

Anglican Riverland Grapevine



The magazine of the **Mission District of the Riverland**

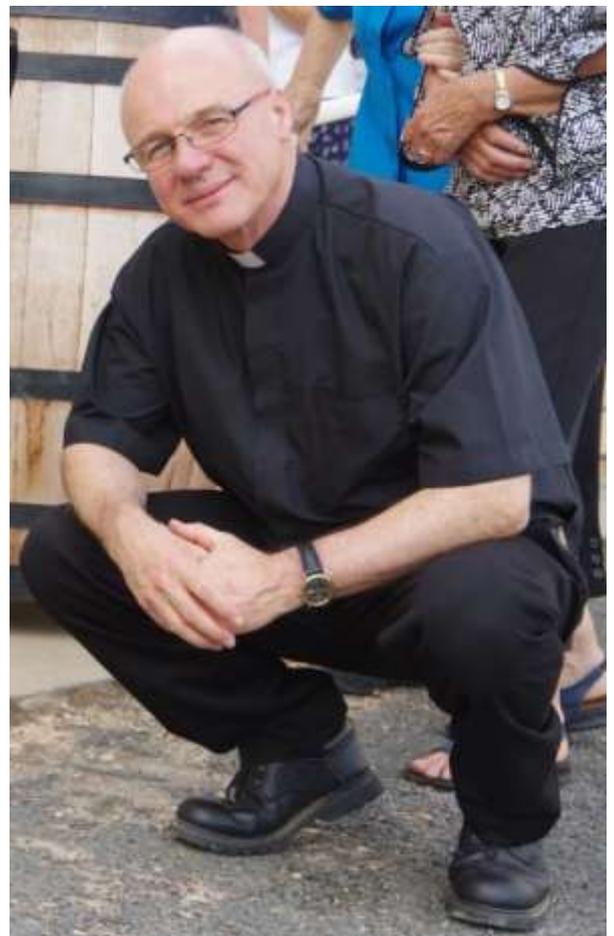
April 2018

Jesus reveals new life

I hope you had a wonderful Easter. It was great to see the number of people who attended our services during Holy Week. Nearly 250 people worshipped in the three great days of Holy Week from Maundy Thursday to Easter Day at our churches. The presence of God in our midst was certainly evident for me this Easter. The presence of God's creatures was also evident with the number of birds in the church for the Easter Vigil at St Oswald's Monash!

I was again reminded this Easter of the intimate relationship Jesus had with His Father in Heaven, particularly in the Garden of Gethsemane on Maundy Thursday before he was arrested and faced the cross on Good Friday. Jesus went with his disciples to the garden where he pleaded with his Father not to go through the death he was to suffer. In Jesus' prayer, he called God "Abba", an intimate Aramaic name for Father and said "for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet not what I want, but what you want." (Mark 14:36) Faced with betrayal, rank, injustice, abuse and the most appalling and cruel death, he prayed "Not my will, but yours be done." (Luke 22:42) Jesus knew he was not addressing a remote grim God who was looking to punish him or cause him pain, but the one he called Abba, Father. He knew he was loved within the unity of God's family. He also knew that the only safe place, the only place of real security, was in the will of the Father.

I was also again struck by the encounter between Mary Magdalene and Jesus on the day of his resurrection. Mary Magdalene had arrived early at the tomb and found the stone rolled back and Jesus' body gone. She ran back to tell the others. Two of the disciples returned and found the burial wrappings on the ground and then returned to tell the other disciples. Mary stayed on alone. By doing so, she saw angels who spoke to her with words of comfort and was the first person, even though she mistook him for the gardener, to see Jesus after he had risen from the dead. Like Mary Magdalene, we can stumble searching for Jesus Christ in our lives and to miss the signs of our Lord's presence in us. Angels were not enough for Mary so Christ himself came and called her by name.



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Mission District of the Riverland

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Jesus wants us to have a personal and intimate relationship with him. Sometimes though we don't want to, don't have the time to, or don't recognise him in our midst. I encourage you to recognise him more through prayer and to be nourished by him through worship, so that we can recognise Jesus more so in our lives. The Season of Easter continues for the next 40 days when we celebrate Jesus' ascension into heaven and then Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit for all people.

