



THE ADVOCATE

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Successful Anglican Polity Day in Wangaratta

Despite some initial uncertainty about the title, nearly 90 people from across the Diocese attended the Anglican Polity Day on 24th February at Cathedral College Wangaratta and were well rewarded for making the effort. It was for clergy, office bearers and all interested laity and it was clear from the opening talk how useful it was for each of us to know our responsibilities as part of a Parish and Diocese, why things are as they are and where to find the necessary information amongst Acts and documents ancient and modern.

An imposing panel of speakers, well qualified by experience and learning, addressed the participants and the day

finished with questions to the panel.

The initial presentation was by Ms. Rachel Ellyard, the Diocesan Advocate and practising lawyer and titled The Law of the Church, Synod Process and the Acts of Synod of the Diocese of Wangaratta. Her powerpoint had a much more interesting title: 'Where does it say that?' and Rachel, in her usual engaging and clear way, took us through the foundation of the Anglican Church of Australia's legal system, what Synod is and its powers and procedures, the various Acts of the Diocese and what they covered. Her closing remarks encouraged us all to read the legislation, for Synod members to read the Standing

Orders of Synod, for all of us to know how we can contribute and make our views known and, if in doubt, to seek advice. We then each had the choice of attending two of the other three sessions presented by The Most Rev'd Dr. Philip Freier, Archbishop of Melbourne, Dr. Muriel Porter and The Venerable Dr. John Davis.

The Archbishop acknowledged that we all come from different backgrounds and cultures and spoke on Clergy and Lay Roles and Responsibilities in the Edification of the Church. He stressed the importance of knowing who is responsible for what and therefore, what clergy, office bearers, lay ministers and all parishioners need be aware of so everyone is doing their bit in maintaining the work of the Church, neither overstepping nor neglecting their level of responsibility.

Dr. Muriel Porter spoke on The Ordination/Ministry of Women in the Changes and Challenges over the past decades. This was particularly

timely as it coincided with the year's mind of Florence Li Tim-Oi and about a month after the anniversary of her ordination in Hong Kong as the first female priest in the worldwide Anglican Communion.

It was a movement in which Dr. Porter was intimately involved as the Movement for the Ordination of Women became established in Australia and worked for many years until the first women deacons were ordained in 1986, priests in Perth in 1992 and Bishops in 2008 – it was a long journey. We now have 410 active women priests in Australia – 23% of all priests and seven active women bishops.

It was interesting and encouraging for all our women parishioners, that Dr. Porter did not put in all this work and effort because she felt called to ordination. Rather, she said, the process affirmed her calling as a lay woman in the Church, that she was where God wanted her to be.

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Bishop Clarence writes...

Dear Clergy, People & Friends of the Diocese

LENT, EASTER & BEYOND:

As we journey towards Easter with eager faith and love, embracing the holiest of weeks within our Christian calendar, I hope and pray that this journey through Lent has enriched all of us in a most special way.

For me, Lent creates that opportunity to re-focus ourselves on those essential areas within our Christian walk as we become more aware of our calling to be followers of Jesus Christ. I know that we are aware that our fundamental task as God's Church is about the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and the way in which we extend our love and hospitality to all whom we encounter as we travel along.

It has been my personal mission to ensure that, as a Diocese, we embrace this fundamental calling and that we exercise a ministry that resembles a Jesus-model and not one where we are caught up in ecclesiastical bureaucratic bungling. This is not to say that we should not adhere to our own procedures and protocols, constitution, canons, acts and resolutions, but that, within the spirit of our temporal activities, we will embrace the spiritual as the most essential part of our Christian walk and journey.

Following Easter Sunday, we will journey through the fifty days of Easter, a time in which I hope we will embrace the beauty of the preparatory stage of a spirit-filled mission as we continue to engage in our vision as a Diocese to walk with Christ as we journey together as God's people throughout north-east Victoria.

Our Wangaratta Diocesan Facebook page attests to this walking together, as I have now been able to visit all remaining

59 places of worship within our Diocese, including the churches deconsecrated over the past two years. It is a great joy to be worshipping together with the faithful throughout the length and breadth of the Diocese, whether a small or a larger number of attendees. I should highlight that the most special time was my recent visit to Brown's Plain within the Parochial District of Rutherglen, where the 32-attendee congregation was equally divided between adults and children. What a joy to see the hope that is before us, as we continue with our ministry of visibility, availability and presence.

