

Lewis's Latest

with Mary & Owen Lewis • April 2026



"For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord. I will put my laws into their minds and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God and they shall be my people". Hebrews 8:10

We have a hope that has entered into the inner place behind the temple; the hope that tore the curtain in two and opened up a clear connection between God and His people. It's Thursday and we in our parish are eagerly looking forward to the days of remembering and celebrating the freedom and close relationship we have with God through all that God did for the world through Jesus in his death and resurrection. We will remember as we share a meal today, follow the way of the Cross on Friday, wait and remember and hope in hymns and scripture on Saturday and wake on Sunday to those amazing words: "now very early in the morning on the first day of the week the women hurried to the tomb and finding the stone rolled away they walked in and found the tomb empty."

It feels as if we've been heading towards these moments since mid-January when we returned from holidays and began mapping the shape of the first part of the year. Lent arrived before we were quite ready and led us into considering God's call to us to walk in ways of holiness and connection with God and each other as the early Desert Mothers and Fathers did. We have found our prayer lives growing and God's Word real and relevant to our lives and are thanking God for our mid-week Life Groups and their encouragement to our faith through Lectio-365.

Please pray for our Easter gatherings on Kangaroo Island, starting from today.

We have now been on Kangaroo Island for 13 months and this is our second Easter. So much has been done 'for the first time'; names and faces grow in familiarity; new connections become regular and familiar. Mary works at the school on three days, supporting Breakfast Club and teachers of Years 3-5, taking two different groups of four boys to Tinkering and Cooking, and supporting the choir and junior band. God remembered our prayers for reaching some boys hanging out on the foreshore – now I am building closer relationships with boys at the school.

Give thanks for Mary's work in the school and being able to build relationships with some of the boys from the foreshore & school.

Mary started a choir last September for anyone who would like to come. We have had up to 20 people at a time, some dropping out and some continuing additions. Our numbers have stabilised to about 16 men, women and a couple of children from the community. Last weekend we tucked ourselves onto the verandah of the real estate agent and sang on Saturday morning – about 25 minutes of music. Good practice for us and some appreciative passers by. We are

Banner Image: Cape du Couedic Lighthouse, Kangaroo Island

Circle Image: Mary & Owen

Middle Image: Pastoral care workers Clare, Mary and Naomi for Kangaroo Island Community Education

Bottom Image: Alban Voices

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building our repertoire to enable a 50-minute winter afternoon soiree in June and some of us will sing in church on Easter Eve.

A recent highlight was the combined churches' Palm Service at Parndana (in the middle of the Island) using the Uniting Church building. Regular services are not held in Parndana anymore, but **could a regular mid-week gathering for worship and prayer grow here after Easter?** The Lutherans led lively music, Clare led a children's activity, Pastor Martyn (UCA) preached and Mary led a 'remembering Jesus' storytelling. The building was packed, and there was space for lots of conversation at lunch in the park afterwards. We will do it again.

Give thanks for the packed service at Parndana and give thanks for the conversations that followed.

The church building at Penneshaw has been opened up by replacing the back pews with chairs and allowing space for meals and conversations. Work on a small kitchen in the repurposed vestry starts in the coming week and an international harpist is performing in mid-April. We are praying for good community connections and more active use of the building, especially in sharing Jesus. **Could a children's ministry start here?**

Please pray for Clare, Mark, Shirley, Peter, Susan and Bill who continue

to devote their time and skills and energy to the Lord's work here.

God's calling on us = three focuses for us in the coming year

1. Developing our prayer life individually and corporately and growing our skills as God's ministers. We are focusing on prayer in life groups and sermons and will have quarterly teaching sessions for lay leaders, run by specialists from our Diocese team.
2. Developing ministries for children, youth and families remains high on our prayer and planning agenda. A new couple who moved to the Island recently have some interest in pursuing this with us. **Please keep praying that the right people and the right timing will bring this into a flourishing ministry in the next 12 months.**

3. Developing our part in God's mission by supporting gospel workers globally with prayer and giving to partnerships with CMS, BCA, Schools Ministry Group and the work of Anglicare.

And finally we are very excited to know that we are to have a covenant between KI Anglican and KI Lutheran Church – the two Bishops have agreed to sign the paper we drafted. This will make our current informal agreement for cooperation and shared ministries a united solid foundation for ongoing gospel ministry together.

God is good; God is kind; God is able. Pray for God's people on KI to grow in trust and dependence on God's steadfast love and faithfulness.



We are ever grateful for your prayers and encouragement,

Mary & Owen

Pray for

**our work on
Kangaroo Island**

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