

# THE LINK

## The Church of the Good Shepherd

*Anglican Parish of Plympton*

*Diocese of Adelaide - South Australia*

**VOLUME 26 NUMBER 1 *EASTER* edition March 2024**

### **A WORD FROM OUR PARISH PRIEST FATHER MICHAEL LANE**

Dear Good Shepherd Parishioners,

As I write for the 2024 Easter Link, we are halfway through the sacred journey of Lent. We are challenged by the profound opportunity Lent offers for spiritual reflection, renewal, and growth. While we are called to engage deeply with the Lenten journey, we should not feel coerced, nor should we allow guilt to be the driving force. The transformation of our hearts and minds, as we prepare to celebrate the joyous resurrection of our Lord at Easter, is something that we are invited into each and every day of our lives.



Lent is a time of intentional reflection, 40 days that echo the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness facing temptation while preparing for his ministry. It is a season traditionally shaped by prayer, fasting, and acts of repentance, inviting us to draw closer to God and to one another. In the contemporary world, we can add secular notions of self-improvement, intentional spiritual and wellbeing practices, Feb Fast, Dry July, awareness raising, fundraising,

Lenten fasting invites us to examine our relationship with material possessions and worldly desires. Through fasting, we create space in our lives to focus on the things that truly matter, turning our hearts and minds towards God and holy thinking. Whether it be abstaining from luxury or unhealthy foods, limiting our consumption of social media, or setting aside time for quiet reflection, fasting allows us to cultivate a spirit of simplicity and detachment, freeing ourselves from the distractions that often hinder our spiritual growth.

'What are you giving up for Lent?' It's a question a lot of people get asked during Lent. The following words are attributed to Pope Francis. Although we cannot be sure of this, the words, nevertheless, are thought provoking.

*Fast from hurting words... and say kind words.*

*Fast from sadness...and be filled with gratitude.*

*Fast from anger...and be filled with patience.*

*Fast from pessimism...and be filled with hope.*

*Fast from worries...and have trust in God.*

*Fast from complaints...and contemplate simplicity.*

*Fast from pressures...and be prayerful.*

*Fast from bitterness...and fill your hearts with joy.*

*Fast from selfishness...and be compassionate to others.*

*Fast from grudges...and be reconciled.*

*Fast from words...and be silent so you can listen.*

'Indifference to our neighbour and to God' are real issues for us all. Each year during Lent, we need to hear once more the voice of the prophets who cry out and trouble our conscience.

As we journey through Lent together, let us embrace the opportunity it offers for spiritual renewal and growth. Let us commit ourselves to prayer, fasting, and acts of charity, allowing these practices to deepen our relationship with God and with one another. And as we prepare to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord at Easter, may we do so with hearts filled with joy and gratitude, knowing that through His death and resurrection, we have been redeemed and made anew. May this Lenten journey be a time of transformation and renewal, as we seek to live more fully in the love and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Deep Peace**

**Michael**

## Rev Michael at Walford



Rev Michael Lane's work at Walford Anglican School for Girls includes regular presence at The Principal's Assembly, Chapel services for Staff, the Whole School and Year Levels, Old Scholar gatherings, Professional Learning, and meetings with Chaplains and Principals from Anglican Schools.



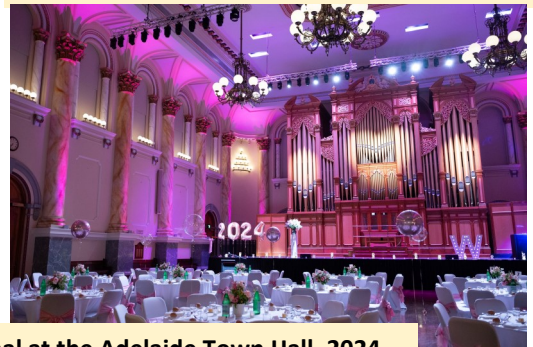
Walford Lessons and Carols at St Peter's Cathedral



Class of 2023 for the Old Scholars' Assembly



Walford Year 12 formal at the Adelaide Town Hall, 2024



## WARDENS' REPORT 2024

It's a New Year - *Happy New Year!!!* Christmas has passed and Lent is now upon us. We seem to keep ourselves occupied, and certainly the pre-Christmas hustle and bustle

kept us all busy, but we are still left wondering just where all the time has gone!

As an ageing parish, many of us spend time attending to our health. We had an outbreak of Covid in January, and are currently experiencing another as I write this report. To all those who have suffered with Covid, we wish you well and a full recovery.

Things have been ticking along nicely, thanks to Fran. She has a wonderful understanding of our plant and all the things that go wrong and right within. *"Thank you Fran for all the work you do to keep us afloat."*

Thanks to Father Michael's organisation, we have had a couple of events: morning teas, lunches etc, and we also held our usual Pancake Night on *Shrove Tuesday*. Donations raised on the night totalled about \$170 which will go towards the Christmas Bowl. No doubt there will be other events, but currently we are concentrating on our Lenten fasting and repentance - and as Lent ends, *Good Shepherd Sunday* will be upon us.

