



Anglican Diocese
of Adelaide

18|47
20|22



Adelaide Anglicans
Flourishing & United in God's Love



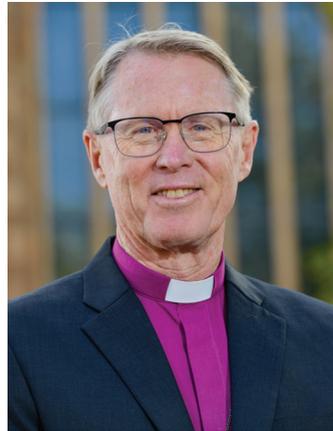
Angela Burdett-Coutts



Thanks for our history as we tackle God's task ahead

This booklet has been prepared to mark the 175th anniversary of the establishment of the Diocese of Adelaide but we are not alone in celebrating this very significant milestone. The Dioceses of Sydney, Melbourne and Newcastle were also established in 1847 – quite a year in Australian church history. So together we give thanks to God this year for the faith-filled people who worked to see the Anglican Church in Australia grow and develop through the establishment of new dioceses all those years ago.

That we are part of something bigger than the local expression of the church is significant to the understanding of the Anglican Church. There were Anglican churches in Adelaide before 1847 but when the Diocese was established, those individual church communities became part of something bigger than themselves. They may have had to give up some independence but in return they were not alone, they received the prayers, support and encouragement of all the Anglicans in the Diocese and had the opportunity to offer their partnership as the Diocese struggled with the many challenges it faced.



Geoff Smith - Archbishop of Adelaide

In some ways joining together as the Diocese of Adelaide ran counter to the culture of South Australia at the time. The colony of South Australia has been described as a “paradise of dissent” with many non-conformist and independent chapels and churches being established in the early years. There was strength, though, in being together, working together, sharing resources and this was seen clearly and encouraged enthusiastically.

As we celebrate our anniversary in 2022 we live in a fragmented world and a society which struggles to find hope and meaning. In a very rich Australia, the quality of many



Bishop Chris McLeod, National Aboriginal Bishop, at the service where he became Dean of St Peter's Cathedral

lives is poor. Individualism is the prevailing culture and a sense of community is not strong.

While it is right for us to give thanks for 175 years of the Diocese – in a sense looking back – this anniversary is also a time for looking forward. We must not lose sight of the task we continue to have – to proclaim by word and deed the love of God for all people and the whole creation shown so clearly in Jesus Christ and to work towards a world which reflects God's will.

This task is one which is best done together. It is best done when we reflect the reality that we are the body of Christ. It is best done when we pray together and

for each other, share resources, inspiration and encouragement. It is best done when we are what we are – the Anglican Diocese of Adelaide, united and connected, serving the mission of God.

A 175th anniversary is very significant, there are very few other organisations in Australia that are 175 years old. But as we celebrate that anniversary and give thanks for all that has been done by God's grace, we commit ourselves to the next years. God's work is not yet done – so neither is ours.

Geoff Smith
Archbishop of Adelaide



Bishop Short's model serves us well today

Anniversaries are a time to reflect on our history, to acknowledge our achievements, the contributions and sacrifices of those who have come before us, and to give thanks for all who have served.

And so on this 175th Anniversary of the Anglican Diocese of Adelaide it is right that we honour the enormous faith, steadfast hearts and indomitable souls of members and supporters of the South Australian Church Society who set about establishing a diocese on the other side of the world.

Imagine too, if you can, the faith of Bishop Augustus Short, leaving a comfortable and pleasant existence in his homeland to undertake a long sea voyage to Adelaide to establish a diocese in the new colony.

But the faith and achievements of Bishop Short and the Anglican Church in establishing the institutions of the Synod of Adelaide, St Peter's Cathedral, The University of Adelaide, St Peter's College and St Barnabas College have endured and flourished.

