



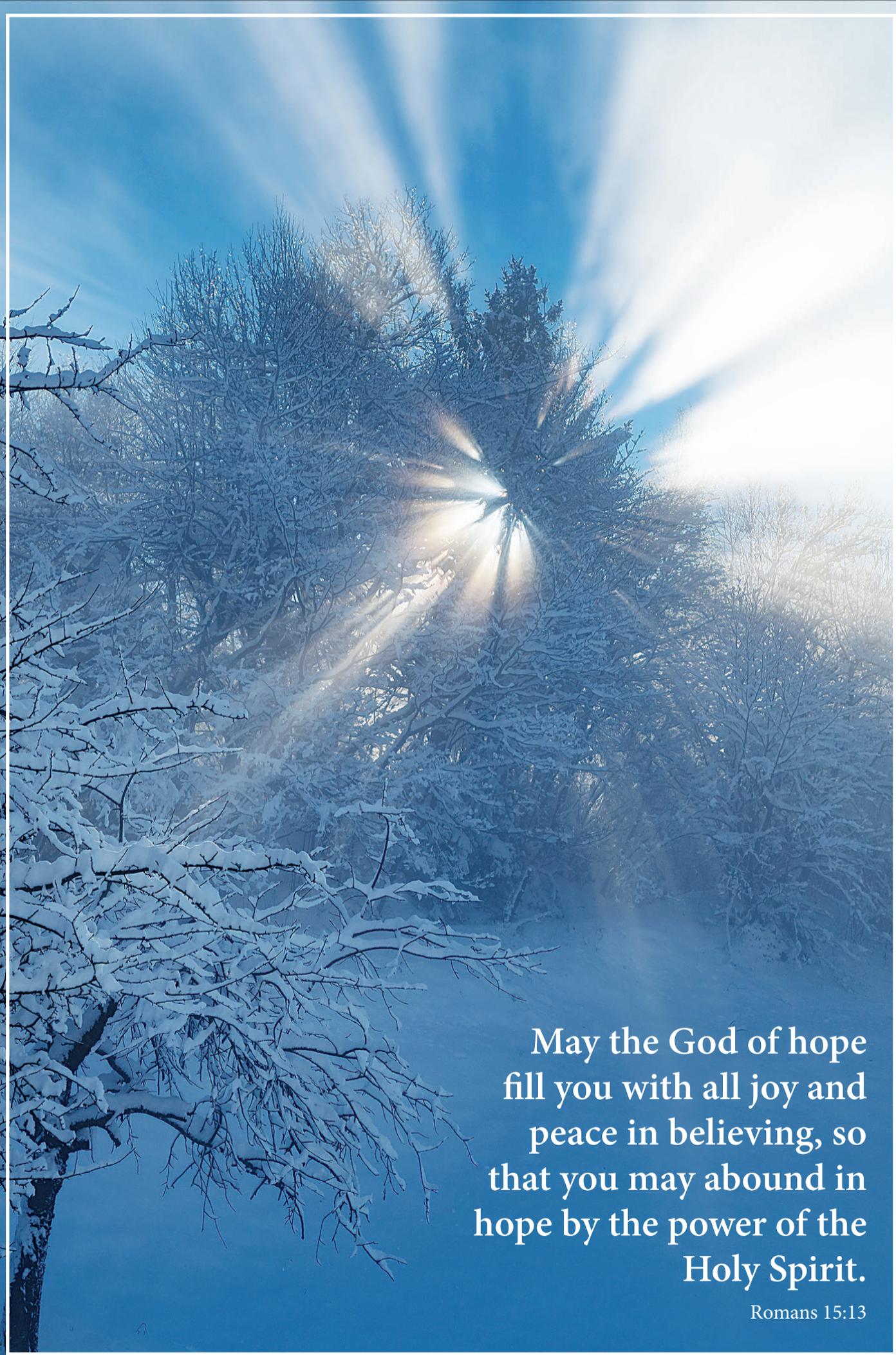
THE ADVOCATE

Our Diocesan Vision is to walk in the way of Christ.

Issue: 106

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WINTER 2022



May the God of hope
fill you with all joy and
peace in believing, so
that you may abound in
hope by the power of the
Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

'God of Hope' a fitting mantra for Synod

BY REV'D DAVID KERR

The Wangaratta Diocesan Synod met over the 3rd and 4th of June at the Gateway Hotel in Wangaratta. Bishop Clarence Bester set the tone for the Synod by speaking particularly in his charge of the 'God of Hope', a God who is made known in the small and everyday acts of witness.

Members were presented with a comprehensive report on Diocesan finances, showing that, while we should not exactly rest on our laurels, we are in a more positive position than the previous year. Presentations from the principals of our Anglican schools were very encouraging, especially with construction to commence shortly on a new school in Shepparton. Each parish of the Diocese put forward an audio-visual presentation, demonstrating their mission endeavours in their respective communities, as well as future mission prospects in line with their Mission Action Plans. One could not ignore the sense of life, vibrancy and willingness to live out Christian witness in all of our parishes; there is certainly light at the end of a long, scary, COVID-shaped tunnel.

The Diocese has now adopted the services of Kooyoora for the purposes of Professional Standards checks and protocols, similar to the system in place in the Diocese of Melbourne. Whilst our delegation to General Synod earlier this year had been coolly received, due to our efforts towards broadening the scope of sanctity, blessing and inclusion, the spirits of the bishop and people of the Diocese remain indomitable. A report on the events of General Synod described the challenges facing the Anglican Church of Australia, with very strongly held views on both sides of some discussions. However, there is agreement within General Synod on 95% of topics. Wangaratta showed itself to be one of a handful of Dioceses daring to dream of an all-encompassing and indiscriminate reach for God's love.

As a Diocese, it is clear we are a variety of people, views and values. But we stand firm on the principles of openness, respect and dignity. There continues to be hope for Wangaratta, as not only do we dream dreams, but we discuss them plainly and respectfully, with a view to enacting radical change, charity and love at a grass-roots level.

The presidential address from Synod can be found on page 6 of this edition of the Advocate.

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this edition



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Clergy Professional Development - the Regulation & Social Media Policy

BY REVD MARYANN LEONARD

Professional Development (PD) includes advancing skills, traits and competencies that contribute to best practice. Many workplaces have regular PD sessions and the Clergy of the Anglican Diocese of Wangaratta are no exception.

Twenty four clergy attended a PD on the 14th of June in Wangaratta. Whether we like it or not, the way Clergy, the Diocese of Wangaratta staff, church workers and parishioners use Websites, Facebook, Twitter and other social media channels can have an impact on the professional and ethical

reputation of our Diocese and wider Church. It can also lead to serious legal ramifications and security risks. To avoid these kinds of situations from occurring, it's vital for us as a Diocese to have a strong social media policy in place, outlining guidelines and expected behaviour.

A sound DoW social media policy will help to protect the reputation of our churches, parishes, the Diocese and individual users. There is a thin line between what is private and what is public.

A social media policy helps to define what's appropriate for staff in our Diocese to post about on social media channels – whether

private or, especially, Church platforms. Having clearly defined guidelines means everyone knows the difference between what should or should not be discussed on social media.

There was a good discussion on what is appropriate and not appropriate using social media in our context. It was clear that the following regulations would be included in our Regulation and Social Media Policy.

- Is what is being written acceptable and does it present the Church in a positive way?
- In a Ministry context, on social media, online or otherwise, the Clergy of this Diocese



should ensure that personal comments do not bring the Diocese of Wangaratta or its Directors into disrepute.

- It is unacceptable to disparage the Diocese of Wangaratta, Directors or its employees when sharing on Social Media.
- Clergy are not to disclose confidential matters that are not for the public domain.

Clergy who breach the Regulation and Social Media Policy may face disciplinary action.

The policy will link to Occupation Health and Safety and the Fair Work Act of 2009 (Commonwealth). The risk of misrepresentation of the Diocese of Wangaratta through social media will hopefully be avoided once this policy is implemented. We are at the draft stage of

developing the policy, which will involve our Diocesan legal counsel and further consultations with Clergy and other stakeholders to develop a user-friendly policy to protect us all and our Church when using social media in our Diocese.

Clergy Retreat

BY REVD HELEN MALCOLM

Bright turned it on again for our annual clergy retreat after Easter – glowing autumn colours, wonderful hospitality and delicious food at the Bright Chalet. The Retreat provides a chance for Bishop and clergy to draw aside from the busyness of Parish and Diocesan concerns and workload; to take time apart, even from our colleagues, as well as enjoying conversations together outside the fixed times of silence; to worship together and to be refreshed by the beauty of God's creation.

