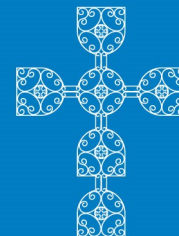


Saint Chad's | Echo

The Quarterly Magazine of the Anglican Parish of Fullarton



**February 2016—
May 2016**

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Services...

Sunday Worship:

8:00am
Said Holy Communion
(followed by morning tea)

9:30am
Sung Communion Service
(Informal setting with hymns, songs and Sunday School during School Terms)

4th Sunday of the month
Healing Service with Communion
(Informal setting with hymns, songs and Sunday School during School Terms)

Weekday Worship:

Thursdays - 10:30am
Morning Prayer with reserved sacrament.



And we are off!

With a successful carols in our community garden, three well-attended and joyful Christmas

services, a quiet and relaxing January and the return to school, the Season of Lent begins! Venessa Clarkson will once again coordinate our Shrove Tuesday pancake tea, our Ash Wednesday Service will be held and Peter Ward and Cathy Caird will once again lead our Lenten Evensong on Tuesday evenings [see pg 7 for more details.] Instead of a guest preacher I have invited our Lay Preachers to share the preaching load so that we can receive a variety of wisdom and insights from these spiritual and thought provoking people. Olwyn Riquier will be our first preacher and will focus on Valentines Day, Meriel Wilson will preach on Lent 2, I will celebrate St Chad's Day on Lent 3 and Lorna Hallahan will preach on Mothering Sunday. Our annual vestry will also be held on Mothering Sunday [March 6th] Please stay after the 9.30am service so that we can approve the budget [which is not in deficit!] and have a conversation about our priorities and focus for 2016.

Nigel Daw has once again completed the statistical information for 2015. Our average weekly attendance at the 8am services remained the same but there was a significant drop in our weekly attendance at both the Thursday and 9.30am

services. This is due to less weekly attendance because of aging, illness, sporting commitments and the introduction of our Friday fortnightly youth group. On a positive note, attendance didn't drop because of death as we didn't lose any significant parishioners in 2016.

The lowest weekly attendance was on the first Sunday of the month when we held Café Church or the Service in the Round. For whatever reasons families chose to not attend and other regular parishioners chose to not attend because they disliked the informality and interactive service. It is for these reasons that we will hold a regular 9.30am service on the first Sunday of the month in 2016. However, there will be no Sunday School and the children and youth will be invited to assist with the service by reading, serving, saying prayers, helping with the offertory, being welcome and assisting with communion. There will be a children's talk and activity or an all age address and children's activity. Whilst our weekly attendance has been down, the attendance at our Easter and Christmas services and the nursing home communions were consistent with other years. In his summary Nigel Daw said 'If I look purely at numbers: Sunday 9.30am down 212 communicants ie: 5 per week, 10.30am Thursday service down 192 communicants ie: 8 per week. Totals did not reduce in proportion due to the initiatives of a youth service, Lenten Evensong and our carols in the garden. But is it just about weekly worship and

numbers? I don't think so as we are a very busy parish during the week and have continued to build significant relationships with our surrounding community with our outreach programs; and I'd like to thank Julie, Jo Minter and those who assist Julie on Friday mornings for the role they play in being a welcoming and friendly presence.

In 2016, we will continue these outreach projects, our youth group and community events in our garden. We will also have social and fundraising occasions [see pg 8] to which we can invite family and friends; but if we want to continue our core business which is worship, prayer and connecting with our God, then our challenge for 2016 is to discern ways in which we can increase our weekly worship attendance. If you have any thoughts, ideas or suggestions please speak with me or one of our leadership team or just simply be proactive and invite friends and family to attend! No matter the challenges I'm looking forward to journeying with you this year.

Blessings from Tracey



Annual Vestry Meeting

Sunday, March 6th

Please refer to the attached Vestry papers and come to our Vestry Meeting at the conclusion of the 9.30am service to contribute to the future planning and developments at St Chad's.

Connecting faith, family & friends

Our Nativity Play

Our Nativity story was told through a social justice play. The children rummaged through a dumpster [which was constructed during Sunday School] and uncovered nativity pieces to help tell the Christmas story. The youth happily agreed to have speaking roles and the younger children were happy to dress as live nativity pieces. Will Bentley made his first appearance as a shepherd. Little Chad's families joined in and dressed as angels and Sophie our youngest and newest member of St Chad's, was baby Jesette! We also had the opportunity to farewell the Minterns with a homemade cake by Lou and a glass of bubbles. It was a very enjoyable morning with lots of family and friends attending.



