



# THE ADVOCATE

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

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SPRING 2022

## 650 shades of Purple The Lambeth Conference

BY BISHOP CLARENCE E BESTER

It would have been lovely to say that we are refreshed and energized following our trip to Canterbury to attend the Fifteenth Lambeth Conference, but the reality is that this was a work appointment, a heavy program and a lot to navigate through over a twelve-day period. The experience and the establishment of probably lasting relationships is something that made our time in the UK so worth it.

It was lovely to meet people we have heard of at some stage and new people from different countries with different languages and cultures, which reminded me of the phrase coined by the late Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu that, 'We are the Rainbow People of God'. What a wonderful opportunity to connect with so many, though I need to admit that Michelle was really the one who introduced me to so many people. Archdeacon Neil recently described Michelle as my 'greatest asset' and I want to congratulate her on the wonderful way in which she inspired and supported many, especially some of the spouses of our bishops. Michelle often tells people that she trained me well and that I am married to her and not the other way around – I will let her believe that for the moment!

Whenever people introduced themselves to me, they would tell me that their spouses were 'besties' with Michelle and I do not even know where Michelle met them. What a wonderful ambassador for our Church who,

through her very pleasant personality, has endeared so many, young and old and attracted them to her as she was attracted by them.

The Lambeth Conference to me reflected the 650 shades of purple, the colour commonly used by bishops in their daily regalia. Some of these colours of purple were very close, while others would be slightly to significantly different, though still some shade of purple. Gathering people from around 165 countries in the world in one place would have its challenges, but also the wonderful opportunity of the colours of the rainbow to express its beauty in the fullest measure. It expresses the beauty of God's creative design and the fact that we all look, think and act differently - this is what beautifies it even more. This is the celebration of our diversity and knowing that we are cemented together in a love relationship as the body of Christ.

It pointed to the fact that we are Christ's own forever and even though we might not always understand the 'mother tongue' of the other, we can understand the language of love expressed in the ultimate sign of God's love for us in the offering of God's Son on the cross.

Through all those different shades of purple, in the colours of the rainbow, I understand and live out an even deeper meaning of the word 'UBUNTU' that because others are, I am, and because I am, they are too.

Continued on page 5



Bishop Clarence with Bishop Brian Burgess, Bishop of Springfield, Illinois, USA



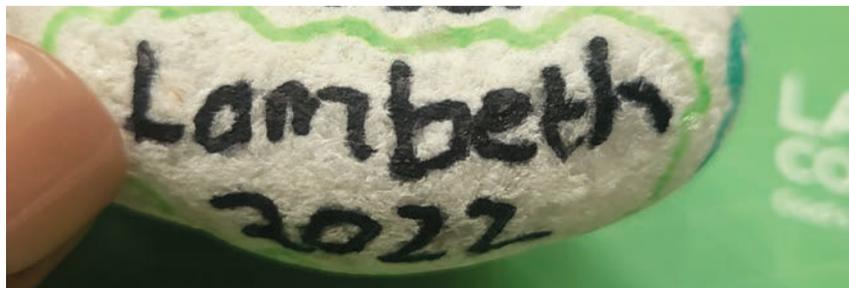
Canterbury Cathedral



Bishop Doug Sparks, Bishop of Northern Indiana USA



LAMBETH CONFERENCE  
God's Church for God's world



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PHOTO ABOVE: Revd David Kerr and Bishop Clarence (centre) with Clergy and Lay at the ordination of David as Priest.

# Ordination of Rev'd David Kerr to the Priesthood

BY REVD HELEN MALCOLM

Most Deacons approach their ordination to the priesthood with some trepidation and sense of unworthiness, but being admitted to hospital to put off the big occasion is rather an extreme measure! Unfortunately that's what happened to Rev'd David Kerr but, thanks to the care of health professionals and his partner Steph. Chapple, he recovered and this important milestone in his journey of faith occurred at Holy Trinity Cathedral Wangaratta on Saturday 9th July, with The Right Reverend Clarence Bester as the ordaining Bishop and President. Rev'd Andrew Du Plooy was the preacher and spoke on the 'persona christi', the priest embodying the person of Christ in their community. David was supported by family and friends from his current parish of Shepparton and from former parishes in the Diocese and beyond.

David brings many skills and experiences into his priestly ministry. One of these is his artwork, inspired by the style of First Nations painters - examples of which adorned our Diocesan Seasons of Creation Liturgy resources in 2021. His recent experience in hospital proved to have a positive side, emphasizing one more skill for ministry as he saw firsthand the necessity for pastoral care of the vulnerable.

In reflecting on the Ordination service David described it as feeling 'right', like a 'key fitting into a lock'. We pray that this sense of having 'come home' to what God wants for his life, along with the prayers of many, will stay with him and sustain him into the future and that he will have a fruitful ministry 'on the border of the Holy' in tandem with parishioners and the wider community.

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# Behind the Scenes - Ordination

BY REVD CATHY CARDEN

On the 26th of March this year I was ordained as Deacon in the Anglican Church of Australia, in the Diocese of Wangaratta. Reverend Lesley Lewis was ordained Deacon on the same day, and more recently Reverend David Kerr was ordained Priest. No doubt each person's journey towards ordination is very different, just as our calling to ministry is unique - albeit we are all responding to a specific calling from God. But along with this there is an overarching reality that we are ordained into a church/organisation/entity known as the 'Anglican Church of Australia'. As such, there are a number of rules and regulations that need to be abided by and certainly an understanding of what/whom we are representing, and expectations that go along with this. So, whilst the calling to ordained ministry is a very personal one, the fulfilment of that ministry is enacted as part of the Anglican Church as it is represented in parish churches and, in my case, also in schools.

Therefore, it is very helpful that in this Diocese, further to our pre-ordination vocational guidance and training, Bishop Clarence has established and is formalising post-ordination training - known by those of us involved as P.O.T. We meet once a month, and it is an opportunity for the

Bishop, Vocations Director or other senior Cleric or expert in a particular area to explain in more detail the expectations, structures, governance, legal requirements and important information required in the 'nuts and bolts' of running a parish or being a Deacon or a Priest in the Anglican Church in Wangaratta.

To date this year we have had the opportunity to explore such things as Categories and responsibilities of Ministry and Licensing; the history of the Anglican Church; the operational structure of the Anglican Church in Australia; how General Synod works; the operational structure and staffing of the Diocese of Wangaratta; and the Parish Governance Act, particularly in relation to legal requirements in parishes, functions of Parish Council and Church Wardens, along with expectations in relation to Safe Church. It is important that we have an understanding of these matters, as we work as Deacons in our respective parishes and may in the future need to take responsibility for these matters ourselves.

The monthly sessions also provide a valuable opportunity for us to share how we are going on our journeys, to ask questions and to continue with our own spiritual formation and development. It has also been interesting to have Bishop Clarence share with us his experiences of General Synod and, more recently, the Lambeth Conference. It has proved to be a great way for us to learn about the important and compulsory administrative areas of ministry, and another valuable time of remaining connected with one another.

PHOTO BELOW: Revd Lesley Lewis, Revd Cathy Carden and Revd David Kerr



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# Mansfield working and walking together

BY DR JANE FREEMANTLE

Ministry Action Plans (MAPs) are a strategic exercise and the success of our MAP is based on the input of ALL members of our Parish, respectful conversations and indeed innovative and courageous thinking. Bishop Clarence has asked that our MAPs be 'Simple' 'Realistic' and 'Achievable'. Our MAP will be specific to our Parish context, while keeping with the Diocesan vision to Walk in the Way of Christ; walk with each other.

Our MAP discussions were firmly based in prayer and supported by Parish and community consultation to ensure that all voices and opinions are heard and respected.

In February 2021, the Parish Council was asked to identify five priorities for the Parish and five Priorities for the Diocese. These were submitted to the Diocese and considered along with information from all Parishes and Parochial Districts at the 2021 Diocesan Synod.

The purpose of our next gathering on Sunday 10th April in 2022 was to have meaningful and exciting discussions to generate ideas for ministry in our Parish. The outcomes of these discussions will provide the framework for our Parish Ministry Action Plan, 2022-2026. Invitations were also extended to the Mansfield District Hospital, the Mansfield Shire, the Mansfield Secondary College, Rosehaven and members of the other Christian congregations worshipping in Mansfield. Twenty-six people attended. The workshop was facilitated by Ven. Catie Inches Ogden using an abridged version of the De Bono 'Thinking Hats' technique.

In our first sessions we considered our journey as described in our current strategic plan. For the next few hours, we worked in groups using the Diocesan and Parish Council suggested priorities to brainstorm new and creative ideas and encouraged thoughts as to how we could reshape our current activities (Green 'hat'). The results of the creative discussions were captured on butcher paper. Participants were then provided with six 'dots' and asked to place them on the butcher paper against the topics they felt most important for our Parish ministry. Over lunch, the responses were thematically summarised into categories.