The retreat leader was the Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Canberra Goulburn, Carol Wagner. Her theme for her several addresses was 'overcoming in Christ'. She spoke of clergy needing to overcome self-sufficiency, fear and being so busy that we don't make time to listen to God. These topics are all so very relevant and practical. Clergy, Christians, can sometimes think that, with God on our side, we shouldn't suffer from 'the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune' and, even more incorrectly, we shouldn't need to ask for help if we are struggling with

mental or physical ill-health. At a Christian medical educators conference I attended in India in 2019, someone suggested that clergy suffer from the Superman complex, the Atlas Complex and the Messiah Complex! Bishop Carol reminded us that we are human and need to take care of ourselves.

But, as so often happens, it was just three little words that stayed with me. When thinking about how we relate to and hear God and who God is for us, Bp. Carol suggested we have to move 'beyond the intellect.' Writing this comes appositely close to Trinity Sunday - we don't have to try to explain God - we can't.

It was Meister Eckhart who said 'If I had a God whom I could understand, I would never hold [that being] to be God'. We simply have

to take the time to allow ourselves to experience God – and, to enable us to do that, the Retreat was perfect and reminds us each

year to cease from doing, to take time out – daily, weekly, monthly – to just be with God.



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CONTACT US

GENERAL ENQUIRIES, DESIGN & PRODUCTION

Fiona van Bree
Tel: (03) 5721 3484
registry@wangeratta-anglican.org.au
www.wangeratta-anglican.org.au

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Diocese of Wangaratta
PO Box 457, Wangaratta VIC 3677
registry@wangeratta-anglican.org.au
Tel: (03) 5721 3484

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Diocesan Ministry Course

BY BEV CONDON

After some hesitation about this course - What did I need to know about the things I have been doing for over 40 years? - a prompting by the Spirit changed my mind. Getting up early in the mornings to travel to Wangaratta wasn't pleasant, but many of my colleagues travelled much further than I, to arrive by 9.30am. Most of our presenters travelled from Melbourne Trinity College.

Our course covers topics such as The Liturgical Calendar, Travelling the Anglican Way, Pastoral Care & Services, Canons and Constitutions, Preaching in Context and Understanding the Bible in Context.

The night before some topics I would think I'm not sure if this will be interesting. My goodness, didn't I have to change my thinking. Our presenters were excellent in sharing their knowledge and so accommodating in answering our questions. I enjoyed all the sessions and learnt so much about myself in the context of ministry. I also have now added more books to my library that were suggested for further exploration on what was presented.

Our group of 23 became students together, learning more about why we love the Anglican Church and want to share this love with everyone. Delicious morning tea breaks and lunches prepared by a band of great cooks, with

the Bishop opening his home for our lunches, made our attendance during this course unforgettable.

Participating in this Ministry Course has shown me that we never stop learning. Our Christian faith is open ended and the more we can share our faith with our parishes, our families, our friends and those we meet in our daily life, the more we grow in our own faith.

I am sure my new Diocesan friends feel the same as I do. If you have a chance to join a learning group in your Diocese or parish, don't hesitate. The opportunities present in our Diocese are well worth going to, even if you have to wake up very early to participate!



Warm welcome for new Incumbent at Alpine Parish

BY ALAN GARSIDE

On 22nd March, a gathering of over 75 Clergy, parishioners and local residents gathered at St Paul's Church, Myrtleford to witness Bishop Clarence conduct the Induction of Reverend Moira Evers as Priest in Charge of the Parochial District of Alpine and to share hospitality together.

Reverend Moira comes to us from the Parish of Buderim in Queensland, after a 15 year career as a priest in the Melbourne, Newcastle and Brisbane Dioceses in a wide variety of Parish types and populations. She is a strong advocate for working together with the other churches in the area wherever possible. Fortunately that view is shared by the clergy and people from the district.

Reverend Moira was formally and warmly welcomed by representatives of the Parish, representatives of congregations from St Mary's Catholic Parish, the Myrtleford Uniting Church, the Salvation Army and to



the community by the Alpine Shire Mayor, Cr Sarah Nicholas.

After 3 separate interregna and two short appointments over the past 5 years, the

parish is delighted at the level of enthusiasm and drive Reverend Moira brings to her new role and we look forward to a long and productive association with her. Thanks be to God.

from the Bishop



Dear Clergy, People and Friends of the Diocese

Synod/Diocesan rules & regulations

Having attended General Synod during May and chaired our 3rd session of the Fortieth Synod at the beginning of June, I am so grateful for what I have learnt about the Anglican Church of Australia and the Diocese of Wangaratta. I am aware of a very parliamentary style of conducting our ecclesiastical business and over the past few years I have read and studied the rules and regulations and have made positive contributions to changes within our own Diocese. To lead, guide and direct the Diocese, it is incumbent upon me to understand the rules which are there to help us to 'govern' the Diocese.

For anyone to be part of an organization, they too need to understand the rules and to apply those necessary to ensure good and effective governance within our structure. We cannot claim innocence, for these rules and regulations are clear, directive and simple to understand and, when in doubt about anything, there are many who can assist us with the interpretation of these rules. It is therefore important that all our clergy and lay leaders familiarize themselves with our Diocesan Acts, as well as the rules of engagement pertaining to the Parish Governance Act 2019 as amended 1 of 2020, as well as the Appointments Act that deals with information directed to clergy.

The rules and regulations are therefore not only for the Bishop to use as a means of governing and directing, but for all of us within the Diocese to be aware of who we are, what we are called to do and how we will engage within our operational structure with particular reference to our mission and ministry as a Church.

Sadly, we have fallen in the trap of a structure, though very clear and precise, that is often used only for the administrative tasks relating to property and finance management. The objectives within both Our Parish Governance Act and Appointments Act clearly outlines the five marks of mission which is set out right at the start of these Acts. This would point to the importance of our ministry and mission and should in fact be an integral part of our Parish Council meetings, if not the most important part.

These rules and regulations should always be juxtaposed with our Ministry Action Plans, both Diocesan and Parish, so that we can give better effect and deeper meaning to our governance issues, with a real focus on what our core business is all about.

Intentional Conversations

During my Synod Charge I referenced further intentional conversations with Parish Leadership Teams from mid-August which will be the third set of conversations since 2020. This time the focus will be the possible implementation of Capital protected Parish Ministry Endowment Funds through the sale of redundant property since November 2020. There will also be further discussion regarding important aspects of other Funds as per their designation and any interest derived from them from the same date.

There will be a lot of preparatory work that needs to be done and these discussions can only take place when I return from the Lambeth Conference in the middle of August, so I ask for your patience in these temporal matters. This is once again aimed at the important aspect of looking at ways to sustain and strengthen our ministry structures within the Diocese. We do not want to manage decline, but rather facilitate processes for growth and development, mission and ministry.

Lambeth Conference

It is our hope to be part of the Lambeth Conference which brings many bishops, spouses and others within the Anglican Communion together in Canterbury for fellowship, study, prayer and mutual learning. I have been intrigued by the theme 'God's Church for God's world' as it deeply resonates with me within my own journey, our vision as a Diocese as we endeavor to walk with Christ and journey with each other. It is so good to hear these theological aspirations and intents that deal with what we are to be focused on as God's people in God's world. Following our time at this very auspicious occasion, as explained by Dr Ed Byford in his article, I hope that we will be able to collaborate further on how we will enhance our Ministry Action Plans to give effect to what we showcased at our recent Diocesan Synod.

Vicar General

As per mutual agreement with Dean Ken Goodger, who has been serving as Vicar General for the past two years, and with the appointment of Archdeacon Neil to the Parochial district of Wangaratta West & the Warbys with an increase to three Diocesan days per week, I have now appointed Archdeacon Neil as my Vicar General. I would like to express my thanks to Dean Ken Goodger for the extra responsibility that he has carried over the past two years and with his focus now specifically on the Cathedral Parish, we look forward to the realization of the three key priorities they have set out for themselves as the 'Mother Church' of the Diocese. I trust that clergy and people within the Diocese will embrace Archdeacon Neil in these new responsibilities and especially during my absence from the Diocese from 18 July until 10 August.

