



THE ADVOCATE

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THE SAVIOR IS BORN

Ordination of the Rev'd Cathy Turnbull at Kilmore

By Caroline Burge

Saturday 22nd November was a momentous occasion, not only in the Diocese, but in the Parish of Kilmore and in the life of the Rev'd Catherine Elizabeth Turnbull. With both our own Bishop and Bishop Matthew Brain, Bishop of Bendigo, presiding, Rev 'd Cathy was

Ordained a Priest in the parish to which she has been appointed as Assistant Priest.

With nearly 100 people in attendance, including many clergy from not only our own Diocese, but the Dioceses of Melbourne and Bendigo, Christ Church was full, the music joyful and the occasion

a memorable event.

Rev'd Cathy comes to the Diocese having served previously in the Diocese of Bendigo and the Diocese of Melbourne. She was ordained as a Distinctive Deacon at St Paul's Cathedral Melbourne in February 2019 and began her ministry as Deacon/curate with children and families at Christ Church Essendon. When the 2019/2020 summer bushfires hit East Gippsland, Rev'd Cathy took up a part time secondment to work 2-3 days a week coordinating the work of bushfire recovery for the Diocese of Gippsland. Her experience with this ministry

came from her extensive work in the Parish of Kilmore when as a layperson she spent four years working with people impacted by the Black Saturday fires.

Continued on page 3



Bishop Clarence writes...

Dear Clergy, People and Friends of the Diocese

Reminiscing Reminders:

The Installation Service for Archbishop Ric Thorpe, the Archbishop of Melbourne, was a constant reminder to me of my consecration and enthronement service almost 6 years ago. I realize that it was exactly the same service in style and liturgy. Standing inside St Paul's Cathedral behind closed doors, while the archbishop knocked three times on the door with his pastoral staff, took me back to my own moment of knocking, seeking and asking for permission to enter as required by the liturgical rite.

The year 2026 marks the 30th year of my ministry as Deacon and Priest in the Church of God, having served at five Parishes, in three Dioceses (one created out of a bigger one) and across two continents, serving under two Archbishops and three bishops. Leaving home, country, family and the familiar has not been easy, but I will always hold on to the fact that we need to offer service wherever God calls.

My ordination as a Deacon on 3 March 1996 is something that I will always hold dear to my heart and it will always remain the foundation of my calling. Serving God and God's people as a priest and bishop is a privilege, but I often remind myself with the words that were used when I was priested on 15 December 1996, that I will never cease to be a Deacon and therefore never cease to serve.

Long Service Leave and Sabbatical Rest

After 10 years and 9 months in Australia and after an extremely difficult year for me in so many ways, I will be away on Long Service Leave from January until mid-March 2027, which includes a few days of residual annual leave. The rest of my Long Service Leave will be reserved for another time. As per the custom, the Vicar General will look after the affairs of the Diocese ably assisted by my Registrar and Leadership Team. Please continue to pray for me so that I may find the rest, relaxation and rejuvenation that are so needed.

New Leadership Structures in Parishes

This election cycle year will see newly elected Parish Councils and Church Wardens, Parish Nominators as well as confirming the

appointment or re-appointment of Treasurers and Safe Church Officers. We have also elected Synod Representatives for the next session of Synod due to be held on 29 and 30 May 2026. I want to re-iterate what the Diocesan Safe Church Officer and our Registrar have mentioned repeatedly – that, for any elected or appointed position which needs to have a ministry clearance, the position can only come into effect if the clearance for ministry which includes safe church training has been completed. Unlike other years, we are not extending the time for this to be done later. All newly elected Church Wardens, Parish Councilors and Treasurers are to attend a workshop on Saturday, 14 February 2026 at Cathedral College Wangaratta from 10am until 2pm where there will be an update on roles and responsibilities as well as procedures and protocols pertaining to their work.

Synod Representatives must please diarize Saturday 18 April 2026 for a similar meeting at Purbrick Hall, where we will also look at the program and procedure as well as legislation for Synod 2026.

