



Diocese of Willochra

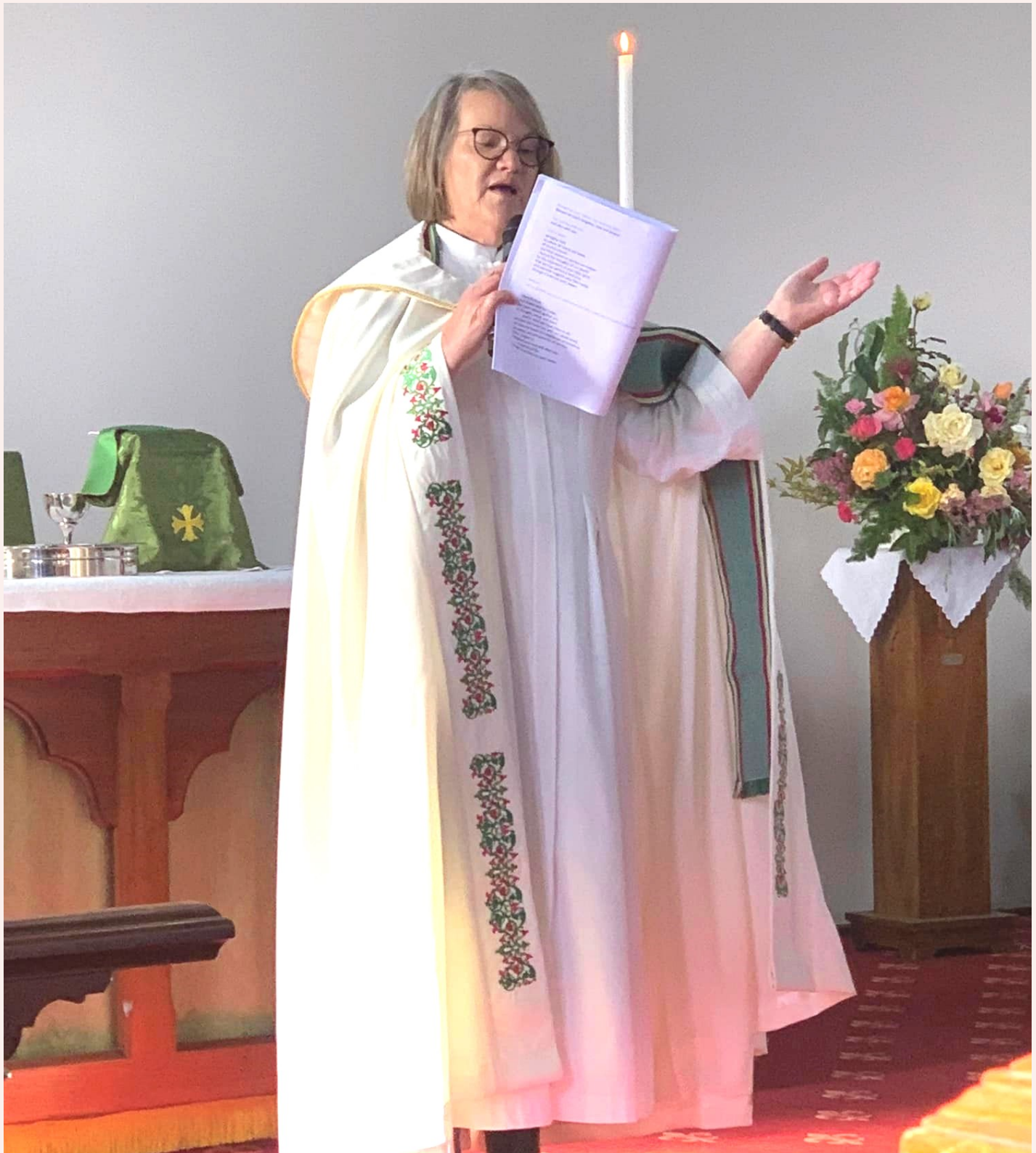
# The Willochran

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## A PUBLICATION OF THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF WILLOCHRA

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





Dear Friends in Christ

Advent has come and the weather is getting hotter! The caravanserai of wheat trucks to Gladstone has been a background rumble for the last few weeks. The harvest, farmers tell me, is going to be average, this year.

So much has happened this year but my mind turns to grief, more than any other emotion. Communities, Ukraine, Myanmar, Israel, Gaza, have been in grief. Here in the Diocese, Willochra has had its grief too. We have said goodbye to Michael Ford, Trevor Briggs, David Shephard, Brian Newman, Geoff Walters, Prue O'Donovan, Anne Briggs, and June Hillier.

It was Dr Erich Lindemann, professor of psychiatry at Harvard, who in 1942 found himself responding to the trauma of the worst nightclub disaster in America. Out of this fire, which claimed 492 lives, he wrote down, for the first time, the idea of stages of grief. He showed the importance of helping a grief-stricken person "work through" grief. It was no good spooning out platitudes, such as 'time is a great healer' or, 'you'll get over it'. Instead, Lindemann tabulated what Kubler-Ross,

Murray Parkes and many others took up. As a curate, and since then, I have found the little book, *Good Grief*, very helpful. Written by the Chaplain, Granger E Westburg, it calmly looks at the fact that we feel depressed and lonely, we may become panicky and feel a sense of guilt about the loss, we are be filled with anger and resentment, we resist returning to the present. However, it ends with the affirmation that gradually hope comes through, "as we begin to struggle to affirm reality, we find that we need not be afraid of the real world. We can live in it again. We can even love it again. For a time we though there was nothing about life that we could affirm. Now the dark clouds are beginning to break up, and occasionally, for brief moments, rays of the sun come through. And hope, based on faith in a God whom our fathers and mothers have found to be dependable, once more becomes part of our own outlook on life. Though we continue to struggle, we do affirm reality" (p.59).

Blessings and Peace for Advent and Christmas.

**+Jeremy James**

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# THE WILLOCHRAN

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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.

### Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the traditional custodians  
of this country

We pay respect to the elders, past, present and emerging  
And wish to extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres  
Strait Islander peoples today

## A PRAYER FOR THE PEACE OF OUR WORLD

Let the rain come and wash away  
the ancient grudges, the bitter hatreds  
held and nurtured over generations.  
Let the rain wash away the memory  
of the hurt, the neglect.  
Then let the sun come out and  
fill the sky with rainbows.  
Let the warmth of the sun heal us  
wherever we are broken.  
Let it burn away the fog so that  
we can see beyond labels,  
beyond accents, gender or skin colour.  
Let the warmth and the brightness  
of the sun melt our selfishness.  
So that we can share the joys and  
feel the sorrows of our neighbours.  
And let the light of the sun  
be so strong that we will see all  
people as our neighbours.  
Let the earth, nourished by rain,  
bring forth flowers  
to surround us with beauty  
And let the mountains teach our hearts  
to reach upward to heaven  
Amen

Rabbi Harold S. Kushner



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**Diocese of Willochra Synod 2023  
Presidential Address  
The Right Reverend Jeremy James tssf  
Bishop of Willochra**

**INTRODUCTION**

*“But now thus says the LORD, he who created you O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel. “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.” Isaiah 43:1*

**N**ot only is this an important verse for me, and has been for many years, I believe it speaks to all of us as a Diocesan family. We are each made in the image of God. We are each given gifts and if we allow God to do so, the Holy Spirit will form us through Scripture, tradition and reason. We are invited by God into a relationship that is not about fear but freedom because it is based on God’s love for us shown in the life, death and resurrection of his Son, Jesus Christ.

