiting and what is the nature of his ‘coming’? Do we wait with the eyes of our souls raised to heaven, longing for a not to be predicted cosmic event? In our longing, do we ignore, or at least lack engagement, with what is happening on earth? Will Jesus really come in a spectacular way, or according to those whose belief system includes the rapture, will he come like a thief in the night, spirited away the righteous so that the wicked are left behind?



I read a very interesting article by C of E Theologian Ian Paul recently. The article was entitled, “I want to be left behind”. Here is Ian’s take on what we are waiting for.

*‘(In Matthew 24), the comparison with the ‘days of Noah’ contains a simple logical structure which, because of assumptions we make about the passage, it is easy to miss. In the days of Noah, most people were unaware of the coming judgement, and were pre-occupied with the mundane realities of life, as if these were all that mattered. When the flood came, they were taken away, whilst Noah and his family, having taken notice of God and made ready, remained behind in the ark and stayed to repopulate the earth. In the same way, people will be pre-occupied with the mundane realities of life, as if these were all that mattered, but when Jesus returns they will be swept away in judgement. Those who follow the teaching of Jesus and have made ready will be left behind to receive and live in the coming kingdom, the New Jerusalem which will come from heaven to earth (Rev 21).*

*The logic of this is quite clear: in the days of Noah, it was the wicked facing judgement who were swept away, and the righteous who were left. In the same way it will be those absorbed with this life who will be swept away, whilst those who are ready for Jesus will be left behind.*

***Therefore I want to be left behind, and you should too.’***

I believe that this perspective is something that could offer hope to the many people who are concerned for the future of our beautiful and fragile planet. It is the place of our hope and the place to which God will come to dwell in fullness and make all things new. God does not intend to leave Earth behind with the wicked while the righteous fly away to some far-off galaxy called heaven. Heaven, the life of God, is to come to Earth.

It is true that we may compare our times to the times of Noah. People are unaware of impending disaster. So many are ignoring the voices raised in concern at climate change and sustainability of life on our planet. There are many so pre-occupied with the mundane that they have little time or energy to engage with the bigger picture. Those of us who are to be left behind on God’s precious earth are called to engage with earth’s pain and work for healing and restoration of what will be our home for eternity.

Yes, I also want to be left behind, but that time is not yet. As we wait let us wait in expectation that all things will be made new, let us actively engage in beginning the process that the coming of the Lord Jesus will bring to fulfilment.





# BISHOP'S MANDALAY GIRL'S ORPHANAGE APPEAL

Our partner Diocese, the Diocese of Mandalay in the Province of Myanmar (Burma), is establishing a girls Orphanage at Shwebo.

The girls orphanage will be built on land adjacent to the boys orphanage and is estimated to cost \$150,000.

The Anglican Diocese of Willochra is committed to the continuing support for the orphanage project and pray you will join us in raising much needed funds.



**Boy's Orphanage**

- Laying of foundations
- Lock up stage
- Boy's praying before dinner



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Please note that all donations over  
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## ORDINATION OF DEACONS AND PRIEST

On Saturday November 30<sup>th</sup> (St Andrew's Day), Susan Doughty (Ceduna) was ordained priest and Hellena Thom (Cleve) and Sarah Wiles (Jamestown) were ordained deacon. A large number of people gathered at the cathedral including families and friends of the ordination Candidates. People came from as far as Cleve, Ceduna and Victor Harbor (Susan's former parish in the Uniting Church). The Venerable Gael Johannsen, who had led the Ordination Retreat, preached on Living Love. The Very Reverend Dr Mary Lewis led the music. We missed our Registrar, Gavin Tyndale who was on sick leave, but Canon Michael Ford stepped into Gavin's place to read the licences. After the service eighty people gathered at Café Primo for a celebration lunch.

Further good news on the ordination scene is that Sheridan Brand (Kadina) has been discerned for ordination by the Ordination Advisory Panel. Sheridan begins her Ordinands Year in January. Jean Housley (Crystal Brook) begins her Discernment Year in January also. It is wonderful to see our clergy family growing and being enriched by a variety of gifts and fresh perspectives on Ministry.



**VEN GAEL JOHANNSEN**



## **THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS. WAKEFIELD MINISTRY DISTRICT**



Father David and the Rev'd Jenny Thompson celebrated the Eucharist at Bungaree Station, in the Wakefield Ministry District and invited the congregation to bring along animals to be blessed.

The animals included a box of chickens, a joey, and a number of dogs.

Father David spoke to the children and you will see from the photograph that they were all interested in his words.



## **MINISTRY DISTRICT OF YORKE PENINSULA**

### **VIRGINIA AHWAN**

A milestone has been reached for Virginia. She celebrated her 80th birthday recently and the SYP Anglicans and Corny Point Uniting Church members took the opportunity to mark the occasion on Sunday 18th August. Following the afternoon service at Corny Point, a sumptuous afternoon tea (with birthday cake) was enjoyed by all. Outside, Ron Watson our local bagpiper, played some Scottish tunes and Happy Birthday.

