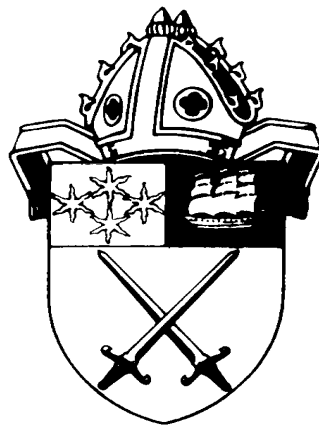


THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

THE DIOCESE OF BUNBURY

WESTERN AUSTRALIA



**THIRD SESSION
OF THE
FORTY SECOND SYNOD
2024 - 2026**

DIOCESAN REPORTS

Book 3

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Boniface Care

Meeting Human Need Through Loving Service

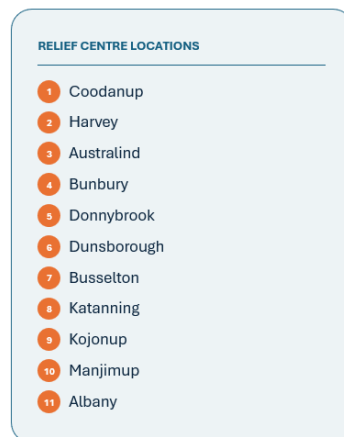
Boniface Care

Boniface Care has a long history in our diocese of providing Emergency Relief to people doing it tough around our diocese. We have 11 locations, as shown below, and teams of volunteers or individuals who provide help such as food, fuel vouchers, logs, gas bottles, assistance with bills and Rego, school breakfast initiatives and school uniforms. This work is substantially funded by Lottery West through a contract with Anglicare WA. The contract is renewable every year so we never know for certain if we can continue. Many parishes generously contribute more besides with extra funds, sometimes providing meals, vouchers for Op shops, 2nd byte food and veggies, in addition to volunteer time and care. For many years David Swain, Warden at Southern Forests had been carefully dispensing Emergency Relief to people in need in that area over and above his full-time job working both in Bunbury and Manjimup, and his Warden duties. It was therefore a relief for Pastor Ross Craig, from the Adventist Church in Manjimup, to take this responsibility over as he already ran a Food Bank operation in the area.

Thanks to the dedicated work of all our parish ER centres, and to Wanese Maloney, Head of Finance, we were able to acquit all the monies we were given by LotteryWest, through Anglicare WA, for the past financial year on time. As a result, we have again qualified to receive \$400,000 for this new financial year, 2026-27.

Wanese's combined statistics for last year showed our ER centres and volunteers assisted 8,700 people on almost 11,800 occasions.

Emergency Relief Locations



The Boniface Care Cttee. meets quarterly to review how the centres are going and share information about policy and practice. It is very moving to hear stories of need and of generosity, like the person who donated fuel vouchers at one of our churches, or firewood at Manjimup. Volunteers hear harrowing stories and meet people who are living in dire circumstances. Please pray for this work and for our volunteers.

Mrs Helen Oakey from Coodanup is kindly taking over from Bishop Ian as Acting Chair of Boniface Care, to be reviewed at the end of August 2027.

Bishop Ian
22.8.26

Bunbury Diocesan Campsite

Mission

Our mission continues to be providing a clean, safe, and well-maintained campsite where people can step away from the busyness of everyday life, enjoy the beauty of God's creation, and experience genuine hospitality and community.

It remains a joy to welcome back families and groups year after year as friendships continue to grow. Kids still spend their days enjoying 'old-fashioned' fun – riding bikes, playing cricket or footy on the oval and enjoying the beach and outdoors without screens.

We also continue to provide a peaceful place for people who are recovering from illness, navigating difficult seasons, or simply needing a quiet space to rest. It is a privilege to play a small part in offering that time of refreshment and healing.

People

For over 18 years we've been blessed to build lasting friendships with people from all walks of life. Watching families return each year – many now bringing children and grandchildren of their own – reminds us how special this community has become.

We have again had to farewell some long-term campers which is never easy. At the same time, it is encouraging to see new families discovering the campsite and becoming part of its story, ensuring this unique community continues to grow.

Partnership

Our partnership with the Mothers Union continues to be greatly valued. The van is well appreciated by all who stay in it. We are thankful for the ongoing relationship and the opportunity to support the valuable ministry they provide.

Foundations

Another year has been spent on ongoing maintenance that comes with operating a busy campsite. While there have been no major projects, regular repairs, servicing, and preventative maintenance continue to keep the facilities safe, reliable and welcoming for everyone who visits. As always, much of the work happens behind the scenes but is essential to the smooth running of the campsite.

Vision and Strategy Plan

We remain grateful for the opportunity to serve through the ministry of the campsite and are committed to providing a place where people feel welcomed, cared for and able to enjoy God's creation.

We would greatly value your continued prayers:

That we as a family, would continue to find a healthy work-life balance which can be challenging living where we work and working where we live.

That we would keep growing in our relationship with Jesus Christ and faithfully reflect his love, grace and hospitality to all who come through our gates.

***Eric and Samantha van der Wacht
Campsite Caretakers***

Catalyst for Mission

Throughout the year we have supported and encouraged congregations across the diocese to undertake mission outreach projects that make a real difference in their local parishes and communities. A number of parishes have done prayer walks, Alpha, bible studies, others are sending out weekly reflections and still others are meeting electronically or in person for Morning Prayer. All of these options continue to be a wonderful source of outreach and education.

The Catalyst for Mission (C4M) group met a few times via zoom and communicated via emails over the past 12 months and many found it difficult to get together on a regular basis. We discussed mission, various initiatives and outreach ideas and everyone supported local initiatives within their parishes and communities. A team member attends the monthly DMC - Perth Diocese mission council meeting usually via zoom and also is the diocese representative and representative for ABM – Anglican board of mission.

Many of the team assisted in hosting diocese initiatives; including Standing Together through Anglicare, NADOC celebrations, supporting Youthcare in our schools, Emergency relief programs & community pantry's, as well as the knitting outreach to the Kapsabet Diocese, ABM, Anglicare and BCA.

In the year ahead our aim is to encourage every parish to engage in real, compassionate mission that makes a tangible difference both in our local communities and parishes. We will continue to encourage other people to join the group, as we together reinvigorate our diocese's mission activities.

***Revd Cathie Broome
Catalyst for Mission Chair***

Prison Chaplaincy Report

Mission

The mission of the prison chaplains is to meet the spiritual and religious needs of both the prisoner population and the staff of Bunbury Regional Prison. This is through pastoral care and support, education, and liturgical services.

People

Fr. Brian Newing and Rev'd Sue Kemp represent the Anglican Church at Bunbury Regional Prison covering 4 days a week of ministry there. Fr. Brian, who has over 23 years' service to the prison, is currently recovering from a stroke and is in rehab at Bunbury Hospital. We are part of a team with Chaplains from the Uniting Church and The Roman Catholic's too.

Partnership

The Combined Churches of Western Australia (CCWA) hold the Department of Corrections contract for Chaplaincy services across the whole of Western Australia's prison estate, and the Diocese of Bunbury is a subcontractor under this arrangement. As Authorised Visitors in the prison we rely on the good will and support of the custodial staff to enable us to access all areas of the facility and all of the prisoners. We are key-holders and have 'free-range' of the facility dependant on the day-to-day conditions. We are well respected as part of the support team for both prisoners and staff and have established excellent working relationships with the senior management of the facility.

Foundations

In Matthew 25:36, Jesus emphasizes the importance of visiting those who are imprisoned. He teaches that when we care for those who are suffering, we are directly serving Him.

Vision and Strategy Plan

As we enter a new era in the Diocese's Vision and Strategy it is clear that the ethos of Living Generously takes on a different meaning and direction within the prison setting. Recent messages from Matthew's Gospel regarding second chances, forgiveness, and God's abundant generosity take on new meaning for people that have both hurt others and are themselves hurting. Our challenge is to keep this deeply counter-cultural message of hope alive and available to all regardless of their faith background.

