

# SAINT THEODORE'S TIDINGS



**Lent-Easter issue**  
**February – May 2022**

*The Anglican Church of St Theodore*  
*Cnr Swaine Avenue and Prescott Terrace*  
*Toorak Gardens, S.A*

Website: [www.theodores.org](http://www.theodores.org)



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*St Theodore's Anglican Church recognises that we meet on the traditional lands of the Kaurana people. We express our gratitude for the sharing of this land; our sorrow for the personal, spiritual and cultural costs of that sharing; and our hope that we may walk together in harmony in a spirit of reconciliation.*

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## STRUGGLE AND JOY, DYING AND RISING

by Fr David Thornton-Wakeford

### MOUNT MACEDON PASSION

*You have withdrawn from my sight  
I feel abandoned by you  
Where are you when I need you?  
Your silence is deafening*

*I want to believe you are there  
in this my hour of peril  
Why would you desert me  
when you are my only hope?*

*A thick cloud has descended  
I long for your deliverance  
I thirst for your righteousness  
I cry out in the darkness*

*But still I am trusting in you  
But still I await your presence  
But still may your will be mine  
I commit my spirit into your hands*

*David Thornton-Wakeford*  
*Macedon Rectory 2016*



The giant cross at the summit of Mt Macedon (Victoria)

The story of Lent and Easter is about the mending of our world; it is the story of a pilgrimage passionately undertaken for the sake of love. It is the story of our real longings and of our homecoming. Each of us will experience our own dying and rising with Christ. We all bring different things – hopes, fears, failings, dreams – to the foot of the Cross. We may become aware of what needs to be buried for good; we may discover places which hold the promise of refreshment and newness of life.

The Cross of Christ informs this paradox of faith and human experience. John O'Donohue, in his book *Eternal Echoes*, suggests that lyrically there is a cruciform structure to every pain, difficulty, and sadness. In this sense, the Cross is not an external object that belongs far away on a hill in Jerusalem. Rather the shape of the Cross is internal to the human heart. Our lives are full of contradictions and conflicts, which often criss-cross. Some of our most important learning experiences are at crossroads. To view the Cross is to see how it embraces all directions. The vertical beam reaches from the lowest depth of clay to the highest peak of eternity; the horizontal beam stretches the breadth of the world. The promise to each of us is that we will never be called to walk the lonely path of suffering without seeing the footprints ahead of us which will lead eventually over the brow of the hill where resurrection sunlight shines.

The marks and wounds that suffering leaves on us eventually become places of beauty. Weakness and failure do not come easily to us. Yet failure is often the place where suffering has left the most precious gifts. A woman was celebrating her sixtieth birthday. She remarked how this milestone had made her reflect deeply on her life. She was surprised and excited on looking back at her life to discover that much of what she had understood as the successes in her life did not hold their substance under more critical reflection. As against that, what she had always termed her failures now began to seem ever more interesting and substantial. The places of failure had been the real points of change and growth. A major setback in her career path miraculously gave her back the family that she had lost to her lofty aspirations. If this had not happened her now-adult children would have left home without her really knowing them or them knowing her.

There is a beautiful verse from Antonio Machado:

*Last night I dreamed  
– blessed illusion –  
that I had a beehive  
here in my heart  
and that the golden bees  
were making white combs  
and sweet honey  
from my old failures*

We may need to learn to lose our lives before we can come home. Most of our fear is to do with trying to *hold on*. We may be prone to accumulation, filling diaries, being driven rather than drawn. There is freedom and liberation in losing. When we come to the place of the skull, paradoxically we come also to the shore of resurrection where our answers are usually never black and white, not clean-cut, but disturbed by the fullness of divine yearning and mysterious grace.