At the time of writing this report we haven't had an Executive meeting, but as soon as we do, our program for the year will be organised.

On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March, *The Church of the Good Shepherd* is hosting this year's *World Day of Prayer*, and we are looking forward to praying for the Women and people of Palestine. The service is at 7.00 pm and will be followed by supper in the hall. This service of prayer is written by the women of Palestine, and we will be joined by people throughout the world as we gather together to pray for their country. We look forward to seeing as many people as possible at this important event.

Please keep us all in your prayers as we approach our Vestry Meeting on Mar 17<sup>th</sup> 2024.

May God Bless us all and guide us in our ways,

**Marilyn and Fran  
Church Wardens**



### 1st Sunday in Advent Service, 3rd December 2023

At this service, which gave us our first look at Isobel Varcoe's Advent wreath, Fr Michael paused for a few moments to reflect, describing the wreath as "a thing of beauty" before going on to say how the season of Advent is his favourite time of year. The name comes from *Adventus* (or coming) of Christ. A time to be called to reflect, pray, develop patience. A time of waiting—and it is often in the waiting that we find out who we really are. Amazing things happen. We can own how deeply we love/are loved. A child is born.

Fr Michael recalls in his chaplaincy days making the kids sing *O Come Emmanuel* (which is all about faith). They resisted at first, but he made them sing all four verses until they came to do it very well—and to love it.

He said that when he first came to Adelaide, and to church for the first time as a 16-17 year old, he grew to love the season of Advent. He gave himself permission to just sit, eyes closed, not sing or listen to the sermon, and just reflect. He was a busy chef, then a teacher, and Sunday was his day off—

hence the above. As an adult, he found Advent a time of re-charging.

### What a lucky country are we (!) Congratulations to Mina and the Fok family from all your friends at the Church of the Good Shepherd.



### CONGRATULATIONS MINA

A proud Mina and family photographed with the Mayor of the *City of Marion* at the Citizenship Ceremony held in January 2023.



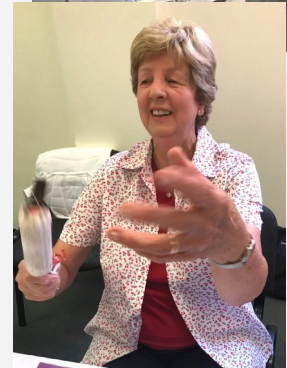
Celebrating with cake at Morning Tea after the 10.00 am Service on 28.1.24, and at right, Claire & husband Gary with sons Jared and Dylan. The Fok family, who joined CHOGS parish in 2018, became Australian citizens in January 2023. Congratulations!



**CHOGS CHRISTMAS LUNCH**  
**WEDNESDAY, 20 DECEMBER 2023**



The **Christmas Lunch**, held in the Garden Room at the *Church of the Good Shepherd* on Wednesday 20 December 2023, was much enjoyed by parishioners. The wonderful array of food was topped off by Isobel Varcoe's amazing plum pudding.



## OUR VISIT TO THE LAND OF THE LONG WHITE CLOUD

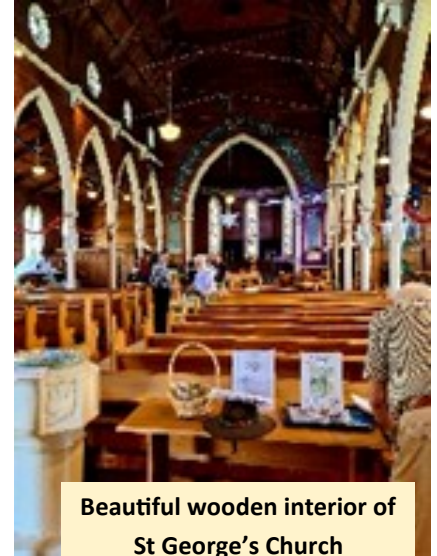
**Prior to Christmas 2023, our family enjoyed a long overdue reunion in Thames, on the Coromandel Peninsula on the North Island of New Zealand. Family members travelled from Switzerland, Christchurch, the Sunshine Coast, and Adelaide to spend 16 wonderful days together in this beautiful part of the world.**

On our first Sunday there, Harold, our daughter Naomi, and myself attended the 9.30 am service at St George's Anglican Church in Thames. This beautiful 150-year-old church, along with other historic buildings in town, is a reminder of the time when Thames was an important gold mining centre. At the peak of the rush in 1868, 18,000 people lived there, compared with about 8,000 today.



