



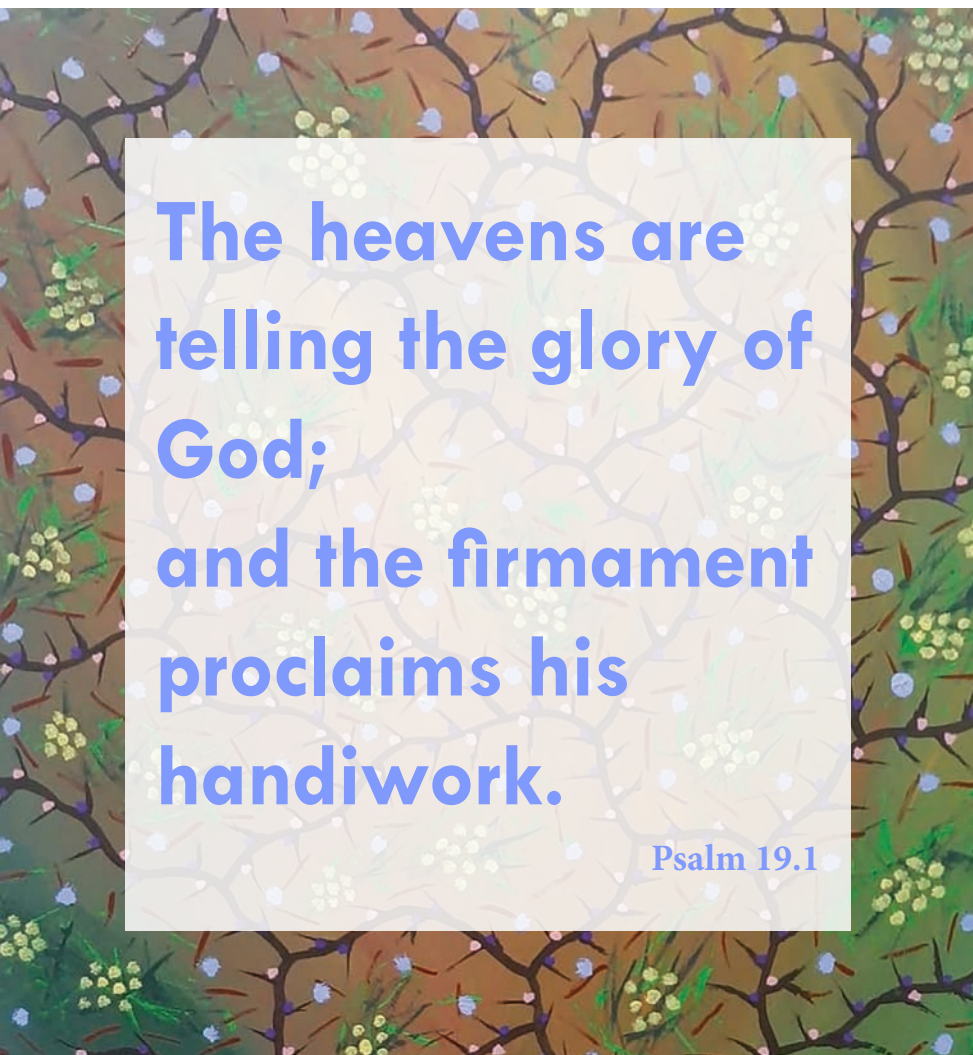
THE ADVOCATE

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

Issue: 111

Newspaper of the Anglican Diocese of Wangaratta | www.wangaratta-anglican.org.au

SPRING 2023



The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

Psalm 19.1



Inside the Advocate this edition



PAGE 2



PAGE 3



PAGE 6

Robert Storey Whalley

17.04.1946 - 07.08.2023

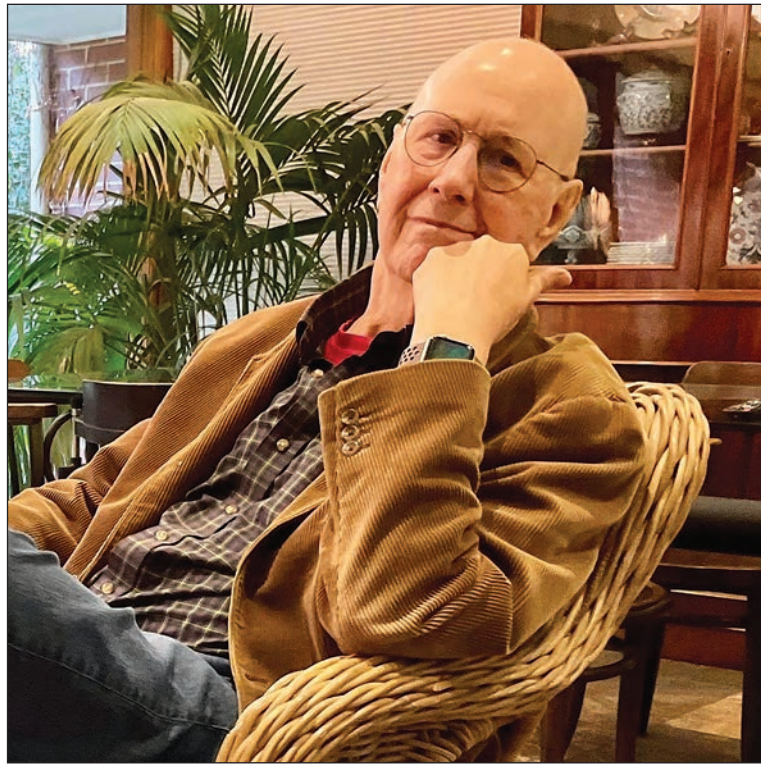
BY REVD DR JOHN DAVIS

The gathering of hundreds in a nearly full Holy Trinity Cathedral Wangaratta for the requiem mass on Monday 14th August 2023 was testament to the love and high regard that so many around the diocese and indeed around the world held for Fr Rob. A constant theme was of grateful thanks for a remarkable and distinctive personality- at once a deeply insightful visionary of what the Church might be, a gifted teacher and spiritual guide and just a lot of fun to be around.

After decades of rich and fruitful lay ministry in university chaplaincy in California and in Melbourne, the final years of ordained ministry here in the Diocese of Wangaratta from 2009 as Bishop's Chaplain and Diocesan Education Officer saw a flourishing connection with groups and individuals that so many found transformative.

His major writing project 'Lost together with the others' remains incomplete. In some form this will be made available, if only online. There is so much. The huge influence of his great mentor Thomas Merton, the insights and practice of the Zen Buddhist tradition, sermons, addresses, reflective writings, poetry, advocacy, love story - all mixed up together in a wonderfully creative way. Something to look forward to.

Fr Rob's civil marriage to Fr John Davis in September 2019 was thought to be the first marriage of a clergy same sex couple in Australia. It received national and international attention. This remains contentious in the disputed context of the Anglican Church of Australia. Even the simple but official blessing of such a civil marriage was hard fought. That part of this story is not over. But countless expressions of gratitude and respect stand alongside criticism and condemnation.



Courageous advocacy for some of the most vulnerable, offering hope in dark places and giving a voice to those who have none - not a bad legacy.

Fr Rob died at home from cancer, surrounded by love and care and support from near and far, cared

for over these last hard years by his beloved husband John.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

The livestream link for the funeral is available at the North East Funerals Wangaratta website.

Love very much in action in Broadford

BY DAVID KERR

Every Friday morning, at the Broadford Living and Learning Centre, miracles occur. Whilst nowhere near as documented and studied as Jesus' feeding of the five thousand, what happens in Broadford is of a similar intention, methodology and theological import. The aptly named Love in Action group run a food bank service for struggling families and individuals in the area. Sometimes up to 30 clients a day come in to pick up a box of groceries, including meat, frozen meals and hygiene products, while others rely on the courtesy of a delivery van to receive their supplies. Clients are of all ages, from young parents to the elderly and from a range of circumstances, such as unemployment, children with special needs and those on disability pension. St Matthew's parishioner Barbara Radford and her husband Bruce have been key helping hands in this local community initiative and parish priest Rev'd David Kerr has begun committing as much time and presence as he can since moving to

the area. There is a visible, aching need within the bounds of the Parish of Kilmore for material assistance to those doing it tough. There are, relatively speaking, only a handful of volunteers who can serve at Love in Action on a Friday and yet both Barbara and Rev'd. David receive an increasing number of phone calls asking for help, and even to share some of their stories, to unburden themselves. As he reflects on this, Rev'd. David can't help but recall Archbishop Desmond Tutu's famous saying: 'We can't keep pulling people out of the river; we have to go upstream and find out why they are falling in.' Religion is seldom popular with those who reach out for material aid, but it cannot be denied that systemic poverty may stem from deeper, more spiritual soil. Rev'd. David believes a long term vision of the parish should be to bring these individual clients together as a group on a regular basis, if not for worship, then as community, as a way of letting them know that God loves them, and is with them in their hardship.