Rev'd Sue manages a prison account with Koorong which enables prisoners to purchase books and DVDs etc. to further understand and support their faith. Between us we provide religious materials to prisoners of other faiths including Muslim, Buddhist, First Nations people.

The Chaplains are clearly identifiable by our clergy attire and there is research that shows that having free-range chaplains in a prison improves the general atmosphere. It is noticeable that when we are in a Unit the language and behaviour of both prisoners and officers improves!!

Reverend Susanna Kemp
Chaplain, Bunbury Regional Prison

Diocesan Reconciliation Working Party (Working Group)

Mission

This group was formed by Bishop in Council in 2023 following the Synod in 2022, where two resolutions relevant to the group were passed: to adopt the Uluru Statement from the Heart, and to offer an Apology to the Noongars in the south west. As has been reported in previous synods since then, these have been fulfilled, the first with a study series across the diocese, and the second in Bunbury on 31 August 2023 (see Reconciliation tab on diocesan website). Further local apologies may yet occur in other centres.

The group now sets out to continue to promote the Statement, and to connect with and support local Noongar people's efforts to reduce racism, gain access to redress for Stolen Generation individuals, and other reconciliation projects as they come along.

People

A number of changes have occurred since Synod 2024 that I wish to acknowledge. Rev Jacqui Chesley-Ingle and Ms Susan Davies from Mandurah have withdrawn due to illness, and Pastor Dennis Jetta and Pastor Keith Truscott (Perth) have retired. Ms Charmaine May (Goomburrup AC [Aboriginal Corporation], Bunbury) advises on request.

I thank them for their contributions.

I also want to thank Bp Ian for his steady support for the group and to me personally. We will miss him.

Since Synod 2025, Rev Neale Sommersby (Kojonup/Katanning) and Rev Esther Leach (Albany) have joined Ms Rachel Sambell (Mt Barker), Ms Elisabeth Pellicaan (Bridgetown) and Dr Don Reid (Bunbury).

This year, the meetings have continued to be online (Zoom) but have reduced to quarterly to allow the efforts of various members time to develop.

Partnership

No formal partnerships have been established, but links in Bunbury are maintained with Anglicare, Breakaway AC, Goomburrup AC, Djin Djin Mart (Noongar for Spirit Road) and Djidi Djidi Aboriginal School.

A link is maintained with Yokai Healing Our Spirit (Perth) and we are negotiating with parishes in the diocese to show and discuss their film *Genocide in the Wildflower State* (2024), which is also available on SBS On Demand. Screenings have occurred in the Cathedral, Kojonup and Katanning and negotiations with Carey Park are continuing. Please contact the DRWG convenor with enquiries and requests.



St Boniface Cathedral partnered with the DRWG to install an acknowledgement plaque on a pillar inside the building.

Our DRWG members are spread across the diocese. These other centres have their own particular challenges of varying intensity relating to reconciliation, but the overall need for a Christian presence is high. We each do our best to face these challenges and are always ready to have more support from parishioners of goodwill.

Foundations

We understand reconciliation to be important between all races, creeds and cultures, not only between God and humans. With the outcome of the 2023 Voice Referendum still very alive and painful for so many Indigenous people in our diocese, indeed in our nation, there is much more healing work ahead.

It's not only this one area of our society of course – there is so much going on which is of great concern to those who wish to share the love of God with everyone.

Let us walk together and together be God's kingdom in the world.

Vision and Strategy Plan

See Mission and Foundations above.

***Dr Donald Reid
Convenor***

Diocesan Safe Ministry Authority (DSMA)

Under the *Safe Ministry to Children Canon 2017* every Diocese is to establish a DSMA which is

*a church body with the responsibility for safe ministry to children in a diocese.
(Part 1-Preliminary Interpretation S.3 (p.3))*

Members

The Venerable Geoff Chadwick (Chair), The Rev Karen Cave, Mrs Suzanne Saunders. During the year the DSMA dealt with the following items:

Safe Church Contact Person Training

This is now available on-line and on paper. The revised *Recording Sheet* has been put in place and has made record keeping easier in parishes.

We had planned to provide some document handling training for SCCPs but due to other pressing commitments in the Diocesan Office this training is yet to be prepared.

Domestic Violence Workshops

Anglicare offered to run *Standing Together* workshops across the Diocese on domestic violence awareness. Parishes that took up the offer and found them very helpful.

Reportable Incidents

It was noted that people completing *Incident Reports* were not clear whether the incidents were reportable or not. Some clarifications have been added to the form.

The majority of incidents occur at our op-shops. These include accidents such as tripping and poor behaviour. Consequently, our human resources consultants, *Peninsula*, were approached to provide some training in dealing with difficult customers. Op shop managers have been invited to attend.

Faithfulness in Service Redraft

General Synod called for comments on the proposed redraft of *Faithfulness in Service*. We suggested some minor additions on domestic violence and faithfulness in relationships.

National Register Software

General Synod updated the security requirements of the *National Register Check* software.

LLM Paperwork

The Office continues to receive incomplete or incorrect documents for LLM nominations. The Form has been redrafted hoping this will improve the situation. Even so, it must be stressed that following the correct procedure with complete forms will save the staff considerable time and frustration.

New Ministry Approval

It is planned to look at how the risks associated with new ministries are assessed. I thank Karen and Suzanne for their considerable input and wise counsel on the Authority.

***The Venerable Geoff Chadwick
Chair***

Sustainable Living Working Group

Mission

To address the 5th of the Anglican Five Marks of Mission; “to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and to sustain and renew the life on the earth”.

The main activity of the Sustainable Living Working Group, apart from initiatives in our own parishes, has been to encourage and share ideas with the wider diocese. This has mainly been through articles in the Bishop’s newsletter “To The People”. We are grateful to Bishop Ian for his support of our group. We have also been encouraged by the conversations that have emerged from these articles.

People

The group currently has three members: The Rev’d Canon Justine Richmond (Chair), Adrian Price and Marilyn Royer.

Ideally, we would like every parish to have a representative in this group and invite parishes to forward nominations to the diocesan office.

Partnership

Many parishes have partnerships with community organisations for their sustainability initiatives. Terracycle has been identified as a partner which parishes and agencies can use to link to free and paid recycling programs. Adrian Price remains our representative with the Blackwood Basin Group, which covers 17 local government areas, most of which are in our diocese. Dunsborough Parish has received two grants this year, partnering with the Waste Authority of Western Australia and Plico Energy to deliver community education and sustainability workshops.

Foundations

In 2015 Bishop Tom Wilmott invited Adrian Price to talk to the Anglican Eco Care Commission regarding environmental issues, particularly in rural areas, Adrian having been a Natural Resource Management Officer in four WA Wheatbelt Shires. Bishop Tom then suggested a Bunbury Diocese branch of the Anglican Eco Care Commission. This was formed in 2019 as the Sustainable Living Working Group.

Vision and Strategy Plan

The Vision and Strategy Plan encourages us to share the joy we have in our faith. One way we can do this through caring for creation and sharing with others our ‘why’? Sustainability initiatives often prompt people to ask why the church is offering them, we just have to have the answer ready. We believe it is important for the church to be seen to ‘walk the walk’ and then ‘talk the talk’ when it comes to sustainable living.

We know Jesus taught that “where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Luke 12:34). There are many other examples of how Jesus taught about the value of a simple life, trusting that God will provide all our needs. This teaching informs many sustainable living discussions.

***The Revd Canon Justine Richmond
Chair, Sustainable Living Working Group***

Blackwood Deanery

Mission

Blackwood Deanery includes the parishes of Busselton, Dunsborough, Augusta/Margaret River, Southern Forests, Bridgetown, Boyup Brook and the Anglican Communities of Balingup and Metricup. Georgiana Molloy Anglican School is also within the Blackwood Deanery.

Mission has been one thing that Augusta and Margaret River has identified that they need to consider. A clear and united mission across the North and the South of the Parish would aid them in working together for the sake of the gospel. While this is something that they have identified, they are taking the time to think through Mission well. They desire that those around them know Jesus and life in him, that the church is unified together and that local communities are blessed through the church.

