

# New Times



The Uniting Church in Australia  
Synod of South Australia

April - May 2023 • Issue 51 / No 2



Do Not  
be afraid  
Love  
Faith  
Resurrection  
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He has Risen  
His love endures forever New st  
Good News  
Rejoice  
Be glad  
Hope Risen Faith  
Joy  
Give Love  
thanks

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# From the Editor

When we start to prepare an issue of *New Times*, we usually try to focus on a particular theme. Sometimes the theme is quite obvious, for example, the October/November 2022 issue focused on Christmas, but also featured articles about intergenerational activities across the church; and this particular April/May issue leads into Easter, but what other theme could we explore at this time?

The Moderator suggested that we seek to carry through his ‘unexpected joy’ theme from Christmas with a focus on ‘unexpected good news’ for this issue.

At a time when there is much upheaval across the world, with wars, natural disasters and displaced peoples, tuning into a daily news broadcast, can certainly bring things down very quickly, so the opportunity (or challenge!) was to set out to find articles that dealt with ‘unexpected good news!’

I didn’t quite know where to start, so for the first time in many years, we put a call out in the weekly UC-enews. And this became our ‘unexpected good news’ as we received a tremendous response, as you will see in this issue.

Whether it’s the Pilgrim Choir touring the United Kingdom; the establishment of an International Community Group at Modbury Uniting Church; Belair’s 95th Anniversary celebration; or the threads that connect us, there is much to focus on in the way of ‘unexpected good news!’

As you read on, may your spirit become lighter and may you find ‘unexpected good news’ in your own lives this Easter and beyond.

**Bridget Ransome**  
Executive Officer Engagement

# Message from the Moderator

At Christmas time we heard the angels tell the shepherds 'Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people'. They were heralding the birth of Jesus, the son of God. There was great joy and expectation of the Saviour of the world.

Now, at Easter, we once again hear of angels speaking, not to shepherds but to the women who had come to the tomb of the crucified Jesus. 'Do not be afraid ... He is not here; he has risen,' they said. The women who had come to the tomb received this unexpected good news: they came expecting to mourn the body of their teacher who had been killed. Instead, they were informed that he had risen from the dead.

They didn't keep this to themselves. Instead, they went with great joy to tell the others. Indeed, we are all called to share the good news of the risen Christ with others.

This edition of *New Times* has many examples of congregations, individuals and organisations sharing the good news about Jesus Christ in many and various ways, sometimes unexpectedly. Whether it be telling people about the love of God through the Alpha program; showing Christian love to refugees and migrants; sitting quietly alongside someone as a chaplain; reaching out to the community in practical ways; celebrating a milestone as a congregation; or rejoicing in the planting of a new congregation, God is present, working through faithful disciples. This is good news.

I recently had the pleasure of preaching at the Noarlunga Uniting Church when the newly appointed Imam of the Adelaide Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Imam Kamram Tahir, was in attendance to express his community's appreciation for being able to use the former Hillier Road Uniting Church. After worship, it was good to be able to converse with members of both communities and to participate in a question and answer session about our faiths. It was a joy to be able to talk about the things we have in common and the things that draw us together. We were each able to see God at work, and we look forward to our communities working together in areas of mutual concern.



When people and groups who seem to be so different focus on shared dreams and aspirations, as well as our similarities, and look for areas of connection, our differences become less important as we focus on working together for God. This is good news, for us, our faith communities, and our world.

This Easter, may you hear unexpected good news breaking through the struggles and the differences, and may you seek to be the bringer of unexpected good news to others.

Blessings,

**Bronte Wilson**  
Moderator



# God Can Act In Unexpected Ways

*Rev Philip Gardner  
Acting General Secretary*

'Unexpected Good News' – there is a theme. Does it just refer back to that first Easter, when the women arrive to anoint the body and find the stone rolled away and the tomb empty? Is it simply concerned with the news 'He is Risen' to crushed and despairing disciples, like Mary in the garden, Cleopas and his companion on the road to Emmaus?