The next session was focussed on progressing our ideas. Ven. Catie

encouraged the groups to consider possibilities stimulated by the information in a constructive and logical manner (White 'hat'). Participants contributed further ideas for our Ministry Action Plan and importantly initiatives that might be undertaken to implement these ideas.

In our final session we considered suggestions as to: the best people to advance each initiative; activities arising from the discussions; consideration for a date for review of the progress of the initiative; indicators for considering the success or 'otherwise' of the initiative; and any budgetary considerations that might be needed (or not) to resource the initiative/activity.

Our top four priorities for the coming four years -

- **MINISTRY (SERVICES), MUSIC, YOUTH & CHILDREN** - Innovative initiatives for spreading the Word of God. 'Music leads you in chains of gold into the heart of God'. Children and young people bring their unique experience of faith and faithfulness as a gift to the church and its mission today.
- **ENGAGING COMMUNITIES & COMMUNITY OUTREACH** - Community engagement is critical for a healthy church that follows the example of Christ. Every church can both focus on essential outreach (evangelism, serving those in need, and reaching the unreached) while also developing unique local outreaches to best serve their individual communities.
- **TRAINING** - Explaining the mysteries of our worship and equipping our people for lay ministry and pastoral care.
- **RESOURCING** - Considering ways to ensure the viability of our Parish, the preservation of our buildings and our contribution to the wider community.

The summary of the day's activities has been compiled into a report which is to be considered by our Parish Council and then widely distributed amongst the members of the Parish, particularly those who contributed to the vibrant and enthusiastic discussions on the Planning Day.

We are very excited at the prospect of progressing the very rich information as we further the Diocesan Vision 'to walk together in the Way of Christ' together with the Mansfield Anglican Parish's Mission, 'to make God's love known in word and action'.

## from the Bishop



Dear Clergy, People & Friends of the Diocese

### Creation, New Life and Hope

New life abounds as we enter the season of Spring and we look forward to the greening of the earth and the birth of new flowers that will cover the face of the earth after a cold and wet winter. New life signifies the hope that we have for new beginnings and new opportunities as we give thanks to God for the preservation of the earth and remember our responsibility as Stewards of Creation to strive for its safeguarding and integrity and to renew the life of the earth, as we are reminded in the fifth mark of mission of the Anglican Communion.

Arriving in London on their hottest day ever recorded, along with the many signs of climate change throughout the world, makes one wonder what it will take for people who seem to be ignorant and still think this is not a priority to make a shift in their minds and understanding.

Over the past four years we have encouraged all our congregations to partake in the program 'Season of Creation' and I do hope that each Parish will earmark a Sunday during September or the first in October to celebrate God's Creation. Past resources may be used, or we will send further details, but please find the 'Green Anglicans' Website or Facebook page to get resources regarding their latest 'Season of Creation' publication called 'eco-ubuntu'. I hope that all Parishes will share their stories with all others in the Diocese through articles for the next edition of the Advocate.

### WALK in the Way of Christ and with one another

Three days after arriving back in the Country, we had our third WALK service for this year at St Paul's Church in Jindera. This service is part of our Diocesan Vision and Mission statement and a practical way in which we express our support to our smaller Churches. Our Synod presentations regarding individual parishes highlighted the good work of each and I hope that we can connect to one another through these opportunities being created in walking, talking, listening and praying together. When we meet at one of the smaller Churches, it is not only for them to gather, but for us as a Diocesan family, especially those within the area, as well as from further afield, to support and strengthen the resolve of these congregations and Churches. Please do not become too Parochial by only looking inward, but join your sisters and brothers and walk with them. In the South African context, we have always been reminded that, 'where people PARISH, there they will PERISH'. Our next two WALKS will be at St Paul's Church Rushworth on Sunday, 16 October and 11 December at St Etheldreda Harrietville, both at 3pm.

### Ministry Clearances

This year marks our next cycle for ministry clearances and I ask all our congregation members who need to, to please start doing this towards the middle of September if you will be continuing in various ministries and capacities within your Parish. Our last ministry cycle was met with great hostility and we have done everything we can to make the process easier, so I hope I can rely on your generosity of spirit and support to make our Parishes and Diocese compliant in every way. Where any ministry clearance has not been completed, those people will be asked to refrain from any ministry activity until their clearance is finalized. This is not something new and we have all the tools and expertise to help all members of our congregation.

Every blessing,

+ Clarence

## Clergy Movements as of June 2022

### VACANT POSITIONS

St Cuthbert's, Yarrowonga

### APPOINTMENTS

Reverend Melissa Clark - Priest in charge, Mansfield. Effective as of 22 November 2022

### PERMISSION TO OFFICIATE

Reverend Laurence Neal. Effective as of 20 June 2022  
 Reverend Barrie Slatter. Effective as of 20 June 2022  
 Reverend Patricia Matthews. Effective as of 14 June 2022  
 Reverend Jane Trigg. Effective as of 16 August 2022  
 Reverend Wayne Ireland. Effective as of 16 August 2022

### RETIREMENTS

The Venerable Catie Inches-Ogden. 3rd November 2022



PHOTO ABOVE: Bishop Clarence at Paddington Station, London

# Parish Partnerships

BY REVD DAVID STILL

One of the most enjoyable aspects of being involved with Parish Partnerships, has been the opportunity over recent months to meet with a much wider group of Parishes than I used to in traditional parish ministry. In a parish, we tend to see largely the same people over time, and are connected to our local community, which of course is a reflection of where we live and spend our time. This first 3 to 4 months of having my ministry focused on what Anglicare is involved in has led me to parishes around the Diocese of all shapes and sizes.

Some of this has been in conjunction with the visits of Bishop Clarence to a parish and sometimes on my own. It is a real joy to see the different ways that the people of our Diocese come together to worship and plan for the ways in which they can be a wider part of the communities in which they are placed. Each visit I have made to a parish, gives me a lot of hope for what the Parishes of our Diocese and Anglicare Victoria may be able to do together.

The other joy that I have seen in more recent weeks, has been the very generous response to the Winter Appeal this year, which we have been able to do for the first time in three years. It has made me very thankful in seeing the generosity of the people of the Diocese of Wangaratta, both in the food that has been donated, but also in the financial gifts that have been offered.



**PHOTO ABOVE:** Bishop's Winter Appeal - Yackandandah Parish was joined with the Back Creek Community Church for our Sunday service on the 31st July followed by soup and fellowship for the Bishop's Winter Appeal.

# Induction of Archdeacon Neil Hicks

BY MARGARET GIBSON

It was with great joy that the Parish Councillors and parishioners organised themselves for a joyous Induction and welcome to Archdeacon Neil Hicks, and his lovely wife Sue, as part time Vicar of the parish. A large contingent of clergy, parishioners from Rev'd Neil's former parish (Yarrowonga), friends and family, as well as parishioners from this parish all gathered on Saturday 17th July for this very special occasion.

We were delighted with the address given by Bishop Gary Weatherill, (Bendigo) relating stories from his and Rev'd Neil's student days together at St Barnabas' College in Adelaide - there were some lovely gems from their time together as fellow students.

We were very fortunate that the organist from the Cathedral made himself available to play at this service, a beautiful sung Eucharist, delightful hymns, with everyone in fine voice - thank you Keiran.

A presentation from the parish of a 'pantry basket' and local small goods was made to Rev'd Neil and Sue, who responded with thanks.

An afternoon tea prepared by parishioners, fit for bishops and kings, concluded the celebrations.

After Bishop Clarence inducted Archdeacon Neil as Priest in Charge of the Parish, he commissioned him as Vicar General of the Diocese, making him the Bishop's right hand man in conjunction with being part-time priest in our parish. How lucky are we to have such an experienced priest as our Vicar.



# Mothers' Union Founder's Day Celebrated at Wangaratta

BY DIANE GRANT

146 years ago in a small town in England, Mary Sumner began a young mother's support group when she was a grandmother.

From those humble beginnings Mothers' Union groups spread across the globe over many years.

Many cities and country towns formed a branch that spread throughout Church of England then Anglican churches.

Now there are over 4 million members around the world. It is called in some sectors MU.

It Australia it began in Tasmania 130 years ago, and in the Diocese of Wangaratta 83 years ago.

On August 9, members from branches across the Diocese of Wangaratta, from Albury, Bright, Corryong, Nagambie, Seymour, Wangaratta and Wodonga. As well as and lone members happily gathered to celebrate

Mary Sumner Day at Holy Trinity Cathedral Wangaratta.

A Eucharist was led by Reverend Richard Pennington, assisted by Mothers' Union Chaplain Sue Hall, with the sermon being preached by Reverend David Holloway who spoke on the work of Mary Sumner in her early years striving to gain support for young mothers and grandmothers.

Prayers, hymns of praise and Holy Communion were shared during the service.

Special guest for the gathering was the Australian Provincial (National) President of the Mothers' Union Anne Kennedy and husband Rob, who were made very welcome by all present.

