



# SA NEWS

Newsletter of the Presbytery of South Australia

Issue 53

March 2022

## Jesus Cares

Hebrews 4:15

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.

Jesus knows how we feel. He knows what it is to be tempted. He knows what it is to experience loss. He knows what it is like to be let down and betrayed. He knows what it is like to be lied about and abused. He knows what it is to live with family. He knows what it is to have friends. All this and more. So when the Bible reminds us of the sympathy that Jesus has for us in all the experiences of our lives we are comforted and encouraged.

Jesus cares for us. Time and again the Gospels reveal how his heart responded with compassion toward: hungry crowds; a widow grieving the death of her son; a man suffering leprosy; the city of Jerusalem; and countless many others. His heart went out to those in need: toward those who were victims; toward those who had contributed to their own predicament.

The empathy that Jesus has toward us is a comfort and encouragement.

Even in the unique circumstances of our lives we can be assured that Jesus knows how we feel, and that Jesus cares for us in our circumstances.

We can be further encouraged by remembering that Jesus' empathy and compassion are not affected by the weaknesses and imperfections that beset us.

Whereas Jesus' experiences mean he knows how we feel, those experiences have not marred him or remained with him in a way that affects his attitudes or decisions. Our empathy is often the remembrance of our own scars – physical and emotional – and those scars sometime skew our abilities to care as we should. That is never the case with Jesus.

Jesus' compassion, his desire to help and provide, is not coloured by his own needs or affected in any way by the way his support and provision have been treated by others – or even by us in the past! His care isn't marked by resentment about what it costs him, or by expectation of what he will get out of providing that care.



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Jesus knows how we feel, but he doesn't feel things exactly like we do.

Jesus cares for us, but his care is not like any care we've provided or experienced from others.

Jesus is open-hearted and whole-hearted, in the purest and greatest sense that we can understand that description.

As we embark on our annual pilgrimage toward our remembrance of the death and resurrection of our Saviour, we're blessed to dwell on the highest expression of his empathy and compassion toward us as we revisit the cross and empty tomb of Jesus. Finding ourselves at the place where love and mercy meet, we don't know what lies ahead of us, or what we'll need to sustain us. But we can be certain that Jesus will care for us and carry us through.

Gary Ware

## **Karnkendi - Christmas lead up / New year.**

After the many issues for us all with the pandemic combined with SA cross border rules life has started to get back to normal, finally, late in November 2021 with our borders opening up.

Prior to Christmas, just out of the blue, we received a 2 week booking for a small group of folk from the Glenelg Hopkins Management Catchment Authority (GHMCA) researching the Sanderling (a timid coastal bird). They insisted on paying the minimum rate per night even though we offered a little deal for such a small number of 6 -10, this booking reduced to only a week after the migration movements changed but it has also lead to another week being booked just prior to Easter.

Just post Christmas saw a Thai family group from Melbourne use the camp for the first time. They enjoyed the area and facility so much that they have just rebooked and paid the deposit for 4 nights in early January 2023.

A long term booking saw a family group that have been regular users from Warrnambool/Koroit/Portland return to Karnkendi. Too many emails and calls happened prior to this one due to the fragile restrictions etc., but they all had a lovely time in Nelson.

In late January we would usually have Scotch College from Adelaide here for their rowing camp but it will be another year before they return with the timing of the pandemic.

Looking forward we have Tenison Woods Catholic College Senior Music Camp 23-25 March and they will be followed up with the Juniors in a couple of months. It is good to have them back at the camp after a break pre-COVID.

Another Thai family group are in for Easter and then a series of large camps from Beacon Hills Christian College Melbourne which will take us into early June.

The house renting is going well with another second-hand washing machine fitted a few weeks ago.

The island bench in the kitchen is finally sorted with a new sealed storage base and we are working to getting the new tank and water softener connected up soon.

Two Sundays ago the proprietors of “Big Sky Adventures” from Adelaide stayed for a night as they are scouting out new events and accommodation for their Great Ocean Road guided walk tour happening later in the year.

It is going to be a bit of a slow year with less groups than normal but it is great not to be cancelling events at this time.

We are overdue for a committee meeting which should happen soon with the border requirements removed.

