

# The Morning Star

The Anglican Parish of St Bede's Semaphore

*Nurturing the Soul of Semaphore*

ISSN 2652-6883

June 2024



**Diana Geier with Teddy Horsley on Pentecost Sunday**

***People and churches are earthbound and cannot be themselves  
until the wind of God's Spirit lifts them to fly.***

# The Anglican Parish of St Bede's Semaphore

*Nurturing the Soul of Semaphore*

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## Services

Sundays at 8.00am and 9.30am: Holy Communion

Wednesdays at 10.00am: Holy Communion

Holy Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Matrimony, Funerals, Ministry with the Sick,  
Confession and Reconciliation by appointment with the priest.

## News From The Vineyard

John 15:1-17

Some of you may know the story of Dawson Trotman, founder of the Navigators, an organization originally begun with the goal of reaching men serving in the Navy.

Trotman began to meet with a

Navy man named Les Spencer, teaching him basic truths from the Bible.

After a while, Spencer brought a friend from the ship to Trotman and said,

"Dawson, I want you to teach him all you have taught me." Trotman refused. He said, "I am not going to teach him; you are going to teach him. If you cannot teach him what I have taught you, then I have failed."

So Les Spencer began to teach his friend, and the multiplication process began. Spencer's friend found someone else who wanted to be taught, and the process continued until on that one ship there were one hundred twenty-five men meeting every week for prayer and Bible study. Those men were shipped off to other ships and bases, until, at the height of World War II, there were groups of believers started by these men on more than one thousand ships and naval bases all over the world.

That's how the ministry of the Navigators began.

I thought of Dawson Trotman this week as I contemplated the words of Jesus recorded in John's Gospel, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine dresser. Every branch of mine that bears no fruit, he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it might produce more fruit ...As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me."(RSV) Those are powerful words.

IN THE FIRST PLACE, CHRIST TELLS US WE ARE TO BEAR FRUIT. That is why we have been called together as a community. We are not here simply to enjoy one another's company. We are not even here solely to acknowledge God's sovereignty over our lives. Both of these are vital. But there is a third ingredient in the triad of faith, and that is that we are to prepare ourselves to bear fruit in the community.

Jesus put it as pointedly as possible. The barren tree will be thrown into the fire. What good is a grape vine without grapes? What use is a fig tree



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without figs? Tear it down, strip its branches, throw it into the flames. Nothing could be clearer than this principle: we are to bear fruit. It is clear in the Gospels that Jesus admired those in the secular world who put this principle into practice.

Of course bearing fruit is an individual responsibility too.

FRUIT BEARING IS DIRECTLY PROPORTIONAL TO OUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE VINE. The vine, of course, is Christ himself.

Churches bear fruit in direct proportion to the number of people who find God there in the worship, in the fellowship, in the service to the community which the church provides. We need nourishment - spiritual nourishment - if we are to bear fruit.

Jesus said, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness." I don't meet many people like that. For the most part I meet people who have a great emptiness with God. If that is the case, it is because we have let our relationship with the vine shrivel and die. There is a degree of faith that many of us do not have. That is why we bear so little fruit.

God is the ultimate judge of our fruit. It is He who decides what is to be allowed to flourish and what is to be thrown into the fire. For some of us bearing fruit may simply be a kind word to someone who is hurting.

If people want to help, they can. Here are a few things everyone can do: Smile more, even to people you don't know. Touch people. Look them in the eye. Let them know you are aware they exist. Be concerned about those you work with. Listen when they speak to you. Spend an extra minute. If someone has a problem, just listening means more than you'll ever know.



What greater fruit can any child of God bear than the fruit of compassion and kindness?

This then is the heart of the matter. Christ is the vine, we are the branches. Our job is to bear fruit.

**An abridged sermon from Fr Max Bowers**

## Parish news

# Work is progressing **on the community space** at the back of the nave and most people seem happy with the idea. Morning teas have been held there for several weeks and it is a warm space for hospitality. Four members of the parish inspected furniture at Buy Direct Online furniture at Woodville North and have ordered three round tables in deep cherry wood colour and 30 new black chairs. The tables are flip-tops on wheels for easy movement and stacking. Fortunately, there have been some generous donations towards the cost. The treasurer would be delighted to receive any other special donations towards the cost.