Anglican Diocese of Riverina
FOUR RIVERS BOOKSHOP
Specialising in Anglican Theology
238 Banna Avenue, Griffith NSW 2680
Ph: 02 6964 0304 Fax: 02 6964 2257
Email: helena4rivers@bigpond.com
Mail Orders Welcome

PLEASE REPORT CONCERNS
CALL 1800 135 246

KOYOORA OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS
For further information: www.kooyoora.org.au

The Anglican Diocese of Wangaratta does not tolerate abuse, harassment, racism or other misconduct. If any person has concerns about the behaviour of a church worker, past or present, they can contact Kooyoora Ltd.

We are deeply distressed that there have been occasions when abuse and misconduct have occurred in our community. Kooyoora Ltd is independent of the diocese and receives and manages complaints about abuse and misconduct by church workers.

The Diocese is committed to doing all that is possible to ensure that abuse does not occur. All complaints of abuse are taken very seriously and we do all we can to lessen harm. We offer respect, pastoral care and ongoing long-term support to anyone who makes a complaint.

You can contact Kooyoora Ltd by calling 1800 135 246 or emailing: professionalstandards@wangeratta-anglican.org.au

WHAT'S INSIDE?

From the Bishop.....	3
Looking Down the Valley.....	9
Opinion piece.....	10
People & Parishes.....	12

Front page credits: Artwork (bottom left) by Revd David Kerr, Image (Bottom right) photo by Fiona van Bree, Image (top left) Freemages @perihelio

CONTACT US

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

Printed by North East Media, Wangaratta, Victoria

The Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyrighted, 1989, by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America, and are used by permission. All rights reserved

DETAILS

The Advocate Newspaper is published by the Anglican Diocese of Wangaratta and is distributed across the Diocese quarterly - Summer, Autumn, Winter and Spring.

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

The Diocese is not responsible for the opinions expressed by its contributors. Their views do not necessarily reflect the policy of the paper or the Diocese. Acceptance of advertisements does not necessarily mean endorsement of the product or service.

Contact the Diocese for editorial deadlines. (03) 5721 3484

Contributions and photos are welcome (please limit to approximately 500 words) for consideration for publication dependent on space and content with the understanding that they may be edited. Pictures should be provided as a high resolution JPEG (200dpi) or Tiff if possible

Collation of Cathedral Canons

BY REVD MOIRA EVERS

On Sunday August 20, the beautiful service of Evensong provided a fitting stage for the collation of Ms Molly Craig, Ms Helen Gilbert and The Reverend's Moira Evers and Scott Jessup as Canons of Holy Trinity Cathedral and, after many years of faithful service, Ms Margaret Gibson and The Reverend Alan Kelb as Honorary Canons.

The role of the Canon is an ancient one and has its roots in clerics who renounced wealth to live in a community within the precinct of or close to a Cathedral. The Roman Catholic Order of Canons Regular, known as the Augustinians are an example of this. The role of Canon in the Anglican Tradition has

developed to include both Clerics and Lay People who, although not living within the precincts of the Cathedral or even near to their Cathedral, assist the Dean with certain aspects of administration and care for the "fabric and furnishings" of the Cathedral.

In his sermon on Sunday, Bishop Clarence, spoke of the role of Canon as being far more than an honorific title but rather a sacred duty to humble service within the Cathedral community. When asked what she would like to bring to her role as Lay Canon, Molly Craig, from the Parish of Benalla said, "I hope to be able to help in increasing the life of the Cathedral as the centre of the Diocese." Similarly, Helen Gilbert from the

Parish of Central Goulburn commented that, "with my professional, voluntary and life experience I hope that I can contribute to the work and fabric of the Cathedral in a positive manner." Revd Scott, who has been re-elected for another term, would like to bring his call to nourish and deepen the spiritual life of both clergy and laity to his role as a Cathedral Canon. As a newly elected Canon, Moira feels honoured to be elected to the position by her peers at Synod and agrees with Bishop Clarence that with the role comes the responsibility of service. Canon Moira, reflecting on the immortal words of Ralph Waldo Emerson, "nothing great is ever achieved without enthusiasm," will strive to bring to this new role an attitude of energy that will hopefully encourage others to participate in the life of God that is central to the life of the Cathedral as the "Mother Church" of the Diocese.



PHOTO ABOVE: Canons Helen Gilbert and Molly Craig, Canon Moira Evers and Canon Scott Jessup.

A Prayer

We greet you, O Spirit of God, as you come from the winds of the east. We acknowledge the home of the rising sun and the gifts of spring, birth and babies. Fill us with the power of illumination and wisdom.

Spirit of God, our creator, we offer you our thanksgiving.

We greet you, O Spirit of God, as you come to us from the winds of the north. We acknowledge the home where the sun is at its highest and warmest. We acknowledge the gifts of summer, growth and young people. Fill us with trust and the power to grow in new ways.

Spirit of God, our creator, we offer you our thanksgiving.

We greet you, Spirit of God, as you come to us from the winds of the west. We acknowledge the home where the day finds its fulfillment and the gifts of autumn and adulthood. Fill us with the power that comes from quiet reflection.

Spirit of God, our creator, we offer you our thanksgiving.

We greet you, O Spirit of God, as you come to us from the winds of the south. We acknowledge the coldness of death and the gifts of winter and elderhood. Fill us with the power that comes from renewal and letting go.

Spirit of God, our creator, we offer you our thanksgiving.

Amen. (Seven Songs of Creation, Norman C Habel)

from the Bishop



Dear Clergy, People and Friends of the Diocese

Changing Seasons

In the book of Ecclesiastes we are reminded that there is a time for everything. In life, we are reminded that there is a time for everything. The reality is that there is a time for everything. Change is necessary as we evolve and as time moves on and, though we often fear change, change is necessary as it creates opportunities that will bring about new ventures.

For many, change is difficult to handle, as they have become comfortable with the known and the familiar. It becomes even more difficult when people are caught up in themselves and fail to see that there is a season for everything. The yesteryears are gone when we had large numbers attending our services and when we were delighted with the sounds of babies, the competing voices of children and the optimism of our young people.

We are now at a challenging time when we have to change our normal operational plans to new developments to meet the ever-changing needs and contexts of our worshipping communities. Yet, many still want to hold on to the known and the familiar and do not want to venture into an area that demands certain changes.

The four seasons within a year demand contextual change as to how we dress, where we go and what we do. There is the reality of spring that signifies new life and the awakening of leaves on the trees with the covering of earth in the most picturesque design that beautifies God's world.

This is our season now as we come out of the hibernation of winter and look forward to the beauty of creation manifesting itself all around us. It might present a time when the heaters will be put away, air-conditioners switched off and the remaining chopped wood covered or stored for another two seasons. Yet, we will continue to celebrate the season as we celebrate life knowing that, even within the anticipated seasonal conditions, there will be demands for flexibility, an adjustment of behaviour, as the characteristics of any of the other seasons can enter our current time and space unexpectedly.

Celebrating the Seasons

As a Diocese we will continue to celebrate our common life as we enter this Season of Creation and as we live up to the fifth mark of mission as described within the Anglican Communion... "To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and to sustain and renew the life of the earth."

Following our Diocesan Synod in June and our discussion regarding the Lambeth calls, we have identified three key calls and areas to focus on immediately over the next few months.

The first of these (not in order of preference but convenience) is on the environment and sustainable development. To this end we have invited The Rev'd Dr Rachel Mash to join us over three days from 26 to 28 October, with the Saturday being the opportunity to gather as a Diocese for an open-air Season of Creation Service which will take place at the Bishop's Lodge. Please see the special poster in this edition of the Advocate and join with your Parish Leadership Teams to witness the planting of 23 trees inaugurating our Communion Forest. More details will follow, but we do hope that we will celebrate as a Diocese on that day and have a picnic lunch following all the activities.

At this service we will also give details of the other two priority calls regarding mission, evangelism and discipleship as well as reconciliation.

Challenge of the Season regarding the Advocate Newspaper

After much contemplation, prayer, reflection and struggle to keep the Advocate Newspaper going in its present form, we will now redesign and reformat the Newspaper into a bi-monthly online publication with effect our Church's new Season of Advent. Parishes will still be able to print copies for those who will not have online access, but I believe this will be the best way to go forward as we even struggle with filling a quarterly newspaper. I encourage you to embrace this change as we navigate an important communication method within our Diocese and beyond.

