

HERE AND NOW



December 2016

Contributions to this Newsletter are very welcome and can be made by e-mailing them to rosieclark@chariot.net.au or to penelgreg@bigpond.com Next issue April 2017

This Newsletter comes to you from the Anglican Parish of Port Lincoln in the Diocese of Willochra



St Thomas' Port Lincoln



St Matthew's Poonindie



St Matthias' Wangary

HERE AND NOW

If you would prefer to receive the HERE AND NOW electronically by e-mail, all you have to do is send a request to the e-mail address on the front cover: rosieclark@sa.chariot.net.au And a bonus—it will be in colour! Alternatively, it is now available on our web site at www.anglicanportlincoln.com.au

From the Venerable Peter Linn...

We have entered the new church year—with Advent. So Happy New Year!

This year has been fun. Travelling around the Eyre Peninsula meeting new people and looking at ways of working in closer relationship with the Lutheran Church and the Uniting Church of Australia.

We have also spent time looking at how the Eyre Ministry District and the Parish of Port Lincoln can work more closely together. It was very interesting to meet and see that both these ministry units have a lot in common including similar numbers attending services and similar challenges facing each ministry area.

This Christmas Season, St Thomas's Church in Port Lincoln will be open from 9.00am till 4.00pm as it is every day. You are welcome to visit, light a candle, and pray.

I wish you all a Holy and Blessed Christmas Season.

Peter



You are home to the exile
touch to the frozen
daylight to the prisoner
authority to the silent
anger to the helpless
laughter to the weary
direction to the joyful:
come, our God, come.

~ Janet Morley



KNOWING OUR CHURCH'S HISTORY

Continuing the story...

From the Here and Now September 1995 Part 25

It was during the church year of 1902-1903 that the Rev'd Howard relinquished the incumbency of St Thomas' and transferred to Adelaide to take charge of the Prospect Parish. However, his stay there was short-lived and he returned to Eyre Peninsula again in 1904 as assistant priest of the West Coast Mission, with headquarters at Streaky Bay. Later that year he became Priest-in-Charge and in 1905, was elected Rural Dean. In 1911 he received the dignity of Honorary Canon of St Peter's cathedral in recognition of his missionary work. The year 1914 saw him leave Streaky Bay to become Rector at Largs Bay and later at Port Augusta. He died in 1947 at the age of 88. The Rev's Humphrey T Wightwick became St Thomas' next rector, but his time in Port Lincoln only lasted into 1904. He was succeeded by the Rev'd G S Ives from Laura.

In August, 1904, the church lost a devoted parishioner, and the town, a much-esteemed citizen, when John Anderson died. His name has been mentioned earlier, of course. The Port Lincoln, Tumby Bay and West Coast Recorder of August 19th gave an almost full page prominence to Mr Anderson's passing, together with a summary of his many philanthropic and civic attributes. The kindly, heavily bearded gentleman had conducted a general store in Tasman Terrace, together with a hawker's round in the district over a period of 24 years.

The town was quick to erect a practical memorial to his name with the citizens generously subscribing to a fund for the purchase of a sizable clock. The timepiece was erected in 1905 on a windmill-like tower in the then parklands on the sea side of Tasman Terrace, opposite the Post Office.

There was also a call from the congregation for the placement of a suitable memorial in St Thomas' Church. This proved unnecessary, however, as Mrs Anderson saw fit to donate a colourful stained glass window to the memory of her late husband. It was installed in June 1905. The window, a representation of St Paul, graces another one depicting St Peter, erected to the memory of John Stewart Brown, S.M. These two treasures are located in the Southern end of the transept, and further complement the 3 beautiful Sison windows over the High Altar, earlier mentioned.

All five memorials have added distinctive beauty to St Thomas' Church, now being very much part of its heritage. If you have looked in the Visitors' Book lately, you will have seen

that a visitor has remarked on their beauty. Such a comment is not infrequent. The windows, with their saintly figures, together with that of Christ, have had my appreciation since childhood days and I find that they are shown to greatest advantage during December and January, in the early morning for those over the altar, and the late evening for the transept ones as the sun goes down. It is that time of the year when the sun is farthest south and can shine through to greatly enhance their elegance.

