What's been happening in 2026

The Rev'd Dr Joan Riley, Principal

The academic year is drawing to a close for 2026 and it's time to look back and reflect on the year and look forward to what comes next. The College has been accredited with University of Divinity for four years now and I have been Principal for almost five years. We currently have the highest student numbers since we began with Charles Sturt University in 2011, and we now offer more programs than ever. We have seen several important initiatives achieved since 2022 which I think it is good to mark and celebrate.

Community of Learning: In 2022 as we began the process of reimagining what St Barnabas College's next phase would look like and building on from the aspirations of my former Principal colleagues, we established a Community of Learning as one of the three pillars of operations of the College. The work of the Community of Learning took shape through 2023 and in 2024 and beyond serious work was undertaken. The Community of Learning sits alongside academic higher education and ordination formation, two other pillars which have been the traditional work of a theological college. The Community of Learning is responsible for lay disciple education, professional development of clergy and church workers, and other training programs as required. A full-time Coordinator of Education Programs, Ms Caralyn Lammas was employed to lead the Community of Learning offerings.

A major program of education for lay disciples has been the Archbishop's Certificate. In this program participants are required to complete four modules to achieve the Certificate. Some disciples have done all the modules and many are eager for more. The core modules are: Handling the Bible, The Lay Leader's Toolbox, Being Anglican, and Understanding Pastoral Care. Other units include Praying with the Psalms, Listening for God, Sharing your Faith, Enriching Spirituality. New modules for 2027 will include **Aboriginal Cultures and Spirituality, Disabilities, Neurodivergence and Inclusion.** A module in Children's and Youth Ministry is also being prepared.

The Archbishop's Certificate modules have all been held in parishes (including Kangaroo Island), except for an intensive week which was held in September at the College. The Lay Leader's Toolbox has also been offered in the Diocese of the Murray.

In May 2026 a graduation ceremony was held at St Luke's Church, Whitmore Square with 30 people receiving their Archbishop's Certificate. We are very grateful to our amazing teachers – Bishop Tim Harris, Rev'd Canon Jenny Wilson, Rev'd Helen Phillips, Rev'd Sally Sandford-Morgan, Rev'd Dr Matthew Anstey, Rev'd Dr Gethzi Devasagayam, Rev'd Margaret Peel-Shakespeare, and Ms Caralyn Lammas. All of these people have taught out of a passion for teaching and sharing the good news of God and have done this free of charge. I am so very humbled by their offering and want to say ***Thank You***.

Another new course offered in 2026 is Understanding and Connecting with Rainbow People and Communities. The course comes out of the desire for better understanding and inclusion of all people within God's Church. Caralyn has been leading this course with Mr Peter Burke, an experienced educator and well-known across the Diocese for his work with Anglicare and in engaging parishes and communities.

St Barnabas Centre for Clinical Pastoral Education: It became clear early in the process of reimagining St Barnabas College that there was a gap for clergy and lay chaplains in Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE). This course provides essential training for clinical and other ministry settings. It is an intense learning experience and equips people for the hard work of meeting people in times of crisis and struggle. CPE courses began at the College as fulltime, needing to be completed in a semester. We heard how difficult this was for students and in 2026 we trialled CPE across the full year. This format will continue in 2027. The Rev'd Peter Williams has been the Centre Director from the beginning in 2024 and he will continue as Director and Ms Susan McLeod will lead the group as the new CPE Educator from 2027.

Students can enrol in CPE either as part of their University of Divinity award which is worth two units and attracts FEE-HELP, or they can enrol as a private student. The cost of the course is $2,600. Students doing CPE as an extra-ordination requirement may be eligible for course subsidy. Enquiries can be made to the Registrar Ms Sarah Lawson registrar@sbc.edu.au

Year 12 Theology and EQuip

An initiative of St Barnabas College and a pilot nationally is the offering of theological education units to students in SACE programs (Years 11 and 12). Students enrol in two foundational units in theology, ministry or associated disciplines accredited with University of Divinity. The units are taken in place of one full-year SACE subject and contribute toward a student's ATAR. Adelaide University and Flinders University offer foundational units in various programs which SACE students can enrol in, but Theology is unique to St Barnabas College/University of Divinity.

