



# THE ADVOCATE

*Inspired by God's love, through worship, prayer and scriptural reflection, we seek to live our Christ-centred values by meeting the needs of our communities through serving and accepting others.*

Issue: 096

Newspaper of the Anglican Diocese of Wangaratta | [www.wangaratta-anglican.org.au](http://www.wangaratta-anglican.org.au)

September 2020



We are part of the  
'Whole'  
Part of creation.  
Part of beauty.  
Part of the tangle.  
Part of the rhythms and  
seasons.  
Part of a higher, wider,  
deeper Presence.  
Part of a spiritual flow  
through our Christian  
faith.  
Part of the problem, as  
humans, at this time of  
climate crisis and mass  
extinction.  
And, please God, part of  
the solution.

Brian Draper in 'Soulful Nature: A Spiritual Field Guide', Canterbury Press.

Inside the Advocate  
this month .....

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**MU Australia**  
Part of the World Wide Mothers' Union

## News from Mothers' Union

BY MARY MUNTZ

This year has been distressing for everyone although the people of the Diocese have not suffered to the same extent as Melbourne metropolitan communities. The opportunity to meet and talk together at the Cathedral to celebrate both Lady Day and Mary Sumner Day was not to be this year.

As a very weary traveller after a recent day trip to Melbourne, I was reminded of the hours that our MU counterparts travel in the Dioceses of Australia's north. The North Queensland Diocese was formed in 1909. The North West Diocese was created in 1910 and is the largest Anglican Diocese in the Anglican Church. The Diocese of Rockhampton was formed in 1911. Together they cover the vast northern spaces of our island nation. As part of our branch activities a special event is held each year to raise money for a specific Overseas project and also funding for MU activities in the three Northern Dioceses. These have not been possible this year as large gatherings have not been permitted.

In her Centenary book of Australian Mothers' Union, Avis Matheson mentioned that "The Overseas Department of the Central Council in England regarded Australia as one of the 'colonies' and obviously accepted that it was an English responsibility to fund and promote the work and expansion of MU, particularly in outback areas." It is quite possible that Mothers' Union would not have progressed across Northern Australia so rapidly without this assistance. " The Australian Central Council of Mothers' Union in the British Empire was formed at a meeting held in Bishops Court in Melbourne in May 1925. In 1940 the Central Council in England asked each of their members to give a penny to help fund the overseas work now supported in Australia. London suggested that Australian Central Council may be able to devise a way for Australian members to fund the work that was supported by England. The Australian Central Council decided that, with all the extra stress and strain in England at the time, we take over the English commitment of 150 pounds for two years". From that time Australian MU members have supported Overseas work.

# Sean Makes a Difference

BY LYN RICHARDSON

Sean Howison, a year 7 student at Wodonga Middle Years College, wanted to make a difference.

Sean had been following stories from New York about people who were inventing ear savers and mask extenders for doctors and nurses. Wearing masks for long periods of time during the Covid 19 pandemic was resulting in sore and irritated ears.

Sean decided to investigate and experimented with

some designs of his own. By changing and adapting these and with the help of his 3D printer he came up with his idea.

Sean created an extender that attaches to the mask's elastics and wraps around the wearer's head, so easing the pressure on the ears which people were finding uncomfortable.

Sean had also been concerned by the devastation caused by the summer bushfires in his region. He had read of an organization called

Fencing for Fires which was helping farmers repair their fences damaged in the fires. He rang the organizer, Jamie, and asked if he could make the extenders and sell them for \$1.00 each with all proceeds going towards Fencing for Fires.

Sean's next step was to set up a Facebook page and soon he had nearly 200 followers. He has since sold over 2000 mask extenders which have been posted to Queensland, Perth, Melbourne, Sydney and wherever they have

been needed.

Sean's mother Sue has designed a mask suitable for those who need to see facial expressions for communication, which can also include lip reading.

This young man, motivated by his desire to help people in these difficult times is certainly making a difference. For enquiries or orders find Sean at Facebook.com/Sean Howison 3D Prints or email seanhowison3Dprints@gmail.com.