**THE SYCAMORE** (for Harry Caudill)

*In the place that is my own place, whose earth  
I am shaped in and must bear, there is an old tree growing,  
a great sycamore that is a wondrous healer of itself.  
Fences have been tied to it, nails driven into it,  
hacks and whittles cut in it, the lightning has burned it.  
There is no year it has flourished in  
that has not harmed it. There is a hollow in it  
that is its death, though its living brims whitely  
at the lip of the darkness and flows outward.  
Over all its scars has come to seamless white  
of the bark. It bears the gnarls of its history  
healed over. It has risen to a strange perfection  
in the warp and bending of its long growth.  
It has gathered all accidents into its purpose.  
It has become the intention and the radiance of its dark fate.  
It is a fact, sublime, mystical and unassailable.  
In all the country there is no other like it.  
I recognise in it a principle, an indwelling  
the same as itself, and greater, that I would be ruled by.  
I see that it stands in its place, and feeds upon it,  
and is fed upon, and is native, and maker.*

Wendell Berry

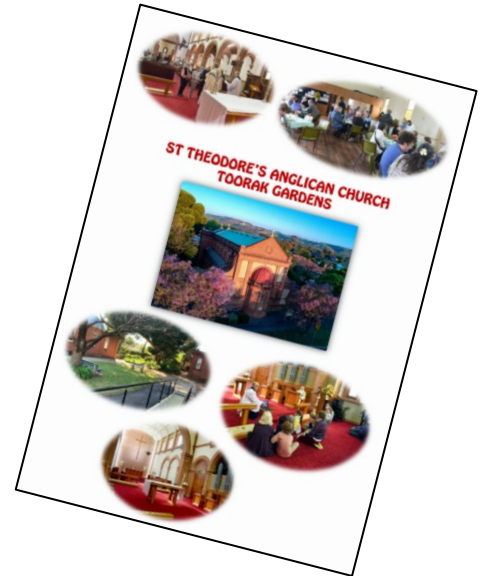
<b>St. Theodore's – Contacts</b>		<u>Parish Council (2022)</u> – Fr David Thornton-Wakeford ( <i>ex officio</i> ), Peter Burke, Mavis Evans, Martin Godfrey, Angela Jones, Richard Keene, Malcolm Schluter
<u>Locum Tenens:</u>	Fr David Thornton-Wakeford (Office – 8333-1567)	
<u>Associate Priest:</u>	Rev'd Peter Anson	
<u>Priest's Warden:</u>	Ian Campbell	<u>"The Tidings" Editor:</u> Dr Richard Keene (ph. 0416-275-161)
<u>Peoples' Warden:</u>	John Needs	

# The search for a new incumbent Priest at St Theodore's Anglican Church

There are several stages of the search for a new Priest for St Theodore's Anglican Church and this process can take some time. It involves a Nomination Committee, which includes five representatives from the Parish (the Wardens – Ian Campbell and John Needs – and the elected members Peter Burke, Angela Jones and Stewart Perkins) and four members appointed by the Diocese (the Archbishop or his representative – in this case Bishop Denise Ferguson – the Archdeacon Andrew Mintern, and two additional appointments by Synod – one lay and one clergy).

In the initial stages, the Parish prepares a profile containing details of its life, ministry, attendances, finances and mission engagement, the rectory . . . and the Diocese adds to that document to complete it. There are then several meetings of the Nomination Committee at which they look at the profile document and assess the situation of the parish. Names of possible candidates for the position are identified, and subsequently there is a process to arrive at a short list of appointable candidates who are considered to be possible 'matches' with the Parish.

The Bishop will then approach the candidates – although in the case of potential candidates from other Dioceses there would be initial conversations between the Bishop and the Bishop of the other Diocese before that approach would be made.



Ultimately that process would lead to one preferred candidate, whom the Nomination Committee would meet in what might be described as a "conversation of mutual discernment" on the match of the candidate with the Parish. In the event that the potential candidate indicates their willingness to accept – and there is unanimous agreement of the parish representatives of the appointment – then the offer of the position can be made by the Bishop.

The length of this process can range from a few months to well over a year, and at the stage of printing this issue of The Tidings the Parish Profile, prepared by the parish members of the Nomination Committee and has been approved by Parish Council, has been submitted to the Diocese (the front cover of the document is shown above) and the initial meetings are taking place. Members of Parish should appreciate that the process of discernment of possible candidates to arrive at the short list and then the preferred candidate is highly confidential to the Nomination Committee, so news of the appointment (the St Theodore's Parish equivalent to the "white smoke" in the appointment of Pope) will only occur at the culmination of the process. Please pray for the Parish, possible candidates and the Nomination Committee as this process unfolds and a new incumbent is declared.