In this day and age, such quality workmanship in stained glass is priceless, and virtually irreplaceable. It was during the wardenship of Jim Quinn and myself, that steps were taken to safeguard the precious windows with wire grid screens. It was a reasonable precaution against vandalism at the time, but I very much doubt their effectiveness today. As a past custodian of our church and its items of heritage significance, I would advise recommending the installation of more updated measures of protection in the form of shatterproof laminated glass on the outside. It is too late after damage is done. St Augustine's Church in Unley has recently taken such protective measures, being one of many churches to do so now, no doubt. I understand that our St Thomas' windows are recorded on the Heritage Commissions' list of distinctive glass windows in Australia.

Until 1904 the Port Lincoln parish was still quite a large one, and the St Thomas' people had been pressing the Adelaide Diocese for some time to have it reduced in size. It was in October of that year that Warden D S Seddon visited the Bishop in Adelaide concerning the matter and gained approval for a reduction of its area. Mr Seddon returned with the message that "The limits of the new parish should include Poonindie and White's River on the North Road (now Lincoln Highway) for 17 miles (27kms) and up to and including 'The Fountain Eating House', 17 miles on the West Road (now Flinders Highway) and from there to the sea coast, including Sinclair's Station at Uley". †

Eric O'Connor

PORT LINCOLN CHRISTIAN BOOKSHOP

The Port Lincoln Christian Bookshop recently celebrated its 40th anniversary. However, it still appears that many of our church folk don't even know it exists, let alone where it is (59 Mortlock Tce by the way, opposite the old Elders building).

It's very tempting these days to order everything we need on-line, forcing many local businesses to shut down. If you see something you want in a Koorong catalogue, the Christian Bookshop can get it in for you, at the Koorong advertised price, and freight-free! Just ring 8682 4747 between 10am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.

In addition, the Bookshop tithes its profits back into the community, so you can support a local Christian enterprise, get the goods you want at the price you want, and support the community. Not to mention the free tea and coffee available if you want to have a chat while making your purchases.

What a great place for Christmas shopping - Bibles, other Christian reference books and novels, DVD's, gift lines, craft items - the list goes on.

Pastor Grant Wilson

My mention of "The Fountain Eating House" in the last chapter would be rather meaningless, perhaps, to most of our people today as its location and significance has been lost over the passing years and changing circumstances. Just for record purposes, I shall elaborate on this little outpost and its place in history.

There is evidence of use of the name going back to 1861 at least, because a Chinese shepherd named A-Chung gave his address as "The Fountain" when having his daughter Hannah baptised at St Thomas' in January of that year. It was also mentioned on Mr and Mrs Henry Bryant's marriage certificate in 1872.

In present times its location could best be pinpointed as the old building standing on the right-hand side of the Flinders Highway as we proceed Westward, approximately three-quarters of a mile from the Wanilla Forest entrance. At one time the road-way went right past the building, but re-alignment of the highway in recent years has set it back a short distance now, to be partly obscured by trees.¹

The "Eating House" part of the name came about, no doubt, by the fact that it was a stopping place in the horse-drawn Mail Coach days and the keepers found it a viable proposition to provide passengers and the travelling public generally, with refreshments. In those days it was also a very refreshing stopping place for the poor old horse, because close by, on the roadside, was a perpetual pool of crystal clear water, where they, together with many a driver, quenched their thirst. Hence the caption "The Fountain". The pool was also useful in maintaining the vehicles. The late Mr Willis Feltus, formerly of North Shields, told me that on many occasions when driving from their Sheringa farm to Port Lincoln during the hot summer months, he had driven both horse and buggy into the water and stayed there for a while. The horse was refreshed with a drink, whilst the wooden spokes and rims in the wheels 'took up' for the rest of the journey. (The wood in buggy wheels had

a habit of shrinking in hot weather, thereby causing spokes to rattle and rims to come loose.)