The members enjoyed lunch in Purbrick hall and then new MU Diocesan President Jan Craig welcomed the special guest to the assembly.

The members and guests

listened with much interest when Anne Kennedy spoke on the work of the MU across the countries of the world and what it is doing in our far north and in various dioceses.

Mrs Kennedy spoke on many subjects and endeavours that the members of the MU continue to achieve every year.

The MU goal for 2022 is "Transformation Now" and "Climate change-environment and Disaster Risk Reduction" the project for the next two years.

She congratulated the branches on their continuing good work and encouraged them to try their best to introduce young members to join this worthwhile organisation to continue on Mary Sumner's vision.

**PHOTO ABOVE:** Nagambie MU members Diane Grant, Margaret Hurren and Marlene Brew, Provincial President (National) of MU of Australia, Anne Kennedy and the new Wangaratta Diocesan Branch President Jan Craig.



# The Lambeth Conference - 650 Shades of Purple

- continued from front page.

I entered the Lambeth space with great trepidation because the so-called 'Calls', when a certain topic is discussed and then bishops give direction on the importance of the 'Call' by voting, was something that did not sit comfortably with me and many others. There was always this understanding that there will be no resolutions like in the past, rather, as I expressed in a recent letter, the concept of walking, talking, listening and praying together. I thank God that throughout the Conference situations were shaped to try and just do that when the voting devices were removed and, even after one call where we ascertained the mind of Bishops on a matter, that the concept was totally changed from its original intention.

In any case, we agree and

disagree on many matters and this is what these shades of purple helped me to understand as it remains purple. Just as within our diversity, I am grateful that our differences in opinions, interpretation and outlook did not deter us from continuing to be together, though some refused to receive the sacrament of our Lord Jesus Christ because of others. This saddened me deeply as it has in the past when I received those same threats, but I know that God is greater than all these threats. Throughout my life in my joyous and often painful Christian journey, I still rejoice in Jesus my Saviour.

This was the focus and theme of the Lambeth Conference, 'To be God's Church for God's World' This was the focus of study as we listened to the exposition of the book of 1

Peter offered by Archbishop Justin Welby and met in groups to further discuss, listen to one another and pray with one another, recognizing that God's love for God's People is something beyond human comprehension. This is the amazing grace offered by the Archbishop of Canterbury, who had the difficult task to hear and understand everyone but, by God's grace, he succeeded at this task and this was affirmed with a standing ovation to His Grace, who exemplified and amplified God's grace, which is God's favour to all people everywhere.

The concept of 'disagreeing well' has been something lingering on my mind since our own General Synod in May and now Lambeth in August. I do not necessarily want to agree or disagree

with this concept, but I love the fact that we can look beyond ourselves and work towards the things that our common humanity reminds us all about - that we are all connected to one another. The colour is purple with different shades.

Inasmuch as we do not return refreshed and energized, we are definitely relaxed and equipped to continue our ministry amongst the people whom God has given us to serve. We will extend a hand of friendship and foster these relationships with the many we have come to know, the many we connected or reconnected with and we are looking forward to sharing those experiences with all within the Diocese.

We will continue to WALK in the Way of Christ and Walk



with one another and we will continue to be God's Church within God's world following God's will. The different shades of purple will definitely turn into the rainbow, the sign of God's promise to Noah and to all God's people that we are all part of God's family and that God will always be with us as we are called to be with God.



Archbishop Justin Welby from Canterbury being blessed by Reverend Jacynthia Murphy from NZ.



Bishop Clarence and Michelle with Bishop Michael Curry, Bishop of the Episcopal Church, USA



Bishop Clarence and Michelle with Bishop Matt Brain, Bishop of Bendigo and Rachel Brain

# Finding Peace in Portugal

BY ANNE BAUMGARTEN

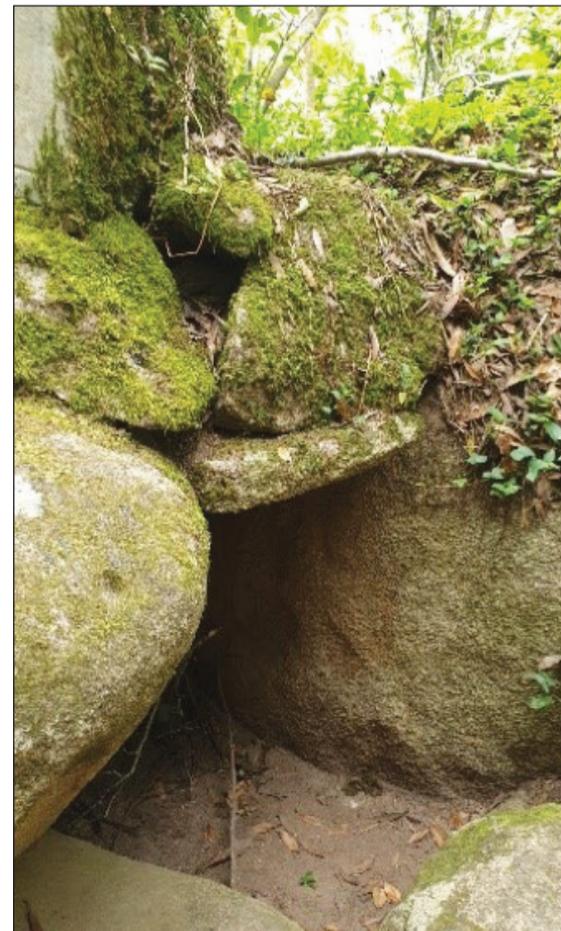
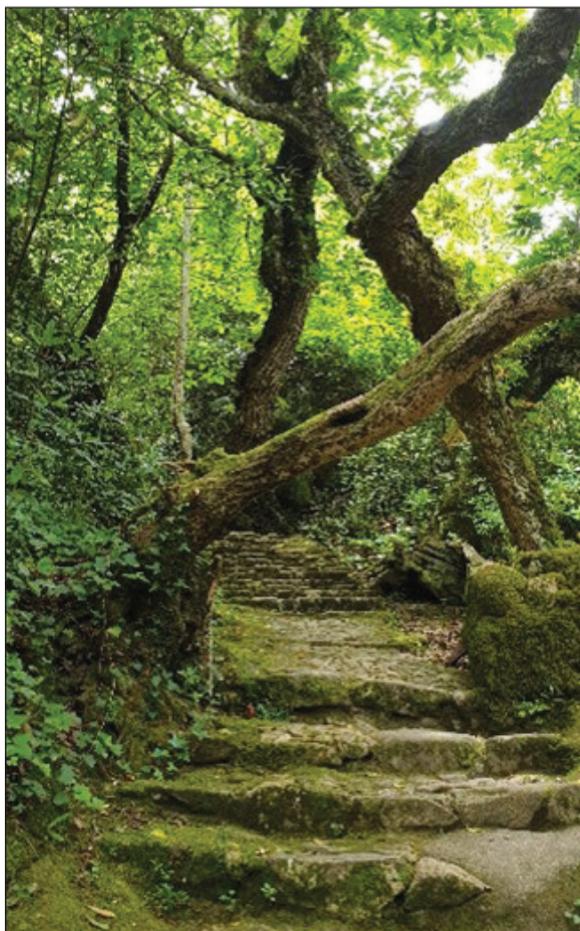
Travellers returning from Europe sometimes mention they saw way too many churches. Looking back over old photos and videos, it can be a challenge to remember the names or locations of the historic and beautiful places of worship they found so captivating at the time.

Recently I was privileged to visit Europe. Like millions of tourists before me, history, art and inspiring architecture engrossed me wherever I travelled. Yet one place stands out. This peaceful experience occupies a special place in my memory.

It occurred unexpectedly when a friend and I wandered through the empty ruins of a sixteenth-century Franciscan convent – Convento dos Capuchos - in the Sintra region near Lisbon. By that stage in my journey, I had visited and worshipped at parish churches and cathedrals in several

countries, but these mossy stone, rock and cork-lined ruins formed a different experience altogether. Built within a sloping oak forest and hewn out of local rock, the rambling convent merged into its environment.

Weaving in and out of empty, small rooms and up stone staircases, we came to a courtyard with a well in the middle. Although friars had not gathered there for a long time, the nearby stone bench seats conveyed a sense of community. Without saying a word, we knew we had to just sit. It felt as though the friars were there with us, in contemplation or working, but always actively loving and serving their God and brethren. There was no gift shop for tourists, no modern paraphernalia, just stone structures, plants and small animals, such a stark reminder of the simplicity of Francis' life: a reminder that we can find genuine peace and happiness without the world's symbols of success.



PHOTOS ABOVE: Left - Steps leading to another level within the convent. Right - The nearby grotto where a Franciscan hermit, Honorio, lived for decades. The space is about a metre high.

