

# HERE AND NOW

December 2018



Contributions to this Newsletter are very welcome and can be made by e-mailing them to [rosieclark@tpg.com.au](mailto:rosieclark@tpg.com.au) or to [penelgreg@bigpond.com](mailto:penelgreg@bigpond.com) Next issue March/April 2019

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@tpg.com.au](mailto:rosieclark@tpg.com.au) And a bonus—it will be in colour! Alternatively, it is now available on our web site at [www.anglicanportlincoln.com.au](http://www.anglicanportlincoln.com.au)

## MARTIN BLEBY—OUR LOCUM PRIEST

### IDENTIFYING WITH US

*'born in human likeness' (Philippians 2:7)*

Have you ever known someone who took the trouble to get to know and appreciate you through and through, for who you are? Who cared more for you than they did for themselves? Who identified with you so closely that they practically knew what it was to be you—almost inside your skin—and maybe you came to know something of what it was to be them. So close. Such a person is a rare find, and a friend indeed.



Such, and more, is the order of what we celebrate at Christmas: 'when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman' (Galatians 4:4). Jesus was born in the same way that each of us come into this world. He came in our flesh. That's what the word 'incarnation' means: 'the word'—God's own self-expression, God's personal form of communication, God himself—'became flesh' (John 1:14). A human person, like us. One of us. One with us.

Increasingly, what moves me most deeply is Jesus' total identification of himself with me, across the whole of my life, at the deepest level. Not just when I'm at my best—he glories in that—but also when I'm at my worst (see Hebrews 4:15). 'He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross' (1 Peter 2:24)—he has taken into himself the knocks, the grief, the disappointment, the shame, the pain, the despondency, and has finished it there, once and for all. Our sin was condemned in his flesh (see Romans 8:3). Jesus has drawn us to himself on the cross, taken us with him into the grave, and has brought us out the other side into new life (see John 12:32; Ephesians 2:4–6).

As Jesus has identified totally with us, it is for us to identify and align ourselves with him, through baptism and faith (see Romans 6:3–11; Colossians 2:12–14). As close to him as he is to us. Then we can truly pray, as we do at Holy Communion, 'that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us'.

I look forward to seeing you at the Christmas services. On Sunday 23 December I will be taking Communion to any who will be unable to get to church for Christmas—please let me know on 0467 485 284 if you would like me to come to you

*Martin Bleby.*

## CHRISTMAS SERVICE TIMES

Poonindie	Christmas Eve	6pm
St Thomas	Christmas Eve	8pm
	Christmas Day	9am
Wangary	Christmas Day	11am

*Wishing you all a Happy, Holy and Blessed Christmas*

# KNOWING OUR CHURCH'S HISTORY

## *Continuing the story...*

**From the Here and Now**

**June/July 1997**

**Part 39**

The Rev'd Morgan Davies actually arrived in Port Lincoln to take up his Parish duties only a few days before Christmas of that year 1927. The first church service he took at St Thomas' occurred on Christmas Day and his departures from customary evangelical usages during the conduct of same, alerted many parishioners to the fact that his churchmanship would not be well received by many in the Port Lincoln Parish. Just what his offending actions were are not recorded. However, a guess would be that they were his frequent use of the sign of the cross, genuflecting and the possible wearing of some vestments, which he may have brought with him from his former Parish.

Little did they know that this was the beginning of an unsettled era of Anglo Catholic church life within the Port Lincoln district, destined to linger on in to the 1950's due to a succession of priests following that form of churchmanship being appointed by Willochra. They were, namely, Canon A S Urch 1934-38, the Reverends G P Hadden 1938-39, J B Neate 1941-42, A H White 1942-46, and A W Pain 1946-50.

Similarly, Anglo Catholicism was showing up in the Adelaide Diocese. Progress of same was being furthered by a branch of the Roman Catholic orientated Society of the Sacred Mission of Kelham, situated in the Adelaide Hills, where-in its fathers conducted a seminary to train many of the oncoming men entering the Church of England Priesthood in this state.

Three prominent Anglo-Catholic churches in Adelaide at the time were, the Church of St George, Goodwood, The Church of St James, West Adelaide and the Mission of the Holy Cross, Thebarton. It is of interest to note that Davies preached on occasions at these churches when visiting Adelaide.

Our new Rector lost little time in making an assess-

ment of his Parish's needs. He came up with many innovative ideas, some of which were impractical by the fact that they were too costly, although often supported by the Bishop. We were in the throes of a depression and money was in short supply, generally.

Three parish projects suggested were the enlargement of St Thomas' Church and the building of two churches – one at Kirton Point and another at the Charlton centre.

The idea of building a church at Kirton Point had Bishop Thomas' 'blessing', so to speak, because when addressing a Port Lincoln Parish Council meeting on 19 June 1928, he recommended the purchase of some three acres (1.24 hectares) there on which to build same. Why he advocated the buying of such a large area is not known.