We have been redeemed from death to life, out of darkness into light, our sins forgiven and washed away. Each of us is known to God by name, we are infinitely precious in his sight, and treasured.

**VISITS**

Thank you to the many people around the Diocese who have welcomed me since my installation on 25 February at the Cathedral. It has been an exhilarating time, but also a sobering time as I have listened to people’s concerns and fears. I have criss-crossed the Diocese a number of times.

**VALE**

It is with sorrow that we give thanks for the lives of those members of the Diocesan family who have died this year. Their faith has enriched us and we give thanks to God for their lives lived in the service of Christ and his Church.

John Michael Ford, Diocesan Councillor

Trevor Briggs, priest and Registrar.

Geoffrey Walters, husband of the Reverend Flo Walters.

**Former members of the Diocese of Willochra**

David Shepherd, husband of Mother Janelle Shephard

Brian Edward Newman, priest, former rector of Quorn-Melrose, and Kadina.

**Appointments**

Reverend John Fowler as Diocesan Administrator

Reverend Susan Johnson as Archdeacon of Eyre and Rector of the Parish of Pt Lincoln from November 2023

Mr Ray Billing as Lay Canon of the Cathedral

Reverend Wendy Cooper as Clerical Canon

Reverend Louise Lang as Clerical Canon

Mr Andrew Morris as Lay Canon

I am delighted to announce the appointment by Bush Church Aid of Dave and Margy Woods to the parish of Coober Pedy in March 2024.

**THANK YOU**

To the Senior Leadership Team, the Very Reverend Mark Hawkes, Archdeacon Andrew Lang and Archdeacon Susan Johnson and the Registrar.

To the members of Diocesan Council, the Finance Committee and the Cons and Regs Committee who all give of their time freely and generously. In particular, thank you to Mr Ben Renfrey our Chancellor who gives of his time pro bono, to Jerrell and Jayne Alexander at Camp Willochra and to Mrs Leonie Gibbons and her staff at Willochra Home.

I work in a marvellous office. The Reverend Sarah Wiles is my PA, Mrs Jane Burnett in Finance and Administration, Mrs Sunny Chan on Willochra Home and Mr Ashley Roberts in Finance. Mr Gavin Tyndale, The Diocesan Registrar has been a rock in these early months. Thank you also to Reverend Anne Ford, my Chaplain.



## **LISTENING**

At the Diocesan Council on 19 June I asked two questions:

- What is it that you long to see in this Diocese?
- What is your vision for Willochra, for the near future, medium-term and long-term?

The answers confirmed what I had already been hearing across the Diocese.

## **TRAINING AND EDUCATION**

Time again people have said, please can we have more training and more resources for what we do. I put this into practice at the Clergy Conference and Lay Minister Training days.

### ***What would this look like?***

On 10 March I sat down for dinner with the local parish at Cummins. Ian Rogers, Peter and Gladys Hall, Brian Treloar, Terry and Leanne Viger, Eddie and Kaye Burge.

Ian, Brian and Gladys lead the services at their local church. They asked for resources to lead prayers, and asked about funerals.

The next day down at St Margaret's, Tumbay Bay, Caryll Cabot, Bev and Susannah and the team also asked for resources. I also discovered that Caryll has been leading funerals for some time.

The resources asked for fell under four headings,

Leading services: prayer books, hymn books.

Preaching and praying assistance for these.

Thinking about our faith.

Looking outwards: Mission-focus.

To enhance this training, I have provided the following resources:

### ***Leading services:***

26 as new A Prayer Book for Australia are available at Synod free of charge.

### ***Preaching and Praying:***

Jane Williams *Preaching the Common Lectionary*, have been distributed to Clergy. *Gratefulness, the heart of prayer* by David Steindl-Rast are available.

### ***Thinking about our faith***

On 18 November I will hold a “**Day of Mark**” introducing Mark’s Gospel which will be the main Gospel read on Sundays next year.

## ***Looking outwards:***

To both the clergy and all those who attended the Licenced Lay Ministers Training Days, I gave a copy of Michael Frost’s *Surprise the World!* This speaks of how very ordinary habits can be effective ways of approaching people in our communities.

## **GOING FORWARD**

I believe strongly that our God is a God of Hope. I hold firmly to the Apostle Paul that “Hope does not disappoint us because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been give to us” (Romans 5:5). We do suffer; congregation numbers shrink, finances are limited, leadership is scarce but in our struggles, we do get stronger, “endurance produces character, character produces hope.” As its most straight forward I want Licenced Lay Members to feel confident at speaking and reading in public, leading worship and reading a homily reflecting on the readings of the day. This will also include leading prayers. As training increases I would see that confidence developing to leading Home groups and Bible studies, and taking funerals. There may be opportunities for baptism and marriage preparation.

I want to create an environment for learning that is accessible flexible and encouraging.

Two weeks prior to Synod I was interviewed as part of the Sunday Service by the Rev’d David Weidemann, the locum at Coober. He asked me what was my vision for the Diocese. After explaining the need for training and education, I used the same word three times. Mission, Mission, Mission.

I have heard your fears for the future of the Diocese, but please take heart in the words I began with from Isaiah 43:1, “do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.”

I wear a stole that has the symbol of the Cross on it made up of arrows, but it is so designed that the arrows point to the Cross and then look out to the world. That is both our anchor and our vision as we move forward.

### ***The Lord be with you***

***The Rt Rev’d Jeremy James tssf  
Bishop of Willochra  
October 2023***

## The Synod 2023 Sunday Morning Address

*‘When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it:‘*

*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”*

*Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this*

*question: “What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet” ’?*

*If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.’*

**Matthew 22 34-46NRSV**

**M**ay the words of my mouth and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable in your sight, O Lord our strength and our redeemer. Amen

When I was last in Streaky Bay I was speaking with Cheryl Rowe at Elmhurst. She was telling me of her first experience of giving a sermon; having arrived at church she was greeted with, “You’ll be giving the sermon today.” She coped because God had prepped her by bringing to mind her recipe book; her favourite book until the Bible replaced it. I wondered how a recipe book could be a part of a sermon. Many of us have recipe books or collection of some sort and undoubtedly within that collection there is something we consider to rate higher than the rest.

Jesus was asked by the Pharisees to rate the commandments. Let’s step back a moment and consider what is happening here. Jesus is in the Temple. It is only two days before He would be crucified, and His authority is being relentlessly challenged by the various religious leaders. The Scribes, the Pharisees, the Sadducees, and even the Herodians have all tried to find a way to discredit by asking Him some shrewd question. Each time Jesus has answered so skilfully that His reputation as a man of truth showing the way to God was enhanced. *When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him, “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?”*

I wonder if in his reply Jesus is using a recipe from Cheryl’s favourite book.

He takes the main ingredient from Deuteronomy; ‘*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.*’, then adds to it spice from



*The Rev'd Wendy Cooper*

Leviticus, ‘*You shall love your neighbour as yourself.*’

I think perhaps Jesus is making a marble cake, I wonder what colour his ingredients would be; purple for royalty and yellow, the colour of sunshine, of joy and life. Purple and yellow, complimentary colours that contrast and highlight each other. The Pharisees nod in agreement, they appreciate the cake thus far. The cake is baked, Jesus adds cream icing to the top of it. Jesus puts a question about the identity of the Christ. to the Pharisees. He asks, ‘*What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?*’ The Pharisees answer automatically from the tradition of the prophets answering as everyone would expect, ‘The Son of David’. In the promise God made to David, and the prophetic writings about the identity of the one who will come to save Israel, all recognize that

Messiah must come from David's line. The Christ will have royal blood, but it will be good old-fashioned red-blooded human blood. The thought has never occurred to anyone that the one who comes to save Israel is anything other than a flesh-and-blood warrior who will conquer Israel's oppressors.

