

# Anglican Riverland Grapevine



The magazine of the **Pastoral District of the Riverland**  
**December 2016**

There is a sense of excitement for many people at this time of the year with Christmas approaching. There is a sense of relief for others with end of year exams or assignments over for the year. It is a time to be with family and friends, to celebrate Christmas and maybe enjoy a relaxing break.

As part of that excitement, I do sincerely hope that we take the time as part of our Christmas celebrations to rejoice in God's Son, Jesus Christ, who came to us as one of us and lived as one of us, and continues to do so through the Holy Spirit. Please take note of the Christmas services in the magazine, starting with 'Festival of Lessons and Carols' at St Alban's, Berri, on 18 December. We are privileged to have the lead chorister from St Peter's Cathedral Choir, Jola Kudrow, along with the Barmera Men's Choir on the night. This service, along with all celebrations of worship week by week are most important; in coming together as a community to praise God, to reflect on the bible readings and to receive the consecrated bread and wine to keep us going spiritually.

Last month, we held a prayer vigil at all our churches in the Riverland. This was a time where we prayed for the renewal of the church in the region and in the Diocese. The prayer vigil followed a call by Bishop John Ford who wants us to spend time faithfully as Christians in the Diocese in praying regularly. Bishop John believes we should take action on many things, but we don't do it without prayer first. Jesus reminds us of the importance of prayer in Matthew 7:7. *"Ask, and it will be given you, search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you."* Jesus showed us the importance of prayer by the number of hours, sometimes from very early in the morning and into the night, that he prayed to His Father in heaven.

Bishop John is also keen for all of us to come together to study the bible on a regular basis. We have started an Advent study at Monash titled 'Expecting Jesus', but it is my hope that we can have Lenten Studies in all our churches from next March. The study will be one by the Bishop titled 'Spare a Minute'. The course is intended to encourage a renewed understanding of what it means to be baptised. Spread over six weeks, it will follow the Gospel reading for each week. I hope you are able to consider taking part in the study - more details on this in the new year.

I have been also very conscious of the losses many Riverland growers have suffered from the severe hailstorm on 11 November. As a result, a service is planned at St Alban's, Berri, on Thursday 2 February at 10 am. We hope the service provides encouragement for the Riverland community, and is timed just as the harvest of grapes is about to begin for this season.

May I take this opportunity to wish you a blessed, holy and joyous Christmas.

**Fr Paul**





Anglican Diocese of the Murray  
**Pastoral District of the Riverland**

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## PASTORAL CARE

One of the objectives of our Mission Action Plan is to further equip ourselves to provide pastoral care to others.

This has been further highlighted in a vision meeting of the Pastoral District, in a meeting of Pastoral Assistants and in a questionnaire distributed in the central area regarding the establishment of home groups.

As a result, I have organised a session with Kirsty Barnett from ac.care. Kirsty has skills in this area so I am delighted that she is able to spare the time to be with us on that day and time.

The meeting will aim to further develop our listening skills and to know what services, particularly in the community services sector, to refer people to, in times where they may require extra help.

Kirsty has requested, to assist her in preparing for the day, that you pass to me any suggestions regarding what you may like to gain from the session. I will then pass them onto Kirsty.

This meeting has been organised for those who are involved and licensed in pastoral care in the Riverland, although I extend an invitation to anyone who may be interested in coming along.

**Fr Paul**

### Pastoral Care workshop

Saturday 25 February, 3 pm

ac.care, 5 Kealley Street, Berri



### The Three Wise Women

*You do know what would have happened if it had been three wise WOMEN instead of men, don't you?*

*They would have asked for directions, arrived on time, helped deliver the baby, cleaned the stable, made a casserole, and brought disposable nappies as gifts!*

# CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION, LOXTON

We have had a very busy and productive time at the Church of the Resurrection. A re-vamp in our gardens with 20 tonnes of crusher dust and new plants has given a lovely face lift. A huge thank you to Anne and Rob Lehmann for all their hard work. Also thank you to Neil and Sharyn Schlein of Schlein's Quarries for donating the crush and to Barry Davies for assisting Rob with spreading it everywhere! We really appreciate the generosity of all involved.

Our monthly lunches have been very well supported, and we recently held a lunch at Jennie Lory's house. It was a beautiful day and much fun was had by all.

We have just had our final lunch for the year, with our next lunch planned for April 2017. The cost of the lunches is \$15.00 per head and all are welcome!

A new initiative which is proving quite popular is a sing-a-long held on the second Sunday of every month. We invite everyone to come along and sing some songs – suggestions gratefully accepted! We sing for about an hour and the fellowship is brilliant!