Boyup Brook give financial and prayer support to ABM, Anglicare South, Christmas Bowl, Mission to Seafarers and Foundation For Ministry.

St Paul's Bridgetown holds a Gospel Singing gathering each month and a special Gospel Singing service during the Blues at Bridgetown event which saw the Church overflowing.

As part of Hope 25 Busselton hosted an exhibition of the paintings of the Late Revd. Bob Booth, which was well received. The parish continues to offer core outreach ministries, being the Op. Shop, The Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Cliff's Kitchen, and Emergency Relief.

Dunsborough supports local and overseas mission. They have a mission partnership with the Donnybrook parish which is now in its fourth year. Outreach ministries include an Op Shop, Emergency Relief program, Manna and Mercy community dinner, Share and Care food relief and recycling stations, Prayer Quilt ministry and a new dementia friendly choir ministry, Joyful Voices.

Southern Forests are supporting CMS and the Davis Family in the Solomon Islands who are translating bibles into the many local languages. They also support Open Doors and the work they do around the world helping those persecuted for their faith. Southern Forests have bible studies for KYB and prayer groups who meet regularly in Pemberton and Northcliffe. They continue to grow in faith and understand the importance of believing in Jesus as our saviour.

People

Clergy based in Bridgetown provide support for neighbouring parishes and also the Bridgetown Uniting Church. Their connections with the Bunbury Regional There are many faithful saints in the Augusta and Margaret River Parish who have served long and hard. By God's grace they are still zealous. In God's mercy they have been welcoming more visitors who they hope might find a place in their churches. It is clear that there is a growing need for the church to grow, especially amongst the young. They praise God for a few families that they are developing their connection with.

Boyup Brook has 13 parishioners on their parish roll, 13 attend Sunday service regularly. The average age is 77, more than half are in their eighties. They have three LLM's who lead a Morning Prayer Service every Sunday except the third Sunday when Rev'd Sue Kemp from Bridgetown comes to conduct a Eucharist. Parish council consists of one Warden, a Safe Church Contact Person, and four elected members, including a minute secretary and a treasurer.

They have a prayer group who meet every Friday morning for a short service and intercessory prayers. This group has been in existence for about forty years! A Cursillo group meets once a month after the Sunday service and cuppa. Prison is extensive. Most significant is Revd Sue Kemp's ministry as Prison Chaplain two days each week. Revd Dave Bardsley also contributes on a monthly basis as an independent visitor.

Busselton Parish congratulates The Revd. Carolyn Ball who was priested in February. Revd. Nick Freeland took Long Service Leave in March and they are grateful to Revd. Carolyn Ball and The Ven. David Ingleson for providing cover. They are grateful to the large number of volunteers in the parish without whom many ministries would not be possible.

Dunsborough is also reliant on a large number of volunteers for their ministries and is grateful to the core group of faithful parishioners who continue to support and encourage parish activities.

Southern Forests continues to have three services across Northcliffe, Pemberton and Manjimup supported occasionally by visiting ministers, but primarily by their lay preachers, David Swain and Warwick Backhouse. They have some families and children at Northcliffe, but the Manjimup parish is small.

Partnership

The Augusta and Margaret River Parish is growing its partnerships with other churches and the local communities. In Augusta the churches combine for Tea Chat (a service to the elderly), we host the Combined Carols Service and the Blessing of the Fleet. There are donations raised for the primary school, day care and other community groups.

In Margaret River and Cowaramup, the church is involved in the YouthCARE Support Network, a growing relationship with Byte Construction, and the combined Carols service. There is also a 'Philosophy Cafe' initiative to speak of theological truths in a public setting. Donations are also raised for the Chaplains and local primary schools.

In Boyup Brook, LLM Anne visits the hospital every Thursday, usually offering a communion particularly for the permanent aged care people. Anne also assists with breakfasts at the local school. An All-Souls service is conducted annually at the Senior Citizens Lodge by an LLM. Parish news is placed in the monthly local community paper. An email prayer chain operates with a prayer sent daily to those who wish to have it. A number of parishioners take turns to do this on a weekly basis. They have an olive tree in the church grounds near the footpath to which laminated

prayers are attached for passersby to read. These are updated regularly following a chosen theme. The parish hosts a Carol Service every year with other local churches and the local choir assisting. This always attracts other community members. They also host a Gospel Singalong as part of the Country Music Muster which is an annual event that attracts many people. Environmental issues and recycling are important focus areas for Boyup Brook parish, who are currently working on up-grading facilities to be more people friendly and comply with WHS standards.

Bridgetown Parish has a strong affiliation with the Churches Together movement. Over the last year St Paul's has been contributing extensively to the following ministries:

- * Coordinating Songs of Praise last Spring.
- * Hosting Sing Christmas.
- * Coordinating The Way of the Cross on Good Friday.
- * Hosting the Foodbank distribution each month.

The parish has also participated in joint Youth activities and supported the display of main road banners at Christmas and Easter.

St. Mary's Busselton joined in an ecumenical Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. Last year the parish was pleased to welcome groups of year 8 and year 9 students from Georgiana Molloy Anglican School for teaching Eucharists. St. Mary's hosted the World Day of Prayer in Busselton this year. St. Mary's has hosted the regular meetings of the Busselton Council of Churches throughout the year and once again Christmas Hampers were put together at St. Mary's Family Centre for distribution to those in need. Revd. Carolyn Ball has led prayers for the City of Busselton City Council meetings.

Dunsborough Parish is a member of the Combined Churches of Dunsborough, which hosts the annual Easter Dawn Service at the Dunsborough Boat Ramp. This much-loved community worship service is attended by more than 200 people each year. The Combined Churches also work together on the annual World Day of Prayer. The parish supports the Dunsborough Progress Association and is invited to participate in the Carols in the Park and the Anzac Day service. Other partnerships include St George's College UWA through the Piano Agreement, Dunsborough Community Repair Co-op and Eco Markets, the Waste Authority of Western Australia, Plico Energy, SongFest, Anglicare and the City of Busselton.

Southern Forests Parish are working in partnership with the Uniting Church both in Pemberton and Northcliffe now. They are doing some presentations of "Standing Together" in August to inform the community about domestic violence and the supports available. They continue to work in Partnership with the Catholic community for annual World Day of Prayer and Carols by Candlelight events. Due to the damage to the church building in Pemberton, the Pemberton parish has needed to have services at the Uniting Church. The parish is grateful to the Uniting Church in Pemberton for welcoming them into their building and working together to grow in numbers.

Foundations

Augusta and Margaret River are in the process of building a new rectory in Augusta.

St. Mary's Busselton will shortly be undertaking repairs to its heritage-listed bell tower.

In Southern Forests, the Pemberton congregation has been forced to have services at the Uniting Church and combine due to the unsafe state of St Hildas. They are currently in the process of selling the building due to the extensive damage from white ants, the need for restumping and weatherboards being damaged and needing replacement.

Vision and Strategy Plan

Alongside mission, vision and strategy is an area in which Augusta Margaret River has identified a need for greater clarity and unity. Some good things are in place including: regaining regular services, focusing on bible studies and prayer groups, developing vision regarding children ministry, sharing meals, practising pastoral visitations, and a plan to develop our on-line presence.

While Boyup Brook does not currently have a documented strategic plan, it remains committed to faithful ministry within its community. The congregation faces ongoing challenges, with numbers declining as members age and move into residential care. The parish would appreciate the prayers of the wider diocese, along with reflection on how it might be supported to sustain and strengthen its ministry into the future.

Bridgetown has planned a month of outreach in October as part of the Churches together movement and a Blessing of the Animals Service.

St. Mary's Busselton is hoping to host Georgiana Molloy Anglican School to lead a Sunday Service before the end of this school year. Revd. Nick Freeland is chairing the Youth and Families Working Group. St. Mary's will be running the Living Generously course in September. Preaching at St. Mary's throughout this year has a strong emphasis on sharing our faith.