We also took the opportunity to thank Virginia for the extensive pastoral care she has given in her area and for the more formal duties she has performed in the church and on many committees over the years. So many people have benefitted from her time and care, and many of them offered without public mention.

Thank you Virginia.

### **CHERYL BATES - SYP COMBINED VESTRIES CHAIRPERSON**



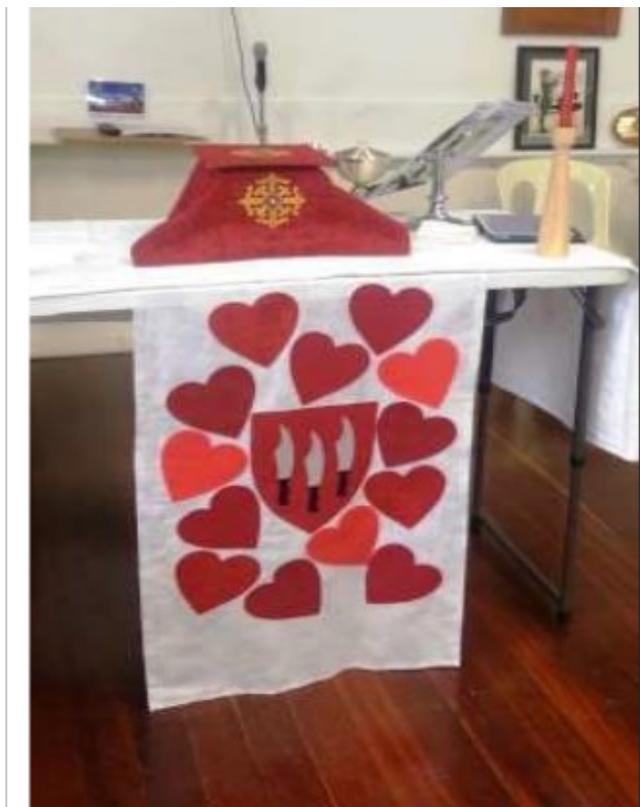
## MINISTRY DISTRICT OF YORKE PENINSULA



The inaugural service of the new Ministry District was held in the Muloowurtie Memorial Institute, Pine Point, on Saturday 24th August. The weather was fine, the 50 people attending were happy, and the formalities were included during the service. Each centre was given a Unity candle to light at their services to be a symbol of our belonging together. The bring and share lunch was generous and reflected the tenor of the day. Thanks are extended to all who contributed to the success of the day and the success of the arrangements that made it possible. Our new entity provides some challenges, but these can also be viewed as opportunities. With prayerful thought and planning we look forward to implementing God's plan for our wonderful Peninsula together.

**CHERYL BATES - MINISTRY DISTRICTS CHAIRPERSON**

Note from the editor: *Each centre was asked to bring a symbol representing their area and a display was created (see front cover). There were some very imaginative offerings! An altar banner was made by Louise Lang, commemorating St Bartholomew, under whose patronage the Ministry District now stands.*



## COMMUNITY STREET LIBRARY AT SAINT MARGARET OF ANTIOCH ANGLICAN CHURCH OPENED

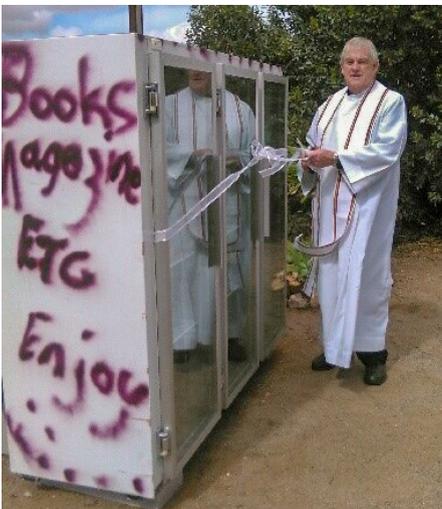
Each year a Service to commemorate All Souls is held at Saint Margaret's. This service gives an opportunity by the congregation and those present to remember those who have passed.

On Sunday 3rd November, following the All Souls Service, the congregation welcomed visitors and friends of St Margaret to the opening of the Street Library, which is situated in the grounds of the church on the corner of Lipson Road and Tennant Street.

Street Libraries are popping up all over Australia and NZ and probably further away too. They come in all shapes and sizes. We at St Margaret's decided that a glass fronted fridge with one door would be ideal for this project and included that in our prayers and asked around. We were rather startled when we had the offer of a glass fronted 3 door fridge! ... It is bigger and better than we could imagine and already well used.



The beautiful and historic Church of Saint Margaret of Antioch was built, by the Mortlocks, over 100 years ago to enrich community life. Today we continue that tradition of service to our community with the addition and dedication of this Street Library and park bench for locals and visitors to use.