Please see below, an “Aerial” image of the camp with the Nelson Church block less the large Cyprus trees.



Many thanks as always for your all your prayers and connection with Karnkendi.

Harvey and Heather McBain  
Karnkendi  
Nelson

“Justification by faith does not mean salvation by believing things instead of by doing right. It means pleading the merits of Christ before the throne of grace instead of our own merits.”

B.B. Warfield

Quoted by Fred Zaspel in The Theology of B.B. Warfield: A Systematic Summary  
<http://firstimportance.org/what-does-justification-by-faith-mean/>

## Mount Gambier

Last year, on 14 December, the Care and Concern committee hosted an afternoon tea for older members of our congregation. A lovely afternoon of chatting and partaking of delicious food was had by all.

Below are some photos of the afternoon.

The start of the new year saw the recommencement of our Growth Groups. This year we are studying The Parables of Jesus starting, in Term 1, with The Parables of the Kingdom.

The Diaconal ministry of our church continues to provide meals and support for those of our congregation who are in need.





## Naracoorte

Greetings from the Naracoorte congregation. In December the Elders conducted services each week with the Sunday School presentation being held on Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup>. The theme was Christmas – Good News. We then altered the letters about to make “God’s News”. The children shared the reading of the text to explore God’s plan for mankind. They did a great job in presenting what they have learnt to the congregation. Children make a bigger impact – the congregation listened intently to the message!

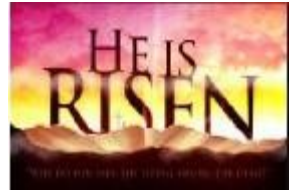
From January 2<sup>nd</sup>, because of the large outbreak of Covid-19, our regular weekly Worship services were put into recess, to protect our many vulnerable members, and will begin again very soon.

A PWA meeting has been held with preparations made for World Day of Prayer, which many of our congregation will attend. KYB studies have commenced and plans are for the group to get back together again in March.

Pat Leitch

### **The Easter Gospel** — *Paul Beasley-Murray*

In the first place, the Easter gospel is good news because it proclaims that Jesus is alive. The tomb was empty! The Lord appeared to Peter and the other disciples! Jesus Christ is the same — yesterday, today and for ever!



In the second place, the Easter gospel is good news because it proclaims a risen Saviour. Our sins have been forgiven! God has set his seal of approval on the crucified! Jesus was raised to life for our justification!

In the third place, the Easter gospel is good news because it proclaims a glorious hope. Death has been swallowed up in victory! We shall be with the Lord for ever! Jesus has brought life and immortality to light!

In the fourth place, and of no less importance, the Easter gospel is good news because it proclaims a present power. The risen Lord Jesus is present with his people today! Already in the here and now we may begin to share in the risen life of Jesus! Even in our present moments of weakness we may experience the transforming power of his resurrection! Here is good news indeed. The resurrection is more than a past event and a future prospect; it is a present reality.

— *The Message of the Resurrection*, Intervarsity Press UK, page 17.

## Adelaide

### Seacliff Congregation

The new year has brought change at Seacliff, the major one being that for the first 2 months we have been without a minister in attendance. Peter Lim, who lead our services for well over a year, has begun a new service for a Korean congregation in the Norwood church and no longer attends at Seacliff. We remain very grateful for the ministry he had amongst us. We were blessed by his faithful exposition of the Word. Peter also took the service in Mt Barker in the morning coming to us in late afternoon for our 4pm service. On a fortnightly basis he was joined by his wife MiSun and sons, Joel and Jonathan. We pray they are all blessed as they continue to serve the Lord at Norwood.

In his final two services at Seacliff, Peter and MiSun lead us in dancing (Korean style) to two worship songs, following the service. They will remain in our memories for some time. It seems the Korean services will be lively affairs.

With the absence of a preacher, our elder Ian Gossip has been leading the service and we have been able to listen and watch the message from the recording of the live stream of the morning service at Norwood. This has worked quite well, with Heather Gossip being very technologically adept. The services have proceeded well, with an occasional breakdown due to poor reception or a failure in the live stream. We have access to the programme used at Norwood to coordinate the songs and music too so that we are getting used to having an audiovisual presentation each week. We are grateful for the skills that have been given to our 'techo' Heather and that she has honed her skills to use them for our benefit.