Today they play an integral role in the life and order of South Australia which cannot be underestimated. Think also of the



Joe Thorp

tens of thousands of people who are either faithful Anglicans, were educated in one of our Anglican Schools or have been assisted by Anglican social work through the parishes and the life changing work of AnglicareSA. The Diocese is a truly flourishing and significant body in South Australia.

Seven years ago, as we celebrated the 160th anniversary of the First Synod in Adelaide, we noted that Bishop Short's vision to bring the whole Church in South Australia together as a unit of governance was ground-breaking in institution and ecclesiology.

It provided both clergy and laity



Bishop's Court in North Adelaide

a voice and responsibility in how we order ourselves and how we strive to grow God's Kingdom in Adelaide. That model continues to serve us well today as the constitutional structure ensures both the independence and interdependence of parishes with each other and the Synod.

Parishes have almost unfettered control over their destiny whilst enjoying the benefits of stability, risk management, legislative and regulatory compliance, shared services, financial services through Anglican Funds SA, professional development and succession planning arising from our Synodal relationships.

There is much room for both the existing rhythms that we find so comfortable and reassuring as well as the innovation and managed risk taking to ensure

continued relevance and attractiveness to our changing society.

I hope you enjoy reading this history booklet. It is not intended as a comprehensive historical record, rather to offer some snippets and insights into our rich history.

It has been prepared by our archivist Dr Sarah Black and our media manager Bill Condie whose efforts are greatly appreciated.

And as we look forward with renewed vision and plans focussing on growth, connection, advocacy and care we can look forward to the next 175 years and beyond of flourishing faith united in God's love.

Joe Thorp
Registrar & Secretary of Synod



Our embattled colonial beginnings

When Bishop Augustus Short disembarked from the *Derwent* and stood for the first time on on Kurna land, surveying the swampy shores of Port Adelaide on the 28th December 1847, the Diocese of Adelaide was in its earliest infancy.

Established by Letters Patent issued by Queen Victoria on the 25th of June that year, the Diocese of Adelaide comprised approximately 10,000 members of the Church of England. They were spread across what must have seemed a mindbogglingly vast area comprising the whole of South Australia and Western Australia. The South Australian portion of this great expanse was ministered to by five clergymen.

The work of these forerunners had been hard. South Australia had been created as a colony with no church of state, so the Church of England would never have establishment status here, relying instead on the “voluntary principle” of financial support from the laity. At the time of Proclamation in 1836 there had been just one Colonial Chaplain, Charles Beaumont Howard. He had been joined by a second, James Farrell, in 1840. Howard’s sudden death from



Bishop Augustus Short

illness in 1843 meant that Farrell continued alone. Finally four more clergy arrived, sponsored by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (SPG), in 1846. They were the Reverends Woodcock, Coombs, Pollitt and Newenham. They worked tirelessly, but without leadership or organisational structure it was difficult to make headway.

The colonists appealed for the founding of a diocese. This required a financial endowment, which was more money than could be gathered from the pockets of the faithful. An answer to prayer came in the form of a £35,000



Holy Trinity Church was the first Anglican church in Adelaide

donation from Lady (later Baroness) Angela Burdett-Coutts, England's wealthiest heiress and most prominent female philanthropist. This provided the necessary finance for the diocese to begin. The South Australian Church Society joyfully described it as "an event pregnant with blessing to the Church in particular, and to the colonists at large".

In the years before Short's arrival, six churches had already been built. This was to the credit of those pioneering clergy, leading laypeople, and support from England by the SPG and the South Australian Church Building Society. The first churches were Holy Trinity, St John's Halifax Street, St Paul's Port Adelaide, St Mary's South Road, St John's Salisbury, and St James Blakiston. Even as the Bishop arrived several more were at or near completion, including St George's Woodforde (Magill), St George's Gawler and St Andrew's Walkerville.

Bishop Short brought further

reinforcements for his tiny workforce - the Reverends Hale, Wilson and Burnett. They arrived to a fledgling colonial society and an embattled local church.

