



# Snippets

from Parish Council

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## Farewell to Fr Nicholas and the Whereat Family

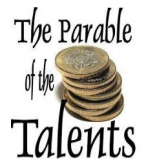
Fr Nicholas's last day in the Parish will be Sat 31st Jan 2015. A farewell lunch is planned for that day commencing 12.30pm at St James' church hall. Please RSVP to the office 3822 1110 for catering purposes.



We are very sad to see Nicholas, Gwenn and family leave us but recognise that God has other work for them to do and wish them all the very best in their new Parish. Fr Nicholas's last service will be the 25th of Jan, he will be taking leave from 26th Dec for a couple of weeks.

## Ten Talents Project

In March this year parishioners were challenged to commit to raising funds to offset the 2014 Budget deficit through the parable of the Ten Talents (Gospel of St Luke 19:11 – 28).



This was not a point-scoring competition whereby parishioners were competing against each other for personal recognition or kudos, rather an opportunity for our amazing, faithful and talented people to use their God-Given talents in the service of the Parish.

Seed funding was provided, if needed, and participants were asked to "grow" their talents to the maximum possible. Individual projects involved making and selling handmade wooden products, covered shopping bags, beanies, handmade cards, cakes, crafts and produce. Other activities included diminishing lunches, children's print making classes, raffling a lap sized patchwork quilt and 'Good Coffee' after church.

In addition to raising funds the project has engendered a spirit of camaraderie and fellowship and has strengthened connections among our Parish family. Individual amounts raised will not be publicly announced, the total raised to the 19th Dec is \$4,002.70

Well Done Everyone

## Guild Donations

Throughout the year the Guild faithfully runs a range of fund raising events including cent auctions and a Melbourne Cup Lunch.

In addition to providing funds for finishing off the painting of St James' Hall, \$2,600.00 has been given to the following areas...

\$1,500.00 to Parish operating funds and the remainder to... Anglicare, Bush Church Aid, CMS, ABM, The Bible Society, Port Lincoln Uniting Church - Mwandi and a \$100.00 prize for the May Fair next year.

The first Guild meeting for 2015 is the AGM and will be held on 9th February

Thank You All

## Welcome Rev'd Canon Bruce Henzell

The wardens met with Bruce and his wife Rhyl for afternoon tea on 4th December and had a worthwhile discussion. Bruce is with us until Easter, then he has a subsequent commitment. He will work four days per week



and is considering which four might best fit our rosters and his needs. Bruce has agreed to use the parish car, saving travel allowances and providing better car security. A profile for Bruce will be circulated soon.

## Money Matters...

We started this financial year with an estimated budget deficit of **\$11,460.00**. Through carefully managing our operating costs, limiting maintenance to essential items and with the blessings of bequests, gifts and many fundraising efforts (including our Jumbo Garage Sale), the deficit at the end of Nov was down to **\$2,460.68**.

A further deficit budget for 2015 was adopted at the AGM part 1 in Nov 2014. The Parish is by no means destitute, having doubled our savings from \$100 000 to \$200 000 in the last ten years. However, it is concerning to have a deficit budget for the 4th year in a row. In light of this a discussion paper has been prepared and circulated to everyone in the Parish to stimulate our thoughts on how best to rectify this.

Please read this paper carefully. The Wardens and all of the Parish Council are interested in hearing your feedback and thoughts on this paper. A refined budget will be disseminated prior to the AGM part 2 set for the 15th Feb 2015.

## Children's Ministry

All our groups are in recess now until after the school holiday, thank you to our dedicated leaders and helpers for this vital ministry to children (and their families).



Our first messy Church was very successful in terms of numbers, we counted over 80 participants (46 children) and this did not include some of the helpers who couldn't fit into the church for the concluding service.

A REALLY BIG thank you to the many folk who helped to make the day a success and especially to Imogen and Vicki, for their leadership, dedication and extremely hard work before during and after the day, what an inspiration.

We will look at what can be improved for next time, including the challenge of linking "non Christians" into one of our groups, social events or with a buddy so we can start making stronger connections with them.

## Christmas Greetings

Parish Council wish you all a happy, holy and safe Christmas Season. We pray for our Lord's blessing on all our Parish family and their loved ones. We think especially of those who do not have loved one close by at this time.

Snippets will be back in 2015.

## Meeting with Bp Alison...

The wardens (with warden elect Brian Blinco) met with Bp Alison and the new Archdeacon Denise Ferguson (Cleveland Parish) on Friday 12th December.

It was a disappointing meeting with Bp Alison indicating that the outcome of the recent Parish review was that it was likely benefice status would be removed and that consideration was being given as to whether a part-time appointment of a Priest in Charge would be made for a set period.

Benefice status is determined through financial considerations. Essentially Bp Alison was concerned with our budget deficits over the last 3 years, the suspension of some maintenance projects and uncertainty as to when profits might be restored. Among the Bp Alison's suggestions was to run a stewardship campaign in 2015.

Parish Council has passed a motion and has sent a letter to the Bishop outlining our significant concerns and requesting a copy of the report - which we have not seen as yet - so that we may address or correct concerns raised through the review process.

We will of course continue to keep the Parish up to date with what follows from the letter.

## Building Maintenance

Work underway or being planned includes:-

- Repairing the retaining wall at the Ministry Centre. The earth has been cut back so that 2 or 3 terraced walls can be installed, the earth replaced and the garden made good. Russell Hockaway has obtained quotes for a dry brick wall design.
- Repair of the bare patch of lawn between St George's church and hall has been repaired with new instant turf, thanks Tony
- Investigate why the flushing mechanism in the cistern in the male toilets is sticking.
- Service the whirly birds in the Ministry Centre one of them is not turning.
- Replace fluorescent tubes that have been in service for a long time.
- Complete electrical tagging (very overdue). We may have Parish family member who can do this for us.
- Investigate an alternative to tagging all cords. If RCD's are fitted to all power circuits then testing of cords is not required under the legislation. This is a preferred option as this will be a one off cost. Quote to be prepared.
- Clean gutters at St George's properties, buy a fire blanket for St George's hall kitchen and fix the EXIT lights. Thank you to all our willing workers who look after all of our Parish properties.