# Restoration of St Luke's, Yea

BY REVD CANON EDEN-ELIZABETH NICHOLLS

The fourth stage of repairs to St Luke's Anglican Church in Yea will soon begin, ensuring that it builds on its 150 year history of providing the local community with a place of worship.

The work is made possible from the generous donations of locals to the National Trust 150th Restoration Appeal that commenced in 2018 to mark the 150th anniversary of St Luke's, as well as grants from The Collier Charitable Fund.

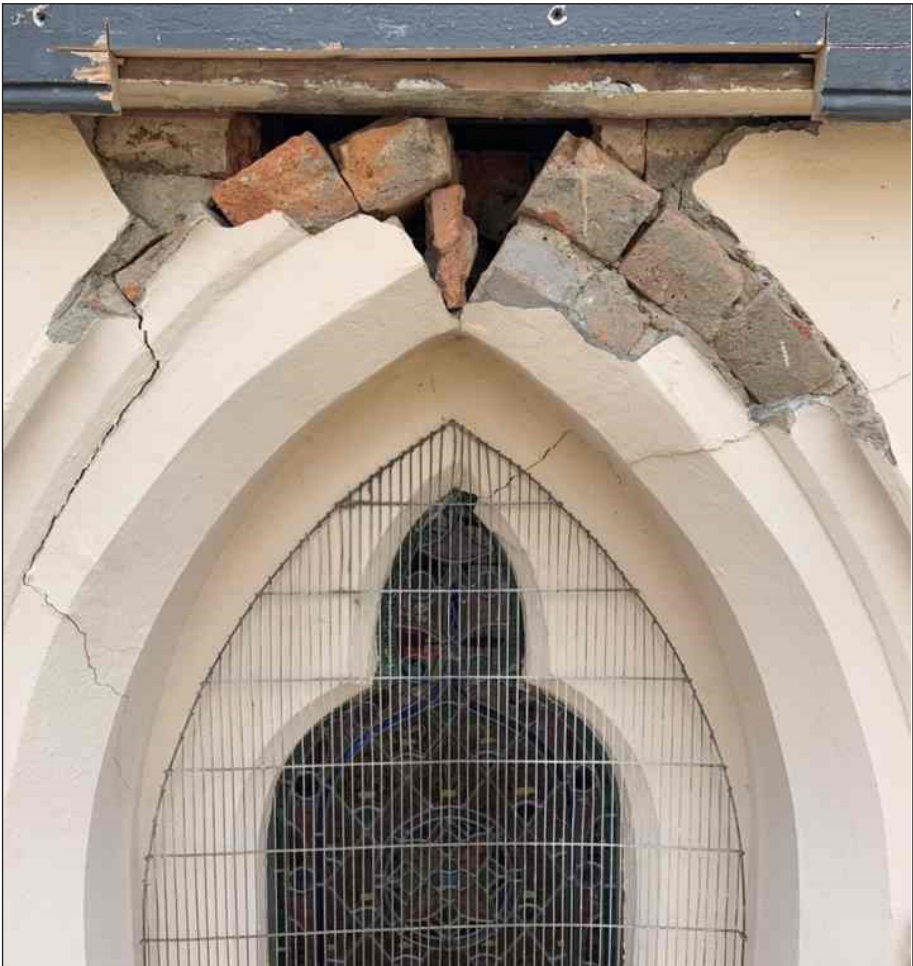
St Paul's Cathedral and the Old Treasury building in Melbourne and, locally, the Yea Butter Factory.

"We are very pleased with the restoration work done and we thank all our supporters for helping us restore a building that has been at the heart of this community through wars, fires and floods, and for births, marriages and funerals, for over 150

years," said The Reverend Canon, Eden-Elizabeth Nicholls (Mother Eden).

Abode Restoration will also carry out the fourth stage, returning to repair the roof structure of St Luke's to prevent water ingress and damage and other repairs to the building fabric.

There is still further work required to complete the restoration.