We held our Patronal Festival in November followed by a breakfast in our Church Hall. Anne Lehmann served a delicious breakfast which was much appreciated by all attendees. Again, thank you Anne!

Our Christmas Eve promises to be a wonderful celebration this year with two baptisms on the night. We will sing carols from 8:30 pm and the service itself will start at 9:00 pm. We invite you to join us at this celebration.

Our plans for the New Year include Shrove Tuesday Pancake Night, more sing-a-longs and lunches. We do hope you will join us.

At this time of year, we would like to thank all who volunteer in our Church, our Pastoral Assistants, Fr Paul and everyone who contributes in every small way. Without you, our wonderful community would not be the same! Thank you.

**Louise Burgess**



Cartoon: Rene 'Dikko' Dikkenberg

# ST AUGUSTINE'S, RENMARK

## Bible Study

Wednesday is Bible Study day in Renmark. Two groups meet - one in the morning after the 10 o'clock Holy Eucharist and the other at 6 o'clock in the evening. Discussion in these groups focusses on the readings for the following Sunday. During Lent the groups undertook a Lenten Study Course.



## Twilight Supper

As has become a tradition at St Augustine's, we have a Twilight Supper on Refreshment Sunday during Lent. This usually takes place outside of our church adjacent to the gardens and river. This year it was so hot on the night we moved the venue to the much cooler Saint Monica's Room. An enjoyable evening of food and fellowship was had by all who attended. Thanks must go to Ruth Daws for her organisation of this evening.

## Lunches

Another opportunity for fellowship is offered after our monthly 11 o'clock service when parishioners have lunch together at various venues in Renmark.

## Work For the Dole

This program commenced in late June and its focus is on the redevelopment of the gardens of the Church and Rectory. Good progress has been made and already positive comments on how the Rectory Garden is 'shaping up' have been made by people passing on the walking path adjacent to the Rectory. This program continued in the latter part of the year with the church garden also receiving a 'facelift'.

These improvements would not have been possible without the benefit of this Federal Government program.

*Jane Pitt*

## St Augustine's Day

St Augustine's Day and the 110th anniversary of the dedication of St Augustine's Anglican Church, Renmark, was celebrated on Sunday 21 August.

There were 41 people, including some children, visitors from outside of our Pastoral District, and some from other churches within our Pastoral District, in attendance for the service with a good number staying on for the lunch afterwards in the Hall.

Fr Paul gave a brief history of the origins of the name of the church; that being that it was named after St Augustine of Hippo, who was a well know theologian and Bishop in Nth Africa, during the 4th Century.



It was also 110 years since the church was dedicated. The land for the church was donated in 1905 and the church was dedicated one year later.

Fr Paul mentioned a number of priests who had served in the parish who had an influence on him over the years (not all 110 of them)! He mentioned Fr Roger Wood, Philip Carter and Phil Anderson, all of whom have served at St Augustine's, Renmark.

There was the opportunity for fellowship and a meal after the service in the Hall. As usual there was plenty to eat, and lots of chatter.

**Judith Taylor**



*Santa's elves are actually subordinate Clauses.*

*When they are making toys, they sing "Love Me Tender".  
That's why we call them Santa's little Elvis.*



# CENTRAL AREA – BERRI, BARMERA, MONASH

## St Edmund's, Barmera

We **welcome** Jenny Marshall, ...and Kerry Hartwig to our fold, while we farewell Bob Tanko, who has moved to residential care in Adelaide.

Pancake tea on Shrove Tuesday was a great evening with the Barmera Guides and fellow parishioners joining us for pancakes, but it highlighted the need for insulation to be installed in the Barmera Church Hall. This project has been undertaken with enthusiasm by the parishioners, resulting in receiving a grant of \$2445.00 from the Berri Barmera Council and donations of \$2145.00 from parishioners, so the work will now go ahead in January 2017. As the Hall is used for numerous meeting and workshops for the Pastoral District, this will be a most welcome addition. Thank you to all involved.

The Barmera Main Street Markets continue to be a great success as a fund raiser for the church. Thank you to all involved with setting up on the day, cooking and working on the stall - well done.

Our Patronal Festival was well attended in November, followed by a delicious cooked breakfast. Thank you to all those who supported us on the day.

The Christmas Eve service will start at 11:00 pm with Carol requests, followed by Mass at 11:30.

## St Alban's, Berri

We are delighted to **welcome** Paul, Tabitha, Wesley and Abigael to St Alban. They have moved to the Riverland from Warradale, and originally come from Kenya.

The "Work for the Dole" project has seen four/five participants working hard and very enthusiastically to transform the Berri Hall by resurfacing the floor, painting walls, mending and replacing doors, remodelling the grounds with new garden beds and generally tidying the yard. The down pipes of the church hall have also been connected to the gutters on the street.