Our grateful thanks are extended to the Port Lincoln RSL who provided and donated the perfect fridge. Thanks to Fr Brian Bascombe and those who helped him move the fridge from Port Lincoln to its current position. Thank you to Toby Franks and Val Dunstan from Tumby Concrete who generously donated the cement ends for the garden seat. Many thanks are also extended to Sam Campbell and his mates from Tumby Lions Club for collecting, erecting and installing the garden seat in position for us.

Saint Margaret's has a number of 'Friends of St Margaret's' who help in so many ways... thank you to Francie Boylan who kindly initiated and organised the beautification of the garden adjacent to the Street Library, donated the plants and fertilizer and volunteered to care for this patch. The quirky artwork leaves an opportunity for the future (maybe to be painted by children, or a

true artist!). Thanks to Paul Stoddard for his encouragement and use of paints.

Fr Brian Bascombe cut the ribbon and declared the Street Library open. Everyone then enjoyed a delicious Devonshire morning tea in the church hall.

A library (well used), a garden and a place to rest, all nurture and refresh our souls and wellbeing and help us to find peace within ourselves. A big thank you to those who are already donating to and using the library - it is there for you to use freely. It is accessible 24/7 for all who wish to use it – TAKE – SWAP – DONATE - ENJOY.....BOOKS – MAGAZINES – ETC - it's Free!!



## **CELEBRATING TOURISM IN YORKE PENINSULA**

On Sunday December 8, church was cancelled at St Benedict's in Minlaton to enable the congregation to gather at the Watsacowie Brewery, one of our local tourism attractions. One of our key industries on the Yorke Peninsula is Tourism. Minlaton, known as the Barley Capital of the world is a natural location for a brewery. Wonderfully hosted by Brendan and Roxanne Phasey, the congregation gathered before opening hours to celebrate a simple eucharist and then Father Andrew took the opportunity to bless the local product. (There is an official blessing for beer). Over the coming months, our ministry district will be looking for other opportunities to get out and about.

Father Andrew spoke of a new understanding of church. It is not a holy huddle seeking to exclude others who don't fit. It is not even about throwing open our doors and being extremely welcoming. Rather we are called to be salt and light going out into our community. We are to be God's presence as we move through the world, just like chaplains in prisons, hospitals, schools. As ambassadors for Christ we share a high calling.

After "church", members replaced the usual post service cuppa with a sample from the venue, with a wide range of beer, cider, wine and soft drink available. This was a perfect accompaniment to our shared lunch. As an added bonus, local young people Amelia, Oscar and Harriet ran a car wash to raise money for those affected by the recent bushfires on the Yorke Peninsula. Many of our parish family took the opportunity for a much needed car wash

**YORKE PENINSULA MINISTRY DISTRICT**



# COOL WORLD

## THE REV'D JOHN FOWLER

*'What's the matter with you Nicki? Why are you so anti-Catholic?'*

*'It's a gutter religion Margene, all those women with their crucifixes. You might as well wear an electric chair around your neck. And their superior hairdos and their ridiculous, extravagant churches.'*

Welcome into my Cool World as we take a trip down memory lane to revisit *Big Love*, one of the finest pieces of television in recent years. First appearing on our screens in 2007, *Big Love* is a family show with a difference. Or should that be a show about a very different family? We've had the Bradys and the Simpsons, who are looking pretty normal at this stage, and also the Gilmores. Now meet the Hendricksons.

Bill Hendrickson is patriarch, businessman, devout Mormon and practicing polygamist. Most men would maintain that one family is more than enough to be going on with, so imagine living with three. Bill is married to Barb, Nicki and the much younger Margene. Then there are the children... Bill and Barb have three, as do Bill and Margene, while Bill and Nicki have two. There are three houses as well, all situated on a large tract of land in suburban Salt Lake City.

At this stage you may be forgiven for thinking that *Big Love* is a comedy, when in fact it is a serious drama dealing with the kind of everyday things that most families experience. For the Hendricksons, however, everything is done in triplicate. Bill's wives refer to themselves as 'sister-wives' and spend almost as much time with each other as they do with their children.

And if that isn't complicated enough, throw in the fact that Bill's second wife Nicki, is the daughter of Roman Grant, self-proclaimed prophet and patriarch of an enormous family living on an equally enormous compound on the outskirts of town. Roman has more wives than he probably knows what to do with, but still finds time to seek out a teenage country-gospel

singer as a potential new wife.

It's not surprising when sparks fly in such a complex and diverse family set up as Bill's wives all come from different backgrounds. Nicki and Margene clash over Margene's insistence that her children be educated in the Catholic school system, while Nicki's kids are home-schooled according to Mormon tradition. In the meantime, Barb watches on from a safe distance as everything begins to unravel.