St George's Dunsborough are considering the vision and strategy and how they can use their outreach ministries as an opportunity to share their faith. A new initiative has started this year– a dementia friendly choir.

Southern Forests are looking to continue to work with the other denominations locally to grow our numbers and have appropriate infrastructure to support this. St Martins Manjimup is now our only building within the parish and needs some urgent maintenance and expansion to service the three churches. This includes a meeting space and modern facilities to accommodate events.

***The Rev'd Canon Justine Richmond
Area Dean***

(From reports submitted by Rev'd Nick Freeland, Rev'd Dave Bardsley, Revd Canon Justine Richmond, Revd Scott Thomson, Ken & Jan Ritson and Michele Schmidt.)

Goldsmith Deanery

Goldsmith Deanery stretches from the Indian Ocean to the Darling Ranges and includes the Parishes of Australind, Boyanup (Boyanup and Capel), Carey Park (Carey Park and Picton), Cathedral Parish (Cathedral, Brunswick, Burekup), Collie, Gelorup and Harvey.

Other organisations in our Deanery are Bunbury Missions to Seafarers, Bunbury Prison Chaplains, Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School, Hospital and Aged Care Chaplains.

Please find below a report from the parishes:

St Nicholas Minster, Australind

Synod Report 2026 Rev Jamie with input from leadership in St Nics

1. Worship, Teaching & Growth

- Consistent lectionary-based teaching throughout the year, supplemented by Ripple Effect and our 5B community framework material used in growth groups.
- Sunday attendance is trending upward, with a more marked increase in our midweek morning communion alongside a steady trickle of newcomers exploring the church on Sundays.
- We have been intentional in encouraging everyday witness and evangelism. The foundation is intimacy with God, and seeking Spirit-empowered, Spirit-guided mission linked to the diocesan “Share the Joy” initiative.
- Prayer ministry offered after services, including words of knowledge that have been responded to. This has become a valued part of pastoral care, bringing encouragement to many of our parishioners.
- Feedback leaders have noted from newcomers is an appreciation of the warmth and humour in our services, which people found engaging, and the church family experienced as genuine and welcoming.
- Growth groups and courses continue as the core discipleship pathway alongside Sunday teaching. We have established ‘Discipleship Down Under’ YouTube as a repository for past and future courses once we get on top of the technology. Our course ‘Living Free’ is on there, which has allowed newcomers to go through this asynchronously.

2. Ministries & Initiatives

- Over the past year we have been exploring how to respond to increased demand for prayer ministry from both within St Nicholas and beyond, including people being referred to us from as far afield as Busselton and Perth.
- We have been developing a team, though we have not yet found a suitable way to advance this expression of prayer ministry further.
- St Nics has a growing number of members benefiting from the teaching and training offered by Elijah House Australia. We welcome the Bunbury Regional training team and have hosted multiple training units serving both our local and

Perth area, run at St Nics (Units 1, 2, 5, 6 and 8), plus a 7-week online Unit 1 course reaching participants from WA and interstate.

- This year we hosted prophetic and ministry of blessing (LHOP) training, drawing 60 attendees across three sessions with 11 churches represented.
- We continue to support and encourage inter-church collaboration, with active involvement in the termly Bunbury Churches Together in prayer events and in Bunbury Christian Churches Together, which Jamie and Verity Murray continue to co-chair. Verity has developed a newsletter and a new website for this organisation in our immediate region.
- We ran Alpha, and for the first time had a team running it without direct involvement of Rev Jamie. This is a good development, and the team are already planning one for early 2027.
- The Op Shop had a remarkable year ending in December and continues to break new ground this year. We have recently appointed a new Ministry Leader following the retirement of our excellent Judy Blechynden. We are in the process of redesigning the Op Shop to make it safer for our volunteers.

3. Ministry Development & Leadership

- We have had the privilege of welcoming ordinands and diocesan trainees throughout the year, well received by the congregations on Wednesdays and Sundays.
- Jeremy Barraclough is with us through to the end of October, preaching and leading services monthly from July to October. He has been warmly welcomed and has a support group now established from within the parish.
- Gaerlan Baguil (Chaplain to the Mission to Seafarers) has been a blessing to us, serving on Wednesdays in preaching and leading, and has established a warm connection with that midweek congregation. Since his ordination to the priesthood, he is now able to run the Wednesday service by himself on occasion, which will be particularly helpful when Rev Jamie is away on LSL.
- We sponsored two of our older youth to attend a CRU leadership camp. They both came back greatly encouraged and strengthened in their faith and now assist in leading our youth group on Sunday mornings, overseen by our adult team.
- Verity Murray is progressing toward formal recognition as a Licensed Lay Minister for Sunday teaching.
- A new part-time Communications Officer (Abbey) has commenced and is working with us on continuing to develop the newsletter and website.

4. Governance

- The church continued to function well and adapted roles smoothly during Rev Jamie's absence on rehab following his hip replacement, a sign of a healthy, capable ministry team and church family. Similarly, we are covered for his forthcoming time away on LSL from within our own ministry team.
- Our warden role has transitioned this year. Our thanks are expressed to Mrs Suzanne Saunders for her excellent service as warden over many years, alongside warm acknowledgement of Lois Eckersley's excellent take-up of the

role since. Suzanne led the induction of our most recent Parish Council, as she has done for several years.

- We continue to support the Bunbury food bank with weekly collections of goods, transferred by volunteers. We continue to offer Emergency Relief through Boniface Care.

5. Notable Occasions

- We have enjoyed both baptisms and confirmations.
- We baptised four of our youth in the estuary earlier in the year.
- In June, we completed a successful drive to raise money to provide new seating for our sanctuary.

We are looking forward to all that the Lord has for us in this next year.

Revd Jamie Murray

St Boniface Cathedral Parish

As the Cathedral church of the Anglican Diocese of Bunbury, we have continued our mission to be a spiritual haven for the city and a centre for ministry across the region. This year, we have focused on being a community on a journey of transformation exploring what it means to be part of the Body of Christ in a world that is ever-changing.

From our regular worship to special community events, we have witnessed a deepening of faith and an openness to challenging questions. We have sought to offer both a traditional and contemporary approach to worship, enriching the spiritual lives of all who walk through our doors.

Worship remains the cornerstone of our life together at St Boniface Cathedral. This year, our schedule has provided a rhythm of prayer and communion for the faithful. We have continued our tradition of weekday services, gathering from Monday to Friday at 8:30am, alongside our Saturday evening service and the principal Sunday services at 9 am.

The Cathedral continues to be a place for spiritual experience. In September 2025, we were honoured to host Fr. Iain Radvan, SJ, who led a special Day of Reflection on the theme "Mending our relationship with Earth." This eco-spirituality event allowed participants to explore the intersection of faith and environmental stewardship, reflecting our commitment to caring for God's creation.

We embraced the liturgical seasons with joyful celebration. The Advent and Christmas services brought the community together, offering moments of quiet preparation and joyful celebration as we marked the coming of Christ into the world. St Boniface Cathedral is more than a building; it is a place for reflection, prayer, private devotion, and inspiration. It stands as a centre for ministry not only to the City of Bunbury but also to the wider region.

Throughout the year, we have strived to be a welcoming and inclusive family. The Cathedral offers an "inquiring and challenging approach to preaching and teaching," encouraging dialogue and small group activities that foster growth and connection. We have continued to be a place where people can encounter the living God and find support in their faith journey.

As we look to the future, we are excited to continue this journey of faith. We will be furthering our commitment to providing a place of sanctuary for all people. As part of the wider Diocese of Bunbury, we remain committed to reaching out to others in need, worshipping and proclaiming the Gospel, and promoting a more loving and just society.

***Very Revd Darryl Cotton
Dean, Bunbury Cathedral***

All Saints, Collie

By the grace of God, All Saints in Collie has had a busy but fruitful year.

Our new warden Julie Hull has been doing an excellent job with administration and handed over the Opshop Management to Jan Veal in January 2026.

