



March 2015

A New Ministry



With Margaret Holt's licensing by Bishop John on Saturday 5 March and the blessing of the Rectory for her new ministry it will become a House of Hospitality and Prayer.

It is hoped that prayer will be a most important part of the daily life of the House. The daily office will be said (morning, midday, evening prayer, compline) and anyone is welcome to be part of any of these times of prayer whether they are staying in the house or just paying a quick visit.

There will also be a regular prayer evening for folk to come and pray for the community, parish and diocese—probably on a Thursday, fortnightly.

Hospitality will also be important. It will be a house where people can come to sit, chat, drink tea or have some breakfast, potter in the garden, do a jigsaw, play music, join in the prayers or not, talk about God or not...

The House will also provide a regular venue for Quiet Days with meditation, intercession and Bible reflection.



CELEBRATING THE HARVEST

Sunday 31 January was a lovely day and a happy group of parishioners from all parts of the parish gathered at St John's Langhorne Creek to celebrate our Harvest Festival.

We sang some of our old favourite harvest hymns and admired the splendid array of gifts which were arranged at the front of the church (see above).

Following the service we went on to Barry Potts' place for a shared lunch, great conversation and the auction of some of the more perishable gifts.

As a result we were able to send a donation of \$253, as well as the non-perishable goods, to Christian Care and Share in Mt Barker.

At this time of the year the harvest of cereal crops is complete and the paddocks are littered with bales but the grape harvest is just beginning, an important time for folk in Langhorne Creek.

It is some years since we have had a Harvest Festival service in the Parish and it is hoped that the success of this one will ensure a repeat next year.

MU in Tanzania

Church & Community Mobilisation Process (CCMP) is a holistic and complete transformational, community-based process, facilitated by MU in Tanzania. The aim of CCMP is to bring about transformation for communities without constant reliance on external aid.

After Bible studies which teach that God has already made provision for them and given them the skills they need to live; MU acts as a catalyst to initiate economic, social and physical transformation within their communities.

By using the locally available resources God has given them and through building the skills and knowledge they need they are able to transform their own lives. Diverse communities, including those marginalised, are also brought together to share in the decision making process.

It is hoped that community people will see their relationship with God as being fundamental to their relationships with others and their environment.

Fifty Years Ministry



It is fifty years this February since the Rev'd Owen Thomas was made a Deacon in St Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney on the 20 February 1966 after studies at the University of Sydney and Moore Theological College, Newtown NSW.

He was ordained priest a year later, also in St Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney.

Owen has had a varied career, serving as parish priest, school chaplain and Regional Officer for the Bush Church Aid Society, at first in the Diocese of Sydney and then in the Diocese of Adelaide.

Since retirement he has acted as locum in several parishes in Adelaide Diocese as well as in the Diocese of The Murray. However he is always happy to spend time at home in Callington with his wife Hilary.

The Ladies Guild

The Ladies of the Guild continue to successfully raise funds in order to support parish projects as well as humanitarian appeals and outreach programmes.

Recently they have provided \$986 for the purchase the official booklets which contain the text of the Service of Holy Communion taken from "A Prayer Book for Australia".

This will mean that we will no longer have to rely on the various unofficial leaflets which have previously been in use in the parish.

Looking beyond the parish they have also sent \$200 to the Fiji Cyclone Appeal through Samaritan's Purse and provided \$200 locally for the School Chaplain Fund.

We are very grateful for the efforts of the Ladies in making these gifts possible and perhaps there are other members of the parish who would like to join them in their endeavours or to provide them with extra help in their work.

Our Diocesan Prayer for 2016

God of new life,
through the waters of Baptism
each and every one of us is
called to be a minister of the
Church.

Renew our call
so that with passion,
new vision and zeal
we may together journey
towards growth as your Church.

May we your faithful people be:
brave enough
to proclaim the Good News,
enthused enough
to share our story,
loving enough
to only see the good in others,
and kind enough
that our actions reflect
the light and hope
of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Crisis in Syria



This is a picture of refugees fleeing from Aleppo in northern Syria on the 5 February this year.

According to the European Commission "the Syria conflict has triggered the world's largest humanitarian crisis since World War II.

"Humanitarian needs continue to rise, population displacements are increasing, and an entire generation of children is being exposed to war and violence, increasingly deprived of basic services, education and protection."

It is estimated that 13.5 million people inside Syria need assistance and there are more than 4 million who are refugees in neighbouring countries, including about 640,000 in Jordan.

We were recently touched by Amer's story of the women and their families to whom he ministers and the dangers they face as Christians in this devastated country.

It was good that he was able to visit some of the Christian groups in Australia who support his ministry and I am sure that they will want to continue to do this with their gifts and prayers.

On Wednesday 16 March we are having a "Lent Lunch" of bread and soup at 12.30 pm in the Hall. What we might have spent on lunch will be donated to the "Women in Need" in Syria.



Now that school is settled back into routine for 2016 our mentors are about to commence their one hour a week sessions. Most of us are continuing with the same child, which enables a bond to grow and positive attitudes to develop.

The relationship between our parish and the Eastern Fleurieu Strathalbyn campus is strengthening each year with more staff and parents becoming aware of our Kids Hope Aus: program. There are more children needing support so contact Jocelyn Williamson if you would like to learn more.

Holy Week & Easter



PALM SUNDAY

20th March

8.15 am

St Mary's

10.00 am

Christ Church

WEDNESDAY

23rd March

9.30 am

Christ Church

MAUNDY THURSDAY

24th March

7.00 pm

Christ Church

GOOD FRIDAY

25th March

8.15 am

St Mary's

10.00 am

Christ Church

EASTER EVE

26th March

8.00 pm

St Mary's

EASTER DAY

27th March

8.15 am

St George's

10.00 am

Christ Church

The Anglican Parish of Strathalbyn

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