In 1914 "The Fountain" saw a rather unusual happening take place, when a boring rig came into the area and drilled for oil. It was hauled there by teams of bullocks. A report on the venture indicated that no oil was located, but an excellent supply of water was in evidence. In recent years, of source, the E & W S Department found that the "Fountain" water was an overflow of the Uley/Wanilla underground basin. As a result of their tapping the stream the roadside pool no longer exists.

During the steam train era on Eyre Peninsula, the Railways pumped water from "The Fountain" pool up to Pearlah siding, approximately 3 miles distant, for use in their engines.

Before ending this digression it would be remiss of me not to mention 2 very well-known "Fountain" identities, who lived there for many years. They were Mr Septimus Roberts and his niece Miss Jenny Roberts. Mr Roberts was engaged in gardening there and brought his produce to Port Lincoln regularly for sale, while Miss Jenny conducted "The Fountain" Post Office and Telephone business, together with housekeeping.

Concerning the Southernmost point of the now Port Lincoln Parish boundary at Uley Station, this outpost property was owned by the well-known Sinclair and Hyde families for many years and indeed was the place of residence in the years 1852 and 1853, for John McDouall Stuart, the explorer. It was during this time that he worked for James Sinclair, driving bullocks by day and teaching his employer's children in the evenings.

It is evident that the Parish boundaries altered again, because as we know today, the area embraces the Wangary and Coultas districts. †

¹ "The Fountain" is now visible due to clearing in recent years

Eric O'Connor

Let's Celebrate:

the marriage of Jasmine Richardson and Rick Leonard on Saturday November 5th at St Thomas Port Lincoln.

The wedding was conducted by Fr Brian Bascombe with

the Church beautifully decorated with fresh flowers and foliage. We wish them all the best for the future.



Please pray for those who have died, their families and friends:

Kathryn Bidalovic, who passed away on November 22nd.

Her funeral was conducted by the Rev Susan Straub on Saturday November 26th at St Thomas'.

Kathryn is survived by her husband Paul and their daughters Adele and Philipa. She was the daughter of the late Lennox and Jean Solomon.

Audine Tree, who died on Thursday December 8th after a long battle with motor neurone disease. Audine will be well remembered by all, especially those around Elliston and Sheringa.

PARISH PRAYER FOR PORT LINCOLN

Father help us to be a Church that is a welcoming, caring, and meaningful community. A community which enjoys the celebration of the sacraments and has a passion to proclaim the Gospel of Christ. A community which reaches out to others, sharing the love of God with them. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OP SHOP ON FRIDAYS

VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS NEEDED

- TO HELP SET UP
- TO HELP AT THE SHOP FROM 9.00AM TO 12.00 NOON OR FROM 12 TO 3.00PM
- TO HELP PACK AWAY

PLEASE LET THE OFFICE KNOW IF YOU CAN HELP AND YOUR NAME CAN BE PUT ON THE ROSTER

**DONATIONS OF GOODS
ARE ALWAYS WELCOME**

Acknowledgement

We believe that all humanity is made in the image of God.

We acknowledge and show our respect to the traditional custodians of this land on which we worship.

As well, we acknowledge and respect all those from various races who travelled here to make their home.

FURNITURE RENEWAL AT ST THOMAS



Above and Below...

Earlier this year Sue and Haydn Baillie removed the small altar from the chapel and spent many, many hours renovating it and restoring its French polished finish. It now looks quite wonderful and we thank Sue and Haydn



Below...

The chapel has also had a change of chairs and now features some beautiful stained wooden chairs which are in tune with the ambience of the rest of the church furniture. We thank Trevor and Rosie Clark for making these chairs available.



WHAT CANCER CANNOT DO

What Cancer Cannot Do
 Cancer is so limited...
 It cannot cripple Love.
 It cannot shatter Hope.
 It cannot corrode Faith.
 It cannot destroy Peace.
 It cannot kill Friendship.
 It cannot suppress Memories.
 It cannot silence Courage.
 It cannot invade the Soul.
 It cannot steal Eternal Life.
 It cannot conquer the Spirit.

FROM RUTH....

COMING READY OR NOT...