Is it only about that first Easter when the risen Jesus spoke of forgiveness to his fearful disciples and breathed the Holy Spirit upon them, empowering them to continue his mission? The answer is meant to be 'no' and yet I remember as a theological student a teacher saying to me, 'Philip you don't believe in the resurrection?' When I looked askance at him, he hurriedly replied, 'I don't mean you don't believe that Jesus rose from the dead, I just don't think that it makes a difference to how you see the world.' That led to a concerted effort in reading and reflecting on the question he raised. The question of how we believe in the resurrection in a way that shapes our lives as followers of the crucified, risen and ascended Jesus.

The Church consultant Kennon Callahan who visited our shores frequently from the late 1980s through to the noughties would pepper his workshops with the phrase, 'We are an Easter people, the people of the resurrection.' I have found that a helpful phrase in my ministry, it has caused me to ask 'What difference does believing in the resurrection of Jesus make to our lives as a Christian community?'

“God can act in unexpected ways. God can raise the lifeless body of his Son, defeating the powers of sin and death. God can pour out his Spirit on fearful disciples sending them out in mission to the world.”

It is helpful to ask a similar question for all the festivals of the church – Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Pentecost – you can add your favourites I might have missed. When people lament the loss of the church's influence in society, our declining numbers, our conflicts and our self-inflicted wounds it is important to remember that our current experience is not the last word.

God can act in unexpected ways. God can raise the lifeless body of his Son, defeating the powers of sin and death. God can pour out his Spirit on fearful disciples sending them out in mission to the world. God, through those disciples and their successors, transformed the Roman world. And God can do it again, in our time, in our churches and in our communities. We are an Easter people, the people of the resurrection, a people poised in anticipation of unexpected good news.



# God's Unexpected Good News

*Rev Peter Morel  
Moderator Elect*

Have you ever considered praying that you might be the 'unexpected' good news for another person? That you might allow yourself to be surprised by God's ability to convey good news through you, beginning with your very presence.

Many years ago, I was going about my normal routine of visiting patients. I knocked on the door of a patient who I had not visited before and as I entered, I introduced myself as the hospital chaplain, as I would normally do. I noticed this person was in the process of writing a text message, however they stopped, so they could talk with me.

We talked about themselves, their family, and the reason for being in hospital and their concerns regarding their treatment. During our conversation, I had noticed their Bible on the bedside cabinet, however I did not refer to it until I was about to leave.

I mentioned the Bible as part of asking if it would be okay to pray with them. As my offer of prayer was accepted they said, 'When you knocked on my door, I was writing a text to my mum asking if it would be alright to ask someone to pray for me.' In that moment,

I realised how I had been the answer to this person's need for prayer and comfort. It was something of a 'wow' moment for both of us to see and feel the unexpected, and immediate way in which God was at work.

This is a remarkably simple, yet profound, story of God's 'unexpected' good news being experienced. It reminds us that God's good news continues in the ordinary and extraordinary moments of life.

May we be alert to these moments, allowing God to be at work within and through us, his agents of 'unexpected, good news.'

“In chaplaincy, we often talk about the power of 'turning up' and being 'genuinely present.'”



# Major Review of Missional Needs and Opportunities

By Rev Dr Tim Hein

The *Basis of Union* of the Uniting Church in Australia expresses that the purpose of the church is to participate in the mission of God. It describes the church as an instrument through which Christ may work and bear witness to himself, and promises, therefore, that Christ will renew the church.

It is a time of change. A flux of cultural factors indicate the contexts to which we are called are changing at an increasing rate. The COVID-19 pandemic has been a catalytic disruptor to traditional mission and ministry methods and modern life. Organisationally, the South Australian Synod has recently undergone a major restructure from one to three Presbyteries, which has had significant implications for where and how congregations seek resourcing. Our college, Uniting College for Leadership and Theology (UCLT) is also undergoing a major renewal.

In response, the church prays that it may be ready when occasion demands to confess the Lord in fresh words and deeds.

To support the development of healthy missional churches, life-long disciples and effective leaders to bear witness to the good news of Jesus to the world.

How might we, in this cultural moment, enter more fully into the mission of God? The Mission and Leadership Development Board (MLDB) has determined that it is timely to closely examine the missional needs and opportunities across our Synod, and to determine how the church can best be resourced as it seeks to engage them at this time. In doing so, it is seeking the information to determine how best to fulfil its mandate: 'To support the development of healthy missional churches, life-long disciples and effective leaders to bear witness to the good news of Jesus to the world.'