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Anglican Diocese of Wangaratta



The first stage of restoration saw the repair of two stained glass windows that were in urgent need of a complete restoration. This was completed in 2018 by Honeysuckle Glass of Bendigo.

The second stage was the preparation of a report by heritage architects, Lovell Chen, that identified other restoration work urgently needed, including priorities and cost estimates. A copy of this report is available on St Luke's website.

The third stage repaired the window moulds and other cracks in the walls, with work carried out by Abode Restoration who have worked on restoring many heritage buildings including St Mark's Basilica in Venice,

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## CONTACT US

**GENERAL ENQUIRIES, DESIGN & PRODUCTION**  
Fiona van Bree  
Tel: (03) 5721 3484  
[registry@wangeratta-anglican.org.au](mailto:registry@wangeratta-anglican.org.au)  
[www.wangeratta-anglican.org.au](http://www.wangeratta-anglican.org.au)

**Printed by North East Media, Wangaratta, Victoria**

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## DETAILS

The Advocate Newspaper is published by the Anglican Diocese of Wangaratta and is distributed across the Diocese in the 1st week of every month (excluding January).

**EDITORIAL & ADVERTISING CONTRIBUTIONS**  
Diocese of Wangaratta  
PO Box 457, Wangaratta VIC 3677  
[registry@wangeratta-anglican.org.au](mailto:registry@wangeratta-anglican.org.au)  
Tel: (03) 5721 3484

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*Editorial deadline is the 16th of each month (excluding December).*

*Contributions and photos are welcome (please limit to approximately 300 words) for consideration for publication dependent on space and content with the understanding that they may be edited. Pictures should be provided as a high resolution JPEG (200dpi) or Tiff if possible*

**SAFE CHURCH**  
*The Anglican Diocese of Wangaratta has zero tolerance for abuse. We are committed to providing a safe, respectful, welcoming and positive environment for children and adults from all backgrounds.*

*If you have experienced abuse or suspect abuse may be occurring in a church setting or by a member of the church you should report this as soon as possible to the Director of Professional Standards on 1800 377 842 (1800 DPSVIC) or email [professionalstandards@wangeratta-anglican.org.au](mailto:professionalstandards@wangeratta-anglican.org.au).*

*For more information on our Safe Church policies and procedures contact the Safe Church and Systems Officer on 03 5721 3484.*



# Christian Prayer Flags

BY REVD CANON EDEN-ELIZABETH NICHOLLS

During the first COVID-19 suspension of services, I utilised “Sheltering in Faith - praying together and nurturing ourselves creatively while we are physically separated”, as the basis for our weekly pew sheets and prayers.

Traditionally, Tibetan prayer flags are used to promote peace, compassion, strength and wisdom. The flags do

not carry prayers to the gods, rather the Tibetans believe the prayers and mantras will be blown by the wind to spread the good will and compassion into all pervading spaces. In recent years, Christian prayer flags have started to appear, using Christian symbols as signs of faith, love, peace and goodwill, etc.

As a way of visually celebrating our coming together again as a community of faith, I asked

each person to make one (or more) prayer flags, by decorating a piece of fabric or paper with Christian symbols, words, etc. On the first Sunday we gathered again for worship, they were pinned on the notice board and I said a blessing and thanksgiving for the people’s creativity and involvement in the life of the parish and wider community. The flags will eventually be on permanent display in the parish hall.



# Church Bell Refurbished

BY CAROLINE BURGE

In the last edition of The Advocate, there was a report on the ‘Roof being Crook at Tallarook!’ We are now pleased to report, that not only is the roof repaired, but the bell which was removed during the repair work, has been completely restored and polished.

What an amazing difference! The bell is believed to be the same age as the church, which would make it about 136 years old. Sadly weather over the years had tarnished it and it was not helped by being painted over during the painting of the church nearly ten years ago.

With cranes and machinery on site from Clymac Constructions to repair the roof, it was the ideal time for some love and care.

Whilst not the size and the sound of Cathedral bells around the world, it is a bell that rings throughout the small town of Tallarook for each service.



