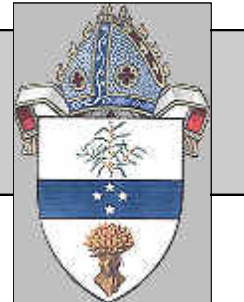


HERE AND NOW



October 2018

Contributions to this Newsletter are very welcome and can be made by e-mailing them to rosieclark@tpg.com.au or to penelgreg@bigpond.com Next issue December 2018

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

And a bonus—it will be in colour!

Alternatively, it is now available on our web site at www.anglicanportlincoln.com.au

MARTIN BLEBY—OUR LOCUM PRIEST A PROFILE

Martin Bleby has been in ordained ministry in the Anglican Church for nearly forty-eight years. He and his wife Vivien have four grown-up married children and thirteen grandchildren. Martin has served in the country parishes of Mount Gambier–Mount Schank–Port MacDonnell–Glencoe, Meningie–Tailem Bend–Karoonda–Coonalpyn–Salt Creek, and Kapunda–Eudunda–Hamilton–Point Pass, outback with the Bush Church Aid Society in Coober Pedy and the Far North-West Mission, and in suburban Adelaide at St Andrew's Church Walkerville. He was then on the team of the New Creation Teaching Ministry, a cross-denominational ministry among all the churches, conducting missions, weekly classes and annual intensive schools around Australia and overseas. He has served on the national Anglican–Lutheran Dialogue, and as federal Chairman of the Church Missionary Society CMS Australia. Since retiring from full-time ministry in 2013, Martin has done locums in North Adelaide, Hawthorn, Unley, St Morris, and now at Port Lincoln, as well as keeping up numerous preaching and teaching engagements. Martin likes nothing better than to be with groups of people, opening with them the truths of the Scriptures. He has authored a handful of books for use in pastoral ministry, and has composed a number of songs for teaching and worship. He has enjoyed acting, hiking, singing, music-making, travelling and gardening.



Martin's remaining times in Port Lincoln are as follows:

October 21–November 4
November 18–December 2
December 16–25
January 6–13

Phone: 0467 485 284
Email: martin.bleby@gmail.com
Websites: amazon.com and amazon.com.au search 'Martin Bleby'
<http://www.newcreationlibrary.net/books/indexes/bleby.htm>
<http://au.search.ccli.com/search/results?SearchText=Martin+Bleby>
<http://www.newcreationlibrary.net/music/index.html>

KNOWING OUR CHURCH'S HISTORY

Continuing the story...

From the Here and Now

May 1997 Part 38

In the course of further research relative to the Reverend Snow, I found that he had spoken of being 66 years of age, and was desirous of retiring, and a paragraph from the minutes of a Parishioners' Meeting held in the Parish Hall on 25 January 1925 expresses their concern at his intention to do so. It reads as follows:- "After much discussion it was resolved that the Rev'd H L Snow be asked to reconsider his determination re resignation of this Parish". The kindly gentleman, in his typical obliging style, acceded to their request and agreed to stay on for a further 3 years.

This breathing space was doubtless welcomed by Bishop Thomas, as it afforded him time to look for a replacement. Meanwhile his approaches to the Rev'ds Adams and Wicks, offering them the incumbency, were unsuccessful.

The Bishop's searching continued until 1927, when, as earlier mentioned, he obtained the services of the Rev'd William Morgan Davies to fill the Port Lincoln vacancy. He came on the understanding that his stay would be of no more than five years duration.

Morgan Davies arrived in Port Lincoln with his wife and two young sons on December 23rd, 1927. He came from the Six Bells Parish, Abertillery, Monmouthshire, South Wales. He was found to be a cheerful man along with his wife who was a gracious lady. He was very forthright and an ardent exponent of the Oxford Movement, the Roman Catholic practices of which he gradually introduced into the everyday life of our St Thomas' Church.

This movement, a theological pressure group, had been founded almost 100 years earlier in 1833 by John Keble of Fairford in Gloucestershire. Apparently, Keble's impressive Assize Sermon in Oxford of that year triggered off the formation, hence the taking on of its name from that famous English town of learning. Its teachings are better known as Anglo-Catholicism and over the years have caused many disputes and changes in the form of Anglican worship in England, North America and Australia, with our own Port Lincoln schism being one of note.

It is interesting to learn of Morgan Davies' religious up-

bringing as is evidenced from an article he wrote in "The Ensign" church magazine of the day in 1933. It was written under the heading of "Reminiscences and Reflections". The following paragraphs taken from the article are indicative of what motivated Morgan Davies in his early impressionable years at College and University, to be attracted to the Oxford Movement.