St George's Anglican Church, Thames

The congregation was friendly and welcoming, and before the service, the vicar, Rev'd Brendon Wilkinson, approached us to ask who we were and what brought us to the church. At the end of the first hymn, during which



Beautiful wooden interior of St George's Church

our vocal contribution was noted, the vicar turned towards us, speaking to our daughter Naomi in particular, and thanked us for our singing, adding quite casually, that he'd just heard that "as of the 21<sup>st</sup> of December, all flights to the Sunshine Coast have been discontinued" – which told me two things. One, that he recalled our mentioning that Naomi (who has an excellent singing voice) lives on the Sunshine Coast, and two, that he'd remembered that our return date to Australia was the 21st December(!)



Morning tea after the service

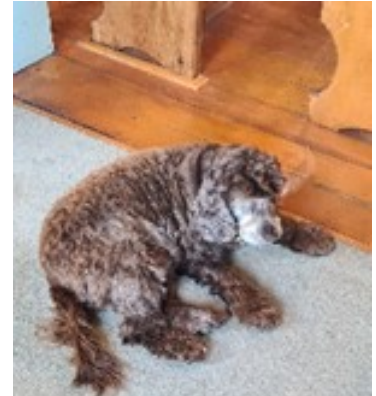
Rev'd Wilkinson delivered a great sermon about faith and the importance of taking the time to stand still, listen and to reflect. He talked about a lady in her 90's whose passing was imminent, and the distress of her family standing by. The lady had in fact lost the will to carry on after the death of Queen Elizabeth 11 (*"she didn't much fancy Charles"* he said). The family was finding it so difficult that they were behind a nearby curtain, rather than at the bedside. Sensing their unease, Rev'd Wilkinson, with the door and windows to the room open, put his hand on her forehead asking the Lord to release her, and that is what happened. She passed immediately, prompting Rev Wilkinson to say to God: *"I prayed as you asked and you responded, but what good was that to the family"* – he felt guilty that they were not at her side

at that moment.

He went on to say that even now, he sometimes finds it hard to understand Peter's teachings. He told us about his previous life as an engineer with a Chinese company. He said that the Chinese work very hard. In previous employment he would have a work bench that was perhaps a metre square, with one item on it (for example, a television set that needed repair). However, when he was employed by the Chinese company, the work bench was about 3 x 2 metres in size. He could fix a television set, put it aside for testing, have another item being dealt with at the same time, and whilst the second item was being tested *"peel potatoes in between(!)"* He said that although he continues to work hard as a vicar, he feels it is easy work compared to those days!

## OUR VISIT TO THE LAND OF THE LONG WHITE CLOUD (contd)

Rev'd Wilkinson added that in Peter 2 we learn that the priority is around our own hearts before God, and also encouraging those growing in faith; and is not so much about how hard we can work, but more about developing our faith – the more we do this, the more we can accomplish, and the more God can do through us. He said FAITH before God is the most important thing. If we have this, all else follows and there is no need for multiple actions. *"Sit before me – tell me, what's going on – is all we need to do."* Peter reminds us of this. A thousand years is the equivalent of one day to God. *"I am a God who is patient. Come to know me at the right time. I will come back for you"*. Simplicity of faith before God.



The second reader Anne's dog, a regular at St George's

Both the readers at this service (older women) were very articulate, and when Beth, the lady doing the first one (2 Pet 3:8-15a) introduced herself with the comment "Peter speaks to the early church but also to us – so pin your ears back folks" – I knew we were in for a spirited rendition(!) The other lady also did an excellent job, and was accompanied by her little dog, which, it seems, is a regular presence in the church.

Harold and I attended a second service at St George's on the following Sunday, when the Gradual Hymn was "Mary Did you Know". The priest (Murray Speed) commented that "being a father, this is my favourite hymn". And indeed, looking at the beautiful words of this Christmas classic (see the next page) I can see what he means.