In another development, Bill is seen chatting up a Serbian-American waitress he meets at a cafe he and Margene visit. Bill seems quite serious about Ana and pursues her with a view to Ana becoming wife number four. And while Barb, Nicki and Margene all approve of Bill's plans, Ana decides that the whole situation is just a little too strange to contemplate and ends her relationship with Bill.

Over five seasons, *Big Love* throws up any number of family machinations and scenarios which are entertaining and bewildering in equal measure and I would encourage you to seek out the DVDs or keep an eye out for repeat screenings on either free to air TV or Foxtel. I can guarantee you will not be disappointed.

**CANON JOHN FOWLER**

**MINISTRY DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN FLINDERS**





## RAINBOW ANGELS

In heaven the angels were all of a dither.  
They flitted about, from hither to hither.  
The message had come through the heavenly air -  
“The great day is here! Get ready! Prepare!”

Gabriel said, “We will have to wear white.  
It glows in the dark, and we’ll be there at night.”  
All present agreed, except one little thing  
who was so young he’d only just sprouted his wings.

He said, “Please sir, I’m guardian to a Japanese fellow.  
Perhaps I could wear something different, like yellow.”  
“Now there’s a good thought,” said another. “I think  
that because mine is English, my gowns should be pink!”

Another spoke from away up the back  
And said “My friend’s Nigerian - she’s ebony black!”  
“Mine’s brown.” said another, “from Jordan Habib.  
Surely they’re welcome to kneel at the crib!”

Another one said “Have you seen earthly things  
There’s blue skies and green trees and butterfly wings;  
There are wild flowers that bloom after good winter rain,  
and the deep purple flowers of Salvation Jane.

There’s the Mediterranean’s indigo blue,  
and spider webs sparkling with droplets of dew -  
The colours and forms are a wonderful sight!  
It seems such a pity to only wear white!”

And that’s why the shepherds that first Christmas night  
were astonished to see - not a dazzling with light -  
but a brilliant rainbow, a shimmering fire,  
of thousands and thousands of angels in choir,  
singing, “Glory to God for his heavenly son’s birth,  
and blessings and peace to *all* people on earth!”



We prepared for your coming  
with fireworks - a veritable sky show -  
military brass bands befitting a king and mighty  
warrior,  
a podium festooned with bunting,  
lined with dignitaries, eager to bask in your reputation,  
and well prepared speeches.  
But our fireworks were reduced to the light of a single star  
struggling through the window,  
and a flickering lamp  
throwing up beastly shadows on the stable wall,  
and our fanfares were drowned out  
by the cries of a young woman,  
a child giving birth to a child;  
bunting stripped away in preference for straw,  
and dignitaries upstaged by a motley crew of sheep herders;  
And our speeches?  
Our fine, eloquent speeches  
reduced to babbling “oohs” and “aahs.”  
And somewhere in our silly, sappy defencelessness  
you made yourself at home.

©Rev'd. Sr. Sandra Sears, 23/12

# ISSUES

## THE REV'D FLO WALTERS

### LOOKING FORWARD TO A BLUE CHRISTMAS?

Sometimes it is hard to feel joyful at Christmas time, especially if a loved one has died during the year. In fact last year I lost not just one, but two sisters, one in April and another in August. When Christmas came around their deaths were heavy on my heart. My husband and I did everything as we normally would at Christmas time with our children, grandchildren, church family and friends, but there was something missing. Despite the busy-ness of the season my mind kept wandering back to the very happy Christmases we had as kids.

Grief at Christmas time is something quite tangible for those experiencing it – even for those with a strong Christian faith. Underneath the mask of a smiling face and joviality, one's heart can be weeping. However, determined not to spoil Christmas for others you keep up the pretence that all is well – and keeping up that sort of pretence for any length of time is exhausting.

Perhaps you have lost a loved one during 2019. If you have, be kind to yourself. Christmas joy is not about feeling happy all the time. It is much deeper than that. Christmas hope is not about a world view without doubt or pain. It is much more real, solid and sustaining than that. Christmas peace is not about having a life without struggles. Rather it's about God's presence with us in those struggles helping us to hang in there, and when we are ready, to move forward.

Those of you who have experienced a close bereavement will be able to sense when others are hurting, and this of course is where the Christmas love comes in. Giving people permission to grieve at Christmas time is one of the most selfless and loving things you can do. Sometimes all people need is a hug or an understanding look, and the relief of knowing that somebody actually sees and cares will free them to enjoy Christmas as best they can.

I pray that you all have a very joyful, hopeful, peaceful, and loving Christmas.

**THE REV'D FLO WALTERS**



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## National Redress Scheme

**For people who have experienced  
institutional child sexual abuse**

The Diocese of Willochra is committed to the National Redress Scheme to provide an additional avenue for redress for those who have experienced abuse in the church. The Diocese was declared as a Participating Institution in the Scheme on 1st March 2019.