Jesus decorates the top of the iced cake; with some figs and dates. *'How is it, then, that David calls him "Lord?'"* Jesus wants to know as he quotes Psalm 110. No one has considered that David might have been referring to his own descendant as "Lord." Jesus thus encourages them to see Psalm 110 in a new light. And that light reveals that even King David would bow down to this descendant, indicating that the Messiah would be more than merely human. The only being King David would bow to was God. The Messiah would come from God.

In three short movements, Jesus has taken the most basic, common understanding of their faith – loving God alone – and expanded it to include loving others, and then taken the most fundamental belief about Israel's anticipated Savior and turned it on its head.

The Messiah comes from God, and is divine. The Messiah is both the Son of David *and* the Son of God. Putting these two ideas together was a good deal more radical than putting together the verses from Deuteronomy and Leviticus to summarize the Commandments. Loving God and neighbour are indeed the first and second most important commandments, but establishing Jesus' identity as Messiah is the ultimate point of the entire conversation we've been exploring for the past several weeks.

Anyone who believes that Jesus is, in fact, the Messiah, must believe that he is both human *and* divine. No wonder the Pharisees are left speechless, unable to swallow the cake. To consider that the saviour they have hoped for might actually come from God is more than they can handle. From this point forward, they aren't asking any more questions.

"Jesus is Lord" is perhaps the earliest confession of the Christian church. In Romans 10:9 Paul writes, *"because if you confess with your lips that **Jesus is Lord** and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."*

Claiming Jesus as Lord is the only hope we have. Sometimes too we struggle to swallow the cake that Jesus made. We aren't very good at keeping that commandment to love God with all our heart, soul, and strength. Too often, our hearts are distracted by our own desires. Our souls become shallow and closed off to anything

that might cause us discomfort, or force us to change. And our strength is often spent in ways that do not honour God. We want to love God, but we struggle to know how. We have forgotten that "the primary component of biblical love is not affection, but commitment." And we aren't very good at commitment.

Which makes it hard for us to do very well when it comes to loving our neighbour. Especially when our neighbour is someone we don't like, or someone who is very different from us or perhaps someone who has upset us by whatever means. We forget that the kind of love God has in mind isn't a fond sentimental emotion, but the hard work of caring more about another's needs than our own.

No matter how hard we try, or how much we want to, we can't seem to keep God's greatest commandment, or the second that is like it. And if we cannot keep God's law, our only hope is depending on God's grace. Our only salvation is to call Jesus Lord, to recognize him as the one who became flesh for our sakes, who died that we might live, who rose again that we might have eternal life.

So Jesus looks at us, as he once looked at Peter, and asks, "Who do *you* say that I am?" But Jesus isn't finished with us. These past few weeks, as we have examined the markers that identify us as belonging to Christ, Jesus has been challenging us to change. Jesus has been inviting us to surrender ourselves fully in humble obedience, to find joy in belonging, and ultimately, to be recognized for the way we *love*. In short, will we love our neighbour in loving God and will we love God in loving our neighbour? Will we mean it when we say, "Jesus is Lord?" Will we express this through the way we live?

***The Rev'd Wendy Cooper***



***Wishing all of our readers a happy and holy Christmas***



## Commissioning of Fr David Thompson at Ceduna



**R**ev'd David Thompson was commissioned on Advent Sunday at St Michael and All Angels, Ceduna. David and his wife, Jenny, have been based in Clare since 2013, where David had been District Priest of the Ministry District of Wakefield.

Around 40 people gathered from across the community, joined by Anglicans from Streaky Bay as well as Lutherans, Uniting Church and Frontier Services. Ceduna Mayor, Ken Maynard, offered his warm welcome to David and Jenny. David, in his reply, spoke of his strong sense of call.

## Funeral Service for June Hillier



**O**ver 100 people gathered at St Jude's Anglican Church, Brighton, to give thanks to God for the life of June Hillier. The service was led by Ven Sophie Relf-Christopher. Ven Michael Hillier spoke of how they had met, and of their life together in a moving tribute, followed by June's younger sister. Pat Gribble from the Girls Friendly Society read the lesson, testifying to June's lifelong involvement to GFS, which ended with her being elected World President. A warm, gracious lady, for whom we give deep and grateful thanks to God.



## Celebrating the Life of Anne (Charmain) Briggs

**March 1945 to 16 November 2023**



**A**nne passed away at the Estia Aged Care Kadina, loved and nursed with compassion and kind hands. I came to know Anne through the eyes of others, and in worshipping with her in this last part of her life. Faith was at the centre of her life and in her relationships with others. A practical living faith, going through parish photos, Anne is always slightly crumpled, often with an apron and has clearly been called away from what she has been doing to join the photo. Anne lived a life of generosity and industrious faith in action, welcomed strangers, acted with righteousness, called out bigotry, fed and volunteered for the needy, and gave generously. On page 120 of the Centenary Book 'In Dry and Thirsty Land...' Trevor and Anne are listed together, united in in faith and dedicated to serve the Diocese of Willochra.

***To God be the Glory.***

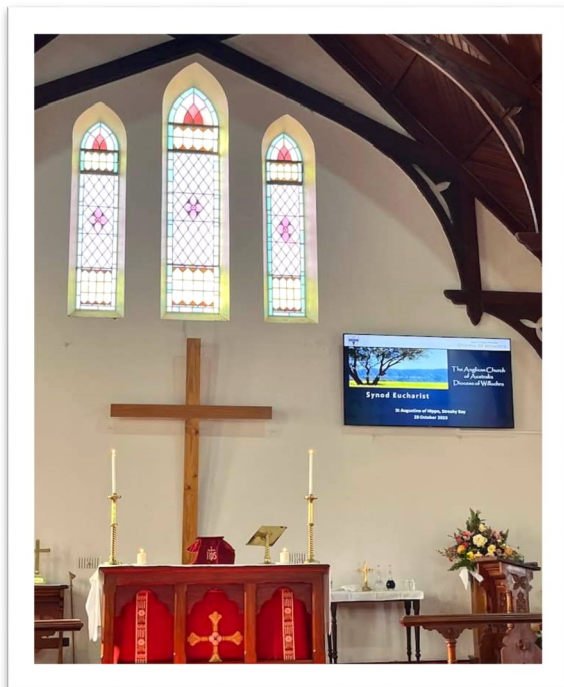
*Photos from Synod October 2023. Synod this year was held at Streaky Bay*



*Bishop Jeremy's Presidential Address on Saturday*



*The Rev'd Louise Lang reading the gospel at the Sunday morning service*



*The interior - St Augustine of Hippo Church, Streaky Bay*



*Mr Ray Billing , Lay Canon of the Cathedral and Mr Andrew Morris, Lay Canon, were installed at the Sunday morning service*



*An Ordination, an Installation, a commissioning and a farewell*



*Ordination of Elizabeth Harris*

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*The Commissioning of Rev'd Elizabeth Harris as Deacon at Holy Trinity, Riverton and farewell to Father David*

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*The Rev'd Susan Johnson's installation as Parish Priest of Port Lincoln (St Thomas Port Lincoln, St Matthews Poonindie & St Mattias Wangary.*