'Hide and seek' was a favourite game when I was a kid. Come to think of it – it still is. I like to pull down the blinds at home and look for good things to read. In my searches recently I've enjoyed combing the archives preparing for Advent and Christmas. It all seems to be about God coming to us rather than our approach to God.

The old negro spiritual words 'I wanna be ready for the day when Jesus comes...' say it all. I guess that we'll be doing whatever we do on any given day – wake up, shower, eat, read, talk, meet, pray, love. Being ready isn't hard as long as we don't put our preparation off. It's in the grace of the ordinary amidst everyday life.

And wonder what 2017 will bring? More of the same and a little more waiting? As we celebrate the coming of God to us in a way we can understand, may we give ourselves over to plumbing the gospel in word and deed.

Waiting with you,

Ruth

Rev Ruth Buxton

ruthmuse@internode.on.net

REV GAEL JOHANSEN

Gael is the Ministry District Officer for Willochra and she has embraced her role with a commitment that whatever programs are offered on the Eastern side of the Diocese, she will offer on the Western side also.

We were fortunate to have Gael visit on November 19–20 at Port Lincoln to facilitate a workshop on the Saturday—"Gospel according to Matthew—The Year of Discipleship" to about a dozen participants who very much enjoyed the day.

On Sunday Gael led us through a program called "imagine Us" which is a process of appreciative inquiry looking at our past and present strengths and how we might move into the future. It was a valuable and thought provoking experience.

PASTORAL CARE

As we move into Advent and the Christmas season, let us pause for a moment and reflect on the pastoral needs of the parish. Do we know of people who will be in hospital over Christmas? What about those who might be alone on Christmas day? Is there someone you know who might like a lift to a Christmas service?

Perhaps you have a neighbour or family member who does not normally go to church, but who might like to attend the Christmas Eve carol service with you.

Please let me know if there is anything of this sort that requires me to coordinate lifts or visits.

The Christian Bookshop is stocked with beautiful and inexpensive cards, gift tags and gifts with a religious theme. It is well worth a visit when planning your Christmas giving. One never knows where a well-placed message may lead.

Recently Gael Johanssen, our Ministry Development Officer, and I spent some time looking at the Pastoral Care role, in order to clarify the role and identify what needs are not being met. Out of this conversation came the suggestion of a prayer group. Next year we shall work on establishing a regular prayer group; I would love to hear from anyone who has been part of a prayer group in the past, or who has ideas about how we might run one today.

May "Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you", and all your family and friends as you prepare for a joyous Christmas.

Nel 8685 6026 or 0488 501250

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ROSALIND

Best wishes for a very Happy Birthday go to Rosalind Bascombe who turned 70 on November 23rd.

Joan Belling organized dinner at the Ming Inn with about 20 friends from St Thomas, especially members of MU and the Ladies Guild.

Rosalind celebrates with Gwen Richardson
and Bev Woodroffe



The Diocesan Registrar,
Gavin Tyndale, and his wife
Lily coordinated the making,
cooking and selling of deli-
cious spring rolls for the fair.



AROUND THE STAWBERRY FAIR

It is with pleasure that we congratulate Sonja Nugent on her discernment to the priesthood.

In October this year Sonja received a call from Bishop John Stead to inform her that she is now considered an Ordinand and is moving towards becoming a Deacon next year. Please keep her in your prayers.

Here is a reflection that she delivered at St Thomas' recently based on LUKE 18:15-30.

Today we have heard how Jesus used this situation with the 'blessing of the children' to lead into a very powerful teaching for His disciples.

Looking firstly at the situation with the children, this is a message Jesus has tried to get his disciples to understand before. They often require repeated reminders from Jesus as to how to follow him; as do we.

In Luke 9:46-48 we read that "An argument arose among them as to which one of them was the greatest". In that passage He "took a little child and put it by his side" and He said to them "Whoever welcomes this child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me; for the least among all of you is the greatest."

At that time, children held the lowest status in society; they had no rights. Children were lumped together with women and slaves as the most inferior members of society. The way Jesus regarded children was not at all common, and His disciples are finding what He asks of them difficult to understand. Why did He would regard them so highly?