We continue to supply articles to the Seafarers, bags for kids and families in need and dignity bags for women. The Opshop has been the hope of so many who are in dire need by providing swags, tents and other articles. We have seen a steep increase in homelessness and poverty. Our hardworking volunteers are much appreciated and we love blessing them in turn. As with all Opshops, we are short staffed but cherish those who serve alongside us.

Our Parish Council has grown from 3 members to 7. It is great to share the load and work as a team. God is equipping His church by raising up 5 more LLM's in various categories, such as Liturgy, Youth and Pastoral. Some are still busy with their studies.

We have continued with Kids Church during our Sunday services. Like all parishes, we find that Kid's Church attendance fluctuates. Our youth LLM organized Messy Play during the school holidays which was very well attended by young mums and kids from Collie. It is not every day that a heritage church building has a tiny race track down the aisle.

However, we need a place for our youth and a parish office. We are seeking the Lord for provision for more space and finances/ grants for repairs to our dome roof.

All Saints celebrates Holy Communion twice a month, Morning Prayer once and PPP once a month as an outreach service, especially for younger people. Our weekly Bible studies are well attended. Notes are available for those who cannot attend in person. We recently completed an Evangelism Bible study in keeping with our 'Share the Joy' vision and strategy.

During 'Ordinary Time' we studied the connection between the Old and New Testaments. - The New is in the Old concealed, the Old is in the New revealed. Thanks to Janet, our colourful quilting ministry is a great blessing to so many. To date Janet is nearing 20 completed quilts since 2025.

The ladies at All Saints have resurrected the Mother's Union branch at Collie. We currently have 10 members and counting!

We continue to seek God's wisdom and guidance going forward, all the while giving Him the glory.

Firmly in His grip
Gail

Revd Dr Gail Smit

All Saints, Donnybrook and St Paul's, Harvey

Harvey and Donnybrook

The congregations at All Saints Donnybrook and St Pauls Harvey have had a great year. Regular Sunday attendance has slightly grown, new ministries have started and each parish has maintained a faithful presence in the community.

In addition we have a weekly reflection sent out mid-week with regular requests to join the mailing list. It has become a much loved pastoral and practical application of scripture to nurture spiritual growth each week, especially to those parishioners that are increasingly becoming house bound.

All Saints Donnybrook – is well supported by the faithful volunteer efforts of retired clergy, LLM's and laity. The parish continues to be a welcoming, loving and spirit filled parish that proclaims the gospel of Jesus in word and deed through our weekly worship services, morning prayer and bible studies.

We have an enthusiastic congregation and an active prayer chain ministry and while we are a small parish we aim to reach out to our community as much as possible. This includes but not limited to; emergency relief, partnership with Foodbank who fortnightly utilise our hall, local aged care & hospital ministry, supporting Youthcare chaplain and schools, pastoral visitations, home communions, prayer walks, mission talks and fellowship / outreach ministries. The parish remains pro-active in supporting sustainable living projects, the diocese vision strategies and exploring new models of ministry.

St Pauls Harvey – The parish continues to go through changes with clergy & lay ministers retiring or moving and elderly parishioners passing away or going into care. However this has enabled other parishioners to step up and help and explore ministry opportunities within the parish and thus it has been an exciting time.

Parish council and lay lead ministries continue to encourage and supporting one another and explore new ministry opportunities such as a weekly community lunch, community choir, various bible studies, Sunday evening dinners and mission talks and youth projects. As well as continuing to provide chaplaincy to Amana, the local aged care facility and hospital, home pastoral visits and communion, as well as contributing as members of the local community HUB.

The Op Shop, through its wonderful volunteers and leadership team has been a life line for many and continues to be a bright light in our community. As a parish we continue to assist many families in need with assistance from Boniface Care and Foodbank.

***Revd Cathie Broome
St Paul's, Harvey
All Saints, Donnybrook***

St Francis and St Clare Gelorup Anglican Church

A little snap shot of our Gelorup Community, we are a small congregation but a versatile one. We have 1 retired Priest and 4 LLM's who take turns at doing our services. We like to have variety in our services and do things like a breakfast service, a café service, a Trinity service in the Bovell boardroom, to name a few. Each year we have a Pentecost dinner where we try to make all the food red, always a great night. Hope 25 saw us doing a bus trip to different churches in the Bunbury region. We left the Grammar school and went to St Elizabeth's ten on to St Marks to look at the historical church and cemetery, so sad to see so many babbies and young children's graves. Off to Australind where we enjoyed a lunch of soup and rolls. The old church at Australind was amazing to see how tiny it was and how many people used it. With various others stops and look outs along the way, we arrived back at the Grammar school for a late afternoon tea. It was a fabulous day and enjoyed by about 30 people

A special day for us was 6 children baptised on the same day and later another repeat baptism.

Some of our outreach activities include services at Bethany Dalyellup and Yello which is a group of ladies who meet to knit and chat, they are joined by several ladies from Dalyellup

***Lynne A'Vard Markham
Warden@Gelorup***

Northern Harvest Deanery

Mission

Northern Harvest Deanery continues as the primarily lay body tasked with:

- *mutual **support** between parishes through fellowship and sharing,*
- *cooperative **planning** of key elements of parish life*
- *Lay ministry **training**, and*
- *sharing of **resources**.*

This principally takes place at regular meetings during the year, and with occasional clergy functions and meetings.

People

Deanery Synod comprises elected lay representatives from each Parish, Parish clergy and ordinands, and any others who support the aims of the Deanery.

We elect a lay Chair (Mr Brian Seale) and Vice Chair (Revd Paul Bartley) annually. Meetings are convened at least three times each year, and usually meet in Williams Parish Church Hall.

Clergy meetings occur at Diocesan Conference and Retreat, and at our Christmas function in January.

Partnership

Deanery Synod is principally a semi formal meeting to facilitate networking and mutual support. Some local joint initiatives grow from it, and recently members were given a talk on becoming a new office holder in a Parish. This enabled a sharing of views and experience. We are grateful to Miss Karen Reeves for facilitating this.

Foundations

Vision and Strategy Plan

Our vision is to remain a fellowship of believers who focus on encouraging others and informing each other along our Christian journey. We share knowledge and cups of tea, providing updates and reports on our individual Parish efforts to reinforce our collective journey.

We have successfully sought new office holders for another year, and continue to function within our missionary objectives.

***The Venerable James Tabor,
Area Dean***

Stirling Deanery

Parishes

Albany – Revd Canon Karen Cave, Retired Clergy Revd Helen Barnard

Kojonup/Katanning – Revd Neale Sommersby

Denmark/Walpole – Revd Nicky Latham, Revd Sue Lodge-Calvert (locum), Revd. Sally Buckley (Retired)

Albany – Revd Canon Karen Cave

Oyster Harbour – Revd Shane Marques, Revd Allyson Charles, Revd Brent Findlay, Revd Dr. Richard Goetz

Retired Clergy (PTOs): Revds. Audrey Payne, Dorothy Bailey, Allan Taylor

Southern Ranges - Revd Genevieve Milnes

Anglican Communities

Gnowangerup, Borden, Jerramungup, Bremer Bay, Ravensthorpe, Lake Grace - Revd Harold Lee, Revd Vicki Webb

Mission to Seafarers – Albany Chaplain Revd Canon Karen Cave

PTO Revd John Abraham, Revd Robert Holland, Revd Heather Turner, Revd Bill Leadbetter, Revd Esther Leach

Stirling Deanery supplies the following parishes and Anglican Communities with Clergy Cover and other forms of support: Jerramungup (Bremer Bay), Lake Grace, Wagin and Dumbleyung

The Revd Neale Sommersby was recognised as Area Dean on June 27th 2026.

We have seen ordinations to Priesthood for Revds Vicki, Brent, Allyson and Richard.

At the time of writing, we are looking forward to the service of recognition of Revd Nicky Lathan at Denmark/Walpole on 15th August.

