



*"from
Warren"*

I like saying that Jesus is God in the flesh.

If you took the 'God bit' out of Jesus there wouldn't be anything left. He really is God in the flesh. But what is the point of God becoming human in Jesus? The point was not for God to visit us and then be whisked away leaving us with a bit of extra knowledge about God-type things. In God becoming human in Jesus, heaven and earth have met. But more than this. Creation has been changed. We are made from elements originating in the Big-Bang and the stellar processes and events that followed over billions of years. We have a deep affinity with the rest of the universe in our most basic building blocks. (The aphorism that is popular – if even perhaps a little inaccurate – is that we are made of star dust.) And this star dust didn't just provide a human suit for God, but God became this star dust. So, we are not talking here of just a visitation of a divine being. If this Incarnation (that's the official word for God becoming human in Jesus) were just a visitation then the effects would be temporary, except maybe for the new knowledge imparted to us. No: in Jesus, ordinary, interstellar matter has been infused and united with God. And nothing is the same. We are talking about a transformation of the very matter of which we are made, the elements that constitute us, and that constitute the rest of the universe. A transfiguration. A resurrection. A communion. And nothing is to be left behind.

WARREN



Warren celebrates 60 years

For more of Warren's work see his blog at <http://classic-theology-new.blogspot.com.au>



Anglican Diocese of Adelaide. 45th Triennial Synod, October 2023

Archbishop Geoff
addresses Synod

The Synod Eucharist was held at St Augustine's Unley on October 27th. St Peter's College hosted Synod proceedings on October 28th and 29th.

This report is shaped around key messages from Archbishop Geoff's Presidential Address which is available on the Adelaide Anglicans website. His address focused on Vision, Mission, Collaboration, Well-being, Reconciliation and Unity in the Diocese of Adelaide.

As he spoke of the vision and mission of the Diocese, Archbishop Geoff encouraged all laity to think through their role as ministers in the church.

"One thing our polity highlights is the importance of the ministry of the whole people of God. It is not the case that the clergy do the ministry and the people of the church support the clergy. All are called to minister, all are called to share in the mission of Christ through our baptism.....

The term 'lay' as in 'lay man', or 'lay woman' has taken on an unfortunate meaning more like 'amateur' or 'not trained in' or 'without a detailed knowledge of'. So, the lay people of the church are seen as somehow second-class ministers..... All the people of God are called through their baptism to share the mission of Christ..... Ministry doesn't mean what the ordained do only. It means service. The people of God serving the mission of God in the power and at the direction of the Spirit of God."

These themes were also reflected in the parliamentary style business agenda which involved motions around professional standards, parish trust property, specific mission in Adelaide's North, Sudanese

congregations, First Nations Peoples, developments in the Anglican Communion (around same sex marriage blessings), youth ministry, family violence and the size and composition of Diocesan Council. Other presentations included the Anglicare AGM, Climate Action Task Group and the work of St Barnabas College.

If you'd like more detail around specific motions and decisions, have a chat with Warren, Ann, Sarah or Bill.

To close his Presidential Address, Archbishop Geoff led Synod members to Luke 5.1-11

Fishing for fish and men.

"When he had finished speaking, (Jesus) said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.' Simon answered, 'Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets. When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break."

Archbishop Geoff concluded with encouragement. "Peter had worked hard but without success. Jesus encouraged him to keep trying and out of obedience to Jesus. Peter did what Jesus told him and bingo, great success. Sometimes we can get disheartened. It feels like we have tried everything and nothing has worked. We can become dispirited and feel like giving up. But as we are attentive the voice of Jesus we might hear-give it another go, try this side or this way, and we might be amazed at what happens. Sometimes it's as though we forget that Christ is risen. We serve him. His spirit is with us and will be until the end of the age. The Lord is with us. May we know and follow his leading."

ANN NADGE

CHRISTMAS SERVICES



Sunday 24th December:	5.00 p.m. Traditional (BCP) Service
	6.30 p.m. Christmas Family Service
	11.00 p.m. Carols
	11.30 p.m. Midnight Service with Choir
Sunday 25th December:	9.00 a.m. Service (APBA)

IN THE CLOSE

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GETTING TO KNOW - HEATHER WILLIAMS

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in the *Close*

"The Close" is the name which we give to our garden area, off Kent Street, echoing the name of the (usually rather larger) areas enclosed by the buildings of cathedrals in England.

It is a valuable part of our parish property, linking church and community as we welcome passers-by with and without their dogs. It is also important for church activities, and here we show examples of recent times in the Close: the fete, a wedding, the Blessing of Pets. It leads through to the Memorial Garden and offers a quiet space of gentle beauty for any who wish to spend some time there.

Craft Stall



Frances and Max with Heather and Mark



Kids' corner at the Fete



Garage Sale



Luna brought Frances and Max



Peanut brought Hazel and met the Rector.



Bishop Denise
at Communion



BISHOP DENISE'S VISIT

On November 12th Bishop Denise Ferguson visited St Columba's. She presided at both services and enjoyed the community atmosphere.

She commented: "A parish sincere in worship, ministry and mission in the wider community: worship with a Remembrance

Day focus, a community project encouraging sustainable gardens, and part of the annual Garage Sale Trail. A delight to be with the parish this morning." And Bishop Denise left us a plant for the Close as a symbolic acknowledgement of the green around the St Columba's property.