Every blessing

+ Clarence

Parish Partnership Update

BY DR JANE FREEMANTLE, CHAIR



At our June meeting we welcomed Rev'd David Still as the incoming Community Development Coordinator (CDC) for Anglicare Victoria Parish Partnerships (AVPP). David plans to meet with all Parishes in the coming months and looks forward to meaningful discussions about their current activities and hopes for future initiatives.

We were delighted to witness the signing by our Bishop of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Anglicare Victoria and the Diocese of Wangaratta. The MOU had been signed by the CEO of Anglicare Mr Paul MacDonald and was duly signed by Bishop Clarence. The MOU will serve to guide this important partnership in the coming months as we continue our outreach and shared commitment to our partners in working for care and justice in the communities of the Diocese of Wangaratta.

We resolved to continue the practice of Anglicare Victoria's participation in the induction

services of new priests in our Diocese. This is an important activity and we look forward to offering a white towel and a copy of the MOU to the incoming Priest for Wangaratta West and the Warbys, the Venerable Neil Hicks, at his induction service on the 26th July.

An important discussion centred around the proposed Diocesan Anglicare Victoria Parish Partnership Winter Appeal. The Steering Committee supported Bishop Clarence's idea to have a Diocesan wide one-day event to occur on Sunday 31st July. Of course, each Parish will determine their own specific initiative, but a suggestion was for the 31st July to be 'Soup Sunday' with proceeds for the sale of soup and donations to go to the Winter Appeal. We would love to hear of any ideas and suggested initiatives you might have to share widely across the Diocese. Any ideas and suggestions can be put up on the Diocesan website for, as they say, 'imitation is the sincerest form of flattery!!' Rev'd David will be preparing resource packs with

these ideas and options to make available to Parishes across the Diocese. We do hope all parishes will support this important activity in the life of the Diocese.

It was pleasing to hear the many activities that are occurring across our Deaneries. These meetings provide an important opportunity to share ideas and discuss how we might join to support AV and PP across the Diocese.

A sincere vote of thanks was proposed by the Bishop and unanimously supported by the Steering Committee members for the work of Rev'd Paul Hobby in Euroa and for his valuable participation into the work of the Steering Committee. Paul was an inaugural member of the reconstituted AVPP group and we wish him and his family well in his new parish in Tasmania. At our next meeting we will be delighted to welcome the Rev'd Mario Hendricks, who has agreed to take over from Paul to represent the Southern Deanery.

Chris de Pavia, Program Manager Diocesan and Parish Partnerships, reported that there is a great deal of activity in this space across the state. Many of the programs are returning back to pre-Covid service delivery arrangements and our homework clubs are back to 'face to face'.

Due to the cost-of-living pressures, demand on our Emergency Relief programs has nearly doubled in the last 12 months. Thankfully we received extra Covid funding from the Government to help with the demands, but these funds come to an end at the of June. This year the AV tax appeal is focussing on Emergency Relief Services across the state to help with the expected demand in the coming year. Any contribution from Advocate readers and parishes to support the this program would be so greatly appreciated. Tax deductible donations can be made on line at www.anglicarevic.org.au

Our Parish Partnership programs rely heavily on volunteers and AV celebrated National Volunteers Week (16-22 May) with communications featuring on social media, AV intranet news, the AV bulletin and a feature video of the Dream Stitches program based in Box Hill Melbourne. The D&PP programs hosted various events

over the course of the week, with many volunteers gifted a lapel pin (pictures below). It was a great opportunity for AV to recognise and acknowledge the fantastic contribution our volunteers make to our organisation and the community.

The AVPP Steering Committee will meet again in August when we will join the Ministry Action Plan Committee to discuss how we might work more closely together to achieve our mutual goals.

David Still, Anglicare Victoria working with Parish Partnerships: *Many will already know me from other roles that I have had around the Diocese, most recently having been the Priest in Charge in the Parish of Wangaratta West and the Warbys and, prior to that, the Rector of Benalla. I have also been the Diocesan Safe Church Officer for the last two and half years, which I am continuing for one day a week.*

My role with Anglicare has two

main aspects, one is to manage the Loaves and Fishes – Christians Caring Emergency Relief Program in Wangaratta. The second, and the one that has more relevance to the Diocese of Wangaratta as a whole, is to work with the many Parishes and congregational communities that make up the Diocese to develop programs in partnership with Anglicare that are involved in reaching out to the wider community. These may be programs that relate to what is taking place in parishes already or are being planned, or setting out to do something very different from what has been the case previously. This can be seen as a part of our mission to the communities that we are already a part of, as well as finding ways that we can welcome people into our parish communities by helping to meet their needs.

There is much more to this role of course than can be mentioned here, but please be in touch if you would like me to visit, so that we can explore what may be possible together.



Diocesan Quiet Days 2022

Saturday 10th September

10:00am – 2:00pm
Bishop's Lodge, Wangaratta
Theme: Prayer

An exploration of prayer – enrich your prayer life & explore new ways of praying

Leader: The Rev'd Canon Scott Jessup
No charge. Lunch & tea/coffee provided.
Bookings (by 8th September): Scott 0418254158; email: chaplain@wangeratta-anglican.org.au



Saturday 19th November

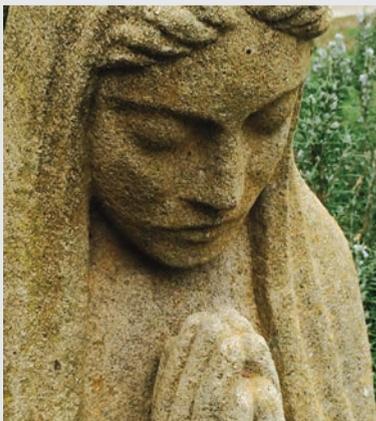
10:00am – 2:00pm
Theme: Advent Quiet Day
Two Locations:

Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Yackandandah

Leader: The Rev'd Canon Scott Jessup
Bookings (by 16th Nov): Scott 0418254158; email: chaplain@wangeratta-anglican.org.au

Christ Church, Kilmore

Leader: The Rev'd Andre Du Plooy
Bookings (by 16th Nov): Andre 0458155930; email: rector@anglicankilmore.org.au



News from the Cathedral

BY KIERAN CRICHTON



Diocesan Celebrations

The diocesan family gathered to mark the 120th anniversary of the enthronement of the first Bishop of Wangaratta in the afternoon of Sunday 13 March. Bells rang forth, an enlarged choir sang out and a full congregation gloried in the celebrations of the day. The gathering was graced with the presence of not only the eleventh bishop, but the tenth and ninth as well, along with a message from the fifth. Few other sees can claim four living bishops. Bishop David Farrer preached the occasional sermon, reflecting on the imperatives of the gospel in our place and time.

The anniversary of the diocese was marked by a hymn competition, and two of the entries were sung for the service. Matthew Schultz's hymn, 'Creator God, whose love brought forth the universe' (Londonderry Air) was sung at the entrance and John Davis's 'Full hundred and twenty years faithfully gathered' (Kremser) formed a wonderful link between the sermon and the Eucharistic prayer. Thanks to Bishop Clarence for his support of the hymn competition, which was proposed, led and completed through the dedication of Rev'd

Helen Malcolm. These two hymns have found ready acceptance in the diocese, so we can certainly look forward to singing them when the diocese gathers in the Cathedral.

March proved to be a very busy month in the life of the Cathedral. Lady Day was observed on 23 March with a gathering of Mothers' Union representatives from across the diocese. A couple of days later saw Bishop Clarence's first ordination of deacons, with Rev'ds Cathy Carden and Lesley Lewis being blessed as they take a new path in their journey of discipleship and ministry.

The Cathedral Sound

Holy Week is normally a busy time in any parish and the Cathedral is no exception. On the Monday of Holy Week the Cathedral was advised that Wakeley Pipe Organs, which had been repairing the rat-damaged components of the Willis Organ, had gone into liquidation. Within a couple of days our Director of Music arranged for the components of the organ to be brought back from the Wakeley organ workshop and stored in Purbrick Hall. A big round of applause is due to Doug Thompson for making himself and his truck available at short notice to transport the

organ parts. It is four years since the organ was last able to be played. Moves are now afoot to have the organ reinstated and the timeline is very soon!

Stairway to Heaven

News has come from the engineers following last September's earthquake. The Cathedral was not damaged, so the scaffolding will be taken down soon. This will allow the doors to open for visitors once more, for the first time since before the Covid-19 pandemic.

Have you seen?

