

Anglican Riverland Grapevine



The magazine of the **Pastoral District of the Riverland**
September 2017

Welcome to this Spring Edition of the Riverland Grapevine. I hope you enjoy the articles in the magazine and are encouraged by what we as Anglicans in the Riverland are doing as a community of faith.

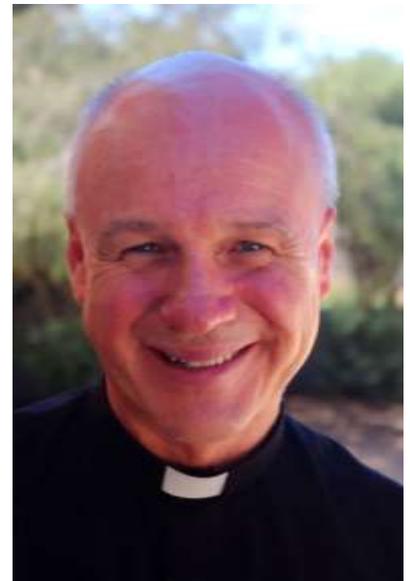
It is the Year of Ignite Growth 2017 in the Diocese. It is a time where we are encouraged to 'evangelise', to share our stories of faith with others and invite them into a relationship with God.

The term 'Evangelism' may equate with being pressured into knowing about God. This is certainly not the case, and should be about being in relationship with others first and then opportunities to share our faith. Evangelists are people who engage in good conversation about important topics such as faith, values, hope, meaning, purpose, goodness, beauty, life after death, life before death and God. They also have a passion to love and serve their neighbours. It brings friendships you already have to a new level, and creates opportunities for new, authentic friendships with others.

It is the kind of evangelism that Jesus followed. He was long on conversations, short on answers, long on questions, long on stories and parables, short on telling you what to think, long on challenging you to think for yourself. We need to hear people's stories too and introduce them to friends who do know Jesus. The Holy Spirit and prayer does assist us though, in bringing people to know that they are part of God's mission on earth and not just for heaven.

The Good News of Jesus Christ should be like a song which captures our hearts with its rhythm, melody, ambience, and glory. Over time, your whole life begins to harmonise the song and it is something that we must share and learn to move with it with joy.

Your friend and priest, **Fr Paul**



The **WAY** ahead is
exciting indeed!

ST AUGUSTINE'S, RENMARK

Bible Study

Wednesday is Bible Study day in Renmark. Two groups meet: one in the morning after the 10 o'clock Holy Eucharist and the other at 6 o'clock in the evening.

Twilight Supper

As has become a tradition at St Augustine's, we have a Twilight Supper on Refreshment Sunday during Lent. This took place outside of our church adjacent to the gardens and river. An enjoyable evening of food and fellowship was had by all who attended.

Good Friday

Afternoon tea was held in the hall after the Stations of the Cross service held on Good Friday for all those who participated. The service is held each year in the Jarrett Memorial Gardens near the church. It is an ecumenical event, bringing people from all denominations together.

Easter Day

The 6.30 service was again held on the river bank outside of the church with the rising sun as a backdrop. Following this was breakfast at the Renmark Hotel, providing a time of fellowship.

Lunches

Another opportunity for fellowship is offered after our monthly 11 o'clock Sunday service when parishioners have lunch together at various venues in Renmark.



Work for the Dole

This program has commenced again this year with the focus on the church and its grounds. To this date the external windows and door of the church have been painted. In addition, redevelopment of the garden has commenced with new paths and new earth added to garden beds which are now awaiting some new plantings.





Statue of Mary

Before the Pilgrimage in June, Ruth Daws suggested we look for a new statue of Mary to replace the one that was stolen from our Church years ago.

We were lucky to find a wonderful souvenir shop in Bethlehem with many to choose from. After much deliberation by Fr Paul, Helen, Ruth and Shirley, we selected one and we now have our statue on display in the front of the Church.

St Augustine's Day

The celebration of our patron, St Augustine Of Hippo, was held on Sunday 20 August with a wonderful, uplifting communion service attended by 45 parishioners from across the Pastoral District. A big thank you to Ruth Daws for organising singer, David McAvenna, to lead our music and singing throughout the service – just beautiful. The service was followed by a light lunch held outside, behind St Monica's room. David McAvenna gave generously of his time with a short concert in the Church after lunch with delightful, easy to listen to music and singing. An absolutely joyous day.



Jane Pitt, Shirley Sims

CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION, LOXTON

Mother's Day (14 May) saw our Church altar clad in pink and a lovely service enjoyed by our small congregation.