We renewed our baptismal vows at the Easter Vigil and on Easter Day. If there is anyone who wishes to be baptised, please contact me. Also, I would like to start confirmation classes shortly. There are a number of people who have expressed interest in being confirmed. Again, please contact me if you wish to be confirmed. Confirmation is for those who have been baptised as an infant and wish to make the baptismal vows for themselves.

With every blessing this Easter season.

Fr Paul

ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING 2018

The Annual Vestry meeting of the Mission District of the Riverland was held on 25 March.

'**Mission District**'? Weren't we a Pastoral District? The Diocese of the Murray has now been formed into only eight areas. In most cases this involves combining Parishes and Pastoral Districts and calling them 'Mission Partnerships'. There is no change, however, in the Riverland and our churches are already working together, with a combined Council. We are therefore calling ourselves the Mission District of the Riverland. It follows that we have a **Mission District Council**. While looking at names, the confusion of local management / ministry / committee / groups has been simplified to **Ministry Groups**. There are still four within the Mission District.

In summary, the Annual Vestry:

- Received reports from the Priest and Wardens.
- Accepted the 2017 financial reports and the 2018 budget distributed in the Vestry Reports ... and thanked Cheryl for her significant work over the last year as Treasurer.
- Announced appointments and elections for our local positions, plus the Synod of the Diocese – see *adjacent page*.
- Adopted the new **Mission Action Plan 2018-19**, with two minor adjustments from the version distributed in the Vestry Reports. A new printed copy should be in your church.
- Passed a motion for Mission District Council to create a working group to investigate the stewardship of our resources and the ongoing viability of the Mission District.
- Heard Deacon Scott speak of becoming involved with the ecumenical Waikerie and Morgan **Youth Hubs** and exciting plans to establish a Youth Hub in the Berri Church Hall.
- Was introduced by Deacon Scott to **Sunday Night Lite** - creating new congregations with friendly, relaxed, 'evangelical' style non-Eucharistic worship, based around a meal. It is planned to commence these at Berri on 6 May and Waikerie on 20 May. Fr Paul noted that a core of volunteers is sought to assist in these initiatives.

Mark Taylor

APPOINTMENTS / ELECTIONS 2018

Churchwardens

Congregation	Priest's Warden	People's Warden
Barmera	Pauline Stevens	John Reed
Berri	Nerida Stanton	Rosemary Kassebaum
Loxton	Louise Burgess	Peter Hartley
Monash	Gordon Sharp	Joy Stoeckel
Morgan	Tony English	
Renmark	Shirley Sims	Philip Lockyer
Waikerie	Janet Grosse	June Taylor

Ministry Groups

Ministry Group	Priest and relevant Wardens, plus the following:
Berri-Barmera-Monash	Cheryl Davis, Jenny Siviour
Loxton	Daphne Dack, Rob Lehmann, Jennie Lory, Aimee Smith
Renmark	Ruth Daws, Jonathan Ellis, Mary Kent, Lianne Pannell, Marie Pearce, Judith Taylor, Ellen Traeger
Waikerie-Morgan	Yvonne Bird, Dean Grosse, Anne Hall, Melissa Mudd, Mark Taylor

Mission District Council has a revised structure this year:

Role	Person
Chair	Lay member representing the Mission District on Diocesan Council – currently Ruth Daws (<i>elections by Synod</i>)
Priest	Fr Paul Devenport
Mission District Secretary	Mark Taylor
Mission District Treasurer	Cheryl Davis

Plus two representatives, at least one being a Warden, from each Ministry Group:

Ministry Group	Councillors
Berri-Barmera-Monash	Jenny Siviour, Nerida Stanton
Loxton	Louise Burgess, Peter Hartley
Renmark	Philip Lockyer, Shirley Sims
Waikerie-Morgan	Dean Grosse, Janet Grosse

Synod of the Diocese of the Murray

Fr Paul will be joined by eight Lay representatives (elected for a three year term):

