

The Morning Star

The Anglican Parish of St Bede's Semaphore

Nurturing the Soul of Semaphore

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All this was a long time ago, I remember,
And I would do it again, but set down
This set down
This: were we led all that way for
Birth or Death? There was a Birth, certainly,
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death,
But had thought they were different; this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their gods
I should be glad of another death.

. Last verse of **The Journey of the Magi** by T. S. Eliot

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Stewardship: to be part of our planned giving program please consider making your contribution by direct credit. Direct Credit: BSB 705-077 Account Number 00040467 Please include your name and "donation" or "giving". Contributions during the offertory in the church service are also OK. ***All giving is kept confidential.***

Services

Sundays at 8.00am and 9.30am: Holy Communion

Wednesdays at 10.00am: Holy Communion

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

Parish News

The funeral for parishioner Anne Duncanson was held on Monday 9 December. Mourners gathered in the narthex to greet each other and then entered the worship space with reverence for the start of the service. Readers included Luise Humby and Karen Fagan and Fr Stephen preached a very sensitive sermon. After the service the parish hosted the afternoon tea. Thanks to everyone who came and supported Ann's family on this occasion. They expressed their gratitude to us.

The masonry work needed for the preservation of the church has been completed. Christian Frenzel, the stonemason, has done an excellent job, working so carefully that most people may not have noticed that a major job was underway. Christian's work is such a high standard that he had been called over to France to help in the restoration of the stonework of Notre Dame Cathedral, after the major fire which gutted it some years ago. Christian has restored the stones at ground level. The church will not fall down! Like many churches of the time, St Bede's has no foundation. The stone blocks were laid directly on the ground and over the years moisture has fretted them. Part of the process included redirecting gutter water into a drain to the street rather than just into the rose garden from where it flowed back to the wall. Colin Lehmann has overseen this major project. Thank you, Colin.

The advent series, Re-imagining Christmas, with a meal beforehand has been very much appreciated. Thank you, Fr Stephen, for the great effort of preparing and leading discussion on the art of the Christmas Story.

The Third order of the Society of St Francis worshipped and met together in St Bede's on 7 December. The narthex again proving to be a welcoming space.

Des Whyatt of Desalyne Dancers has retired. The dance classes in our hall will now be taught by Ratbag Productions.

An Alpha course is being offered next year by the combined efforts of St Paul's and St Bede's. The diocese is participating in a Season of Hope and we are being asked to engage in an activity which can bring hope to our community. What is more hopeful than the good news of Jesus and an opportunity to explore the Christian faith, ask difficult questions and help each other on our journey in faith?

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that create a safe and honest space, where people can explore life, faith and meaning.

We will alternate with St Paul's in hosting the ten weeks of the course which **starts on 17 February.**

Alpha is a course for "new" Christians.

Alpha is a refresher course for "old" Christians .

The course runs through Lent and just a bit beyond. Come and join in. You'll be surprised how engaging and helpful the course is.

Planned giving

Everyone has received a letter asking if you could renew your commitment to giving to the ministry and mission of St Bede's. Not everyone has returned their form yet. It is not too late, Your commitment is received and noted. Only one person knows what you will be pledging. The total of everyone's giving is important and informs the treasurer and the parish council as the budget for 2025 is prepared.

Would I spend as much on the work of evangelism as I would on my CD collection, movie/theatre tickets, sporting events and other weekend outings? Do the missionaries I know get as big a slice of my income as my local restaurants, takeaway joints, bottle shop or cafe? If not, why not? What possible reason could there be for not matching my expenditure on 'luxuries' with expenditure on my 'partnership in the gospel'? John Dickson, Promoting the Gospel, 2005

God gives us a future

Plan to be at church on 19 January

At 11.00am participate in another discussion about how St Bede's large property might be developed .

What is God daring us to do?

How can we make more money from the property?

How can the property provide more services to care for the wider community?

Can we partner with others to do more on this site to serve the community in Semaphore and beyond?

“Come to St Bede's, they will help you.”

What extra help can we offer from this site?

Your opinion is important.

Our decision needs your input.

What is the Holy Spirit urging us to do?



WE WANT YOU

**God gives us a future, daring us to go
 Into dreams and dangers on a path unknown
 We will face tomorrow with the Spirit's power
 We will let God change us for new life starts now.**

Bede's Bazaar by Diana Geier

The op-shop sales once took place in the crypt. Bede's Bazaar began operating in the time of the Rev'd Ali Wurm on Semaphore Road. The position was not as obvious to pedestrian traffic as the business, coffee and other retail shops further up the street. The parish office was squashed in the back where Fay Warren worked very busily. Although attractively set out there was little space to move. As the rent increased, the decision was made to re-locate to the supper room in the hall.

This was a more viable move. Fay was still at the back but in a lighter, but not roomier space.