Our MAP (Ministry Action Plan) WALK at Rushworth concluded our theme on GRACE and at Synod I will outline a plan of how we will continue to 'strengthen the resolve' of all our Pastoral Charges at Synod as we will continue our WALK in a slightly different way.

Always be reminded that we have identified three key priorities out of the Lambeth Calls which includes the Sustainability of the environment; Reconciliation; and Mission, Outreach, Discipleship & Evangelism (MODE). I pray that we will all work together as we lead our congregations into growth which can only be made possible through God's grace bestowed upon us and our willingness together to walk, grow, flourish, triumph and be overcome by grace.

CHRISM EUCHARIST & FAREWELL:

This notice serves as a reminder and an invitation to our Lay People who can do so, to please join all our Clergy for this special service when Clergy re-affirm their ordination vows and the oil for the Holy Chrism, Anointing and Catechumen are blessed and distributed to Clergy. This service will also mark the final Diocesan activity of Dean Ken Goodger as he,



together with Stephanie, will leave the Diocese with effect 12 April 2024. I have asked the Dean to preach at the occasion and once again, you are all invited to attend and to share in a light lunch after the service at Bishop's Lodge. As always, and as necessary, please email Michelle Bester (michelle.bester2@gmail.com) if you would like to join us for lunch.

+ Clarence



So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

2 Corinthians 5:17

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DETAILS

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Successful Anglican Polity Day in Wangaratta

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The Venerable Dr John Davis' topic was The Development of the Anglican Church and its Constitution based on his book 'Australian Anglicans and their Constitution' written in 1993. Given this subject, there are obvious overlaps between all speakers as we were given an overview of the Anglican Church of Australia from its inception to the current time, during which some things have changed dramatically while others have stayed the same – most notably our role as Christ's disciples, tasked with as Archbishop Philip put it, to 'Carry the gospel to the next generation' and to 'Carry the gospel across cultures.'

This is quite a challenge, but, as a result of the Polity Day, hopefully we feel better prepared to fulfil it.

Dr. Jane Freemantle chaired the final session where panel members were asked questions provided by the audience.



These were varied and interesting and very helpful and insightful answers were given by the whole panel.

Thanks are due to the speakers, the organisers and the providers of the

delicious lunch.

Photo above: Some familiar faces at the Polity Day - Rev Mark Mickelborough, Michelle Bester, Rev Roberta Hamilton and Rev Melissa Clark.

Joyous times for Mothers' Union

By Robyn Aulmann

On Tuesday 16th January a Lone Mothers' Union members' luncheon was held at the Yackandandah Pub, with eleven attendees, plus Lucy the dog. All were introduced to Diocesan MY President Jan Craig and each other, by means of an icebreaker game of 'Who Am I'. After much chatting we commenced with prayer and the Candle Litany from the MU service Book. Lunch followed and we celebrated the Wave of Prayer. We have much to look forward to this year in way of events for Lone MU members:

Monday February 5th: MU Executive meeting was held at St Michael's Church and Hall.

Lady Day will be Saturday March 23rd, starting with morning tea at 9am, then a service at St Michael's West Wangaratta 10am. St Michael's and Cathedral people are invited especially. BYO lunch and snacks and banners to be brought and displayed.

Thursday 11th April 12pm to 1:30pm, there



will be a cruise on the paddle steamer "Cumberoona" complete with lunch. Cost \$48. Details from Robyn Aulmann. 0417 832 936.

On Wednesday 7th August at 9.30 tea and service at 10.am, we celebrate Our Founders day Mary Sumner's Day at St Michael's, West Wangaratta.

We're hoping to organise a Lone member get-together around September and October as well; watch this space!

Our year closes with the MU AGM on Monday 18th November.

Photo above: MU lone members who gathered at Yackandandah Pub.

All Saints Anglican School Shepparton Welcomes First Students

The Rev'd Helen Malcolm

The 'soft' opening of the newest Anglican school in the Diocese took place on 9th February, with 224 students in Foundation to Year 7. Students, teachers, staff, parents, school Council members and others joined The Rev'd Peter Laurence OAM, CEO of the Anglican Schools Commission; the Principal of All Saints, Mr Jim Laussen; and the Rt. Rev'd. Clarence E. Bester, Bishop of the Diocese of Wangaratta, for the opening and also the planting of one of the orange trees distributed as part of the Lambeth Call to fulfil the fifth Mark of Mission of the Anglican Communion.

