

Lewis's Latest

with Mary & Owen Lewis • September 2025



At one time you all had your backs turned to God, ... but now, by giving himself completely at the Cross, actually dying for you, Christ brought you over to God's side and put your lives together, whole and holy in his presence.

Colossians 1:21–22 (The Message)

'Christ brought you over'. What a great thing to celebrate, especially in the company of those who have also been 'brought over', and even more in the company of those still having 'their backs turned to God'.

We celebrate the certain hope we have that Christ desires to bring over ALL – that Jesus has done what is needed and is waiting; waiting that those with their backs turned to God will feel the nudge to turn around and see the steadfast mercy of God and say "Yes!".

Island Vistas

Vista 1 – Next week

Our congregations are being nudged by God to work with young people so my first step is to become a Pastoral Care Worker at the Kingscote campus of KI Community Education (the KI R–12 school with campuses at Parndana, Penneshaw and Kingscote).

Please pray that the school community of students, staff and parents will be drawn to Jesus to "bring them over and put their lives together in God's presence". I will make my first visit to the school next Wednesday to map out the work with staff.

Vista 2 – Last Thursday - by Viv Lewis (Owen's sister who works on the Island as a nanny)

Kingscote this morning – just a regular day; lapwing chicks running on the road, dolphins in the bay and a bagpiper playing the theme from Outlander down on the beach (not Owen).

We were watching the dolphins, when a wraith-like man in shorts and an 80s parka emerged on the path from the beach. He glanced at us and smiled with the reluctance of someone caught raiding the fridge at midnight. I did my usual Lewis beam back and then noticed that he was carrying deflated pipes the way someone might carry a sportsbag.

I said, "Oh, it was you!"

He mumbled something in his defence and ducked some imaginary missile. "It was beautiful" I said, undeterred. "I was transported", I said, except I almost yelled it.

"Oh." he said. His shoulders twitched. "I suppose that's good," he said. And his voice was as wraith-like as his appearance.

He carried on down the path, scampering almost, pipes in hand, reef-sandals in the other.



Banner Image: Cape du Couedic Lighthouse, Kangaroo Island

Circle Image: Mary & Owen

Side Image: Tramping in the hills



Watching the dolphins near Kingscote

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I had thought then that I should tell him about Owen (and his pipes). I had images of two lone pipers meeting on the beach.

I called after him, but he didn't hear me. I called again, louder, "Excuse me", and yes, Lewis to the hilt, I called even louder, "EX-cuse ME". His scampering gait did not falter, and he disappeared over the hill.

Vista 3 – Last night, our living room, dinner finished, Bible study starting

The front door opens, letting in a cold wind. H rushes in, smiling and hugging.

"Welcome", I said, "When did you get back?"

"Two weeks ago," she said, "But I've been unwell. Caught a bug in Darwin. But I decided to start coming to Bible Study." Then she reached into her bag and brought out a crumpled little book and waved it at me.

"Do you have another one of these? I've been using it for months now while I've been away (on a two month holiday) and I really need a new one. It is so good to be using it every day. God is working so hard in so many places, and I just love being part of it in my daily prayers!"

I reached for the little book. "I think there are more in the church porch," I said, " ... but

wait, I have one on my desk." I headed into the study to grab the latest Prayer Notes from BCA to give her.

It is so good when people pray, and we really notice it as God works through prayers to not only bring about action but also draw people into the action and grow their passions for ministry.

Give thanks for people who pray for the ministry on KI each month and ring or write to tell us and encourage us. Very special!

Also, give thanks for our Regional Officer John Warner – such a wise encourager with great gospel energy.

Vista 4 – St Columba's Penneshaw, one Saturday morning in August

Digging, spreading, compacting, rolling, connecting, dusting, polishing, emptying, filling, boiling, feeding, talking, praying, heavy lifting, painting, planting, deciding, mulling, consulting, ... WHAT A BUZZ!

Sixteen people from the parish (including our Lutheran family) came together to start putting St Columba's in order to be a centre of hospitality and warmth as well as a house of worship. Many practical and beautifying tasks were undertaken:

- the vestry was cleared out, cupboard space created

God is working so hard in so many places, and I just love being part of it in my daily prayers!

and the beginnings of a kitchenette installed

- access to the toilet was improved with a new solid path built and lighting installed
- the outside of the toilet was painted
- a native garden was planted
- the sign supports were painted and the sign taken away to be renewed.

A new switchboard has also been installed.

Plans are in place for new floor coverings, reverse-cycle air conditioning, plumbing for the kitchen and then events to welcome the community.

Pray for God to open opportunities for this space to be warm and welcoming in Jesus' name and that disciples will grow. Thank God for parish volunteers and generous tradies.



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And another thing

If you come by St Albans on a Sunday afternoon you will hear the melodious sounds of Alban Voices rehearsing – a new singing group tackling various genres and enjoying learning to sing together. Keep praying that the love of singing will make friendships and connections that will introduce people to Jesus. Pray for Owen as he makes connections through band and other music.

We also have a Hymn-Sing-Gig on the first Sunday evening of each season – 7 September was the last one and then Christmas Carols, both in the Town and in the Church in mid-December.

Give thanks for opportunities to share with churches in the Diocese about the work of BCA and encourage a zeal for sharing the Gospel.

Give thanks for visitors with BCA connections who visit and drop by to meet us and encourage us. Thank you so much – and thank you God for them.

Please pray for us on Tuesdays (Penneshaw) and Thursdays (Kingscote) as we gather around the table to share delicious food and the nourishing Word.

Please pray for our children and grandchildren who all need God's ongoing protection and encouragement as they seek to know Jesus and grow in faith.

Praise God that our daughter-in-law's Dad has at last got a place in residential care which is located very closeby to them.



**Blessings and thanks,
Mary & Owen**

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about Bush Church Aid who support us on Kangaroo Island

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