Pentecost (Sunday 4 June) was very jovial in Loxton this year, with red balloons on every pew! Thank you to Helen and Russell Smith for bringing the balloons. It certainly made for a festive service and – oh yes – happy birthday to the Church!

Our monthly lunches started again in May (we had a very busy start to our year, with Shrove Tuesday, Craft Fair, school holidays in April and then Easter) and have been well supported. We average approximately 35 people, but our recent lunch held on the first Sunday in August saw 64 attendees! We are sure that was because of the very interesting 'show and tell' by Fr Paul and Helen Devenport over the recent trip to the Holy Land. Helen and Fr Paul really tried hard to cut it down but, even then, they only were able to show photographs to the end their time in Jerusalem.

We invite anyone who may be interested in joining in our lunches to come along to Mass on the first Sunday of the month, which starts at 11.00 am and to stay on for lunch which usually begins around 12.30 and is finished around 2.00 pm. Cost of the lunch is \$15.00 per head and includes a two-course meal. Wine, orange juice and tea and coffee is available for a gold coin donation. If you would like to attend, please contact Louise Burgess on 0437 278 617 to book your spot. Bring friends and family. All are welcome.



Our next lunch will be held on Father's Day, 3 September, and we have a break for October as the Loxton Show will be on the long weekend. Jennie and John Lory are hosting our November lunch at their lovely home (and if the weather holds, outside in their garden). Our final lunch for the year will be on the first weekend in December when we will have a Christmas lunch – ham and turkey and christmas pudding! We would love to see you there.



We received our portion of the altar frontal from Christ Church Shrine of our Lady at Yankalilla. We have hung this at the front of our Church where it has drawn many comments. Thank you to those who participated in this special project.

Louise Burgess



DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

Five representatives from the Riverland ventured on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in June with the Bishop John Ford and Fr Max Bowers. Fr Paul Devenport and his wife Helen, Ruth Daws and Philip and Shirley Sims took part in the 19 day tour covering many holy sites in Israel and Jordan. Around 20 representatives from elsewhere from the Diocese and five others from the Diocese of Adelaide and interstate made the whirlwind tour from 13-30 June.

Once venturing through Jordan and into Israel, the tour started at Tiberias by the shores of the Sea of Galilee, and where we based ourselves for nearly a week, while visiting many sites relevant to Jesus' ministry.

We also made our way to the northern tip of Israel overlooking war torn Syria. While there, there was a Mass praying for peace and justice in that country. During the service, three bombs went off, mind you, some distance away.



Each day, Bishop John started the day with a theme relevant to the day's journey and the sites we visited. At each of the places, there was a chance to refer to scripture recalling the events of Jesus' ministry, the ministry of Paul and Peter and other apostles and disciples, and in Jerusalem at various locations including the journey of Jesus to his crucifixion.

The pilgrimage was divided into what could have been seen as three stages, with the first part of it centred on Tiberias. It enabled the tour to visit several places along the Sea of Galilee, to the northern border of Israel, as well as Nazareth and Cana. This first stage involved visiting Capernaum where Jesus centred his ministry, along with various holy sites including the Mount of Beatitudes, the Magdala Centre, where Jesus called several of his disciples, including Peter, and where Jesus healed Mary Magdalene and many others. The pilgrimage then made its way to the coast to the southern border of Lebanon, and then southwards to Haifa, Akko and Caesarea Maritime. This was once upon a time an ancient Roman seaport where St Paul was held captive for two years in prison before he was sent to Rome.

The second stage was centred at Jerusalem where we based ourselves for a week. It happened to coincide with the end of the Muslim Ramadan, a month long prayer vigil. As a result, changes had to be made to the itinerary, given that inner Jerusalem was closed to traffic with little notice on two occasions. It did not deter us in seeing much of what we wanted to see in Jerusalem, much to the skill of our Arab bus driver.

For me, one of the most sobering sites we visited was a church which had a dungeon, thought to be the cell where Jesus was kept once he was arrested and where he was kept overnight before he was questioned by Pilate. The only access to it was through a shaft, meaning Jesus would have been lowered into it and kept inside it with water at the bottom, leaving Jesus to stand all night. This is not recorded in the Bible but the evidence was there. It is also the location at the top of Mt Zion where Peter denied Jesus three times, hence the name of the church, St Peter of Gallicantu.