# Anglican Schools Australia Conference

BY REVD CATHY CARDEN

There are 155 Anglican Schools across Australia teaching nearly 200,000 students. As a way of connecting and encouraging one another, a conference for school principals and chaplains is held annually in August, and this provides a great opportunity for shared inspiration and reflection on current topical matters within Anglican schools. This year's conference was held in Perth (unfortunately virtually) and school Principals and Chaplains from Cobram Anglican Grammar School, Trinity Anglican College and Cathedral College Wangaratta joined their colleagues online for the conference that focused on the theme of 'lifted in Spirit'.

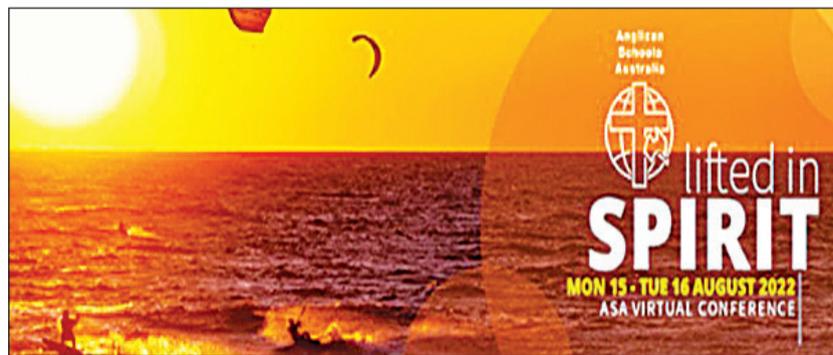
Speakers included The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York, and The Most Reverend Kay Goldsworthy AO, Archbishop of Perth, along with a number of inspirational speakers and people who have been instrumental in developing ministries working on the ground with the disadvantaged, particularly Indigenous people (Dr Rishelle Hume AM) and those who are homeless (Nick Pearce – co-founder and CEO of HoMie).

Of particular interest was the Archbishop of York's address where he explored and identified what Anglican (and faith-based) schools offer, and the point of difference between them and secular schools. As he pointed out, most schools have values such as integrity, inclusivity, justice, courage and service; however Christian schools' ethos and values are grounded in the 'familiar' of the history and traditions of the church

and the Bible, which is recognised as more concrete, than the more abstract ideas of these things in the secular world that are more based on emotions. The archbishop further backed this up by using examples from Jesus' life and events in the gospels and from accounts and people (Stephen's martyrdom) of the early Christians in Paul's letters. He said that, in Anglican schools, there is a greater focus on the 'whole child', including spirituality, with the underlying principle being that we want to provide every opportunity to lift our student's spirits and to ultimately bring them to be like Jesus.

The third day of the conference is specifically for Chaplains and we heard another very interesting talk from Dr Andrew Root, author and Luther Seminarian from Minnesota in the United States. He reflected on the changed understanding and development of young people's sense of identity, which he believes is very much formed by their personal connections, experiences and stories. He suggested that to be impactful with young people today, chaplains need to situate themselves to create opportunities that enable them to integrate and entwine themselves into the young people's lives and stories. This can also be helped by sharing stories and exposing them to people whose own stories are inspirational and can connect the students to the values of faith and living Christian lives that positively influence others.

All in all, it was a great conference, that certainly encouraged and inspired those who attended, as we continue to navigate through complex situations and lead our Anglican schools.



## Confirmation & Baptism Service at Timbertop

On Friday 19th August the Timbertop School was very pleased to hold its Confirmation and Baptism Service and welcome Bishop Clarence to its beautiful bushland campus nestled at the foot of Mt Buller. This normally annual event has had to be cancelled two years running because of Covid, so it was especially pleasing to be able to hold it once again. As the Timbertop Chaplain pointed out in his opening remarks, the Year 9 Timbertop students who spend much of the year testing their willpower by thrice-weekly runs, regular hiking, arduous living conditions in rain and snow and far removed from the distractions of phones and screen technology,

know more about commitment and the importance of embracing good values than most 15-year-olds around the country. It was therefore wonderful to witness sixteen of these young students make their commitment to Christ in the iconic Timbertop Chapel before their family and friends and the Bishop.

In his address, Bishop Clarence asked what WWW might stand for. (One muttered response – "Wangaratta Weight Watchers?" – remains memorable.) He went on to give a new meaning to the acronym – Worship, Witness and Work – in a powerful address to guide the confirmees on this next stage of their Christian lives. It

was also good to welcome the Geelong Grammar Principal, Ms Rebecca Cody and the Senior Chaplain, Rev. Gordon Lingard to participate in the service and bear witness to the promises made before Christ. Music was provided by the Timbertop Choir singing "Down to the River to Pray" and by the young but talented Jem Herbert who was able to treat the congregation by playing on the rarely-used but mellifluous Chapel organ.

It is to be hoped that with the main ravages of Covid now behind us, the Timbertop Confirmation Service might once again become a regular annual event.

## Blessing of the Fleece

On the 31st July, St John's Alexandra and St Luke's Yea met together with the Molesworth community at Christ

Church, for the annual service of Blessing of the Fleece. The wonderful service was followed by fellowship in the Molesworth

Community Hall, with a delicious and generous luncheon.



# Life's Golden Thread

BY CAROLINE BURGE

Kilmore parishioner, Parish Councillor, Synod Rep and Altar Server, Dr Norman Rose, recently had his memoirs published. Norman's life's story is of a boy growing up a Jew in Melbourne of immigrant parents. After a difficult childhood and a difficult first marriage Norman went to Medical School which culminated in a career in psychology and working in mental hospitals in Victoria, as well as working in civil and criminal forensic psychiatry.

Norman talks in his book of his encounter with Christianity, and how this, together with his second marriage to Anne (also a parishioner at Christ Church), has led to the sense of fulfilment he has today.

Norman over the years played a big part in our parish Seder Meals during Holy Week, bringing his background in Judaism and ability to read and speak Hebrew to the meals.

Many in the Diocese would know Norman who has been a parishioner in the Parish of Kilmore for the last 35 years, as well as being on Diocesan

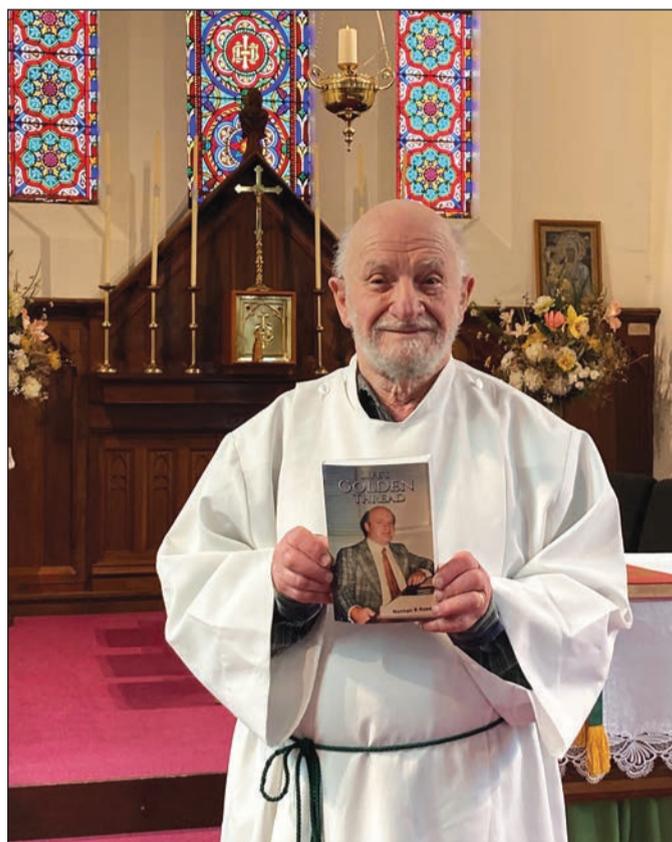
Synod.

A golden thread has certainly been woven through Norman's life.

If you are interested in reading this book, it has now been

published in Australia; or if you want to contact Norman, please email: [publicity@anglicankilmore.org.au](mailto:publicity@anglicankilmore.org.au) and your email will be forwarded on.

**PHOTO BELOW:** Dr Norman Rose presenting his book at Christ Church.



# Scrap books are fascinating

BY REVD DR EDWIN BYFORD

I am rather ancient. I grew up in southern New South Wales in the days of steam trains and DC3s. Newspapers and the wireless were the sources of almost all information about contemporary happenings. Occasionally I cut out news clippings or pictures of special events because I thought they were important, but I never really saved them up or placed them in a scrapbook.

Recently I was loaned a scrapbook that holds cuttings from a little over a ten year

period from the mid eighties to the mid nineties of the last century. The book was started by the owner when he was 16 years old in 1986. On the cover is a black and white drawing of Desmond Tutu and the cuttings begin with the preparations for and enthronement of Desmond Tutu as Archbishop of Capetown.