It was at the same meeting that he revealed his opinion that Eyre Peninsula would become a Diocese in its own right. Maybe he had ideas of making Kirton Point the headquarters of the new diocese.

Concerning the enlargement of St Thomas', the Bishop suggested that a tower be built on a 14 feet x 14 feet (4.26 metres) base at the western belfry end of the church with the thought in mind that the ground level section could provide much needed vestry accommodation.

Research shows that serious consideration was given to the purchase of land at Kirton Point but the matter was not proceeded with at that point of time. The idea of a church for Charlton did not eventuate either and the holding of services there continued on in the district hall. †

*Eric O'Connor*

### **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.

# Is it time to rethink the 'testimony'?



At the Second Festival of Theology, Mike Starkey (who teaches at the Church Army centre in Sheffield) suggested that we need to rethink the traditional 'testimony':

**It is a truth universally acknowledged** that Christians invited to talk about their faith look terrified. Most people simply don't know where to start. And that's before you introduce the e-word. Outside the Church evangelism is seen as the province of wild-eyed loons who rant at passers-by. Inside the church it's seen, at best, as the province of extroverts with a gift for that sort of thing.

## Testimony: the Positives

Of course, the classic answer to faith-sharing paralysis is the Testimony. It involves encouraging people to tell their faith story, in three parts:

- > Before becoming a Christian
- > Coming to faith
- > Life since conversion.

One version puts it in a mnemonic:

**BC>JC>AD.**

There are many positives about the classic testimony. Here are the two most obvious:

1. **It embeds truth claims in narrative.** Look at any recent study of communication theory. For example, 'sticky communication' (Chip and Dan Heath), or studies of TED talks. One thing they all agree on is that *story* helps an idea stick. It makes it engaging. That's the reason so many scholars, Christian and secular, see Jesus as a master communicator. He communicates through story and everyday images, rather than philosophical abstraction. In a testimony, you're telling your story.

2. **It's personal.** In a testimony I'm saying, 'This is what I've found, this is what matters to me.' I may be implicitly making universal truth claims ('If it's true for me, it could be true for everybody else as well'). But that's not how I'm expressing it. I'm adopting the stance of somebody who has found something life-enhancing I want to share. It's not confrontational or an invitation to an argument. A testimony is relatively teflon-coated: 'All I know is... that's my experience.' The only possible critical responses are 'No! that's not your experience!' (which sounds weird and slightly unhinged), or 'That may be your experience, but you're deluded!' (which sounds rude).

*October 30, 2018, by Ian Paul*

Ian Paul is a Church of England Theologian in the UK

You can read more of this article, and others, at:

<https://www.psephizo.com/life-ministry/is-it-time-to-rethink-the-testimony/>

## LADIES GUILD

### CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM THE GUILD

The Guild ladies hosted the combined churches Christmas Guild meeting in early December and this was well attended.

A collection was made for Fred's Van, the Sunday evening meal initiative at St Mary of the Angels, and a sizable donation was able to be made for this cause.

The op shop is now closed on Fridays for the summer break, and will open again in the middle of January.

It will also open over summer when the larger cruise ships are in port.

*Joan Belling*





# STRAWBERRY FAIR 2018



Alan Carr won first prize in the raffle

*A Thank You from the Coordinator,  
Meredith Dobbins*

*I would like to express my appreciation to all those who willingly assisted and supported the Strawberry fair for 2018.*

*Although the numbers seemed to be down on previous years, the Fair proved to be very successful with the total proceeds being nearly \$6000.*

*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 & THANK YOU TO ALL**

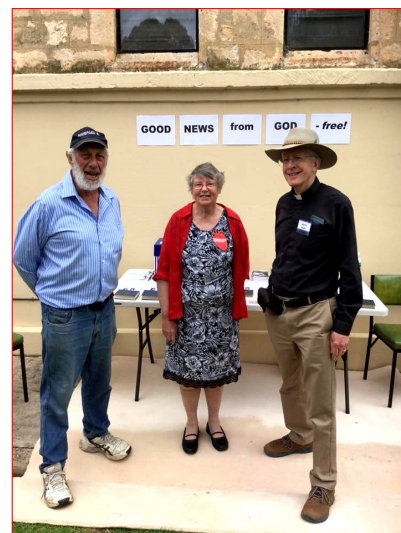


Janet Packer, Rebecca Habner,  
Yvonne Puckridge and Charmaine  
Bilston with the baked goodies



Freeman Puckridge, Rosie  
Clark and Trevor Clark at  
the pancake stall

Ken Holden, Margaret  
Vivian and the  
Rev Martin Bleby with  
Parish and Church  
information



## **The Ven Gael Johannsen The Diocesan Ministry Formation and Support Officer**

The Ven Gael has worked with the parishioners of this parish throughout 2018, leading us through the Germinate Programme, and coming to a conclusion in the final session in September. In this session Gael led the Vacancy Consultation, encouraging a careful look at our needs as we move forward to finding a new Parish Priest. With Peter and Rose retiring at

the end of October, the position in the Parish of Port Lincoln is now officially vacant and we are working with Bishop John Stead to find someone who will suit our needs.