The program began at St Peter's College in 2024 and attracted a small cohort of Year 12s. Units offered included Foundations for Theology and Liturgical Theology and Practice. Additionally, some staff undertook a Graduate Certificate in Theology as

professional development, studying alongside Year 12s. In 2025 the Year 12 numbers expanded and in 2026 over 30 students enrolled. The program at St Peter's College is led by Rev'd Dr Theo McCall.

Alongside the St Peter's College Year 12 Theology program St Barnabas College created an expanded program called EQuip which is open to all SACE students, including year 11s. In 2026 we piloted EQuip with Pedare Christian College with students undertaking Foundations for Theology. In 2027 EQuip will continue and we hope will attract students from Pedare and other schools. SACE students from any school, private or public are eligible to enrol in this exclusively online and SACE only program. New units will include Introduction to Greco-Roman History, Early Judaism and Christianity, and From Pentecost to Chalcedon: The Development of the Church.

Please pray for this program and for the movement of the Holy Spirit within these young people, new disciples who will become leaders in a rapidly changing world.

Centre for Missional Research and Praxis

Recognising the gap in missional research in an Australian context and the growing urgency of engaging Anglican communities with mission St Barnabas College established the St Barnabas Centre for Missional Research and Praxis. Bishop Tim Harris, a pioneer in fresh expressions and other missional initiatives, drove the project and was Centre Director. Good groundwork has been made and following Bishop Tim's retirement in June 2026 Rev'd Dr Lyndon Shakespeare will take over the role as fulltime Senior Lecturer and Director of Missional Praxis in January 2027. Lyndon has already begun planning the work of the Centre, which will include establishing strong relationships with parishes and other places undertaking missional work. Watch this space!

South Sudanese Education and Formation Program

For decades the Diocese of Adelaide has had large worshipping communities of South Sudanese people. Adelaide has had a long tradition of welcoming South Sudanese, but it has not always been easy for congregations to find their place and for worship leaders to gain licences from the Archbishop. Most of the adult Sudanese migrants to Australia have experienced the trauma of war and civil violence. Most have lived for years, even decades, in refugee camps in neighbouring countries waiting for a chance to move to a new home. These people have had disrupted education and when coming to Australia have been unable to undertake the university education for a degree in theology because they simply do not have the basics. This has generally precluded them from being licensed for ordained ministry.

The people are nonetheless called by God to become ordained leaders in the Anglican Church. Following the encouragement of Bishop William Deng and Bishop Sophie Relf-

Christopher, and with the blessing of the then Archbishop Geoff Smith, St Barnabas College began an 18-month program of education and ministry formation with a group of South Sudanese leaders. The education has been non-accredited, although with assessments, and the formation has been equally intense as the regular formation program. I am very grateful to The Rev'd Deborah Jeanes, The Rev'd Jude Benton, The Ven Sam Goodes, Bishop Sophie Relf-Christopher, Bishop William Deng, The Rev'd Dr Gethzi Devasagayam, The Rev'd Dr Lyndon Shakespeare, Archbishop Brad Billings, and Dr Damian Szepessy for their contributions over the 18-month program.

It is a great joy to see this program come to a conclusion, with five people prepared for ordination (or recognition of orders). God willing, we will celebrate together the commitment and calling of Elizabeth Aguto, Abraham Garang, Abraham Biar, Martha Ajith, Monica Mayen on 28 November at St Peter's Cathedral. Thanks be to God!

Ordination Formation

Forming people for ordained ministry has been a traditional focus of St Barnabas College and this work continues. In February 2026 Rev'd Jude Benton answered the call to serve in Adelaide and take on the role of Coordinator of Ministry Discernment and Formation. In this important work Jude is building on foundations laid by Rev'd Margaret Peel-Shakespeare who now works as our neighbour at St Peter's Cathedral, Bishop Denise Ferguson, and Rev'd Julie Worrall.

Jude has hit the ground running in 2026 with the largest cohort the College has had in many years, from Seekers, Discernment, Formation and Ministry Praxis (post-ordination). Jude's hard work has reshaped the program to be inclusive and more realistic. She brings the experience of rural ministry shaped by overseas church (New Zealand-Aotearoa) and an evangelical perspective. Jude is currently studying a Graduate Diploma in Arts (Psychology) through Massey University in New Zealand. Her latest subject was Assessment of Individual Differences. Jude writes: 'This was a useful subject to increase my knowledge and understanding of the psychometric assessment that candidates are required to participate in, as well as considering best practice for receiving reliable data about people through assessment, interviews and reports.'