The School's motto is 'Equipped to Serve' and The Rev'd Peter spoke of the importance of this first cohort of students in setting the standard for the future. It is six years since the School was envisioned by The Rev'd Peter and the application and dedication of the current students will help to establish the culture over the next six years and beyond. What sort of a School do they want to be and how will they work toward that with the help of teachers, staff and families? The Rev'd Peter was delighted to declare the School open to work, learn and teach.

The students, looking smart in their new uniforms, joined in a hymn they had already learnt in Chapel – My Lighthouse - complete with actions. A recurrent line – 'You are the peace in my troubled sea' - was a reminder that God is with us despite challenges and hardships and I'm sure caused some of us to pray that these students will not face too many troubled times into their future, instead grounded and supported by what



they have experienced at All Saints - a high quality, caring, Christian education. The hymn reinforced this: 'I will trust the promise [God] will carry me safe to shore...'. Bishop Clarence then officiated for the service of tree planting and finally the students returned to class and parents and others adjourned outside to see the tree placed in the ground, the soil restored and watered by four of the students.

Bishop Clarence then officiated for the service of tree planting and finally the students returned to class and parents and others adjourned outside to see the tree placed in the ground, the soil restored and watered by four of the students.

All Saints Anglican School will be officially opened on 20th March – this ceremony will be attended by the Board of Governors and Principals from other Anglican Schools across Australia, as well as All Saints Anglican School Samoa.

PLEASE REPORT CONCERNS
CALL 1800 135 246

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Creating a Season of Opportunity

By The Rev'd Canon Dr Rachel Mash
Environmental Coordinator of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa and Secretary of the Anglican Communion Environmental Network

Eluvukweni means "resurrection". This is the name which is given to the vibrant Anglican congregation that worships in a leaking informal building in the township of Crossroads. Crossroads is a high density area made up of tiny homes and informal backyard dwellings. Crime is rife and the streets are not safe. Unemployment is very high and most people, when they get a job, try to move into safer areas.

In this community the church of Eluvukweni stands as a beacon of hope. The worshipping community has been gathering faithfully, first in a home, then in a pre-school building. This was burned down in a fire, so they rebuilt a large informal building and gave the church the name of Eluvukweni – resurrection or rising from the ashes.

We have a vibrant choir, a large Mothers Union, a youth guild and a Bernard Mizeki Guild (a men's guild named after a martyr), together with a large group of servers and a Sunday School. We run a soup kitchen which

provides a warm meal for over 100 children three times a week.

The current building is leaking badly and we only have a portalo. But, more importantly, the space has become too small for the growing congregation. The congregation has been fundraising hard and have raised 235,00 Australian dollars. The vision is for a multi-purpose building that will be used during the week for a pre-school, offering much needed education for the children. We are directly across the road from the primary school, so this will be ideal for the parents to drop off on the way to work. The church building will also allow the congregation to grow and have different rooms where the various organisations and guilds can gather over the weekend. The target for the multi-purpose building is 375,000 which leaves a target of 140,000 Aus.

The land has been purchased, the plans have gone through council and now the goal is to start building. We would like to invite you to partner with the congregation of Eluvukweni church to build a church that can provide a home for the worshipping congregation and create a centre for preschool education to enable children the opportunity to learn and find a way to break



through the cycle of poverty .

In the words of Nelson Mandela: "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

If you would like to support this project, please contact Bishop Clarence at the registry office.

A Day to Celebrate: 80 Years of Women's Ordination in the Anglican Communion

By Helen Malcolm

The 25th January 2024 marked the 80th anniversary of the ordination of the first woman in the world-wide Anglican Communion.