Parishes and Places

Through a new navigated system of ministry support, collaboration and cooperation, we have been able to secure a priestly ministry continuance for all our Parishes. Though the financial concerns in some places can only produce a part-time ministry structure, we are very grateful to those who take on responsibility for these part-time parishes.

Christmas Blessings and Hope for the New Year

Peace on earth and goodwill to all people. How desirable this is in the world, our community and our context. Despite this desire for peace, we still hear of situations of turmoil all around us, locally and across the world, making the quest for peace difficult. There is an ever-growing sense of hostility and resistance to situations, people and institutions. Organizational challenges, even from within their own structures, bring about fear and doubt about the future and operational plans and intentions are often misconstrued.

It is within this confusion and with this backdrop that we are looking forward to Christmas and the New Year. Christmas is about Jesus, the Prince of Peace, who desires goodwill for and between all people. It is about hope for the best,



hope for peace and a time to be able to put other issues aside so we can celebrate this event that announces the peace of Christ which passes all understanding.

I pray that the Peace of Christ will be embedded in all that we do over the next few weeks and that this peace will be a lasting peace as we look to Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Holy and Blessed Christmas to you all.

Every blessing,

Clarence E Bester



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DETAILS

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The Reverend Helen Malcolm - Proof reader, Ms Fiona van Bree - Design and Production

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Ordination of the Rev'd Cathy Turnbull at Kilmore

Conitued from front page

Following her ministry in both the Melbourne and Gippsland Dioceses, Cathy took up a role as a locum Deacon at All Saints Tatura in the Diocese of Bendigo. It was while in this role that she felt a call to the Priesthood and, in the middle of 2025, talks between Bishop Clarence and Bishop Matthew gave Cathy the opportunity to be not only Ordained into the Priesthood,

but also to be appointed as Assistant Priest in the Parish of Kilmore, Broadford, Pyalong and Tallarook.

The Parish welcomed both Rev'd Cathy and her husband Glen back to the parish in which they worshipped many years ago.

The Parish of Kilmore was honoured to host the Ordination, as these are usually held in the Diocesan Cathedral. The Readers at the service were friend and past parishioner from Tatura Dr. Eileen Pinkerton, Kilmore parishioner Caroline Burge and Cathy's sister Jillian Earl. Archdeacon George Hemmings from the Bendigo Diocese, along with Warden Caroline Burge, presented Cathy to Bishop Clarence



and Bishop Matt. for Ordination. The Very Rev'd Neil Hicks was the Cantor and Rev'd Sue Hall Deacon of the Eucharist.

Rev'd Cathy's first Eucharist as a Priest was held at Christ Church Kilmore on the Feast of Christ the King.

Photos above - Left, Bishop Clarence and Bishop Matt with clergy and serving team outside Christ Church, Kilmore. Right, Newly ordained Rev Cathy Turnbull and husband Glen.

New Archbishop of Melbourne

On Advent Sunday, 30 November 2025, The Rt Rev'd Ric Thorpe ceremoniously knocked on the doors of St Paul's Cathedral Melbourne seeking entry to serve as the Fourteenth Archbishop of Melbourne. This followed a process of election in May where the first English man since Archbishop Woods was elected as Archbishop of Melbourne.

The start of a new ministry and the installation on Advent Sunday is very fitting as Advent is the beginning of our Liturgical Year and indeed a new beginning for Archbishop Ric and his wife Louie and the Diocese of Melbourne.

The liturgical richness of our tradition with these installation services (in some Dioceses they are still referred to as Enthronement Services) highlights special moments of transition in the service, especially as Ric was received by the Dean, welcome by Wiradjuri Elder, Uncle Glenn Loughrey, the Cathedral Chapter and the Provincial Bishops and then drummed to

the Altar for his own oaths and declarations and certification of election. He was then recognized by the other four Diocesan Provincial Bishops as Metropolitan of the Anglican Province of Victoria. The Dean installed the Archbishop in his cathedra (seat) and handed him the Diocesan Pastoral Staff and the acting Metropolitan handed him the Metropolitan Cross.