Sanctuary
Party

Parish Ministry Group

On November 5th more than a dozen parishioners came together to begin an exploration of all forms and expressions of Ministry in the parish. The aims of the group are to encourage and support one another, to think deeply about what Ministry means, to hear about ministries and to explore new possibilities.

To open the session, Phillip Mollett shared what ministry means to him as he tends the Memorial Garden with Justin, reads at services and cleans up paths with the blower.

Now retired, Phillip also reflected on his ministry in tending the rose gardens in Centennial Park Cemetery.

The group discussed the qualities of ministry as being authentic, servant hearted and purposeful, involving integrity and exploring

ways to further God's work in the world.

Warren led us to think about ministry in theological terms. It reflects "The holistic nature of discipleship" as well as the bigger view of Christian identity, "Who and Whose we are."

We agreed with him that "It's hard to find anything much that doesn't come under the banner of ministry."

There was considerable discussion around what distinguishes Christian Ministry from selfless, secular humanitarian service. We will keep exploring that as well as practical aspects of ministry and how we can support one another.

The Parish Ministry Group is open to all and will meet again in Term 1, 2024.

PLANNED GIVING

Each year we ask members of the parish to consider making a commitment to give money for the work of the church. This work relies heavily on the faithful people who have given and continue to give over the years.

Regular donors receive a letter from the Stewardship Co-ordinator, Neville Haar, recording their gifts for the year. Thank you. We could not continue without you. If you wish to vary your donation please contact Neville or send a note to the office. If you have not yet made a regular pledge and wish to do so Neville

will be happy to talk to you about the various ways to give. Pledge envelopes are still available, but you may have noticed that fewer are put in the plate on Sundays. This is because more people are choosing to make their donation by electronic transfer to the church's bank account. If this is what you would prefer, Neville will explain how to do it.

Our banking details are as follows:

Parish of Hawthorn

BSB 035044

Account number 125761

Remembrance Day



Robert, John and Tania

Worship Services

Sundays:
8.00 a.m. BCP Eucharist
9.30am Contemporary Holy Communion

Weekdays:
Thursdays: 10.30 a.m.
BCP Eucharist
Fridays: 9.45 a.m.
Morning Prayer



SERVICES ON FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE:

Tuesdays
at 5.00 p.m.: Message of the Day
by Warren.

Wednesdays at
5.00 p.m.: Evening Prayer

Thursdays at
5.00 p.m.: Reflection
*You can always watch these at a later time
if you wish.*

PLAYGROUP: 10.00am
Columba Playtime
in school term time.

PARISH PRIEST:

The Reverend Dr Warren Huffa
email: rector@columba.org.au

PASTORAL MINISTRY ASSISTANT:
Ann Nadge

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY AND
OUTREACH WORKER:
Julie Ascher-Ellis

PARISH OFFICE:
8272 7266
email: welcome@columba.org.au
Usual opening times:
Tuesday 1.00 - 3.00 pm
Friday 9.00 - 11.00 am

PRIEST'S WARDEN:
ANN NADGE

PEOPLE'S WARDEN:
MARK ENGELHARDT

**ST COLUMBA'S
ANGLICAN
CHURCH
HAWTHORN**

website: www.columba.org.au

101 CROSS ROAD HAWTHORN

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getting to know

Heather Williams

Heather (Nichols) was born on Kangaroo Island, where her father was in his first parish as a priest.

They subsequently moved to Clare, then Yankalilla, so Heather had to board in the city when she finished her secondary schooling at St Peter's Collegiate College for Girls. She then trained at the Kindergarten Teachers' College and in the course of living in various accommodation met a nice next-door neighbor called Mark Williams.

Heather travelled as much as she could in her Christmas holidays and a year after her marriage to Mark in 1997 they went travelling again. She started coming to St Columba's when Frances was about six months old, and after David was born she taught in Sunday School. When Frances was eight Heather gave up teaching and concentrated on providing voluntary support at the children's school.

When Frances joined the Cub Scouts Heather and Mark became heavily involved and Heather "put on uniform" and trained as a leader. She worked constantly in weekly programs, weekend camps and Jamborees. She is now a Cub leader at Hawthorn.

St Columba's parish centre is often adorned with hand-made quilts, reflecting the season or decorating the walls. Heather makes these, and has an extensive collection from which she selects examples. She also washes the Communion linen, reads and acts as a sidesperson for Sunday services and helps with Columba Playtime on Friday morning.

She and Mark travel as often as they can. She concludes her comments with: "Life is good for us. Our children have chosen

excellent partners and have their own homes (and a cat and dog each). We have good and caring friends and the church community surrounding us. God is good to us."



Heather Williams

DIARY DATES 2023/24

DECEMBER

Saturday 2: Diocesan Ordinations
Sunday 10: Almost like Church in church

Monday 11: Mothers' Union

Friday 15: End of School Term

Monday 25: Christmas Day

Sunday 31: 9.00 service only for 4 weeks

JANUARY

Group activities do not continue in the school holidays.

Sunday 28: 8.00 and 9.30 services resume

Monday 29: School Term starts

FEBRUARY

Monday 12: Mothers' Union

Tuesday 13: Sanctuary Guild

Wednesday 14: Ash Wednesday

Wednesday 21: Parish Council