

District Priest's Report
Annual Vestry Meeting
St. Benedict's Minlaton
21 February 2010

Throughout 2009 the worship and life of the congregation has been stable, but during the year there have been a couple of significant events in the baptisms of Elijah Rothe and Matilda Cook, as well as the funeral of Cynthia Cook. It was a privilege to be involved with the Cook family in these pastoral liturgies. We also celebrated Ascension Day and the Birth of John the Baptist as midweek Eucharists. The last of these is part of a Ministry District wide programme of a monthly feast day Eucharist which appears to have been well received and which it is planned to continue in 2010. The Rev. Anne Ford has also provided significant liturgical and pastoral ministry to the congregation, particularly in the maintenance of the ministry within South Park and Melaleuca, and with the establishment of Back to Church Sunday.

Also significant has been the continuing of the Trinity Certificate programme which Michael Ford has led and in which the Rev. Anne Ford has been involved. This programme will come to a conclusion in 2010, with the next unit commencing on 22 February.

It was also good to have the Bishop with us in December when he was in the Ministry District for the confirmation of Amy Wilde at Warooka.

During the year there was one of the third Sunday services where I sought to engage in a more consultative form of preparation for the liturgy. I want to thank those who involved themselves in this process either by attending preparation meetings, or in the suggestion of ideas, and in the actual work of preparation. It is not my intention that this was a once off. The wider the ownership of and involvement in our liturgical celebrations across the congregation the better. The preparation and delivery of worship is not the preserve of certain knowledgeable and licensed individuals. It belongs to all of us. Within that context those licensed carry a particular responsibility – leadership on the day, but that is in fact a limited and focussed responsibility. How the service is prepared and what is actually done in the context of the liturgical structure is open to the involvement of everyone within the congregation. I hope to see some development and growth in this through 2010.

I would also like to express my gratitude to those involved in the music ministry within St. Benedicts – our organists Michael and Jenny; and also the band – Rosalie, Marilyn, Rob, Amanda and Barb capably led by Rosalie. Thank you for all your efforts in 2009 which have acted to enhance our worship.

Where to in 2010? There will hopefully be at least one of the monthly mid-week Eucharists at St. Benedict's, though the date and feast has not yet been set, and no doubt we will again celebrate St. Benedict's Day. Our involvement with South Park and Melaleuca will continue and there may be another Sunday set aside as Back to Church Sunday. And the rest is up to God.