In March we will welcome Rev David Tsai who will minister at Seacliff for the remainder of 2022. David comes from NSW where he ministered for many years. He preached at Norwood over 3 Sundays in January while Davo Gunning was on leave so we are familiar with him. We are thankful for his appointment.

With the current Covid Omicron outbreak our numbers have fallen sharply since Christmas. Various members are unable to attend due to family situations and age. Those of us who can attend are happy to be able also to join the Growth Group discussion and fellowship and prayer time on Wednesday afternoon.

Our craft group though, has not yet resumed for this year as several members are not able to come including our card making leader. We hope that in the next month or two we can gather and enjoy the fellowship again.

Heather Blunt

If the beauty of what Jesus did moves you, that is the first step toward getting out of your own self-centeredness and fear into a trust relationship with him. When Jesus died for you he was, as it were, inviting you into the dance. He invites you to begin centering everything in your life on him, even as he has given himself for you.

Timothy Keller,  
The Reason for God, (New York, NY: Dutton, 2008), page 221.



**After seven years as CEO of PIM, Andrew Letcher has announced his intention to move on from the role.**

By God's grace, Andrew has led PIM through a period of transition and growth. His time with PIM has seen the undertaking of several new projects, not the least of which is New Dunesk, which will set the tone and direction of PIM's mission for years to come. He leaves us with a stable foundation for the future, with exciting prospects in the pipeline.

Andrew will spend the remainder of 2022 helping PIM to transition to and train a new CEO. He is looking forward to spending more time with his family and less time on the road! Please pray for wisdom as we seek Andrew's replacement, and that he enjoys some well-earned rest.



**APWM**  
Australian Presbyterian  
World Mission

## Japan

With a population of around 125 million, the Japanese are the largest unreached people group in the developed world. APWM has three missionary 'units' serving in Japan.

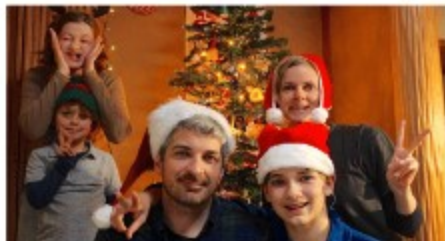
### Andrew Adams

**Andrew (Canterbury PC, Vic)** serves with Pioneers as a member of the "Love Hiroshima" team. His new team is still settling, but will be involved in church-planting, and Andrew hopes to continue connections with student ministry.



*Andrew Adams*

### Adam & Helene Ramsay



*Adam & Helene Ramsay and children*

**Adam and Helene (Salt PC, Robina, QLD)** serve with CMS as part of the Presbyterian Church in Japan. They would love to see as many churches in Japan as there are convenience stores. They are currently ministering together with a local church, developing their ministry skills in Japanese. They are passionate about supporting local Christians to reach others for Jesus.

Helene recently wrote an article 'Christmas in Japan: fried chicken and Jesus' which you can read here <https://shrtm.nu/zve4>



#### Japan 日本国

**Pop** 125 million

**Capital** Tokyo

**Area** 377,975 km<sup>2</sup>

**Religion** (estimates)

Shinto 84-96%, sometimes mixed with Buddhism.

Evangelical Christian 0.5%

Copyright Free Vector Maps.com

### Nathan & Tomoko Stewart



*Nathan & Tomoko Stewart and children*

**Nathan and Tomoko (Browns Plains PC, QLD)** serve with APWM National as part of the Presbyterian Church in Japan. They are working with the Osaka Presbyterian Church to help Presbyterian believers in Osaka build meaningful relationships with non-Christians in their community so that, Lord willing, the gospel will be proclaimed with integrity and clarity.

### Pastor's Japan Trip 2022

At the time of writing, APWM is exploring the possibility of a 14 day, Pastor's Vision Trip to Japan in late November/early December 2022. Cost: \$3,000-3,500. If you'd like to know more then please email [kevinmurray@apwm.org.au](mailto:kevinmurray@apwm.org.au)



# APWM Publications

## APWM Partnership News

One way of learning more about what God is doing across the globe is through 'APWM Partnership News', a fortnightly email delivered to your inbox. Partnership News contains updates from missionaries, reflections on the bigger picture of the progress of the gospel, links to useful videos that you could show in church, and a few prayer points.