# Connecting with Parishioners

BY KATE COFFEY

During the lockdown period each fortnight, a team of people from St Cuthbert’s Yarrawonga, have been delivering pew sheets and church service booklets to those parishioners who are not

connected to the Internet. Our three youngest members of the team, Zoe Schweda, Tom Coffey and Ben Coffey, made the delivery last Saturday with a special gift of home made biscuits. Zoe Schweda said “I baked cookies to make their day during these tough

times. I liked seeing a smile on their faces.” In the words of today’s reading (Romans 12.4-8), each member of the church has their role to play, and we have all have gifts that God has given us.

# Training for Ministry

## When God calls, God equips!!!

The Trinity Certificate or the Bishop’s Certificate is now called the Australis Certificate for Ministry. We are inviting all [ readers, Eucharistic ministers, Lay ministers, Pastoral visitors, parishioners] who are interested to explore the courses offered in Australis to contact Revd André Du Plooy at [vocations@wangeratta-anglican.org.au](mailto:vocations@wangeratta-anglican.org.au) this course can be offered online. Interested? Its time to explore and grow in faith. You will be supported throughout the process. It will be challenging, yet nothing is impossible!!!



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# Bible Study Via Zoom

BY MOLLY CRAIG

COVID-19 restrictions have us using technology so much more. From videoing services and posting on Facebook, to holding parish and diocesan meetings via Zoom, in the Parish of Benalla we are now having bible study via Zoom as well.

For the past few weeks a group of parishioners has been meeting on Wednesday evenings to study Revelation. For a number of us, this is the first time that we've delved deeply into the last book of

the bible and it's extremely fascinating. Using 'Revelation – The Triumph of Christ' by John Stott as our guide, each week looks at a chapter of the book, asking us to think and dwell on what God is saying to the church and to us in our lives right now. Discussion has been very interesting and its fascinating to hear people's insights and understanding of the bible and hear about their spiritual journeys. Thank you to everyone involved for their openness and willingness to share.



## Tribute for 101 year old Ella Burt

BY DIANE GRANT

Ella Burt lived in Avenel for many years then resided in Karingal Aged Care facility Seymour. She celebrated her 100th birthday with residents, prior to her special day, and with some of her family on Friday. But on her actual day on Sunday, August 19, 2018 she had a colourful 100th party with family and friends, residents and staff in the gaily decorated dining room.

A few days later, the Anglican Mother's Union members held a celebratory service in

Christ Church Seymour for her 100th birthday followed by a lunch with her in the church hall. Her two daughters Gayle Clarke and Kaye Jones joined them for the day.

Ella had been a member of the church Young Wives, Caritas and the Mother's Union for over 70 years.

Sadly, Ella Burt passed away on Thursday, August 12 just shy of her 102nd birthday. Ella was farewelled at a ceremony at St Paul's Avenel, led by Rev. Richard Pennington, of the Anglican Parish of

Central Goulburn. Under the current COVID 19 restrictions only a small number of her families could attend the service.

But many of Ella's friends were thinking of them all that day and were sorry they could not be there to give comfort to her family.

Ella was a member of the Anglican church St Paul's at Avenel, a member of the Avenel Senior Citizens, Country Women's Association, Ladies Guild, Young Wives (now Mothers Union) and is now under the banner of

the Anglican Parish of Central Goulburn that covers St Paul's Avenel, St John's Nagambie and Christ Church Seymour.

Ella rode on the CWA float in Avenel's 150th Birthday celebrations in 1988. Ella and her dear friend Mona Burns, were also involved in Avenel's 175th celebration parade, when they rode through the town in Bob McGrath's red jaguar car.