Persons wanting to make an application to the Scheme may do so at any time while the Scheme remains open.

Further information about the National Redress Scheme, including information on how to access advisory and support services, can be found [here](#).



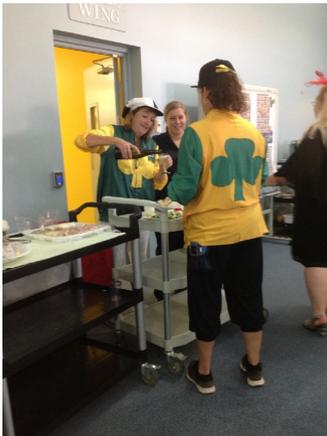
# THE WILLOCHRA HOME

## New Bus

Everyone is very excited about going on bus trips around the community and having lovely days out in the sunshine!



## Melbourne Cup



## CHRISTMAS SERVICE TIMES

Ardrossan, St James'	Christmas Eve	7.00pm	
Balaklava, Christ Church	Christmas Day	9.00am	
Bungaree, St Michael's	Christmas Eve	5.30pm	Carols and Lessons
Ceduna, St Michael and All Angels'	Christmas Day	9.00am	
Clare, St Barnabas	Christmas Day	9.00am	
Cleve, St Michael and All Angels'	Christmas Eve	6.00pm	
Cowell, St Hugh's	22nd December	2.00pm	
Crystal Brook, St Silas'	13th December	7.30pm	
	Christmas Eve	7.30pm	
Curramulka, St Christopher's	Christmas Day	9.30am	Will join the UCA
Edithburgh, St Mary's	Christmas Eve	8.30pm	
Georgetown, St George's	Christmas Eve	5.30pm	
Gladstone, St Alban's	Christmas Day	9.30am	
Jamestown, St James'	Christmas Day	9.00am	
Kimba, St John the Baptist's	22nd December	11.00am	
Lake Wangary, St Matthias'	Christmas Day	10.00am	
Minlaton, St Benedict's	15th December	4.30pm	Blue Christmas Service
	22nd December	7.00pm	Nine Lessons and Carols
	Christmas Eve	5.00pm	Crib Service
		11.00pm	Midnight Mass
	Christmas Day	9.30am	
Mount Rat, St Raphael's	Christmas Day	9.30am	
Orroroo, St Paul's	Christmas Day	9.30am	
Peterborough, St Peter's	Christmas Eve	8.00pm	
Poonindie, St Matthew's	Christmas Eve	8.00pm	
Port Lincoln, St Thomas;	Christmas Eve	6.00pm	Kids Christmas Celebration
		11.30pm	
	Christmas Day	8.00am	
Port Pirie, Sts Peter and Paul Cathedral	22nd December	5.00pm	Sing Christmas
	Christmas Eve	5.00pm	
	Christmas Eve	11.30pm	
	Christmas Day	9.30am	

## CHRISTMAS SERVICE TIMES

Port Victoria, St Albans'	Christmas Eve	8.30pm	
Port Vincent, St Neots'	Christmas Day	8.00am	
Riverton, Holy Trinity	Christmas Eve	11.30pm	Midnight Eucharist
Smoky Bay, Community Church	Christmas Eve	8.00pm	Community Church Service
Stansbury, St Augustine's	Christmas Day	9.30am	
Tumby Bay, St Margaret's	Christmas Eve	6.00pm	
Whyalla, St Martin's	Christmas Eve	11.00pm	
	Christmas Day	9.00am	
Wilmington, Christ Church	Christmas Eve	6.00pm	
Wirrabara, St Margaret's	Christmas Day	9.00am	Combined Service at Lutheran Church



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### SMALL "S" SERVANTS (1)

Come back in time with me, and allow me some dreaming or conjecture as we go into the private world of a few people. Naaman was a commander of the army of the King of Haram who had successfully led a raid on the children of Israel and captured many of their people. Please pick up the full story in 2 Kings Chapter 5, and you will notice that he was "*a great man in the sight of his master*" and "*highly regarded*". In this opening verse, it is essential that you also pick up why he was successful in his raid on the Israelites – it was because "*the Lord had given victory to Aram*".

In a historical time-line, as we look back, we read only the facts – Israel was defeated – but only because in some very strange but wonderful way God allowed or ordained it. A young girl was captured, taken from her family and forced into slavery as a small "s" servant for Naaman's wife. And it is to this young girl I want to turn our attention, and if you would allow me, build up a picture of what could have occurred. I have nothing to base this on other than a little bit of "*imagining*", but it doesn't detract from the reality of God's word as written.