If you'd like to subscribe then please either sign up at this link [shrtm.nu/NSAb](http://shrtm.nu/NSAb) or email [office@apwm.org.au](mailto:office@apwm.org.au) and ask to be put on the Partnership News list.

## Prayer Directory 2022-2023

Every two years APWM produces a Prayer Directory. It lists APWM's missionaries together with a brief description of their ministry. At least three copies have been sent to every church and more are available on request. We are encouraged by the number of people who tell us that they use the Directory every day to pray for our missionaries and the spread of the gospel across the world. If your church needs more Directories or if you would like one then please email [office@apwm.org.au](mailto:office@apwm.org.au)



## Prayer Update

To assist you in praying for the spread of the gospel we produce the APWM Prayer Update which has a prayer point for each day. We produce this in two formats:



### Weekly Edition

Each week you receive an email with prayer points for the next seven days.

### BiMonthly Edition

Every two months you receive a pdf by email listing prayer points for the next two months.

If you would like to receive Prayer Update then please email [office@apwm.org.au](mailto:office@apwm.org.au) and nominate which format of the Prayer Update you would like to receive.

## APWM Videos on Vimeo

We occasionally produce videos which are placed on our Vimeo page. These videos can then be downloaded to be shown in church or in a small group. You can find the APWM Vimeo page here: <https://vimeo.com/user16292236>



## APWM Website

Finally there's the APWM website [www.apwm.org.au](http://www.apwm.org.au)



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After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. Revelation 7:9

How exactly does APWM work? What's its history and what does it do day to day?

## Pressing the 'Re-set' button

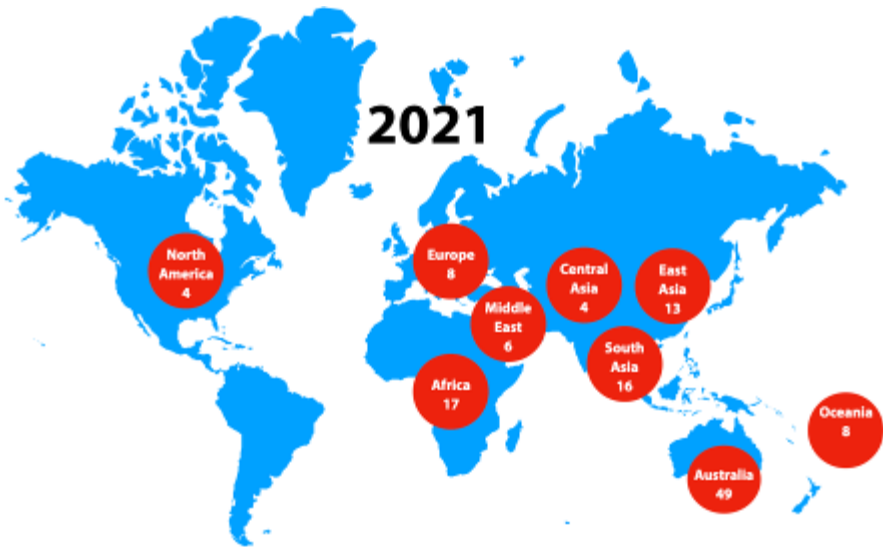


On the 22nd June 1977, the Presbyterian Church of Australia stood at a crossroads. That was the day that the Uniting Church of Australia formally came into existence. The members of the Presbyterian Church of Australia who wanted to continue as the Presbyterian Church had to start the hard work of rebuilding many of its various departments — Social Services, Aged Care, Theological Education etc. Of course planning for the continuation of the various departments had begun a few years prior to 1977.

Part of this process naturally involved the church's global missions arm. On the 22nd June 1977, the Presbyterian Church of Australia had 130 missionaries. On the 23rd June 1977, the Presbyterian Church of Australia had 4 missionaries (2 families) Pastor Bill & Mrs Sue Camden and Pastor Walter & Mrs Rosemary Zurrer serving in Vanuatu.

It was an opportunity to press the re-set button on global mission. Prior to 1977 the Presbyterian Church had primarily worked with overseas Presbyterian Churches and sent Presbyterian missionaries to those churches. Now the Presbyterian Church recognised those Presbyterians who served with mission agencies such as SIM, OMF, Wycliffe. Prior to 1977 they hadn't been recognised by the denomination as missionaries.