In 1944 Ronald Hall, Bishop of Hong Kong and China, ordained Florence Li Tim-Oi as a priest. Tim-Oi had been a Deaconess and, in 1945, was forced to revert to that role, as Canterbury and the rest of the Anglican Communion 'could not stomach a woman

priest'. She was then sent off to work in a Chinese factory till 1974. In 1971 the Diocese of Hong Kong and Macao recognized her as a priest, but she only resumed her public ministry in 1979. Two years later she received permission to visit her family in Toronto and settled there, working as an honorary assistant priest. Finally in 1984, Tim-Oi was formally reinstated as a priest, an event celebrated in Canada but also in Westminster Abbey. On that occasion she met Archbishop Robert Runcie at Lambeth Palace. Until then he had been unconvinced about women's ordination but he changed his thinking and said 'Who am I to say whom God can or cannot call?'. In 2004 the Anglican Church of Canada included Tim-Oi on the Calendar of Holy Persons and in 2018 she was incorporated into the Episcopal Church's calendar of saints.

Tim-Oi did not seek fame – after having to resign as a Priest she ran a maternity home in China to protect female babies. When leaving China for Toronto she donated her savings to good causes in China and to the Movement for the Ordination of Women

in England. The General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada noted in 2006 that Tim-Oi 'exercised her priesthood with such faithfulness and quiet dignity that she won tremendous respect for herself and increasing support for other women seeking ordination.'

The Rev'd Dr. Joyce Bennett, the first English woman to be ordained in the Anglican Communion, described Tim-Oi's life and legacy thus: 'She was called and, in a mysterious way, she sees her ordination as God's preparation to help her to be ready to serve God and the church during the time of trouble. Now she knows God had brought her and the church out from under the waves. This faith in God that she has is like a flame that must now be passed on to others.'

And that, surely, is what all of us as Christians – regardless of race, gender, status or ordination – are called to do.

With thanks to MOW Australia for the information in this article.

Walking a Sacred Path on the Labyrinth.

And when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left, your ears shall hear a word behind you saying 'This is the way; walk in it.' Isaiah 30:21

As our Diocesan MAPS Walks end with the recent event at Rushworth, how do we continue to Walk in the Way of Christ as a Diocese, Parishes and individuals?

One ancient tool that can help is the labyrinth.

Possibly the oldest surviving labyrinth in the world is a carving on the wall of a tomb in Sardinia from 2,000BCE. The origins of labyrinths are unclear, but there are pictures of mediaeval clergy celebrating on the labyrinth with a golden ball at Easter.

To the uninitiated, the labyrinth looks like a maze – but mazes are designed to get you lost, whilst on the labyrinth you are more likely to 'find', ground, centre yourself, relax, release stress, find answers to problems

– above all enter Kairos time rather than Chronos time. In a labyrinth there are no choices – you follow a unicursal path to the centre and the same path out. There are many types of labyrinths, perhaps the best known being the mediaeval design still existing in Chartres Cathedral in France, having been inlaid in 1201.

The labyrinth is not purely a spiritual tool and certainly not restricted to one religion, although it is believed to have been used during the Crusades as an alternative when it was not safe for Christians to go on pilgrimage to Jerusalem. It can be used as a walking meditation, for team-building, problem solving, stress management, as well as part of our spiritual journey.

The instructions for walking a labyrinth are simple – whether walked alone or with a group. - There is no wrong way to walk a labyrinth (whilst respecting others on the path) – it is usually done in silence - Use everything that happens in the labyrinth as a metaphor for what is happening in your own life eg. If you want to overtake (which is permissible) but hold back, is that what happens in your life – always putting others needs before yours ?

A helpful guide is: 1. Remembering – bring to mind something you want to carry in to the labyrinth before you start your walk 2. Releasing – as you walk in be open to letting go, calming, relinquishing 3. Receiving – in the centre be still and receive whatever comes up – an idea, a sense of peace, guidance 4. Resolving – as you walk out resolve to return to/engage with the world in a new way. 5. Reflecting – insights from your labyrinth walk may come to you after the walk, even over the following days – be open to them.

There are ways to use the 6 petals in the centre to say the Lord's Prayer, to honour creation and to use the line from Psalm 46:10: Be still and know that I am God.

(If anyone would like more information contact Helen Malcolm via the Diocesan Office).

'Little Giddings' from 4-Quartets – TS Eliot:
What we call a beginning is often the end and to make an end is to make a beginning. The end is where we start from. We shall not cease from exploration and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time.

