

## TIME CAPSULE TAKES US BACK

*Written by John Satterley*



*Left: Rev. Zinkoo display the Capsule for received and Right: Rev. Zinkoo handing the Capsule to Parishioner to check the content*

Parishioners at ME got a glimpse of pastoral activities at St. James' more than a century ago when Hamra Library presented us with documents from that era earlier this year.

The items were in a rusted metal time capsule that had been placed behind the marble foundation stone of the Thebarton Community Centre at 10 Falcon Avenue, Mile End. West Torrens Council workers found the capsule when they demolished the centre to make way for a small park with playground that opened officially in July 2016 as Falcon Avenue Reserve.

Prior to its becoming a council-owned neighbourhood centre the building was the rectory of St James', a short distance away. This writer once worked at the drop-in centre as a volunteer LOTE (language other than English) instructor. He also remembers the rectory with affection when it was the home of Fr Charles Whitfield, rector from 1921 to 1957, and his wife Emily.

Documents from the capsule are in a labelled archival box in storage at St James'. The foundation stone is also in secure storage. It carries the inscription HOSPITALITATEM SECTANTES, Latin for pursuing hospitality. This is what was in the capsule:

Item 1: A note in ink stating that the foundation stone was laid on June 29 1912 by Mrs Wehrstedt, mother of the rector. The note includes the following names of people associated with the project: the Archbishop Rt Rev A.N. Thomas; Archdeacon Cecil Wilson; the rector at St James' Rev W. F. Wehrstedt; church wardens Messrs C.H. Beaumont and H.W. Ford; the building committee comprising the rector, wardens Messrs H.W. Kenwick and J.H. White; architect Mr S. Schuman; and builder Mr Zowe, Rose Street, Mile End.

Item 2: A copy of *Parish Paper* No. 12, Vol. 11 dated June 1912, published for St James'. It is slightly less than A4 in size and is folded in two to make four pages. A

picture of St James' main altar looking truly impressive is on the cover and church activities are reported under various headings.

The rector, Rev. Walter F. Wehrstedt, in a Pastoral Letter expresses "a word about regularity in making our communions. We shall never make progress unless we look upon our church duties as rules to be rigidly kept," he writes. "This applies to many (some lads especially) who are fitful in making their communions."

*"We shall never make progress unless we look upon our church duties as rules to be rigidly kept" by Rev. Walter*

The publication reports acceptance of a tender by the building committee for construction of a church rectory and notes that this had been made possible by a Church Office loan of £1,000 at 4½ per cent.

Item 3: A copy of *The Adelaide Church Guardian* for June 1912, Vol. V1, No. 9. It has 16 pages numbered 329 to 344. The masthead notes it is published on the third Friday of each month and the cover price is one penny.

Item 4: A copy of Adelaide's broadsheet newspaper, *The Register*, dated June 28 1912 in poor condition. It has 12 pages and the first three carry advertisements only. Most readers would find the small printing-type a challenge, and reading time would be counted in hours.