



To The People



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

November 2025

This edition of To the People is coming to you slightly earlier than usual as I am away in Sydney and Adelaide for the next 6 days. It contains information about our upcoming "Hub" meetings, Christ the King Sunday on 23 November, our recent Synod, the MU Country Rally, the WA Governor's Chaplaincy Awards and the Bishops Awards.

The last day of November is the first Sunday of Advent. Already the Advent calendars are out in force. I was particularly intrigued with a new Lego Advent calendar and an Anatomical one that consisted of different body parts, which you apparently later hang on your Christmas tree! If you had to design an Advent calendar for Christmas, what would you wish to include or highlight, do you think? I am very willing to offer prizes for thoughtful contributions.

"Hub" meetings in November

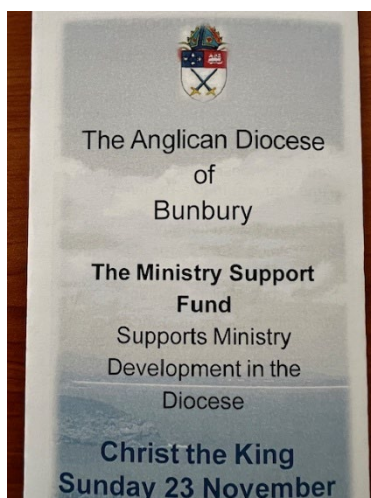
We held the first of these in Dumbleyung two days after Synod. The remaining three are on the dates below. We are warmly inviting Clergy, Licensed Lay Ministers, Wardens, Treasurers, Secretaries, Safe Church Contacts, Parish Council members, and anyone else who would like to come along. They are in some different locations from usual and people are welcome to attend based on which is closest to you, or which date works for you. Please email Jodi on bishopspa@bunbury.org.au to let us know you are able to come.

- **Saturday 8 November, meeting at Church of the Way, 9.30 - 1pm – lunch provided**
- **Friday 14 November at St. Paul's, Bridgetown**
- **Monday 17 November at Living Water**

The content of these Hub meetings will be listening to parishes and Anglican communities, working on the new Vision and Strategic plan, building sustainable ministry and updating about Work, Health and Safety and Insurance.

Christ the King Sunday – 23 November – 'Ministry Support Fund'

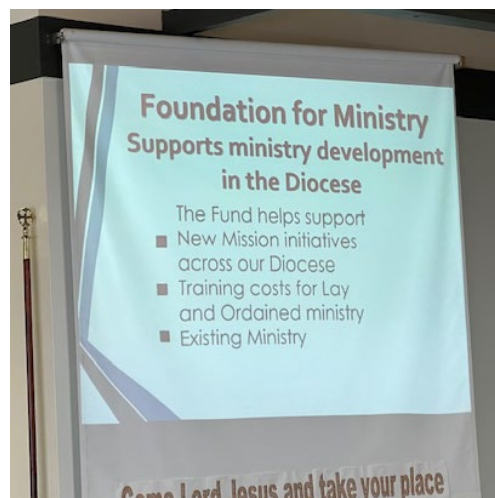
Pictures below: (left) The attached leaflet and (right) being advertised already at Carey Park:



Please find leaflet attached. We are also printing copies if you would like some. Please note we have recently renamed 'The Foundation for Ministry' the **'Ministry Support Fund'**, mostly because it was not a Foundation *per se*. We have also changed the bank account details, so these funds are kept separate.

As reported at Synod, people have given generously to this fund either in one-off gifts for Christ the King Sunday, or by regular giving. As a result, we raised \$46,600 over the

past year. This money is used to train our ordinands, including paying for psychology assessments and Intensives. It is also used for new mission initiatives and for other training for licensed lay and ordained ministers. We continue to be blessed with more people believing God is calling them into ministry, so the need for these funds continues. Seed money for new initiatives is also very precious.



WA Governor's Chaplaincy Awards – our 2 winning chaplains out of 100s across the State

At the age of 86, Archdeacon Emeritus Brian Newing won the Community Chaplaincy Award for his prison chaplaincy work and Canon Karen Cave was a finalist in the Regional Chaplaincy Award for all the chaplain's hats that she wears with Amana Living, the Police, Seafarers and the Hospital. Brian is being presented by Mrs Dawson, the Governor's wife. Our own Revd Brent Findlay was part of the organisation as the Awards ceremony is run by Youth Care. There were many moving accounts about chaplaincy work across WA.