It invites the church to engage with a major review to enable discernment on missional priorities and methods for the next 5 – 10 years. This review will furnish the MLDB in such a way as to assist it to focus and prioritise, organising its structure and activities in a manner that will best enable it to fulfil its mandate.



An external researcher will be engaged to conduct the review, and it is envisaged that the process of review will involve wide consultation across the Synod and thorough research. The review will provide recommendations that are courageous and imaginative, yet realistic, pertaining to:

01

Missional priorities for the Synod in our new contexts

02

Creative options for how those priorities might be resourced by the MLDB

03

Identification of factors that may pose a threat to their fulfilment.

“

The review is envisaged to commence in April and be completed by the end of July. Many more details will follow, including how people can engage and contribute to this process.

This is clearly a time of discernment, and I encourage the church to be praying for this process. The *Basis of Union* goes on to say that as the church participates in the mission of God, it has the gift of the Spirit in order that it may not lose the way. Let us be attentive and discerning, for the Holy Spirit will always lead us to Christ and further into Christ's mission.

# Pilgrim Uniting Church Choir Tours England

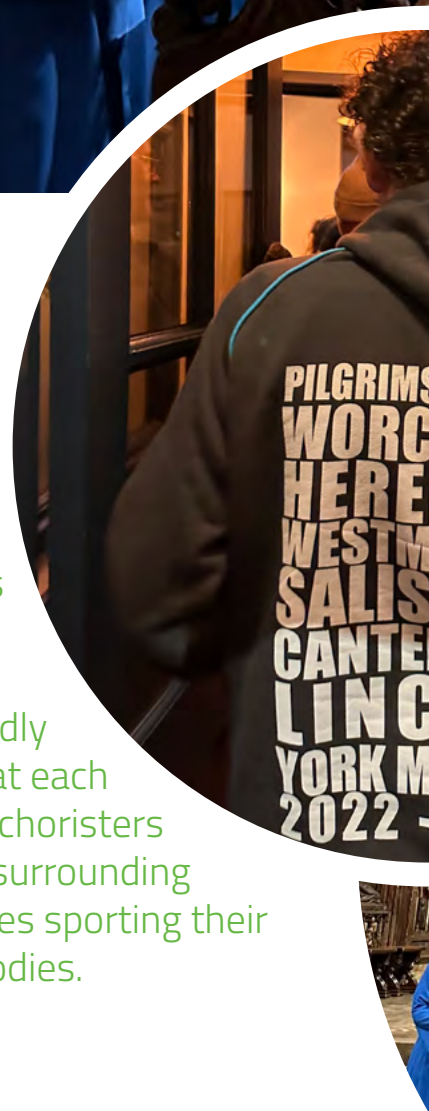
*By Lisa Catinari*

The Choir of Pilgrim Church has always been committed to excellence in choral worship and is one of the few choirs in Adelaide keeping traditional Evensong services alive through regular worship. With the aim of allowing singers to experience performing sacred music in liturgical context at the highest level, we embarked on planning our second tour of English Cathedrals.

Originally planned for 2020-21, the tour was postponed due to the pandemic and rescheduled for 2022-23. Between 27th December 2022 and 9th January 2023, the choir toured England, singing a total of twelve services in seven cathedrals!

Highlights of the tour included singing Evensong in Westminster Abbey to a congregation of over five hundred, singing all four services across the weekend at York Minster and processing the full length of the nave at the start of the Eucharist service in Salisbury Cathedral on New Year's Day.

We were warmly welcomed wherever we went. Presiding clergy always introduced us to their congregations, and often thanked us for filling in for their own choirs whilst on break. The choir proudly represented Pilgrim at each cathedral, and many choristers could be seen in the surrounding streets and businesses sporting their 'Pilgrims on tour' hoodies.





People back in Adelaide (and around the world!)

were able to follow our tour online, with six of the services being live-streamed, some receiving many thousands of views. We also posted photos, video and commentary on our Facebook, blog and Instagram accounts as we progressed around England and developed an avid following.

The choir worked extremely hard towards the tour, and we were delighted by the consistent high quality of music-making we achieved in the magnificent cathedrals we visited. We believe this experience will inspire our singers to aim just as high now they are back singing regularly at Pilgrim and well into the future.