Under the leadership of men such as the Rev Mervyn Roberts, Rev Ken Gardner, Rev Bob Missenden, Mr Paul Kahl and Dr Rex Burns (an elder from Hurstville, NSW), Australian Presbyterian World Mission came into being. Former missionary, the Rev Robert Benn says "I went to my first meeting of the continuing Presbyterian mission committee at Ann Street Presbyterian Church. I'm not sure that I've ever had such a buzz in respect to what was happening in the church." They were difficult but heady days.



This map of the 'missionary units' (singles, couples or families) who serve today is a visual depiction of God's grace compared to 1977. What a privilege it is to be able to serve alongside brothers and sisters in so many countries!

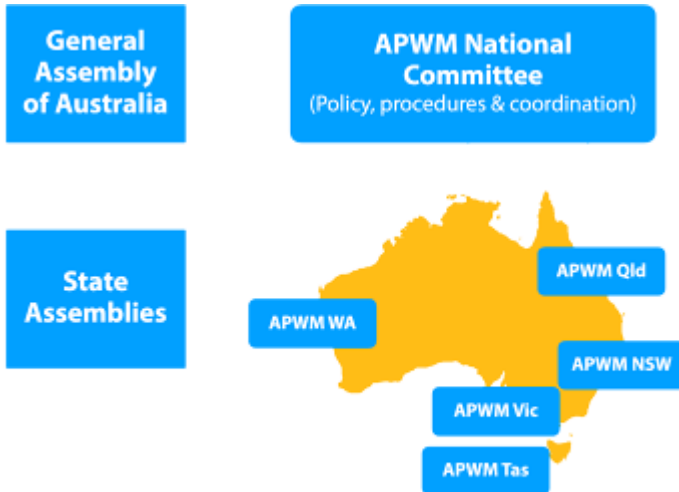
Within Australia, there are 49 missionary units. These missionaries serve in various contexts: (a) Indigenous ministry; (b) Bible translation based in Australia; (c) commuting overseas from their Australian base; or (d) work in mission agency roles in Australia.

## APWM's Brief



APWM National Treasurer, Peter Burke, with a pastor from Timor Leste

## APWM's Structure



How does APWM work? The APWM National Committee is a committee of the Presbyterian Church's General Assembly of Australia. It is responsible for setting the policies and procedures for both itself and each of the APWM State Committees. It also helps in coordinating the ministry of the APWM State Committees.



The National Committee is made up of members elected by the General Assembly of Australia and representatives of the State Committees. All of these Committees enjoy an incredibly harmonious relationship — something that we recognise as coming from God and not from ourselves. Many of our APWM Committees have subcommittees which focus on particular areas e.g. the National Committee's Aboriginal subcommittee.

What sort of gifts do we need on these committees? A mix of people with gifts in areas such as theology, administration and practical mission experience. When these gifts are used together the work of global mission is better served.

## The National Office



The National Committee runs an office based at Christ College in Sydney. It is here that Kevin Murray (National Director) and Sheryl Sarkoezy (Director's Assistant, 4 days per week) and Bruce Campbell (Accounts Clerk, 2 days per week) work together to coordinate the Presbyterian Church of Australia's global mission ministry.

## Prayer

1. Praise God for sustaining the work of APWM for over 40 years.
2. Please pray that God would raise up more members of the Presbyterian Church of Australia to serve in cross-cultural mission.
3. Please join APWM in thanking God for the good relationships that the APWM National committee and the State Committees enjoy. Please pray that Satan would not be able to interfere with these relationships.
4. Pray for wisdom for the National and State Committees as they seek to develop and implement policies that will enable people to serve well in cross-cultural mission.



There are plenty of exciting events happening online and at New Dunesk over the coming months, and you're invited to attend:



The Country Elders Preaching Workshop is a training program for pastors and lay-preachers in country and remote places. A partnership with Langham Preaching, the four-day workshop will include both seminars and small groups, where participants will learn how to study a Bible passage and build a sermon that is faithful, clear and relevant.