In the meantime, we acknowledge Gael's prayerful work among us this year, "unlocking prison doors and setting the captives free", and giving God the Glory for His Mission amongst us. It has been a wonderfully busy year with significant accomplishments.

**Germinate**

## **A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR A CATCH UP:**

Have you missed any of Martin's sermons? They can be found on the parish website, along with many valuable reflections from Ruth Buxton:

<http://www.anglicanportlincoln.com.au/reflections.htm>

# MOTHERS UNION

Midday Prayers (Form 2) in our MU worship and prayer book begins :

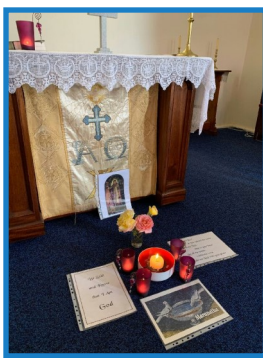
“Jesus, Lord of life, by the power of your word and through the actions of love, call us to be your disciples. Give us strength to be different, to stand up for justice and peace and be signs of your reconciling love for all.”

This powerful call to action can speak to us as MU members in today's world of many causes, as we try to discern just what it is that God is calling us to do.

I am sure it is what has led some of us to the work we are currently doing in our community.

## **Rosemary Raymond**

Our President, Rose, has held a Christian meditation at St Thomas for over 10 years. Today this is held in the church on Friday's at 4pm, and Wednesday's at 12.30 pm, and is meeting the needs of an ever increasing number of people. We are blessed indeed to have such a beautiful space for this contemplative form of worship, and to be able to reach out to others in this way.



*Rosemary Raymond and Agnes are being welcomed into the Benedictine community as novitiate oblates by Bev Armstrong who is an oblate of the world community of Christian meditation.*

After much prayer and discernment, Rose decided to take her initial vows as an oblate in the Benedictine Order that coordinates and runs this world wide meditation. This was at the National conference held at St Saviour's Glen Osmond in September, and I was very honoured and delighted to be able to attend the ceremony. Rose also extends this outreach to the prison, where she brings this gift of peace and reconciling love to some that need it

most, otherwise here is a link to their newsletter which readers may like to check out.

[https://issuu.com/meditatio/docs/november\\_2018\\_web](https://issuu.com/meditatio/docs/november_2018_web)

## **Rainbow Warrior Visit**

My passion for many years has been the environment; my belief that we must try, to the best of our ability, to look after the beautiful world God gave us to live in, being good and wise stewards of his creation.

Over the past 2 years I have found myself in the position of being able to coordinate the growing community resistance to the idea of an oil industry in our local seas. At times this has become quite controversial, but with prayer and meditation for God's guidance I have hopefully helped to bring a balanced debate into the public sphere. This week the action came to a head with the visit of the Greenpeace ship, The Rainbow Warrior; this was a marvellous opportunity for the people to express their views and it was a great honour to be able to coordinate a successful event under God's grace. I thank everyone for their prayers.

## **Grow Free**

Last, but definitely not least, I am excited to announce the trial of a new project, which has largely “grown” out of the “Germinate” programme that we have been running all this year (under Rev Gael Johannsen's guidance).



This is an idea developed by Andrew Barker from Adelaide and has become a facebook phenomenon over the last 2 years. Basically we convert an old BBQ into a painted cart, put some home grown produce on it, put it on facebook and see what happens. It's a great way of moving all that summer fruit that would otherwise go to waste; also a great way of using our grounds and providing a service to the community, “sharing with justice the resources of God's garden”.

<http://www.growfree.org.au/>

**Nel Taylor**



# RETIREMENT CELEBRATIONS FOR REV PETER LINN

## OCTOBER 27TH AND OCTOBER 28TH 2018



*Freeman Puckridge, Rose Linn, Rev Peter Linn and Andrew Morris*

The Reverend Peter Linn retired at the end of October 2018, completing eight years of ministry in the Parish of Port Lincoln.

Peter and his wife Rose were farewelled as our Parish Priest at a special dinner held at the Ravendale Sports Complex on the evening of October 27th which was attended by more than fifty people.

On the following morning, Peter was de-commissioned at a special service at St Thomas, where Bishop Chris McLeod presided assisted by Rev Brian Bascombe and Rev Martin Bleby.