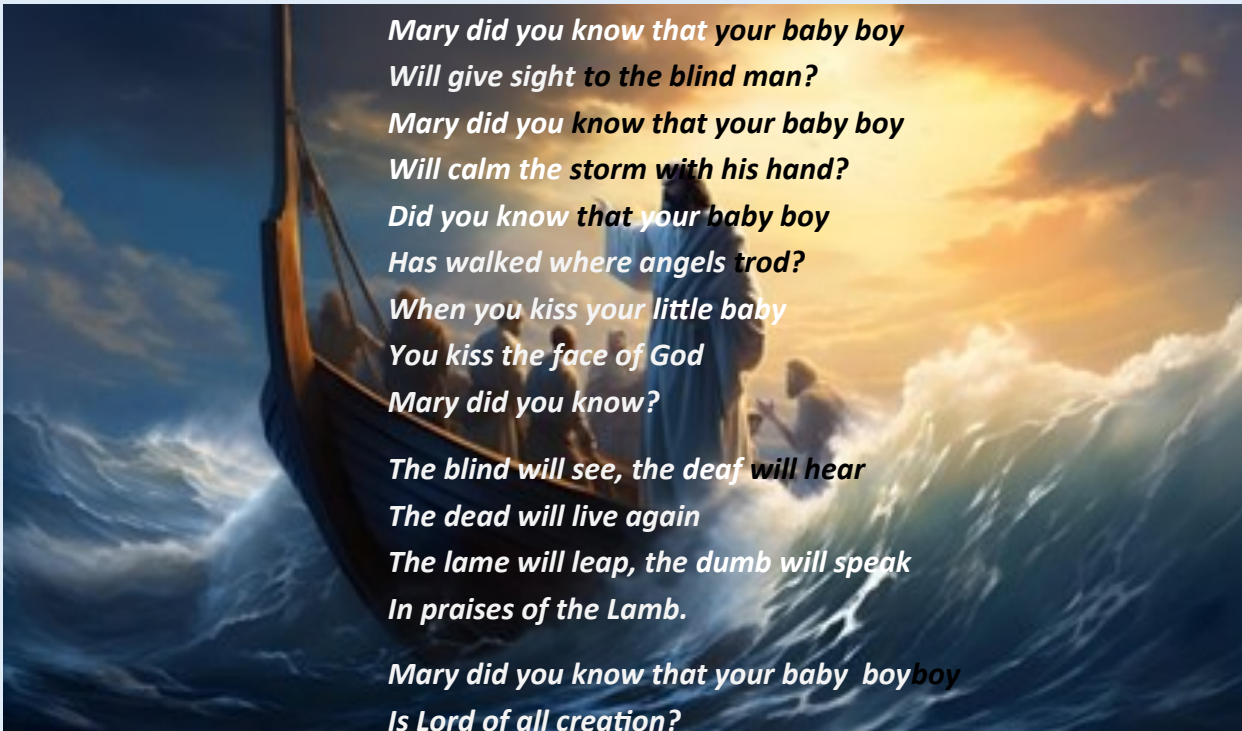
**Chris Bates-Brownsword**



## **MARY DID YOU KNOW?**



*Mary did you know that your baby boy  
Would one day walk on water?  
Mary did you know that your baby boy  
Would save our sons and daughters?  
Did you know that your baby boy  
Has come to make you new  
This child that you delivered, will soon deliver you?*



*Mary did you know that your baby boy  
Will give sight to the blind man?  
Mary did you know that your baby boy  
Will calm the storm with his hand?  
Did you know that your baby boy  
Has walked where angels trod?  
When you kiss your little baby  
You kiss the face of God  
Mary did you know?*

*The blind will see, the deaf will hear  
The dead will live again  
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak  
In praises of the Lamb.*

*Mary did you know that your baby boyboy  
Is Lord of all creation?*

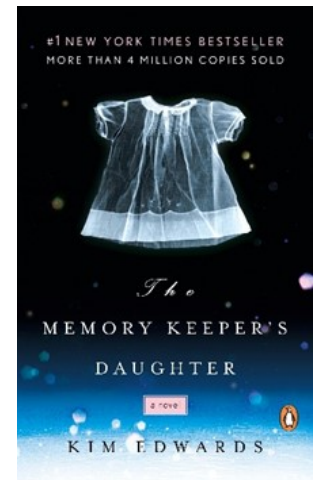
*Mary did you know that your baby boy  
Will one day rule the nations?  
Did you know that your baby boy  
Was heaven's perfect Lamb?  
And the sleeping child you're holding is the great "I AM".  
Oh Mary did you know?*



## BOOK REVIEW

by Harold Bates-Brownsword

***The Memory Keeper's Daughter* by Kim Edwards:  
Penguin Australia 2005.**



This book is one of the few that I have read over the past year that has not been heralded on the front cover as being a bestseller, but it deserves to be. Kim Edwards has written a thought-provoking story of a rejected child and the woman who saved her life. The writing is in-depth and understands the morays of a time past when children with a disability were *put away*. Not to be seen by polite society.

I was fortunate enough to have been brought up by an enlightened mother, and then in my first year out of University (aged 42) with a newly minted Honours degree in Psychology in my hand, to land a job as Administrator of *Anglican Child Care Services*. [ACCS]. Not my first choice. I had dreamed of becoming a psychotherapist, but all the other newly minted graduates were 21-23 years old and quickly took up the positions. Today, at least one of them is a Professor of Psychology, and several others are well known practitioners looking forward to retirement. But I digress. The *Memory Keeper* reminded me of my introduction through ACCS, to the world of orphans, neglected and abused children, and those living with a disability. Not as a therapist as I had wished, but as the Manager of therapists and social workers and carers. They taught me so much!

I soon learned that there were few orphans in our orphan homes. As Harry Morrow, gentle priest and Head of Anglican Social Welfare at the time said: "*They are orphans of the living*". This was a very different world to what society imagined. One where all the little orphans were cared for and loved in nice orphanages. Instead, we had children used and abused by the welfare system, and in many cases their own parents. Nearly all the children in residence should have been at home, if not their own, then the home of some other family willing to give them the life they deserved. The *memory keeper* is just such a person.