**Our tables are not red** but deep cherry wood, and will blend in nicely with the side drop table we presently have in the area. It was left to us by Joan Thompson.



# We are concerned with the lack of staffing for **Bede's Bazaar** at the moment. We are very grateful for our community volunteers and for Brenda, Judith, Judy, Fay and Kath who fill in from time to time and help at the Sunday markets. However, we do not have enough help during the week. We plan to ask for volunteers on our Military Road noticeboard. Unfortunately, there is a shortage of people willing to volunteer, not only in our own community, but across Australia. It is a combination of nearly full employment, women in the workforce, and a lack of social engagement. If you, reading this, feel you could give several hours a week, then please contact Judith Pennington.

# **Bede's Bazaar** did particularly well at the 7 May market. There was a special sale of sewing aids and craft items which had accumulated over the years. Special thanks go to volunteer Halina who sorted it all out beforehand and brought it up from the crypt the day before the sale.

# **Safety rails** have been installed on the ramp on the church northern side door.

This has been a safety concern for some time, especially in relation to people on walkers and gophers, for young people, for those with poor sight, and for the undertakers who use the entrance. Unfortunately, the slope ratio is no longer within legal limits so it was especially important to install the railings. Only small cars should park near them!

# **Colin Lehmann** has been seen around the church a great deal in recent weeks. He has overseen the improvement of the sound system, lighting in the chancel, and the security lighting outside. The drainage on the northern side of the nave has been improved and work has begun on the disintegrating stonework on that side. The stonework to be done requires entry through the crypt. In a way it is a godsend because a massive cleanout of unwanted items in the crypt will be necessary to gain access.

# **We are grateful for Father Max's** preparation of a welcome kit on our behalf and for inviting the welcomers to a Devonshire morning tea for a review of our practices in welcoming newcomers to our service at 9.30 on Sundays. We admire Fr Max's indefatigable energy for church growth. Thanks to Mrs Ros Bowers for the behind-the-scenes support she gives so that these events are successful. Thanks to Fr Max for helping us upgrade the sound system and the visual system which was on the agenda when covid struck!

# **Thanks to Luise Humby** and those she has rostered—Kath, Greg, Judy, to keep the lawn and gardens growing in this extraordinarily dry season—only 15mm since the beginning of the year. Unfortunately St Bede's was built on sandhills and the water runs straight through, making it a repetitive watering job.

# We are sorry that **covid** has once again come to affect our area. The nursing home service at Marten Village was cancelled because of covid there. At least 5 members of our congregation have contracted the infection.

# **Bishop Denise Ferguson** is retiring this year after 5 years as Assistant Bishop of Adelaide. The Archbishop has announced that **the Ven. Sophie Relf-Christopher**, currently parish priest at St Jude's Brighton, where the congregation has grown under her leadership along with significant ministry engagement with the wider community. She has also been Archdeacon of Sturt.



## Insurance for Historic Churches

There has been considerable controversy in the Diocese with the insurance premiums for 2024. The largest increases in premiums have been for the historic church buildings. Premiums for St Bede's rose by 146%! The services of a specialist valuer for all Diocesan owned assets were obtained, not having been undertaken for over 10 years.

The Diocese is now in negotiations with Heritage SA about their locally and State listed Heritage properties. I was given an indication of how St Bede's would be treated : **If the church was partially destroyed by fire or earthquake**, the diocese would be required to rebuild St Bede's to its former construction, even if the congregation dispersed to other parishes and had no intention of returning to the building. **If the church was totally destroyed**, the precedent has been set by the earthquake at Christchurch, New Zealand in 2011. The New Zealand Government stated that the Anglican Cathedral was a historic monument - and must be rebuilt totally to its original construction.

In my subsequent discussions with the Port Adelaide Enfield Council, I received the following: **"In the (hopefully unlikely) event that whole church was to be completely destroyed**, I don't think you would then be obliged to rebuild it. Perhaps though if significant aspects (e.g. substantive parts of the external façade) were still intact and able to be maintained and incorporated into any new development then this may be something promoted by the applicable development assessment standards now in place..."