Regular services at Holy Trinity Cathedral are now being live-streamed on Youtube. Can't join us at service time? No worries! The link is posted on Facebook (@wangarattacathedral) at 9.45am on Sunday morning so you can click through to join online. The good news here is we have improved sound quality and the video remains accessible after the live-stream finishes.

Evensong

Sunday 15 May saw a good

crowd of nearly 40 people joining for Evensong, followed by community time over soup and crusty bread. Thanks to our wonderful guild members, led by Elizabeth Savery, for their warm hospitality.

Evensong in May featured a setting of the canticles by Sarah McDonald, who is Director of the Girl Choristers at Ely Cathedral. The anthem was 'Creator Spirit, by whose aid', Vernon Hoyle's marvellous setting of the poem by John Dryden. It was a real joy to

sing a new hymn written in the diocese for the first time, Val Edwards's lovely evocation of place, 'To you before the end of day'.

On Trinity Sunday, 12 June, a special Evensong was held in the Cathedral when it marked its Feast of Title. Bishop Dino Gabriel, from Holy Trinity, Benalla, was the guest preacher for the service. Music included a canticle setting by Thomas Morley, with Noel Rawsthorne's anthem, Christ be with me.



PHOTO ABOVE: Doug Thompson loading the truck to bring parts of the Willis organ back to Wangaratta



PHOTO ABOVE: Rev'd Deacon Lesley Lewis being farewelled from Holy Trinity Cathedral as she takes up her curacy in the Alpine Parish.

Chrism Mass at the Cathedral

BY CAROLINE BURGE

What a joy to witness our Diocesan Clergy, Bishops, Priests and Deacons, come together to renew their Ordination Vows at the Chrism Mass on Tuesday in Holy Week. As a Lay person, it was inspiring and uplifting to witness and to

hear so many voices in unison, as they all renewed their vows and affirmed their commitment to serve God and their congregations and to support to the Bishop.

The Chrism Mass is the time for the blessing of the Holy Oils - the oil of the sick, the oil of catechumens

and the oil of chrism. These were processed through the Cathedral to the altar, where Bishop Clarence blessed them for use in each parish for the year ahead.

How lovely, after two years of lockdowns and restrictions, to be able to sing in our Cathedral

once again, so wonderfully accompanied by our Diocesan organist Kieran Crichton. We are blessed to have so many amazing voices to accompany the Mass.

The Chrism Mass was followed by an outstanding lunch at Bishop's Court hosted so wonderfully by Bishop Clarence and Michelle. Bishop's Court grounds were immaculate, including the newly

made garden in honour of Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu.

To our Bishop Clarence, our Priests and Deacons - God bless you all and thank you for committing and renewing your vows for us all to experience with you in our parishes.



SYNOD 2022

Third Session of the Fortieth Synod



PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

The Right Reverend Clarence E Bester

Theme: The God of Hope

Diocese.

Acknowledgement of Country

On this, the third session of the Fortieth Synod of the Diocese of Wangaratta, I would like to acknowledge the Bpangerang people, the traditional owners of the land on which we meet and pay my respects to their elder's past, present and emerging. I also acknowledge the First Nations People throughout the Diocese where all those here today live and worship. I am very conscious that I am from another country and even now, as a citizen of Australia, I express my thanks to those who welcomed us seven years ago and commit myself to the work of reconciliation and treaty, as well as the commitment of the Diocese to the Uluru Statement from the Heart which was affirmed at the 3rd Session of the Thirty Ninth Synod on 30 August 2019.

Between Sessions, our Ministry Action Plan & Diocesan activities

As mentioned above, postponed plans were inevitable but, as we were about to engage further with our Diocesan Vision and Mission statements and the 'out-rolling' of our Ministry Action Plan and Parish engagements, we finally managed to gather about 80 people for the Canon Lyall Turley Memorial Lecture and Diocesan Ministry Conference in February. This was the first opportunity we have had to engage with a larger group of people and to report the findings of last Synod's discussion regarding our Ministry Action Plan. This Synod provides us with the opportunity to further engage and to share with one another what is happening within each ministry unit, as well as to celebrate our ongoing work as the people of God throughout the

I have also had the privilege of engaging with several Parishes, Parish Councils and Clergy and will continue to do so over the next few months in exercising of a ministry of visibility, availability and presence as outlined in my first Synod Charge in 2020. This year alone I will have been able to pastorally engage with each Parish on a Sunday, as well as creating other opportunities to engage with Leadership teams.

Our Ministry Action Plan and Vision Statement is 'To WALK in the Way of Christ' and now we have added... 'and to journey with each other'. With the Covid delays we have only been able so far to meet at St Paul's Church in Wakati Creek where about 40 people attended. We look forward to our next gatherings at Tallarook, Jindera, and Rushworth later this year.

Our main theme for the first of the five years of our Ministry Action Plan is Lay Ministry Training and Invigoration. This is underway through our Diocesan Ministry Course being held over six full day sessions from April to June. Twenty-three of our laity signed up for this course and we are well served by lecturers from Trinity Theological College in Melbourne and other local resources and experts. Our motto for all our activities in our Ministry Plan is to present an SRA-model: Simple, Realistic and Achievable. During August this year we will have a two-day intensive session on Lay Training, as well as two Regional Conferences on all aspects of Lay Training in October in the North and South of our Diocese.

This year in March we also

celebrated our 120th year as a Diocese, commemorating the Enthronement of the first Bishop of Wangaratta, The Rt Rev'd Thomas Armstrong. This was preceded by a picnic lunch at Bishop's Lodge and high tea in the Cathedral grounds following a service of Thanksgiving. This was also the first time we have been able to gather so many at Holy Trinity Cathedral since my Enthronement Service.

How great and wonderful it is that we have been able to achieve these few things together and I look forward to the Ministry Action Plan presentations tomorrow, which will be preceded by a report and followed by directions into the future. I am very grateful that we do not only table what we hope to do, but that we action our intentions, which serve as an inspiration to so many. Having made our plans, we must follow through constantly, step by step, to achieve them. May we continue to Walk in the Way of Christ and journey with one another as we explore further how we will contribute to the invigoration and revitalisation of our congregations and communities.

THE GOD OF HOPE

Over the last two sessions of the fortieth Synod, I explored the themes of the God of Surprises and the God of Possibilities. There is not a day that goes by where I am not surprised at all the possibilities and opportunities before us. I, along with all our clergy, as with Christians throughout the ages, have responded to the call from God felt and heard in our hearts and confirmed by the Church to serve as Deacon, Priest, and some as Bishop. I am also cognisant that the ministry of the Church involves the whole people of God, the laity with whom we share in the Priesthood of all believers. Personally, from my baptism at 7 weeks old, through occasional attendance at Sunday School and Church, to when I stood at the altar aged 14 to confirm the promises made at my baptism, there was a constant sense of hope that my life would be shaped in the way of Christ. These stages marked affirmation and reaffirmation that I was the beloved of God, with whom God will hopefully be pleased one day.

As I continued in the life, mission, and ministry of my local Church, I became disillusioned, as the Church seemed to have forgotten its mission and ministry and was so obsessed with things temporal that it seemed as if things spiritual were reserved for worship in a few hours on a Sunday. Yet there was a hope that those associated with and participating in the life of the Church would understand that it was not only about them as the Church of God, but that it was about the God of the Church.

This happened at a time of great upheaval in a country where people were discriminated against for being different. Yet still there was a

hope and belief that change would happen and that we would embrace it for the greater good of all people. Though many despaired for years, there was always this hope, offered by modern day prophets, including the late Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, whose life we celebrated and death we mourned last year, as with prophets of old, that God would bring about renewal and that the dignity of each person would be restored. What was so wonderful and affirming to me, as a young developing Christian, was the fact that the Church of God was at the forefront of these issues, proclaiming that hope to many. This led me to fall more deeply in love with the God of the Church and the Church of God and all I wanted was to serve the Church of God and the God of the Church.

Like those before me and like many others, I wanted to preach the gospel of hope to those who would despair; I wanted to work towards the affirmation and inclusion of all God's people and I so much wanted to see the Church of God remaining faithful to the God of the Church who brings about renewal through those whom God calls to be God's hands, feet, eyes, ears and heart, in the words attributed to St. Teresa of Avila.

As a youngster, in searching God's word for guidance and spiritual enrichment, I have also come to understand the contextual development regarding the canon of scripture, the interpretation of scripture and the many conflicting passages which became clearer through undertaking theological studies and ministry formation.