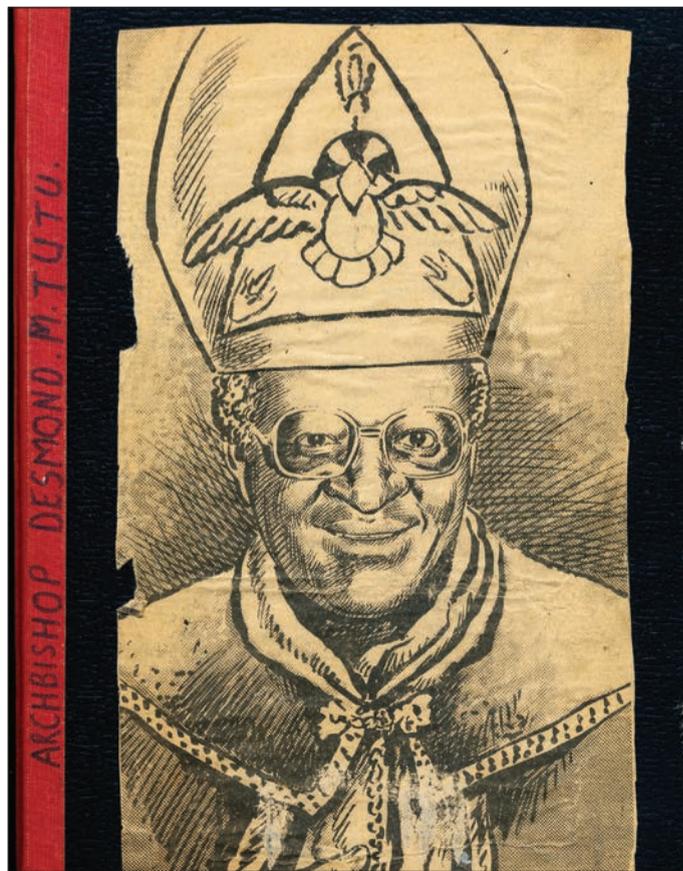
Scrapbooks usually tell us more about the collector than the actual people or events that are the subjects of the cuttings. The colour and pageantry of the enthronement stand out not

only for the very nature of the event, itself, but for the fact that the new Primate of Southern Africa was a black man in apartheid divided South Africa. What follows is a collection of cuttings that follow the various controversies that were part and parcel of life for the Archbishop. The late apartheid regime had to deal with a charismatic Christian who challenged the foundations of the political and social reality of which they were all part. Tutu had international standing so could not be easily ignored.

The cuttings remain centred on Tutu and the interaction of the gospel of Christ and the politics of South Africa. Interestingly, most of the other important players in the opposition to Apartheid are peripheral to the collection. The interest of the collector would seem to be the interaction of church and state, of the gospel and politics as it plays out in the lived experience of the people directly affected.

The collection fades away with the retirement of the Archbishop in the newly integrated South Africa.

So who is it that put this collection together? The sixteen year old was (and is) one Clarence Bester. Our bishop was ordained just after Archbishop Tutu retired. I suspect that the centrality of the interaction of gospel and society, so clear in the scrapbook, has not diminished.



# Book Review

## God is not a Christian: Speaking truth in times of crisis

By Desmond Tutu

REVIEWED BY ANNE BAUMGARTEN

Desmond Tutu eloquently explores powerful themes of injustice, repentance, forgiveness and reconciliation in this selection of his speeches and writings. He describes his observations of injustice under the apartheid regime in a direct and honest manner. With reference to the Bible and experience, he explains how an inclusive attitude to those whose views differ from ours is far more effective than an exclusivist position. All humans are made in God's image, all are equal and deserve respect.

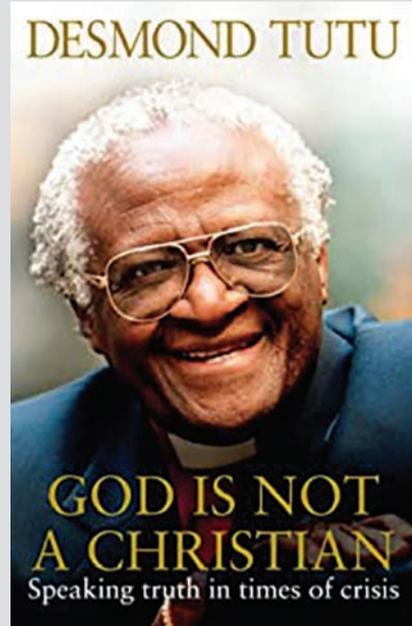
Tutu reminds us that God is in charge, 'even without worshippers' and our faith that God is the ultimate authority demands we take risks. When the church speaks up on behalf of the voiceless, the wealthy and powerful do not like it. Tutu was often criticised by leaders and people within and outside the Church. But if we as God's servants do not 'strive for the establishment of the kingdom of God', we are not being good Christians. God is not distant and will not abandon us on this journey.

Tutu claims 'the Bible is the most revolutionary book in a situation of oppression.' He declares himself a radical, in the sense that he goes to the root of issues. In obedience to God, he witnesses for his Christian faith when telling truth to power. He asserts that if we are not activists for the poor and vulnerable, then we cannot claim to be following Jesus. 'We must be committed to the total liberation of God's children, politically, socially, economically'.

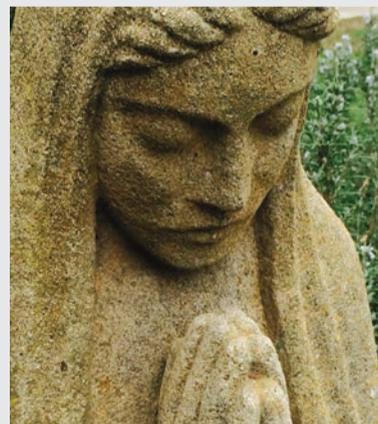
In contrast to Western cultures which are often individualistic, Ubuntu permeates traditional African culture. Ubuntu is the concept of shared humanity – a person is only a person through other persons. It fosters restorative justice and virtues such as generosity and compassion. Tutu contrasts black theology (linked with liberation theology) with white theology. Black theology is a gut-level theology, not academic. It speaks to black suffering.

Tutu says there are many different theologies, within and apart from Christianity. We can learn from others while still holding our beliefs. God transcends all our thought categories, all our imaginings. If we are to find the starting point for negotiation and reconciliation, we must open our hearts and minds.

Tutu's concerns about abuses of power connect with current global – and Australian – injustices. His words can resonate and energise the faithful in our own Diocese.



# 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@wangaratta-anglican.org.au](mailto:chaplain@wangaratta-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@wangaratta-anglican.org.au](mailto:chaplain@wangaratta-anglican.org.au)

**Christ Church, Kilmore**

Leader: The Rev'd Andre Du Plooy

Bookings (by 16th Nov): Andre 0458155930;

email: [rector@anglicankilmore.org.au](mailto:rector@anglicankilmore.org.au)

# Rest in Peace Rev'd John Southerden

BY REV'D HELEN MALCOLM

The memorial service to celebrate the life of Rev'd John Southerden was held at Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle on 23rd July following a private funeral after his death on 30th June. The congregation of clergy, parishioners, friends and family represented the many roles and places John had been in across his 87 years and the love and respect in which he was held.

John was well known in the Diocese of Wangaratta, doing repeated long-term locums in the Parish of Shepparton, as well as a locum as Dean at the Cathedral.

Canon Roger Zohrab in his homily captured John's all round character and gifts of ministry – Roger had been a student at Morpeth College when John was Acting Principal and later they worked together in the

Parish of Gosford for two years. I can do no better than to quote (with permission) from Roger's homily:

John was 'a man of God, of deep, unwavering faith. He expressed it through his ministry of word and sacrament, his willingness to be on the councils and committees of the church.' 'It was from a deep love of the scriptures, a constant urging of the Spirit, a desire to serve, that John Southerden offered an extraordinary six decades of ministry. ....He was serious and focussed in his priesthood. Some of us, who were less focussed, perhaps at times less committed, sensed his lack of approval. Priesthood, ministry for ... John was extremely important. He knew the benefits, he could see the needs and he understood the costly nature of being available to others and being unavailable for his family.' John also 'used his accountancy background to

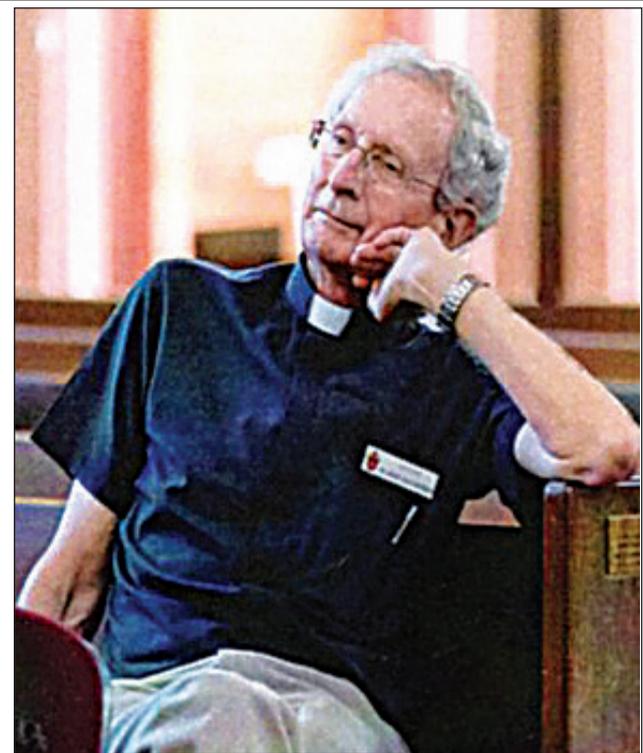
assist the church, dioceses and parish alike, to meet budgets, finance projects, plan mission.'