The Diocese has taken this response to Heritage SA to hopefully provide a result which the insurance companies would take into account with their insurability and the insurance premium given.

The Diocese will keep the parishes informed of developments before November 2024, when the new insurance premiums are set.

**Colin Lehmann Parish Treasurer**

## Around the Parish

Fr Max visited **Anne Duncanson** in her room at Wesley Care



Fr Max's visits to others who are not well has been much appreciated.

We are all sorry to hear of **Gloria Datson's** surgery after a fall. She will be missed at the Wednesday service.

**Brass@StBede's is on Friday 21 June, 6.30-9.30**

This brass band concert is a fundraiser for Anglicare. Organisation is co-ordinated by Ros deGaris who is on the Board of Anglicare. Tell others. Tickets available from Humanitix.



**Dr Deborah Osman's** last day as organist for St Bede's is on St Bede's Day. For many years we have enjoyed her accomplished playing once a month. Sadly, we regret that that is no longer possible but we hope to have Deborah playing for us on special occasions in the future. Thank you Deborah for your many years of music ministry at St Bede's.





## Feeling pleased

In 1972, Bruce and Dorothy Thorpe were assigned to teach with the Congregational Christian Church in Samoa as Australian Volunteers Abroad. They were notified of the placement only a few weeks before their departure and knew very little about Samoa except that it was in the South Pacific. They bought the only book in Albury on Samoa and so began Bruce's collection of Pacific books—culture, history, politics, literature, geography, navigation...And over the years it grew substantially.

Bruce bequeathed his collection to St Mark's College Library where their son Jeremy (born in Samoa) was a student in the 1990s. St Mark's is thrilled to have this valuable collection of about 300 books which is the most significant Pacific collection in South Australia, There is a smaller collection at the University of Adelaide library. The books will be available to scholars world-wide thanks to the wonders of modern technology and inter-library loans.

Dorothy is overwhelmed by the College's response to the bequest. She is pictured near the collection beautifully housed in the rare book section of their library, where a plaque acknowledging Bruce will be placed.



Bruce in 1975 in the traditional fale meeting house, built without nails, in his time as principal of Leulumoega-Fou College.

## Mothers' Day



**Fr Max** often surprises us with altar frontals and vestments beautifully made by his wife, Ros. A teapot was the image for Mother's Day.

*"...motherhood is like a constant steady drip of caffeine, like an IV tube of tea. You just don't sleep the same when you're a mom. A cough, a sniff and I'll hear it."*

*Karen Kagan*



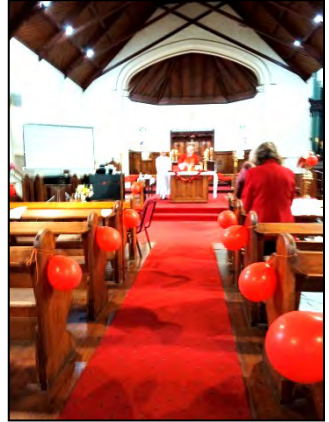
Judy Nelson

Ila Neighbour displays her heart and treat from Fr Max for Mother's Day. Fr Max's carefully prepared service included a visual presentation giving a tribute to mothers. (Photo: Fr Max)

## Pentecost Sunday

On 19 May we celebrated Pentecost, which is the ‘fulfilment of Jesus’ earthly mission’ when tongues of fire descended on his disciples. On this day, the apostles received their baptism by the Holy Spirit, bringing believers into the life of the Trinity. At St Bede’s, the church was once again adorned with candles, red balloons attached to pews and red coverings by both altars. People noticed some other objects (a little kite, a red and yellow scarf, and an umbrella).

The meaning of these extra decorations became clear when Dorothy showed on the screen a lovely little story called *The Windy Day—Teddy Horsley and the Holy Spirit*. Diana read the story aloud. Each page had beautiful coloured drawings as we heard how Teddy, wearing his scarf, went looking for the wind. He could see the effect of the wind blowing his kite, papers on the street and washing on the line. He could hear it in the noisy rubbish bins. He could see and hear the effect but he could not actually see the wind. Teddy went looking for the Holy Spirit in the church. He could not see or hear the Holy Spirit anywhere but he could see and hear the effect of the Spirit in the joy and love of the people in the church. Then, people knew what those “props” were about! They were Teddy’s.