However, the move meant no rent, so any money made was profit as the church absorbed water and electricity costs. Under Brenda Beer and her volunteers the shop continued to operate 5 days a week.

Gradually, with the lack of volunteers, the op-shop changed operating to on 3 days a week. After Brenda retired from management, Judith Pennington



Judith has artistic flair

became the co-ordinator. With her artistic flair, the shop was rearranged and one rack of very good (often new) clothes became the designer rack. Opening Bede's Bazaar for trading on the first Sunday of each month in conjunction with the Semaphore Community Market has proved a profitable move. People, both local and non-local, who otherwise may have never visited, have been impressed, particularly by our low prices.



An eye-catching display

Prior to this year's Semaphore Street Fair, Judith Pennington, my niece, and I set up the op shop on Saturday afternoon as Sunday becomes too busy. My niece, who is quite artistic, set up an eye-catching display on the counter as you enter. She positioned pictures up high to be more eye-catching (I sold the cactus one early but luckily the man could reach it.)

By 9.30 the display had been decimated by people purchasing the items (they probably would have remained unsold if left in boxes). The street fair attracts so many people to Semaphore, so being open and visible is a great advert as some asked about normal opening days and hours.

Interacting with people and explaining about the role and work of St Bede's Church in this area is another action of outreach. Attracting volunteers is our next task, but we are not alone in this as other charities find

Volunteers wanted for Bede's Bazaar

Would you like to be a volunteer? Or do you know someone who would like to be a volunteer? You can give as little as two hours a week or fortnight to this important ministry, working with a team.

Bede's Bazaar is an important ministry.

It provides good quality clothing for adults at cheap prices. It also sells some household goods and bric a brac.

It is a friendly supportive place for people in need. They may need affordable clothing, they may need someone to talk to. Volunteers like all sorts of people and treat them with respect.

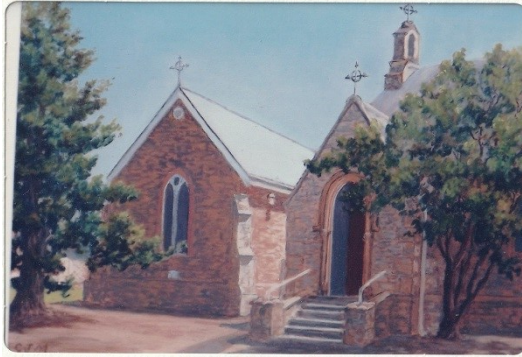
This ministry puts our words into action. We show love to others..

This ministry conserves resources. It recycles good clothing. The clothes rejected for resale are sold for rags used in industry.

Profit from Bede's Bazaar supports the running costs of our property .

Bede's Bazaar appreciates donations of good quality clothing and accessories and small household items. It does not take electrical goods or furniture. Please do not leave donations outside the door of the hall.

A SAD DAY by Dorothy Thorpe



St John's Auburn church and hall , a water-colour by the local priest, the Rev'd Gerald Moore (2016)

It was a sad day-3 December, 2024 - when 5 churches were deconsecrated in the Diocese of Willochra.

I attended the ceremony at St John's Auburn where I had worshipped from 2006-2016. My husband Bruce and I had both been Licensed Lay Ministers, each leading non-eucharistic worship once a month. The Ministry District Priest, the Rev'd David Thompson and the Local Priest, the Rev'd Gerald Moore presided at Holy Communion on the other weeks. There were about 16 members of the congregation in 2006 but sadly that number dwindled. When we moved to Adelaide in 2016, services were reduced to twice a month. Gerald Moore died in 2020, and although Fr Gregory Stephens SSM, who had retired to Auburn, gave some assistance, the rate of decline of the congregation was too great.

Some people came to the deconsecration service with angst and pain. Bishop Jeremy was a calm presence, bringing reassurance. He thanked people for coming on this sad occasion and apologised for the way people had been hurt, feeling excluded and not consulted. He recognised their anger and hurt and offered himself as one who would listen to them. The de-consecration was the first step and he promised that before anything else was done in the process of change, those who were involved would be consulted and matters would be handled with respect, especially the ashes interred in the

garden, and the memorial windows and plaques.

Bishop Jeremy thanked all who had served at St John's, particularly Gerald Moore, and all who were baptised, confirmed, married or buried from St John's and he thanked all who came from families associated with the church. Bishop Jeremy was empathetic because the church in UK where his parents and brother were buried had also been deconsecrated.

Leonie Moore, Gerald's daughter chose the hymns for the occasion, recalling "I will sing the wondrous story" from childhood days, and "Tell Out My Soul". We sang the first to a recording of Dorothy Matz's playing on St John's organ. Dorothy was organist for many years. Leonie Moore gave some account of the many memorial plaques in the church. Ironically two windows had been installed in this last decade, moving on first from the closure of the Manoora church, and then the closure of the church at Booborowie. One was the Frost family window, this time including the Rev'd Bruce Frost who had been Assistant Priest at St Peter's Glenelg when we worshipped there.