*Bountiful God,  
give to this parish a faithful pastor  
who will faithfully speak your word  
and minister your sacraments;  
an encourager who will equip your people for ministry  
and enable us to fulfil our calling.  
Give to those who will choose, wisdom,  
discernment and patience,  
and to us give warm and generous hearts,  
for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.*

# Mission Action Plan Achievements 2021



The three-year St Theodore's Mission Action Plan (MAP) was endorsed by the Annual Vestry Meeting in February 2020. It was reviewed by Parish Council in January 2021 and subsequently during 2021 the agenda for each Parish Council meeting has included a missional focus allowing consideration of the five areas of the MAP. The following provides a summary of MAP achievements during 2021, adapted from the report presented by Parish Council to the Vestry Meeting in February 2022 . . . it is good to be mindful of the spiritual intention and aspiration of each area (shown in red), which seek to address different aspects of the faith we confess.

## **Hospitality**

**In thanksgiving for the Hospitality of God, we seek to extend our hospitality through people and place, prayer and reflection, to enhance and extend our community**

- ❖ *The Social Committee has continued their good work in providing opportunities for hospitality on special occasions during the year, bearing in mind the restrictions brought about by the COVID pandemic. There have been some good adaptations by way of safely serving food, making the best use of space and on occasion holding events outdoors. The Social Committee has reported to Parish Council regularly as part of the Hospitality aspect of MAP. Much appreciation is extended to Pat Campbell and the team.*
- ❖ *A significant fundraising event was held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October at the Beaumont Bowling Club – and as well as raising funds it was a good gathering of parishioners and friends with a focus on hospitality and fun. The BEEF (Bowl, Eat, Enjoy, Fundraiser) Night raised over \$1200 with close to 50 people attending. The addition of some donated wine in a silent auction contributed greatly to the funds raised.*
- ❖ *Several 'Hospitality at Home' fundraising dinners were held during the year, with one household hosting these. The idea of the dinners has been actively promoted, including an article in 'The Tidings', and while there has been some interest expressed this did not attract wider support during 2021 and it may be that this idea will take more time to catch on or it lapses in 2022. The dinners that were held raised over \$400 and together with the major fundraiser, contributed to the budget exceeding expectation for fundraising in 2021.*
- ❖ *The first 'Theo's Table Talk' was held in October 2021 and while the attendance was modest it was a good and rich discussion on the Uluru Statement from the Heart. It is suggested that we continue with this new and largely untested idea for gatherings in 2022 in the Easter Season and beyond. There is an opportunity to be creative in the topics chosen for these 'table talk' times with simple hospitality, and perhaps aim for 3-4 of these through 2022. Essentially this is seeking to build on the great conversations usually held over morning tea with a more intentional focus over a simple shared meal. We are interested in hearing from members of the Parish in relation to ideas for 'Theo's Table Talk' themes.*

## **Pastoral Care**

**In thanksgiving for the Compassion of God, we seek to progressively nurture our capacity to offer effective pastoral care for members of the parish and the wider community**

- ❖ *Towards the end of the year, as the departure of Fr Grant as our Priest approached, a meeting was held to review, adapt and extend the work of the Pastoral Care Team. Two faithful pastoral carers – Meredith Fantham and Diana Thorpe – continue in their roles, with Mavis Evans and Peter Burke now added, thereby creating a potential for a more direct link with Parish Council as well as extended capacity to offer pastoral care as required.*
- ❖ *The Telephone Network established when the pandemic first arose in March 2020 has all but ceased, however there are signs of renewed interest in reviving this as a means of informal contact and pastoral care when parish members are unable to attend church for extended periods.*
- ❖ *It is recognised that a lot of pastoral care happens informally as well as through the Pastoral Care Team. There is a growing culture of pastoral care through spontaneous and informal care including things like transport to church and informal visiting and contact. The delivery of 'The Tidings' to people's homes is also seen as a means of maintaining contact.*