Carols in our Community Garden

After a blustery and wet morning the sun began to peak through the clouds as over 50 people gathered to participate in our first carols evening. Thank you to Peter Ward, Meriel Wilson, The Mann family, Peter Dutton, Sweet Frenzy and Andrew Clarkson for helping organise and lead this event. Thank you also to Graeme Gracey who organised the printing of our carols booklet. It was a lovely, pleasant evening which parishioners, family and friends all enjoyed. Everyone not only joined in the singing but also got into the festive spirit and had their faces painted. It has already been agreed by those who gathered to hold this event, this year so block out the evening of December 18th in your diaries!





In Term 4 we finished off the Alpha Youth Course - this was a great opportunity for our group to unpack the basic claims of Christianity and find out what they really mean. SquadTime has been a great time of building friendships and getting to know the other members of our group a bit better.

For our Christmas Outreach project we chose to partner with UnitingCare and Target for a project called 'Operation Santa'. We ran a car wash and raised over \$500 which we then spent on buying toys and gifts to be donated to families in need. We had a great time running around Marion Shopping Centre with trolleys full of gifts!



This year's program is still being finalised but will follow the same format of fortnightly gatherings rotating between the churches. We'll let you know as soon as we have the details.

We can't wait for another fun year of Youth and we hope that you'll keep encouraging and praying for this awesome ministry!



An invitation to Journal in Lent Extract from our Spiritual Spa Day

At our first Spiritual Spa Day for 2016, those who gathered were invited to make a Lenten Journal.

People used coloured paper and stickers to decorate their book and title page, then moved to other stations to record, draw or doodle how they wanted to journey with their God in Lent.

It is not too late to make your own Lenten prayer journal, to set aside some quiet time to spend with your God. Below are some suggestions as to how you can use your journal.

Praying in Colour

[adapted from Sybil MacBeth's book titled Praying in Colour]

Praying in colour is an active, meditative, playful practice. It is both a process and product. The process involves a re-entry in to the childlike world of colour and improvising. The product is a colour design or drawing that is a visual reminder of the time spent in prayer. This practice requires no skill. If you are a visual or kinesthetic learner, a distractable or impatient soul, a word weary-prayer or just a person looking for a new way to pray then this new form of praying is for you.



Praying for your Lenten Journey

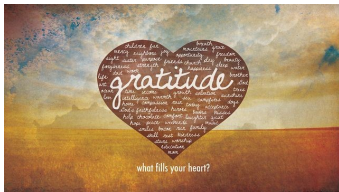
- ◆ Draw a shape on the page – a triangle, square, squiggly line or imperfect circle.
- ◆ Write your name in or near the shape.
- ◆ Add detail to the drawing. This might be dot, lines, circles, zigzag or whatever your hand wants to do. [Don't analyze your strokes; dismiss the art critic. This is not about creating a work of art; it is about creating visual images for the mind and heart to remember.]
- ◆ Continue to enhance the drawing. As you do, think of the ways in which you want to spend your time in Lent.
- ◆ Include key words that come to mind.
- ◆ Add colour to the picture.
- ◆ Keep drawing until the image feels finished.
- ◆ Linger with the page in front of you.
- ◆ Let these words, images and colours imprint themselves on your brain.



Burden & Regrets Prayers

God can handle whatever we bring to prayer. Some days we just want to dump all of our complaints, whining, grumpiness and misery on God.

- ◆ Draw a shape on the page – a triangle, square, squiggly line or imperfect circle.
- ◆ Write all the negative things you can think of in your journal.
- ◆ Add detail to the drawing. This might be dot, lines, circles, zigzag or whatever your hand wants to do. [Don't analyze your strokes; dismiss the art critic. This is not about creating a work of art; it is about creating visual images for the mind and heart to remember.]
- ◆ Continue to enhance the drawing.
- ◆ Keep drawing until the image feels finished.
- ◆ Linger with the page in front of you, thinking of ways in which you can be released from these burdens and regrets.
- ◆ Think about God's love for you. Journal any thoughts or insights that come to mind.



Thanksgivings

- ◆ Draw a shape on the page – a triangle, square, squiggly line or imperfect circle.
- ◆ Fill the page with the many things for which you are thankful and grateful for.
- ◆ Add detail to the drawing. This might be dot, lines, circles, zigzag or whatever your hand wants to do. [Don't analyze your strokes; dismiss the art critic. This is not about creating a work of art; it is about creating visual images for the mind and heart to remember.]
- ◆ Continue to enhance the drawing.
- ◆ Add colour to the picture.
- ◆ Keep drawing until the image feels finished.
- ◆ Linger with the page in front of you.
- ◆ Spend a moment with each of these thanksgivings and say a short verbal prayer or "Amen" if that seems appropriate.