The Choir of Pilgrim Church leads the 11.00 am service every Sunday, with Evensong on Saturdays once a month. Visit: <https://musicatpilgrim.com> for details.

The Choir of Pilgrim Church  
Musical Director Peter Kelsall  
Assistant Organist Christopher Bridge  
Guest Tour Organist David Drury



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# Henley Fulham Neighbourhood Garden

*By Faye Spence*

A small group of church and community members have been working away each month on establishing a neighbourhood garden of vegetables and herbs at the Fulham Worship Centre.

*We were delighted to be approached by a nearby early childhood centre to see if their children could walk around and spend the morning participating in some gardening – how lovely!*

On Wednesday 8th March, fifteen children and their helpers walked from their Centre to our garden and, after sharing cupcakes and a drink, we spent special time with them talking about our garden, worm farms, recycling and the different plants. They helped pull out some plants that were past their 'use by' date and enjoyed putting them in our compost bins and learning about this process. They were entranced by the creepy crawlies in the bin.

The children helped to plant some radish seeds then each child potted a succulent to take back to their Centre. It was a delight to see them learning with interest over our wicking beds before running around our grassed areas (so much energy!).

Time well spent (Luke 13:19). As part of this garden area we recently installed a Community Library and we hope this will encourage more people to visit and borrow or swap books, (sharing the love) and appreciating our neighbourhood and the environment.



# Invisible Threads

*By Rev Liellie McLaughlin*

An unexpected phone-call in 2007 initiated the first thread in this story – a lawyer, working for Survivors of Torture and Trauma and their Rehabilitation (STTARS) issued a request: 'A young refugee from Afghanistan wants to attend church – would you please meet with him?'

So it was that Khud and I attended Maughan Uniting Church and marvelled together as everyone received a small tree to plant following the service. Khud passionately exclaimed, 'Your church care for people and for trees!'

One may assume that this statement signals the yearning of a person wanting to open himself towards a whole new spiritual journey, however, I wondered how a person would find energy to focus on a spiritual journey, while facing the challenges and trauma of transition with no family support?

A deep friendship grew in trust and Khud shared how complex it was to find a real sense of spiritual belonging. Another thread was added – the encountering of many folk who feel lost in transition, struggling to find spaces to explore or share aspects of spiritual formation.

The formation of Community Connections at Pilgrim and Clayton-Wesley (2018–2021) enabled the creation of an 'Interfaith Matters!' Forum, where folk could share insights about diverse faith practices and values of integrity. Now people from diverse religious institutions and sacred spaces meet monthly to share their spiritual formation.

Instances of 'unexpected good news' appear often more as threads, indicating a deepening sense of unity for all. A longing for justice and inclusion, caring about the heart-beat of neighbours, all point to the presence of the incarnational energy of the cosmic Christ.





L to R: Margaret Lineage (Volunteer Teacher), Yan from China, Maiko from Japan and Mehran from Iran

# Celebrating Twenty Years of Community Service

*By Wendy Sinnott and Pat Thomas (Leaders)*

Twenty years ago two challenges were put to Modbury Uniting Church:

01

That Uniting Church people get out of their comfort zone and find creative ways to reach out to people.

02

Congregational members observe an increase in the number of new arrivals from African countries and in particular Sudan.

And so, planning began to commence a support group for Sudanese refugee women and their preschool children. In February 2004 a small group of enthusiastic volunteers welcomed twelve apprehensive Sudanese women and a program began that has continued to run and support hundreds of refugees and new arrivals from a myriad of different countries.

“

The program has had many changes and has developed in different ways but continues to support people who were born overseas and have now made their home in Australia.

The weekly program is now known as International Community Group and continues to be run by both church and community volunteers and provides a safe and friendly place for all ages to meet, learn and/or improve their English. Instruction on the Citizenship test is also available and a creche for preschool children is provided as well as a basic dressmaking class.

Many of the past participants call in on a Tuesday for a friendly 'catch up' or to share their problems and concerns with the volunteers. It is during these times that experienced volunteers are able to assist with appropriate information and referrals. The importance of a listening ear is sometimes all that is needed. At times volunteers have visited with many of the participants and some keep in touch by phone.