The task before them was truly herculean. But Short's vision was bold and his arrival created new confidence and enthusiasm. A



St John's Salisbury



St John's Church Adelaide



leading colonist remarked, “new life seems to be instilled in all the members of the Church of England”.

With God’s help they set to work, always with the support and involvement of the Anglican laity, to bring it all into being.

The first thing was to establish a Church Office and Registry, to license clergy and buildings and keep records of activity – the foundations of good governance. Bishop Short travelled widely on pastoral journeys, met and spoke with the people of this state (and the great land to the west) and inspired the cooperation of many. The South Australian Church Society reminded the faithful that “Clergy, Churches, School-houses, Parsonages, Glebes, are all needed”. Soon there came more parishes, schools and welfare institutions; in 1855 there was the pioneering solution of the Synod which included both clergy and laity; in 1878 the Cathedral and in 1881 St Barnabas, the theological college. Over a hundred more clergy exercised ministry in the diocese during Short’s years, many from overseas and a growing number ordained from within the diocese. Short and his growing workforce thus diligently and faithfully laid the foundations of the Diocese of Adelaide.



Bishop Short's crozier



Bishops gather to welcome Archbishop Geoff Smith

A time for building and transitions

In the years since Bishop Short, these foundations have been built on and extended. The pioneers have been followed by many others. Over the last 175 years, 10 Bishops and hundreds of clergy have exercised pastoral ministry in this diocese, to many thousands of South Australian people of faith.

Each generation has faced new pastoral and governance challenges. Many of these have required solutions tailored to the unique terrain and the distinctive social, political and religious culture of SA. This continues to be so today.

Over time, the diocese reduced in geographic size with the creation of the dioceses of Perth (1856), Willochra (1915) and The Murray (1970). Today, it comprises the area from the northern Barossa across the Adelaide plains, plus a portion of the Hills region and Kangaroo Island. These are the traditional

lands of the Ngadjuri, Peramangk and Kaurna people.

Along the way, the Diocese of Adelaide has had some noteworthy firsts. In Australia, we have been:

- the first diocese to become financially independent from the state (1851)
- the first modern Anglican synod to include fully enfranchised laity (1855)
- the first Girls' Friendly Society (GFS) branch outside of the UK (1879)
- the first diocese to appoint a female churchwarden – Jessie Carter for St Augustine's Virginia (1895-1910)
- the first bishop (Thomas) to invite a woman to preach from a cathedral pulpit – Maude Royden (1928)



Some of the first woman ordinands today, Rev'd Susan Straub, Rev'd Joan Claring-Bould and Sister Juliana SI

- the first diocese to appoint a female representative to General Synod – Irene Jeffreys (1962)
- the first diocese to ordain women to the priesthood after the 1992 General Synod Canon – Joan Claring-Bould, Sue Straub, Flo Monaghan (later Walters), Sue Pain and Sister Juliana SI (1992).

In each era, to fulfil its mission the church must remake itself. In the course of 175 years, from the 19th to the 21st century, the Diocese of Adelaide has witnessed and participated in many great transitions.



The first ordination of women



The 1947 Diocesan Centenary procession



Pioneer Flo Monohan



Rev R T M Radcliff at Elliston between 1907 and 1911

From sailing ships and camels to livestreaming

Since the beginning, “being church” in the Diocese of Adelaide has required a range of transport and communications solutions.

Bishop Short and Matthew Hale conducted their early pastoral and missionary visits by sailing ship and horseback. Bishop Kennion in 1883 journeyed by camel from Beltana to Farina, to meet the people of the Far North, before going up the Hergott line to the railway workers’ camp, where he spoke to “some 150 people, to many of whom a Bishop’s voice must have been a novelty”, as the newspapers reported.