Lay Representative	Ministry Group	
Jenny Siviour	Berri-Barmera-Monash	
Ruth Daws	Renmark	
Dean Grosse	Waikerie	
Mark Taylor	Waikerie	
Anne Lehmann	Loxton	Nominated following Vestry
Rob Lehmann	Loxton	Nominated following Vestry
Eve Van Der Woude	Berri-Barmera-Monash	Nominated following Vestry
to be filled		

Two Substitutionary Lay members of Synod were elected (for a three year term):

Lay Representative	Ministry Group
Peter Hartley	Loxton
Janet Grosse	Waikerie

CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION, LOXTON

Our last **monthly lunch** for December 2017 was a very festive occasion. Brightly decorated tables and everyone enjoying the fact that Christmas was approaching.



We celebrated **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Night** as usual in 'Loxton' style, with a good turnout of the Loxton community turning up for savoury and sweet pancakes. Great company, delicious food, what more could anyone ask for?

The **Modern Market** was held on 24 February in the grounds of our church and hall, and we raised \$1,449.00 on the day! It's a fantastic fundraiser. Another successful event with lots of colourful stalls and people everywhere. Fantastic!

The **Baptism** of Saxton James Fielke was held on 21 March. What a lovely young family we have in our midst, whose other son, William, brings much joy and delight during services (as pictured here during our Christmas service).



The **Mothering Sunday** service was taken by Jennie Lory. Simnel cake and a posy of flowers was handed out after the service.

Our **monthly lunches** are back in full swing again with our next lunch a Harvest Thanksgiving service on 6 May at Anne Battam's house, in 'café style'. If you would like to join us for lunch, please contact us (details in the Pew Sheet). The more the merrier and we would love to see you there!

A very blessed Easter to everyone!

Daphne Dack

ST AUGUSTINE'S, RENMARK

At a lovely **Baptism service** on 17 December last year, Alice and Lauren Pendle were welcomed into God's family.

The **Mothering Sunday** service was conducted by Rev'd Scott Mudd, who was warmly welcomed on his first visit to our Church. Beautiful posies were presented to our parishioners, along with traditional simnel cake.

Mid Lent Supper has become a bit of a tradition. We meet about 5:30 pm with food and drinks to share sitting outside our Church enjoying the cooler autumn weather. This year it was unusually hot, but still enjoyed by about 10 parishioners ... lovely fellowship.

Renmark Rocks on Festival has become very popular, with visitors from across the state and interstate. Saturday morning became a hive of activities with many stalls, including our produce stall. We had a wonderful array of food to sell, including a sausage sizzle. Unfortunately it was quite hot and numbers were down, however we still managed to raise over \$900. Thank you to all involved.

Palm Sunday Evening Service at 6:00 pm was organised by Ruth Daws for the young and the 'young at heart'. Seven children and six adults attended. It was a wonderful, simple service to help children understand a little of the true significance of Easter, with singing, children playing simple instruments and impromptu dancing to the music. The altar was decorated with candles. After the service, children enjoyed decorating a little Easter box which was filled with 'mystery items' and tied with ribbon, with instructions not to open till Easter Day. I wonder how many were tempted to open as soon as they left the Church! The evening was finished with a delivery of pizzas. Oh to be a child again! A huge thank you to Ruth for her ministry to the young.

Ruth Daws conducted a **Healing Service** at 4:00 pm in our Church on Palm Sunday. Thank you Ruth for this valuable ministry.

On **Good Friday** we had an ecumenical 'Way of the Cross' shared in the Jarrett Memorial Gardens with other churches in Renmark, followed by afternoon tea in the garden with homemade hot cross buns.



On **Easter Day** we had our early morning (6:30 am) service in the Jarrett Memorial Gardens and our Easter Day church service at 11:00 am - made extra special with the **baptism** of Mia Williams. The Church looked beautiful with all the candles and arrangements of fresh flowers.

Shirley Sims



ST JAMES, WAIKERIE



The **Christmas Eve Service** for 2017 was the first service using the new large TV screen, with the service on a slideshow, and Deacon Scott assisting Fr Paul. Many thanks to Dean Grosse for his work in purchasing this screen and overseeing its installation when he was also coping with health issues. Deacon Scott made the slideshow happen and Melissa Mudd played the guitar for Ayla singing Silent Night, and the organ for the hymns and the new setting for the Communion service.