Please call by if you are in Berri, and see the transformation.



A 'thank you' luncheon was held at the Berri Golf Club for all participants and their supervisor, Aleks, which was much appreciated.

St Alban Patronal festival was well attended in September, followed by a dinner at the Berri Golf Club.

The parishioners continue to support the work of the Combined Churches Opportunity Shop two months each year, and have agreed in principal to support the Soup Kitchen proposed by the Berri Barmera Ministers' Fraternal.

## St Oswald's, Monash

On Sunday 31 July we celebrated St Oswald Patronal Festival at Monash, with Fr John Devenport. About 20 parishioners from around the Pastoral District enjoyed breakfast after the service. Thank you to all who attended and made this a great morning.



In September we held a BBQ at the home of Geoff and Cheryl Davis, with a quiz challenging our bible knowledge.



A survey of all parishioners about Home Groups indicated the need to establish a regular Bible Study, Pastoral Care Group and Luncheon on the 3rd Sunday of the month. Several people indicated their willingness to host these activities.

As a result, an Advent study, 'Expecting Jesus', is being held at Cheryl's home during Advent. It is hoped to continue this from Lent onwards.

A luncheon is planned for February with a Family Service to commence in Berri in 2017.

**Cheryl Davis**

# ST JAMES, WAIKERIE

Congratulations to Lynette Nitschke, who attends St James, on becoming the Riverland and Mallee Citizen of the Year. After the murder of her daughter in 1991, Lyn formed the 'Homicide Victim Support Group of SA' in 1994, to assist the many people impacted by the homicide of a loved one. She also helped in the preparation of a booklet, 'Unlocking the Homicide Maze', which led to allowing family members to read their own impact statements during sentencing.

Lyn is also very involved in the community with Neighbourhood Watch, Rivmics Dance, the Caroline Bristow Wig Library, Santa's Cave and St James church.



Picture: Megan Frankel-Vaughan.



St James Day at Waikerie was celebrated on 24 July with Fr Paul and a congregation of 30 people. We welcomed the Websters from Swan Reach and the Angels from Morgan who travelled to join us on this special day. A luncheon of hot soup, quiches and pastries was enjoyed by all in the Hall after the service.

The Waikerie Flower Show took place in mid-October with a display by the church ladies depicting a cottage front surrounded by pots of herbs grown during the year. We also took part in the cut flower display and floral arrangements, with roses from the church garden taking out several prizes.





All Souls Day was commemorated on 6 November with candles lit for loved, departed souls.

An Advent Pageant of children from the Waikerie, Ramco and Lutheran Primary Schools walked along the main street of Waikerie, led by Joseph and Mary on a small horse, on Friday 2 December.



The Australia Day Extravaganza for 2017 will be held in Waikerie on 22 January and it is our turn to conduct the worship service prior to the celebrations starting on the town oval around 6:30 pm.



## St Peter's, Morgan

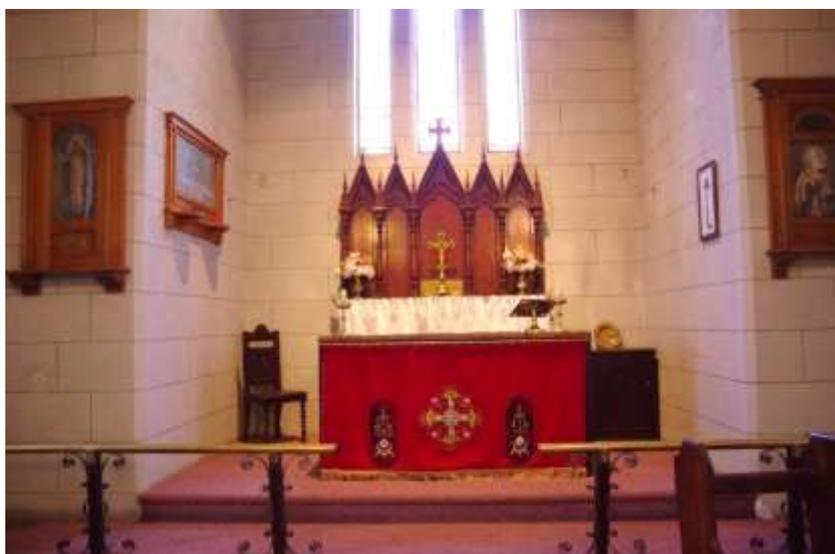
Two services were held at St Peter's, Morgan, rather than St James, Waikerie, during the year.

Fr John Devenport celebrated St Peter's Day on 26 June. There were a few visitors from other Morgan Churches, the Stoeckels' from Monash and Dorothy Dunk from Baramera, who kindly played the organ. A lunch in the Hall followed and, despite the bitterly cold day, was enjoyed by all.