Roger went on to say 'I want us to see him as a normal man, who followed his heart in love and ministry. His initial theological training at St. Francis College, Brisbane instilled key habits of prayer, reflection and in depth scholarship – all for the purpose of being holy, of service to others.'.... 'John was a mentor to many in this diocese, through his wisdom, experience, measured advice, conscience and skill.' Roger also mentioned John as 'an example of humility' and his 'quick wit.'

My personal memories of John are of someone in touch with and trusting God; of deep, unmoveable faith, with the humanity and the scholarship to transmit this to other people. At the beginning of each service he would give a brief summary

of the day's readings, put them into context and then, in his sermon, focus on the message and the lessons he wanted us to take away with us. He emanated a deep sense of peace, but could also deliver witticisms with only the twinkle in his eye that told you he was joking. In one conversation that Roger recalls, John asked "What is my legacy?" In all the parishes, different dioceses, family life, friendships, what was his legacy to be? I suggested it might be that "he believed in others", gave them the self-confidence to move through life. He liked this and simply replied "I hope so". Then he added, "Well, that is what God does for us. Believe in us."

Through of all of their married life John was lovingly and ably partnered by Robyn who had her own distinctive ministry. Our Parish remembers John and Robyn with much affection



and we pray that Robyn and their family will take comfort from their memories and the support of others who knew John.

John has provided each of us who knew him an example of a holy life towards which it is worth us striving. A very

human 'saint' has passed through our lives and we are the richer for it.

Rest eternal grant to him O Lord and let light perpetual shine upon him. Amen

# Corryong Debutante Ball

BY REV MARYANN LEONARD

On the 5th May the Corryong Memorial Hall was at capacity with those gathered waiting for the first Debutante Ball in two years. This year we had thirteen Debutantes and their partners waiting eagerly to walk on stage and be presented to special guests.

Debutantes and Partners were received by The

Venerable Neil & Mrs Sue Hicks (Archdeacon of the Anglican Diocese of Wangaratta) & The Reverend Maryann Leonard, Parish Priest of The Anglican Parish of Corryong.

All music was based on QUEEN hits.

The Presentation dances were: The Carousel, Evening Three Step, Rock n Roll, progressive Jive and a Parent dance.



# Bishop Clarence visits Parish of Central Goulburn

BY DIANE GRANT

As part of Bishop Clarence Bester's mission to visit the parishes around the Diocese, Central Goulburn parish folk welcomed him, wife Michelle and Rev'd David Still to their Sunday service on 28 August.

Bishop Clarence presided over the Eucharist with assistance by Rev'd David, parish priest Rev'd Richard Pennington and sacristan Anne Foote.

The Bishop emphasised caring for others in his sermon, especially those who may feel isolated, left out, the quiet ones, or those who don't make a lot of noise to be noticed.

Rev'd David Still gave a short talk on his new Anglicare role and invited parish folk to contact him for information about this welfare branch of our Anglican church.

Following Communion a time of fellowship and congenial hospitality was enjoyed over the delicious morning tea proved by the parishioners.

Bishop Clarence and Michelle enjoyed meeting and talking with the parish folk from Avenel, Nagambie and Seymour and said he looks forward to catching up with the smaller parish centre churches and other Parish churches in the Diocese in the next year.



PHOTO: Central Goulburn folk Sue Hill, Gladys Burgoyne, Betty Hayward, Bishop Clarence.



# Farewell service for Ven Neil Hicks

BY SUSAN KNIGHT.

Rev'd Neil Kelvin Hicks became the Parish Priest of Yarrowonga nearly five years ago. He has been an inspiration to us all and when his new appointment was announced we were most disappointed and even upset to be losing such a wonderful man. Rev'd Neil has had a massive influence upon St. Cuthbert's (Yarrowonga) and St. Thomas's (St. James) - a true leader and also a compassionate and ever-loving teacher and friend.

During Covid isolation times he held weekly Zoom services and helped young and old alike sustain their interest in the church and each other. He cleverly brought the internet alive with wonderful artistic examples to compliment his sermons. We all loved to see the artistic masters' interpretations of scripture brought to us each week. The message was often made clearer with these viewings to help uplift us during the long haul of Covid.

His appointment as half-time Archdeacon of Wangaratta and half-time Priest in Charge of the Parochial District of Wangaratta West and the

Warbys came as a calling from the Bishop .....and God!

It was a very sad day for the Parish of Yarrowonga on 10th July 2022, when we had our last service conducted by Rev'd Neil and we said our final goodbyes to him and his wife Suzanne. With much ceremony, eight servers were there to celebrate (and commiserate) the last day with the Hicks' in our church midst. Many churches were represented at this full service. Sue and Neil's son Callum and daughter-in-law Lauren came down from Canberra especially for this service. it was lovely to have them here too - a service for the ending of a pastoral relationship.

"O God, you have bound us together for a time as priest and people, to work for the advancement of your kingdom in this place: We give you humble and hearty thanks for the ministry which we have shared together." Fittingly the service had readings from Luke 10, the Good Samaritan story. Artistic masters had their insightful contributions projected on the church wall for all to see and learn from. Neil has an amazing way of linking our biblical readings with topical

events. His sermons became so meaningful to each of us. Incidentally we also learned about the Plumb-bob! (Amos 7.7-17). "See I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel."

After the service speeches were made by Parish Councillors and due thanks given for Sue and Neil's care for us. There was a presentation of a graphite drawing of St. Cuthbert's church by Noel Hunt, beautifully framed to remind Sue and Neil of our time together and our love for them. The contents of a special envelope should also help them with settling into their new home in Wangaratta.

A splendid "Brunch" cum morning tea was enjoyed by all. A variety of delicious foods and a special cake was spread out on the hall tables. Many stories were recalled and we wished them well for their move onto a new chapter in their lives.

How do we say a simple thank you for helping us all grow in Christ? We will miss you both dearly. Neil gave thanks to God who called him to be amongst us. We give thanks too.

Now, we pray, "Be with Sue and Neil as they leave and be with us who stay; and grant that all of us, by drawing ever nearer to you, may always be close to each other in the communion of your saints. All this we ask for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen."

# News from Cobram

BY ROSS SMITH

The Cobram Parish held a fellowship Trivia night on 29th July that attracted a good number of participants who enjoyed a fun night out, enjoying a 2-course meal in between answering the trivia questions. The night celebrated the first time we were able to gather for fellowship since covid lockdown.

Messy Church in Cobram continues to meet on the 3rd Sunday of each month with on average 24 multi age people attending. Each month there is a Christ focused theme and the group pictured are busy making a craft on the theme 'I am the light of the world'. A time of creativity is followed by celebration in worship and then hospitality with a 2-course meal.



Trivia night



Messy Church

# MU Lone Members Enjoy Get Together

BY ROBYN AULMAN

It was a happy occasion at the MU Lone Gathering when 19 Lone members of the MU from our Wangaratta Diocese gathered at the Blazing Stump, Bandiana on 14 July 2022.

welcome by Rev David Holloway then the Candle Litany with Electric candles with coloured paper to make the colours.

Our new Diocesan president alas came down with Covid so was unable to attend.

The members then shared a meal and much catch up time. Thanks to those who organised the day.

The social occasion was hosted by Wodonga MU and the Day started with a





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## Looking Down the Valley

BY REV'D DR EDWIN BYFORD

I should be writing about winter as I am sitting in the General on Mount Hotham in wonderful snow. When the thaw comes there will be plenty of water going down the rivers. The dams are full and the weather forecasters are already suggesting that we will have a wetter than usual summer. Drought has almost disappeared from our vocabulary, at least in Australia. Spring and Summer are looking very good for those on the land — we can happily proclaim with our Lord that seed time and harvest will not cease before the coming of the kingdom.

I grew up in the Snowy Mountains so I am well aware of how it is that the snow is so essential for the summer growth above the tree line and for the health of the rivers as they run onto the great plains of this wide brown land. A good winter is what introduces a good spring. Down the valley a little, below the snow line, the daffodils are beginning to bloom. Spring bursts upon us with the wonderful feast of Saint Michael and All Angels and runs through All Saints to the season of Advent.