The labyrinth at St Paul's, Euroa

By Patti Matthews

A labyrinth is different from a maze. A maze has an entrance which leads to multiple paths which branch off, often coming to dead ends, not necessarily leading to a centre, like a puzzle you need to solve in order to find the exit or return to the entrance. A labyrinth is actually a single continuous path which leads you to the centre and then back out again. It is an ancient archetype, dating back 4,000 years or more, embodying sacred geometry. Used symbolically as a walking meditation, it can be a tool for personal, psychological and spiritual transformation. It is also thought to enhance right-brain activity. When walked alone, mindfully, a labyrinth can be a metaphor for life: the twists and turns life's journey takes, like a spiritual pilgrimage. When walked with others, it can enhance community building. The labyrinth at St Paul's was painted on one of the former tennis courts in February 2012. The design for making this labyrinth was based on the mediæval Labyrinth at Chartres Cathedral in France.

The tennis courts at St Paul's had not been used for several years. In researching the possibility of creating a labyrinth on the site,

it was found that the measurements for half of a tennis court (36 feet square) were exactly what was needed for the 11-circuit Chartres labyrinth found in the instructions of the Labyrinth Society's website (36 feet in diameter).

The old tennis court half was pressure washed, then completely covered in a grey-white paint. Next, the measurements for the path and the 11 circuits were marked out, along with the centre and the lunations, which were then painted a dark reddish brown.

The labyrinth at St Paul's has been used by individuals over the years, since its creation. It was blessed by Bishop John Parkes in 2012, after which there were some occasions for group walks, guided by a labyrinth facilitator. However, group walks have not been held for several years. The labyrinth has recently been 'refreshed', with new benches installed to replace the old run-down benches. It is ready for a new phase of use, deepening our spiritual lives, challenging us and hopefully allowing us to let go of the stresses of life. You are invited to join us for a labyrinth walk at 10am on the first Saturday of every month.



Marysville Labyrinth

By Sue Boyle

On 18th Nov 2017 our beautiful new church was consecrated by Bishop John Parkes and our thoughts turned to ways that we could serve the local community and forge connections with the people of Marysville and surrounds.

At one end of the property, adjacent to State Forest, was a small circular patch of neglected ground – reasonably flat but covered in a rough layer of grey gravel throughout which the weeds had happily taken up residence. On one side of this space lay a huge shipping container – a common sight in Marysville after the 2009 fires.

I had started to take an interest in labyrinths at about that time, having come across a fairly large one on a visit to Beechworth and so the seed began to grow – why not turn this sad-looking piece of waste ground into a labyrinth?

The parish were thrilled to receive funding and hands-on assistance from the local Lions Club and like-minded individuals. The work commenced in June 2019



and on 30th November 2019 we had a community labyrinth-building day, with about 15 people bedding river rocks into a base of cream toppings to form the shape of the labyrinth.

It is a classic 7-circuit design, a design that dates back some 4000 years. It sits tucked into the edge of the State Forest, surrounded by towering eucalypts and tree ferns and planted with low-lying natives

and herbs. From its position high above the main street and caravan park, you feel quiet, peaceful and removed from the humdrum of daily life and yet still somehow connected.

Now, 4 years on, it is still popular with locals and visitors. The next step will be to have a group labyrinth walk – maybe in conjunction with World Labyrinth Day on 5th May.

The Solar System Labyrinth in Meteorite Park, Murchison

“The labyrinth is one of the oldest of symbols; it depicts the way to the unknown centre, the mystery of death and rebirth, the risk of the search, the danger of losing the way, the quest, the finding and the ability to return.”

Edward Whitmont – ‘The Symbolic Quest’
The Solar System Labyrinth, located at the rear of Meteorite Park in Stevenson Street Murchison, is of the Classic Style but unusual, as you will see all the planets positioned on the labyrinth as they were located when the Murchison meteor landed at 10.58am on 28th September 1969. An interpretative sign near the labyrinth’s entrance explains about the planets and the origins of a labyrinth.

The labyrinth was constructed in 2019 to commemorate 50 years since the rare, 4.6 billion-year-old, world-famous Murchison meteorite showered over the town, described as ‘a treasure trove for science’. The Lock family walking the labyrinth in Meteorite Park, Murchison.

Article adapted by Kay Ball, from notes by Margaret Lock, author of the book Space Gem – mysteries of the Murchison Meteorite – the comprehensive account of this phenomenal event.



Op. Shop a vital part of Yea community

By Carol Hogg

At the 2024 Australia Day Breakfast hosted by the RC of Yea, St Luke's Community Op. Shop was recognized and celebrated for making a difference to the lives of Yea residents and the local community.