PHOTO LEFT: Ella Burt with her daughter Kaye Jones at Karingal hostel

# Safe Church Awareness Workshop

Christ Church Seymour Hall,

4 Anzac Ave  
Seymour VIC 3660

9.30am - 4.00pm

Please arrive by 9.00 am to sign in

\$30 per person

BYO lunch

RSVP

Bookings close Friday 9th October  
Pre-registration is required  
Places are limited (40 max)

Registration

Register through Eventbrite on the following link or contact the Safe Church Officer, details below:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/safe-church-awareness-workshop-seymour-17-october-2020-tickets-110084313144>

Payment to be made on the day, or contact Diocese of Wangaratta, 03 5721 3484

Enquiries

Contact David Still through  
[safechurch@wangeratta-anglican.org.au](mailto:safechurch@wangeratta-anglican.org.au) for more details

Saturday 17 October 2020

Presented by the Baptist Unions of Vic and Tas, the Anglican Dioceses of Bendigo, Gippsland and Wangaratta, Uniting Church (Vic/Tas), Australian Christian Churches (Vic) and the Seventh Day Adventist Church (Vic), this workshop is intended to provide an introduction to Safe Church foundations, policies and procedures.

This introductory workshop is designed for all congregational members, all ministry leaders, children, youth and family leaders.

We will be covering:

- duty of care, codes of conduct, power, transparency and accountability
- protecting vulnerable people, indicators of abuse, responding to abuse and protective behaviours
- training, recruiting and supervising leaders
- how to establish and run safe church ministry programs (risk management)



Endorsed National Council of Churches in Australia Safe Church Training Agreement

The Baptist Unions of Victoria and Tasmania, the Uniting Church (Vic/Tas), the Anglican Diocese of Bendigo and Gippsland, Australian Christian Churches (Vic) and the Seventh Day Adventist Church (Vic) have joined with other denominations in recognising the Safe Church Awareness Workshops of other denominations as part of the National Council of Churches in Australia's SAFE CHURCH TRAINING AGREEMENT (SCTA). Safe Church Training will be carried out by endorsed training partners based on national standards and recognised by all the SCTA members.



# Wattles are Wonderful

BY ROSS SMITH

This beautiful time of year has arrived when increasing warmth begins to stimulate new growth and the blossom on our Wattles. Just look around your garden, street, park or bushland! Wherever you are in Australia you will see an Acacia plant - a wattle. Lengthening hours of daylight make work and recreation more pleasant. Springtime tends to change everyone’s approach to life with a more positive and hopeful attitude.

Acacias can be found throughout the warmer parts of the world in Africa, Asia, and the Americas, but it is in Australia where Acacias are by far the largest group of flowering plants. And it is only in Australia that Acacias are known as wattles. Australia has almost 1000 different Acacias out of the 1350 worldwide. In Australia wattles grow almost anywhere but are most common in the drier areas - the arid and semi-

arid regions. Wattles are versatile, used in the past to extract tannin used for tanning leather, but can also be used in making adhesives, preserving ropes and nets, making dyestuffs, corrosion inhibitors and as pharmaceutical products. The left-over bark from the tannin extracting process was called tanbark. This was often reused as a mulch or path covering. The Tan, the 4 km path around the Royal Botanic Gardens in Melbourne was once spread with tan bark.

Wattles are grown for their flowers, foliage and their seeds. For medicinal benefits the tannin rich inner bark and gums of wattles have therapeutic effects, and this has been known to Indigenous peoples since time immemorial.

Wattle-and-daub huts were common in the early days of settlement in Australia. Branches and saplings were cut and woven onto wooden frames to create panels

called wattles. This wattle-work was then daubed with mud and dung to fill the gaps. A hut could be built in a day and dried out that night by burning a fire inside.

Wattles improve the environment. Wattles are members of the Pea family and fix nitrogen into the soil. Acacias can thrive under adverse soil conditions. Combine this with their rapid growth due to nitrogen fixing root nodules, wattles can grow where no tree has thrived before. An outstanding quality of the acacia is that though the plants are usually killed by a severe fire, seeds are able to persist in the soil, germinating rapidly and regenerating areas ravaged by fire.

So as we begin to notice the iconic wattle displaying in all its beauty at this time of year in our environment, we too can Abound in Hope that we can rejuvenate and blossom as a faith community.



# Small Visitors – ‘attention is the beginning of devotion’

BY REV'D CANON SCOTT JESSUP

During the time of the recent Covid-19 restrictions I have been turning my eye to some of the smallest visitors to the Rutherglen Vicarage Garden – insects.