We read (verse 3) She said to her mistress, "If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." For a young girl who played an important part in Naaman's healing, a young lady who was a critical link in the chain that brought Naaman to a realisation that "*there is no God in the world except in Israel*" (Vs 15), there is no mention of her name. Now I believe that God knew her name, and in fact knows your name and has known your name before He created the heavens and the earth, but chose not to reveal it. Friends, this is an important thing to grasp as we also choose to serve Him – God knows and it doesn't really matter if we act anonymously.

Some have said that the servant girl must have been very bold to say what she said to her mistress. This is where my imagining comes in. Naaman did not know that he had leprosy when he conducted the raid (conjecture) but was diagnosed on his return and after

the young girl was brought into service. My guess is that she was a girl of around 12 – 14, and my guessing on this is the ability she would have needed to be able to be a good servant. Naaman's wife is in a state of shock and despair since she learned that her beloved, brave husband had a disease that would waste his body away and eventually lose him to an isolated colony of people suffering the same disease. Who can she turn to in her time of grief?

It is afternoon and time for her afternoon ablutions. The anonymous servant girl, taken from her family by force is attending to her mistress in the privacy of her chamber, possible brushing or braiding her hair. Let your mind wander to this scene and capture the intimacy of such a concept. Perhaps she hasn't learned of her master's diagnosis? And her mistress is in grief and in despair. Brush, brush, brush. Maybe now even more gently with the sadness of the news she has just heard. Brush, brush, brush. She knows the likely fate of Naaman as the disease progresses. Brush, brush, brush. Some deep sobs from the mistress. Brush, brush, brush. What can a young slave girl say in such a deep predicament? What can any of us say on hearing similar news from a friend? "*If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy.*"

And so begins a chain of events in the life of a great commander who was highly regarded by his king. Notice also that the chain of events involved Elijah's servants and those under his own command. This should be a great encouragement to us as we seek to share our faith in Jesus with those around us. Many of us freak at the thought of "*witnessing*", thinking that our job is to stand on street corners or give out little bible verses at supermarkets. This may be the case with some, but for many of us it may be "*brush, brush, brush.*" Paul writes "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow" (1 Corinthians 3:6). Enjoy the walk back in history as we continue looking at the chain of events in small "s" servants.



## **ANGLICAN MOTHERS UNION AUSTRALIA (AMUA) IN WILLOCHRA AND WIDER AFIELD**

### **TAKING OUR PAST WITH US FROM THE PRESENT INTO THE FUTURE - LYNETTE POLE, WILLOCHRA AMUA DIOCESAN PRESIDENT.**

*The Present.* Nearing the end of the current triennium and having had our Election AGM, has been a time of reflection, for Branches and Department Co-ordinators as they prepared reports. This was also the case as Diocesan Presidents met for our election Conference with the Australian Council Executive in Melbourne recently. We also had representatives from other areas of our Zone C including NZ, PNG and Melanesia. Much was shared about efforts in Branches and Dioceses, but it was recognised that our diversity means we all use our gifts and talents differently in our own areas. Many have upheld others in prayer, as part of daily prayers or when special prayer requests have been received, others have supported those in need in local communities or further afield. Perhaps even little things that each has done has meant much to the person receiving that care. This was also a time to thank those who had finished their term, one being Elizabeth Harris who chose to not continue as a Vice President on Australia Council. She served on AC for a number of years in several roles. We were challenged by Bp Graeme Rutherford with his Bible Study and of course there were business matters to attend to.

But what of our *Past*? There is so much history of MU in the Diocese, some has been gathered, but many do not even know that MU once had a Branch in their congregation, and with passing time, memories fade. I am keen to hear stories

and gather photos and information of past endeavours. Recently, I was asked questions about our Diocesan banner and realised I didn't know the answers. I have heard of other historical items that are not readily to hand, items made by past members. It would be great to use these at gatherings reminding us of those who have gone before. There is some information in the Diocesan Centenary book, including information about the banner, but we have a much fuller history than could be told in those pages.

The *Future* is certain. There are many tasks we can do as we care able. Age, frailty and the tyranny of distance may mean a change of focus from active work to less arduous tasks, but that does not mean we have nothing left to do, by applying Mothers Union, Listening, Observing and Acting (MULO). On looking around locally and further afield, there is much that could use our support. At our recent AGM, positions were filled and we go forward in confidence, more information about that will be in our Willochra AMUA Newsletter, and more details from the Australia Council AMUA meeting will be in Mia Mia.

The past, present and future are told in the Gospels and in many stories where Jesus did not conform to the social norms. So too, our MU Founder, Mary Sumner, stepped outside of social norms to care for those considered outcasts by society. Who are we being called to care for, to support, to show love to? After all Jesus called us to love one another. Every day in every way, let us try to share God's love with those around us. A smile, a kind word may make a difference for that person at that time.



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The lifeblood of the Diocese of Willochra is the commitment, faith and compassion of its members and friends.



Generations of women and men have invested in our diocese so that today it is healthy, alive and growing. Now the future is in your hands.