*The gathering at Ravendale Sports Complex*



*Part of the congregation at the de-commissioning*



*Bishop Chris McLeod, Rev Peter Linn and Rev Brian Bascombe*

Peter and Rose Linn have retired in Port Lincoln and will continue as busy members of the Port Lincoln Community. Peter has won a position as a member of the Port Lincoln City Council, and continues to be active in the RSL.

The parishioners of the Parish wish both Peter and Rose all the very best for their retired life.



# FAREWELL TO LEON AND HELEN REDDING



On Sunday November 4th we farewelled Leon and Helen Redding who have been faithful members of the congregation at St Thomas for many years. In fact they were married in this church 66 years ago.

Helen and Leon have contributed to the well-being of the Parish through innumerable ways, and especially will be remembered for maintaining the gardens and helping with the typing and compilation of the Link and Here and Now.

They are moving to their new home in Strathalbyn where they will be living close to their family, including their son Bruce and his wife Val.



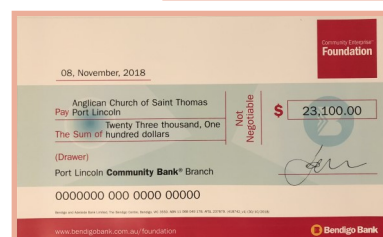
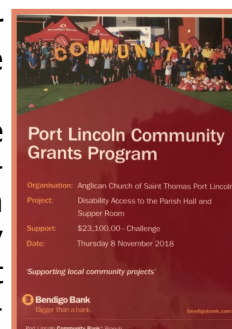
We wish them all the very best for the future, and we will miss them both dearly.

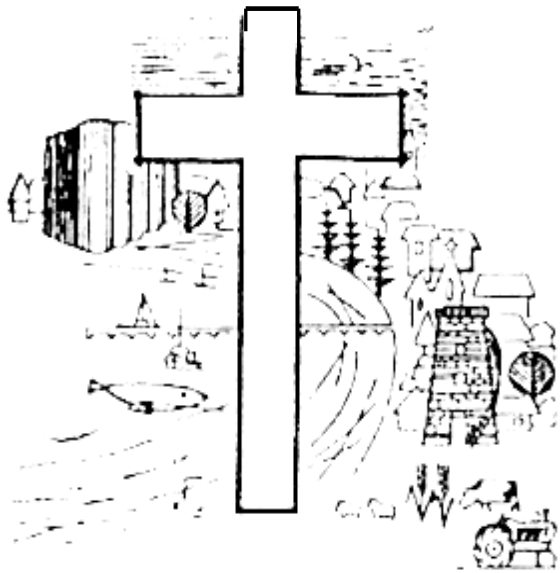
## CHALLENGE GRANT FOR DISABILITY ACCESS TO PARISH HALL AND SUPPER ROOM

Earlier this year Nel Taylor, on behalf of St Thomas Church, submitted an application for funding from the Bendigo Bank's Port Lincoln Community Awards Program. We were absolutely delighted when we were advised that the application had been successful. There are several conditions to the challenge grant, the first of which was to attend the presentations which were held on Thursday November 8th at Ravensdale. Several members of St Thomas Church Council went along to witness Joan Belling accept the grant which is designated for use for Disability Access. Being a Challenge Grant, it is conditional on the St Thomas' being able to fund the grant dollar for dollar, so to receive \$21 300 the church must also raise \$21 300. Plans are being discussed for ramp access to the Hall and Supper Room, and perhaps to improve access to the toilets as well.



*Nel Taylor and Joan Belling holding the Certificate and the Cheque for the Challenge Grant from the Bendigo Bank*





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

**PARISH PRIESTS:**

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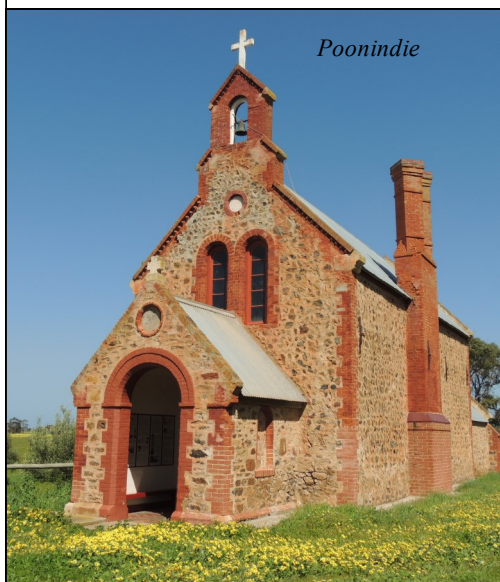
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*Poonindie*

**OP SHOP IN PARISH  
HALL**

**FRIDAYS 9AM-3PM  
and  
CRUISE SHIP DAYS**

*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.*



*Poonindie*