There was also the opportunity to visit the Garden of Gethsemane, undertake the Stations of the Cross via the Dolorosa, the Way of Sorrows, and to visit the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, where Jesus is believed to have been crucified. Within the large church is the tomb, where Jesus' body was buried and where he rose from the dead. This church is considered for Christians as the holiest place on earth.

While in Jerusalem, we were able to visit Bethany, where Lazarus was raised from the dead, and visit the birthplace of

John the Baptist. The pilgrimage also ventured to Jacob's Well where Jesus met a Samaritan woman, the Jordan River, where we renewed our baptismal vows, and to Jericho, the oldest known town in the world at 250 metres below sea level.

The third stage and final stage of the pilgrimage was to a Qumran settlement where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found, the mountain fortress of Masada, the Dead Sea, and then finally back into Jordan where we spent a day in the ancient city of Petra.

Every day was a full day, with extreme heat on three of the days as we left Jerusalem, reaching up 47 degrees. For all of us, we came back exhausted but thankful that we had been able to deepen our own faith by visiting sites that we had only read about in the Bible. Thank you to Bishop John for leading us spiritually day by day, along with our wonderful guide, Oliver, and Fr Max Bowers who did much of the planning and organisation of the tour.

Fr Max Bowers is planning another pilgrimage to Israel in February or March 2019. If anyone is interested, please contact Fr Max on 0409 441 246.

Fr Paul Devenport

CENTRAL AREA – BERRI, BARMERA, MONASH

St Oswald's, Monash

We again celebrated the Easter Vigil at Monash on Easter Eve, with many parishioners attending from around the Pastoral District. This is always a beautiful service, beginning with the blessing and lighting of the Paschal Candle outside the church, and then a procession of the 'New Light' into the church, which looked really beautiful with all the candles sparkling. The service was followed by a delicious chicken and champagne supper which was enjoyed by all.

Our weekly bible study at Cheryl's home, on Tuesday at 1.00 pm, has continued with 5-7 people attending regularly with everyone contributing to the afternoon. We are currently studying the readings for the following Sunday, which has been very popular and makes the readings on the day more meaningful. If you wish to join us, please come along.

The Monash Mammoth Market is always held on the last Sunday in May at the Primary School and, despite the overcast and windy conditions, we again had a very successful produce stall, with \$955.00 raised. We do not have a huge number of cooks or helpers for the day, but those who do contribute always enjoy the fellowship and friendship, making it very worthwhile.

On Saturday 12 August we celebrated St Oswald Patronal Festival with a 5.00 pm service, which proved to be very popular. We invited those families who had their children baptised at the church over the past 10 years to join us in a special celebration of their baptism. We had nine children attend (eight had been baptised at the church) with their parents and grandparents and enjoyed a very relaxed and fun service, reminiscing about their special day as they joined our church.



This was followed by 30 people attending a delicious meal at the home of Joy and Graeme Stoeckel.

Our next Family Service will be held on Saturday 9 September at 5.00 pm, followed by a sausage sizzle and camp fire at Cheryl and Geoff Davis' home.

All are welcome.

Cheryl Davis

St Edmund's, Barmera

Our biggest activity for the year has been the market stalls. We are currently having our winter break and will start again on the long weekend in October. They have been busy, popular and successful.



The photographs shown are of the Barmera Church almost complete in 1957 and the congregation members up ladders painting - such great team work, and no one fell off! Compare this with today's restrictions for Workplace Health and Safety.

Several boxes of dry goods have been given to the Foodbank and the Berri Community Kitchen. All donations of goods or money are gratefully accepted. Several of our members help regularly on Fridays and the clientele are gradually increasing in number - up to 35. They receive a nourishing three course meal and friendship.

Bible studies are well attended and it gives us a chance to read and understand the text for the following week's service. The discussions promote interesting comments and interpretation.



Pauline Stevens & John Reed

Who Makes the Coffee?

A married couple were arguing over who should make the coffee. The wife said that the Bible says that men should and the husband asked "Where does it say that?"

The wife opened the Bible and pointed: "Right here in HEBREWS!"

St Alban's, Berri

The Work for the Dole project has progressed further. The fence between the Rectory and the church has been removed and replaced with a sleeper retaining wall and a 1.8 metre fence in Colorbond with capping. The fascias and gutters of the church hall have been repaired and repainted, including the external window frames. The footings and walls of the church hall have been repaired. The church eaves, doors and windows have been sanded down and painted. The church bell tower has been prepared and painted to the limit specified by the Work for the Dole requirements.