October has been **Vocations Month** and the ordination candidates, Jude and I have preached in different churches, speaking about vocational calling and the blessings of ministry. Thank you to those churches who have received and supported the ordination candidates. On 24 October we held the first **Seekers Day** at the College. The event was well attended by enthusiastic people seeking to understand God's call in their lives. Archbishop Brad Billings addressed the group and there was a panel of people reflecting on their vocational calling as distinctive deacon, lay leader, chaplain, priest, and academic.

I hope you will gather at St Peter's Cathedral on **Saturday 28 November at 10 am** to rejoice in the ordination as deacon of Cooper Davis, Anna Zweck, Virginia Shek, Susan McLeod, and Jack Hamer, in addition to the South Sudanese cohort mentioned above. We will also rejoice in the ordination of The Rev'd Ben Falcon as priest and the recognition of holy orders of The Rev'd Monica Mayen.

If you are interested in finding out more about the ordination formation process in the Diocese of Adelaide, please contact Jude on formation@sbc.edu.au

Academic Higher Education 2026 and 2027

Another pillar of St Barnabas College has been academic higher education in theology and ministry. We have been blessed in 2026 by staff and sessional lecturers who have contributed to the high-quality academic education we have offered across several disciplines. The year began with a CPE summer intensive led by Rev'd Roslyn Wright, an academic who has moved to Melbourne. In Semester 1 we offered The Gospel of Matthew (Dr Michael Trainor), Signs and Gifts of God (Prof Brian Douglas), Forming Communities (Dr Tim Harris), Exploring the Old Testament (Dr Joseph Chung), Introductory Koine Greek (Dr Joan Riley), Foundations for Theology (Dr Mike Bartholomaeus), Foundations for Theology (Dr Theo McCall – St Peter's College). CPE ran for both semesters (The Rev'd Peter Williams).

In the mid-semester break nine scholars connected with St Barnabas College gave academic papers at the prestigious International Meeting of the **Society of Biblical Literature** in Adelaide.

In Semester 2 we offered Exploring the New Testament (Dr Akilan Arokiasamy), Leadership Formation and Praxis (Dr Lyndon Shakespeare), Growing Faith (Dr Brad Billings), Homiletics (Associate Prof Dr Matthew Anstey), Who is Jesus (Dr Rodney Fopp), Intermediate Koine Greek (Dr Damian Szepessy), Liturgical Theology and Practice (Dr Theo McCall – St Peter's College), Foundations for Theology (Dr Damian Szepessy – EQuip).

All this is in addition to the non-accredited South Sudanese program and the Community of Learning courses.

It is good to look back and see how much we have offered to the Adelaide Anglicans community. For a small college we are punching well above our weight.

What's next?

We are preparing for another big year in 2027, including a **study tour to Greece!** You can find details of this tour attached. The tour can contribute toward a biblical studies unit, and we are in the process of determining how much of the tour cost can be claimed from FEE-HELP for enrolled students. The tour is also open to anyone who is interested in this amazing opportunity for learning. The tour will be led by Dr Michael Trainor, who is

well-experienced in leading overseas biblical lands tours, and Dr Joan Riley. An English-speaking tour guide will accompany the group, and we will see and do so many things.

2027 units

Semester 1

- CPE
- Introductory Hebrew
- Exploring the Old Testament
- Foundations for Theology (SBC based and St Peter's College Year 12 program)
- From Pentecost to Chalcedon: The Development of the Church (SBC based and EQuip)
- The Prophetic Literature
- Being Anglican
- The Doctrine of the Trinity
- Letters of Paul
- Introduction to Greco-Roman History (EQuip)

Semester 2

- CPE
- Gospel and Epistles of John
- European Reformations
- Liberating Mission
- Exploring the New Testament
- Introduction to Anglican Ecclesiology
- Intermediate Hebrew
- Bible Study Tour: Engaging the Acts of the Apostles and the Letters of Paul (September/October)
- Early Judaism and Christianity (EQuip)

If you are interested in enrolling in any units either stand alone or as part of a course of study, please contact Sarah Lawson, Academic Registrar registrar@sbc.edu.au

For course advice and study plans please contact Dr Damian Szepessy, Academic Dean dszepessy@sbc.edu.au