Over the past twenty years the program has been the recipient of both local and state awards for community programs and has been well supported by various Government Agencies. Modbury Uniting Church looks forward to celebrating its 20th year of Community Service.



L to R: Don Arnst, Neville Haar, Kim Lim, Dan Leonard, John Liebelt and Kym Dixon

# Church in Community Partnership

Westbourne Park Uniting Church is a busy place, with many groups regularly using the Church's facilities. Recently the Church audited safety aspects of the groups' on-site equipment storage. One group, Thursday Craft, which has over 200 participants attending weekly, needed a safer way to store about 100 tables and wood carving equipment.

Craft's finances were very tight due to COVID-19 closures, and people's health concerns. A Craft member heard that Mitcham Lions Club was closing, but still had some funds to allocate to community groups. Craft applied, successfully, for enough money to cover the materials required, with the labour to be donated by volunteers.

A Crafter and a Church Property member (Kym Dixon) worked together to draw up detailed plans and to construct the storage compartments for the tables.

The woodcarvers' new cupboard and cabinet was designed by Kym Dixon, constructed by a local community member, John Liebelt, and painted by Dan Leonard, another Church Property member.



The outcome of the partnership is safer, more orderly storage of equipment that is essential to Thursday Craft classes. This successful outcome has been due to the generous support of the former Mitcham Lions Club, planners and implementers, and many others along the way.

Thursday Craft, through Westbourne Park Uniting Church, is now more able to serve, connect and strengthen the community. Why not come along to find your place with Thursday Craft?

For more information about Thursday Craft at Westbourne Park Uniting Church, please visit:

<https://wp.ucasa.org.au/activities/#creativeActivities>

# The Future Looks Bright for SA Church Basketball

By Tristan Prentice



SA Church Basketball Association is inviting interested Churches, Schools, community groups, families, players and officials to participate in a longstanding organisation that values Community, Faith and Basketball. Commencing in 1950 and continuing today - SA Church Basketball has a rich history and an exciting future ahead.

Newly elected President, Leighton Boyd, shared that he is honoured to have been elected as President of SA Church Basketball Association Inc, and to be serving alongside the Board, together with Darren Humphrys who was elected as Vice President.

Ways to get involved include introductory basketball programs and camps, the opportunity to become an official and playing juniors or seniors in the basketball competition.

The competition has multiple venue locations across metropolitan Adelaide on Saturday afternoons and Tuesday nights. There is also the opportunity to become a player or coach for SA Church Basketball's district club, the Stars, who participate in the Basketball SA district competition.

“I am looking forward to this expanded role in the organisation and working with Basketball South Australia, plus the wider basketball community - to grow the sport together,” said Leighton Boyd.

SA Church Basketball is about ‘more than basketball’ and encourages the spirit of community and teamwork. For more information and to get involved, visit : [www.sachurchbasketball.com.au](http://www.sachurchbasketball.com.au)



alpha online

THURSDAY FOR  
9 WEEKS - 7.30 - 8.30

no matter what your background, faith or walk of life, we ALL have questions and we all deserve a safe space to ask them... Alpha is that space!  
register and join us for online alpha...

HOPE VALLEY CHURCH

Alpha

“We also wanted to support smaller rural congregations to reach their friends and family without the burden of building a team to run Alpha themselves.”

# Sharing Faith across the Internet

*By Executive Pastor Scott Button*

Last year Hope Valley Church hosted the Alpha Course online.

Our heart was to reach people interested in exploring faith in Jesus in a safe, accessible and interactive manner. Alpha is a great tool and Zoom provided a means of accessibility and interaction. This was a step of faith as we had never done this before. We advertised it through our people, our online services, Facebook in local communities and via connections with other local churches in South Australia.

We also wanted to support smaller rural congregations to reach their friends and family without the burden of building a team to run Alpha themselves.

To do this Hope Valley Church built the team and oversaw the technology side of things and the administration.

People in local churches only had to do the inviting. It also gave our local church family a way to invite those on their hearts, no matter where they lived.

People signed up from non-church backgrounds, those with church connections from years ago, right across the age ranges. We had people from three rural areas in South Australia, metropolitan Adelaide as well as interstate and overseas. A young lady from Chile joined in and is now coming to Adelaide to do a Ministry Internship at Hope Valley Church!