I think it could be connected with the instruction to "receive the Kingdom of God as a little child".

I was flicking through channels the other morning and came across a group of small children walking to the beach together (it was a Play School segment where the children were filmed 'off on an adventure', with a child doing a voice-over explaining the events). There were 4 children. They looked around 5, 7 and 8 years old; their leader looked about 10. They were collecting what they called 'treasure' on the beach (which of course was shells, seaweed, rocks, sticks... all that kind of thing). It caught me, I could not stop watching. I was captivated by their excitement, their enthusiasm, their sheer exuberance at their treasure; and the face they worked together to make on the beach with it all.

These are some of the qualities of children I think Jesus asks us to embody – their innocence, their gratitude for the simplest things, their creativity. But I think He also asks us to be like children in their ever active thirst for knowledge, their continual Why? What? Where? and When's?

In this passage today it even states "infants", and in some translations "babies". So, THEY are a COMPLETELY blank slate... and isn't it exciting watching a babies' absolute delight in nearly every new encounter ... when they first see a dog, the moon, the ocean. When my Stella was a babe in arms, just learning nouns, she pointed at the moon and said "hole" (she literally thought it was a hole in the sky) when I said back to her "No.... Ball" her face just LIT UP!! The realisation that it was actually a 'ball' and not a 'hole' exhilarated her. Sometimes I think Jesus is asking us to forget all that we know...so that we may "receive the kingdom of God"; so that we too may feel such joy.

But what IS the "Kingdom of God"?

The expression "Kingdom of God" is found in sixty-one separate passages in the Synoptic Gospels. We are told ...the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed, like a treasure hidden in a field, like a full net of fish, like the leaven in the flour to raise the bread, like a pearl that a merchant sells all he owns to buy.

But what IS IT??

One commentator I read called it '*the rule of Christ in the hearts of believers*'.

Perhaps that is why to some he says the kingdom is already present in them, and to others that they must seek it. And then I thought "Oh... so when we say *The Lord's Prayer*, and beseech God "Thy Kingdom Come", we are asking him to rule our hearts!!". You probably already knew that, but it was pretty exciting to me. We ask him every day to rule our hearts!!

So now, onto the parable... Jesus is using this parable to let his disciples know HOW to enter the kingdom of God. When Jesus says how difficult it is for the wealthy to enter the kingdom He is responding to the individual in the story, the wealthy "ruler", and what his particular block is to his entrance. He wasn't judging ALL wealthy people, just this one.

Jesus has been asked this question before, but His answer was a little different.

In Luke 10:25-28 we read about a lawyer (who back then was a teacher of the Law of Moses) who asked Jesus "Teacher what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

Jesus asks him "What is written in the law? What do you read there?"

The lawyer said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself."

Jesus replies "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

Then Jesus proceeds to tell The Parable of the Good Samaritan, about the priest and a Levite (or holy man) who walk past a beaten man on the side of the road, but a Samaritan (a foreigner) gives him aid. Much aid in fact - "He bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he paid the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.'"

Jesus asks the listeners to be merciful like the Samaritan.

He tells them "Go and do likewise"

Why do you think Jesus gives different advice on these two occasions?

I think it comes from his understanding of the individual who asks the question. And... I think if I asked the question, or if any of you asked the question, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" we would all get a different answer; our own personal parable. In fact, I think if we look into our own hearts, we would find the answer. God gave us the Holy Spirit to help us to know, to understand, to discern his intentions in our lives. Sometimes it can be difficult to face that, to look for our parable, to listen to our parable... because we may be asked to "sell all that you own", or to show mercy to foreign-

SONJA NUGENT *continued...*

ers, or to give up some awesome time-wasting obsession we have that keeps us from spending time with God. But Jesus asks us to take up OUR Cross and follow Him.