"The Church influences which surrounded my youth were essentially "Low Church". My father (may he rest in peace), was one of the best types of "Low Church" clergymen of the establishment. We were taught carefully as children to say out Catechism. We had to go to Church regularly and incidentally we formed the chief part of the congregation. It was impressed upon us, a gentleman was one who fulfilled his duties honestly and carefully in that state of life in which it pleased God to call him, and to vote 'Conservative', to be loyal to Church and State. Looking back, it was a simple, disciplined life, narrow and parochial in many ways, yet with high ideals of duty to God and our neighbour.

Then came College and University days, when new influences came crowding in. Contact was made with rationalist movements of the first quarter of this century and with the heaving industrial movements of South Wales Valleys. The simple parochial religion of rural Wales was totally inadequate to meet the new forces, and when 1914 came and the terrific experiences of the Great War, the conception of God and the Church was shattered to atoms.

But the war did for me the reverse of what it did for many others. It drove me once more to examine my foundations. This examination eventually led me to take orders in the Church of England and to embrace the Catholic Movement in that Communion. I face the question of becoming a Roman Catholic before I was ordained and quite definitely rejected it on the grounds that, historically, there has been no infallible authority on earth. The only final authority that I can accept is that of history and spiritual experience." †

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.

FROM MARTIN BLEBY, OUR LOCUM PRIEST

AN OPEN CHURCH

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked (Psalm 84:10).

The job of a doorkeeper is to let people in. In the book of The Revelation to John at the end of the Bible we are told of the holy city in the age to come: 'Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there' (Revelation 21:25)—so the gates never close! The job of a doorkeeper in the house of the Lord is to help make sure the gates are always open, for people to keep streaming in—to God.

Every church has its 'gatekeepers'. Often they have a reputation for keeping people out, or turning them away. Any community of sinners has a natural tendency to screen out people who are not quite 'like us', or 'one of us', and to relegate them to the margins. The tragedy is that everyone then feels marginalised in one way or another.

Jesus has strong words for such gatekeepers: 'woe to you . . . hypocrites! For you lock people out of the kingdom of heaven. For you do not go in yourselves, and when others are going in, you stop them' (Matthew 23:13).

The antidote to that is to know and experience how we have been accepted by God through Jesus—forgiven, cleansed and restored to be in the image of our Creator (see Colossians 3:10), whose love is boundless (see Ephesians 3:16–19). Then we can have room in our hearts for everyone. Paul the apostle says: 'Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God' (Romans 15:7).

We are all different from each other, with our individual foibles and idiosyncrasies. If we regard ourselves as normal, then everyone else will appear to be a bit strange. But if we

all regard ourselves as somewhere along the 'strangeness spectrum', then we will be more likely to get on with each other a little better. If we see ourselves and others forgiven, cleansed and restored in Christ, we might even end up loving one another, as Jesus commanded us to (see John 13:34).

I applaud our policy of having St Thomas's Church building open every day from 9.00am to 4.00pm. When Adelaide Crows football coach Phil Walsh died tragically, Brian Bascombe put the votive candle stand in the centre of the church, draped it with his Crows scarf, and announced on local radio that it was there for people to come in and light a prayer-candle. At the end of the day when he came in to close up, the stand was crammed with candles. Going on the candle count alone, at least 1,500 people a year (more than 100 a month!) come into our open church during the week. What more can we be doing for them, to help them encounter God?

Jesus gave Peter 'the keys of the kingdom of heaven' (Matthew 16:19). Contrary to popular belief this does not mean that Peter stands at the pearly gates checking people's fitness to enter! Rather it meant Peter was the first to open the way of repentance and faith to the Jews (Acts 2), the Samaritans (Acts 8), and the other non-Jewish Gentile nations (Acts 10), by praying and telling them about Jesus, for people to come right in to God.

In the recent clergy retreat at Camp Willochra, Melrose, we were encouraged to ask ourselves, 'Am I a gate-closer, or a gate-opener, to the grace of God in other people's lives? What am I doing, or declining to do, that effectively shuts people out? What can I do better to let people in?' It's a question we would all do well to consider for ourselves.

Martin Bleby

LADIES GUILD

The Guild ladies have been continuing to meet informally over lunch every month at various venues around Port Lincoln. If there is business to be discussed then it is dealt with at these times. The Op Shop is trading reasonably well. Although there are often very quiet periods, the takings are steady and continue to build up the Guild funds, which are used for work around the Church.

Our Locum Priest, Martin Bleby, and Fr Brian Bascombe, have been attending the gatherings and the members are finding their presence a wonderful bonus.

Joan Belling



MOTHERS UNION

Mothers' Union celebrated Mary Sumner Day in prayer box.