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*A very special birthday at Holy Trinity for Henrietta, our 'little girl' turns 13. Thanks to Pam for making the birthday cake.*

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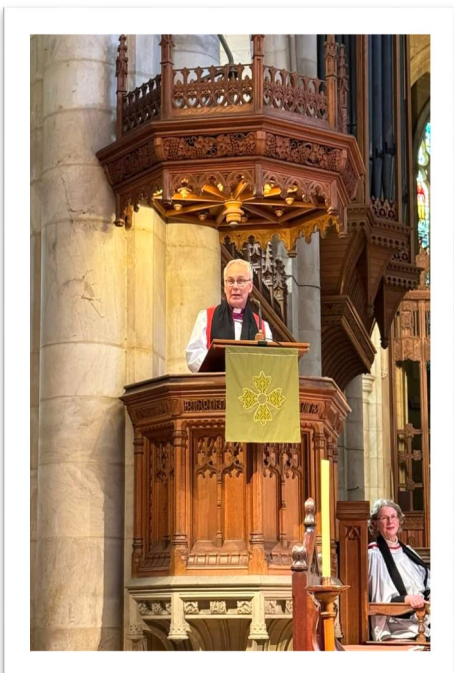
Melbourne Cup at the Willochra Home. And the winner was...?



Lining up in the starting gate.



Isobel Wright. is dressed up as Zacchaeus in the tree. Her great grandmother Dulcie Wright (go) was teaching her Sunday School.  
- Rev'd Susan Johnson, Pt Lincoln



Bishop Jeremy was guest preacher at a Friends of Willochra afternoon tea and Evensong in St Peter's Cathedral.

### **FOOD ON FRIDAY AT THE CATHEDRAL IN PT PIRIE**

*'Jesus said to them 'They do not need to go away; you give them something to eat' Matthew 14:16*

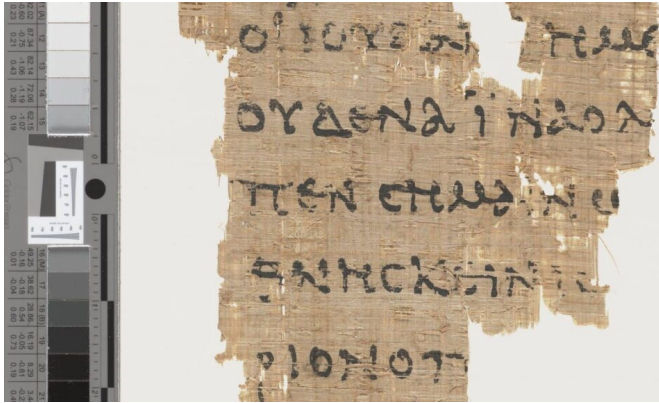
**F**ood on Friday began seven years ago with the idea of providing a place for companionship and table fellowship. This idea has grown into a small but strong core of people who care about and look after reach other, and welcome others into their space. What began as outreach has developed into a strong group in the kitchen who support and care for each other as well as caring for those who come for nourishment. Sometimes the kitchen staff outnumber the guests but throughout it all, is their love and concern for everyone.

We have been watching the DVD, 'The Chosen,' a series on the life of Jesus and his disciples. This has been shown before Food on Friday and has been a real hit with all. We continue to provide a two-course meal each week and give thanks to God for everything that is provided for us each week.

*'Do not forget to do good and to share what you have, because God is pleased with these kinds of sacrifice. Hebrews 13:16*

**Rev'd Lettie Allen,  
Coordinator, Food on Fridays.**

## We have the Bible today because of loving, hard labour



**W**e are very confident in speaking about the Bible and holding up a single book, nicely bound together, containing 27 books that we call “New Testament” and 39 (or 46) books we call “Old Testament” or “Hebrew Scriptures”. We are equally confident to see those ancient books and their authors as connected in a direct line to ourselves. So we can refer to Isaiah or Jeremiah speaking directly to us, or Paul or the gospel writers. We need to be aware that they are, at best, a simplification and in some cases even a distortion of the history of the Bible and how it has come down to us. We need to be aware of these issues so we can truly understand how the Bible can be God’s word in human words. Here are some of the factors:

Not until the fourth century CE do we have a copy of an actual “Bible”: a single book containing all the books we know in the Bible. There are two of these and they are written on parchment as codices (i.e. books) rather than papyrus scrolls. One is called Codex Vaticanus and the other Codex Sinaiticus, both named either for their current origin or location. They are similar to each other and contain most of the Bible. Sinaiticus also contains two added books that, in the end, did not make it into the canon

Both codices are written in capital letters without spacing between the words and almost no punctuation. They have no chapters or verses as these were added later: chapters in the 13<sup>th</sup> century and verses in the 16<sup>th</sup>. They were written completely in Greek, including the

Old Testament, which was based on the translation from Hebrew in the third century BCE.

Our two codices were not used in translating the Bible into English until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The King James Bible was based on a later manuscript tradition that we now consider somewhat corrupted by scribal changes.

In addition to these two great codices, there are other manuscripts (from a later period) as well as a growing number of papyrus fragments from even earlier. At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, a group of papyrus fragments was found in an ancient rubbish tip in Oxyrhynchus in Egypt, which has 52 of the 127 fragments of the New Testament we now have, dating from the second to the fourth centuries CE. Some of this collection is still being released.

The biblical scholars who have put together our Bible, and who continue to do so in the light of new discoveries, are called “textual critics”. They have to examine various manuscripts to determine what might have been the original form of any biblical book. This branch of biblical studies is on the verge of a revolution, however, as more and more texts are being computerised. Textual critics will soon have all available texts online and can work out more accurately their genealogical relationships to each other. The New Testament texts, particularly the gospels, originated in written form but were probably communicated public performance. Was there only a single version of Mark’s Gospel that circulated? Were the likely source of the sayings in common between Matthew and Luke originally an oral source? Is it possible that John’s Gospel originated two forms, a longer and a shorter version? The ancient world may have produced many literary works but it was largely an oral culture; people had prodigious memories and clear methods of memorising.



What are the implications of all these factors? Above all, it means we need to look forward to new editions of our English translations that will take into account new discoveries, particularly the computerising of ancient texts and manuscripts. We need not be afraid of new technology. The earliest Christians embraced the book form and abandoned the papyrus roll very early on, ahead of their culture, probably because it allowed them to include a number of texts in the one volume: e.g. the letters of Paul or the four gospels.

It also means that we need to regard the biblical texts not just as direct communication to us from God, but also as historical documents which have come down to use through the centuries. We have received them thanks to the painstaking work of countless scribes, female as well as male, who copied, considered and corrected manuscripts because of the love and reverence they had for the Bible as the prophetic and apostolic witness to the Word, Jesus Christ. We are united with them as we read, study, proclaim and live out the sacred text.

We in the West should be particularly grateful to the scribes who translated the Bible into Latin and passed it down through the centuries in that language, before the original Greek came to the fore. Indeed, we should be grateful to all translators, including Bishop Thomas in the seventh century who translated the New Testament so literally into Syriac that we can construct something of the original Greek text!

We have the Bible today because of loving and hard labour well before the printing press: copying by hand, correcting, translating, separating words, organising paragraphs, adding chapters and verses. We should be aware that the Bible comes to us inspired not only by God but “inspired” also by those who loved and copied and translated it over many generations.