Over a period of a week I managed to photograph and identify dozens of insect species – butterflies, hoverflies, native bees, grasshoppers and flies. Many of them I couldn’t immediately identify, and had to work out what they were – including the amazing Golden Drone Fly (an important native pollinator that masquerades as a bee with its body form and markings in order to fool its predators into thinking that it may have a sting!)

Insects are vital for the health of our environment, yet science tells us that they are declining at an alarming rate across the world.

As individuals we can play our part in helping to contribute to insect survival – we can avoid using pesticides in our gardens and go organic; we can be



more aware of the small insects and critters in our garden – look out for the small and less significant things that you might otherwise miss and try to identify them; we can build ‘insect hotels’ – structures

with small horizontal holes that can become nests for insects; and we can plant native plants and other plants (Catmint, Oregano, Mints, Daisies, Thyme, Borage) that provide food for insects.

# “Apocalypse Never”

BY REVD JOHN JESSOP

The full title of the book recently published by Michael Shellenberger is, “APOCALYPSE NEVER – WHY ENVIRONMENT ALARMISM HURTS US ALL”. From what I have read so far, it is obvious that this is a very important book in the discussion on the relationship between humanity and the natural environment on which we all depend. Apart from the detailed, well referenced, content, the importance of the book is that it is written by a man who “has been fighting for a greener planet for decades”. What he writes is based on personal contact with those who have an intimate knowledge of the subjects under discussion.

It seems that Shellenberger was inspired to write the

book thanks, at least partly, to the violence sparked by ‘Extinction Rebellion’ in London. Following the news coverage associated with ‘Extinction Rebellion’ some key questions presented themselves. To quote Shellenberger, if “Life on Earth is dying,” why did anybody care that somebody got splashed with a little beet juice?’

Or, ‘even if climate change were going to kill millions of people, rather than billions, then the only reasonable conclusion to draw from Extinction Rebellion’s tactics is that they weren’t radical enough’. ‘But what, then, did they mean when they said climate change “is an enormous crisis”?’ If climate change isn’t an existential crisis, meaning a threat to human existence, or at least to civilization, then what kind

of crisis is it exactly?’

It struck Shellenberger that nobody was offering a particularly good answer to any of these questions and ‘because the conversation about climate change and the environment has, in the past few years spiralled out of control’.

For me, this paragraph in the Introduction to ‘Apocalypse Never’ should be the basis of any discussion we have on the environment. Shellenberger writes, ‘I have been an environmentalist for thirty years and researched and written on environmental issues, including climate change, for twenty of them. I do this work because I care deeply about my mission to not only protect the natural environment, but also to achieve the goal of universal prosperity for all people.’



This is a book that should be read by both teachers and children. It will help to dispel the fears inculcated by climate alarmists while providing sound advice on

how we should be caring for the environment which is vital if humanity is to thrive.

Note: there are several identifiers for the book. Here

is one: ISBN9780063074767 (international version)



# A new use for discarded floorboards

BY CAROLINE BURGE

In 2017 Christ Church Kilmore took on the massive project of completely renovating the church. The project was long overdue with damp walls, peeling paint, warped doors, and dangerous floorboards. The end result of the renovations was amazing.

In making the flooring safe, all the floorboards were removed. Some were so rotten they fell apart while being pulled up. The remainder of the floorboards were offered for sale, or free to a good home.

Later in 2017 Revd Paul Dalzell (currently locum in Mansfield) went to the Parish of Kilmore to be locum, following the resignation of Fr Kim Benton in April of that year.

Unbeknown to those in the parish at the time, Revd Paul had an amazing creative side, and once he heard of the used floorboards, he took them back to his home in Alexandra with a plan.