The plants in the planter boxes that were prepared and planted in the Work for the Dole project last year are starting to look attractive and make the area look more appealing.

The participants have taken great care in the preparation and painting of the church hall and church. It has been a pleasure to work with them. Well done to Aleks and his band of willing workers.

Jenny Siviour

Church Together – a service for all the family

Bishop John Ford was the guest preacher at an Ecumenical Church Service at the Berri Town Hall on 20 August. Christians from across the Riverland gathered for the annual service, organised by the Berri Barmera Ministers' Association.

With guitar and mouth organ, Australian country gospel singer-songwriter, Steve Grace, led the singing of traditional hymns and contemporary songs. He also performed several numbers from his 'Nullarbor to Nashville' CD, released last year.

SECOND PRIEST FOR THE RIVERLAND

We are eagerly awaiting the arrival of our new Deacon, Scott Mudd. He will be ordained a Deacon on 9 December at the Christ the King Church, Mount Barker. It is expected he will be Priested later next year.

Scott and his wife Melissa will reside at the Rectory alongside St James' church at Waikerie.

Scott is 29 years old, from Maitland, NSW. Prior to being an Anglican, he was a member of the Uniting Church. He has been engaged in youth ministry. He should also fit well into the Riverland, having wine making and cellar experience in the Hunter Valley.

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

– a parishioner’s perspective - Shirley Sims

A unique and fabulous experience. Words that come to mind are confronting, challenging, educational, exhausting, spiritual, but fun. We were privileged having Bishop John Ford and Fr Max Bowers as our tour leaders, with the Bishop starting the day with a theme and overview of the sites we were visiting that day.

Our week stay in Tiberias gave us the opportunity to visit a number of places where Jesus’ ministry took place around and near the Sea of Galilee. Our trip on the Sea of Galilee on a replica wooden boat from the time of Jesus was one of the highlights for me. We actually stayed on the shores of the Sea.



We had the opportunity of travelling through the Golon Heights to the tip of Israel (close to the border of Syria) where, during Mass, we heard bombs exploding and saw smoke rising – it was hard to comprehend. Our bus travel to the southern border of Lebanon, to Haifa, through Tel Aviv and further south gave us an opportunity to observe the countryside – very harsh and rocky. It was amazing how any crops could be grown – just move the stones away and plant! Philip was very impressed with the date palms watered only with single drippers, with water coming from the Sea of Galilee or one of the many springs Israel has. It was also amazing to see pistachio trees growing wild everywhere, much to Philip’s delight. He was the horticulturalist on our trip!

On our way to Jerusalem we visited the Ayalon Institute in Rehovot (just south of Tel Aviv) which tells one of the fascinating and mysterious stories in the history of the struggle for the establishment of the State of Israel. A kibbutz was created to disguise a bullet factory built under ground by the ‘Haganah’ (later to become the Israeli Defence Force) right under the nose of the British. Entry and exit from the factory was a ‘laundry’ and a ‘bakery’. No suspicion was raised. An extraordinary feat of ingenuity.

We had a wonderful week in Jerusalem, in particular the old city. It is roughly divided into four quarters: the Muslim Quarter, Christian Quarter, Aménian Quarter and Jewish Quarter. A highlight was the visit to the Holy Sepulcher and the Western Wall to see the Jews fervently praying and inserting prayers into the cracks of the rocks, with many of our tour group doing the same. Philp was staggered to see capers growing out of the wall. Another experience was leaving my phone in a taxi. With the help of ‘Find My Phone’ app, a tour around Jerusalem, bargaining with a taxi driver with Bruce Stanley (tour member) and many shekels later, my phone was returned ... only to find I had left Philip’s wallet in another taxi! With the help of the concierge of the hotel in locating that taxi, the wallet was delivered to our room. Three cheers for Jerusalem taxi drivers!

Our journey continued south to the Dead Sea in searing heat and even the Sea was hot – over 40 degrees! After an overnight stay, we crossed the border into Jordan and onto Petra - another spectacular place. This was the only time during our tour that an armed tourist policeman travelled with us. However, during the whole tour we saw many armed soldiers (so young), including on the banks of the River Jordan, and our bags were xrayed going into a supermarket in Jerusalem.

Although we arrived home absolutely exhausted, it was an amazing trip. All these places I had read about in the Bible all my life do exist, and to actually visit them and see where Jesus walked and ministered will stay with me for ever. Please read Fr Paul’s article with all the details of our pilgrimage, and if anyone has the opportunity to make this trip ... **‘seize the day’**.