## **Liturgy and Learning**

**In thanksgiving for the beauty of our liturgical worship and our growth as a learning community, we seek to embrace this gift as we grow together in Christ**

(cont./)



- ❖ *With the success of the Lenten Series during Fr Grant's incumbency, some attention was given at the end of 2021 to ensuring this continued during the transition towards the appointment of a new Priest. Four sessions have been arranged, and details are provided on the final page of this issue of 'The Tidings'.*
- ❖ *In response to the 2021 Annual Vestry Meeting motion on Recognition of First Nations Peoples, one of the actions has been the introduction of a simple liturgical Acknowledgement of Country as part of the opening rite for our Eucharistic celebrations, and a statement in Parish publications such as Pew Sheets and The Tidings.*
- ❖ *An area where there was some interest through the MAP process was the development of a regular meditative service on a regular basis. This remains as a good idea to be considered for the future.*

### **Communications**

**In thanksgiving for the living and active Word of God, we seek to develop our capacity to be a visible and accessible community of faith and action**

- ❖ *There has been a significant thrust in 2021 to update and improve the website for St Theodore's Parish. This has been a thorough and consultative effort led by Richard Keene with regular reports to Parish Council during the process. The Parish Website has been redesigned and refreshed to include access to details on the Parish history, the grounds, people and contacts, aspects of ministry, parish activities within the umbrella of the Mission Action Plan, forthcoming events, partnerships . . . and links to provide download access to the weekly pew sheets, sermons, and copies of the newsletter (The Tidings). The URL of the new Website is unchanged – "theodores.org". A summary is provided in an article on page 4 of this issue of 'The Tidings'.*
- ❖ *During the coming year it is intended to look at aspects of signage around the church premises – including the noticeboards, and direction to the Community Spiritual Garden and the Memorial Garden – as well as an "Acknowledgement of Country" and Heritage plaques relating to the history of the church. An application by St Theodore's Church has been approved by the Burnside City Council to receive Heritage-listed plaques (including installation) . . . details are given on page 7 of this issue of 'The Tidings'.*

### **Partnership**

**In thanksgiving for God's Love for us, we endeavour to grow as a parish in a spirit of love and develop our partnership with the wider church and community**

- ❖ *Through Mission Giving and Fundraising, our partnerships with the Anglican Board of Mission, the Bush Church Aid Society and Chaplaincy via the Burnside InterChurch Council have been maintained, and in some instances exceeded beyond expectations, particularly in relation to specific appeals. Members of the Parish have continued to respond with generosity. As well as fulfilling our budget expectations for Mission Giving through fundraising (\$1500), much more has been contributed during the year.*
- ❖ *An idea emerged through Parish Council regarding a Rural and Remote Nursing Placement Scholarship, which has now been established in partnership with Flinders University (and their Centre of Remote Health in Alice Springs), as part of our Recognition of First Nations Peoples to benefit an Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander Nursing student. Members of the Parish were generous in responding to an appeal for donations to establish the fund.*
- ❖ *During 2021, members of the Parish participated in a visit to All Souls Anglican Church (St Peters) with a focus on their beautiful William Morris Windows. This invitation was extended to all Parishes in the Eastern Deanery. In response, St Theodore's is planning to host a similar event in early 2022 with a focus on our Community Spiritual Garden as well as the Memorial Garden, the history of the Parish as well and our aspirations for the future through the Mission Action Plan.*

### **Commentary**

Mission Action Plans are intentionally based on aspiration and the sense of being led by the Spirit in our participation in God's Mission. It may be that not all of what is planned has been achieved and this can be for many reasons. There may be other things which have been achieved which were not planned but this too could be seen as connected with the broad aspiration of the MAP. It could be argued that these things would have happened anyway without a MAP!

Nonetheless, the annual review and reporting cycle of the MAP provides a means of tracking the journey we are on as a community of faith, especially at a time when we are seeking a new Priest and when the global pandemic is having a significant impact on our lives – including our life together as members of St Theodore's Anglican Church.