*Excerpts from an article published in the Melbourne Anglican October 2023. The Reverend Professor Dorothy A. Lee is Stewart Professor of New Testament at Trinity College, University of Divinity.*

## **Vale - The Reverend Prue O'Donovan.**



Prue was a friend, someone to laugh with, and a mentor through my life's journey here in Riverton. Someone who never stopped thinking up ideas to help people. She would I think, be widely known through our diocese for her work with Quickest Warmth, working with Anglicare Adelaide and supplying goods of every description to needy people. I have worked with her for the past seven years and have put together the monthly newsletter featuring “Mother Hubbard's Cupboard” which was invariably empty.

Prue came to Willochra as mission priest in the Copper Coast and later became Ministry Development Officer and an Archdeacon. She was chaplain to the Vietnam Veterans, providing them with pastoral care.

One of her achievements well known in the local area was 'Allsorts Church.' The Veterans enabled her to use their clubrooms to establish a Wednesday service for those who were not able to come to church on a Sunday. People of all denominations were welcome to come along, have a coffee and a small church service

I understand that Prue also taught many women to sew and to make their own clothes and those for their children.

Prue and Fr Bart retired to Gawler and she having 'little to do,' started looking around for another project, hence Quickest Warmth was born. It soon outgrew the project and developed into something almost beyond comprehension. It was hard to move in her home and mine was not better due to the generosity of the Riverton people. She and Fr Bart would come up for lunch and go home, squeezed into their car, with a load of goods.

It seemed that Prue could never stop thinking up things to do. She was Chaplain for Anglicare Adelaide North and Chaplain at Dutton Court Nursing Home. She took church services in the local area from time to time and I can remember one never to be forgotten Christmas when we asked her for ideas for a service and ended up with an outside 'live' nativity scene with real sheep and many small shepherds and angels. It was a great success.

To our dear friend, you were an important part of our lives and we will all miss you and your energy and creativity. Your ministry was shortened by your unexpected illness, however we know that you are now at peace, resting in the arms of our Heavenly Father.

**Farewell Prue**

**Rev'd Liz Harris, Riverton**



## An outward focus keeps God's mission at the heart of our motivations

**The inner health of the Christian Church is strongest at the times when we have an outward focus, writes Archbishop Philip Freier.** *Picture: iStock*

The gospel story of the sisters Martha and Mary in Luke 10 is one of the most vividly compelling scenes from the New Testament Scriptures. Jesus comes to their house and immediately we are in the middle of a situation that is so spontaneous, so like our own situations, that we can't help but engage in this domestic but divine drama.

"Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

Sitting at the feet of Jesus or serving at the table, which is to be chosen? The way of service is blessed and is the way that Jesus chose and commended to his disciples. So, in that respect Martha's part was not a bad part, even if was not the better part. Mary crosses a social boundary that Martha is keen to preserve. The place of discipleship was at the teacher's feet, but it was a place that customarily only men occupied. Mary's move into that space disrupted the accepted order of how women conduct themselves – unsurprisingly Martha is keen for Jesus to pull Mary back into line. We miss the point if we just focus on a final distinction between work and devotion or service and prayer; they both are important and must develop together.

Prayer is though a good place to begin the inventory about how any of our life priorities are ordered. It is certainly the place from which we get a perspective on our life and its priorities. Time spent with God in prayer speaks much about what we think really matters. It is also the anchor on which our other excellent Christian gifts and ministries are fixed.



The inner health of the Christian Church is strongest at the times when we have an outward focus, such as the missionary expansion of the church or when we are making a compassionate response to suffering – and when we don't bring either into a false dichotomy or distinction. It is then that we keep God's mission in Christ at the heart of our understanding and our motivations. This is when we can be confident that we have chosen "the better part" and this will not be taken from us.

John Cassian brought monasticism into western Europe 16 centuries ago when he settled in Marseilles. He taught that meditation should consist in the repetition of a verse from Scripture, what he described as "folding the recollection of God into the little space of meditation in one verse". His method of prayer invites us to sit with something we have heard from the Bible as our focus for reflection throughout the week. This prayer which comes from that spirit of simple focus on God in Christ is one that I find centre my priorities on Christ in the many demands of life, "O God, be all my love, all my hope, all my striving; let my thoughts and words flow from you, my daily life be in you, and every breath I take, be for you. Amen".

*The Melbourne Anglican September 2023*

## Who was St Francis of Assisi?



**A**lthough poverty was Francis' cornerstone, he was also passionate about recognising the sanctity of all God's creatures. He was often seen in conversation with animals of all kinds, and in his famous 'Canticle of the Creatures' his habit of calling elements of nature 'brother and sister' is clearly documented," says The Rev'd Dr Gemma Dashwood OAM TSSF

"Like many thousands of others, my life continues to be enriched by St Francis of Assisi and all we can learn from him. In my mid-20s I was heavily involved with my local church, but I found myself seeking a broader perspective on theology and spirituality than what I was experiencing in the parish setting. Around the same, by some divine intervention, my mum gave me a brochure on becoming a Tertiary Franciscan — and the more I read, the more I was certain that St Francis of Assisi offered the depth of spirituality I was looking for.

St Francis was born Francesco di Pietro di Bernardone in Assisi in 1181 into a wealthy family. In his early years he lived a carefree life, wanting for nothing. After fighting in a local war against Perugia in 1202 he was held captive for a year, and his health suffered greatly. Despite this he was keen to rejoin the army, but on his way to enlist it is said that he received a vision instructing him to return home. Soon after, while praying in the church of San Damiano a voice emanated from the crucifix: "Go, Francis, and repair my house." While initially Francis took this literally and worked hard to raise funds to repair the run-down church, it became

clear that the task was somehow broader than his initial thoughts. Francis realised he needed to reject his family wealth and take on the life of a poor man, and dedicate his life to following Jesus and teaching those he met.

Despite his lay status, Francis felt called to form an Order, and he devised a simple Rule, which was subsequently approved by Pope Innocent III. The men who followed Francis were known as members of the "Lesser Brothers" of the new Franciscan Order, and they preached on the street, eschewed personal possessions and lived together in community in the Porziuncola in Assisi.

Three years later, Francis established a second order, for women that was led by Francis' loyal friend and supporter, Clare (hence they were known as the "Poor Clares"). They lived in community within the grounds of the San Damiano church.

Almost a decade later, the Third Order was formed — which was open to both men and women, married or single, lay or ordained — who wanted to follow Jesus through the principles of St Francis, but were unable to leave their families. It is this Order that I was drawn to almost 20 years ago.

Although poverty was Francis' cornerstone, he was also passionate about recognising the sanctity of all God's creatures. He was often seen in conversation with animals of all kinds, and in his famous "Canticle of the Creatures" his habit of calling elements of nature "brother and sister" is clearly documented:

"Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs."

His influence in the love and appreciation of nature, including all animals, is felt to this day, as we continue to celebrate the Season of Creation in the weeks leading up to the Feast The Feast Day of St Francis on 4 October,

which is when many churches offer blessings for animals.

Franciscans live by three aims, three ways of service and three notes of the Order. Despite the fact that they were created around 900 years ago, they still have significant relevance to the modern day. Of all the requirements of the followers of Francis, I find that sometimes the hardest one is “joy”. There is so much happening in the world at this time where no joy can be found. Despite the war, famine and social injustice that is rife around the world, it is a stolen moment where a glimpse of a flower in bloom or the love and trust of an animal who can sense your despair, that can be a reminder of the joy that Francis urges us to seek out. It took only two years after the death of Francis — who lived until his mid-40s — for Pope Gregory IX to canonise the man of poverty and peace who loved and protected all creation. Like many thousands of others, my life continues to be enriched by St Francis of Assisi and all we can learn from him.