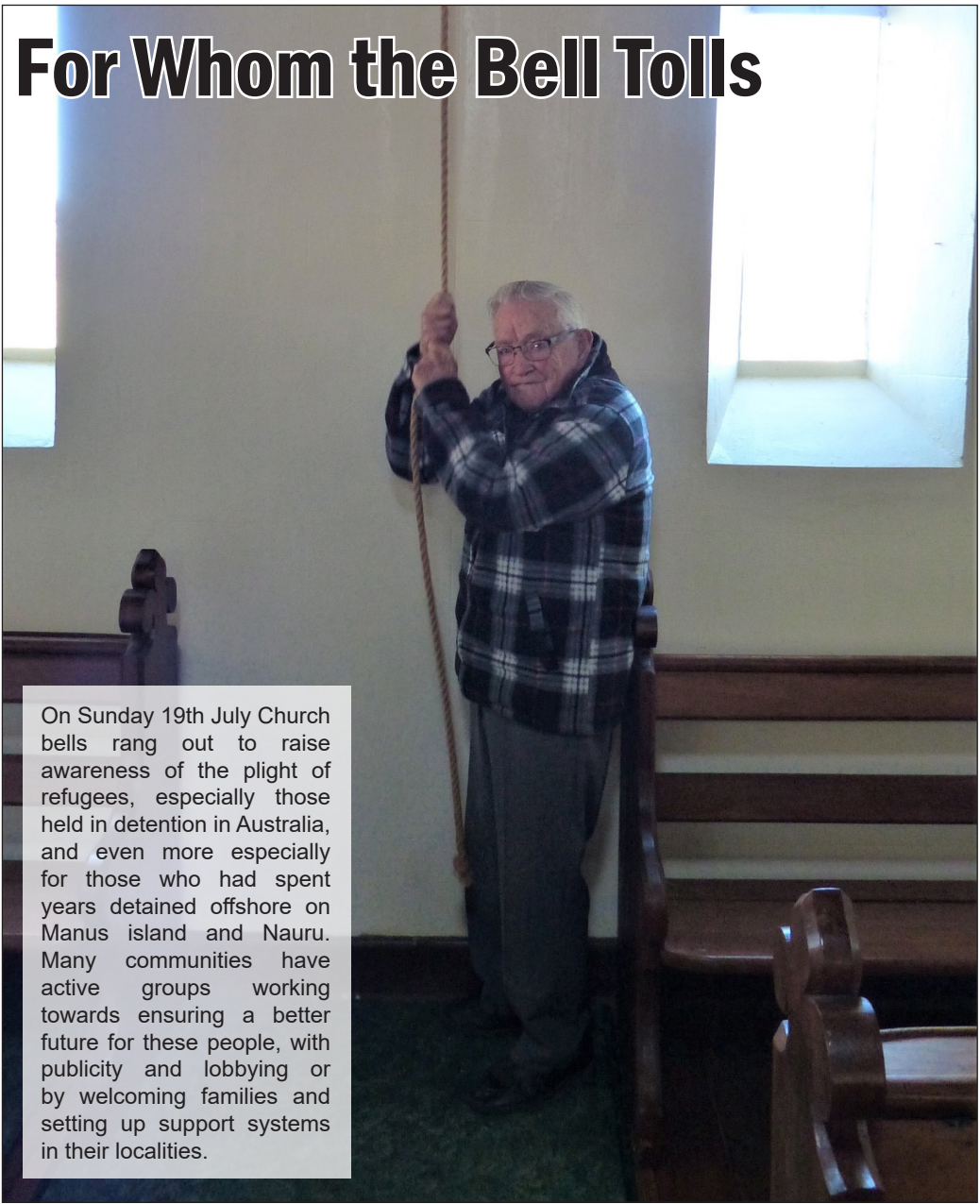
What an absolute joy it was to see a few of the end products in August this year. Two lamp stands and a storage box

(which was a reproduction of one his great grandfather made in the 1800s) were created using the wood. What a transformation from the old stained floorboards ripped up from Christ Church.

Thank you for sharing your God-given talents Revd Paul. How wonderful that these old floorboards, which had seen hundreds of parishioners walk on them over the years, can be enjoyed for future generations of your family.



