



December 2016

## Being a Deacon

When I was made a Deacon by the Bishop of Ballarat in 1957 the Diaconate was regarded as merely a stepping stone to the Priesthood.

As a result there was not much effort to develop a distinctive role for a Deacon although there was a good description in the ordination service, which included some liturgical and some pastoral care activities.

There was also an assumption at that time, which is still held by some people in this Diocese, that you have to be male to be a deacon.

It was this last situation which was changed at the recent Session of the Diocesan Synod when it adopted the *General Synod Ordination of Women to the Office of Deacon Canon 1985*.

As is obvious from the title this was passed at General Synod a very long time ago and the Diocese of The Murray is the last Diocese of the Australian Church to adopt it.

However it does not mean that the Bishop **must** ordain a woman to be a deacon—rather that he **can** if he believes that it is right.

Synod has not adopted the Canon which would allow the Bishop to ordain a woman to the priesthood so there will have to be some thought given to defining the role of a Deacon who will not necessarily be going on to become a priest.

# Operation Christmas Child



This year the boxes are being sent to Mongolia and the members of Ladies Fellowship got together in September to bring the various items needed to pack the Shoeboxes. Each box contained Something to love; Something to wear; Something for School; Something to play with; Something for personal hygiene; and Something special.

As Fr. Peter Carlsson was in Strathalbyn at the time he came to bless the items and boxes, offering that the Diocese would pay the \$9 freight cost for each shoebox from the Mission Fund.

After the boxes had been filled, labelled in the categories: Boy or Girl, 2-4, 5-9, 10-14 years old and a label inserted sending love from Strathalbyn Ladies Fellowship, they were delivered by Raelee, Keven, David and Eileen to a drop off point in Goolwa ready for their onward journey and personal delivery by Samaritans Purse to the children for Christmas.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this project in any way.

## Walking the Way

### *The Diocesan Strategic Plan*

This plan which would result in our Parish being part of a new grouping with Mount Barker and Onkaparinga Parishes was discussed at Synod but no new legislation was introduced to implement a new structure.

However we have been asked by Bishop John to talk together about ways in which we might support and assist one another in fulfilling our Mission.

It is planned to hold a meeting of parishioners from the three parishes on **Saturday 28 January** in the afternoon at Mount Barker.

It is hoped that a good number of the members of our four congregations will be able to attend this meeting and together look at ways in which we might help one another.

We will not be talking about amalgamation and the shutting down of any churches. Rather we will be seeking, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, for ways in which we might help each other.

## Christmas Where the Angas Flows



16 December 2016

Christmas where the Angas Flows' is an annual Strathalbyn community event that has been running, in a variety of formats, for many years.

The Pageant is facilitated by the Strathalbyn District Commerce Association and the entertainment in the Soldiers Memorial Gardens and rides are implemented by the Strathalbyn Inter-Church Council. The fireworks are funded and organised by L J Hooker Strathalbyn.

Christmas where the Angas Flows starts at 6.00 pm when the rides are open to the public and the floats start lining up for the Pageant.

After the pageant is over, the crowd gathers in the Soldiers' Memorial Gardens to meet Father Christmas and everyone

settles on blankets to enjoy the Carols by Candlelight.

The evening concludes with the fantastic L J Hooker Strathalbyn Fireworks.

There are a number of food vans offering food throughout the night's event.

Christmas where the Angas Flows is designed to be a free, community, family focused event, celebrating the end of the school term and an opportunity for local businesses to thank the community for their support.

The Inter-Church Council hopes that it will be also an opportunity to remind people that the Christmas Story is one which promises that it is possible to find peace in this war-torn and troubled world.



On Tuesday 1 November the Strathalbyn Churches' Book Shop celebrated 25 years of God's faithful work through our little shop located in Dawson Street.

We are people of the local churches who want to share God's love through Christian service and resources. All staff are volunteers from our local Christian community.

We began in 1977 trading half a day a week in a Church foyer on the main street. Then in 1982 we moved to a local Gardening Business and shared trading six days a week.

In 1991 our current shop premises became available and we stepped out in faith into the heart of our town.

2002: We became the Australian agents for CaFE (Catholic Faith Exploration). The aim of CaFE is to bring faith alive in Catholic parishes.

2007: We introduced photo kiosks to allow digital photo printing to continue to be available in our country town. Photocopying services were also made available.

About this stage we also bought a second hand licence to sell second hand

# Christmas Hampers

The Christmas Hampers will be packed this year in the Town Hall. They are an example of the generosity of members of the community who share their money, gifts and time to help those who need a helping hand at this time of the year when we give thanks for God's gift of love to us all.

Last year more than 125 hampers were delivered to a range of folk, including individuals and large families.



The toys come from the Motorcycle Riders' Toy Run which is held on the second Sunday in December each year.

This year is the 38th run and the aim is to hold a community event to celebrate motorcycling with a strong focus on assisting the children of families in need during the festive season.