Every blessing,

+ Clarence

Clergy Movements as of September 2023

VACANT POSITIONS
NIL

APPOINTMENTS

- Reverend Cathy Carden - Deacon Assisting, Parish of Wodonga.
- Reverend Lesley Lewis - Deacon Assisting, Parochial District of Beechworth
- Reverend Catherine Dawson - Chaplain, Albury Wodonga Health

PERMISSION TO OFFICIATE

- Revd Richard Whereat - effective as of 19th July 2023
- Revd Peter McKeague - effective as of 15th August 2023
- Revd Christine Page - effective as of 15th August 2023

Like us on Facebook
Anglican Diocese of Wangaratta



Volunteering in times of crisis

BY MARGARET BRICKHILL

People of faith who are suitably trained and registered by VCC Emergencies Ministry are able to be rostered by staff to provide Psychological First Aid / Emotional and Spiritual Care for people who have been affected by a disaster.

VCC Emergencies Ministry training is a comprehensive package designed to equip members of faith communities to support affected residents through participation in VCC EM deployments.

The training course is a two-stage process involving self-paced learning and completion of the workbook and a face-to-face training day. Self-paced

learning and completion of the workbook must be completed at least 7 days prior to the training day.

The training day utilises multi learning opportunities including teaching, discussion and personal reflection.

Successful registration with VCC EM also requires the completion of safety checks and referee reports – once the training has been completed.

Training is essential for all in the faith community intending to respond to emergencies and disasters in Victoria. VCC EM is authorised by Government to coordinate and integrate faith communities' responses when disasters occur.

There is a charge for the training day and you need to bring your own lunch. Morning and afternoon teas are provided. It is strongly encouraged that all volunteers refresh their training every 3 years.

For more information and to register for training visit www.vccem.org.au. You can also get further information via info@vccem.org.au or 7037 6010. Margaret Brickhill is a cathedral parishioner and a local contact for the training day: brickhillmargaret@gmail.com.

PHOTO BELOW: Russel Smith and Margaret Brickhill who have both volunteered with VCC Emergencies for many years.



VCC Emergencies Ministry Personal Support Training

Saturday 21 October,
9am – 4pm
Holy Trinity Cathedral,
Wangaratta



Ongoing Post Ordination Training

BY REVD CATHY CARDEN

As part of the ongoing vocation, training and development of Clergy in the Diocese, Deacons Revd Cathy J Carden and Revd Lesley J Lewis continue to meet monthly on a Saturday morning at Bishop's Lodge. The sessions have covered a broad range of topics and information related to formation and ministry, including Liturgical Ministry, Contextual and creative liturgical expressions; the Liturgical calendar; the Operational Structure of the Anglican Church of Australia and Diocese of Wangaratta; the Parish Administration Act in relation to Functions of Parish Council and Church Wardens; and Pastoral and Sacramental Engagements. A range of people has been used to facilitate these sessions, including some from outside our Diocese.

Recently, the Deacons were fortunate to be able to participate in an 'inter-Diocesan' collaboration with the Right Reverend Donald Kirk, Bishop of Riverina, leading a very helpful session on Homiletics and Hermeneutics: Preaching and Teaching in Context'. In the July Post Ordination Training session there was the added bonus of an international perspective with the

Dean of Port Elizabeth, South Africa, the Very Reverend Sharon Nell, leading an interactive discussion on the topic of Contextual Models of Ministry: Mission, Evangelism and Outreach. Revd Sharon explained how clergy live and minister in three main contexts: the world (including any other jobs or community involvement) the church and the home. Churches and clergy need to be aware of the culture in which they are living and working, focussing on things in common and how to make ministry relevant in that particular context.

Revd Cathy and Revd Lesley feel very fortunate and blessed to have such high-calibre, renowned national and international clergy sharing their experience and wisdom in this important component of their ongoing ministry formation.



PHOTO ABOVE: Very Reverend Sharon Nell, Reverend Cathy Carden, Right Reverend Donald Kirk and Reverend Lesley Lewis

Part-time Unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) in Wangaratta 2024

A part-time Unit of CPE will be conducted in Wangaratta in first semester 2024, from 5 February to 25 June. The course will be conducted by the North-east Victoria CPE Centre. It will be coordinated by Dan Murphy, who works as Pastoral & Spiritual Care Coordinator at Northeast Health Wangaratta (NHW) and is accredited as a Clinical Pastoral Educator, with the assistance of Maureen Beattie, who is an Anglican priest associate with Holy Trinity Cathedral in Wangaratta and Pastoral Practitioner with NHW, and is accredited as a Clinical Pastoral Supervisor. It will be conducted at Northeast Health Wangaratta.

CPE is one of the most highly recognised programs of supervised education for provision of spiritual and pastoral care, and is rarely available outside the metropolitan area. It carries extensive credit in tertiary religious and theological study programs. It is highly recommended for anyone contemplating working in pastoral or spiritual care especially in a professional role, or in a volunteer capacity, and also for those working in other helping

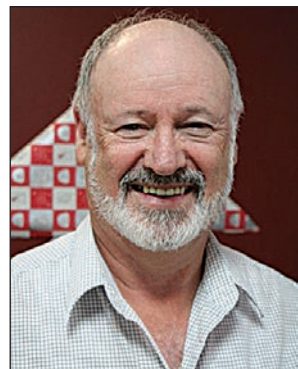
professions.

The program will be conducted on Tuesdays from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, with attendance on 3 Mondays also required (5 February, 22 April and 24 June). A further day each week is required for delivery of pastoral care in an approved placement and further time is also needed for writing reports on pastoral encounters, so participants need to be able to devote at least about 2.5 days each week for the 21 weeks of the program.

Cost of the CPE program is approximately \$2,000.00, or for those enrolled in theological studies, the cost will be the equivalent of 2 Units of study, payable through their University. Prospective applicants should contact the Course Coordinator, Dan Murphy, at dan.murphy1949@gmail.com or on 0408 841 997, for further information and to request an application form. You will need to request an application form before 30 September 2023, and applications must be made by 31 October 2023.



Maureen Beattie,
Clinical Pastoral
Supervisor



Dan Murphy,
Clinical Pastoral
Educator

Prevention of Family Violence Conference

BY REVD MEL CLARK

(1800RESPECT)

In May Rev Mel Clark represented the Wangaratta Diocese at the 3rd National Gathering on the Prevention of Family Violence in Sydney.

The two day conference, convened by the General Synod Families and Culture Commission, aimed to share statistics about violence in domestic settings, put forward the new national plan to end violence against women and children and to hear victim and survivors' stories.

The statistics and stories were very confronting, especially considering that members of the Anglican Church are regularly more represented than in the wider community, as both victims and perpetrators.

In the coming months there will be more news and information about the church's commitments to support victims, encourage perpetrators to seek professional help before violent behaviours occur and to gain a better understanding of resources that are available to people who need help.

In the meantime, if you or someone you know is in need of assistance you can call: The Orange Door on 1800 271 157 or White Ribbon on 1800 737 732

Key statistics on violence against women in Australia

Source: <https://www.ourwatch.org.au/quick-facts/>

- On average, one woman a week is murdered by her current or former partner.
- 1 in 3 women (30.5%) has experienced physical violence since the age of 15.
- 1 in 3 women (31.1%) has experienced physical and/or sexual violence perpetrated by a man they know.
- 1 in 4 women (23%) has experienced physical or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner since age 15.
- 1 in 2 women (53%) has experienced sexual harassment in their lifetime.
- Women are nearly three times more likely than men to experience violence from an intimate partner.
- Almost 10 women a day are hospitalised for assault injuries perpetrated by a spouse or domestic partner.
- Women with disabilities in Australia are around two times more likely than women without disabilities to have experienced sexual violence and intimate partner violence.
- 1 in 5 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women aged 15 and over have experienced physical violence in a 12-month period.

Book week at Cathedral College Wangaratta

BY REVD CATHY GARDEN

Book Week is celebrated every August in Australia, and this year the theme was Read, Grow, Inspire. This theme relates so well to our Christian faith that the Chaplains and teachers shared information about the Bible with other staff and with students in their weekly Religious and Values Education classes. This is what they learned.

Do you know which book is the World's all-time, every year, No. 1 best seller? It's..... The Bible

10 Facts about the Bible

1. Best seller of all time – over 100 million copies sold every year
2. Greek 'Ta Biblia' – the books/the scrolls – Latin 'Biblia Sacra' – Holy book
3. The original scrolls and parchments of the Bible were written in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek.
4. The stories in the Bible take place across 3 continents – Asia, Africa and Europe.
5. Full Bible translated into 532 languages. Partial translations in 2,883 different languages.
6. Stories from the Old Testament cover about 1000 years – (since Abraham) - not including Creation and the story of Noah and the flood – that are now more understood to be tradition stories.
7. Stories from the New Testament written/relate to only 80 years – the Gospels – recounts of Jesus' life, and Paul's letters to different communities and people – however the message still speaks to us today.
8. The Bible (or parts of it) informs 3 major world religions – Christianity, Judaism and Islam.
9. The Bible has inspired more song lyrics than any other book.

10. The Bible has inspired the most famous art works.

The theme of this year's Book week, Read, Grow, Inspire relates perfectly to the purpose of the Bible for Christians – as we read and become familiar with God's story of love for the world, for creation and for all people, our prayer is that we are inspired to share that love and desire to do God's will and bring peace to all the world.