A striking feature of this installation is the fact that, for most of the service, from entry

to the recessional, Archbishop Ric's wife, Louie was next to him for all important parts. The service, set in the context of evensong, with an attendance of approximately 1,400 congregants, archbishops, clergy and guests, had a good mix of traditional and contemporary music with a highlight of psalm drummers who came especially from the United Kingdom to participate in the ceremony.

To watch the service, please look at the facebook page of St Paul's Cathedral Melbourne.



Book honouring Bishop Keith Rayner to be launched

The Diocese has been asked by Bp. Rayner's daughter to advertise the launch of a book in his honour, given that he was Bishop of the Diocese of Wangaratta from 1969-75. The information which Philippa has forwarded is as follows:

Leadership in a Time of Change: Essays in Honour of Keith Rayner

Adelaide-based theological publisher AFT Press has commissioned a collection of essays in celebration of the life and ministry of Bishop Keith Rayner. The title "Leadership in a Time of Change" sums up a widely held view of Bishop Keith's leadership in three Dioceses of the Anglican Church of Australia, especially as Archbishop of Adelaide (1975-1990) and Melbourne (1990-1999), and as Primate from 1989 to 1999. Bishop Keith's many contributions to the national church include his support for Indigenous reconciliation, the poor and marginalised and his role in progressing women's ordination. On an international level, his contributions to the Lambeth Conferences

in 1988 and 1998 were especially significant, as was his long presidency of the Christian Conference of Asia. "Leadership in a Time of Change" will be launched on Wednesday 28 January at 7 pm in the Cynthia Poulton Hall at St Peter's Cathedral. Copies of the book will be available for purchase on the night. Please RSVP to hdregan@atf.org.au by 20 January 2026.

Philippa acknowledged that those from the Diocese of Wangaratta may not be able to attend the launch, but that many would remember Bishop Rayner and may like to purchase the book.

For those who are not able to attend in person on the night you can order up until 30 of January 2026 at \$30 and \$10 postage and handling. Provide name, mailing address, email, phone number; credit card details: number, expiry, CVC and signature and email to hdregan@atf.org.au or mail to ATF Press PO Box 234, Brompton SA 5007



Leadership in a Time of a Change: Essays in Honour of Keith Rayner

Edited by Hilary D Regan



To be launched on

Wednesday 28 January 2026 at 7pm

Cynthia Poulton Hall
St Peter's Cathedral
27 King William Road
North Adelaide 5006

Sale price \$30.00 on the night

RSVP to hdregan@atf.org.au by Tuesday 20 January 2026

De-consecration of Christ the King, Wahgunyah

By the Parish of Rutherglen and Chiltern

Bishop Clarence de-consecrated Christ the King, Wahgunyah wearing the same Pectoral Cross and using the same Pastoral Staff as Bishop Keith Rayner did when he Consecrated the Church in 1973 .

On the 29th of November, 2025, the people of Wahgunyah gathered for the final service in their church. The closure was instigated by the local congregation due to low attendance and frailty of some, while others decided that they would now worship at St Stephen's in Rutherglen.

It was a sad day, yet we were reminded by Bishop Clarence that the Church is more than a building – the Church is the people. The people of God in Wahgunyah continue to worship in Rutherglen or receive Home Communion.



PLEASE REPORT CONCERNS

CALL 1800 135 246

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.