Children dressed the Nativity.



On 28 January we had a family service to 'Bless the School Bags' before school commenced the next day. There were a few primary school children and one teacher present and we all enjoyed a barbeque lunch in the hall after the service.



On 18 February, the first Sunday in Lent, **Bishop John**, assisted by Deacon Scott, celebrated Holy Communion at Waikerie. After contacting as many parishioners as we could to let them know the change of time of the service, we were pleased to have a good spread of people from every age group attend.

We began **Lenten Studies** on 21 February at Scott and Melissa's home with a meal first, followed by the study at 7:30 pm. Those who attended found the study interesting and very thought provoking under Scott's leadership.



Good Friday service was well attended, including some visitors who were holidaying in Waikerie for the Easter break.

On **Easter Day** we had Fr John Devenport and Deacon Scott taking the service and Deacon Scott giving the sermon. Melissa was again able to play the electronic organ which was donated by Greg John following his visit to the Riverland last November.

Rather than juggling 10 and 11 am services, from May, St James will be consistent with a **Sunday 11:00 am service**.

June Taylor

St Peter's, Morgan

On the last Sunday in January, the service was held at Morgan and a carload of Waikerie people attended to hear Deacon Scott preach his first sermon in the Riverland, which we enjoyed very much. Following the service, we had a shared lunch in the Hall.

Deacon Scott is to start trialing a regular service at Morgan in its own right, rather than replacing a Waikerie service.

This will start on 15 April with an Easter theme. Services will then be held on the **first Sunday of each month at 8:30 am**.



CENTRAL AREA – BERRI, BARMERA, MONASH

St Edmund's, Baramera

Since the last Grapevine we have had several services with Deacon Scott Mudd and he has taken a **Prayer, Praise and Proclamation** service which was different to our usual Morning Prayer.

The **Bishop** came in February and took a service and it was a delightful morning as he joined us in the hall for a chat and morning tea afterwards.

Pancake Tea was held on Shrove Tuesday and around 25 people attended this for savoury and sweet pancakes, ably cooked by John.



Mothering Sunday is held on the fourth Sunday of Lent – leading to Holy Week and Easter. The day is also known as Refreshment Sunday or Rose Sunday. Deacon Scott Mudd gave Fr Paul a rose-coloured chasuble with Mass set to accompany it. Fr Paul looked resplendent.

Mothering Sunday is a day when the fasting rules for Lent are relaxed. In early times Mothering Sunday was a day when domestic servants were given the day off to visit their mother church, usually with their mothers and other family members. The children would

pick flowers along the way and place them in the church or give them to their mothers.

At St Edmunds, Baramera, Janet Aird presented all the Mother's with a small posy of flowers.

Dorothy Dunk made the Simnel cake which was blessed by Fr Paul and thoroughly enjoyed by the parishioners at morning tea.



Good Friday Service was followed by Hot Cross Buns and chat in the hall.

Our **Easter Service** was taken by Father John and Deacon Scott, which was very meaningful and again followed by Easter Pavlova and chat in the hall.

Our **monthly markets** continue to be successful and our twilight market by the lake on Easter Sunday was a good fundraiser at which we sold pies, biscuits and jams

John Reed, Jenny Siviour

St Oswald's, Monash

Since Christmas it has been a very busy time at St Oswalds and amongst the monthly activities has been Berri and Barmera with the goodies and selling at the **Bamera markets**.

In February we had the **Blessing of the School Bags** and despite Erin (Pastoral Care Worker) giving talks at all her schools we did not have any children attend ... possibly due to the service being so early in the school year. Afterwards, we went to the Monash Hall for a BBQ tea where two celebrated their birthdays.

On 18 Feb we enjoyed the **Mwangaza African Choir**, and Erin and the other Pastoral Care Workers were commissioned for 2018.

Lenton Studies have been held in Berri on a Tuesday morning. We are enjoying Deacon Scott's services and it is a break for Gordon who has previously officiated at the Prayer, Praise and Proclamation Services.