Amends

- ◆ Draw a shape on the page – a triangle, square, squiggly line or imperfect circle.
- ◆ Think of the people to whom you need to make amends, to make apologies or to ask for forgiveness. Write the names of these persons and the wrongs committed.
- ◆ Add detail to the drawing. This might be dot, lines, circles, zigzag or whatever your hand wants to do. [Don't analyze your strokes; dismiss the art critic. This is not about creating a work of art; it is about creating visual images for the mind and heart to remember.]
- ◆ Continue to enhance the drawing. Use the prayer drawing as a way to rehearse making amends or apologies.
- ◆ Keep drawing until the image feels finished.
- ◆ Linger with the page in front of you, thinking of ways in which you can be at peace with these people.
- ◆ Place a peace sign at the foot of the cross, pray for inner peace, a change of heart or renewal of these relationships.



Personal Mission Statement

- ◆ Draw a shape on the page – a triangle, square, squiggly line or imperfect circle.
- ◆ Write words, to help verbalise and visualize who you are, whose you are and what is important to you.
- ◆ Add detail to the drawing. This might be dot, lines, circles, zigzag or whatever your hand wants to do. [Don't analyze your strokes]
- ◆ Continue to enhance the drawing.
- ◆ Add colour to the picture.
- ◆ Keep drawing until the image feels finished.
- ◆ Linger with the page in front of you.
- ◆ Let these words, images and colours imprint themselves on your brain.



Praying for those who are on your mind

- ◆ Draw a shape on the page – a triangle, square, squiggly line or imperfect circle.
- ◆ Write the name of a person whom you want to think about or pray for in or near the shape.
- ◆ Add detail to the drawing. This might be dot, lines, circles, zigzag or whatever your hand wants to do. [Don't analyze your strokes]
- ◆ Continue to enhance the drawing. Think of each stroke and each moment as time that you spend with the person in prayer.
- ◆ Keep drawing until the image feels finished.
- ◆ Add colour to the picture.
- ◆ When the drawing and praying for the first person are completed, move to another space on the page. Draw a new shape or design to create a place for the name of a different person.
- ◆ Repeat the process of drawing. Add detail and colour the way you did with the first person.
- ◆ Draw with pen and colours until you have created an image or icon for all of the people for whom you want to pray.
- ◆ Linger with the page in front of you.
- ◆ Spend a moment with each person in silence
- ◆ Light a candle to represent your love, care and concern for those you have prayed for.

- ◆ *The proof of love is in the works. Where love exists, it works great things. But when it ceases to act, it ceases to exist.* -- Pope St. Gregory the Great
- ◆ *"During Lent, let us find concrete ways to overcome our indifference."* - Pope Francis
- ◆ *"Humanity is never so beautiful as when praying for forgiveness, or else forgiving another."* - Jean P.F Richter
- ◆ *Create in me a clean heart O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.* - Psalm 51:10
- ◆ *"Reflect upon the wisdom of God in all created things and praise God in them all."* - Mother Teresa
- ◆ *Start your day with a simple prayer of thanks.* - Unknown
- ◆ *"Somewhere we know that without silence words lose their meaning, that without listening speaking no longer heals, that without distance closeness cannot cure."* — Henri J.M. Nouwen
- ◆ *"The spiritual life does not remove us from the world but leads us deeper into it"* - Henri J.M. Nouwen
- ◆ *"Remember that you have only one soul; that you have only one life, which is short and has to be lived by you alone."* - Mother Teresa
- ◆ *"The real "work" of prayer is to become silent and listen to the voice that says good things about me."* - Henri J.M. Nouwen
- ◆ *When I see Spirit in everything, peace is at hand.* - Jonathan Lockwood Huie
- ◆ *Lent is like a long 'retreat' during which we can turn back into ourselves and listen to the voice of God."* - Pope Benedict XVI
- ◆ *"It is not just about giving up our favourite food but it's about going further and giving up things like hatred and unforgiveness."* -- Amanda Jobs



Quotes for your Lenten Journey

Read the following quotes:

Highlight the quotes that speak to you.

Write these quotes in your journal.

Record your reflections on the following questions in your journal.

What is this quote saying to me about my relationship with God, humanity and creation?

What inspiration or challenge can I receive from this quote?

What further action do I need to take to act upon this quote?

Add any other insights that come to mind.