Reading the Bible also bring great comfort and direction to people all across the world. Here is a prayer based on Psalm 119 – with the well known verse – 'Thy word is a lamp unto my feet':

O Lord, your Word is a lamp unto my feet. Show me the way in the darkness, illuminating the path you have chosen for me. When I'm uncertain and afraid, fill me with your strength, reminding me you are by my side. Help me to trust in you, O Lord, knowing you will lead me through the darkness and into your light. I will fix my eyes on you, Lord, following the light of your path, allowing the path of the world to fade away. Lead me, Lord, and show me your way. Amen.

THY WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET - YouTube



Book List for Daily Reflections, Prayer & Meditation

BY ANNE BAUMGARTEN

Here are a few suggestions for your daily readings. These books may be sourced through the Cathedral shop or online. You may wish to share your own suggestions in The Advocate.

For prayer and bible readings:

- Daily Services: Morning and Evening Prayer. The handy mobile app version is epray Daily
- An Australian Lectionary – (currently 2023: Year A, Matthew)

All from Broughton Publishing Pty Ltd



For meditation, contemplation, and reflection:

- Daily Wisdom – from The World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM). Available by free subscription to <https://wccm.org/daily-wisdom/> Emailed daily. The author is Laurence Freeman OSB, Director of WCCM
- The Daily Meditations – from The Centre for Action and Contemplation (CAC). Available by free subscription to <https://cac.org/daily-meditations/> Emailed daily. The authors include Richard Rohr, the CAC faculty and guest teachers and authors.
- The Inner Voice of Love: A Journey Through Anguish to Freedom by Henri j. M. Nouwen (Doubleday)
- The Intimate Merton: Thomas Merton's Life from his Journals Edited by Patrick Hart and Jonathan Montaldo (Harper Collins)
- Yes, And...: Daily Meditations by Richard Rohr (Franciscan Media)

Confirmation at Timbertop

BY REVD MEL CLARK

On August 18th Bishop Clarence confirmed six young people in the St John the Baptist Chapel at Timbertop. Hamish, Oscar, Thomas, Tess, Sophie, and Charlotte affirmed their baptismal vows and celebrated this important milestone to the sound of heavy rain pelting down on the chapel roof.

Revd Mel has been leading chapel services this year and supporting the students, and particularly these six, through their questions and reflections on their Christian lives. She was particularly proud to present them to the Bishop on this special day.

Bishop Clarence encouraged the six confirmation candidates to always remember the importance of

both service to community and worship and to consider the new perspective that following Jesus allows in our lives.

As the gathered family and friends shared communion the sun broke through and everyone present enjoyed the marvellous views from the chapel windows.



Centenary at St Aidan's, Swanpool

BY MOLLY CRAIG

Sunday 3 September, saw a joyous occasion in the Parish of Benalla as St Aidan's, Swanpool celebrated their Centenary plus two! The congregation had been planning the event for the past two years, but due to COVID and other happenings, it has taken till 2023 to celebrate.

The celebrant for the Eucharist was Bishop Clarence, assisted by Bishop Dino Gabriel. The service saw the church full of people from not only the parish but the area as well.

Following the service, in the glorious sunshine, Bishop Clarence blessed and planted

a tree to mark the occasion. This was followed by fellowship during a delicious lunch and the cutting of the cake.

The congregation presented Bishop Clarence with a handmade bowl to mark the special day.

Congratulations to all at St Aidan's!



Centenary of St Thomas's at St James

BY YVONNE DAVIES

St. Thomas's at St. James celebrated the Patronal Festival and their Centenary on Saturday 24th June 2023. The lovely service was led by Bishop Clarence Bester, Archdeacon Neil Nicks and Rev'd Elwyn Enos and it was wonderful to see around 80 parishioners past and present fill the Church, some having been baptised, confirmed or married there, or all of the above. It was also a celebration of live services throughout the 100 years of

ministry, faith and worship.

A delicious luncheon of soup, sandwiches, cakes and slices was had afterwards in the Hall and Archdeacon Neil cut the beautiful cake made and decorated by Diane Young.

A wonderful day and a true celebration of a little Church that has meant so much to so many- our Love and Congratulations to you all.

PHOTO BELOW: Revd Elwyn Enos, Bishop Clarence and Archdeacon Neil Hicks



Celebrations at Murchison

BY KAY BALL

On Sunday 13th August at Christ Church Murchison, Colin Crossman and Peter Cutcliffe were licensed and commissioned as Lay Readers within the Parochial District of Murchison and Rushworth by Bishop Clarence Bester. The Bishop also took this opportunity to dedicate the excellent sound system newly installed in the church.

The sound system was made possible by a generous gift from parishioner Eileen Pinkerton, in memory of her husband Geoff. As many of our parishioners are becoming hard of hearing, the need for a system to amplify sound within the building was realised by Eileen. Her husband Geoff was, as Eileen puts it, 'a get on and do it' sort of man and, in

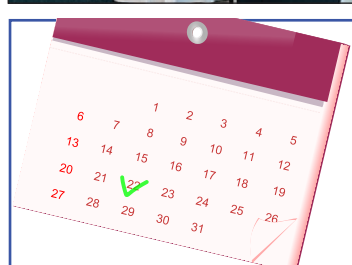
keeping with his attitude, Eileen donated funding for this practical solution, even before the idea was being considered. It is certainly a great improvement – after all, we don't want to miss out on hearing Andre's sermons! The congregation is very pleased to now be able to hear all that is said during the services in the church and, as a thank you and a token of appreciation, presented Eileen with flowers from our local flower farm, Avonlea flowers.

Lunch in the church hall was a happy occasion after the service to celebrate the day's events and to enjoy the company of Bishop Clarence and his wife Michelle.

PHOTO BELOW: Peter Cutcliffe, Bishop Clarence, Colin Crossman, Revd David Still and Revd Andre Du Plooy



Do you have an Event that you would like to advertise in the Advocate?
Send it to
registry@wangaratta-anglican.org.au



De-consecration of St Paul's Wakiti Creek

BY LOU HAMON

A Service of Thanksgiving and De-consecration of St Paul's Anglican Church, Wakiti Creek in the Anglican Parish of Numurkah-Nathalia, was held on Saturday 29th July 2023.

It was led by the Right Reverend Clarence Bester, Bishop of Wangaratta, assisted by Archdeacon Neil Hicks and Rev Gunnar Rippon, with the lesson

read by Marj Smith and intercessions by Rob Elliott.

The church was packed, with standing room only for the final service.

Refreshments were served in the grounds following the service.

St Paul's was dedicated in 1895 by the Bishop of Melbourne, Field Flowers Goe. It has served the district of Wakiti Creek as a place of

worship and has been the site of many baptisms, marriages and funerals over the years.

Many who attended would have had mixed emotions as they reflected on the role St Paul's had played in their lives and in the lives of their forebears.

The building will be relocated to Wakiti Creek Resort, and be available as a chapel, whilst eventually the land will be offered for sale.



St Aidan's still serving the Community

BY ALEX MONK

Following the deconsecration of St Aidan's Church, Strathmerton, Parishioners wanted to leave a lasting legacy for the Community. St Aidan's had served the Strathmerton Community for over 100 years.

So, in 2018 St Aidan's Opportunity Shop, Strathmerton, opened its doors for trading. The premises were blessed by Bishop Clarence prior to opening.

Like all businesses, the Shop endured the trials of Covid 19. Since 2021, trading has been consistent.

The support from Parishioners and the wider community is outstanding. The Guild provides the Shop with a variety of jams, marmalades, relishes, chutneys and sauces – not to mention the lemon butter. Demand at times outstrips supply.

Yard maintenance and repairs are carried out by a reliable group of men.

The Shop would not exist without a dedicated group of volunteers who provide customer service and sort the many generous donations received. The Shop receives many positive comments, some recorded in the visitor's book.

The Shop has engaged actively with the Strathmerton Community. The Lions Club has many mobility aids that are lent to people in the Community who need these items. They are stored and recorded at the Shop.

The Community Garden is maintained by another group of volunteers. Seedlings are potted up, with any excess produce available for purchase.

Strathmerton Pre-School

is also engaged with a bed in the garden where they grow vegetables. They are regular visitors now, coming to purchase Mother's or Father's day gifts.

"Wellways" operates one day per week from the House, providing a referral service to those who need assistance.

The Parish is very proud of the success of the Opportunity Shop and the financial support given regularly to the Parish.