In March we had another Saturday night service with the celebration of all mothers. (**Mothering Sunday** was the next day.) All mothers attending were given a small posy of flowers and another shared tea was enjoyed in the church grounds.

Palm Sunday Service was held in Berri with the Annual Vestry meeting following.

Finally the highlight for the year so far was the **Easter Vigil Service**, BUT we had an invasion of swallows staying inside the church. Fr John, Deacon Scott and John Reed assisted Fr Paul with this service. Thanks to Dorothy Dunk for being our organist at all the Saturday night services - much appreciated. Chicken and champagne, with hot cross buns, were shared after this Easter Service. Finally, a big thank you to all who have done so much so far this year and a particular thanks to Ron Lieven for making the church grounds look 'loved' for Easter.

Gordon Sharp and Joy Stoeckel

St Alban's, Berri

St Alban's Berri was the Mission District host this year for **Palm Sunday**, which represented the start of the most important week of the Church's Year, Holy Week. It began with a procession of palms around the church, before entering the church for the service itself. This is the celebration of Jesus entering triumphantly into Jerusalem. It also traces the events of the week leading up to Good Friday. The service was followed by the **Annual Vestry meeting** and a shared lunch. Thanks go to those at Loxton for making the palm crosses.



As a result of the hot weather in January, services were moved to **9 am on Tuesday mornings**, with mixed success. This occurred until Easter. The new service time led to an offer by the owner of Mason's Café to have a service in air conditioned comfort on a Saturday. The café was blessed during the service.

Subsequent discussions with the owner led to the idea of a **café church**, which Fr Paul spoke about to the Bishop, who enthusiastically endorsed it.

The first café church was held on a weekend the Bishop was visiting the Riverland, so we benefitted from his participation. Nearly 30 parishioners attended, with most staying for a meal afterwards.



Participants were given the opportunity to privately write down what they were sorry for ... and then burn these on a small fire outside.

Another café church is being held on Saturday 21 April at 5 pm. The theme is 'Starting Life Afresh', as part of the season of Easter. The service is held in a relaxed



atmosphere and is intended for anyone who desires to have a relationship with Jesus Christ. If you wish to stay on for dinner, it is \$25 per person. Please bring your own wine or beer; soft drinks are available for purchase. RSVP must be in by Thursday 19 April at 5 pm to Nerida Stanton 0408 077 921.



Plans are also underway for a Sunday night service on the first Sunday of the month, starting on 6 May at 5 pm. This '**Sunday Night Lite**' will be contemporary in nature and is aimed at families and young people and those who are young at heart. Deacon Scott Mudd will lead this service.

A **Youth Hub** is also being organised. The concept has been endorsed by our Mission District Council and the Berri Barmera Ministers Association and will be held in the church hall between 4 pm and 7 pm on the third Friday afternoon of the month.

Wardens: Nerida Stanton & Rosemary Kassebaum

*Was there a Right
and was there a Wrong?
Reformation Diversities
With Fr David Patterson*



*Mount Barker McLaren Vale Mount Gambier
27* - 29* April 4* - 6* May 18* - 20* May*

The first sessions of the freshly revised Formation Weekends will begin in April.
These will be open for everyone across the Diocese at no cost.

For more details or to register your attendance please contact
Jasmine Irvine: jasamine@murray.anglican.org

Friday

Gather from 5:30pm for a 6:00pm start: Pizza and a Movie
A Man for All Seasons, followed by conversation and tea and coffee.

Saturday

Starting at 9:30am, finishing at 5:00pm: teaching sessions, workshops
and discussions.
Morning tea, Lunch and Afternoon tea will be provided.

Sunday

Mass (check local pew sheets for times): 1549 *The First English liturgy*,
followed by discussion and lunch, concluding by 2:00pm

This is the first of three formation topics for the Diocese in 2018 – **open to all at no cost!**
The second is 'Biblical Prophecy' with Fr Martin Bleby on **13-15 July**.
The third is 'Pastoral' with Bishop John Ford and Fr Peter Carlsson on **12-14 October**.