Representing the Op. Shop, Jenny Kindred and Jo Upton accepted the RC of Yea Community Service Award. The Op. Shop will also receive a donation of \$1,000 from Yea Rotary to assist them to continue to support those in need.

Altogether there are 40 volunteers from right across the Yea community who volunteer one or more shifts each month to staff the counter at the Op. Shop.

The bulk of the sorting work is done by three Co-coordinators and their back-room helpers who give up to two days a WEEK to keep up a high standard of goods in the shop. In addition, there are volunteers who manage the display windows which create a lot of interest especially from passing customers.

Goods are donated by the local community, but there are also regular Melbourne clients who bring donations. All goods donated are recycled somewhere. Skips are forwarded to other Op. Shops who pay for the donation of goods unable to be sold.

Over the past year the St Luke's Community Op. Shop made donations to Christmas Hampers, Christmas lights for the town tree, food and fuel vouchers (there has been more than three times the demand for these this year), Limestone Fire Brigade, Assistance for Rural Refugees, Sacred Heart Church, Scots Church, Shoebox Australia, Yea Men's Shed (who are very generous with time and assistance), Yea Community House (with both monthly financial support and goods in kind), Yea Pre School and Yea Primary School,

In addition, the Op. Shop has purchased a mobility scooter which is lent out free of charge (three people have already benefitted from this). Wheelchairs, walkers and walking sticks are also provided free to people in the community.

In the past year all schools, Fire brigades, Emergency Services, Police and the Yea Hospital have been contacted so as many people as possible have an avenue through which to contact the Op. Shop with names of people in need so, if possible, the Op. Shop can meet those needs free of charge.

The Op. Shop enables the volunteers (predominantly women) to fill a very definite

need in the Yea Community. Sometimes the Op. Shop meets the needs of any volunteers who may be experiencing a crisis in their own lives. Volunteering often helps in promoting wellbeing.

After accepting the award, Jenny Kindred spoke of the wonderful Op. Shop volunteers and the ever increasing need for the Op. Shop's services in the Yea community.

She thanked Yea Rotary for recognising the Op. Shop with its Community Service Award and its accompanying donation.



Accolades for good and faithful servants in Cobram

By Lou Hamon

Olga and Keith Parry together with Tobie were presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by Cobram RSL. The citation on the certificate read: "In recognition of their considerable support to RSL welfare fund raising and community engagement in raising awareness of the roles of working dogs".

Olga and Keith together with Tobie have collected funds for the RSL during their ANZAC Day appeal

and Remembrance Day appeal for many years, calling on local shops in Cobram.

The three of them also visit Ottrey Lodge, a residential age-care facility in Cobram, twice a month and the Numurkah Pioneer Lodge Hostel monthly. Keith entertains on the piano and Tobie's visits are very much welcomed by the residents, who look forward to greeting Tobie with pats and cuddles.

Olga also conducts a service at the Numurkah Pioneer Lodge.

Olga, Keith and Tobie have embraced parish life in St George's Numurkah, with Olga acting as a eucharistic server and both serving as parish councillors.

The parish appreciate their contribution to parish life.

Kilmore is where the art is

By Rev. David Kerr

What began as a light-hearted way of the parish priest being in two places at once has evolved into something which has begun to touch and inspire the wider community. One Sunday, the third of the month, wherein I find myself away from Christ Church Kilmore, the Parable of the Sower came up in the lectionary. I have painted a trilogy based on the story, so I put these three paintings up at the altar in my stead. They just seemed to 'work' in the space, from an aesthetic point of view. Not only has this garnered considerable interest in my art, but, more importantly, it has stimulated the Parish of Kilmore to think more intentionally about art and culture in our churches. Christ Church now sports over a dozen of my original artworks, which are swapped and refreshed at regular intervals, especially when there's a new one hot off the press. Through the family of a late parishioner who was a member of the Kilmore Art Society, I managed to introduce myself to its membership, along with a couple of other parishioners. This has been a significant bridge that has been built, because it has meant that, while the Society is reconfiguring their facilities, they have



held their meetings in the church and on Tuesday February 6th I was invited to lead a workshop on making patterns in acrylics. This was attended by a wonderful mix of older and younger artists and proved to be engaging and encouraging for all involved. The workshop had barely finished when people started asking when the second session was going to be. Planning for this is well underway. The parish and I are looking forward to collaborating ever more closely

with the Kilmore Art Society and similar groups to use our four churches during the week as meeting points for creatives. People just need a chance to express themselves and grow to love and illustrate their story, whether through painting, music, sculpture, poetry or dance. Churches in general have a vital role to play in this exercise of spiritual care - giving people the space to be, and find, themselves.