*Like a tree planted by water, with roots that reach deep by the stream.' Jeremiah 17:8*

Legacies can make a lasting difference to the Diocese of Willochra's future. To find out how you can include us in your Will, you can contact

The Registrar, Diocese of Willochra

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Set in the beautiful Southern Flinders Ranges just 5km north of Melrose, Camp Willochra is an ideal spot for camps and provides a great place for exploration, peace, study, play and worship.

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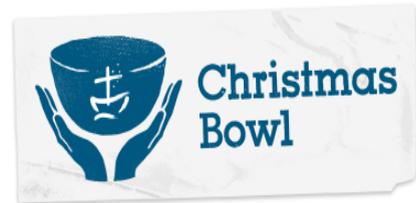
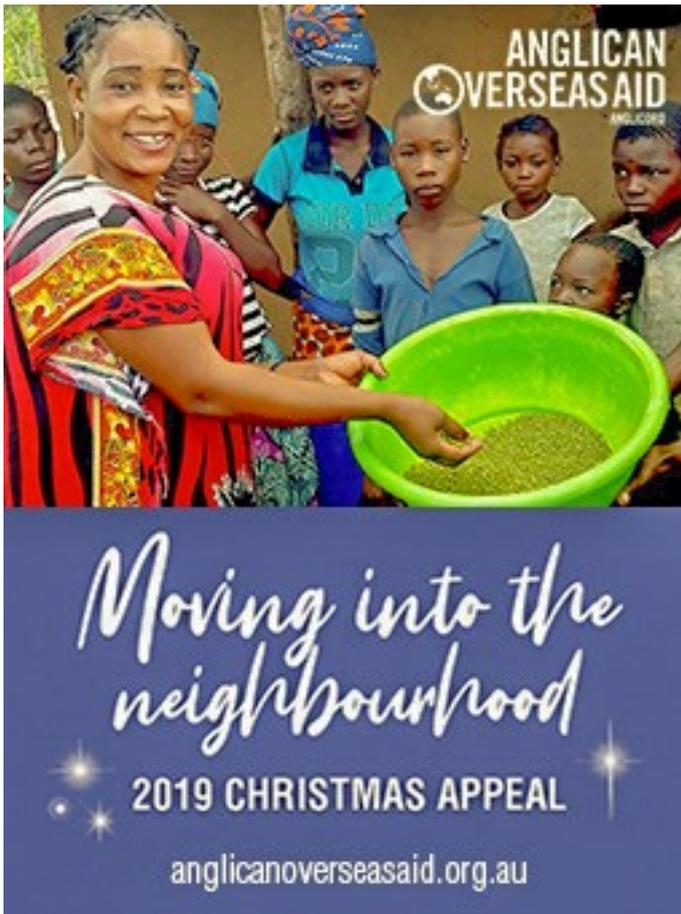


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Email: [generalmanager@willochraagedcare.org.au](mailto:generalmanager@willochraagedcare.org.au)

Website: <https://willochraagedcare.org.au/>

Phone: 08 8636 2320



The Rev'd Frank Byatt believed he had a responsibility to share the joy of his Christmas with our brothers and sisters in need.

That's why, on Christmas Day in 1949, he put a Bowl of Remembrance on the dinner table and asked his family to place a generous gift in it to 'share your good dinner with hungry children in other lands.'

Today, tens of thousands of us now follow Frank's example; sharing God's love with our brothers and sisters in urgent need around the world, through our gifts to the Christmas Bowl.

Your gift will support local partners around the world to both meet urgent need and create change that lasts; equipping communities affected by conflict and disaster with the skills they need to solve their own problems and get back on their feet.

Please give today to provide food, shelter and support to families in need.

Envelopes should be available in your church or send your donation to **Act for Peace , Christmas Bowl Appeal, Level 7, 37 York Street, Sydney 2000**

To donate to the Anglican Overseas 2019 Christmas Appeal, follow the link <http://www.anglicanoverseasaid.org.au/give/2019-christmas-appeal?>

### Our 2019 Advent Reflections are available!



Anglican Overseas Aid (AOA) has produced their annual free Advent reflection booklets again and they are now available to order.

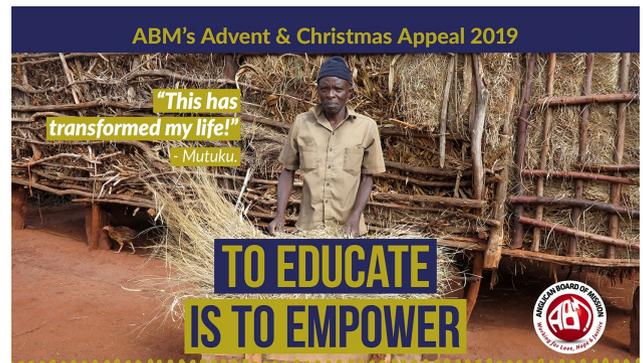
This year AOA has focused on how profound the implications of God coming to us are. They

have therefore entitled the reflection, 'A Radical Advent'. As they say, "for us 'radical' is the adjective that best describes Advent".