Synod 2025

For the first time in eleven years Synod was held in Albany with Living Water as our generous hosts. They had gone to enormous trouble, including erecting a huge marquee that had been purchased specially, putting on all the meals and tea breaks and arranging and re-arranging the furniture and PA system to accommodate the workings of Synod and a special Synod evening meal together.



The pics below give you some idea of the sheer size of the marquee, more of which later in this *Ad Clerum*.



Worship was led by the student Ordinand group and by the musicians at Living Water, who also kindly played for us at the evening meal.



Below: These were the Synod representatives in session considering a new Vision and Strategy



We had a presentation from the three Principals of our Anglican schools, Mrs Tracey Gray, Mr Matthew O'Brien and Mr Brad Evans, encouraging us to pray for their important work and indeed for a new chaplain at Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School. Dr Renae Barker guided us through some legislative changes that were needed and Revd Nick Freeland, as Registrar, took us carefully through the financial reports which showed why we will need to find ways to balance our diocesan books. Synod voted to approve a 1% increase in the parish assessment but did not vote for a possible rearrangement of how conference and retreat fees are currently paid. This will revert to the next Bishop in Council meeting in December. Mrs Rosemary Cussons and Mrs Karen Reeves were voted onto Bishop in Council and the Trustees respectively.



These pics were of the Synod evening meal and serving wonderful desserts



Synod is a precious time to catch up with people from across the diocese



One particularly special reunion was the Charles family below, with retired Albany midwife, Colleen Donovan, who had assisted when Grace, now 27, was born at 24 weeks. Neither Grace nor Colleen had expected to be present at the Synod meal, or to bump into one another there. Grace and Colleen are below between Allyson and Richard Charles in this picture:

We owe a debt of thanks to Revd Shane and to all who assisted at Living Water. Particular thanks go to Allyson Charles for her meticulous organisation and to Richard for obtaining the marquee and erecting it, as well as doing a great deal behind the scenes.

Thanks too go to Revd Nick, Archdeacon Geoff, Renae, Kat and Jodi, for their preparation of all the Synod materials, along with all who carefully wrote reports for Synod, and all who assisted in many different ways

Bishops Awards 2025

It is customary to announce the Bishops' Awards at the Synod evening meal. There were five recipients this year, three of whom were awarded in advance because they could not make the Synod meal.



(Left) Pat Curnow, Warden and LLM, for 50 years of extraordinary and continuous service to the Church of the Resurrection, Narrogin, from church cleaning to Mothers Union, Parish Council, Sunday school teacher, teaching RE in the local Primary School for 20 years, coordinator of Fetes and catering, initiator and coordinator of Messy Church. She remains an invaluable member of our diocese.

Di Gillett (Right) Another coordinator of Fetes and also of St. George's Dunsborough's Quilt Ministry, both of which are of a significant size. Di was the first team leader and cook at their Manna and Mercy Tuesday night community meals, an MU member and assists with the flower roster. She was described as "someone who notices what needs to be done and volunteers to help."



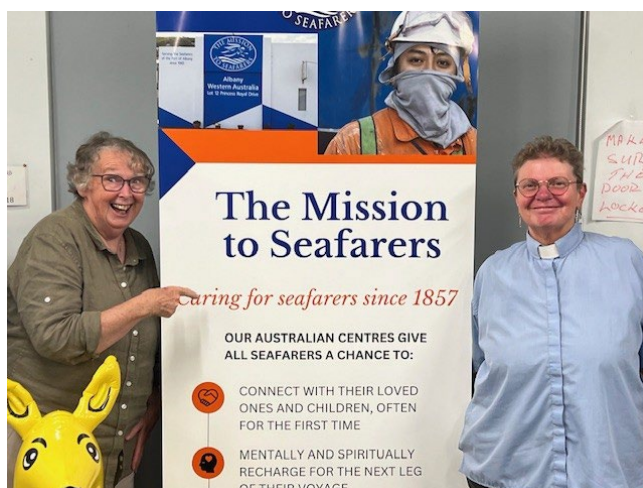


Shirley Thomas (pictured here with Revd Dr Genevive Milnes), has been a mainstay of All Saints, Mt Barker managing their Op shop, serving on Parish Council and involved with Market Days and leading their Community Bible Study.