If we want Him to rule our hearts, we have to ask Him what it is that is blocking His entrance. We have to ask the Holy Spirit for insight. We have to spend some time alone with God to hear our parable. And.. we have to be prepared to do that which He asks of us as His particular individual children. You would all have a family or know a family with multiple chil-

dren. They all have their own skills, and their own weaknesses; they are all so different, even in the same family, and have different needs from their parents. As a loving parent God seeks to help us to grow into 'whole' people, well-rounded, and God KNOWS how to get us there. We just have to take some time to listen for our parable, and be prepared to live it.

AMEN

Sonja Nugent

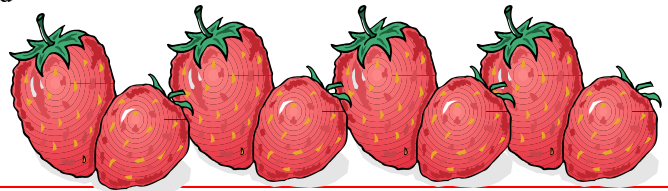
STRAWBERRY FAIR 2016

I would like to express my appreciation to all who willingly assisted and supported the Strawberry Fair for 2016. Once again the Fair proved to be very successful with the final total of well over \$8000.

Thank you to all who contributed in any way with their time, help and donations of goods, produce and plants. The time and effort by all involved in the fair is certainly enjoyed by all the community who attended on the day.

**A GREAT JOB WELL DONE & THANKYOU TO ALL
MEREDITH**

The whole Parish of Port Lincoln congratulates Meredith Dobbins for coordinating this event again in 2016. It is a huge job tying all the loose ends together to result is such a coordinated effort.



CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2016

Services in the Parish of Port Lincoln at Christmas this year will be:



POONINDIE on Christmas Eve at 6pm with Rev Ruth Buxton

WANGARY on Christmas Day at 9am with Ven Peter Linn



ST THOMAS PORT LINCOLN on Christmas Eve at 8pm with Rev Ruth Buxton and Fr Brian Bascombe

ST THOMAS PORT LINCOLN on Christmas Day at 9am with Fr Brian Bascombe

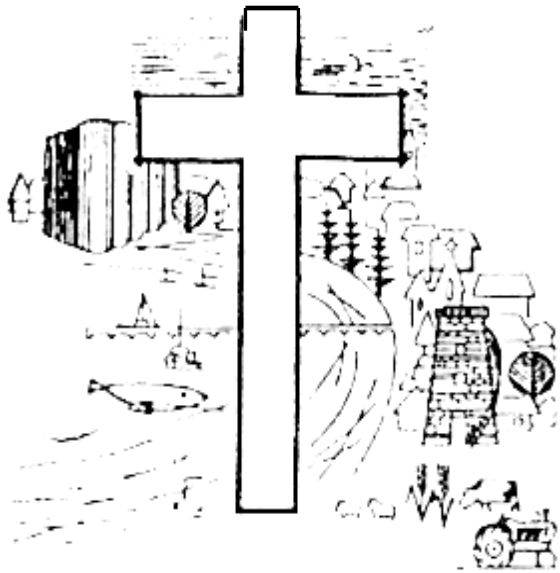
LADIES GUILD

From Joan Belling....

The Guild is till trying,, but not getting any newcomers at this stage. We had a nice luncheon on November 15th as an after dinner from the Strawberry Fair. It was good to know that the Spring Rolls an Rice organised by

Gavin and Lily from the Diocese went well after some of the Guild and Mothers Union members helped to prepare them.

The Guild and MU members also helped Rosalind Bascombe celebrate an '0' day on the 23rd of November. Christmas Greetings to all and Happy New Year.



This newsletter comes to you from the Anglican Parish of Port Lincoln in the Diocese of Willochra.

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Rev Brian Bascombe

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**SURFACE
MAIL**

**POSTAGE
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AUSTRALIA**

ADDRESS LABEL

PLEASE ADVISE CHANGE OF ADDRESS



**OP SHOP IN PARISH
HALL**

FRIDAYS 9AM-3PM

*Fresh fruit and vegetables
are welcome early in the
day. Clean shopping bags,
clean clothes and house-
hold utensils, knick knacks
etc welcome. Nothing elec-
trical, thank you.*