August with a special service, preceded by Devonshire tea and followed by lunch. We were delighted to welcome Father Martin Bleby and his wife, Vivien, to their first service with us, and very grateful that Father Martin was able to officiate when Rev Gael was unable to come over as had been originally planned. It was lovely to also welcome a number of visitors, including Caryl who brought the St Margaret's MU banner which added to the ceremony.

Continuing with our theme of "following in Mary Sumner's footsteps", Nel gave the address, explaining how the work of Mothers' Union worldwide had inspired her return to Christ. She feels very strongly that advocating for the environment, (God's creation), is just as important as advocating for human rights, highlighting the recent work she has done helping to lead the local campaign to protect the Great Australian Bight.

Where are the footsteps leading us today? Members in nearly every country in the world are addressing inequality and empowering women to become educated and active community members. Gender violence is a major focus of many groups, including Australia. Parenting programmes are being set up and are making a huge difference in many parts of the world.

Here at St Thomas we are looking at innovative ideas to encourage people to seek God and find the spiritual nourishment so often lacking in today's busy world. Of course all our work is underpinned by prayer. At our service we brought the names of our children to the altar, as we always do in our monthly service. Please contact Rosemary Raymond if you have a prayer request, or would like your children's names included in our

About 15 of us met for lunch at the Northern, where we enjoyed catching up with old friends and getting to know new ones. A special thankyou to Margaret Vivien for playing the organ for us.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Our Diocesan President, Lynette, has recently attended the Zonal gathering in Auckland, to participate in the MULOA conference. This is **Mothers Union : Listening, Observing, Acting**, an initiative which is being rolled out worldwide as we respond to changing needs by listening to those who are directly involved at a local level in every diocese. We are hopeful that one or two of us may be able to attend our diocesan AGM on the 19th October as this will be the main focus of the day. From here members will take the process back to branch level, to engage with local MU members.

This is a practical demonstration of why Mothers' Union is as relevant today as it was when Mary Sumner began it 140 years ago, and why it is the largest organisation of women in the world. Here is the inspirational MULOA prayer.

MULOA PRAYER

May God enable us to become the people God calls us to be, and, in everything we do, may our lives honour the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

May God inspire us and move us to action so that we fulfil God's will in response to God's amazing grace, so freely given to the world. Amen

Nel Taylor

STRAWBERRY FAIR 2018

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 3rd
10.00am – 2.00pm

As our major fundraiser is only a few weeks away, it is hoped that those who are able are thinking of ways they might contribute to the day.

Now is the time to sort through your books and offload to the book stall. All books can be left at the Parish Centre.

Plants can be delivered to the garage at the back of the Church on Friday between 9.00am and 12.00pm.

Setting up in the Parish Hall will be on the Thursday at 4.00pm. Any help will be appreciated.

Attractions include:

Strawberries

Books

Cakes and Biscuits

Children's activities

Pancakes

Plants

Music

Morning Tea

Drinks

Hot Food

BBQ's

Face Painting

Jumping castle

If you could help on the day, please contact Meredith Dobbins (Ph 8682 4415).

All donations of goods and/or time are greatly appreciated.

We look forward to a day of fun and fellowship!

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 from Ruth Buxton:

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

SATURDAY OCTOBER 27TH

Retirement Dinner for the Rev Peter Linn at the Ravendale Sports Complex at 6.30pm for a 7pm start. Cost will be approximately \$30 per person. Please put your name on the list at the back of the church if you will be attending.

**KEEP THE
DATE FREE**

BLESSING OF THE FLEECE DUTTON BAY SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 30TH 2018



The annual Blessing of the Fleece was held at the Woolshed on Sunday September 30th, hosted by the Wangary congregation.

The service was led by the Rev Martin Bleby, our locum priest and the sheep was shorn by Mac, who sheared his first sheep in this woolshed in 1956.

The fleece was spread by Freeman Puckridge who then handed it on to Rita Sherry for spinning. Malcolm Schluter and the Rev Sonja Nugent both contributed to the service with the readings.

It was a wonderful day with a good number of parishioners to share the companionship.



GET WELL SOON PETER

Our Rev Peter Linn suffered a heart attack here in Port Lincoln on Thursday October 4th and he was flown to Adelaide, undergoing surgery that night to insert 3 stents.

We wish Peter all the very best as he recovers.

BEST WISHES FROM THE PARISH

FAREWELL TO CYNTHIA AND DAVID RITCHIE

Long time parishioners of this parish, Cynthia and David Ritchie are moving to Dubbo to live closer to their son Ben and his family in Bourke.

They have been strong and vibrant contributors to the life of the church in Port Lincoln and they will be very much missed.