# For Whom the Bell Tolls



On Sunday 19th July Church bells rang out to raise awareness of the plight of refugees, especially those held in detention in Australia, and even more especially for those who had spent years detained offshore on Manus island and Nauru. Many communities have active groups working towards ensuring a better future for these people, with publicity and lobbying or by welcoming families and setting up support systems in their localities.

## Looking Down the Valley

BY REV'D DR EDWIN BYFORD



We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. So begins the Nicene Creed. For fifteen hundred years this creed has been recited at celebrations of the Holy Communion. Additionally, Anglicans have said the Apostles' Creed at Morning and Evening Prayer for nearly the last five hundred years. Every day we assert that God is the creator of everything that there is. God alone is God. The universe is not God and has come into being as a result of divine activity.

Towards the end of the last century I became involved in a legal case concerning creationism. A decade earlier I had asked a Senior Fellow of the Research School of Earth Sciences at the Australian National University why eighteenth and nineteenth century geologists had started to think that the planet Earth was very old. Through all of my studies in the physical sciences and theology I have never come across a reason to question understandings that our universe is thousands of millions of years old and that complex life on our planet had emerged as a result of evolutionary processes. Christian theology did not undermine the science and science did not undermine Christian faith and theology.

It is not surprising that there is scientific and theological agreement about the place of human beings in the complex reality that is our planet. The Priestly writers of the first chapter of Genesis were relying on good observations of the world and contemporary understandings of the structure of what we would now call the universe. These great theologians describe the making of human beings with the same verb as the making of the wild beasts. The human beings are differentiated from the wild beasts in that they are in the image of God. This image is not physical and is generally understood as being moral and self-conscious.

When it comes to modern understandings of evolution, we find that what sets human beings apart is their self-consciousness. Not only do we know, we know that we know. We can analyse our thoughts and our motives. We think and we can think about what we think and why we think it. The evolution of self-consciousness is something that has taken thousands of millions of years on this incredible planet Earth. The physical and bio-chemical processes that have brought about this state of affairs are natural and ordinary. Human beings are a natural part of the complex environment that is planet Earth. Theologically and scientifically we understand ourselves as ordinary parts of the natural environment.

What is strange in much contemporary discussion of the environment is that human beings are portrayed as alien to the natural world. Even more strangely it is here that I find a correlation between "Green Environmentalism" and "Creationism". Both portray humans as categorically different from the rest of the natural world. It seems, for these, that we are not naturally part of the world.

If we take our theological heritage seriously and if we take our scientific understandings of life on this planet with the same sort of seriousness then we will begin to have some of the necessary tools for creatively interacting with the whole created natural world of which we are part. We are part of complex webs of interaction. We are self-conscious. We are moral beings with understandings of motives and consequences. Most of us will be well aware that good motives do not necessarily lead to good consequences. We get things wrong.

Into this Christians bring the liberating Good News of forgiveness and newness of life. When we stuff it up we bring the hope and promise of moving on from whatever it is that has gone wrong. It may be that we have to confess our own complicity in what has gone wrong. Always we will live with the consequences of our actions. We will bear the scars, just as in the resurrection our Lord bears the scars of the crucifixion.

There are no simple consequences when it comes to the very complex interactions in the environment of which we are individually and collectively part. Different perceptions will bring different evaluations. What looks good and worthwhile to some will look bad and dangerous to others. It is here that we can grasp the great insight of the creed with which I started. God is the maker of all that is, seen and unseen. For the fourth century Greeks, who put together this creed at Nicaea, the "unseen" are the institutions that give structure to the social realities that provide order to what can be chaos in human affairs. We have a series of political, legal, business, social, religious and communal institutions through which we make and remake decisions about our whole environment — seen and unseen.

At the moment we can see several different perceptions of what it is most important to do when it comes to Covid 19. It is not just a health problem. It is a complex reality for the whole physical, social and spiritual environment, seen and unseen. God has given us the tools for both understanding and manipulating our environment. God is Lord of all creation, seen and unseen, and from both theological and scientific foundations humans have self-conscious responsibility for what we do in our total environment.