*The Rev'd Robert Paget has served as an Air Force Chaplain since 1994 on Air Force Bases across Australia. The following are excerpts from a sermon he preached for the Season of Creation.*

**“Today we give thanks for our animals”**

*“Francis challenged the idea that the world and all living things were just commodities to be exploited. He saw them as inheritors, along with us of the kingdom of heaven. It’s not always easy to see the same kinship with nature that Francis saw, especially when you’re being pursued along the footpath by an aggressive magpie,” says The Rev’d Robert Paget from St Paul’s, Samford, Queensland.*

“Over the past four weeks we’ve considered our relationship with forests, the land, the outback/wilderness and rivers. Today our focus is drawn to St Francis of Assisi. And that, of course, brings animals in focus.



*The Rev'd Robert Paget blessing Bodie during a Season of Creation service on 1 October 2023 at The Parish of Samford, pictured with parishioner Jake*

Francis is most noted for his abandonment of his life of privilege, and his was indeed a life of privilege. He is also known for his work with people who were poor and his love of nature. At the time, the general attitude toward the natural order was that it was simply a resource to be tamed, controlled and used. It was a world where the natural order was considered chaotic and in need of order.

Francis’ attitude was quite different. He understood that all of creation was made by God and the focus of the salvation won by Christ along with human beings. So, not only did Christ die for you and me, but for the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, the family pet, brother sun and sister moon, as well. All creatures were seen as his brothers and sisters. His Order weren’t known as Franciscan but Friars Minor, which translates to “Little Brothers”. They were the little brothers of all things, never taking pride of place but deferring those around them, taking the humbler position. Salvation is not just for human beings, but for all of God’s creation. Words have a huge impact. Take the word “world”. “In the world, but not of the world”. This expression gives us the idea that the world is somehow separated from God.

In John’s gospel we have one of the best-known passages. If you know no other bible reference, chances are that you know this one. God so loved *the world* (John 3.16).”

**Anglican Focus, Queensland, October 2023**



## The musings of Fr Bart - Stamping around

One of my temptations to which I usually give in is that of collecting things. Do you have this propensity?

As a child I was always rescuing and hiding articles from my mother's pile to be thrown put. I on the other hand now have a great collection of things which I have continually been asked to cull.

I am especially proud of my stamp collection which I started as a young child. I began with the ambition of collecting every stamp that has ever been printed and snapped up all that I could get for free as pocket money was not a feature of my growing up.

When a little older, I realised that this ambition would never be realised and I concentrated on just Australian stamps. Even this was overly ambitious for while there were plenty of the current postage rate around, I realised later that there were stamps of higher denominations that I would never gain in the normal run of things.

Then my father brought home from his work, a cardboard box full of wonderful stamps I had never seen before. The stamps were produced independently by the six Australian colonies before Federation, starting with NSW and Victoria in 1850 and followed by Tasmania in 1853, Western Australia in 1854, South Australia in 1855 and Tasmania in 1860.

The first printings were primitive looking engravings using the limited tools and knowledge available in Australia. Having remarkable success as a way of communication, the post offices in each state stepped up and had the printing plates engraved in England and the stamps sent out here. Soon they began to have the entire process done in Australia.

The first stamps of all, that of NSW featured a version of the Great Seal of the colony, depicting industry receiving convicts at Sydney Cove. An overly ambitious undertaking when trying to produce a complex drawing into the

size of a postage stamp. Most states made an often crude portrait of Queen Victoria who became increasingly real as a person. One NSW stamp featuring the Queen, the two pence blue of 1892 came second in a world-wide competition to find the world's ugliest stamp!

The colony of Tasmania was the first in the world to promote tourism through stamps issued from 1899 - 1912. A photographer was engaged to take pictures of Lake Marion in the Cradle Mountain National Park, Mt Wellington, Hobart, Tasman's Arch near Port Arthur, Lake Sinclair and Spring River and Russell Falls and the Dilston Falls near Launceston.

The result of Dad giving me the Australian colonial stamps was that I further reduced my collecting field to them. It makes it easier to have a starting date, 1850 and an ending date 1913 when seven years after Federation the postal services of the Australian colonies finally agreed to become the postal service of Australia and the printing of State stamps ceased in favour of the Australian ones beginning with the famous kangaroo stamps .

*'God saw everything that he had made and behold it was very good. (Genesis 1:32aAV)*

**Father Bart O'Donovan (November 2022)**



## Bush Church Aid is all about Aid to the Church in the Bush

*Bush Church Aid is all about **Aid** to the Church in the **Bush**; providing biblically faithful ministry and bringing the life-changing gospel message of Jesus to rural, regional, and remote Australia.*

### **E**xciting news for Cober Pedy **Dave & Margie Wood**

Dave & Margie became Christians in their late teens through youth group and ISCF (Inter School Christian Fellowship). They married, raised four children and are now grandparents to six.

The Woods both recently completed a two-year associate degree in ministry from Sydney Missionary and Bible College (SMBC) and are excited to commence serving God in Cober Pedy.

Over the years there have been lots of signposts pointing the Woods towards ministry with BCA in a mining town. They spent 30 years working in the mining industry and were part of the BCA-supported church in Paraboradoo/Tom Price in the early 1990s. While attending the ANEW Anglican Church in Newcastle, former Cober Pedy Field Staff Geoff & Tracey Piggott visited and spoke about their work at the Catacomb Church. Then in 2021, Dave & Margie heard National Director Greg Harris speak at SMBC about the need in Cober Pedy.



*Dave and Margie Wood*

‘Cober Pedy has been on our radar since Greg visited SMBC in 2021,’ says Dave. ‘This year I asked him if we could do a locum stint there during our college holidays. We spent three weeks there in April, absolutely loved it, and felt called to go and bring the gospel to this town and area.’

***Please pray for Dave & Margie as they prepare to move to Cober Pedy to begin their ministry in March***



### *Vale*

**Mrs Anne Briggs**, wife of the late Rev'd Trevor Briggs, priest at the Copper Coast.

**The Rev'd Prue O'Donovan**, Archdeacon and Ministry Development Officer, mission priest at Kadina

**Mrs June Hillier**, wife of the Rev'd Michael Hillier, Archdeacon

**Mrs Margaret Cooke**, AMUA member at Minlaton



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**AMUA  
Diocese of  
Willochra:  
President's**

## Newsletter

**Theme: Transformation Now!**

**Fundraising Project: Willochra  
Bursary**

Spring has been a wonderful time in the garden; I've had the joy of a Willy wagtail nesting just outside my kitchen window in an avocado tree I'd planted from seed. It was privileged to be able to witness the full performance of the careful building of the nest from cobwebs, laying of 3 eggs, sitting by both parents, hatching in 22 days and then the never ending feeding of the baby birds and them growing so much they almost overflowed the nest. The parents seemed quite stressed by the responsibility of their charges at times and would be swooping birds, the dog, and us if we ventured near. I missed seeing the babies leave the nest over Synod weekend but as I write I can see one bathing under the sprinkler. This reminded me to the effort it takes to raise a family and how much our prayers and support are needed for young families.

I attended Synod at Streaky Bay in October and although the usual complaint; it's such a long way, it really was wonderful weekend to meet with others around the diocese, and we were so well catered for by this small community and were shown wonderful hospitality. I manned the MU publication stall



and enjoyed interaction with those who visited the stall. Louise Lang had a very confronting and thought provoking display of 55 pairs of shoes symbolizing the women who had died from domestic violence over a 12 month period. 25<sup>th</sup> November is the International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women and from 25<sup>th</sup> November to 10<sup>th</sup> December (World Human Rights Day) we mark the 16 Days of Activism campaign. We need to not only condemn this violence but also to work towards prevention. There are many resources available please make contact if you would find these helpful for prayer points or to become more aware. We must do something.