Walk of witness graces Rushworth

By Anne Finlay and Kay Ball

St. Paul's Church in Rushworth sits imposingly on a rise in a bushland setting at the end of the main street and its striking appearance always impresses.

On Saturday morning 10th of February, in keeping with Bishop Clarence's Ministry Plan to 'WALK with Christ and to WALK with one another' a wonderful service of prayer, reflection, silent meditation and music, followed by a short walk down the hill from the church to the edge of town and back, took place at St. Paul's Rushworth. The service was a very relaxed affair and, during the Homily delivered by Bishop Clarence,

he reminded us of his first Good Friday ecumenical pilgrimage up Growlers Hill in Rushworth, shortly after his and Michelle's arrival in Australia from South Africa.

About 30 people, including visiting parishioners from Euroa, Longwood, Murchison, Shepparton and Violet Town churches enjoyed the event which concluded with a magnificent lunch provided by those who attended. The beautifully maintained church hall was made ready for the lunch by Joy O'Donnell. There was lots of chatter over the meal as we all caught up with friends from the other churches and past priests of Murchison and Rushworth; Victor Adams, Jerome Francis and Helen Malcolm.

With the weather perfect on the day, all who attended agreed it was a very special occasion.



The Summons echoes true for new Yarrowonga Vicar

'Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?... Will you let your life be grown in you and you in me?' Such was the bidding of the processional hymn at St. Cuthbert's Anglican Church, as we bore witness to the Induction of The Rev'd Roberta Hamilton as our new priest. The heat of the day did little to dampen the spirits of such an auspicious gathering. Roberta was ordained in 2009 following a career as a music teacher. She, with her husband Stephen,, had spent 12 months in London in 2006 whilst she completed academic studies and realised that she was being called to the priesthood. Prior to coming to Yarrowonga, Roberta was locum Priest at Queanbeyan, with previous appointments including Crookwell NSW, St. Dunstan's Camberwell, South Tuggeranong ACT and Taralga NSW. Roberta was widowed in 2019 and has 4 children and 7 grandchildren. Roberta enjoys music, writing novels and has a passion for medieval architecture.

The Induction Service was well attended



with 21 members of the Clergy, family and friends, the congregations of St. Cuthbert's and St. Thomas's and members of other Yarrowonga Churches. The service began with a Processional Hymn "The Summons", followed by a welcome, prayers, reflection and readings, before the Presentation, Induction and Licensing. Representatives of the Yarrowonga Parish then brought forward symbols of Christian Ministry and the Office of Priesthood. Next came the renewal of Baptismal Vows, the Eucharist and speeches of Welcome from community

representatives, including Commissioner John Tanner from Moira Shire Council and leaders of local churches. The service concluded with the hymn "God Gives us a Future" and the blessing of the congregation by Bishop Clarence Bester. The service was followed by a magnificent supper in the Church Hall. Yarrowonga parish is indeed looking forward to a bright and fulfilling future with our talented and passionate new incumbent.

Parishioners tuck into curry lunch

By Jamie Kronborg

Parishioners from Holy Trinity Yackandandah, St Paul's Allans Flat, St Andrew's Dederang and Christ Church Beechworth enjoyed a wonderful curry lunch in Yackandandah on March 10. The feast was prepared and served to the 35 who gathered in Holy Trinity hall by the Rev'd Elwyn and Riya Enos and Riya's mother Molly.

Anglican Diocese of Wangaratta Bishop Clarence and Michelle Bester, Rev'd David Still, DoW's Anglicare Victoria's co-ordinator for its Loaves and Fishes Christians Caring community support program and Rev'd Bill and Helen Squire also joined the lunch, together with surprise visitors from Yarrowonga Anglican Parish, where Rev'd Elwyn was priest until earlier this year.

Those attending expressed their thanks for the generosity of Rev'd Elwyn, Riya and Molly, saying it was a great get-together for parishioners in the Parochial Districts of Beechworth and Yackandandah.