The memory keeper evokes all the issues of the not too distant past and how one person with love in her heart could make a real difference. It is a story told well and with care. It is not wishy-washy and points out all the issues, but I didn't feel bogged down in a story of how miserable some children's lives are. The story is about how, if we deal with others with care and love, we can all contribute to making all people, no matter what their disability, feel welcome, fulfilled and part of our community.

I recommend it to you.





**HEALINGLIFE CHURCH** which joined our community of faith by using our church hall for their worship and healing services, has now been with us for about four months, and Pastor Janet Manuel has sent along some photos and comments on how they are getting along



Pastor Barry preaching. Our sermons are shared on Facebook Live and YouTube each week.

The pastors and members of our ministry are very pleased to return to church life after a break over Christmas. We love having the space and facilities which the Good Shepherd Church offers us.

The photos show some of the regular parts of our Sunday services

We share in our communion service once a month.



We also take up a monthly offering to support RAHAB ministries, and a church in Darwin which ministers to aboriginal families.

Every Sunday we pray for healing and other requests.

On Wednesdays, we take appointments for healing prayer, have corporate prayer meetings and run courses to encourage our people's faith in God as they face the challenges of everyday life.



**Pastor Janet Manuel**



## MISSION TO SEAFARERS NEWS



In December 2023, the Stella Maris Centre, in lieu of individual Christmas gifts for seafarers, began organising Christmas Hampers to be delivered to ships berthed at Outer Harbour. By the end of the second week in December they had adequate funds to supply hampers for 14 ships, eventually raising enough money for 26 ships. *Stella Maris National Committee* donated \$2,500, and \$5,000 was received from BHP. Other goods were



sourced elsewhere. Delivering the hampers was a logistical exercise in itself, requiring cooperation from the Australian Border Force, ships' agents, Captains of vessels, and the seafarers

themselves who were needed to physically assist in getting the hampers on board. There was even a request to

service two ships in Whyalla, which required a somewhat frantic last minute search

for transportation. As can be seen by the pictures, this very worthwhile effort was much appreciated by the recipients!



***Well done Marilyn Owen and the Christmas Trading table at The Church of the Good Shepherd supporting the venture, which raised over \$400(!)***





## Seafarer Serendipity

*Harold Bates-Brownsword*

Sometimes the only action at the Seafarers Centre is tidying up and cleaning. There may be many ships in port, but they are engaged in unloading/loading, perhaps under Customs or other controls that do not allow seafarers to have leave or time off. On these days, we sometimes do a *patrol* around the berths to see if we can help shipbound sailors in any way, or to check with a ship's officer to see if and when the crew will be allowed ashore, so that we can inform the next shift of volunteers that there will be some crew to pick up the next day.

In my short time with the Seafarers, there have been a few days like that. A week or so ago, my duty partner and I were asked to travel to West Lakes, with US dollars needing to be changed into Aussie currency. On the way we decided to check out the inner harbour berths. The inner harbour roads are often dusty from heavy trucks coming and going, and on any given day there are few pedestrians. It was quite hot on this occasion so when we spotted two young men walking on an almost non-existent footpath, we pulled up and asked if they were seafarers and did they need a lift? After a few strange looks, I pointed to the signs on the side of the bus, and despite the language barriers, understanding dawned. The cavalry had arrived!

After many gestures and attempts, despite our language barriers we discovered that our two seafarers were from Georgia [not the US state but the one neighbouring Türkiye and Russia). They wanted to see the city and if possible, the beach. Given our limited time we agreed that the city would win out over our money changing journey to West Lakes and we set off for the city. On the way, we found that our sailors were from the *Eleen Sofia*, a bulk carrier registered in Liberia, and importantly, there were about six crew who would be able to take leave the next day.

After the COVID enforced closure of the sea lanes as well as the *Stella Maris* and *Mission to Seafarers*, it has been a difficult task making it known that the Seafarers Centre is back in operation, but happenstances like we experienced, and the result, means that the word will be carried from one seafarer to another. All is God's good time.



Harold and the crew from Outer Harbour Berth 8 on 20.2.24



# HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY DENNIS



Dennis and Eileen Smith and family celebrating the big day at home



Eileen and Dennis wearing their Bunnings caps.

On December 22, 2023, Dennis Smith enjoyed a “Bunnings theme” party at their son’s home to celebrate **Dennis’ 90th birthday**. It was a surprise party to Dennis and Eileen, who only became aware of the Bunnings theme when they were handed their caps as they walked through the door. Everyone else was decked out in hi-vis vests and other Bunnings regalia.

The amazing cake featured Dennis’ love of gardening, fishing (and of course his frequent visits to his favourite hardware store.





**World Day of Prayer Service 2024**  
**Friday 1 March 2024, 7.00 pm**  
**Church of the Good Shepherd Plympton**



Anemone coronaria or 'poppy anemone' is the floral symbol of both Palestine (and Israel)



An ecumenical group of **Palestinian Christian** women prayed and reflected together over the past several years to respond to the invitation to write the 2024 program for the World Day of Prayer service.