There is an 'art' to ministry

BY REV'D DAVID KERR AND CAROLINE BURGE

Parish priest of Kilmore, Rev'd. David Kerr, is starting to break new ground with his artwork. He recently had four pieces featured in the Winter Art Show at St Mary's Anglican Church, Kangaroo Flat, in the Diocese of Bendigo. The church hall at St Mary's was deftly converted into a gallery space for about a hundred artworks, using a wide variety of subjects and styles. When visiting the space for himself, Rev'd. David was fortunately able to catch up with parishioners from Christ Church Kilmore and provide a bit of insight into the works he entered. 'Firstly, they are complementary,' he says, 'their colours just work together next to each other. Secondly, they each reflect a distinct aspect of my experience in ministry: the pink one was around my ordination, the green one relates to changes in my personal life, the yellow one to the challenges of pastoring

to difficult individuals and the blue one to the travelling of great distances in a rural diocese.' Rev'd David also appreciated the chance to share stories with members of St Mary's congregation who were running the art show. Given religion's historical relationship with the arts, it makes sense for churches to encourage the exhibition of not only fine sacred music, but also visual art. Painting and other such creative endeavours are undoubtedly the way a growing number of people connect with God. At the time of this printing, Rev'd. David is preparing for a more robust exhibition of his works at St. Mark's Anglican Church, Balnarring on the 15th and 16th of September. The theme will be 'This is My Body': an exploration of preparing and treating ourselves not merely as expendable objects, but as vessels for God's agency in the world.

Kilmore parishioners have valued this new experience

of the relationship between art and ministry, given there it could be said that 'The arts are one of the greatest gifts God has given to us – cheering the heart, stimulating the mind and enriching human life.' (peakradar.com)

Rev'd. David has shared some of his paintings and, on 16th July, the parish was given a glimpse of this talent with his trilogy of paintings of the Parable of the Sower. How blessed it as that this reading came up so soon after his ministry started in the parish so parishioners could understand his artwork which matched the Gospel of the day.

The parish is blessed to have a number of artists as parishioners and an Art Show in the Parish is planned in the future to include not only Rev's. David's artwork, but the artwork of parishioners and other local talented people.



PHOTO ABOVE: Rev'd David with one of his paintings "Deal with God (running up that hill)" entered in the Art Show at Kangaroo Flat

ASC Retreat in Yarrawonga

BY VICTOR ADAMS

The ASC (Anglican Schools Commission) schools in our diocese had a weekend retreat for senior teaching

staff and chaplains at the Sebel resort in Yarrawonga. Bishop Jeremy Greaves of the northern region from the diocese of Southern Queensland conducted

the retreat. The theme was "reimagining the world" reflecting on the parables of Jesus. This was a wonderful time of reflection and sharing.



Lifelong Loyalty To Our Sovereign

BY DIANE GRANT

My father Les Turnbull and mother Florence Fitzpatrick were married on 27 November 1947, one week after Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip were married on 20 November 1947. I was born in June 1948 and Prince Charles in November 1948.

I remembered that each Monday morning at assembly we all stated the oath, "I love God and My Country, I will honour the flag, I will serve the Queen, and cheerfully obey my parents, teachers and the laws." And I have tried to do that all my life.

In February 1954, I remember the school children of Victoria going down to St Kilda Road to see the new Queen Elizabeth 11 and her husband Prince Philip drive past in front of thousands of people lining the road. It was the newly crowned Queen's first parade in Victoria, Australia. On this special occasion, my sister Wendy and I with friends, Junie and Julie Thompson dressed in red, white and blue with rosettes on the chests one to represent the colours of the flag, stood in St Kilda Road to see our new Queen and Prince Philip go by which was a very impressive sight for such small children.

Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip were very honoured to be in our country, and I know they fulfilled their monarchical roles admirably for all the years of her reign until his death in 2021 and her passing away in

August 2022. They were married for close to 73 and half years.

The 1954 Queen's visit was such a great occasion for me, my first real spectacle. I became a royalist and follower of the monarchy and the Queen in particular from then onwards and still to this day.

Even to the point that in April 2021, I compiled a Queen's Condolence Book for Nagambie community to sign and sent it to the Queen at Buckingham Palace with over 1200 signatures and 80 photos in it following Prince Philip's death on April 9th 2021

Then when my beloved Queen passed away in August 2022 I compiled another Condolence Book on behalf of the Nagambie Community and sent it with photos to King Charles at Buckingham Palace and included a letter to him and to Prince William and Princess Cate.

On Tuesday, 2 May I received a thank you card from the Prince and Princess of Wales, Prince William and Princess Cate thanking the Nagambie community for their condolences. It featured a beautiful photo of Queen Elizabeth 11 on the left side and a poignant message on the right side. On the front were two crowns, with W and C printed under them.

I will watch King Charles coronation with enthusiasm and pledge my allegiance to him and loyalty as I did to his dear mother for over 70 years.

I wish him well and know it is his time to fulfill his destiny.

I hope to compile a congratulatory message on behalf of Nagambie community and send it to him soon.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

Season of Creation 28th October 10.30am, Bishop's Lodge



Holy Eucharist Service Celebrating

- The Communion Forest
- Planting of Parish trees
- Lambeth call on the Environment
- Fellowship picnic lunch

Guest Preacher
The Rev'd Dr Rachel Mash
- Secretary/Convenor of
the Anglican Communion
Environmental Network.

Please RSVP by 24th October
to Fiona at registry@wagaratta-anglican.org.au

Communion Forest Feature: 'Bats in the belfry'

BY REV'D CANON SCOTT JESSUP

St Paul's Church in Chiltern is home to a colony of over 200 microbats – don't be afraid, you won't find them in the pews, they use the roof space and bell tower as a daytime roost and emerge from the roof at dusk, flying off (up to 12km) in search of food.

Microbats measure 4 to 16 centimetres and make up one-fifth of all Australian mammals.

Many of Australia's microbat species depend upon hollows in trees to roost during the daylight hours. Competition from birds, possums and gliders, along with the clearing of many old trees with hollows, means that places like St Paul's, Chiltern, now provide important roosting space and maternity sites to raise young.

A recent study by researchers from Melbourne University identified two species: Southern free-tailed bat (*Ozimops planiceps*) and the chocolate wattled bat (*Chalinolobus morio*) using the roof space at St Paul's as a roosting and maternity site.

In the past they were viewed as a pest – droppings to be cleaned up and thoughts that they may be possible vectors of disease. Living with bats is not always easy, yet at

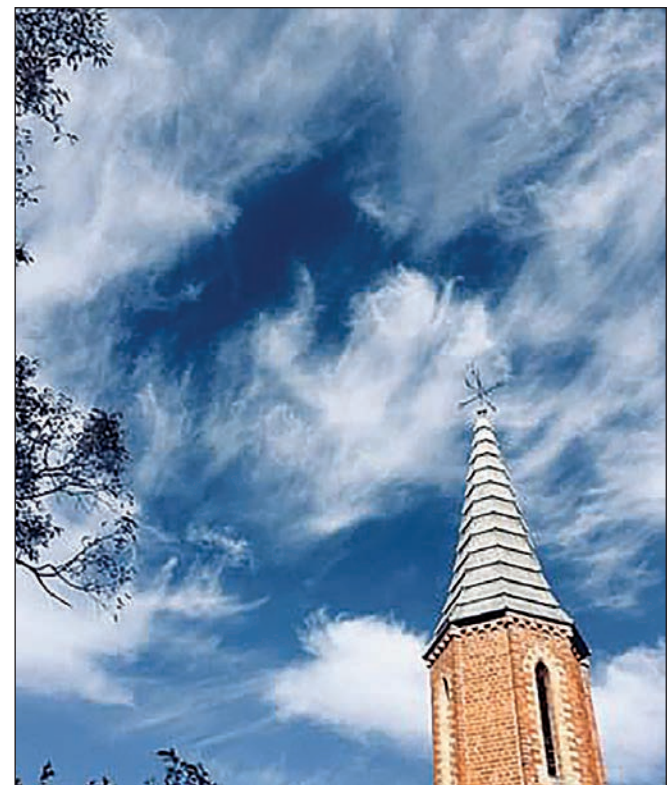
St Paul's we have learnt to tolerate the bats. A small amount of plastic sheeting is laid in the corners of the chancel between services in the church and weekly cleaning keeps any mess under control.

Microbats play an important role in ecosystem functioning by consuming large quantities of insects, including mosquitoes and agricultural pests. Recent research has found that Southern free-tailed bats feast primarily on the destructive Rutherglen, or seed bug (*Nysius vinitor*) – it makes up over 80%

of the diet of the bat. The Rutherglen bug is a native species that can migrate into crops in very large numbers in favourable seasons – they are sap-sucking insects that can damage crops and pastures – including grapes and canola.

Each bat can eat over half its body weight in insects in a night. That is the equivalent of an average human that weighs 70kg eating 117 Big Macs each night.

PHOTO BELOW: The bell tower at St Paul's Chiltern.