Mission

Community interest in the church continues with Albany parish continuing on line ministry. The opportunities for responding to need and outreach have also continued to present well as emergency relief and pastoral care nets have been strengthened, and the church continues to support often the most vulnerable in our communities. The Deanery has embraced the continuing diocesan Vision and Strategic Plan Joy '26 with ministry groups able to plan their activities and studies accordingly.

We have a strong healing ministry in The Order of St Luke. Revd Dot Bailey writes, "The Albany Chapter of is part of the National body of the Order of ST. Luke and is currently the only chapter in WA. It meets once per month on the second Thursday at 9:30am at St John's with a prayerful inclusive service of healing, anointing and individual prayers followed by a homily and communion. The people involved are clergy and parishioners from St John's Anglican church and Living Water Anglican church as well as some Roman Catholic lay people. We currently have 14 members. We can link in with the national body via Zoom meetings and newsletters.

The Chapter commenced in 2001 with Rev Alan Taylor as Chaplain and Margaret Stone as secretary /treasurer and Joan Bartlett as convenor. The chapter continues to meet at StJohn's in the chapel on the second Thursday each month at 9:30 am.

We hold a communion service with a homily followed by prayer and anointing for healing in which all members participate. We advertise our services and ministry to the other churches in Albany via the ministers fellowship. We are also giving our members the opportunity and practice to pray out loud for others and to see that healing prayer is part of every Christian's ministry. "

St John's Albany Emergency Relief serves our Community well as do our soup kitchen. On line services are available twice per day, six days a week. We place a strong emphasis on outreach and with other churches in Albany run Alpha Courses. We enjoy an annual combined church service. It is such a joy to minister alongside community groups such as Albany Community Volunteers and share gardening chores with students from Great Southern Grammar School. We also provide Chaplaincy to Mission to Seafarers, Police, RSL, Juniper and the prison and support our Youthcare Chaplains. We are now providing joint support with Kalamunda Parish to minister to Bibbulmen Track walkers.

Living Water continues to proclaim the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed through our three weekly worship services, the ministry of the community store and community garden, as well as special events such as Invitation Sundays (Feb), the Discover Jesus course (May-June) and the God's Big Picture Bible Overview course (Aug – Sep).

The youth and young adults ministry under the leadership of Cam Fildes is bearing good fruit. The Playgroup for little ones runs fortnightly and the Girl's Brigade serves 35 + girls in years 3-6 and meets each Wednesday afternoon at Living Water. Hosting synod was a highlight for our church, as was the ordinations of Revds. Richard, Allyson and Brent.

In partnership with Vocational Bible College (RTO 41496) LW is delivering the Diploma in Christian Ministry & Theology (11238NAT), a nationally recognised VET qualification. Revds. Richard and Shane deliver lectures on Thursdays to an ecumenical cohort of 14 students, young and old, in person and via zoom, who are seeking to be better equipped for lay ministry in their local churches, and for some a first step into preparation for vocational Christian ministry.

This year we set a new Vision, Mission and Strategy to guide us as a parish under God for the coming years: 'Every Disciple - A Disciple Maker'.

Vision:

Living Water exists because of the love of God in Jesus Christ and his gospel. Jesus is the Living Water who is transforming us to be a people for his praise and glory.

Mission:

We seek to make mature, disciple-making followers of Jesus Christ, empowered to fulfill his Great Commission in Albany and to the ends of the earth.

Strategy:

1. Explore local mission in Albany: in and from LW.
2. Explore sustainable regional ministry in surrounding areas: from LW.
3. Explore Strategic National/International Mission Partnerships from LW.

Southern Ranges reports that regular ladies 'morning teas are happening at the local garden-restaurant in Mt Barker, organised by member Fran Wallace. These mornings are light and fun for all. It is an opportunity for Rev'd Genevieve and other church members to meet people from the wider community.

There is a regular sacramental ministry at the Mt Barker hospital with up to 16 attendees. We have lost a few members over the past year, however it is a joy to pray with these lovely residents, bless them and regularly anoint them with healing oil.

The Parish Op Shop continues to trade very successfully, with an abundance of stock being contributed by the wider community. Volunteer numbers remain an issue, but people from the wider community and church members together maintain a six-day trading pattern. Robin Waters leads a team to keep the Op Shop humming along. We are very grateful for them. We had our yearly volunteers 'morning to thank everyone for their most welcome assistance.

Denmark and Walpole

Following Hope 25 Kojonup focussed on a vision statement for the church coming up with "a church committed to Loving Jesus, Living Jesus & Being Jesus in our community". We have begun creating a veggie patch in the kids playground space with the aim of sharing encouraging our community to get involved and grow our produce for the wider community and in particular our ER recipients.

Katanning's Op Shop opening hours have increased to two days per week and has seen a rising interest and presence in our community. On top of the financial benefits, which has seen last year's total already reached, the output of engagement with the community has been huge with many customers not only shopping but making use of our "coffee n chat" space, sitting with church members who have been willing to listen, encourage and pray with them if needed.

Worshipping Christians in Lake Grace are ecumenical and informally attend services in local Anglican and Catholic Churches. Joint activities occur such as the World Day of Prayer and an ecumenical prayer group that meets occasionally. Supply clergy (Deacon) were rostered to conduct monthly services and, if all are well, parishioners organised a service of morning prayer in between visits.

Parishioners of St Anne's serve as Christ in their rural community and are a respected and supported part of the fabric of Lake Grace. As such rural ministry becomes missional in the community when members of St Anne's congregation support local business, undertake voluntary work in service clubs and are active in community organisations. Most parishioners are retired and a few remain active in their family businesses. Funeral support is another mission for parish family members and past parishioners requesting to be buried in Lake Grace. Since the 2025 Synod there was a small family funeral service with 30 people held at St Anne's. Pastoral support is given to the sick or the dying and their families when invited.

Monthly hospital visits are a growing outreach that is well supported by both staff and the 5-6 permanent residents, all in their late 80's or 90's and faithful members of a range of denominations. This started a few years ago with visiting each person in their room and offering communion but evolved during the year to become a simple informal service of communion by extension in the dining/activities room attended by all the permanent residents.

People

The Deanery Chapter met in person at Retreat and Conference and Living Water, and at Christmas lunch. Our focus is fellowship, encouragement, mutual support and prayer.

We experienced delight in ordination services for Revds Brent, Allyson and Richard. We celebrated Revd Sally Buckley's retirement. We have known sadness following Revd Helen Barnard's strokes and subsequent withdrawal from ministry.

Revd Esther Leach is currently unable to work due to vestibular and whiplash issues and has concluded her spiritual direction training and plans to practice this and assist in palliative care as and when able. She requests prayer for the spiritual care provided in the diocese in palliative care contexts, and specifically prayer for the development of formal partnerships and positions in the healthcare teams

At St. Johns, Revd Karen Cave continues as Chaplain to the Mission to Seafarers, RSL, Police and Juniper. We continue to seek a new prison chaplain. The congregation are, as ever, enthusiastic and ministering in many ways to show the face of God and the light of Christ to our community. We are blessed by our position in the heart of the City.

People at Living Waters:

Clergy:

Priest in Charge: Revd. Shane Marques.