As times progressed and according to need, clergy conducted their ministry with the aid of horse and carriage, the mission paddle steamer Etona on the mighty Murray River, by bicycle, caravan, car and light aircraft where necessary. (Technology is not always king, though. The Revd EG

Radcliffe in the 1930s, blind since childhood, conducted his extensive parish ministry visiting program in the western suburbs entirely on foot.)

In seeking to connect with people everywhere, and by every means possible, we have used every major technology of communication, from the postal service and telegraph to the print press, radio, television and film. In the early 21st century the uptake of the internet saw a proliferation of parish, clergy and diocesan websites and blogs. Most recently, COVID-19 increased our use of social media for livestreaming services and being together in virtual form, when this was not possible in person.

Rev’d E H Fernie of St Augustine’s Unley





Welcome service for Archbishop Geoff Smith in 2017

Learning to listen – how our Indigenous relationships grew

When the church arrived in SA it was, along with every colonist, a partner in the colonial project. For the original inhabitants and traditional owners of this land, our role in their world was largely destructive. The Diocese of Adelaide began its ministry among Aboriginal people with the mission begun by Archdeacon Hale at Poonindie (1850), later followed by other missions. It took us a long time to realise the importance of listening to and learning from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

In the 1980s the Nunga Ministry was established, the first urban ministry among aboriginal people by the diocese, and the first serious effort to walk alongside our aboriginal brothers and sisters. This ministry continued until 2007 and carries forward today in our ongoing ministry at Point McLeay.



National Aboriginal bishop Chris McLeod

Archbishop Rayner ordained the Reverend Ken Hampton, the first chaplain to the Nunga ministry and the first aboriginal clergyperson of our diocese, in 1986. The Diocese of Adelaide in 2015 consecrated the Right Reverend Chris McLeod as the National Aboriginal Bishop.

Our diocese supports the Uluru Statement From the Heart and partners with Anglicans for Makaratta, whose work focuses on reconciliation issues.

Welcome to country





The Diocese began running homes and missions. Parish welfare work remains important

The changing face of our welfare work

Once upon a time, welfare meant running homes and missions, generally on the tightest of budgets. Beyond the Poonindie Mission as mentioned before, the Orphan Home opened in 1860 and several other such institutions followed over time. Initiatives championed by parishes, partners or key individuals often responded to issues of their day, such as the CEMS Men's Hostel after World War 1, the Good Egg Cooperative for income opportunities in the Depression, the Magdalene Centre which responds to urban homelessness and distress, or Archway Port which started as a day centre for alcoholic men and continued into recent times as an addiction rehabilitation service.

Today, we have a modern welfare structure in Anglicare SA which is firmly client centred and offers services across the life spectrum and to all parts of

the community. Parish-based community welfare programs such as community sheds, op shops, employment projects and similar, continue to respond to the needs of our community and its vulnerable people in many and varied ways.



A volunteer for AnglicareSA



St Luke's Modbury op shop and garden



Anglican schools serving all South Australians

In 1847 church schooling was close to non-existent. The early establishment of our first two schools, St Peter's College and what became Pulteney Grammar, was itself a great achievement; even more remarkable is that each of these schools has gone on to educate many generations of South Australians. Dozens of parish day schools came and went over the years as well. Today we see with joy our Anglican network schools, which continue to provide high quality educational opportunities, within a faith-based matrix, to all the members of the South Australian community.

As well as the school years, the

Diocese of Adelaide has been a contributor to the wider landscape of theological education in Australia since the establishment of St Barnabas College in 1881. In the beginning, a small handful of male students lived and studied together in our historic St Barnabas Building. St Barnabas today provides theological education and accreditation to both lay and clergy students and is highly regarded for the quality of its teaching programs, many of which are now able to be conducted online. Over the decades many of Australia's leading clergy and theologians have studied or worked here, and we are proud of this legacy.