I watched the National Pharmacies Christmas Pageant on television to see my friend Jo from Belvidere, playing the bagpipes in one of the many bands; they sounded great and she looked smart in her uniform. The pageant had so many floats and entertainment for the estimated 300,000 in attendance it really was a colourful, happy spectacle. What particularly caught my attention was that there was a Nativity float and 3 Wise Men on camels, what a wonderful witness to those in attendance and so many like me watching in other ways. So often the commercialism of Christmas can crowd out the true meaning, but with so many people and resources used to put together the pageant over 91 years for the enjoyment of young and old this surely is a wonderful gift to the community and a blessing to families.

May I take this opportunity to wish you a blessed Christmas celebrating the birth of our Lord and Saviour. **Roz Rowett, President**

### **Mothers Union: so much more than cups of tea**

Mothers Union advocates and campaigns at local, national and international levels to see these changes become a reality. Members are passionate about issues of social justice, communicating with governments and decision makers, and collaborating with other charities and organisations to help bring a united voice for change.

## Issues - domestic violence against women

We have all heard of 21 year old Lillie James, a young woman brutally killed recently in Sydney by her former boyfriend and colleague. It is less likely that we have heard the name Analyn Osias, a 46 year old mother also known as Logee, killed even more recently by her ex-boyfriend at Kangaroo Flat in Victoria. Her name has been heard much less on the news. She was from the Philippines, was middle aged, and therefore perhaps less newsworthy.

We have all heard of these two women though haven't we, to a greater or lesser degree? However what about Kumanjavi Haywood aged 34, Kumarn Rubuntja aged 46, Ngeygo Rgurrk aged 40, and Miss Yunupinju aged 29?

In 2021 Kumanjavi was hiding in the bathroom of her home on the outskirts of Alice Springs when her partner who knew she was there, set fire to the house. He had been a known domestic violence offender for 20 years. However that didn't stop his release on bail, giving him the opportunity to kill Kumanjavi. In the same year Kumarn Rubuntja a well known campaigner against domestic violence was deliberately run over outside the Alice Springs Hospital.

Two years earlier Ngeygo Rgurrk was stabbed and then drowned by her partner on Mindel Beach (Darwin). Even earlier still in 2018 Miss Yunupinju was stabbed to death by her partner in Palmerston near Darwin. All four women had suffered decades of domestic violence prior to their deaths, and all four had told either the authorities or a family member that they would be killed by their partners.

The deaths of these four First Nations women have been the subject of a recent coronial inquest in the Northern Territory. The NT Coroner Elisabeth Armitage has been reported as saying that '81 women have died because of domestic violence since 2000, and 93% of those women were indigenous.' She went on to say that 'First Nations women are at a higher risk of experiencing family and domestic violence.'

At this point it is appropriate that I confess my own particular interest and prejudice. I lived and worked in the NT for a few years, taught indigenous children and teenagers much less than what they taught me, and I have a deep and abiding love and respect for Aboriginal people. Nevertheless domestic violence is domestic violence - and whether women are indigenous or non-indigenous, born in Australia or elsewhere, they have a right to have much more protection than they have now. Police officers, parole

boards, judges and magistrates need more DV awareness training and lessons in good old common sense, so offenders cannot so easily get out on bail and ignore Domestic Violence Orders.

Fortunately some measures have been taken to help relieve the crisis of domestic violence in Australia. Last year some legislation was passed enabling DV victims to have 10 days of paid leave a year in their workplace, so that it is easier for them to get the medical, legal, or other help they may need, without forfeiting their income.

Last year in Australia at least 57 women were killed, the majority of whom died at the hands of partners or former partners. As of October 26th, 2023 there have been at least 42 deaths. We are talking about women whose lives and deaths matter. They were mothers. They were daughters. They were sisters and nieces. They were friends and very valued members of extended family and community.

On Friday 17th, it was *White Ribbon Day* otherwise called the *National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women*.

Let us take the opportunity on that day to reflect on what we can do to help end the violence towards women. Perhaps the first step is to learn more by looking with God's eyes so we are AWARE. The second step is to CARE with God's love and compassion. The third step is to sensitively and carefully SHARE with God's words with those in our relationship networks who currently do not know or care.

Let us reflect on what we can do to help end the violence towards women. Perhaps the first step is to learn more by looking with God's eyes so we are AWARE. The second step is to CARE with God's love and compassion. The third step is to sensitively and carefully SHARE with God's words with those in our relationship networks who currently do not know or care.

If you want some more information there is plenty online, including [www.whiteribbon.org.au](http://www.whiteribbon.org.au), [australianfemicidewatch.org](http://australianfemicidewatch.org). (The Red Heart Campaign with its memorial to domestic homicide victims) and Counting Dead Women Australia on Facebook.

**The Rev'd Flo Walters**

**Social Issues & Action Co-ordinator, AMUA  
Diocese of Willochra**



## Churches have 'huge potential' to build safer communities

Church communities have immense untapped potential to tackle the scourge of domestic violence by following a few simple guidelines, Flinders University social work Professor Sarah Wendt says.

'These are caring communities where a sense of belonging matters, she's says. 'So churches can become a powerful influence on people who use violence and a powerful support for victims of it.' Professor Wendt recognises taking action can be daunting as people fear doing or saying the wrong thing but she insists people do not have to be experts.

'You don't have to know the ins and outs of domestic violence and sexual assault,' she says. 'You just have to listen, show empathy, and be non-judgemental. Those are the three guiding principles, which will enable a checking in about safety too.'

It is all about creating safe spaces for people and recognising the courage of that person who came forward. By doing that, it creates a framework for offering support to victims, she says. And the risk of not acting is much greater than the fear of saying the wrong thing.

'Often when victims of domestic violence or sexual assault first seek help they are testing the waters and see what the response will be,' Professor Wendt says.

'Research shows that if that first experience is negative it can stop them seeking help again for a very long time.'

Helping church workers tackle domestic violence, equipping clergy and church workers to better understand the role everyone can play in preventing and responding to domestic violence was the aim of the Domestic and Family Violence Working Group for the Diocese of Adelaide in partnership with White Ribbon Australia. The aim of the 'You **Can** Ask That' panel event in November was raise awareness about gender-based violence and highlight ways to build safer communities during the [16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence](#).

This was a valuable opportunity to learn more about responding to disclosures of domestic abuse, ways to provide longer term pastoral care and support to survivors of domestic abuse, supports available for those who use violence and to assist in developing greater knowledge of the availability of community-based resources. The event was facilitated by Mr. Alex Conway, Men's Engagement Partner with White Ribbon

Australia. Alex's work involves educating men and boys around the role they must play in preventing violence against women and children. Alex educates men and boys about the impact of traditional forms of masculinity, which are as harmful to men and boys as they are to women and girls.

He enjoys seeing first-hand the attitude shift that occurs when the men and boys he speaks with realise they must stop being passive bystanders to become active bystanders in order to make a positive contribution to social change which benefits everyone. Prior to his appointment with White Ribbon Alex worked in indigenous health and disability. Earlier this year he was nominated for the Westfield Local Hero Awards.