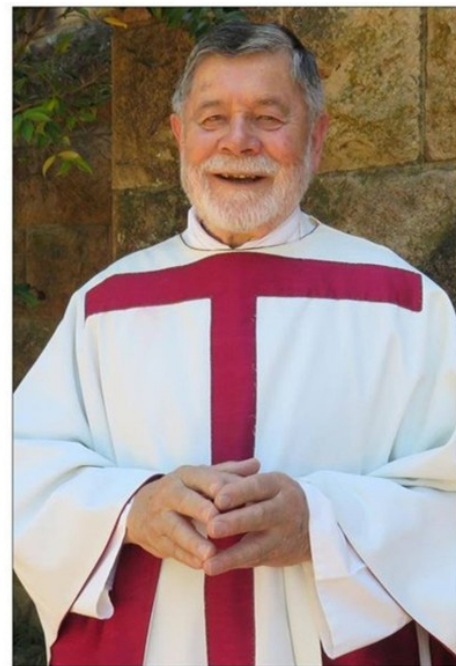
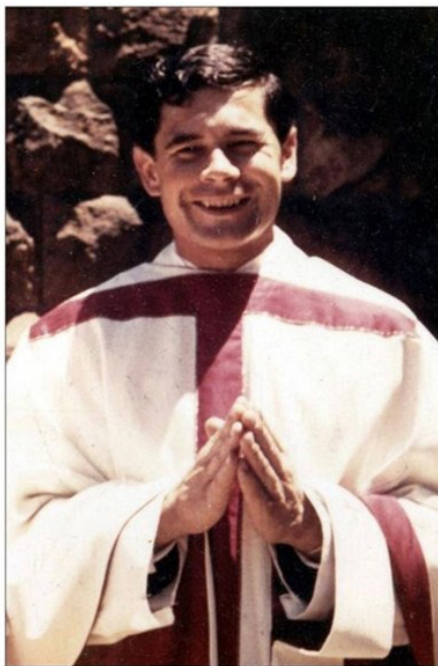
The Diocese is committed to doing all that is possible to ensure that abuse does not occur. All complaints of abuse are taken very seriously and we do all we can to lessen harm. We offer respect, pastoral care and ongoing long-term support to anyone who makes a complaint.

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



Diamond Jubilee of priestly ordination

Sixty years ago on the 21st December, 1965 (Feast of St Thomas the Apostle) in Holy Trinity Cathedral Fr Bill Squire was ordained priest by the 4th Bishop of Wangaratta, The Right Reverend Theodore McCall. On Sunday 21st December coming (4th Sunday of Advent) Fr Bill will celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of his priestly ordination at the 9.30am Eucharist in Christ Church, Beechworth and, without wishing to draw people away from their obligation of worship in their own churches, will warmly welcome anyone who is able to come and join with him as he gives thanks to God for the privilege of those years of priestly service. An RSVP to Fr Bill at wsquire68@bigpond.com or text to 0429 626 334 will greatly assist in the logistical arrangements.



A Short history of Central Goulburn Mothers' Union over 66 years

By Diane Grant

The Church of England Mothers' Union began in 1876 in England as a welfare group for young mothers. It was begun by a grandmother, Mary Sumner, and brought to Tasmania in 1892.

Branches grew across the world and quickly in Australia supported by Church of England parishes.

In 1959 a branch began in Christ Church Seymour. The group was different from women's guilds and other organisation - it was spiritually based, centred on preserving family life, prayer and practical action rather than fundraising.

One member Muriel Andrea, now aged 99 is still a member today.

A few years later the Church here changed from the Church of England to the Anglican Church of Australia. A few years later the Anglican Diocese of Wangaratta formed a Mothers' Union executive branch - this incorporated over 12 MU branches and became part of the worldwide organisation with the head office in England.

In sixty countries members now carry out work in support of family life and are committed to social justice and the empowerment of women.

In the 1980s some Avenel women joined the Seymour group. They met for monthly meetings and held worship services during the year. Members attended MU Diocesan meetings, Lady Day and Mary Sumner services and ABM fetes in Wangaratta.

Once a year the small branch held an annual Mothers' Union church service and fundraiser lunch for Mothers' Union projects, the first being the Ryder Cheshire Foundation supporting people with leprosy in India. This connection lasted many years.

For over 25 years a Seymour Mothers' Union representative wrote to an MU branch in Lambeg Northern Ireland and that correspondence carries on today, as does communication with a branch in Frederickton, Canada. In 2002 the Northern Ireland MU rep Rosalind Bloomfield visited the Seymour MU branch and Sydney and Qld head branches. I was able to visit the Northern Ireland MU group in 1998 and 2000.