On the fifth Sunday in October, Fr Paul led a service, followed again by a shared lunch. New baby, Jacob Fitzgerald, was welcomed.

The next service at St Peter's, Morgan, will be on 29 January, when Jacob Fitzgerald will be baptised.

**June Taylor**



## WORK FOR THE DOLE PROGRAMS TO CONTINUE

Approval has been given for two **Work for the Dole** projects at church properties at Renmark and Berri, to continue until the middle of next year.

The first stage of the projects was approved in June and involved the upgrading of the Rectory garden at Renmark and the Hall and garden at St Alban's, Berri. The Federal Government agency, Job Prospects, had earlier identified these projects as suitable and as good community projects in two key locations where the unemployment rate was much higher than the state average. The Bishop of The Murray, John Ford, had also given his support from the outset, given they were good outreach opportunities for both churches.

Fr Paul said negotiations about the projects had been on-going for some time when we were approached again early this year by Job Prospects about proceeding, this time with full costs met by the Federal Government. Once approved, an experienced supervisor on a previous Work for the Dole program, Aleks Duvnjak, who is a builder and landscaper with 37 years' experience in the industry was appointed to both projects. Jenny Siviour was also appointed co-ordinator of the projects by Fr Paul and has worked closely with Aleks and the Diocese, through the Registrar, Donna Jones, in managing the costings with the supervisor and the suppliers.

About six Work for the Dole participants on average have been working on each project; Tuesdays and Wednesdays at Renmark and Thursdays and Fridays at Berri.

Fr Paul said he had seen the projects as a great opportunity to have the church properties upgraded and at the same time be an outreach in helping those who could gain work skills.

Fr Paul said the first part of the project at Renmark had been to provide a total make-over of the Rectory Garden, which was in a terrible state and embarrassing along a busy section of a walkway by the river.

Enlarged garden beds have been established with new plants and mulch. New lawn has also been planted. A vegetable and herb garden will also be created. The river pump used years ago to provide water for the garden has been re-installed.



At Berri, the property surrounds have so far been improved, with planter boxes being made and installed. As well, the Hall has been upgraded with revarnishing the floor, and repainting the exterior doors and walls and the inside of the Hall.

The second stage of the projects will involve upgrading the actual church property at Renmark and further upgrading the Hall and the church at Berri.



Project Co-ordinator, Jenny Siviour, says both projects have been a great opportunity for the Work for the Dole participants to gain more skills and knowledge and they are certainly embracing the opportunity.

As a way of thanking the Work for the Dole participants, a barbecue was held at the rectory at Renmark on 30 November and there was a lunch for the Berri attendees at the Berri Golf Club on Friday 2 December.

## TREASURER'S REPORT - YEAR TO DATE

Bank Balance as at <b>1 January 2016</b>	\$45,490.36
plus Total Income to 30th November	\$144,336.18
less Total Expenses to 30th November	<u>\$159,113.32</u>
Bank Balance as at <b>30 November 2016</b>	\$30,713.22

This represents a loss of \$14,777.14 or \$310/week for the first 11 months of the year!

I continue to encourage parishioners to consider using Direct Deposit for their weekly giving, as this does not depend on you being able to attend services each week. I do not need your name as the reference number, but do need the postcode of your church to allocate your giving correctly.

Bank details are:	Account name:	Pastoral District of the Riverland
	BSB:	105059
	Account Number:	040790840

**Cheryl Davis**, Pastoral District Treasurer

*Thomas, aged 4, returned from Sunday School, excited to tell his parents about the wise men from the east who brought gifts to the baby Jesus.*

*"I learned in Sunday School today all about the very first Christmas. There wasn't a Santa Claus way back then, so these three blokes on camels had to deliver all the toys. And Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer with his nose so bright wasn't there yet, so they had to have this big light in the sky to find their way around."*

# CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2016

## Sunday 18 December

### St Alban's, Berri

7 pm Festival of Lessons and Carols,  
followed by Champagne Supper  
with Christmas cake



## Christmas Eve – Saturday 24 December

### St James, Waikerie

6 pm Holy Eucharist and children's activities

### St Augustine of Hippo, Renmark

7 pm Family Service

### Church of the Resurrection, Loxton

8:30 pm Carol singing and requests

9 pm Vigil Mass and Baptism

### St Edmund's, Barmera

11 pm Carol singing and requests

11:30 pm Midnight Mass



## Christmas Day – Sunday 25 December

### St Augustine of Hippo, Renmark

9 am Mass  
*(Children are encouraged to bring a Christmas present  
with them)*