This has helped me to better understand the God of the Church and the all-inclusive, all-embracing, all-affirming, all-loving and all-accepting Jesus within the gospel. It has also helped me to deeply express my love towards all people with the understanding that we are the Lord's, that we all belong to Jesus. This has brought me great hope and, for the past 26 years of ordained ministry, I have always held this dear to my heart and tried to bring this kind of hope and empowered service to all of God's people, irrespective of person.

What hope for the future was brought to the people of Israel by Jeremiah (chap. 23), reminding them of the judgement of those who destroy and scatter the people of God. Here the prophet encourages the care and nurture of people and the raising of a wise and righteous king who will facilitate such a process.

What hope arrived for the many who despaired and who lived under oppression and those who felt like outcasts when Jesus came and brought about healing, wholeness, forgiveness, and empowered service to all.

What hope came for women suffering under patriarchy, when the first to share the good news of Jesus' resurrection was Mary Magdalene.

What hope there is for the many who are faced with difficulties, dangers and ill-health, to know that there are those who care, those who will bring hope and make a difference through their presence, through the offering of their prayers and bringing a little light amidst the darkness.

For this is the hope which the God of Hope offers to all of us and who calls us to share that hope with others. What is life without hope? Faith is '... the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.' (Heb. 11:1). And so, it is about hope as a feeling of expectation and desire for a particular thing to happen.

I do hope that all our congregations will take on board the goals and priority areas that they have set out for themselves and that, as a Diocese, we can work together as bishop, clergy, and people for the common good of all for "All our hope on God is founded". (Robert Bridges 1844-1930, based on Joachim Neander 1650-80)

This is the hope I have for all our Parishes, for our Diocese, the Anglican Province of Victoria and for the Anglican Church of Australia as we become the Church of God after the image of the God of the Church.

Continued on page 7





SYNOD 2022

Third Session of the Fortieth Synod

I do believe that we can bring hope to all through our concerted efforts and collaborative ways of working together as we stick to our Ministry Action Plan and Vision 'To WALK in the Way of Christ and to journey with each other', as we hold onto the hope we have in Jesus Christ and remain faithful to the gospel of Christ and the God of Hope.

New Scenarios & New Opportunities

Understanding the complexities in our Diocese regarding our smaller Churches in our regional rural context, there is no doubt that we have many challenges facing us as a Church and Diocese. A model of ministry based on the English style of a Church for every place is now proving even more challenging and, with regional population decline, lower church attendance and general lack of interest, we will probably see more of our smaller congregations dissolving. Since our last session of Synod, we have deconsecrated three Churches and I suspect that a further 3-4 will be deconsecrated within the coming months.

Last year I showed mathematically that, though there will be great sentimentality, the reality is that we will not be able to sustain the active ministry of these smaller congregations if we take the actual cost of ministry into account. Our Ministry Units now cover larger areas and cooperative ministry arrangements are the only way we can afford the services of a full-time cleric. Many might see this as a failure on the part of the Church to sustain the livelihood of each congregation but, with rising costs of insurance, the maintenance of buildings and the ongoing costs of ministry, we do not have much of an alternative. Even when we explore models of ministry relating to Local Ordained Ministry and Lay Readers, the associated costs for ministry within a church building are almost the same. In some cases, we have seen a wonderful collaborative arrangement between different denominations in the sharing of

resources, ministers of religion and worship space, fostering the image of a church as the gathering of the faithful to worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. It will make so much more sense, when there are a few small congregations from different denominations in a smaller community, that they synergise together. As with our Cooperative Ministry arrangements, each group will retain their own identity, though I hope that one day we will look beyond ourselves and work towards the common vision and mission of the Church as bearers and sharers of the good news of Jesus Christ and our joint efforts in making disciples for Jesus.

A new opportunity is the establishment of Common Fund 4 (made possible by the addition to our Parish Governance Act of section 7A: 120: A-H at last year's Synod) to manage the use of funds from the sale of redundant lands in Parishes/Parochial Districts.

At the discretion of the Bishop and Bishop-in-Council/Corporation, with protocols in place and considering the needs of the Parish (including already incurred/short-term future capital costs), a percentage of the proceeds will go into Common Fund 4 where mainly the interest will be used for ministry and mission, or capital development within the Parish or Diocese. The rest of the proceeds from the sale will go into the Church Extension Fund where it will be applied for Diocesan purposes (as already occurs). The relative percentages are not fixed and will be decided by negotiation. This will require a Plan of Action, time frames and targeted outcomes to ensure a result that will foster future growth in a particular area. Following my time at Lambeth, we will arrange to meet and discuss these matters with the Parish Priest, Churchwardens and Treasurer of each Parish or Parochial District in time for budget preparation for the new financial year starting on 1 October. I do hope that tomorrow's sharing by our parishes will be the springboard, as we engage in an

intentional discipleship programme with a renewed vision and hope for the future. I am presently engaging with an organisation who might assist us to work towards the revitalisation of our ministry and hope to engage with a few of our parish clergy in the coming weeks.

Safer Church and Professional Standards

It has been a very taxing two years, even with Rev'd David Still, in his new combined role including part-time Safer Church Officer, trying to sort out Ministry clearances in each Parish. There has been resistance, resignations, and lots of retaliation to a process that enhances a safer ministry by us following the recommendations of the royal commission and the guidelines of the Council for Children and Young People and the Child Safety standards as required.

As a Church, we need to ensure the safety and security of our children and vulnerable adults, and we will not stop short of doing what is right and will not cut any corners for the sake of those who do not want to comply with our Lay authorised guidelines and protocols. It is incumbent upon us as a Church, difficult though it may be, to work towards a better system for the safety and security of all.

This year will mark the next cycle for lay ministry clearances, with the new cycle for elections and appointments with effect October. We have structured a group of Safe Church Officers into a network arrangement to assist us in ensuring that clearances will happen before any one is elected or appointed to any position, as well as clearances for ministry in every parish. There is no doubt that this will be taxing, and I would expect that all Clergy with oversight in Parishes will assist this process, as I will ultimately hold them responsible for their own Parishes. More information will be shared in due course.

At this session of Synod, we will welcome a team from Kooyoora who will present their program of Professional Standards. Bishop-In-Council/Corporation have enlisted the services of Kooyoora as the next Directorate for Professional Standards for twelve months and we look forward to our association while we get used to a more collaborative way of working with the other dioceses, especially Melbourne and Bendigo Dioceses who are members of Kooyoora.

I would like to express my thanks and that of this synod to Mrs Claire Sargent, who served this Diocese as Director of Professional Standards over many years and wish her well in her future endeavours. Details about Kooyoora will be forwarded within days and any contact or matter regarding Professional Standards should be made through them. As they have a large team and a variety of expertise, I am hoping that we will be able to expedite

Blessing of the soil - Shepparton School



matters more easily.

Anglican Schools in the Diocese of Wangaratta

Two weeks ago, I blessed the site for the new All Saints Anglican School in Shepparton. This is an exciting project of the Anglican School Commission and the Chief Executive Officer, The Rev'd Peter Laurence, will say more later over a video link. The School in Shepparton will be the fourth Anglican School within the Diocese and we look forward to 2024 when the first students will start their educational journey in Shepparton. We will also hear from the School Principals about developments in the other three Anglican Schools and look forward to welcoming the new principal of Trinity Anglican College, Dr Adrian Johnson, at the beginning of the second semester. One of the highlights at Cathedral College Wangaratta was the consecration of the Chapel of the Good Shepherd and we look forward to this space being used for spiritual nourishment for students and staff through the ministry of the Chaplains.

Social Media

In a world with such easy communication methods and the networking of so many people, opinions are shared on various platforms that, firstly, are the opinion of only one individual, but then lead to responses and arguments. No doubt people have their opinions about different matters, and all will not necessarily agree, but some opinions can be hurtful, disrespectful, and out of place when it involves matters where differing opinions lead to arguments that could be avoided.

This is such a sensitive matter that I would not dare to tell anyone how to share their opinion and what to share but, when it comes to an official Parish page, I would want to encourage everyone to be more sensitive about what we share. Knowing that we serve people from differing opinions is something that we need to respect. Even when we do not use an official Parish page, our personal comments, and our known association with the Church or Diocese, can wrongly imply that our opinions represent that of the

Church. I have enquired about various social media policies and will be asking Bishop-In-Council to adopt a policy for our Diocese following interaction with the Clergy. I flagged my intention at our first Clergy Development Day in February and will action this as soon as possible. I will also be grateful for any further assistance and advice regarding this matter.