Priest Assisting | Training: Revd. Dr Richard Goetz

Priest Assisting | Membership & Pastoral: Revd. Allyson Charles

Parish Clergy: Revd. Brent Findlay, Revd. Dorothy Bailey (PTO)

Staff:

Lay Minister (Children, Youth & Young Adults): Cameron Fildes

Office Admin: Anne Pinchen

Communications & Creative: Chelsea Crosby

Community Store Supervisor: Fiona Cameron

Intern: Reyne Durrant

Rev'd Genevieve has been at Southern Ranges for two and a half years as Parish Priest. Her service of Recognition was in February 2024, conducted by Bishop Ian. She is ably assisted by the Wardens, Ann Webster, Robin Waters, and Jan Pope and a Parish Council. We are always grateful for the assistance of the members who help out with so many things, including morning teas, welcoming rosters, pew sheets, and music. We are very grateful to have Peter Milnes on guitar, Ross Mackenzie on organ, Sarah Milnes on piano, Evelyn Jennings on violin, Joan Walsh and Trish O'Halloran on the organ at St Oswald's, and Dr Toby Leach on piano. Long-time resident and stalwart of St Mildred's Anglican Church in Tenterden, Coral Cavanagh resides at the Overton wing of the Mt Barker hospital, alongside Joy, another church member, and Bob Olsson, also a church member. We enjoyed an amazing Mostly Baroque evening at St Werburgh's and a wonderful Nine Readings and Carols in the week before Christmas. It is with great sadness that we farewelled two of our longstanding members, Mrs Gwen Wright and Mrs Cec Sounness (103). The two funerals were very large as both women were well-connected in the district and had wonderful legacies. We will miss them. And on a different note, we will also miss Dick

and Helen Davis who have contributed in wonderful ways for many years. They are moving to Pemberton to be closer to their family.

At Denmark/Walpole, Reverend Sue Lodge – Calvert has been a faithful locum. The team of LLM's share in the leading of worship and care of the people. Dr Alison Kershaw and Mr Harold Luxton both hold preaching licenses and frequently lead the congregations at Denmark and Walpole. They are joined by Dr Jane James, Mrs Sally Prickett, and Mr Thomas Sheard.

During the year Mrs Jan Pattinson has retired from her role of LLM after many years of faithful service. Of course, much energy has gone towards seeking a new parish priest.

The parish is blessed with many talented and willing workers in the running of the church and in serving our community.

Katanning: The end of 2025 closed sadly with the passing of two well-loved parishioners and former Wardens, Maxine Potter & Val Philpott. But in the new year there was much joy in seeing one of our regular Op shop volunteers Heather Forman baptised, confirmed and together with her husband, Henry make their home with us as regular church attendees. Harry Coutts at the young age of 80, was also baptised and confirmed and his wife Patricia was received into the Anglican communion. A family of Karen people have also joined our church. We will be sorry to see Rocky & Philip leave for the Solomon Islands in July as their contracts with WAMCO expire.

Kojonup: We were very sorry to say farewell to Peter Anderson, who at the prime age of 96, decided to move to a retirement village in Claremont to be closer to family. We also bid farewell with a "bring-n- share lunch" in February to Walter & Edward from the Solomon Islands who sadly found themselves out of work with the closure of Beaufort Meats. We have been called upon a number of times this year to spiritually guide the Noongar people through their sorry business. There are number of folk who need prayer for healing, and prayer for encouragement as they manage ailments and illnesses.

Jerramungup are few in number but faithful in worship. Holy Communion services are conducted monthly on the second Sunday at either Bremer Bay or Jerramungup Community Church. We are thankful for the ministry of Revd Robert Holland.

St Anne's at Lake Grace is an aging cohort mostly in their late 70's or 80's. The congregation on most Sundays is very ecumenical. Occasionally community members or visitors attend a service and we are regularly joined by a few Catholic parishioners after their early service. Many faithful parishioners are very frail and spend time in hospital for respite or are permanent residents. The regular hospital visit has grown to become a short service of Communion and fellowship.

A few core parishioners have left town this year, including a family with 4 children and an elderly woman whose husband had died. There is one new parishioner who retired to be near family and attends regularly. The average attendance is now between 6-8 at St Anne's and 4-6 at the Hospital with increased attendances on special occasions. Parishioners are all welcoming, friendly, grateful and supportive. A text message is sent to 10 people as a reminder before each communion service.

The congregation enjoys a traditional prayer book style of worship. They are flexible within the prayer book service and seem open to informality. Musical expertise is limited, and we used traditional AHB songs and recordings for a while. After borrowing TiS books from Kojonup we learnt some new favourites and can either listen or sing along to a recording. (including Cat Stevens, Aled Jones, Cliff Richard, and The Seekers but their most favourite so far is I the Lord of Sea and Sky sung by Marilyn Baker. They are growing quite frail, and communion is taken down to the people. They are invited to stand for the Gospel reading but remain seated to sing. Lake Grace operates as an Anglican Community and in February 2026 will hold an annual meeting to review their annual return and elect others to support the Bishops Warden who is in poor health.

Partnership

Parishes have many and varied partnerships.

At St Johns, we enjoy loving relationships with our community, visitors and local churches. It is wonderful to be so close to Anglicare and enjoy collaborative and supportive relationship with them and other members of Albany / Great Southern Crisis Relief Association. We partner with Interchange, Juniper, Youthcare, Outlying Parishes, Mission to Seafarers, Chaplaincy to the Prison and Police Service and The RSL. Many missions are supported with great response to Operation Christmas Child. St John's is a member church of the Albany Church Leaders Fellowship.

Living Water is a member church of the Albany Church Leaders Fellowship. It has been a joy to see the Lord draw the churches together to make Jesus known through the use of the Alpha Course and the Albany Churches Together Service held once a year. The Community Garden is used by local schools as well as Albany community members. Living Water is in partnership with a number of other organisations and missionaries who advance the cause of Jesus locally and overseas.

Southern Ranges partnered with the Plantagenet Shire Council this year for the Blessing of the Roads, as Rev'd Genevieve prayed for all who travel on our roads. We also contributed to the Anzac Day and Remembrance Day services with prayers for those affected by war.

The Parish at Denmark/Walpole primary partnership continues to be with our volunteers in the running of the Op shop and the work we can do in the local community and wider afield because of our financial success.

The parish continues to work with local chaplains and schools supporting their work through prayer, financial contributions, and membership of Youthcare meetings.

The parish also continues to support community groups such as CRC, Denmark Homelessness Group, and Food bank to meet people in their need.

This year two members of the Katanning Parish went on to the Youth Care committee with one now acting as secretary. This has been a vital avenue for building relationships with our school chaplains many of whom rely on our partnership through Boniface Care, and also our prayers for them. We have also established relationships with the Aboriginal Housing Corporation and The Carols Committee. Our ongoing relationship with the combined churches sees us participating together in events like the prayer breakfast in the town square, the

Palm Sunday walk and prayer in Prosser Park as well as developing community consultation regarding shared social concerns with the Katanning Shire.

Members of the Kojonup church also support Youth Care and contribute to the running of breakfast club at KDHS each week. Additionally once a month the church now offers the BDLH hall free to the Coffee'n'Chat community group who have @ 40 people attending. We recently held the Standing Together FDV workshop being rolled out across the region by Anglicare with the aim of working together as a church and community to prevent it. In recent months we have partnered the combined churches through the Good Friday prayer walk, World Day of Prayer and the Celebration of Song which was part of the commemorations making the 100th anniversary of the Kojonup Memorial Hall.

Jerramungup, has a close link to St Johns in Albany, and are grateful for their support.

At Lake Grace, The Church is well supported by the community and has a range of informal partnerships. This is common in small rural communities where there is little outside help and people work together to keep things operating as best they can. It is a blessing that people in the community are happy to help with maintaining the Church and grounds as it becomes a burden on the aging worshippers. Maintenance is mostly done voluntarily by the community or at cost to support the aging to stay in the town.

The lawn, garden and memorial roses are tended by community members when they see the need as they pass by. All the linen, silver, brass etc. used in the church as well as tea towels, tablecloths and curtains etc. in the parish centre are cared for by worshippers. The Deacon supplies a set of altar linen and the wine. St Annes silver communion set and the wafers are shared with nearby Dumbleyung and cared for by the deacon between services. The hospital staff will drive residents to services and enthusiastically support hospital visits from supply clergy and allow them to use the activities room for home communion when there are 3 or more gathered.

The local Community Resource Centre (CRC) prints a community newspaper (Lakes Links) every two weeks and advertises regular services. A photo and an occasional article was submitted. The CRC is happy to promote special services and include eulogies that families submit often with a thankyou if the service is conducted at St Anne's Revd. Neal Sommersby, Priest in Charge of the Kojonup and Katanning Parishes, is very supportive. Neale advises on ministry issues as needed and includes Lake Grace in prayers. Wine was blessed by Neale the week before a service of communion by extension was conducted by the deacon.