Photo below: Rev'd Elwyn and Riya Enos and Riya's mother, Molly, at the lunch in Yackandandah.



Bishop's visit to the Parish of Rutherglen and Chiltern

By Rev Scott Jessup

It was a joy to have Bishop Clarence and Michelle in the Parish of Rutherglen & Chiltern for three services in three weeks! By the end of March, the Bishop wanted to have visited every Church in the Diocese. Our Parish believes that he saved the best until last! The Bishop presided and preached at the Saturday night Vigil Mass at Christ Church, Wahgunyah and at Browns Plains Anglican Chapel the next day.



On Sunday 10th of March, the Bishop and Michelle were at All Souls', Barnawartha for their Harvest Festival. Last Spring we asked God's blessing on all growing crops. Now at the end of Summer and in early Autumn, our prayers answered, we brought the finest fruits of our harvest in thankfulness to God. The 'fruits' of the harvest were displayed, gifts that God has created and God's sun and rain have nurtured: canola, wheat, vegetables, herbs and flowers from the garden, jams and preserves, fruit and eggs.

As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night shall not cease. Genesis 8:22.



Photos left: Top; Harvest Festival. Bottom; All Souls' Barnawartha

Licensing of The Reverend Elwyn Enos

On the 28th January The Reverend Elwyn Enos was licensed as associate priest into the Parochial District of Beechworth and the Parochial District of Yackandandah. The service was held at Alan's Flat.

Photo right: The Reverend Matthew Healy, Bishop Clarence and The Reverend Elwyn Enos.



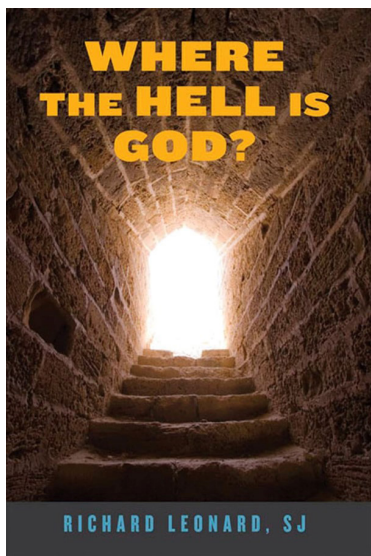
'Where the Hell is God?'

Book review by Rev. David Kerr

It's a question we've all asked at some point in our lives, with or without expletive. When something horrible or seemingly unfair happens to us or someone we love, we tend to want to know why God allowed such a thing to happen, or where God was in all of it. The Rev'd. Richard Leonard SJ has written a very insightful and helpful book on the subject. In his younger years, Richard's sister Tracey was the victim of a serious car accident that rendered her a quadriplegic.

It's from this incident that the book finds its foundation and, from his mother's response to the situation, its title: 'Where the Hell is God?' Richard's multi-disciplinary mind, heart and soul is on full display in this portable but powerful text. He is not only a Jesuit priest, but is a capable academic with a doctorate in film studies and a superlative yet relatable command of language. He begins by putting the reader right there in the hospital or the convalescent bed with his sister and family, even quoting from his sister's memoir; he knows when to let others tell their story. He takes the reins, however, in the ensuing theological discussion. Car accidents are but one of several problems of 'natural evil' he tackles i.e. 'Why do bad things happen to good people?'

He suggests that we spend so much time blaming God, that we don't spend enough time, effort and reflection assessing OUR part in the drama. As practising, praying Christians, we 'pray for rain' for example, without actually doing anything here on earth about water conservation. We treat God, he contends, like a genie; our prayers like wishes for a better world than the one with which we've been lumped. Yet, if his sister is any testament, human agency is a more precious and powerful thing than many of us care to realise. The Rev'd Richard ultimately opts for a more considered collaborative relationship between human ingenuity and the grace and gifts of God to ensure a more sustainable world and society. The book's length, punchiness



of parlance and depth and breadth of theological discussion make it a perfect choice for small group studies in churches and parishes of any context or denomination.

POLITY DAY SNAPS

Photos: Bottom left: Presenter Rachel Ellyard. Top right: Attendees in class. Bottom right: Presenters Ven Dr John Davis, Muriel Porter, Archbishop Dr Philip Freier, Rachel Ellyard and Jane Freemantle.

Article on page one of the Advocate.