Ministry: Models and Options

Last year I mentioned exploring the concept of Local Ordained Ministry and have joined forces with the Diocese of Melbourne who are looking into the mechanics of this. I have received material from them and will further the conversation to see how this might occur in our own Diocese. I will be talking to both those who are interested in exploring this model of ministry and those considering the ministry of Lay Reader. Again, I do not want to do something just for the sake of doing it but want to ensure that we do it well and appropriately for our circumstances. It has been difficult through this Covid pandemic to give full attention to the many matters that need our attention, but I am sure that we will navigate a process that will work best for us within the Diocese as we re-embark on a ministry pattern and establishing training models that work well.

Looking ahead

I hope that we will be able to continue with the programs and plans that we have set out for ourselves and focus on key areas leading up to and beyond the forty-first synod in 2023 - these will include Women's Ministry & Gender-based Violence, a month of compassion including social justice issues and Creation Care. Ongoing Lay Training will move to Parish or Deanery level with options for some activities on Diocesan level and there will be theological options and opportunities that will be presented later.

The Rt Rev'd Clarence E Bester
Bishop of Wangaratta

A full copy of the presidential address can be found on the Diocesan website <https://www.wangaratta-anglican.org.au/news/>



Julie Torpey and Fiona Boyle signing the Kooyoora agreement

MU Lady Day Celebrated at Wangaratta Cathedral

BY DIANE GRANT

It was encouraging to see over 50 attend the annual Anglican Mothers' Union Lady Day at Trinity Cathedral on Wednesday, March 23.

Ten of those in attendance were MU Lone members and it was terrific that they could join with MU branch members from across the Anglican Diocese of Wangaratta.

The Dean of Trinity Cathedral, The Very

Reverend Ken Goodger, Rev'd Sue Hall, Archdeacon Neil Hicks and the Right Reverend Clarence Bester, led the procession down the central aisle followed by representatives from around the Diocese carrying MU and Parish banners.

The Lady Day sung Eucharist reverberated around the cathedral to the delightful musical sounds of the small organ played by Cathedral organist Dr Keiran Crichton.

The Bishop led the Eucharist,

MU Chaplain Reverend Sue Hall gave the Bible readings and Archdeacon Neil Hicks the Lady Day sermon.

Following the intercessions, read by MU member Sue Fyfe, and Holy Communion, Bishop Clarence installed Jan Craig of Corryong as the President of the Diocese of Wangaratta MU. Jan accepted her role with pride and gave her responses to Bishop Clarence Bester on her commissioning with a strong voice.

Bishop Clarence and Reverend Sue presented Jan with her MU president's badge, then presented long service award certificates to some MU members: 60 years to Jean Hayes of the Cathedral branch, 50 years to Lone Member Fran McGibbon, 50 years to Roma Smedley of Corryong, 30 years to Joan Jensen, Lone member-Yarrowonga, 25 years to Sophie Frieschmidt of the Cathedral branch; 25 year certificates for June Albert, Phyllis Boardman, Sue Davies, Pam Galbraith,

Joyce Miller and Mitzi Paton of Corryong were accepted in their absence by Jan Craig of Corryong. A 25 year certificate was given to Fay Whitehead of Corryong and accepted for Karen McKenzie, Lone Member.

Branch members gathered outside the Cathedral for their annual photo shoot with Bishop Clarence, Archdeacon Neil Hicks, Reverend Sue Hall and Rev David Holloway in the beautiful autumn sunshine after the service.

This was followed by lunch in Purbrick hall and a time of fellowship.

Newly appointed MU President Jan Craig was congratulated on her new position and she spoke on her appointment as MU president, asking members to share with her new ideas for the future of MU in our Diocese.

PHOTO LEFT: MU Banner parade at Lady day. PHOTO BELOW: Jan Craig new MU President for the Diocese of Wangaratta



Thirty Pieces of Silver



BY CAROLINE BURGE

Thirty pieces of silver was the price for which Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus in the account in the Gospel of Matthew. In this we read that, before the Last Supper, Judas is said to have gone to the Chief Priests and agreed to hand over Jesus in exchange for 30 silver coins.

Each year in the Parish of Kilmore, silver coins are collected in a large jar and, on Good Friday, this is handed over to the local Country Fire Authority for the Good Friday Royal Children's Hospital Appeal. It seems an appropriate day to do this following the celebration of the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday.

This year, parishioners are being encouraged, that if they are able, to

donate their own 30 pieces of silver to such a worthy cause for the 2023 Good Friday Appeal.

The 2021-2022 donation was a little down on previous years, due to lockdowns and church buildings and shops closed, but it was welcomed by the collectors at the Kilmore CFA branch, with the youngsters collecting in awe that their collection tins filled up within minutes.

How blessed are we to have volunteers in our communities who not only help us in our churches, but in the wider community, reaching out to others.

PHOTO ABOVE: The local CFA in Kilmore accepting our donations.

Feast For Freedom at WW St Michael's

BY SUZIE DON LEONARD

30 people attended the Feast for Freedom held at St Michael's, Wangaratta West and the Warbys on Sunday 29 May 2022 a remarkable response given the date for the feast was set only 3 weeks before!

It was wonderful to get the support from the parishioners at Wangaratta West and the Warbys. I am also very grateful to Kate (WRAN) and Peter Murray for their support, to the Dean, Ken Goodger, & Rev Bill Squires and his wife Helen.

Thank you to all those who brought really interesting food which resulted in a very yummy quick feast reflecting the many immediate and ancestral cultural backgrounds from which participants came to enjoy the freedom our country has meant to many over past years.

Thank you to everyone who made a donation, prior to or at the event. Just under \$500 was raised from free will donations (we didn't sell entry or raffle tickets) but we did have donor door raffles of promotional items sent to us from ASRC and gifts donated by parishioners. The account

will be left open for a few days as offers of donations were made by people who were unable to attend - hopefully we go over the \$500 mark.

The funds raised will then be given to the Diocesan office to send to ASRC as the first of (what we hope will be) many more Feasts for Freedom through other Parishes in the Diocese.

On 17th June a WRAN/RAR film night was held and the film "Freedom Street" shown at the Uniting Church hall. Supper was enjoyed after the film. 35% of the proceeds went to the film maker who was on site to show the film and the balance of funds raised will be donated to RAR to support the Afghan refugees we are sponsoring.





News from Mothers' Union

BY REV DAVID HOLLOWAY

Welcome from your Diocesan Mothers Union; not that we are a "union" in the sense you know of and not that we are only made up of mothers. The Mothers' Union was first set up in England by Mary Sumner a Bishop's wife and grandmother who remembered her feelings of inadequacy as a young mother charged with the responsibility for a new life. Her own experience of motherhood made her aware of how little preparation and support women received for parenting. She believed that women from every class needed to understand that motherhood was a profession and be equipped to perform it.

Motherhood involved more than providing for the physical needs of children. The primary responsibility of mothers was to raise their children in the love of God. Mothers could only do this, she believed, if their lives were firmly rooted in prayer.

In 1876, Mary decided that a new organisation was needed in the parish and the first branch of the Mothers Union was begun. Prayer and practical action were at the heart of this group of mothers, its purpose to enable the mothers to fulfil their responsibility for the material and spiritual wellbeing of their children. The women were also helped to understand the significance of the sacrament of baptism and the teaching of the faith to their children.

So what has changed?

One of the realisations that came about in MU was that not only mothers look after children and families. Fathers, aunts and uncles, grandparents are nowadays integral to the stability of family life.

Life has moved from agrarian to industrial cities, and many have moved away from the support of family. Because of this, family break up, single parent and stepparent families have become common.

Mothers are working, families are much busier, pre-school children have to be looked after at childcare centres during the week. On Sundays the focus is not on church attendance but on what sporting venue to go to.

Church and faith are not integral to much of our society and prayer is rarely practiced.

Family life is often a series of chance meeting, where people rarely eat together.

TV, computers and other forms of modern technology have taken over in the home, so limited verbal communication occurs between family members.

Today we have difficulty in reaching the younger members of our Parish. A generation or two have missed out on Sunday School or Children's Church.

So, the MU had to change to reflect the changed life in our modern society.

Membership in the seventies became open to all those who are involved in family life and its support.