Hope Valley Church is planning to run Alpha Online again in Term 3. If you would like to partner with us as a local church contact Scott Button via email at:

scott.button@hopevalleychurch.com.au.

To learn more about Alpha Online please visit:

<https://www.alpha.org.au/online>

# Preparing for something new

By Rev Paul Turley

It is Lent – a time to reflect on what dies away and what is born fresh.

*Seasons of the Spirit*, the much loved and much-used whole-of-church Christian education and worship resource, is in a 'dying away' phase of its life. As of November 2023, *Seasons of the Spirit* will no longer be updated. Nothing goes on forever. And while this has been a sudden announcement, it will not come as a complete surprise to anyone paying attention to the fast-changing world of both the institutional Church and the world of publishing.

The *Seasons of the Spirit* story is a remarkable one. Four nations, the United States, Australia, Canada, and the United Kingdom, and several denominations worked to bring the best thinking about education, theology, and creativity together to develop an all-age, lectionary-based, contemporary Christian education and worship resource and it was a big deal.

*Seasons of the Spirit* set out to explore meaning and mystery in the Bible; empowering children, youth, and adults to be transformed in Christ; inspiring and equipping leaders; nurturing the imaginative spirit; and integrating worship, learning, and serving ministries.

*Seasons of the Spirit* did not come out of the blue. Many participating partners had worked together on previous curricula, including *The Whole People of God*. This was a wonderful foundation on which to build.

The Australian partner in the Seasons project, on behalf of the Uniting Church and other denominations, has been Mediacom Education. Adelaide-based Susan Burt was, from the very beginning, the Coordinating Editor for the whole international project.



'Seasons' vision was for an authentic Christianity lived in our culturally diverse and religiously pluralistic world; to be signs of God's liberating, compassionate, and inclusive love, and to grow in our relationship with God. Seasons continues to nurture faith through liturgy, ritual, and imagination, and encourages Christian growth through worshipping, learning, and serving together. Our true curriculum is how we live our lives together,' said Susan Burt

It was a mammoth task. Susan gathered writers from across the life of the Church. Some were experienced in writing curriculum, and others were new to the task, encouraged by Susan to try their hand. All needed to think ecumenically and internationally: does this word mean the same in Canada and the United Kingdom? Is it even spelled the same? If not, whose spelling should the curriculum use? Does this theological idea resonate with Anglicans and members of the United Reformed Churches? If an activity requires Blu Tack, what is it called in Scotland?

Mediacom Education has served the Australian Church for forty-two years and, despite its national and international reach, has always been based in Adelaide. Because so much of the work of *Seasons of the Spirit* has been about relationships, it is natural that many of the Australian contributors – artists, writers, musicians and others have been South Australian based. In the twenty-one years since the inception of Seasons, these creatives have not only enriched the work in this resource, but through their work, their development, and their international links, they have enriched the life of the church in South Australia.

As *Seasons of the Spirit's* time comes to an end, Mediacom Education is developing a lectionary-based resource that we think will be a very worthwhile follow-on from Seasons. And so we let go, and prepare for something new to emerge

*L3 – Liturgy, Learning, and (purposeful) Life* – has been in development over the last two years. It has a particular focus on Australian culture and the context of the Australian church. Contributors are entirely Australian and drawn from all parts of our culture and nation.

Australian laypeople, practical theologians, digital creatives, artists, and musicians will bring this resource to life. And, given the ever-changing nature of the Church, L3 will, follow the approach of *The Whole People of God* and *Seasons of the Spirit*, and will be developed in community and in response to user feedback.

More information will be coming out over the next few months. If you would like to stay in touch with the development of L3, please join the Mediacom mailing list, and you will be the first to hear L3 news and other projects in the Mediacom pipeline, email: [admin@mediacom.org.au](mailto:admin@mediacom.org.au)



# A Good Friday Reflection

By Emelia Haskey

“For me, Good Friday is an invitation to take up our own cross and follow Jesus in his example.”

As a child growing up Christian, most of what I remember about Lent was that it was a time to think about the suffering of Jesus, and that it usually involved giving up chocolate or ice cream as a form of penance.