Their theme **"I beg you....bear with one another in love"** is based on Ephesians 4:1-7, calling us to bear with each other in love, despite all difficulties and oppression.

The Worship service included stories of three Palestinian Christian women who witness to the power of bearing together in love, and features the experience of women from three generations. The symbol of the olive tree in the above picture is used throughout the worship service and represents the different generations through the trunk, branches and leaves of the tree. The stories we heard centred around people experiencing great loss—not only of their country, their loved ones and their homes, but of basic human rights that anyone living in a civilised country expects as part of everyday life. Heartfelt stories included people keeping the keys to homes they'd been forced to flee years before, in the hope of returning one day to claim them.

Sara, a Lutheran Christian, told the story of her grandparents who lived in Jaffa, where they grew up before 1948, living harmoniously alongside other Christians, Muslims and Jews. When the state of Israel was created in 1948, they were forced to leave their home and become refugees in Jordan. (When Israel was created in 1948, Jordan was given control of the West Bank and East Jerusalem, although during the 6-day war in 1967, Israel regained control of these areas). Sara's grandparents came to visit many years later and took Sara to Jaffa to see their old house. Much had changed, but they found it and when her grandpa tried to explain to the current occupants that this had once been his home, they became hostile, started shouting, and chased them away. Later, in Jordan, Sara's grandma showed her the door keys to the house, which had been kept in the family for decades.

The service at CHOGS included a slideshow and talk by Rosemary Miller describing a study tour she undertook to the Holy Land in 2008, only two years after Israel withdrew its military forces from the Gaza Strip and returned it to the Palestinians. Nevertheless, the severe restrictions on movement of people and goods in and out of Gaza imposed by Israel, has devastated the economy. Rosemary reminded us that Gaza's population of 2.3 million people fits into an area the size of London—hard for us to imagine—but then we also learned that Israel itself occupies an area only one-third the size of Tasmania. The amount of suffering, devastation and inhumanity currently being experienced by this tiny area of our globe is almost impossible to comprehend.



There are fewer than 1,000 Christians in Gaza, but they have a strong commitment to the whole community, and the main hospital, Al Ahil, is run by the Anglican Church.

At left parishioners and visitors from other churches in the area who took part in the readings and stories during the service.



After the service, about 40 people gathered in the hall to enjoy some fellowship over a very nice supper. The nativity set in the above picture is carved from olive wood and

was brought back by Rosemary during their 2008 visit to the Holy Land.



Typical embroidery on a handmade *thobe* (or national dress) made in West Bank villages.

Watermelon which is grown in Gaza and the West Bank has been used as a Palestinian symbol of identity for decades, its four colours—red, green, black and white—are the same as the flag.



## 100th Birthday Coming up in 2025



On 26<sup>th</sup> October 2025, *The Church of the Good Shepherd* will reach a special birthday. It will in fact be 100 years since the Foundation stone for the building was laid and a *Parish 100 Year Celebration* will take place on or around that date.

*“The Foundation Stone for the Rectory was laid in September 1953 and by Christmas that year the building was more or less completed. Rev’d Des Brockhoff, priest at the time, recognised a good thing when he saw one, and instead of pedalling his way home to Bray Street after the Midnight Mass Service on Christmas Eve, then back again early the next morning, he borrowed a stretcher and slept the night there.”*



*“In the 1950s Forbes Primary School in South Plympton, one of the closest to the Church of the Good Shepherd was the biggest primary school in the state with 1800 pupils enrolled, and many of these children attended Sunday School at the church. In 1954 there were 275 children enrolled in the Sunday School with an average attendance of 195.”*

From *‘Classroom to Complex. A History of the Church of the Good Shepherd 1883—2000’* by Peggy Rowe”.

## Understanding Paul

----- Pauline ALCOCK -----



I have divided my writings about Paul into three parts: (1) Paul as missionary to the Gentiles (2) The dating of Paul's epistles compared to the Gospels, and (3) An analysis of 1 Cor. 14:30-40 and 1 Tim. 2:11-14, the purported 'anti-women' passages. I will provide the interpretations based on theologians' explanation of the Greek text.

I am including the first part **Paul as Missionary to the Gentiles** in this Easter issue. The second and third parts will appear in the Mid-Year issue of The LINK.

### PAUL : THE APOSTLE TO THE GENTILES

My faith has been formed, deepened, and refined by studying Paul's epistles and the Gospels. These two areas of scripture are, in my sight, the pillars of the Christian faith. Paul has been devalued by contemporary attacks on two passages, ie 1 Cor 14:30-40 and 1 Tim 2:11-14. As well, the English translations of some of Paul's rhetoric seem strange to modern ears, especially when they are taken out of context in the Letters. Paul's theology is much more than these two aspects. His letters to the churches he founded in pagan Asia Minor, are testament to his faith in the resurrected Christ, and its meaning for the lives of Christians in those churches. He can be difficult to interpret, but his letters contain some of the most beautiful, profound declarations of theological insight and comfort available to us.