There is no better time than now to consider what our engagement in God's Mission might be in 2022 and how this will be further shaped as we move beyond the final year of the current MAP to what awaits us this year and in years to come. The God who makes all things new may have some newness in store for us, and our task together is to carefully discern this and move with it in faith, hope and love.

**Peter Burke**



## THE PARISH WEBSITE

During 2021 the contract with the provider for our Parish Website concluded and the task of renewal provided the opportunity for us as a Parish to totally redesign and refresh the site to more readily meet our current needs. An extended and thorough consultative effort took place, led by Richard Keene with regular reports to Parish Council as the design process continued, at the completion of which the Council engaged the help of Nicholas Filsell (Peppertree Media Pty. Ltd.) with the design and construction of a new Website with a new provider. The home page of the new Website is pictured above: its address remains as “theodores.org”.

To give a bit of a feel for the new Website, as can be seen on the home page there are seven drop-down menus . . . from left to right –

- ❖ **WELCOME:** the various links provide information on Service times, the history of the Parish, ministry leaders, the Parish Council, contacts for various parish activities, information on the grounds (including the Community Spiritual Garden, the Memorial Garden and the Church Halls), and a map of the area.
- ❖ **MINISTRY:** the links provide information on Services and pastoral care, and allow download access for sermons and the Parish newsletter (The Tidings).
- ❖ **MISSION:** the Mission Action Plan is provided, with details of Parish activities in the areas specifically addressed by the MAP – hospitality, pastoral care, liturgy & learning, communication and partnerships.
- ❖ **WHAT'S HAPPENING?:** news of upcoming events, and reports and photographs from recent events.
- ❖ **LINKS:** links to Websites of partners and groups associated with our Mission activities – the Diocese, Anglican Board of Missions (ABM), AnglicareSA, Bush Church Aid (BCA), the Burnside InterChurch Council and the Magdalene Centre.
- ❖ **GIFT REGISTER:** a listing of gifts and bequests to the parish.
- ❖ **DOWNLOADS:** facilities for download of Pew Sheets, Sermons and the Parish newsletter (The Tidings).

*Please note that access to the Services and Service times are available in the WELCOME and MINISTRY areas, and access to sermons and The Tidings newsletter are provided in the MINISTRY and DOWNLOADS areas, while Pew Sheets can be accessed from DOWNLOADS. Aspects of Website will be described in greater detail in the next issue of The Tidings.*

We commend the new Website to you and invite you to explore. Comments and suggestions are welcome . . . the Webmaster is **Nick Williams** (email: [1nickw@gmail.com](mailto:1nickw@gmail.com)).



# Recognition of the Heritage status of St Theodore's Church and Main Hall

In April 2020, the City of Burnside Council introduced a project to install plaques at key heritage places in the city precinct. Local or State Heritage-listed properties are eligible to receive a blue oval plaque with white text highlighting the architectural, historic and social significance of the site.

The Historical Cultural Officer at the Burnside Council contacted St Theodore's Parish and explained the project and, given the significance of our buildings within the Toorak Gardens and surrounding area, invited us to apply to have a plaque installed on the western boundary in front of the Church.

The Parish Council considered their offer and felt this to be a worthwhile connection to the general community for people interested in heritage-listed properties and wanting to know more about our beautiful Church.

It is the Council's intention to place 30 plaques on local and state heritage listed properties this financial year and our Church and Hall have been included. It is proposed to install the plaques by June 2022.

As part of the interaction with the Burnside Council, the St Theodore's 100-year celebration booklet was forwarded to their Historical Cultural department, and they felt it was extremely informative about the history of the Parish. The content has been logged and the booklet filed within their system to allow for public access.

The Burnside Council advised that blue plaque properties are also featured on the City of Burnside website through an interactive map ([burnside.sa.gov.au/Community-Recreation/Cultural-Heritage/Blue-Heritage-Plaque-Map](https://burnside.sa.gov.au/Community-Recreation/Cultural-Heritage/Blue-Heritage-Plaque-Map)). So far eighteen properties in the City of Burnside have received a plaque, with many more to be selected as part of this ongoing project.