We have endeavoured to go a bit deeper and push past the popular veneer of Advent. Reminiscing about the baby Jesus does not, in our view, necessarily do the season justice. This is because the implications of God coming among us are profound!

This booklet can be used as a personal reflection, a small group study guide or as a resource for the whole church. To download your free booklet, the relevant link to our website is <https://anglicanoverseasaid.org.au/2019-advent-reflections/>

**We hope that your Advent journey this year will be blessed by our reflections and filled with God's blessings.**



### ABM'S ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2019

This year, the ABM Advent Appeal supports Wontulp-Bi Buya College and Nungalinya College where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are trained to be future leaders, as well as the Livelihood Improvement Project which builds up drought-affected communities in semi-arid areas of Kenya.

The ABM Christmas Gift focuses on the work of St John's Seminary which is the Anglican Church's clergy training college in Kitwe, Zambia.

Find out more about how your gift to this appeal will help individuals and communities to shape their future.

[www.abmission.org/Christmas2019](http://www.abmission.org/Christmas2019)



Last month I turned 80 and the very thought caused me to stop in my tracks and wonder how this has happened. No doubt some of you reading this will know the feeling.

My family organised a special lunch for me and invited family members to join in the celebration. Even my grandchildren travelled from Brisbane and Melbourne to be

there.

But what of this occasion—I have used a photo taken of me as a teenager and sometimes I still feel like one, but more lately as a grandmother (as they say in the newspaper when an elderly person is injured!). Yes I am a grandmother—Lachlan turning 30 in December and Caitlin who has just announced her engagement.

So where did the years go and what have I achieved in the 80 years of my life? Firstly, Russ and I had 57 years of happy marriage, two wonderful children who are so caring and supportive and as I mentioned previously, two terrific grandchildren. Secondly I have managed to keep up to date with technology and through this have had some wonderful opportunities to use skills and to work with people of faith. I rarely miss an opportunity to be involved in one project or another and hope to do so for some time to come.

I firmly believe that God has guided me through my life, sometimes with a very heavy hand and at other times, allowing me to find my own way and live my life accordingly, though not always well. Jesus through the gospels, has become a friend and teacher, with so much wisdom and knowledge, and I am constantly listening to him and learning to live by his words.

So what does turning 80 mean? Well in my case I still have reasonable health and a desire to keep on serving God through my work, so I suppose it just the end of another decade and to outlive my grandmother, I will need to live until I am 101. That's my challenge!

I wish you a happy and holy Christmas-tide and God's blessings for 2020.

ELIZABETH HARRIS

Christmas

**A Canticle for Christmas written by Jim Cotter.**

From the days of our ancestors of faith,  
in fulfilment of the covenant of promise,  
**your dream of love, dear God, is born,  
alive, for us, in a baby's cry.**

Gratitude that we belong to you for ever!  
Gratitude for the power of love,  
**loosening the grip of evil  
transforming pain to joy,  
swallowing death for ever.**

Gratitude for the vulnerable baby  
Gratitude for the weakness stronger than our strength  
**bringer of solid joys and lasting treasure.**

Gratitude for the gifts of one another,  
**given that we may learn to bear the beams of love.**  
From the days of our ancestors of faith,  
in fulfilment of the covenant of promise,  
**your dream of love, dear God, is born,  
alive, for us, in a baby's cry.**

*Out of the Silence ...Into the Silence: Prayer's Daily Round.* Harlech, Cairns Publications, 2006. p. 473.

From Lesley McLean AMUA National Prayer and Spirituality Coordinator



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**THE FRIENDS OF THE DIOCESE OF WILLOCHRA** has been established to help support the Diocese of Willochra See Endowment Fund, but now also helps other groups and projects in the Diocese which need ongoing support.

These include Ministry Training, the Cathedral Endowment, our Linked Diocese of Mandalay, Anglicare, The Willochra Home for the Aged at Crystal Brook, Camp Willochra at Melrose, and our Indigenous Bursary Fund.

Any of these can be accessed on our Website under "Make a Donation".

We invite you to consider making a bequest to the Diocese for any of its missional initiatives.

**THE FRIENDS OF THE DIOCESE OF WILLOCHRA**

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School completion rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students are well below the rates for non-Indigenous students. In recent years there has been an improvement in retention rates and we are proud to be involved in this movement for change.

Mission, it's been said, is finding out what God is doing and joining in. (Archbishop of Canterbury)

We established the Willochra Bursary in 2015 to assist bursary winners with the costs associated with their study. The bursary grant may be used for stationery and equipment, books, IT supplies, uniforms, sporting goods, school excursions, or school fees.

We invite you to consider making a donation to the Bursary Project.

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