The St Andrews Op Shop in Katanning is gratefully receiving the bags from the pile of secondhand items building up in the Lake Grace Parish Centre. The Lake Grace Anglican Community is small and givings don't cover costs. Donations help and this year financial support came from three neighboring rural parishes. The Diocese can draw on parish funds remaining in a savings account if there is a shortfall. Bishop Ian takes special interest in Lake Grace and keeps in contact with the Bishops Warden Mr Walter Perry who is unwell. The Diocesan office provides administrative support in a very compassionate and loving way.

Foundations

At St Johns, Ground improvements have taken place and fellowship and fundraising are in full swing as are “open days”. Our improvements enhance worship and enable our ministry and outreach to each other and community. We had had the joy of a temporary Labyrinth on our lawn.

Living Water’s buildings are in good condition, but the need for more space for staff offices and children/youth ministry is acute, we are seeking advice for a masterplan for the site. We have received permission from the City of Albany to permanently install our tent onsite which will be useful for youth ministry as well as the larger services that take place during the year.

At Southern Ranges, Ross and Sarah have moved out of the Rectory after purchasing their own home in Kendenup. Our new tenants also attend All Saints, so that’s a bonus! There are plans afoot to resolve the closed hall with a new building that will also house the Op Shop. With the closing of the hall we are having ‘closer fellowship’ inside the church at the back.

Denmark/Walpole - this year will be the 60th anniversary of St George’s.

Kojonup and Katanning have been blessed in both parishes this year by the Priesthood in February of Revd. Vicki Webb, who on top of her spiritual direction studies has expanded her pastoral responsibilities to not only include Kojonup & Katanning but also east of the Albany Hwy with her husband Bill, becoming a dynamic duo of continued ministry in the much-needed regions of Dumbleyung and Lake Grace for the Stirling Deanery. In June we have been blessed by the ministry visit of Sr. Elisa Helen CSC, in both parishes and offering her time and wisdom in a workshop on Christian Spirituality.

Katanning: Following on from Alpha last year the Bible Study group looked at the first season of “The Chosen” with a bible study by the Cornerstone Community Church (Fl. USA), providing engaging questions and generating great discussion about each episode. Following Joy 26 Lenten studies, this group has resumed looking at the Chosen Season 2.

Kojonup: Following Joy 26 Lenten studies, a number of people from the Kojonup parish (including one non-church goer) are currently working through the Alpha Course which we are calling “Alpha in the Afternoon” with about 7 people attending. An evening group is hoped to begin in July.

At Lake Grace, This year the Gospel message and the two great commandments were highlighted as the foundation of a Christian journey within and amongst this rural community. The historic foundation of a rural church and a tradition of families worshipping together is respected and appreciated as caring for a sacred space within the community. In 1928 Lake Grace was declared a Mission District covering 20 centres. In 1954 Lake Grace was declared a parochial district. St Annes Church was consecrated in 1958. There was at one time five Anglican churches operating in the Lake Grace Shire. Today St Annes is the only church holding regular services but remains responsible for rates and costs on the other properties.

Vision and Strategic Plan for 2026 has been embraced enthusiastically by Stirling Deanery.

At St John’s, a new study group has been assembled and joy is evident in Albany as we celebrate our bicentenary with a service of joy and a fete.

Southern Ranges are excited about the possibilities that present themselves as we contemplate a new hall and the demolition of the old one. Holding services outdoors in members' houses and farms over the past year has been a wonderful way of taking our joy out into the community

Strategy

'Let there be love shared among us, let there be love in our hearts'

Our strategy as we move forward with our plans to build is to use this time to show love and compassion to each other, to be forbearing and to prefer one another. Times like these can stretch us, so we are mindful to show love and patience.

Kojonup and Katanning remain committed to being salt and light in our community whether it's through prayer walks, community engagement or more simply intercessory prayers for our community.

We are by no means perfect at it, yet our hope is that God would make us 'a light for all the world, delivered by your goodness from all the works of darkness, through Jesus Christ.' (APBA p.399).

Sharing the joy: We turned our Sharing the joy Introductory booklets into opportunities for Bible study looking at a number of the topics and bible passages mentioned throughout over several weeks in both parishes. Katanning will share the joy by arranging the Mr Whippy Ice-cream van to appear at our next car-boot sale in September with free ice-cream for attendees. Kojonup are still to decide what their initiative will be.

And from Lake Grace, To be joyful, realistic and valued Christians in our rural community by:

1. Continuing ministry with a priest licensed to the community to serve the people pastorally once a month while finances allow.
2. Creating a sense of freedom by being joyfully ecumenical and rural as we continue to sustainably serve Christ with Joy:

We will do this by:

- 1) Increasing presence at the hospital by introducing a set time and adding structure to the service according to the changing needs of those present.
- 2) Providing sustainability options by completing a parish return and holding an Annual Meeting to openly and with joy discuss this and elect two new wardens.
- 3) Presenting a realistic seasonal program of reflections, joyfully encompassing Lent and the Paschal Mystery, Easter tide and the resurrection appearances, Pentecost tide and what it means to go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord leading up to advent and Christmas.
- 4) Gently introducing the joy of prayer and fellowship gatherings between monthly Clergy visits.

Writer The Revd Canon Karen Cave

Position Area Dean for Stirling Deanery to June 27 2026

From reports submitted by Revd Dot Bailey, Revd Canon Karen Cave, Mrs. Michelle La Bianca, Revd Shane Marques, Revd Genevieve Milnes, Revd Neale Sommersby (Area Dean for Stirling Deanery from June 27 2026) Revd Vicki Webb.

Bunbury and Kapsabet Partnership

The ongoing partnership and companionship/Link between our two dioceses continues to grow, evolve and develop as we support one another, in prayer and sharing our experiences and insights in mission. Together Bishop Ian, Revd Cathie Broome, Canon Bill Byleveld and family, continues to build and strengthen relationships with Bishop Paul, Mama Selline, Ven. Bethuel & Elizabeth Cheruiyot, Rev'd Sarah Jepkoge and various clergy colleagues such as Revd Margaret Maina. Margaret was visiting her daughter in Perth and visited and preached at the Cathedral during her stay. She had recently been appointed the President of the Kapsabet Mother's Union with 5,500 members.

The Kapsabet Diocese has experienced some hard times over the past year and we continue to pray for them as they seek to respond to the ever increasing needs of their people. A joint prayer diary continues to encourage parishes within the two dioceses to pray for each other on a daily basis. Over the past 12 months we have continued to prayerfully support the 6 Archdeaconries, 47 parishes, 50 secondary schools and 150 primary schools. As well as pray for the new Diocese Plaza office complex construction, Young Men's Senior Conference, Diocesan Youth leaders retreat, Diocesan clergy wives rally & retreat, KAYO conference, KAMA Conference and Mothers Union. In addition to prayers a number of parishes have contributed financially towards ministry initiatives within the Kapsabet Diocese.

Over the past year a number of parishes and individuals throughout the Bunbury diocese have taken the opportunity to support the Kapsabet local rural hospitals, maternity centre and women's refuge shelter by knitting clothing, blankets & teddy bears for babies and children. The pastoral knitting ministry has grown so successfully that it is now also helping other communities and parishes within the diocese.

Despite the difficulties the Diocese continues to grow and reach out to the various communities. In early March, 18 Deacons and 19 priests were ordained and this is a wonderful indicator of the growth of the church in the Kapsabet Diocese. While it has been a journey of faith and sacrifice the new Diocese office and Plaza project officially opened on the 9th of August. The President of Kenya opened the building alongside the Archbishop of Kenya.

Our relationships are important and this relationship between the two dioceses is very important. Growing in love for, and encouragement of, one another is a key aspect of Christian fellowship and spiritual growth. Our new diocesan strategy and vision "sharing the Joy" is an opportunity for us to continue to support one another in ministry and mission.

Revd Cathie Broome