Sarah recently spoke to a member of the Strathalbyn community who helps to coordinate the Run and was interested to hear how we distribute some of the toys.

Christian Books. These are donated to us and we sell them, often to people who are delighted to find some treasure amongst them.

2010: We began providing the Book-stall at the annual CWCI Christian women's convention in March at Victor Harbor.

We thank all the many volunteers who have served in the shop and all our customers who continue to support us. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

<http://strathchurchshop.com.au/>



# Parenting Education Program



This programme was written and introduced to the Mothers' Union in Australia by Kate and Ian Pearse in 2005 and embodies all that Mothers' Union members are called to do:

"Sharing Christ's love by encouraging, strengthening and supporting marriage and family life"

Recently the program has been updated to include YouTube and Power Point presentations, and is now known as "Families Equip" (FE).

The aim of this five-week program, run by Liz Hampel, the Mothers' Union Diocesan Facilitator, is to encourage and support parents in their important role, through the education and discussion of family issues and skills in a relaxed and friendly environment.



## Content of the course:

- © Parenting styles
- © Childhood development
- © Relationship building (through the key areas of listening and encouragement)
- © Children's resilience
- © Discipline strategies
- © Family growth

Recently a program was held at the Neighbourhood Centre in Strathalbyn. It was the first ever men only group ever to be held in Australia with five participants ranging in age from early 30s to late 50s.

The wealth of their combined experience and their willingness to share it, led to in depth discussions made possible by the structure of the Families Equip course and the knowledge that their personal information will remain strictly confidential.



Within the past few weeks a second program has been held in Strathalbyn, this time at the House of Hospitality in East Terrace.

Six Mums participated for these five sessions, the Strathalbyn Mothers' Union providing an 'on site' crèche for the children each week.



This five week, two hour program is offered at no cost to the participants, with all expenses being covered by the Mothers' Union, who also provide refreshments midway through the weekly sessions.

If the information about this course resonates with you, or excites you, making you feel that God is speaking to you, then please contact Eileen Smith, President of Mothers Union in The Murray Anglican Diocese, 8536 8874, who will be pleased to provide you with further information.

# Thank You



Thank you to everyone who helped on Friday 18 November with the Eastern Fleurieu School Professional Development Day.

It was a great effort to bless the 160 staff with morning tea and BBQ lunch with salads.

This is the third year we have done this and it is a great way for the churches to affirm the work of our school staff, to encourage, love and support them and to further partnership with the School through the Chaplaincy program.

Your efforts were very well received, staff were most grateful.

Sue Eckert, as chairperson of the Inter Church Council, was invited to speak to the whole staff at morning tea and gave an amazing message of love. Her words touched many many hearts.

Thank you for all you do in supporting me in my role as Pastoral Care Worker.

Thank you for food hampers and meals and help with the breakfast club.

Thank you for your prayers and financial support.

Thank you for the way you graciously give your time.

May you all have a blessed Christmas

*Kaye Gale*



# Blessing the Vines



On Sunday 30th October, parishioners from all the parish centres gathered for the quarterly combined Eucharist in Barry Potts' shed which provided welcome shelter from the day's wild weather.

Not only was the setting unusual, surrounded by Barry's collection of farm tractors, but the intention of the Eucharist was the Blessing of the Vines in the Langhorne Creek Wine Region.

We gave thanks to God for the wonderful area in which we live and prayed for the coming vintage and those involved in the vineyards and wineries.

We also remembered those in other parts of the world who need our prayers and help.

Following the service we enjoyed a shared lunch with a selection of roasts especially cooked for the occasion.

## 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.



Anglican mentors at E.F.S., Jocelyn Williamson, Marg Holt, Rhonda McCarthy and Kate Gibson had an end-of-year lunch at the school with their special children on 16 November.

A fun time was spent playing board games before a delicious lunch of pizza and juice followed by ice-cream and fruit.

Mentors and their children have done many different things together through the year. For example, cooking, gardening, craft work, reading in the library, playing basket ball, making booklets, talking and listening.

We are all looking forward to next year when we hope to continue our relationship with the school and children.

## Celebrating Christmas



### Fourth Sunday in Advent

**Sunday 18 December**

7.00 pm Lessons and Carols  
Christ Church, Strathalbyn

### Christmas Eve

**Saturday 24 December**

4.00 pm Children's Crib Service  
Christ Church, Strathalbyn

7.00 pm Christmas Eucharist  
St George's, Meadows

8.00 pm Christmas Eucharist  
St Mary's, Milang

11.30 pm Christmas Eucharist  
Christ Church, Strathalbyn

### Christmas Day

**Sunday 25 December**

8.15 am Christmas Eucharist  
St John's, Langhorne Creek

9.30 am Christmas Eucharist  
Christ Church, Strathalbyn

### Naming of Jesus

**Sunday 1 January**

8.15 am Eucharist  
St Mary's, Milang

10.00 am Eucharist  
Christ Church, Strathalbyn

## The Anglican Parish of Strathalbyn

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