I’m still a little unsure whether giving up sweets helped nurture my faith, but it felt like an important part of being Christian at the time. On Good Friday, I would act out the Stations of the Cross with other children as part of the church service – a somewhat gruesome exercise. However, it gave me an understanding of the incredible suffering and pain Jesus endured because he loved us so much.

Good Friday can often come across as an opportunity to shame and chastise ourselves for being so ‘sinful’ that Jesus had to die a horrible death just to wash our slate clean. Having spent time studying and reflecting on liberation theology in particular, I was able to take back that childhood feeling of gratefulness at what Jesus did for us, and why he was crucified.

Jesus challenged religious and political authority, he broke down social and ethnic barriers, he preached of a Kingdom where all sinners and saints were welcome. The late theologian Dr James Cone wrote in his book, *God of the Oppressed*, that ‘... the scandal is that the gospel means liberation, that this liberation comes to the poor, and that it gives them the strength and the courage to break the conditions of servitude.’

For me, Good Friday is an invitation to take up our own cross and follow Jesus in his example (Matthew 16:24-26). It is important to remember Jesus’ suffering on the cross, but we must not forget how he got there – by preaching a radical and compassionate love.

Cone, JH (1997), *God of the Oppressed*, Orbis Books, Maryknoll, NY.

# A Great Place for a Fresh Start

*By Pastor Mark Elford*



Seeds Uniting Church has just planted a new church in Kurralta Park.

On 12th February 2023 a new church community began worshipping at Hare Street. Seeds Kurralta Park (SKP) is focussed on 'Bringing people to Jesus and being transformed into His passionate disciples.'

We are blessed to have a wonderful facility and give thanks for the previous folk who worshipped there and looked after the buildings as well.

In this new season we are excited to see a vibrant multi-generational community gather on Sundays to worship and seek to connect with the surrounding community. Our tag line is 'A great place for a fresh start.'

As the church is launched we are providing opportunities for people to come to an Alpha Course if they are curious about the Christian Faith. Children are well catered for both during the service and with special engagement time each week. We have decided that church will always start with hospitality and so are providing a light breakfast in the way of good coffee, fruit, muffins and toast and this has proven very popular.



A Lenten Series of studies is about to begin and everyone who wants to is being encouraged to sign up to a small group to make connections.

As we seek to engage with the broader community we are letterboxing the community initially and want to find out where God is at work and how we can join in.

We are excited to see what God has in store for the worshipping community and our neighbours. Further details are available at this link: <https://welcome.seedschurch.org/>

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# The Church as Salt, becoming the community Jesus speaks about

By Sally Douglas

The Jesus community is called to be the salt of the earth, a metaphor that contains rich and disruptive challenge. Salt is little. We weep salty tears and grow up in dark salty wombs. Salt preserves. Salt draws out taste and too much salt spoils everything. With scholarly insight into the biblical text, early church writers and theology, as well as her pastoral experience in ministry, Sally Douglas invites us to wrestle afresh with the metaphor of being salt. Here we discover a call into discipleship that is free from the success criteria of consumerist culture and free from nostalgia.

*The Church as Salt* is not a 'how to' manual. Instead, through stories of ancient and contemporary salty communities, reflection questions and liturgies, the book is a nourishing resource for people and communities seeking faithful ways of being church today.



“A profound and joyful book ... with colourful stories from church history and from the present, Douglas ... shows how congregations today can be "seasoning pockets of grace" for the sake of the world.’ Ben Myers, Associate Professor, Alphacrucis College.

\$25.95 (available from MediaCom Education and the South Australian Synod office, phone: (08) 8371 1399 or visit: <https://www.mediacomeducation.org.au>)

## About the Author

Sally Douglas is a Uniting Church minister, who works in the mode of 'scholar pastor'. She ministers with an inner city parish, lectures at Pilgrim Theological College and is an Honorary Research Associate within the University of Divinity. Her interdisciplinary doctoral research, spanning biblical studies and theology, was completed through the United Faculty of Theology in Melbourne and published to critical acclaim as *Early Church Understandings of Jesus as the Female Divine: The Scandal of the Scandal of Particularity* (2016). As a theologian, biblical scholar, author and minister, the question that continues to infuse Sally's work is 'so what?' To find out more about Sally visit her website: <https://www.sallydouglas.net/>