Paul is seen as a "towering figure of intellectual brilliance" (Mark Allan Powell: *Introducing the New Testament*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Baker Academic, Michigan 2018, p.248). His letters were valued by the early churches and copies were continuously made of them. This is why we have them in our canon. In addition, his letters are regarded as "the only writings from any Pharisee who belonged to the Second Temple Period of Judaism (515 BCE to 70 CE). The Roman historian Josephus, was a Pharisee for a brief time, but Paul was, and remained, a Pharisee. (Mark Allan Powell, pp 248-49).

For Paul and the very early church, Jesus Christ was the fulfilment of messianic prophecy and the Son of God. The new 'Christians' were part of 'The Way' (Acts 24:22), a group still aligned to the Jewish synagogues. It is significant that it was called "The Way" as this reflects the meaning that Judaism and the early church placed on Christ's teachings; belief in Christ as the Messiah and Son of God meant ascribing to Christ's revolutionary teachings. These were the foundation of Paul's preaching and letters.

His background was totally appropriate for his mission to the Gentiles. He grew up in Tarsus, which was built on important trading routes and was a polyglot of Greco-Roman and Judaic values. Paul stresses his Judaic background in Rom. 11:12 – "an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin". In Acts 23:6, the writer records that Paul tells the Sadducees and Pharisees that he was 'a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee'. In the previous chapter, he tells the centurion guarding Paul that he was born a Roman citizen (22:28). In the same chapter, he tells the Jewish mob – in Hebrew – that he was educated by Gamaliel, a very respected member of the Sanhedrin. (v. 5).

In Acts 17, the diverse cultural contexts within which Paul lived, coalesce. The writer described his interactions in Athens. He argued in the synagogue with the Jews 'and the devout persons', and every day in the marketplace with those who happened to be there (v. 17). In addition, he debated with Epicurean and Stoic philosophers (v. 14). They asked him to preach in the Areopagus, or hill top north-west of the Acropolis, where philosophers debated (v. 19).

While Acts, written much later than the epistles, provides a history of Paul and his missionary endeavours, it is important to assess Paul's epistles as "letters", addressing issues in the congregations that he had previously formed. There is always a back story than can be learned from his letters. However, while the questions Paul addresses arise from contextual issues, he infuses his analyses with timeless gems of theological comfort.

Paul's God is a God of justice and mercy who put his Son into the human world to die for human sin, to be raised once again into timeless glory.

## AROUND THE PARISH



Great to see the Kirkby family reunion at the 10.00 am service at CHOGS on 31.12.23.  
**L-R:** Phil Kirby, eldest son Brian, daughter-in-law Brooke, grandchildren, Lachlan (10) and Elise (8), and Lorraine Kirkby.



We have a new addition to the CHOGS family! **Fergus**, Fr Michael and Carol Fort's new pup being welcomed at morning tea on Sunday 6 Jan 2024.



hymn he and Carol chose for their wedding.

At the Second Sunday in Lent Service on 25 February 2004, Father Michael mentioned that he and Carol celebrated their 39th wedding anniversary during the week. Daughter Astrid was visiting from Canberra so they were able to go out for a meal and celebrate together. He also told us that Hymn 398, *Come Down O Love Divine*, which was sung at the service on 25.2.24 was a personal favourite, and the





**SHROVE TUESDAY** the day before the Lenten period begins was celebrated on Tuesday 13th February, 2024 in the Parish Hall. About twenty people gathered to enjoy a chat over a generous supply of pancakes cooked by our resident chef Father Michael Lane. The delicious array of toppings included

a selection of savoury and sweet choices.



*Thanks to Fr Michael and helpers for a very enjoyable introduction to the season of **LENT!!***



Shrove Tuesday comes from the word “shrive” meaning “absolve”. Christians traditionally visit church on this day to confess sins and clean their souls, thus being “shriven” before the start of Lent, the 40-day period of fasting, marking the time Jesus fasted in the desert.

Shrove Tuesday was the last opportunity to use up eggs and fat before embarking on the fast, and pancakes are the perfect way of using up these ingredients.



On 8 February 2024, something quite extraordinary happened to a group of birdwatchers from FoSSE (*Friends of the Shorebirds SE*) group conducting their routine survey of local birds on a Coorong beach in south-eastern South Australia. A **King Penguin** emerged from the sea and walked directly towards them.



The fact that the bird was on the beach, 6000 km from its usual habitat was amazing in itself, but for it to venture so close to the group of stunned onlookers, was something none of them ever expected to experience. One of the basic rules of birdwatching is not getting too close to your quarry, and here was this majestic creature not only approaching, but also stopping occasionally to throw its head up in the air and make braying sounds followed by intermittent bowing, before continuing its walk toward them. The bird's curiosity and lack of fear suggest that it had never seen humans before. Being a young bird from a sub-Antarctic island like Heard Island or Macquarie Island, this is probably the case.