At the welcoming table people were all given a colourful heart with a flame burning within it. On it were written some ‘fruits of the Spirit’ - things we cannot see but can feel and see the effects of -love, joy, peace, , patience,



goodness, kindness, faithfulness ... We named ours and then shared with a neighbour a time when we had experienced this spiritual gift, a time when the Holy Spirit inspired us. After the service on this very cold morning, we shared a warm drink and warm food and a pleasant time together. “We were the Body of Christ. His Spirit was with us.”

**Diana Geier**

## Attitudes to women

Domestic and family violence is a pandemic in Australia. On average one woman a week is killed in Australia by an intimate partner or former partner. It is tragic and unacceptable. On top of this are the number who suffer physical, emotional, or spiritual abuse, or who are coerced and controlled by an intimate partner. The Diocese has established A Domestic and Family Violence Working Group (see the [www.adelaideanglicans.com](http://www.adelaideanglicans.com) for more details). Apparently domestic violence arrests form a predominant number in our local court.

It is not just violence, but a general attitude among some men which is behind this appalling situation, which recently was called 'the latest pandemic' in *The Australian* newspaper.

It caused me to think about the times in my life when I have felt disrespected by a man or in fact have been endangered. In my childhood, a family friend used to visit. "Uncle K." was married with children and their whole family had been known by my mother since her youth. He was a sales rep and would often pop by the house offering to take me for a car ride with him. My mother used to say I was rude not to go. I would go into my room and shut the door when they visited. As a young teenager I knew his groping was wrong. My sister and I decided not to tell Mum because she wouldn't believe us.

**PLEASE REPORT CONCERNS**  
**CALL 1800 135 246**

**The Anglican Diocese of Adelaide** does not tolerate abuse, harassment, racism or other misconduct. If any person has concerns about the behaviour of a church worker, past or present, they can contact Kooyoora Ltd.

We are deeply distressed that there have been occasions when abuse and misconduct have occurred in our community. Kooyoora Ltd is independent of the diocese and receives and manages complaints about abuse and misconduct by church workers.

On a university field trip, our group stayed in a very cheap boarding house where a group of foreign students was also staying. We interacted with them, but the boys in our group would escort us girls to our rooms after we had experienced a few doubtful encounters with our visitors in the long dark corridor.

At my first teaching appointment, the principal was uptight about a coming full school inspection. He discovered that I had not signed my students' spelling books (mistakes recorded each week!), "Woman, why can't you do as you're told!" I could take the reprimand but the address hurt.

In an office I worked in many decades ago, the head of a department was too touchy-feely and knew nothing about personal space. He would lean over secretaries to show them how to use the new computers, give a peck on the cheek and pat their hands when talking to them. I would slap his hand and tell him to stop it. He had no authority over me but the other ladies were subordinate to him. When reported to his overseer, he pleaded ignorance about his behaviour so nothing was done to change the situation. I doubt if that would be the case today!

At training sessions in reporting child abuse, many a participants come forward to the leader to confess the abuse they suffered as children. Similarly, The whole Australian community needs to call out bad behaviour towards women even if the perpetrators think

they are being funny (Can't you take a joke?) or attentive (She loves it when I flirt with her).

We thank God for respectful relationships.

**Dorothy Thorpe**



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 For further information: [www.kooyoora.org.au](http://www.kooyoora.org.au)

The Diocese is committed to doing all that is possible to ensure that abuse does not occur. All complaints of abuse are taken very seriously and we do all we can to lessen harm. We offer respect, pastoral care and support to anyone who makes a complaint.