Fresh faces called to Marian ministry

BY REV'D DAVID KERR

On the 16th of August, Revd David Kerr of Kilmore parish attended the inaugural retreat for the Australian chapter of the Sodality of Mary Mother of Priests. A dozen priests from Melbourne, Newcastle, Adelaide and even New Zealand gathered at the Santa Casa retreat centre in Queenscliff to pray, reflect and learn from Jesuit priest Revd Richard Leonard. The theme of Revd Richard's teachings was how faith, hope and love can operate in a media-saturated society. Several attendees, already priests of the Sodality, renewed their vows and commitment to a rule of life, while several

others were accepted as aspirants for membership after further discernment. The Sodality of Mary is a dispersed international order of priests, deacons and ordinands, that has come into existence not more than ten years ago. Begun in England, and now reaching as far as Australia and the United States, it is an order for those who seek to promote not only the Anglo-Catholic tradition, but to celebrate and practice diversity and inclusivity in their life and ministry. In particular, Sodality members are called to be 'priests of the Magnificat', or the Song of Mary, which speaks of the upheaval of societal norms in favour of the radical, intentional and incarnational

love of God. For those familiar with ancient Greek, another key word for Sodality members is 'theotokos', or God-bearer, in the sense that Mary bore the Saviour in her womb; 'thus, as ministers, we are called to bear the life of the Saviour to others in our day-to-day.' There are currently two full members of the Sodality in the Wangaratta Diocese, Revd David of Kilmore, and Revd Moira Evers of Alpine Parish, who both have found the Sodality incredibly supportive of their vocation. If anyone should feel called to discern membership or companionship with the Sodality, they are warmly encouraged to speak to Revd David or Revd Moira for more information.

It's a small world

BY GABRIEL GARCIA

The world can be a small place. Just ask Ronald and Cynthia Powell and Margaret Smith.

The Powells, who live Cobram, are originally from the UK where Mr Powell served in the Royal Navy as a mechanical engineer for 12 years, including on HMS Scorpion.

Fast forward 54 years and both Mr and Mrs Powell volunteer at St Aidan's Opportunity Shop in Strathmerton.

Working alongside them is Mrs Smith, and it was an off-the-cuff comment by Mr Powell regarding his naval life that changed everything.

For Mrs Smith has a brother called Jim Adair, who happened to serve in the Royal Navy at the same time as Mr Powell.

"I told her I was in the Royal Navy and she told me her brother was in the Royal Navy and we matched ship records and her brother's record and mine matched on a commission on a destroyer," Mr Powell said. That destroyer was HMS Scorpion.

Not only that, the two men were on the same ship and they were located on the same mess deck and doing the same job.

A photograph of two men having a drink made the final confirmation.

"Margaret came in with a photo of two sailors and said 'this is my brother, did you know this one?' to which I replied, 'that's me,'" Mr Powell said.

The two men were not just colleagues but friends. "We had a weekend together. We were great friends," Mr Powell said. "We were living in a mess deck and there were 40-odd people living in it."

The unexpected connection between Mr Powell and Mrs Smith came as a surprise to Mr Powell. "Amazed, it was amazing," he said. "It was a feeling you can't explain. A blast from the past."

Since finding out about the connection, Mr and Mrs Powell have become good friends with Mrs Smith. "She's like my sister,

my younger sister. We're related," Mr Powell said.

Though Mr Adair stayed in the UK, Mrs Smith migrated in 1960 as a young child, eventually finding herself in Strathmerton and volunteering at the op shop. The revelation of the connection came as pleasant surprise to her

too. "I was tickled pink," she said. "We cannot get over the fact that we were world's apart but that Ron and I have found that connection."

According to Mrs Smith, her brother is amazed that in a town as small as Strathmerton she has found herself working with

someone with whom he served.


Since making the connection, Mr Powell and Mr Adair have reconnected.

Article courtesy of Cobram Courier

PHOTO LEFT: Worlds apart: Margaret Smith and Ronald Powell. Mr Powell served with Mrs Smith's brother in the Royal Navy.



Lester & Son
Funeral Directors
A tradition of personal, professional care since 1907



Andrew Harbick & Darren Eddy

Call now for immediate service or for an appointment to discuss your funeral needs.
02 6056 1700
49 Thomas Mitchell Drive Wodonga
www.lesterandson.com.au
All Hours • All Areas • Pre-planned Funerals Available

Looking Down the Valley

BY REV'D DR EDWIN BYFORD



From stories that I hear from around Australia it seems that Bishops and other church authorities are having difficulties in finding clergy to fill parish and other vacancies. This is by no means unique to the Anglican Church. While we are experiencing this situation the results of the annual survey of university students about satisfaction with their studies has been published and yet again it is students studying Divinity (with the University of Divinity with which Trinity College, Melbourne, is affiliated) that are most satisfied. So we seem to have somewhat of a paradox — the theological studies that are the pre-requisite for ordained ministry in the church are experienced as among the most fulfilling of university courses and we have a lack of ministers to serve in the church.

Theological studies are properly the pre-requisite for ministry in the church, but they are also an excellent preparation for any vocation that requires thoughtful and articulate practitioners. I will sing the praises of theological studies to whomsoever will listen, but that is not the point of what I am raising here. My concern is to go back even further to what may encourage people to think of a vocation to the ministry of the church. It is in congregations of the faithful that those who understand themselves as being called to be ministers are nurtured. It is in experiencing the support of congregations for the ministry of the church that those with the hint of a call will take it further. Congregations with a generosity of spirit develop a culture of outreach and support for themselves and the communities of which they are part.

All the churches in Australia are voluntary associations. In all of them financial security is almost entirely dependent on the generosity of their members. Australian Anglicans are an odd lot. We are an episcopal church organised into dioceses but we are essentially congregational. Our faith is brought to expression in and through the life of the local congregation. When we understand this we can see the dilemma. Congregational life provides both the nursery for ministry and the road blocks to ministry. I do not know the present situation but back in the sixties there were a couple of parishes in the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn that produced a significant number of candidates for the ministry and through that decade I happened to be involved in both of them. Clergy and laity were generous in their encouragement as I wandered a somewhat winding road. Who were these people? Many and varied. There were a couple of my high school teachers, including my physics teacher, who were members of the parish and, when I was an undergraduate in Canberra, academics and public servants who had an association with the Student Christian Movement and the parish I attended there. The clergy at home and in Canberra were relentless in keeping up their encouragement. So it was that at the age of 22, with an honours degree in physics and pure mathematics, I set off for Trinity College in Melbourne to study theology in preparation for ordination.

On my journey I set up most of the road blocks. God had some crazy ways of overcoming them but those are stories for another occasion. These days I think that there has been a

reversal, for the road blocks and discouragements look to be mostly external. When there seems to be almost endless discussion of financial stresses and lack of money to pay clergy it is probably hardly surprising that few young women or men will take the risk of going into debt to finance the education necessary for ordained ministry. One of our Lord's injunctions is to be "as wise as serpents and innocent as doves". (Mt 10:16)

Sometimes it is the case that our sure and certain faith in the purposes of God is at odds with what we are saying and doing. Often it sounds like we have reversed one of our Lord's great sayings (Mt 16:18). We speak and behave as if we are the ones who are beleaguered and surrounded — we are the ones behind the walls and it is the powers of hell that are arrayed against us, we are the ones who need defending. Yet what our Lord tells us is that it is the defences (the gates) of hell that will not prevail. It is hell that is on the defensive. The gates of hell cannot withstand the Good News of Christ Jesus, our Lord. Christ is risen from the dead and the gates of hell have been broken.

The life of the church is a joint operation — the Holy Spirit and us (look at the account of the Council of Jerusalem in Acts 15). We are to be wise and shrewd and we are to count the cost (Luke 14:25—33). Encouraging young people to consider a vocation to the sacred ministry requires a commitment on our part to help those young people on their journeys. Part of this is providing the wherewithal for the stability of the parish life that will nurture them and us.