Church school students in the 1870s





Jessie Carter was the first female church warden

In our Laity lies our strength

In sparsely settled and remote districts, lay preachers were needed in the early years to stand in for distant clergy. Today, as an overwhelmingly urban diocese, Adelaide's laity take on a different but no lesser importance. The nature of our Synod makes laypeople integral to the governance and

direction of the church. Our laity also exercise important ministries at parish level, bearing witness to the word of God and contributing through their time and devotion to the work of the church in all its aspects. Now as always, we give grateful thanks to God for all our people.



A Church of Australia for all our peoples

In the 19th century, in this most English of colonies, the Church of England consisted largely of the English. Not so anymore – we are an Australian church for the many peoples of Australia. The diocese reflects the cultural breadth of our state, embracing people from many different nationalities and cultures. We also have a range of specific focus ministries including Dinka, Mandarin Chinese, Tamil,

Sudanese, Cantonese, Burundian and Malayalam. Over the decades we have engaged in a wide variety of ministries with new arrivals and refugees, from the work of the Migrant Committee of the early postwar era to the Migrant and Refugee Network of more recent years, and many programs of welcome and assistance run through parishes and Anglicare.

Sudanese parishioners at a 2011 service in St Peter's Cathedral





Hard-won recognition for our women clergy

Women have always been involved in the church, but the face of the clergy has evolved greatly in the last generation with the embracing of ordained ministry for women. This hard-won change, which threatened to divide the church in its day, has been revealed as the source of new life and spirit, as women's gifts have been brought into ordained ministry. Adelaide played a significant part in the struggle for the ordination of women and in 1992 was the

first diocese in Australia to ordain women to the priesthood after the General Synod canon was passed. 2022 has been a year of celebrating this important milestone and reflecting on how the inclusion of women in ordained ministry, and their increasing role at every level of seniority, has enhanced our church life. Our first female assistant bishop, the Right Reverend Denise Ferguson, was appointed in 2019.

Celebrating 30 years of women's ordination





The flag to celebrate the LGBTQI+ communities in all their diversity

A safe and inclusive Church

We seek today to value the voices of those who historically were relegated to the margins. Moves to greater inclusiveness began in the 20th century with women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and those of different languages and cultures, but the journey continues. In 2019 the synod made an apology to LGBTQI+ communities: “We apologise to, and seek forgiveness from, people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex or queer whom we have hurt by words and behaviour that have not displayed the love of God. We are deeply sorry for any harm we have done and repent of such ungodly behaviour.”

In the 21st century the Diocese also seeks to make a sound moral reckoning with errors and sins of the past. In particular, the work of the Survivor Advocacy Group and the Survivor Advocate has been crucial in continuing to come to terms with the devastating history of child sexual abuse in our diocese. Our Safe Ministry program is one practical means by which we work to ensure the wellbeing of all members of our church.

A significant step in the life of the Diocese was the 2004 apology to survivors of abuse in the church. This was installed permanently in St Peter’s Cathedral at the Diocesan Service of apology to survivors on Shrove Tuesday 2020.





Honouring the land and caring for creation

The traditional custodians of the land in South Australia had engaged in land and sea management practices which sustained human life here for over 50,000 years before the arrival of Europeans. When Bishop Short first arrived in SA the Burra mines had already begun operation. We were busy loading fragile soils with wheat and sheep which we cultivated by traditional European methods. Our clergy hoped to create a mini-England of parish churches on village greens. We had a lot to learn.

We are growing in our understanding that creation care is both Biblically mandated and an existential imperative. We are committed to sound environmental stewardship and to responding appropriately to the challenges of climate change. Living in the driest state on the world's driest continent, we have long understood that water is our scarcest resource. Today we see the importance of sustainability across the board.

William Light's city design, featuring our world-famous parklands as the "lungs" of the city, was a stroke of foresight which has recently been recognised in Adelaide's status as a National Park



St Lukes garden

City. Anglicans have stewardship of a small but meaningful portion of Adelaide's land, and our parishes are engaging with solar energy generation and other important new technologies. Community gardens, butterfly habitats, composting initiatives, water management programs and various means of carbon footprint reduction are all gaining pace.