You can contact Kooyoora Ltd by calling 1800 135 or emailing: [contact@kooyoora.org](mailto:contact@kooyoora.org)

## Ministry: we are the body of Christ

The Church believes all baptised Christians are called to be partners in the ministry of the Church. Most of the baptised do this as 'lay people' In their daily lives, and work in the world. The baptised have a unique ministry in the place where God has called them to be, to bear witness in their lives, actions and words to reconciling love of God revealed most clearly in Jesus Christ. (rom Wollaston College)

Some lay people are called to distinctive ministries in worship, so we have lay assistants, welcomers, readers, musicians, intercessors, and sacristans. Some have distinctive ministries in leadership in the church, like those called to be parish councillors, wardens, leaders of groups or activities. These are ministries in their own right. The ministers are not there to be helping the Minister; they are not like Santa's little elves. Other ministries are in maintenance, gardening, administration and other practical things needed by our community.

Paul in Romans 12, said that although we are all members of the one Body (i.e. we are Christ's body in the world today) we don't all have the same function. Together we combine to be able to do the ministry that we need for mission in our part of the world. Some people are called to do a great deal, others' roles maybe less obvious but still important. Indeed, Paul reminds us to give special honour to those whose ministry is less glamorous and noticeable.

*The members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect, whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. You can read the whole analogy in Romans 12.14-26.*

The Rev'd John Littleton recently published a booklet called **Learners Disciples Together**. Our Archbishop's Foreword is worth quoting in

part. *“We are the body of Christ’ is a statement very familiar to contemporary members of the Anglican Church of Australia. Most times that we celebrate the eucharist this affirmation of our identity is used. Unfortunately, this phrase is seen and treated as an introduction to the Sharing of the Peace (of Christ which comes immediately afterwards). That is unfortunate because ‘we are the body of Christ’ is an amazingly powerful thing to say about ourselves. The response is equally significant.: “His Spirit is with us.”*

*All who are baptised are called to be disciples of Jesus. We are, and are called to be, members of the Body of Christ, and the Holy Spirit is with us. We share in Christ’s mission. Christ works through us to continue the mission of proclaiming the reign of God.*

*There is no hint in this of any kind of ranking of disciples. There are no disciples who are more important than any other disciples. There are no ‘full time’ or ‘part time’ disciples. I do not think anyone would argue against this, but we struggle to make it visible in the life of the church and have been struggling for decades to make real the fact that all the baptised are called to be disciples of Jesus and share in his mission in the power of the Holy Spirit.”*

Some of us whose Christian faith was formed as members of the Young Anglican Fellowship might recall the YAF prayer, written by Ignatius of Loyola: *“Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve; to give, and not to count the cost, to fight, and not to heed the wounds, to toil, and not to seek for rest, to labour, and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we are doing your will.”*

The Parable of the Master and Servant is found only in Luke's Gospel (Luke 17:7–10). The parable teaches that when somebody has done what God expects, he or she is only doing their duty.

*thank you*

Of course it is always nice to be thanked and to know that your ministry is appreciated; and we

need to remember the Letter to the Ephesians (5.20) “always give thanks for everything to God the Father.” May we give thanks for each other at St Bede’s sincerely and gently as we minister in our various roles for the sake of the reign of God. **Dorothy Thorpe**

## From the liturgical calendar

**Our calendar reminds us of the saints and holy people in the past who have been examples of faithful disciples.**

**15th June: Evelyn Underhill, (d. 1941) is remembered in the Anglican calendar because of the profound influence she had on many people through her spiritual writing**



From the time of her conversion Evelyn Underhill's life consisted of various forms of religious work. She was fond of quoting St. Teresa's saying that "to give Our Lord a perfect service Martha and Mary must combine." Her mornings were given to writing and her afternoons to visiting the poor and to the direction of souls. As she grew older the work of direction finally became her chief interest, but it was not until 1921 that she became an Anglican. In 1924 she began to conduct retreats, and a number of her books consist of these conferences. Her other publications include three novels, two books of verse, a number of works on philosophy and religion, and various editions of, and critical essays on, mystics. During World War I Evelyn Underhill worked at the Admiralty in the naval intelligence (Africa) department, but her views changed and in 1939 she found herself a Christian pacifist. She joined the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship and wrote for it an uncompromising pamphlet, *The Church and War* (1940). She was interested in every side of life and had a passion for efficiency in everything she undertook. In her dealings with people, she had a great hatred of "pushing souls about." This love of souls coupled with the determination to help them to grow at God's pace and not at their own or hers, won her the love and trust of all who went to her for help.