St David's Anglican Church, Burnside has already received a plaque and, as examples, a photo of this and the plaque for Lockwood House are shown at left.

Ian Campbell

## Parish Council elections/appointments (Annual Vestry Meeting, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022)

Priest's Warden:	Ian Campbell
People's Warden:	John Needs
Parish Councillors:	Peter Burke, Mavis Evans, Martin Godfrey, Angela Jones, Richard Keene, Malcolm Schluter
Nomination Committee:	Peter Burke, Angela Jones, Stewart Perkins
Synod Representatives:	Peter Burke, Angela Jones (Alternate Synod Representative: Brian Eves)
Auditor:	John Hodgetts

## Thoughts on Lenten 'abstinence'



I'm giving up Google for Lent

(From "The New Yorker")



These are vegetables, mother. You wouldn't want me to eat something I have given up for Lent, would you?

(Martha Campbell)



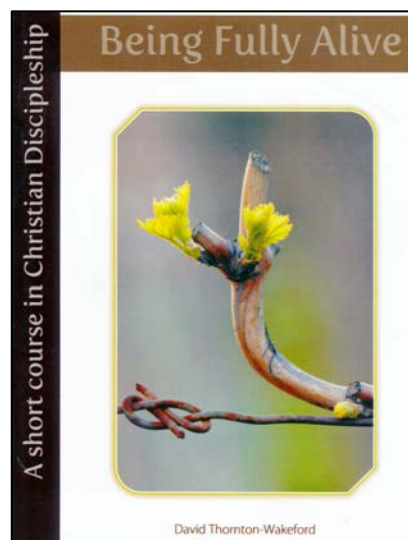
Simon had given up chocolates for Lent

(From "The Church Times")

# LENTEN STUDIES

Our Lenten studies in 2022 will be in two parts:

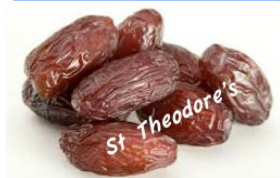
On the first two Sundays of Lent (March 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>), Fr David Thornton-Wakeford will lead two studies from his resource *'Being Fully Alive – a short course in Christian discipleship'*. Each participant will be given a copy and is encouraged to bring a Bible. These studies will complement Fr David's Lenten sermons, under the theme *'The Story, Our Story, My Story'*, hard copies of which will also be available for those two Sundays.



On the following two Sundays – March 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> - two sessions will be facilitated by Vivien Bleby and Jeff Oake focusing on the ABM Resource *'A Voice in the Wilderness'*.

**All sessions will take place from 11.15 am – 12.45 pm, and will be held in the Main Hall.**

## SELECT DATES



### February 27 **Transfiguration**

- ❖ 8.00 am Holy Communion
- ❖ 9.30 am Sung Eucharist

### March 02 **Ash Wednesday**

- ❖ 10.00 am Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes
- ❖ 7.30 pm Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes

### April 10 **Palm Sunday**

- ❖ 8.00 am Holy Communion
- ❖ 9.30 am Sung Eucharist with Procession

### April 12 **Holy Tuesday**

- ❖ 7.00 pm Stations of the Cross (jointly with All Souls' Anglican Church, St Peters; at St Theodore's Church)

### April 14 **Maundy Thursday**

- ❖ 7.30 pm Mass of the Last Supper with Foot Washing, Stripping of the Sanctuary and the Watch

### April 15 **Good Friday**

- ❖ 9.30 am Liturgy of Christ's Passion with Veneration of the Cross

### April 17 **Easter Day**

- ❖ 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 9.30 am Sung Eucharist

'The Tidings' is the newsletter of the parish of St Theodore's Anglican Church, Toorak Gardens. It is published three times each year – the first issue in early February (following the Annual Vestry meeting) and includes Lent and Easter; the second in June, and includes the Patronal Festival of St Theodore; and the third in December, and includes Advent and Christmas.

The Editor is **Dr Richard Keene** (ph: 0416-275-161; email: richard.keene@iinet.net.au)

Comments/compliments/criticisms/contributions are always welcome!