Late September means that Michaelmas often passes us by. For our friends in the northern hemisphere it is a beginning, but for us it is the end of winter sports and the beginning of the hiatus in the approach to summer. Football grand finals seem to take precedence even for the very faithful. But the Feast of Saint Michael and All Angels is well worth keeping. In New South Wales it is of very great importance for Police. All over the state there will be church services on or about the feast day. In a sense the whole state takes time to give thanks for the dedication of Police to public safety and good. Special time is set aside to give thanks for Police who have died during the previous year and especially those who died as a result of carrying out their duties. Saint Michael and his angels cast the devil down from heaven. Saint Michael has long been seen as the special protector of those who protect the security and safety of communities.

It is often the case that we do not notice those who maintain our safety and security — police, fire fighters, ambulance, the military. Mostly we do not want to have an encounter with them, for that usually means that something has gone wrong. Volunteer fire fighters will be beginning to make sure that all of their equipment and vehicles are ready to be put into action at a moment's notice. It is interesting to note that we put in all this time and energy to prepare ourselves for something that we hope will not happen. Most of the population does not even notice what is going on. So it is important to stop and recognise that it is our faith that even when we are not noticing, the Lord our God and the angels are noticing. Never are we left unnoticed.

It is not just in the spring and the summer that the unnoticed go unnoticed. Through the cold and dark of winter our roads are kept open. Food still makes it to the markets and the shelves of stores. In the mountains ski patrols are ever vigilant and the ambulance service is ready for almost anything. The fires that we light to keep us warm in our houses mean that fire fighting personnel need to be immediately available. I could go on about our power and our water and those tens of thousands of public servants that make sure that the ordinary order of society is maintained. (As we affirm each time we say the Creed, God is the creator of everything that there is, seen and unseen — noticed and unnoticed.)

Early in spring we offer our thanks to almighty God for the protection that we experience. Stopping and giving thanks for this protection reminds us of our part in maintaining our own safety and security. Prayer is a two way conversation. In asking we need to recognise our part in achieving that for which we ask. It is not as if we can ask God's help and then just sit back and watch. We are the agents by which God's purposes can be fulfilled. Our prayers and our thanksgivings function as much as challenges as requests.



## On to New Pastures

BY HEATHER BAMFORD

The parishioners of the Anglican Parish of Euroa attended the penultimate church service of local priest, Rev'd Paul Hobby, supported by the Diocese of Wangaratta Bishop Clarence Bester on Sunday, June 26.

Bishop Clarence was in attendance for one of his regular visits to parishes across the Diocese.

Rev'd Paul Hobby, his wife Lisa and their children, Faith and Grace, came to Euroa in early January, 2020 and Fr Paul was inducted into the Anglican Parish of Euroa on January 25, 2020.

For Rev'd Paul, he was back in familiar territory having attended St Paul's church prior to deciding to become a priest, so it was a very easy transition into his new role within the parish.

He has a very approachable manner and he has been more than willing to get out there, to visit many parishioners who found it difficult to get to church and church events.

Then, Covid struck.

Not to be deterred, Rev'd Paul took on the challenge of these times throughout 2020 and 2021 and continued to provide the outreach that was extremely vital, especially for those in isolation.

Church services were provided via Zoom and Paul endeavored to assist the many parishioners who did not have the technology, to the point that many dedicated church people would be seen on the vicarage verandah, listening/and or viewing the week's church service.

Meetings continued unabated and some of the other regular church events were also held using whatever technology was available.

the weather. The poorest people and small business owners are the most harshly affected.

The political ideology began at the inception of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which can be traced back to the Club of Rome and Agenda 21. A prime mover of this was Maurice Strong whose rhetorical question gives the game away: "Isn't the only hope for the planet that the industrialized nations collapse? Isn't it our responsibility to bring this about?" This led to the following definition of climate change: "A change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability". The trouble is that the human effect cannot be determined unless natural climate variability is known and the IPCC does not take proper account of this. The

As people in Europe and the UK are finding, the push to net-zero is leading to what is rapidly becoming disastrous hardship and a complete undermining of society. To a small degree this is exacerbated by the war in Ukraine but it is a disaster that was two decades in the making, and it has done nothing to change



Rev'd Paul and other parishioners endeavored to make and be in regular contact with locals despite the challenges, as everyone could understand the difficulties of feeling isolated.

His commitment included time spent in Violet Town and Longwood and also making contact with those in Granite Hill and the Violet Town Nursing Home.

In between, Covid outbreaks and lockdowns he was not to be deterred and church services and other church activities resumed but obviously with restrictions.

During his short time in this parish he remained focused on getting the job done both in and around the church and into the community.

The church hall is now a valuable space available for a variety of uses.

The Op Shop continues to flourish but with now a much-needed storage space, sitting unobtrusively behind the shop.

Rev'd Paul kept an eye on the grounds and he was often seen pruning and trimming trees

using his arborist skills.

Rev'd Paul said: 'The family were sad to be leaving the parish but they were all looking ahead to new challenges. "It had not been an easy decision but it was what was needed at this stage of my life."

Rev'd Paul and Lisa were given gifts by the church and the girls loved some special t-shirts that were chosen for them so that they wouldn't forget Euroa.

Following the service, all in attendance were invited across to the church hall to enjoy a delicious light luncheon.

Another special focus for the day was the dedication of the hall kitchen in honor of Michael Coe. Michael Coe and his wife Joan, have worked tirelessly on the refitting of this space and Michael, especially would often be seen working on yet another project within the kitchen.

The Hobby family are now settled in the town of Hagley, Tasmania (south of Launceston).

It is hoped that their time in the Anglican Parish of Euroa is not forgotten and that their new location is all that they wish it to be.

## NET ZERO

BY REV'D JOHN JESSOP

The question of net-zero is a political, ideological and, for some, a religious question. What does net-zero actually mean? Perhaps it means we should all stop breathing? This might seem a facetious suggestion but we should remember that breathing in and out is an essential, natural, part of life in which oxygen is extracted from the air and carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is breathed out.

What about net-zero in relation to a nation such as Australia. How is net-zero measured? Is it on an industry-by-industry basis, or an individual-by-individual basis? In fact, the human contribution to atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> is not measured but estimated. It so happens that on the day I was writing this, Tim Wellington, writing

in the Australian, outlines some of the sacrifices required for net-zero. The comments were even more illuminating. Professor Ian Plimer, in his book, "Green Murder", is more specific about what would have to be abandoned. Perversely this would include the machinery to extract the 227 tonnes of earth needed for each electric vehicle battery. He also makes an obvious but vital point, "The grasslands, forests, crops and continental shelf of Australia sequester far more CO<sub>2</sub> than Australia emits from all energy, transport, agriculture and mining sources" (page 525).

As people in Europe and the UK are finding, the push to net-zero is leading to what is rapidly becoming disastrous hardship and a complete undermining of society. To a small degree this is exacerbated by the war in Ukraine but it is a disaster that was two decades in the making, and it has done nothing to change

IPCC produces major assessment reports which, particularly lately, are reasonably measured in their conclusions. However, Summary Reports for Policy Makers are duplicitous in the extreme and their alarming conclusions are amplified by the mainstream media and they become the basis for climate alarmism.

For such organisations as 'Extinction Rebellion', climate alarmism is a form of religious cult. Disrupting the everyday lives of their fellow citizens is seen as a virtue. For me, a key aspect of Christianity, Judaism and, I believe, Islam, is the fact that the earth is seen as a gift from God, for the benefit of humanity but which has to be used wisely for the good of all. The Creator, rather than the Creation is to be worshipped. Other important teachings in the Bible include the centrality of truth and justice and the condemnation of syncretism.

The popular presentation of the supposed forthcoming climate catastrophe ignores written history and records, paleogeology, genuine atmospheric physics. It ignores the developments in spectroscopy. It relies on manipulated temperature records and exaggerated weather reports. If we consider the response of our church, we can see a marked failure to look for the truth beyond the popular presentations. Equally importantly, by following the 'climate emergency' pathway the church is in danger of syncretistic virtue signalling, but even worse than that, of ignoring the plight of the poor, not only in declining Western Nations but for the hundreds of millions of people where the only source of warmth and cooking heat is sticks and dung.

*The opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and don't necessarily represent those of the Diocese of Wangaratta.*

# Rural Australians for Refugees

BY SUZIE DON LEONARD

Update on Afghanistan from Rural Australians for Refugees

On 31 August it will be 12 months since the Allies left Afghanistan and the Taliban took over. Since then reports we are receiving from thousands of people we are sponsoring have been horrific.

RAR has been able to get some of the most vulnerable women (who were judges, members of security forces and Human Rights Advocates) out of the country into Pakistan and are supporting them through members personal resources. It costs approximately \$250 per month to support a single woman and \$450 per month for a family (accommodation, food, transport costs). These women are in limbo and awaiting Humanitarian Visas from the Australian Government which were applied for over 12 months ago.