I sat next to the Rev'd Lettie Allen, the first woman ordained priest in the Diocese. When Lettie's parents moved to Auburn, they decided that St John's would be their place of worship. Lettie was baptised, confirmed and found faith there, largely with the encouragement of parishioner, Merviania Masterman. Lettie was married there and her three children were baptised there. St John's was a special place for her. The Bishop included her in the service asking her to take the cross from the altar.

In front of me was Holly Masterman, whose mother Annie died in 2022. Holly's grandmother Mervinia Masterman (1901-1998) was an outstanding person, a renowned botanical artist, and Christian servant who was a wonderful leader in the Church and the community. Mervinia's drawings of Australian flora illustrated *An Australian Prayer Book*. (1975).

Behind me was Graham Richards and his mother, and Chris Dixon, among the last of the congregation of St John's. Since leaving in 2016, there have been several deaths and some people have moved to nursing home care. A younger generation of worshippers has not emerged to worship in this lovely building. Vale St John's, Auburn.



Joan Whalley sent this photo of the beginning of the annual Santa Dash in Saddleworth, UK, their regional town. Joan said it was the worst day of the year. Cold and wet.



An email from Gwilym. ***Here we are at Waddeston Manor. We have just toured the house, which is completely OTT (over the top), and taken afternoon tea.*** Gwilym took the photo of Sue with our UK parishioners Penny and Douglas Middleton.

Reflection on the Feast of the Epiphany

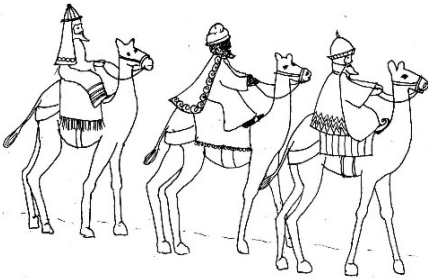
Isaiah 60:1-6

Ephesians 3:2-6

Matt 2:1-12

The key to this feast is in the epistle of Paul, in which he writes to the Ephesians of a mystery made known to him by revelation, the totally unexpected word that the Gentiles are also heirs, like Israel, of God's promises — the promises realized in the Good News of Jesus the Christ. This mystery, Paul asserts, is a new revelation, not known in earlier times.

To sense the novelty of what Paul writes we need to recall that Paul preached the Good News to non-Jewish peoples around the Mediterranean, including the Ephesians. Ancient Ephesus, first a Greek colony and in Paul's time a thriving Roman outpost, is the place we see in the news, one of the Turkish ports from which Syrian and other refugees launch boats into the Aegean Sea trying to reach Greece and entry into Europe. In our day these refugees are spurned as unwelcome outsiders, as also in Paul's day the Ephesians were distained as outsiders by the Jews of Israel.



Like the wise men of old, today's travellers launch themselves from Ephesus toward the west; the stars they follow are the hope of opportunity, employment, safety and freedom. Like the ancient ones, today's travellers are met with Western suspicion, doubt and, above all, with deepest

misunderstanding. What could the stars of western well-being mean to the coarse, uneducated masses of the east? And even if their aspirations were worthy, why should the West be expected to share with them, who worship a god who is not our god?

Are we not like the Jews of old, clinging to our ancient privileges of faith? And so, are we not also in need of Paul's startling revelation: that God has made others people heirs *in their own right*. They need not convert to our beliefs and practices; any more than Paul's converts were required to convert to Jewish ways and beliefs. As they are, the

peoples of Asia, and Africa, the peoples of all continents are heirs of the Good News brought by Jesus the Christ, even if, like Paul himself, they never know Jesus.

I've been reading Richard Rohr's *The Universal Christ*. I think I've caught his point of view. I think he would sum up the Epiphany like this: While we are hovering tenderly over our baby Jesus, foreign people come and, as we would expect, humble themselves and pay proper homage to our king. But then they leave, making it clear that his star means something to them outside our understanding. The baby Jesus is God with us in a particular way; and the star, the light that the wise men follow is, perhaps, God with them in a different particular way. And the gift of God-with-us for both Jews and us and the wise men is the universal Christ, with all of us, each in our particular ways.

Whether we follow Rohr or the older traditions, the important theme of the epiphany story is that one child, received as a long-anticipated gift by a particular people, is discovered to be much more than just their own treasure. Others, from elsewhere, with other hopes and expectations, also find their hearts' desires. **It is of the essence of God to reveal God's own presence in the wonder of the universe, incarnate in all humankind, and in God's compassionate presence, renewing of all creation through death into life.**

Eleanor Craig SL (Loretto Community website)

5 January	Celebration of The Epiphany of Our Lord
12 January	Celebration of the Baptism of Our Lord
19 January	Discussion about mission possibilities on St Bede's site
26 January	Australia Day <i>God bless Australia, guard our people guide our leaders and give us peace, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen</i>