# Belair Uniting Church

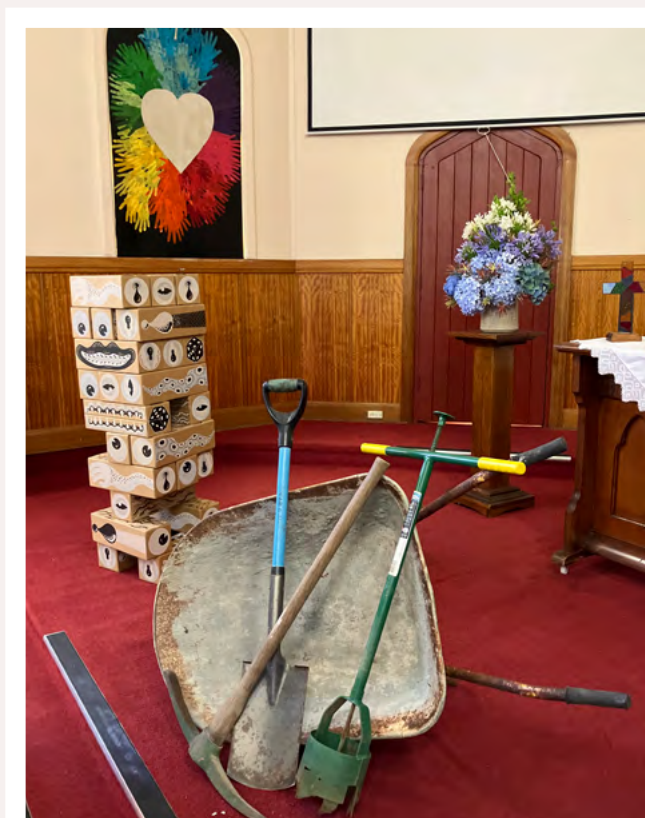
## 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

*By Rev Judi Hartwig*

**On 5th February, 2023 the Belair Uniting Church celebrated its 95th anniversary. It was a wonderful day connecting with old friends and making new ones.**

Rev Peter Morel, Moderator Elect was the preacher and he took as his texts Luke 6:46-49 and 1 Corinthians 3:1-11.

During the service the children played Giant Jenga to illustrate the need for a firm foundation in Christ and after the service everyone enjoyed a special morning tea. It was a great joy to welcome Peter, local dignitaries, past ministers and former congregation members. Another joy has been that some of those attending the anniversary service have continued to join us in weekly worship. Thank you to all involved in making the 95th Anniversary Service such a special time.



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## Placements News

### Placements finalised as at 16th March 2023

Rosemary Dewerse (MOP) as Academic Dean/Research Coordinator  
from 1 February 2023

Rev Matt Carratt as Generate Adelaide and South Hub Leader (0.2) from  
1 January 2023

Rev Nick Patselis as VET Coordinator (0.8) UCLT from 1 February 2023

Rev Beth Seaman to Marion Warradale UC (0.7) from 1 May 2023

### Advertised Placements

General Secretary (1.0FTE) (Synod Office)

### Vacant placements

The following is the list of vacant (or soon to be vacant)  
approved placements:

#### PROFILES AVAILABLE

#### Generate Presbytery

Ceduna UC (0.6)  
Clare UC  
Naracoorte UC

#### Presbytery of Southern SA

Christ Church Wayville UC (0.7)  
Glengowrie UC (0.5)  
The Corner UC

#### Wimala Presbytery

Brougham Place UC  
Clayton Wesley UC  
Croydon Park UC (0.3)  
Grange UC (0.5)  
Lefevre UC (0.4)  
Kimba UC (0.5)

#### Placements Across Two Presbyteries

Yorke Peninsula Regional Mission Minister  
Expressions of interest to [pgardner@sa.uca.org.au](mailto:pgardner@sa.uca.org.au)

#### PROFILES NOT YET AVAILABLE

#### Generate Presbytery

Port Augusta UC (0.5)

#### Presbytery of Southern SA

Church of the Trinity UC  
Dulwich/Rose Park United  
St Andrew's by the Sea UC (Glenelg)  
Vermont UC Fijian Congregation

#### Wimala Presbytery

Berri UC / Barmera UC  
West Lakes United

For more information about placements, please visit [sa.uca.org.au](http://sa.uca.org.au)



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