Germinate



Over the last few months our Parish Priest, the Rev Peter Linn, has begun his well earned Long Service Leave. The Venerable Gael Johannsen, Archdeacon for Ministry Development, Formation and Support in the Diocese, has continued her Germinate Programme with us during this time and has been steering us toward thinking about what we will be looking for in a Parish Priest to take over from Peter when he retires at the end of October. We are at present very grateful for the services of the Rev Martin Bleby and his wife Vivien who will be with us until early next year. We thank Martin particularly for helping out when Gael was unable to be with us for the last meeting.

At this gathering, the focus was to investigate how we view the **Soul of our Parish**. With an emphasis on prayer and engaging with the scriptures.

In looking at **ways in which we have experienced prayer** parishioners mentioned:

Prayer and thanksgiving when the Thai boys football team were trapped in the cave in July

Praying for strength—prayer is a matter of confidence in God's goodness

Meditation, reflection and silence

Flowing—being part of the living waters

Contemplation and listening to Jesus

Being part of LOVE

Awareness of God's work in creation

Conversation with God

Through music

Discernment of Spirits

Movement of heart towards social justice issues

Sharing responsibility for what happens in the world

In the Church at prayer and in the active life of the Church

Through corporate prayer and the reading of Scripture

In the Mothers Union and all meetings where prayer is shared with others

In active prayer, the lighting of candles, movement,

burning incense

In help received and answered prayer. All that we do is undergirded by prayer

In looking at **ways our community prayer life could be encouraged to grow** it was thought:

To set aside a weekly time to pray for our wider community, to have open prayer sessions and to advertise these in the community

To respond to the needs of whoever comes to us through prayer

To pray for specific events and situations

Learning and growing comes from engaging in regular exploration of the scriptures which we have been achieving by Lent and Advent studies, and through Scriptural sermons.

To **deepen our church's learning experience** it was felt that we would benefit from more of Rev Ruth Buxton's style of sermons and that we need further leadership in this area, giving opportunities to reflect on Scripture and spiritual writings.

We **encounter God in our church community:**

In each other

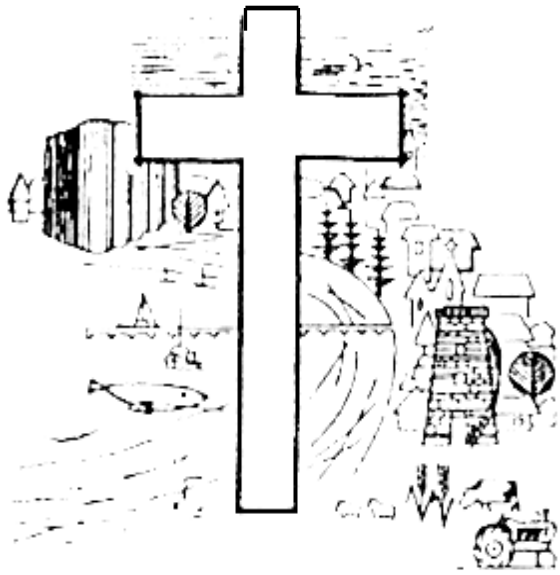
In other Christians

In the wider community through chaplaincies and our contacts

Through our visibility, so that people can encounter God at work in us.

Given all that has been spoken of, it is time to **consider our vision for what our Church** in our Community, in the power of the Holy Spirit, may look like in 3—5 years time.

And who is God calling? All the people of the Port Lincoln Parish will participate to bring the vision to reality. We will need to identify what particular gifts of leadership and pastoral oversight we may need in our new priest.



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

PARISH PRIESTS:

Rev Peter Linn (on leave)

Rev Ruth Buxton 0478 819 649

Rev Brian Bascombe 0427 313 112

Rev Sonja Nugent 0407 728 512

Church Office and Parish Centre is at
32 Washington Street, Pt Lincoln.

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10.00 am to 1.00 pm

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HERE AND NOW

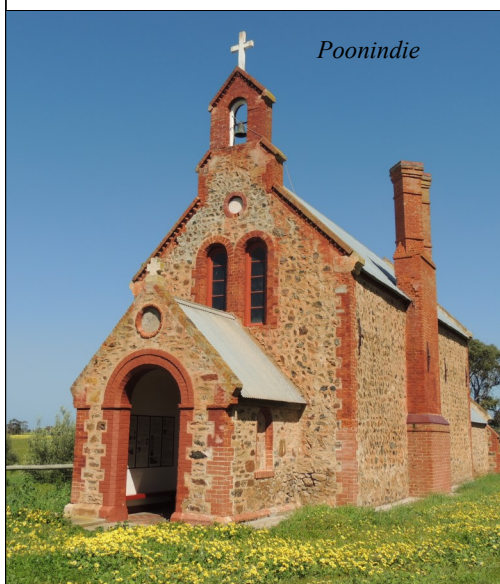
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**SURFACE
MAIL**

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PLEASE ADVISE CHANGE OF ADDRESS



**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.*