Mike Page (right) who was the organist at Darwin Cathedral (and present there over 50 years ago when Cyclone Tracy struck), has been the organist at Narrogin for over 40 years and an LLM for 35 years. He has also been a Parish Councillor, and a People and Rector's Warden for 25 years, as well as a Treasurer, Secretary and Synod Representative.



Last, but by no means least, **Colleen Donovan** (left in the picture below) was recognised for her extraordinary commitment to the welfare of Seafarers as a volunteer and as the Chair of the Albany Mission to Seafarers.



Congratulations to all these Awardees!!

Christmas Boxes at Gelorup Church

Revd Marion Prowse blessed these Christmas Boxes at their service on Sunday Pentecost 19



Revd Shane Marques and the Marquee

Having the marquee meant Living Water were able to combine all their services into one space the Sunday before last. Shane wrote: "we did end up using the tent this Sunday for our 'All services together' service at 10.30am and shared lunch after. We finished our Romans series ch. 8:28-39 called 'Nothing can Separate', had video testimonies from people who participated in Partners in Prayer from term 3, and it was a Youth and Young Adult takeover service with Cam (Fildes) leading and youth and young adults serving in many different ways. Again, a bunch of teams of people worked really hard to make it all happen and it was a resounding success, to God be the glory.



Some great stats:-

280 ppl total attendance

50 creche and kids church aged kids

- +- 30 youth/Young adults



Mothers' Union Country Rally

Was held at Christ's Church and RAAFA, in Mandurah, on 16 October. John Lewin kindly drove the GMAS bus with members from Dunsborough and Busselton, the sun shone for Morning Tea outside, and the service and AGM were held in the church followed by lunch at RAAFA, where Mrs Tracey Gray gave a moving and different presentation on Frederick Irwin Anglican school to the one she had given at Synod.



Top left John Lewin, *above* Morning tea, *left*: outgoing MU President Wendy Mabey with Margaret Broad from Pinjarra, who was awarded her 60th year membership badge

Right: Isobel Shortreed, who is the MU President Elect and who was wearing this dress because she has

adopted our recent paper on 'Joining the Dots' for the Mothers' Union theme for next year!

Below: Mrs Tracey Gray addressing the Mothers' Union at lunch



Revd Cathie Broome and the red bench at Harvey

This was the sad scene that confronted parishioners at Harvey about the same time as the last *To the People* went to press.



So, it was wonderful for Cathie and the parish to receive all kinds of messages in support, including donations of money and offers of materials and help. A local handyman fixed it, and the picture below is of the restored version.



A message from the Archbishop of Canterbury Designate, Dame Sarah Mullally

Our Synod passed the following motion:

"That the Synod gives thanks for the work of the Crown Nomination Commission. That this Synod recognises the election of Bishop Sarah Mullally as the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury. Commends in prayer the Church of England, the Anglican Communion, and the Archbishop of Canterbury designate, asking God's wisdom, grace and guidance for her leadership and ministry in the years ahead. That Synod asks the Bishop to convey this motion to the Archbishop of Canterbury designate. That Synod invites Bishop Sarah Mullally to visit the Diocese should she ever visit Australia." We wrote to Dame Sarah, currently Bishop of London, and received this reply:

Dear +lan

Thank you for your delightful email sending congratulations and telling me of the motion passed by the Bunbury Diocesan Synod! Your words and theirs are a great encouragement to me.

It was wonderful to hear from you and I am very grateful for your open invitation to visit you in Australia.

Thank you, too, for your prayers, and you of course are in mine.

Yours in Christ,

+ Sarah London

The Rt Revd and Rt Honourable Dame Sarah Mullally

Mrs Tracey Gray, Canon James and the Bibles with a great cover!