The Environment: Good News and Bad News

BY REVD JOHN JESSOP

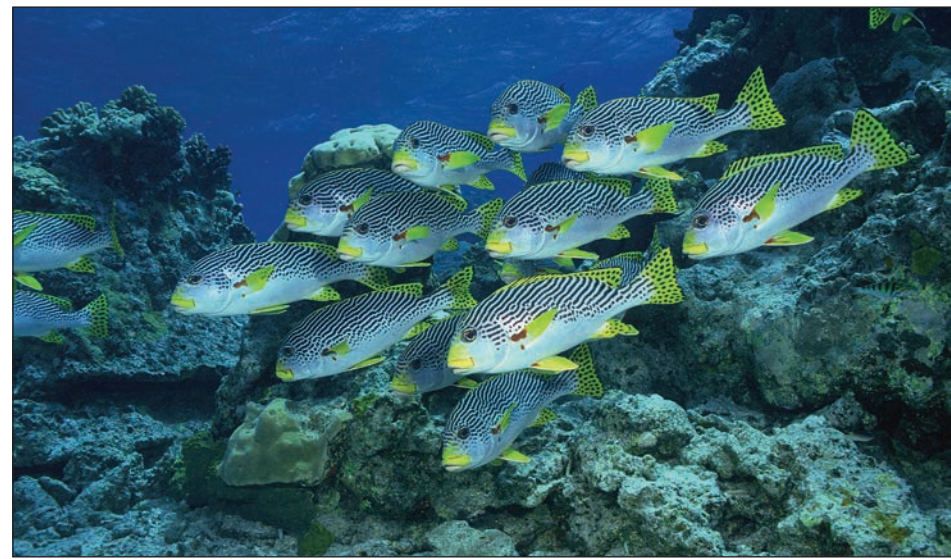
The Good News. Here are four items of environmental news which show that our God-given planet is in good shape. The Great Barrier Reef is in the best condition since detailed surveys began in 1986. 2022 was a remarkable year for the Reef's health and beauty and this has continued to this year. It shows that the Reef has recovered after the devastating cyclones of 2014. See: <https://joannenova.com.au/2023/04/great-barrier-reef-in-record-coral-cover-but-97-of-australians-dont-know-it/>. Polar Bears are thriving despite the early loss of sea ice in Hudson Bay. Polar Bear numbers have recovered from about 10,000 to 40,000 since the hunting ban came into effect in the 1960s. See: <https://joannenova.com.au/2019/03/how-to-hide-30000-polar-bears/>. A study of satellite images from between 1982 and 2009 has shown that 'greenery' has increased by 18million square kilometres, 2.5 times the size of the Australian continent. This is largely due to increased atmospheric CO2 but also to warmer Northern areas and Nitrogen from fertilizers. Other studies have reached similar conclusions but note

the comments regarding WA in: <https://joannenova.com.au/2016/04/18-million-square-kilometers-more-greenery-due-to-carbon-pollution-that-the-greens-hate/>. Human thriving has come about thanks to the use of abundant hydrocarbons for fuel, especially in relation to the generation of cheap, reliable electricity and the manufacture of Nitrogen based fertilizers. There is ample food for the people of the planet — providing it can be honestly shared. However, millions of people are condemned to marginal existence and poverty through lack of cheap, reliable electricity. Tom Quirk's open letter to Pope Francis is written from a Christian perspective and is well worth reading and noting the 142 endorsements. See: <https://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/05/10/an-open-letter-to-pope-francis-on-climate-change/>.

The Bad News. We see an example of bad news as we drive past Glenrowan where acres of agricultural land are being covered by solar panels the life-span of which (assuming there is no hail damage) is less than one generation. What will happen to the massive amount of toxic waste on

decommissioning? A much more serious issue is that 84% of solar panels are made in China using slave labour and cheap coal-fired power. See: <https://joannenova.com.au/2023/05/solar-panels-now-in-top-five-worst-slave-industries/>. Even worse news relates to wind turbines, most of which are so high that they would be the eighth tallest structure on Sydney's skyline. Apart from the detrimental visual effect and damage to flying creatures, consider the trail of devastation across thousands of kilometres of farmland, caused by roadways and power lines, not to mention the intractable waste. In Scotland 16 million trees were felled to make room for turbines — it will be far worse in Australia because of the distances involved. Then, if we are trying to reduce CO2 emissions, wind is not the answer, for the energy required for construction, erection and replacement, the inefficient use of gas as back-up for grid stability and the destruction of sequestering vegetation far exceed the benefit.

PHOTO BELOW: Great Barrier Reef. Photo by Comstock, Freeimages



Climate Action: Where Do We Want To Be? - Part 5

BY ANNE BAUMGARTEN

The era of global warming has ended and "the era of global boiling has arrived."
UN secretary general, António Guterres

To envisage where we want to be regarding climate change, we can turn to the Anglican church for guidance.

For example, the Australian Board of Missions (ABM) has released a booklet authored by Russell Rollason, titled 'Climate for Change: A series of studies about the climate crisis.' This title indicates we have moved on from the moderate language of 'climate warming' to words politicians and journalists -

until recently - considered alarmist: we are in a climate crisis.

To promote the booklet, ABM quotes Augustine of Hippo who said: "Hope has two beautiful daughters; their names are anger and courage. Anger that things are the way they are, and courage to see that they do not remain as they are."

Augustine would have been disappointed with people of faith who lacked passion when faced with a crisis: those who were denialists, lukewarm or apathetic. But grappling with the news about climate change is not easy if we feel powerless. There are powerful, reassuring verses in the bible asserting that faith gives us

courage, strength, and love casts out fear.

We can face the reality that while we might have pleasant weather in our Diocese, this does not disprove the alarming findings environmental scientists are reporting. The ramifications of disappearing icebergs; floods; wildfires; droughts; land clearing; extinct species; warming oceans; and the possible collapse of the gulf stream will be worldwide. Climate for Change urges people of faith and hope to become activists for a sustainable future. We need not fear or despair. Anyhow, in the words of David Suzuki 'Despair is a luxury.'

As we prayerfully live out our

Diocesan focus, to 'walk in the way of Christ,' we will discover opportunities and resources to deal with the human-caused climate crisis. For example, the five marks of mission can work together to equip us. We also need to be open to new or diverse ways of thinking.

The fifth mark of mission includes 'care for creation.' Creation is more than flora, fauna, and raw materials. As Matthew Fox points out in his book 'Creation Spirituality,' a city is also earth, earth recycled by humans... Creation spirituality is as much a city experience as a rural one.' Creation is everything, including people.

We may never come face to face with the people who suffer

most from the human greed and exploitation that leads eventually to disrupted weather systems, but our Lord has commanded us to care for them.

If we walk in the way of Christ, we have the best hope of responding to the suffering we will see. We can envisage and build the kind of kingdom our Lord says is already here. If this sounds vague, remember a vision is not an action plan. It is an inspiring picture. Something we can view or imagine, like a wedding banquet.

The next and final part in this series will look at practical strategies we can adopt to achieve our vision of walking in the way of Christ through the climate crisis.

The Voice: Anglican endorsement

Opinion piece

BY ANNE
BAUMGARTEN

The question for the referendum will be: "A Proposed Law: to alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice."

The Anglican Church of Australia, through bodies including (but not limited to) the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council (NATSAC), The Australian Board of Missions (ABM), the national bishops and general synod has given its support to a Yes vote.

It is astounding that for 65,000 years in Australia, our First Nations people have confronted and survived unknown catastrophes and challenges to be the oldest continuous culture in the world. This is an amazing achievement. They have knowledge and wisdom non-Indigenous can never fully understand. This traditional culture is a unique source of sustenance and healing for them.

250 years ago, a starkly different culture came into their world bearing

bounteous gifts of death and misery. This is not 'black arm band' history. The evidence and intergenerational trauma cannot be clearer. One source of unspoken but ongoing trauma is the Coniston massacre - led by police - which occurred as recently as 1928. There were up to two hundred Indigenous deaths.

When white fellas arrived, our Indigenous people fought in frontier wars they could not win, but they have never ceded sovereignty. White fellas, always assuming that Western culture and Economics were best, have tried various strategies to resolve clashes. They implemented strategies of pacification, annihilation, assimilation, integration, and self-determination: always designed from their positions of power, always looking through a white fella lens. They have expressed surprise that after all the money spent and programs implemented, the gaps in health, education, employment, infant mortality, life expectancy, suicide and incarceration rates have not closed.

Decades of collaborative work led to the one-page

Uluru Statement from the Heart. Produced by representatives of most Australian Indigenous nations in 2017, the statement's three reforms are Voice, Treaty and Truth. It is not a political plot or contest: it comes from the heart.

The time has come to be still, open our hearts and listen to the voice of God. The Spirit speaks directly to us through the gospels, our faith communities, and our personal inner voice. We must not dismiss it.

Christ most valued the vulnerable outsiders in society. He was not frightened to tell the truth and shake the status quo. So, if we are to 'walk in the way of Christ,' how are we to regard those who feel disempowered and not genuinely listened to? We need to accept that whatever happens with the referendum, people will make mistakes. However, Jesus was not risk averse.

We now have a moral imperative to respect, trust and love our First Nations people. We need to listen to their empowered, truth telling voice directly and position ourselves with them. We need to vote yes.



St John's Whorouly 150th Anniversary

BY ROBYN HAJEK

St John's Anglican church in Whorouly turns 150 in November this year. The first St John's church was opened on the 9th of November 1873.

At a public meeting, held at Whorouly on 2nd August 1873, it was decided to build an Anglican church on the township reserve. Money was subsequently raised by the community, mainly through holding "tea meetings" for which tickets cost 3/- each. Samuel Anderson was the successful tenderer for the construction of the church. The church only took two months to build – the site was pegged out on 8th September and the church was opened on 9th November. The first service was held on that day at 10:30am by the Venerable Archdeacon Joseph Tucker. (Interestingly, the land the church was built on wasn't actually purchased until 3rd August 1875.)