Men, women, married or single, divorced, grandparents needed to be involved. For we are all involved in the Christian family and bringing our children to a faith in the love of God.

That is why our members are so diverse. So the change in Australia to the name MU rather than Mothers' Union to reflect the reality more fully. Our mission:

1. To uphold Christ's teaching on the nature of marriage and to promote its wider understanding;
2. To encourage parents to bring up their children in the faith and life of the Church;
3. To maintain a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship, and service;
4. To promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children;
5. To help those whose family life has met with adversity.

This year, on Tuesday 9th August your Diocesan MU will celebrate Mary Sumner Day at the Cathedral with a service at 11am. Our Guest Speaker this year will be the Provincial President of MU The Rev Anne Kennedy. We hope to see you there.



Mothering Sunday Posies

Each year Marlene Brew and Diane Grant make over 40 posies for their church ladies and for over 30 Nagambie Healthcare hostel, high care and nursing home ladies.

Two other MU ladies also make simnel cake for this special day for mums.

Diane distributed them on Mothering Sunday after church to the Nagambie facility.

Here is Marlene our MU member with our offering we made for this year.

Kathleen Chanter 100th Birthday

Kathleen Chanter a member of St. John's Alexandra celebrated her 100th birthday on 9 June. Kathleen has been a dedicated and devoted member of the parish for many years. She served in various capacities and has been a member of many organisations in the parish.



Let's Celebrate Our MU History and Future Together

BY DIANE GRANT

In August this year, the Diocese of Wangaratta Mothers' Union will be 83 years old.

Close to 83 years ago, the Diocese of Wangaratta Mothers' Union was formed with a couple of newly organised branches from outlying districts attending a meeting at Wangaratta with the intention of forming a Diocesan headquarters and other branches around the district.

The small group formed for the Diocese Mothers' Union grew to larger proportions and, on Monday, 5 August, 2019 current MU members celebrated 80 years of their Executive Council.

On Monday, 23 May MU Diocesan executive and branch representatives from Albury, Central Goulburn-Seymour and Nagambie, Corryong, Rutherglen, Wodonga and our Lone members

held a constructive meeting with the Anglican Diocese of Wangaratta's Bishop Clarence Bester, which discussed plans to be made for MU founder Mary Sumner Day in August, maybe a women's conference in October and Lady Day in 2023.

Each branch shared their branch's activities and plans for the coming year.

This was followed by a barbecue meal prepared by Bishop Clarence in the early morning and served by Rev'd Scott Jessup and Bishop Clarence.

Thanks to Bishop Clarence for chairing the meeting and his encouragement and incentive to the branch members to plan a future for MU across the Diocese.

Thanks for his hospitality at Bishop's Lodge and to him and Scott for lunch and sharing with the members some light hearted

fellowship.

This year on Mary Sumner Day August 9, the DOW MU would like to celebrate with members of all their branches in the Diocese in Wangaratta. Church service at 11am, followed by a BYO lunch then guest speaker. The MU

Australia Provincial President, Rev'd Anne Kennedy is to be our special guest on the day. As our national MU leader Anne is a very sought after person and we are lucky she will be able to join us at Wangaratta.

It would be wonderful to celebrate

83 years as a Diocesan MU and 146 years of Mary Sumner our founder. If our Lone members and members from branches that may have folded or are in recess would like to join us, that would be a great time for renewal of friendships and fellowship.



Looking Down the Valley

BY REV'D DR EDWIN BYFORD



Why go to Lambeth?

In late July bishops from all around the Anglican Communion will gather at Canterbury for a conference known as the Lambeth Conference. The name comes from the principal residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury at Lambeth Palace, just across the Thames from the City of London. These conferences have happened about every ten years since the first one in 1867.

The Anglican Church, like most churches of the Reformation, has no central doctrinal and spiritual authority like the Vatican or the Pope. The Church of England was under the control of the crown and parliament. Until the late eighteenth century this worked relatively well. American independence and the developing colonial empire began to change all this.

A century and a half ago two events, one in South Africa and the other in the United States of America, were the catalysts for raising the question of how Anglicans related to each other. In South Africa the Bishop of Natal, John Colenso, who had been appointed by Queen Victoria, was found guilty of heresy by his brother bishops and was dismissed from office. When this decision was reversed by the British courts, Queen Victoria decided to no longer appoint colonial bishops by Letters Patent. Effectively this granted independence to the colonial churches. In the United States the nation and the nation's churches had torn themselves apart in the destructive and deadly Civil War. The only Protestant church that put itself back together again after the war as a single national church was the Episcopal Church. In a matter of a couple of years there was the experience of both independence and reunion for Anglicans. The Bishop of Illinois, Henry Whitehouse, was instrumental in convincing the Archbishop of Canterbury to convene an international conference of Anglican Bishops to discuss how they related to each other. This was done in 1867 at Lambeth Palace and Henry Whitehouse preached the sermon at the opening service.

It seems that from the beginning there were two principles to operate simultaneously. Anglicans wanted to be related to each other and they wanted to maintain their national and even diocesan independence. To say the least this is not easy, as the ends often seem contradictory. The bishops had to work out how, and on what, they agreed and how, and on what, they agreed to disagree. They have to keep doing it. It may be that the Bishops are the defenders of the faith delivered through the Apostles and the great Councils of the Church and the formularies of the Reformation, but the times and circumstances change and this faith has to be interpreted anew for the effective ministry and mission of bringing people to a living faith in the times and places that they find themselves.

Our bishops face a daily and endless round of people clamouring for their attention. They are confronted by doctrinal, pastoral, political, legal, financial and personal etc. controversies and problems seeking resolution. Some are local but some have national and international significance. The Lambeth Conference offers one of the few opportunities for bishops to meet together and discuss how it is that the saving mission of the Church can be carried forward.

About a thousand bishops will have been invited to the conference. They will come from all over the world. We are well aware of some of the controversies that will be discussed and may well divide opinion. We need to pray for all the bishops and their dioceses.

If we are aware that there will be controversy and even disagreement why should our bishop go? There are several reasons that our bishop should go. First and foremost, he takes us with him. He knows the people and the concerns of the diocese. He knows our frustrations and anxieties about telling the Good News of salvation in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Secondly, he will probably find that he, and we, are not alone. He will catch up with people he knows and knew from earlier times. He will meet bishops and hear of dioceses that are just names in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer. Our common understandings and subtle, and perhaps not so subtle, differences of perception will probably be enlightening for opening cooperation in our common mission.

We have no Pope. We understand that the mission of the church is something that grows out of our corporate commitment and fellowship. For most of us the reality is that our concerns are local. Even during the recent federal election we kept hearing that what we needed was a "local" member. But sometimes it is essential to lift our eyes to the community, the state, the nation, the world and even to the universe in all eternity.

So we send our bishop with our blessings and our hopes and our concerns. We pray that our concerns may become the concerns of others and we open ourselves to what is concerning for those very same others.

Gatherings of the faithful have the characteristic of lifting the spirits of those who are there. Our pastoral care for our bishop should include the opportunity for him to experience that lifting of his spirits.

Bishop Clarence, go with our blessings and our hopes. Return refreshed, renewed and recreated.

The Holy Triduum!

BY CAROLINE BURGE

The Holy Triduum... The Holy Three Days.... The Paschal Triduum - whatever your Parish calls it, it is a deeply moving three days as we journey from the evening of Maundy Thursday to Good Friday and on to Holy Saturday and Easter Day. What a wonderful three days.

The Parish of Kilmore, Broadford, Pyalong and Tallarook, (and no doubt all other parishes in the Diocese) celebrated each of these days in a prayerful and spiritual way.

On the eve of Maundy Thursday, the parish got together for a Seder Passover Meal at Gavan Hall. The Leader of the evening was Dr Norman Rose, a parishioner in the parish who has been a long standing Christian, but whose roots are in the Jewish tradition. Norman read from The Haggadah both in English and in Hebrew. This is the Jewish book for the Seder.

The traditional Passover foods were eaten: the lamb (representing the Paschal Offering); unleavened bread - Mazzoth; baked egg (a symbol of resurrection); Haroseth (symbolising the Mortar used by the Israelites); Karpas or Parsley and Hazereth. At the end of the evening, Norman recited the folk song "An Only Kid" - a traditional song read at the end of the Seder.

The Good Friday Liturgies

around the Parish were a time of prayer, reflection and silence as parishioners sat in stripped bare churches.