This occasion is only the third time that a King Penguin has been seen in South Australia over the past 40 years, the other two sightings being in 1987 and 2004, so it is a rare event indeed. For FoSSE secretary, Maureen Christie who was on the beach that day, it was her second sighting, having also seen a bird in 2004.

It is thought that the penguin came ashore to moult. Each year, penguins lose all their feathers over a 3-4-week period, replacing them with a new shiny, oiled and waterproof set. As the birds are fairly vulnerable during this period, without protection from freezing waters, they look for a warmer location on land – but usually much closer to their home territory.

King Penguins, the second largest in the world, have a height ranging from 70-100 cm (that's up to 3 and a half feet in the old lingo), and can weigh between 9.3 and 17.3 kg, so standing alongside most people, the bird would be waist high. Only Emperor Penguins are larger, coming in at 120 cm tall.

This momentous event created worldwide interest, including reports in the *Guardian* and other British newspapers. It is a reminder that miracles still do happen, and that a beautiful creature just “*doing its thing*” on a fairly remote South Australian beach (albeit it a bit off course) has managed to captivate so many people. A much-needed good-news story, which can be a rare event reading the newspaper these days. But you can always rely on Nature to surprise and fill us with hope, often when we least expect it(!)



## THE SPIRITUAL GARDEN AT THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD



*Reverend Barry Davis and Malcolm Fairfull enjoy the sun in the church's new garden*

The above photograph (circa 2000) was taken in the Spiritual Garden at CHOGS, about 2 years after the garden was first established. It forms part of an article published in a local paper (possibly *Messenger Newspapers*) which was re-discovered amongst some old files. The text reads:

### **Remembrance garden of the Good Shepherd**

*A little oasis has been established at the back of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Plympton.. A spiritual garden has been planted on top of a water retention catchment area by gardener Malcolm Fairfull, making use of the area constructed back in 1998.*

*Mr Fairfull said the spiritual garden took two years to establish. "Years ago, apparently this was just old basketball courts: Mr Fairfull said.*

*Now it is full of mostly native plants and memories of people who had donated items such as seats and gates to the garden. Reverend Barry Davis said the gardens, established with \$11,000 of donations, were open to the public at any time.*

*"It's an oasis which will draw people from the wider community with the opportunity to explore God." Rev Davis said.*

*"This garden is a resource—it is given with an opportunity for the community to gather, to listen, to share and to experience the stillness of the God in between us."*

*"Imagine when these trees are up 6 metres and have 2 metre underhanging—it's going to be fantastic!"*



Fast forward to 2023 and we no longer have to imagine what the garden will look like.

In the picture on the left, taken in late 2023, the foundation stone for the garden's opening (seen behind Malcolm's head in the above photo) is located in the area above the patch of light green lawn (see arrow).

As we and the wider community continue to enjoy this aptly named "oasis" in the midst of suburbia, let us always remember the pioneering efforts of people like Barry Davis, Malcolm Fairfull and others along the way over the past 25 years, who have been stewards of this precious resource. Long may it continue to

provide a refuge for our local birdlife, as well as a contemplative space for anyone seeking a spot for quiet reflection.

# The Church of the Good Shepherd

15 Clayton Avenue, Plympton, S.A.

**Priest: Fr Michael Lane**

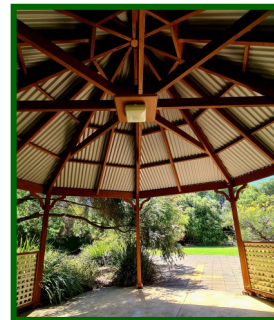
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## HOLY WEEK 2024

5.00 pm Monday 25 March Evening Prayer

5.00 pm Tuesday 26 March Evening Prayer

10.00 am Wednesday 27 March Eucharist

## MAUNDY THURSDAY 28 March

7.00 pm Washing of the Feet and Institution of the Eucharist

## GOOD FRIDAY 29 March

9.00 am Solemn Liturgy  
The Passion and Death of the Lord

10.30 am Stations of the Cross

## EASTER DAY Sunday 31 March

6.00 am Dawn Service The Great Easter Vigil Service of Light. Held in the Garden, this service includes Lighting of the New Fire and Breakfast.

9.00 am Easter Celebratory Eucharist: Renewal of Baptismal Promises.

## FELLOWSHIP OUTREACH AND MISSION



### Good Shepherd Lunch Club

*Simply a time of fellowship and sharing*

**12 pm THIRD Wednesday of every month**

*Please sign sheet in hall*

### Good Shepherd Morning Coffee

*Simply a time of fellowship and sharing*

**10.30 am FIRST Tuesday every month**

*Join us, bring a friend*