- ◆ *"Remember that Lent and Ash Wednesday is not just about putting away the bad things. It is about creating good things and helping the poor and the needy, being kind to people and much more."* -- Jacob Winters

- ◆ *"Whoever wishes to be my follower must deny his very self, take up his cross each day, and follow in my steps."* -- Luke 9:23
- ◆ *"Be the living expression of God's kindness; kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile, kindness in your warm greeting."* - Mother Teresa
- ◆ *May we draw from the cross the power to be humble, the strength to be meek & the guidance to be true always.* Unknown
- ◆ *Lenten Reflection: What is Christian Maturity? It is silence when our words would hurt; it is patience when we're being hurt; it is deafness when scandal flows; it is thoughtfulness for an other's woes; it is sharing whatever little we have; and it is being kind rather than being right most of the time.—Unknown*

Quo Vadis The Christian Church?

When I was young – mid-30s - I attended St Stephen's Anglican Church at Glenunga with my wife, Jan, and our four children: we were the *young people* of the parish. At that time, St Stephens ran a Sunday School of 50 children as well as a Netball Club fielding four teams in the inter-church competition. As the years passed the number in the Sunday School dwindled, the netball teams fell away and no new *young people* (with families) joined the Church to take their turn with the tasks that Jan and I were willing to hand over.

Eventually, 20 to 25 years later (with us approaching 60), we were still the *young people* of the parish, no longer with children, all of whom had “flown the coop”. At this stage there were very few remaining people older than we “young folk”, the parish was terminated and the church building demolished for a new housing estate. Sound familiar?

This history is being played out in just about every mainline Christian parish community in the western world. [We are privileged at St Chad's to be one of the rare exceptions.] So, what can (or should) be done to change this history and re-establish the Christian Church as a vital and central component of our culture?

Some would argue that the only way forward in this matter is for the Christian Church to collapse completely and for a “new Christianity” to arise from the ashes, totally reformed and re-constituted in its thinking and structures. Those who think along these lines may well be right. But there are others who see **reformation of the existing culture** as possible or, at least, worth trying.

A leading figure in this latter category is Bishop John Shelby Spong, a retired - but very active - member of the Episcopal Church (Anglican) of the United States. Bishop Spong has authored some 25 books as part of his contribution to this process of “internal reformation”. He is currently presenting a series of sermons on-line (each one around 2,000 words) in which he is addressing the central matter of **reformation** that he considers must be undertaken if the Christian Church is to survive. So he writes “...out of a faith commitment as a Christian”. His quest is to “...reconcile authentic Christian faith with knowledge and awareness”, where this faith has been corrupted into literalised propositional statements (such as we have in the Creeds). He has become “...its expositor and critic”.

He issues a stirring challenge: “Can a new Christianity for a new world be forged? Can a living, vital and real faith that is true to the experience of the past, while dismissing the explanations of the past, be born anew in this generation? I believe it can and so to engage this task I issue this call to the Christian world to transform its holy words of yesterday into believable words of today”.

His sermons list 12 matters in urgent need of reformation. These are –

God as “a supernatural entity..... capable of invading the world with miraculous power”, also understood as “the interventionist deity”, is no longer believable.

2. **Jesus** as the *second person of the Trinity* ...The Church fathers of the 4th Century interpreted the opening verses of John's Gospel in very literal terms. This attributed a supernatural status to Jesus as co-creator of the universe with God and Wisdom. If the *interventionist deity* (see above) is no longer believable, then neither is Jesus as second person of the Trinity.
3. **Original sin**: the myth of “the fall” from a perfect creation by God is in total conflict with what we know from Darwin's explanation of the origin of species.
4. **The virgin birth** understood as literal biology is impossible.
5. **Jesus as worker of miracles** is unacceptable as an explanation for what is reported to have happened.
6. **Atonement theology**: “Jesus died for my sins” presents us with a God who is barbaric. This theology is centred on sin and not on the positives of the spirit-filled life.
7. **The resurrection** cannot be understood, reasonably, as the physical resuscitation of Jesus' deceased body back into human history.
8. **The ascension of Jesus** implies a three-tiered universe which our space-age knowledge must reject.
9. **Ethics**: ancient moral codes such as the Ten Commandments are no longer adequate guidelines for ethical behaviour in our modern world;
10. **Prayer** understood as requesting intervention in human affairs by “God” is little more than attempting to turn the holy into the servant of the human.
11. **Life after death** being decided on “good” or “bad” behaviour on Earth (heaven and hell) has been used by the Church to control behaviour: This is unacceptable.
12. **Judgement and discrimination** against people on the grounds of race, gender or sexual orientation is unacceptable in the reformed Christian Church.

John Argue

The Season of Lent

Services, Social Events
& Lenten Evensong



Shrove Tuesday
9th February

6pm Pancake Tea
at the Parish
Centre.
All welcome.
Cost \$5.