To participate in the full workshop, the cost is \$250 per person, which includes meals. Onsite camping is available for those with their own camping gear or caravan. The workshop will be held at New Dunesk, 6550 Newell Highway, Ardlethan NSW.

To find out more, and to book your place, call Andrew on 0438 868 964 or email [ceo@pim.org.au](mailto:ceo@pim.org.au)

### **Prayer Points continued**

Ask for the Lord's wisdom and blessing as the PIM Committee charts a new course for PIM for the years ahead. Pray that as we seek new and creative ways to take the unchanging Gospel to people living in remote and sparsely populated areas that God would go ahead of us, that he would prepare many hearts and minds to respond to the Gospel and that he would provide the resources. Pray for the partnerships that are being developed with local churches



# Nomads' Network Launch

5-10 April 2022



Are you enjoying an extended season of road travel around Australia? Are you looking for ways to use your time and mobility to serve the Lord Jesus?

The PIM Nomads' Network is getting started in 2022, with the launch event at New Dunesk happening from the 5-10 April. This is an exciting four-day practical ministry training event, where you will be equipped with skills to help serve remote and rural churches in practical ways.

To join in with this great network, and to attend the launch event, you will need your own caravan, camper trailer or tent. We will have toilets, showers and a camp kitchen at New Dunesk.

Cost to be part of the program for the year is \$440 per couple or \$275 for a single, which includes attendance at the training event, as well as many more events and opportunities.

To sign-up to the network, and RSVP your attendance to the launch event, give Andrew a call on 0438 868 964 or email [ceo@pim.org.au](mailto:ceo@pim.org.au)

## Prayer Points

Give thanks to the Lord for His redeeming power and His plan to rescue people for himself down through the ages, around the globe and in all sorts of places (Rev 7:9-10).

Give thanks that God has involved us in his redemptive work, to be the messengers of his great love for human beings (Matt 28:16-20).

Praise the Lord for over 600 hundred Presbyterian Churches across our continent who proclaim Christ, preach the Word and stand as witnesses to the Lord in their communities (2 Tim 4:1-5).

Praise the Lord for the rich history of PIM, and for the isolated people who have been introduced to the Lord Jesus through the work of PIM teams down through the years.

Pray that the Lord would prepare the hearts and minds of people living in remote parts of East Gippsland and the Snowy Mountains to respond to the good news of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for all those who have been affected by the recent floods throughout our country.
- Praise God for our new and living hope through the raising of Jesus Christ from the dead and pray that multitudes will discover this hope as this message is proclaimed over Easter.
- Intercede for the Federal Government; Prime Minister Scott Morrison; that he will lead with integrity, stand firm in his belief and hold fast to his faith.
- Pray for the Leader of the Opposition Anthony Albanese; that he will be guided by Christian principles and come to know Jesus as his Lord and Saviour.
- Pray for the Presbytery of South Australia, Davo Gunning Moderator, Gary Ware Clerk.
- Pray for the Adelaide Church; Davo Gunning, Peter Lim, Ben Harvey; congregations and elders.
- Pray for the Port Augusta Church; Barry Rossiter; congregation and elders.
- Pray for people living in remote and rural parts of South Australia with little access to the gospel. Pray for PIM and the churches in SA to find effective ways to make disciples amongst these people.
- Pray for the situation in Ukraine and pray for a peaceful solution and outcome.
- Pray for the towns and cities of South Australia, for the people in them who do not know Christ, including unsaved family members, friends and work colleagues.
- Give thanks for the rain that has fallen over various parts of our nation and pray that God will send rain to those areas that are still in drought.
- Pray for goodwill, hope and compassion of all who bear responsibilities in government - Commonwealth, State, Territory - together with local authorities to address the issues we have as a nation.
- Pray for the upcoming training events at New Dunesk; for the Country Elders Preaching Workshop and the Nomads Network. Pray that the right people would attend these events and that they would develop useful skills to serve the church in remote and rural places.
- Pray for 'M' serving in West Asia.
- Intercede for the Defence and Police forces and all emergency services.

### Editor's Note

Thank you to all who have contributed items for this issue of SA News they are all very much appreciated. Contributions for the June 2022 issue are to be in my hands **no later than 5.00pm Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022.**

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SA News is a publication of the Presbytery of South Australia.