Panellists for this event were Prof. Sarah Wendt from This year the Diocese has commissioned Flinders University's Social Work Research Innovation Living Space ([SWIRLS](#)) to conduct a study with clergy and church-workers in the Anglican Diocese of Adelaide on managing disclosures of child abuse, sexual assault, and domestic abuse.

### **New report calls for the internet to be regulated as an essential service**

Anglicare Australia has launched a paper calling on governments to treat and regulate the internet as an essential service. Executive Director Kasy Chambers said that governments must regulate the internet as an essential service. 'Across the country, our services have told us that people struggle to get help, information, and opportunities without access to the internet.

'People on low incomes are often forced to use expensive internet options on their phones, or to travel to access free internet, because they can't afford internet plans. That must change. We are calling for guaranteed low-cost options for people who need them. The internet has become an essential service for all Australians. It's time to treat it like one.'

**Adelaide Church Guardian**



Alex Conway

## Words from the Heart - Sr Sandra Sears

### FALLING OFF



I had lost my footing.  
I, bumbling, fumbling me,  
had finally tumbled off the tightrope,  
down to the sawdust-ground  
with all the other clowns.  
But there I,  
shy,  
and of the two-left-footed variety,  
found myself dancing  
like there was no tomorrow,  
and singing at the top of my voice  
to Handel's Messiah;  
**'For unto us a child is born!'**  
then, in awed, hushed tones,  
reaching out,  
entreating  
the audience standing around,  
holding this precious gift before them:  
**'Unto us a child is born.  
Unto us a son is given.'**  
Look!  
See!  
This gift is for us!  
For you!  
This is not just about dry, narrow  
rule or doctrine,  
to be trod carefully,  
with perfect poise and balance.  
This is about the One  
who dared - *dares* to share  
our blood and bone and sinews  
and heart and gut feelings,  
who takes and remakes us  
to dance and sing in ways  
we would never have thought possible!

You can't dance on a tightrope.  
So sometimes falling off  
is the best thing that can happen to you.

©Rev'd. Sr. Sandra Sears CSBC 18/11/23

### THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG



I have charted the contours of this icy country,  
naming its peaks,  
and mapping its plateaus;  
land marks to guide me,  
assure me of my safe place,  
my belonging within the truth I hold dear.  
And I have watched those who dare  
to travel to its edges  
driven either by despair  
or by choice,  
plunging off into the surrounding sea;  
those who return with stories  
of dark crags and crannies  
and eerie undersea voices,  
whispering truths too deep  
to be voiced in the open air;  
stories told in hushed tones  
and eyes wet, not with the salt of sea water,  
but with tears of awe and wonder  
from the visions they experienced.  
And in those tears I have glimpsed truths  
far beyond my own,  
and, like Job,  
have laid my hand over my mouth  
and wept my own hot tears of shame  
for my arrogance  
of having assumed  
that it is I who shape this country,  
when all along it is this country  
that shapes me.

©Rev'd. Sr. Sandra Sears CSBC 11/11/23 CSBC



## The Last word - Rev'd Elizabeth Harris



### Greetings to all,

On the 30th September I was ordained by Bishop Jeremy to become a Deacon to lead services and to provide pastoral care to the people of Riverton and thereabouts.

I accepted this position with much joy but with some trepidation, now being in the 'older' part of my life, but with God's help and with the power of the Holy Spirit to guide me, I pray that I may fulfil this position for some time to come.

I love our little church here in Riverton which was built in 1858, and I often imagine the large congregation at that time, travelling up between the two rows of gum trees, some tying their horses to the fence, strolling in with their bibles to sit down and listen to the priest preach a sermon which might go on for some time. Home to a roast dinner and an afternoon rest.

As I am putting together this edition of the Willochran, I am aware that summer is almost upon us and no doubt I should be outside watering my garden. Perhaps it will rain tomorrow as promised - and a bit more than 10 drops!

December 3rd marks the first Sunday in the season of Advent, and before we know it, Christmas will be upon us. What is your church congregation planning for your Christmas service?

I believe that as we relive the birth of Christ, we must pray constantly for the peace of our world and for the many thousands of people who do not have what we have, peace in our time. The world is in turmoil at present, with wars in the Middle East and in Ukraine, floods in Asia, unrest in Africa, famine, hunger, homelessness, despair. Beautiful families torn apart with children wondering what will happen to them.

On Remembrance Day this year, I read the following passage from the gospel of Mark Chapter 13, verses.1-8, 24 - 27

*As Jesus came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, 'Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!' Then Jesus asked him, 'Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.'*

*When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, 'Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?' Then Jesus began to say to them, 'Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, "I am he!" and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines... In the days following that distress, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.'*

It seems that these predictions are as true today as when the gospel was written. I have inserted a prayer for the peace of the world at the beginning of this copy of the Willochran and could I ask that you read it yourself and perhaps at a church service, as I believe that can only be through prayer that our wonderful world can be mended.

**Rev'd Elizabeth Harris**

### Advertising space is available in the Willochran

#### Costs are as follows: per edition

Business card size	\$25.00
1/3rd column quarter page	\$30.00
1/3rd column half page	\$60.00
Half column quarter page	\$40.00
25% discount if two successive editions	
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**See the Willochran contact details on page 2**

**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 periodic electronic payments or to make a bequest to the Diocese for any of its missional initiatives.

**The Willochra Bursary.** 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.

**THE FRIENDS OF THE DIOCESE OF WILLOCHRA**

Send completed form to  
**The Registrar, Diocese of Willochra, PO Box 96,  
 Gladstone 5473**

**Membership \$25.00 per family per annum due 30th June  
 each year or a pledge of period electronic giving.**

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 BSB: 105-049 Account: 0324 395 40  
 (Please use your Name and FOW as your reference)

Please send me information on making periodic payments or on making a bequest in my Will.

**THE ANGLICARE WILLOCHRA BURSARY PROJECT**

**for THE WILLOCHRA BURSARY**

Send completed form to  
 The Willochra Bursary, Diocese of Willochra,  
 PO Box 96, Gladstone 5473

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 BSB: 105-049 Account: 0324 395 40  
 (Please use your Name as your reference)

Please send me a receipt so I can claim tax



*Bishop David and Mary*






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Allan Street, Crystal Brook SA 5523

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

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

Phone: 08 8636 2320



## The Anglican Church of Australia - The Diocese of Willochra

# OUR MISSION STATEMENT

### BIBLICAL MANDATE

Jesus came and said to his disciples, "All authority in heaven and on earth is given to me. *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.*" Matthew 28: 18 - 20

Jesus said, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses... to the ends of the earth." Acts 1: 8


### OUR VISION

To be followers of Christ, filled with the Holy Spirit, confident in faith and sharing it boldly.

### FIVE MARKS OF MISSION

(ACC 2012)

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To seek to transform unjust structures of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth



### OUR GOALS

1. Proclaim the Good News and make disciples of Jesus
2. Grow a mature and confident faith in Jesus
3. Be transformed by the Holy Spirit to reach our God given potential

4. Encounter God through meaningful, uplifting and engaging worship
5. Show God's love for the whole Creation
6. Pursue God's justice in the world through word and action
7. Share our gifts with others


## OUR FOUNDATIONS

*"Mission and evangelism are the very life-blood of the church"*  
(Stephen Pickard).

We, the church in the Diocese of Willochra, are not only about ensuring a "future church", but about "entering into God's mission which desires life in all its fullness for the earth and all that dwells therein" and allowing that mission to transform our church now. (Life in Abundance: Imagining the present Church).

The life-blood 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  
PO Box 96, Gladstone  
5473  
Ph (08) 8662 2249



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