The Anglican Creation Care Network, founded in 2017 according to a resolution of the Synod, is emerging as an important forum for our growing integration of creation care and environmental responsibility into Church life. We seek to encourage each other along this pathway and to play our part in climate change solutions which honour the land and the people of SA.



What stays the same as we embrace the future?

Through all these years of continual change and transformation, there remain great overarching continuities in our Anglican experience as the Diocese of Adelaide.

We are a broad church in the best Anglican way, with a home for all God's faithful, encompassing and encouraging a variety of worship styles and traditions.

We exist as part of the Anglican tradition. We cleave to the scriptures, the creeds, the sacraments and to the "historic episcopate, locally adapted".

In the South Australian "paradise of dissent", our church has always existed as one of many. We continue to work productively with other faith traditions, especially in relation to the social issues of our day.

We continue to operate as a close and enduring compact between clergy and laity, both of whom are crucial in forming our church and steering our direction.

We continue to express our faith in service to our community.

We are the inheritors of all those who have gone before us and of

their works. As we celebrate 175 years of the Diocese of Adelaide, it is worth reflecting that the challenges before us today are neither lesser nor greater than the tasks our forebears faced, either in 1847 or the years that followed. The church must always renew itself for its day.

We have received a heritage of committed faith and faith-inspired action. As we look around our beautiful "City of Churches", we can see that many of these lovely buildings belong to our Anglican heritage. In viewing the wide brown land on which we walk, in talking to its people and in engaging with the spiritual life of our community, we see how the Anglican Diocese of Adelaide has woven itself into the history and culture of South Australia.

We have further to walk on our journey - more connections to make, more advocacy, more caring for creation and community, more good news to share. More growing in faith lies before us. We are grateful for what has been and ready for what is to come.



**BISHOPS OF THE
DIOCESE OF ADELAIDE**

Augustus Short	1847-1881
George Wyndham Kennion	1882-1894
John Reginald Harmer	1895-1905
Arthur Nutter Thomas	1906-1940
Bryan Percival Robin	1941-1956
Thomas Thornton Reed	1957-1974
Keith Rayner	1975-1990
Ian Gordon Combe George	1991-2004
Jeffrey William Driver	2005-2016
Geoffrey Martyn Smith	2017-

**CHANCELLORS OF THE
DIOCESE OF ADELAIDE**

unlisted	pre-1889
W Barlow	1889-1905
EB Grundy	1906-1913
vacant	1914
T Slaney Poole	1915-1918
GW Halcombe	1919-1929
C Johns	1930-1935
H Mayo	1935-1941
vacant	1942
DB Ross	1943-1968
GEH Bleby	1969-1975
vacant	1976
BR Cox	1977-1994
D Bleby	1995-2016
Richard Dennis	2016-2017
Philip Adams	2018-

**SECRETARIES AND REGISTRARS
OF THE DIOCESE OF ADELAIDE:**

JGA Branthwaite	1855
Pitt Cobbett	1856 - 1862
Frederic Wicksteed	1863-1876
Henry Anthony	1877-1882
Augustus Stürcke	1883-1898
George Grundy	1899-1930
Frank Smith	1931-1937
Franklin Gill	1938-1952
Albert Jeanes	1953-1975
Christopher Kneebone	1976-1982
Kenneth Halliday	1982-1983
position vacant	1984
Douglas Courtney	1985-1992
Peter Casson	1993-2001
position vacant	2002
Anne Hywood	2003-2008
Peter Sandeman	2008-2009
position vacant	2009-2010
Keith Stephens	2010-2017
David Bassett (acting)	2017-2018
Amanda Harfield	2018-2019
Joe Thorp	2019-



Diocese of Adelaide Organisations



Anglican Schools





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