Any financial support people can afford to give, would help support these people from certain torture and death.

Donations to support sponsored Afghan people facing extreme danger/execution who are now in

Pakistan can be made to RAR Mansfield with a brief follow up email to RAR Mansfield Treasurer Helen Bohren.

1. Transfer donation to RAR Mansfield:  
Account Name: Rural Australians for Refugees Mansfield or RAR Mansfield if too long.  
BSB: 633 000 (Bendigo Bank)  
Account Number: 155 879 182  
Reference: Pakistan Women

2. Email - Helen Bohren briefly at: helenbohren@gmail.com & CC yourself and tell Helen:  
• your name  
• name of the group you're affiliated with eg. RAR Wangaratta, WRAN, Anglican Diocese, or parish name  
• you made a deposit of X

Helen oversees and reports on donations to high risk sponsees in Islamabad. Marie Sellstrom transfers amounts determined each month via Western Union to support each Afghan sponsee's living costs while waiting for visas.

The transfer systems have proved safe, quick and reliable.

# Hazara Women for Change

Women For Change Association activity with the cooperation of the RAR:

1. Providing education for 571 students in four different schools in two different shifts.
2. Supporting 11 special students, some with no guardian and some who were the only provider for their families. They have been completely illiterate. Currently, they are studying in a private school. WFC and the RAR are providing for their school fees and their families.
3. Monthly support for two families each with three disabled members.
4. A remote and marginalized school has contacted the WFC many times to support their school and students. Their school doesn't have a building, chairs and other equipment. For 90 students they had only one teacher. In the month of July WFC with the cooperation of the great RAR hired one more teacher for the students.

We are making history, no association and organizations focusing on girls' education that was banned by the current regime.

Every dollar make a huge difference in the current situation in Afghanistan. We are happy to have your comments and suggestions.

We decided to not share photos in social media in order to keep Movement for Change staff, teachers and students safe.

Please share this information with the RAR and affiliated members:  
The harshest genocide is happening

with the Hazaras in Afghanistan, unfortunately, there is no condemnation and sympathy from the International community. I hope the RAR members could help our people by raising their voices and their pains. I am sorry for giving you the sad news.

More than two weeks after the Taliban's military incursion into Balkhab District, one of the northern Hazara districts has left several thousand families, their homes and their lands in fear and displaced by mountains and neighbouring districts. A large number of these displaced people have died from cold, starvation, disease and falling from the mountains, local sources say, citing local sources, and the Taliban have shot or beheaded a large number of Balkhab residents with a massive military attack on Balkhab district on the pretext of arresting Mehdi Mujahid, a disgruntled Taliban commander. Houses and shops have been looted and burned down.

About 150 Hazara civilians have been killed and dozens injured after the Taliban attacked the district. With no access to treatment, the Taliban stationed in the district prevented the burial of bodies, local media have not been allowed to report on the deplorable conditions of the people of Balkhab, and the area's telecommunications have been disrupted during the clashes, the Taliban have not been allowed to report on the deplorable situation of the people of Balkhab, and the telecommunications of the area have been disrupted during the clashes. They have not hesitated, they have even shot the children. The group

has made Balkhab mosques, schools and medical facilities their base and disrespected people's sanctities. In a video posted online, Taliban members can be seen celebrating by playing music from the mosque's loudspeaker.

Meanwhile, thousands of displaced Balkhabis are now stranded in the mountains and neighbouring districts. Among the displaced are babies children, patients, the elderly and pregnant women who are being wasted without food, medicine and shelter, and at least 30 children have died from the Balkhab war.

The United Nations Mission (UNAMA) in Kabul said it is "following up" reports of "serious human rights abuses" in Balkhab, Sar-e-Pul Province in northern Afghanistan. In a statement, the Afghanistan Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) has accused Taliban forces of "shooting" civilians in Balkhab, Sar-e-Pul Province. In response to news of the killing of civilians at the hands of Taliban militants in Balkhab District, Amnesty International said it was extremely concerned about desert executions and harm to civilians in Balkhab. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (OCHA) said in a report that the Balkhab war has resulted in the displacement of at least twenty-seven thousand people.

The international community, neighbouring countries, and national and international aid agencies have so far not done aid or relief for the displaced people of Balkhab.

## HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE REMEMBERED?

Very few of us have the time to think about how we wish to be remembered, how we choose to have our lives celebrated, or the legacy we will leave for future generations.

Planning to leave a Gift in our Will to a worthy organisation like Anglicare Victoria is easier than you think.

**Ensuring Peace of Mind: My Personal Wishes for Remembrance** is a practical 40-page booklet, provided with the compliments of Anglicare Victoria. It can be used to help plan a funeral or memorial service, record personal wishes and key information and importantly, minimise the distress of our loved ones at a time when they really need support - giving us real peace of mind today.



**Leonie, mother of four adult children and blessed with nine wonderful grandchildren.**

"My Anglican faith is important to me and reminds me of how I want to live my life mindful of those for whom we should care. The mission of Anglicare Victoria is to care for children, and families who are at risk. Children who are traumatised by domestic violence and the families who live at the margins are in need of support. That mission resonates very strongly with me.

"My way of ensuring Anglicare Victoria's work is assured into the future is to leave a bequest to Anglicare Victoria in my will. The Anglicare Victoria booklet *Ensuring Peace of Mind: My Personal Wishes for Remembrance* allows me to reflect upon and clearly express my personal wishes and let my family know of those wishes. A bequest to Anglicare Victoria in my will, ensures that my faith journey continues as a legacy into the future."

YES, please send me my FREE copy of Anglicare Victoria's **Ensuring Peace of Mind: My Personal Wishes for Remembrance** today.

Please also send me further information about leaving a Gift in my Will to Anglicare Victoria.

Full Name..... Address..... Postcode.....  
Daytime Phone..... Email.....

Please cut off and mail to: **Mary Croxford - Gifts in Wills Anglicare Victoria P.O. Box 45 ABBOTSFORD VIC 3067**



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BETTER TOMORROWS

# People and Parishes



Rev'd Victor Adams celebrated his birthday on the 31st July with a small get together at the Parish. Happy Birthday Victor!



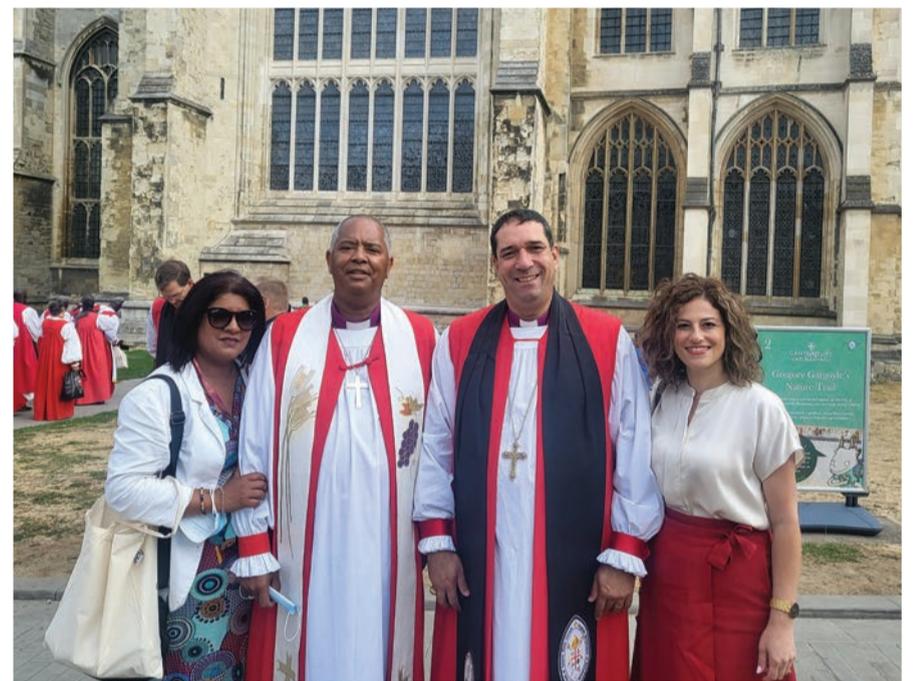
Michael Coe and Bishop Clarence in the Michael Coe Kitchen at the Parish of Euroa. Story on page 10.



Michelle Bester at bible study group, Lambeth with members from the Diocese of Mandalay and the Church of England.



Peter Hagen, Sam Goble and Rev Richard Pennington at the Classical Concert featuring Harpsichord and Cello on Sunday 10th July at Christ Church Seymour



Bishop Clarence and Michelle with Archbishop Hosam Naoum and Raffa Naoum



Michelle Bester with members from the Diocese of Mexico and Peru at Lambeth.



Bishop Kevin & Patti Nichols, Bishop of Bethlehem Pennsylvania USA together with Bishop Clarence and Michelle