The first church was a weather board building measuring 35 feet by 22 feet and 12 feet high (slightly smaller than the current brick church). The church also had a vestry and a porch. A second-hand cedar pulpit and a harmonium were obtained from Wangaratta. The fittings for the church were done in red pine. In March the following year (1874) Mr James Cotts was contracted to replace the dirt

floor with a wooden floor and also to make a table for the communion, a foot stool and wash boards for the vestry.

For almost thirty years the wooden church served the community well. Unfortunately, like many of the early wooden buildings in Whorouly, it was ravaged by white ants. By 1902 the church was in such a bad state that it was decided that a new building was needed. A new brick church was built close to the old church and this the building that is still being used to this day.

The new church was dedicated by Bishop Armstrong at a service held on Sunday 14th December 1902 at 11am. The bishop and the parish priest, Reverend Wade, were met by the building committee at the entrance to the church. They then processed up the aisle as the 24th Psalm was repeated in alternate verses by the bishop and congregation. The authorised dedication service then followed.

The bishop then preached a "stirring sermon dealing with the lessons to be gathered by all on the occasion of this forward movement in the church life of the district" (Ovens and Murray Advertiser 27/12/1902). The bishop took for his text 1 Kings 8.57, "The Lord our God be with us, as he was with our ancestors" and spoke about the dedication

of the new church as being of comparable importance to the spiritual life of the local community, as the dedication of Solomon's Temple was to the ancient Israelites.

To mark the 150th anniversary of St John's, there will be a special commemorative service by Bishop Clarence and the Parish Priest, Reverend Moira Evers, on Friday 17th November at 5pm. This will be followed by dinner at the popular local venue Remel 185 (at 399 Whorouly Road) at approximately 7pm.

The cost of the dinner will be \$35 per person, with byo drinks. Everyone is welcome to attend either the mass, or the dinner, or both. We also plan to have live music at the dinner! Please RSVP to Marian Walker at mazatwhorouly@gmail.com, if you are interested in attending the dinner and/or the mass.

Also, if anyone wants to know more about the history of St John's, or of the Anglican Alpine Parish, please contact Robyn Hajek at rhajek35@gmail.com. And if anyone has any historic documents or photos of St John's church, we would be interested in seeing them.

PHOTO ABOVE: St John's Anglican Church in Whorouly, February 2023. (Photo by Robyn Hajek)

Diocesan Quiet Day
'Season of Creation: Forest'

Saturday 7th October 2023
10:00am - 2:00pm

St Paul's Anglican Church, Chiltern
(+ visit to the Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park)

Leader: The Rev'd Canon Scott Jessup

No charge. BYO lunch. Tea/Coffee provided.
Bookings (by 4th October): Scott 0418254158
email: chaplain@wangeratta-anglican.org.au

Engage with God's creation, in awe, wonder & thanksgiving

Deepen your connection with creation, and with our Creator God

'The river of God is full of water; and so providing for the earth, you provide grain for us all.' (Psalm 65:9)

Artwork by Revd David Kerr



Winter Appeal

BY CAROLINE BURGE

The winter edition of the Advocate, advertised the "Diocese of Wangaratta Winter Appeal", and with very little prompting, the Parish of Kilmore, Broadford, Pyalong and Tallarook quickly got together to plan a Soup Luncheon to raise money and also raise awareness for those struggling in the cold of winter.

With 5 large 'cauldrons' of soup provided by parishioners, it was Open House with all invited. The day was two-fold to help

those in need, with donations of cash given at the lunch, but also many tinned soup donations were brought along. Over \$150 was raised which was forwarded onto the Diocesan Winter Appeal, and all tinned goods were donated to the local Love In Action Group which is very capably run by parishioner Barbara Radford, who, with her team of volunteers, helps many families in the district.

PHOTO ABOVE: Revd David Kerr with parishioners from around the parish enjoying the Soup Luncheon

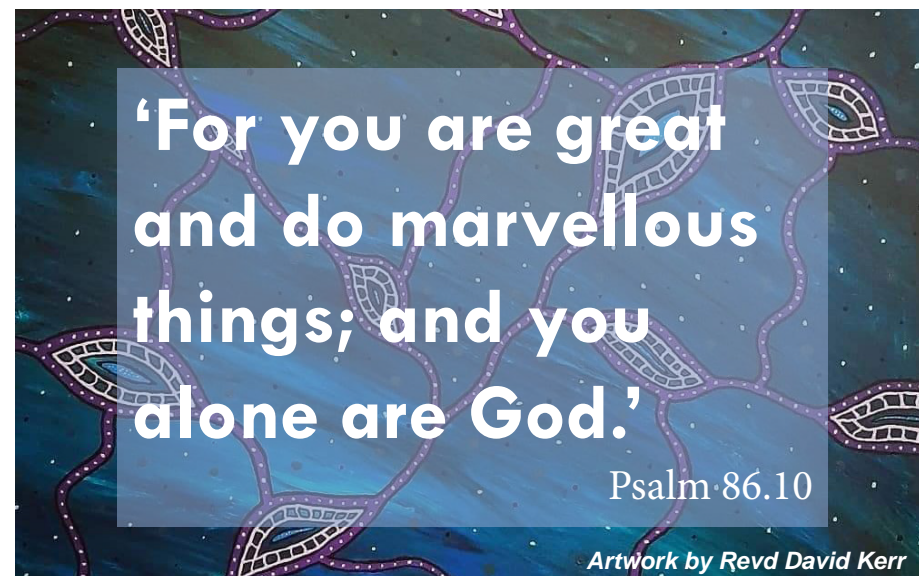
Collecting Blankets for Anglicare Winter Appeal

BY MOLLY CRAIG

During the winter months the Parish of Benalla has, as part of their mission work, been collecting blankets for the Anglicare Winter Appeal. After being blessed by Bishop Dino, it was a pleasure to be able

to present them to Anglicare's Revd David Still and to be given to those in need in our Diocese.

PHOTO BELOW: Rev David Still, Christine Challman and Bishop Dino Gabriel



Fresh face of ecumenism in Kilmore Parish

BY REVD DAVID KERR AND CAROLINE BURGE

Transfiguration Sunday, on the 6th of August, saw something of a transfiguration in the congregation at St Matthew's Broadford. About 40 people from the Roman Catholic, Uniting Church and Anglican churches in the area gathered for a service of formal welcome for Rev'd. David Kerr. It was a sheer delight to have a full church building and to have such joyful, prayerful intentions pervade the space. It's not always easy to put ecumenical gatherings together, but all who attended were of the mind that 'we should do this more often'. Rev'd. David preached on the topic of changes, particularly of the superficial variety that are used to force society in a direction they don't always want to go and how Jesus is the conduit for meaningful change: the present reality, linking the human past to God's future. Church Warden and Parish Councillor Bruce Radford officially welcomed all to St. Matthew's Broadford and said what a wonderful relationship all the local churches had together. This was responded to by Mr Paul Fleming of the Roman Catholic Parish who went on to say that it was hoped that many more of these occasions could take place in the community when all Christians could come together as one. Members



of the community offered words of welcome, hymns were sung with gusto, the Lord's Supper was shared across denominations and even a canine congregant received the Lord's blessing. Of course a wonderful feast, along with equally wonderful fellowship, awaited us at morning tea. Rev'd. David considers it a great privilege to work ecumenically with so many gifted and committed Christians. With the desire for more such events, the Broadford Ecumenical

Committee is currently preparing for a combined service at the local cemetery for the feast of All Souls, where members of the community have the chance to remember and pray for their deceased loved ones. Christmas isn't that far off, so interdenominational festivities will hopefully be on the cards as well.

PHOTO ABOVE: Revd David Kerr and Warden Bruce Radford


Diocesan Quiet Day
'Season of Creation: St Francis of Assisi'

Saturday 7th October 2023
10:00am - 2:00pm

St Augustine's Anglican Church, Shepparton

Leader: The Rev'd Jerome Francis

No charge. BYO lunch. Tea/Coffee provided.
Bookings (by 4th October): Jerome 0427977223
email: staugustines.shepparton@gmail.com



People and Parishes



Mark Stephens, Revd Matthew Healy, Bishop Clarence Bester, Canon Scott Jessup, Revd Lesley Lewis and Revd Sue Hall at the licensing and commissioning of Revd Lesley Lewis as Deacon assisting at Christ Church, Beechworth.



Bishop Clarence, Archdeacon Neil Hicks and parishioners at the De-consecration of St Paul's Wakiti Creek



Caroline Burge and fire volunteers at Kilmore Fire Station with the funds collected by the Parish of Kilmore for the Good Friday appeal.



A full church at the Centenary Service of St. Thomas's at St, James



Hold my staff while I plant a tree. Bishop Clarence planting a tree at St Aidan's Swanpool.



Bishop Clarence, Eileen Pinkerton, Rev'd Helen and Maria Cutcliffe