It was Yr 12 Presentation night and final service at Freddie's last week. Mrs Tracey Gray had the idea of giving all the leaving Yr12's a Bible each. Canon James sourced them from the Bible Society. They contained some really helpful information to make the Bibles accessible in a range of different colours, but what I particularly liked were the words emblazoned on the front cover: **Read this!**

Fete at Christ's Church on 25 October



**Mini-Fete and Labyrinth at St John's -
Harvest Festival of Hymns with the Bayside
Community Brass Band**



16 Days of Activism: November 23 - December 10, 2025

As part of a global initiative, the Anglican Church of Australia has developed resources for the 2025 16 days of activism against gender-based violence campaign. These include Sunday prayers,



devotions and a series of social media images for churches to utilise. Organisations around the world will be playing their part to highlight this problem during this period, and it is a opportunity for our church to show that God cares and we care about the injustice and suffering of those impacted by gender-based violence.

This initiative relates to COMMITMENT SEVEN in the Ten Commitments for Prevention and Response to Domestic and Family Violence in the Anglican Church of Australia which says:

Our church supports cultural change in our communities by communicating effectively to our members.

New DV posters for churches and dioceses.

The FCC has developed a new awareness poster and companion business card for dioceses and churches to use in visible community spaces. Designed to be displayed on church noticeboards, in bathrooms, and other high-traffic areas, these resources are a way to communicate care and support. The poster and card provide clear messages that the Church cares for those affected by domestic and family violence and direct people to avenues of help—both within the Church and through trusted external services. Both resources are available in print-ready format on the FCC website (The new DV Poster and business are in a print ready format which can be downloaded at the link below. These can be printed on a local office printer or a bulk order given at Officeworks or another printshop. <https://www.tencommitments.org.au/downloads-2>).

Tracy Lauersen requests our cathedral, clergy, and others in our diocese to participate by accessing the media pack and sign up here: <https://www.tencommitments.org.au/16-days-of-activism-2025>

- Including a prayer in services on Sunday November 23rd, 30th and December 7th
- Considering Adding an insert in diocesan and church bulletins on November 23rd
- 'Liking' and 'Sharing' the Facebook and Instagram posts
- Signing up to receive the daily devotions during the campaign.



Lent Course 2026

Just a reminder that the bishops have again written a Lent course - this time on the theme of Joy, which should be available soon.

Sustainable Community Workshops.

Something the Dunsborough Parish has recently launched is a series of Sustainable Sewing Workshops. The Parish successfully applied for a grant to run these workshops which allows them not only to encourage people to treasure creation, but also to financially support the community groups who are working in the sustainability space. Our partners contribute 50% of their time “in kind” and the grant supports them with the remainder. This also makes the workshops affordable for participants.

Each month, participants work on a different project. This month they made cushion covers out of men's shirts that were not able to be sold in our Op Shop. This enables them to learn skills with their sewing machines as well.

Next month, the focus is on sustainable Christmas wrapping where one project will be to use the sleeves of the shirts from their cushion cover project to make wine bottle gift bags! Even better, along with the sustainability education, there is a lot of chatter, laughter and companionship.



(This article and pictures kindly supplied by Revd Justine Richmond)

Bishop's Calendar

October	27-30	National Bishops' Meeting, Sydney
	30	ABM 175 th Anniversary Dinner
	31	Farewell Dinner for The Primate Archbishop Geoff Smith, Adelaide
November	1	Archbishop Geoffrey Smith Laying up his Staff, St Peter's Cathedral Adelaide
	3-5	Clergy Conference, St. John of God Retreat Centre, Safety Bay
	8	Northern Harvest Deanery Hub meeting , Coodanup
	9	Defence Sunday
	11	Remembrance Day Service, Bunbury
	13	Boniface Care meeting GMAS School Council
	14	Hub meeting at Bridgetown
	15/16	Possible 30 th Celebrations at Church of the Way, tbc
	17	Stirling Deanery Hub, Living Water
	18	Ombudsman Visit re Reportable Conduct Scheme, tbc
	20	Visit to Chaplains' Training at FIAS
	21-23	Students Intensive Weekend with Dinner at Bishops court on 21 st
	23	Christ the King Sunday (Ministry Support Fund)
	24-25	Annual Leave (Ashes Day 4!)
	27	Ordination Council
	28-30	Annual Leave

Blessings,