On Easter Eve the new fire was lit outside Christ Church and all entered the darkened church to the chanting of "Christ our Light: Thanks be to God". The renewal of our baptism vows followed as the church transformed into light.

Our parish is blessed to have the wonderful talents of Patty DuPlooy and, once again, Patty excelled herself with an amazing Easter Garden displayed under the altar, showing the empty tomb, the three empty crosses and the Lily of Peace.

PHOTO BELOW: Rev Andre Du Plooy and Caroline Burge. The Easter Vigil fire



CHRIST CHURCH BEECHWORTH

2022 CONCERT SERIES

The Orpheus Trio

Helena Kernaghan – Piano

Kaori Sparks – Violin

Sam Goble – Cello



Music by Arbós, Kerry and Dvořák

2.30 p.m., Sunday, 24th July, 2022.

Christ Church, Ford Street, Beechworth.

Tickets: \$40 and \$25 (Concession)

Bookings: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/orpheus-piano-trio-tickets-367998733117> or by telephone: 03-57281893.

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BY BETH PAGE

'The Beginning'

In 1886 the land throughout Buxton was opened for selection and homes slowly began to appear.

It is recorded that, in the 1880s, religious worship was integral to the lives of the early settlers of Buxton.

It was a freezing night - tho' the end of winter, frost was still on the ground. A few hardy and dedicated committee members ventured out into the night once more to discuss the hopes of the Buxton Community, to finally have their own place of worship.

This night, the news was positive. In 1895 and within 33 days a small wooden church was built. There was no heating in the church and light was from a kerosene lamp. Few complained as this was all

they wanted, a 'House of God'.

After the Consecration of St Thomas, fortnightly worship was welcomed. People would arrive on Sunday morning, some by horse and buggy, the children on their ponies. The organist would often carry his portable organ by Packhorse from Mansfield to Buxton. Love, Faith and Dedication.

On Sunday the 27th March 2022 we celebrated the 125th Anniversary of St Thomas - two years late, thanks to Covid. It was a beautiful sunny day as friends greeted one another, some for the first time in years. We were blessed to have the presence of Bishop Clarence Bester and his wife Michelle, also Archdeacon Jarrod with his wife Jane attending our Celebration.

Bishop Clarence presented a sermon that reached the hearts and minds of the congregation - as many expressed after

the Service. Bishop Clarence then distributed to those who presented themselves to receive the consecrated host. After the service, photos were taken to record the occasion. The Congregation then left to share a Celebratory meal together, arriving at the beautiful 'Saladin Lodge' where a delicious lunch was waiting

Beth Page assisted by Eileen Slack, presented a 'potted' version of the history of St Thomas Anglican church Buxton. Over a meal with friends, we shared stories and memories of the past. Bishop Clarence did the honours in cutting the beautiful Anniversary cake. Eating together is a significant reminder of our connectedness to God and to each other.

This was a happy and relaxed day bringing the past and the future into the light, together.



Book Review

CHRIST BEFORE CREEDS: REDISCOVERING THE JESUS OF HISTORY By Jeff Deuble

REVIEWED BY ANNE BAUMGARTEN

While maintaining his reverence for our Lord, Deuble offers plausible counterarguments to the doctrine of the Trinity. He draws on sound Biblical exegesis, Hebrew and Greek belief systems and Church history to present an insightful alternative view.

He asks common-sense questions such as 'If the Trinity is so fundamental, why didn't Jesus and Paul teach it?' At no point did Jesus claim to be a member of a divine, co-equal Trinity. Jesus and the New Testament writers were explicit about who he was: The Son of Man, The Messiah. They believed in one God, the Father Almighty.

But, within the early Church, there had been many disputes regarding Christ's nature of being. How could he be fully human and fully divine? This dilemma absorbed the attention of Christians so much that it wasn't until the fifth century that attention turned to considering the Holy Spirit as part of the Trinity.

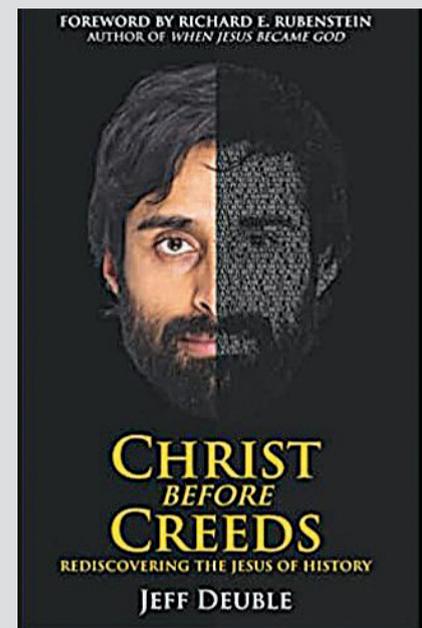
The Church councils, established for political reasons by Constantine in the fourth century, intended to assist in unifying the divided Roman Empire.

Many creeds had emerged from the early church, commencing with straightforward statements of belief. However, by the fifth century, the Athanasian creed threatened eternal damnation to those who didn't believe that God is one and 'The Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Ghost is God'. All were coequal.

Jewish Christians were not involved in the councils. After the first century, virtually none of the church fathers were Jewish. So the unique, monotheistic Hebrew concept of God and Hebrew philosophy were not represented. Hebrew beliefs were considerably different from the Greek belief systems that were popular among Christians.

Trinitarian reliance on moot Bible translations and interpretations is examined thoughtfully and explained clearly for the layperson. Deuble addresses translator bias and assumptions, translation out of context and misappropriation and flexibility of meaning.

The book may seem repetitive to some, but it is well worth including in broader research on the Trinity. Naturally, some will debate Deuble's assertions, while others will find he enlightens them and clarifies confusion and unease that Anglicans may seldom discuss. He pleads for loving, respectful conversations aimed at achieving unity.



World Day of Prayer

BY CAROLINE BURGE

World Day of Prayer is, as its name suggests, a day of prayer celebrated the world over in many churches. It is always a time to combine our individual denominations and join together with other churches in the local area.

This year, Christ Church Kilmore hosted the day for Kilmore and beyond. The theme for the year was "For I know the plans I have for you" and the countries for 2022 were England, Northern Ireland and Wales (Scotland and the Republic of Ireland have their own World Day of Prayer). Other local churches were invited and it was so pleasing to see members from other denominations come along and take part in the service -

St Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, the Pentecostal Church, St George's Wallan, St John's Wandong and Wallan Gateway church. Some of these churches are from our own parish towns, but a couple are from the Melbourne Diocese. Our parish, being at the southernmost part of this Diocese, neighbours Melbourne Diocese and it was lovely to also welcome Rev Dr Prahant Bhonsle who resides in the Anglican Parish of Hume incorporating Wallan and Wandong.

As Warden in the parish and of Welsh heritage, Caroline Burge had the privilege of being "guest speaker" and welcomed all with the words "Bore Da. Frodyr a chwioridd ..rhwyl yn eich

Croesaw i chw I gynilleidfa I eglwys Christ a gobeithid budd duw yn ein bendithio ni a chariad a chyinfrodraith" - which roughly translates to "Good morning everyone. Welcome to Christ Church. Thank you so much for coming - it is lovely to have you here with us. May God bless our time together in fellowship and love" for those of you who don't speak Welsh!

By involving the other denominations in the prayers and singing, it was truly a wonderful ecumenical occasion. We are blessed in having a very accomplished organist in Kathleen Taylor, who was given the music to the specially written theme song at short notice and accompanied us beautifully as we sang "For surely I



know the plans I have for you". It is never easy to learn a new song, but the church was filled with these lovely words taken from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah -

"For surely I know the plans for you; the Lord said, surely I know the plans I have for you. Plans for your welfare, plans to not harm you, and to give you hope again. For

surely I know the plans I have for you". And Our Lord certainly has plans for each and every one of us.

People and Parishes



Bishop Clarence with the CEO of the ASC and three Anglican schools in Wangaratta Diocese at the blessing of the soil for the new Shepparton School



Rev'd Sue Hall, Rev'd Lesley Lewis, Bishop Clarence Bester, Rev'd Cathy Carden, Rev'd Maureen Beattie and the Dean Ken Goodger at the ordination of Lesley and Cathy



Bishop Clarence Bester and Bishop David Farrer blessing the Truth & Reconciliation Garden honouring Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu at Bishop's Lodge



120th Anniversary of the Diocese of Wangaratta