Ash Wednesday
10th February

7.00 pm.
Communion with
imposition of
ashes.



Mothering
Sunday Service
6th March

9.30 am.
Communion
Service with
posies and simnel
cake



Lenten
Evensong
with Peter Ward
& Cathy Caird

Tuesday 16th
February—
22nd March @
6.30pm in our
worship space.

Easter Services



Maundy
Thursday
24th March
@ 7 pm

Join us to reflect on the Last
Supper with Jesus, including its
special traditions.



Good Friday
25th March
@ 9 am

Reflective and powerful service
for adults followed by...

****Good Friday 4 Kids**
@ 10.30 am**

for ages 4-12, an activity based
service where children walk with
Jesus to the cross and beyond.
A shared morning tea of hot cross
buns follows this service.



Easter Day
27th March

6.00 am Traditional Easter
morning Service. Followed by a
free breakfast.

8.00 am [NO SERVICE]

9.30 am All Age Service
with Communion
concluding with an
Easter Egg hunt.



Spiritual Spa Days @ St Chad's



*Afternoons
to stop and
engage with
your God*

2016 Diary Dates

Saturday February 13th
Saturday May 21st
Saturday August 13th
Saturday November 19th
2pm-4.30pm

*Come for some of it,
come for all of it*

*There are usually
five innovative stations
for you to move around freely
as you wish
All stations are designed to help
you engage with God through
either sight, sound, touch,
smell, or movement*

*Afternoon tea is provided
No need to book –just turn up!*

**If you would like any more
information please contact
Pam Bentley 8338 1260 or
Cathy Caird 0419816397.**

This Lent



Evensong is an ancient part of the Anglican tradition, which many folk still find offers a beautiful and reflective way to draw the affairs of the day to a close. It can be sung by a choir or follow a spoken order of service.

This year we will once again have an evensong reflection at 6:30pm each Tuesday during Lent: 16th Feb to 22nd March (Holy Week).

Cathy Caird and Peter Ward will lead a very simple service, following the form laid out in the New Zealand Prayer Book.

The idea is to sing as much of it as we can, unaccompanied. So we will have a couple of hymns, a psalm or two and slot in a Gregorian chant a few of us learnt last year.

No practices required – just come along and sing if you want to, or simply enjoy a peaceful 30 minutes with readings from the lectionary for Lent.



Other Special Services & Events Diary Dates for 2016

Please see other advertisements and the Weekly News for more detail.

Saturday, February 27th	Men's Breakfast
Sunday, February 28th	St Chad's Day
Sunday, March 6th	Mothering Sunday
Sunday, May 1st	Taize Service [one service only]
Saturday, May 7th	Mother's Day Breakfast
Wednesday, May 25th	Lunch @ the Rectory
Friday, June 24th	Quiz Night
Sunday, July 31st	Taize Service [one service only]
Saturday, August 27th	The Cabaret
Sunday, September 25th	Parish Breakfast & Service [one service only]
Sunday, October 30th	Bless your Pets service [one service only]
Saturday, November 5th	The FAYRE
Sunday, December 11th	Our Nativity Play
Sunday, December 18th	Carols in our community garden

St Chad's Directory

Nursing Home Ministry:

Monthly services are taken at:
Southern Cross Homes
Fullarton Lutheran Home
Carinya Nursing Home
Please contact the priest for details.

Other Pastoral Services:

- Thanksgiving for the birth of a child
- Baptisms
- Blessing of a relationship
- Weddings
- House blessing
- Prayers for specific needs
- Ministry of reconciliation (confession)
- Spiritual direction
- Quiet days and retreats
- Home Communion for the sick
- Anointing for the sick or dying
- Funerals

Other Parish Activities:

Sunday School
Julie Ascher-Ellis
8379 7825

The Prayer Ring
Wendy Retsas
8276 5021

Youth Group
Adam Smith
0422 498 033

Little Chad's
Julie Ascher-Ellis
8379 7825

Parish Priest:

Rev'd Tracey Gracey
Ph: 0417 899 603
Email: graceyfam@iprimus.com.au

Postal Address
St. Chad's Anglican Church
P.O. Box 306, Highgate, SA 5063

Parish Contacts:

Parish Office
Ph: 8271 4044
stChads@adam.com.au

Priest's Warden
Gay Gardner
Ph: 8271 5236

People's Warden
Meriel Wilson
Ph: 8271 8140

Administration Assistant
Josephine Prosser
Ph: 8271 4872

Parish Treasurer
Andrew Brown
Ph: 8373 6008