In the early 2000s the parish of Seymour merged with St Paul's Avenel and St John's Nagambie to become the Anglican Parish of Central Goulburn. An MU branch was operating in Nagambie but forged with the new parish branch and new members from Nagambie and Avenel joined their ranks. The group continued holding once a year fundraisers towards a national MU project designated every two years. The group conducted Holiday Kids Club programs at Seymour, Avenel and Nagambie in the church and halls. For decades they have held an Advent Carols and Lessons Service at St Paul's In Avenel each December.

The International Mothers' Union logo was changed to read MU and male members, divorced persons and single people could become members.

For 15 years they visited Puckapunyal Primary School and held an "Adopt a Granny Day" for

the school children who did not see their own grandparents very often. Some of the MU members had associations with the army i.e. as a child, parents or a grannie. They played dress up games, parachute exercises in the yard and performed singalongs and small plays. It was a very popular activity in the camp for all concerned.

Sadly over the past 10 years, the group has lost some dear members who have passed away, moved on, or retired from the branch.

For the past few years the group has held Wave of prayer services that pray for special countries MU branches across the world.

For the last few years they have sponsored a Morning Melodies fundraiser once a year, which have been very popular and they have remembered their founder by holding Mary Sumner Observance Days either locally or in Wangaratta.

I personally have been a member of the Mothers' Union since June 1978. Some of those years I had held office as President and Secretary.

Sadly, the Parish of Central Goulburn Mothers' Union branch has closed in the first week of November 2025. The last eight members of the branch agreed that it close due to the decline of member numbers over the past year, the lack of new members and the inability of current members to meet this year due to reasons such as ill health or inability to drive to meetings and activities.

The group have been fortunate enough to support DOW and Australian MU projects and local and community activities over the years thanks to the support of our parish folk and the people of our local community.

Trinity Anglican College - Thurgoona

On Thursday, 25 September, our Year 12s celebrated their final chapter at TAC with a beautiful Chapel service at St Matthew's, followed by a memorable Graduation Assembly. The day was filled with inspiring speeches, awards, laughter, and a few tears. One of the highlights was the traditional Guard of Honour, as our graduates walked through the Senior School and down through the Junior School, cheered on by students from Kinder to Year 11. It's always such a special moment - marking the end of an era and

the beginning of an exciting new chapter.

On the evening of Friday 14 November, the Class of 2025 celebrated their Valedictory Dinner. It was a memorable night filled with laughter, shared stories, and heartfelt moments. The students looked fantastic - with beautiful dresses, sharp suits and plenty of smiles to match.

Thank you to the families, staff, and wider community for supporting these young adults throughout their journey. We are incredibly



proud of each and every student, and we can't wait to see where life takes them next. Thank you for the

memories, Class of 2025. We are so proud of you - go well!

Cobram Anglican Grammar

On Tuesday 21 October, our Year 12 students celebrated a major milestone — their final day of school. The day began with a vibrant farewell party in the VCE Centre, featuring a DJ set from Year 12 student Baden Riedell, creating a fantastic atmosphere enjoyed by students across the school.

The celebrations continued at their final assembly, where our graduates made a red-carpet entrance and reflected on the many people who have supported them throughout their schooling journey. Their final choreographed dance was a standout moment, drawing

plenty of cheers and laughter, before families and staff joined them for a special morning tea. VCE exams began on 28 October and was the final chapter of their time at Cobram AGS, concluding with their Valedictory Dinner on Friday 21 November.

While academic results are important, we remind our graduates that their true success lies in the character they have shown, the friendships they have built and the positive impact they have had on our school community. We are incredibly proud of the Class of 2025 and all they have contributed to Cobram AGS.



Cathedral College Wangaratta

And just like that, our Year Twelves' final classes are over and they have finished their exams. It has been the culmination of thirteen years of schooling, with celebrations designed for Cathedral College and our community to say thank you to the Class of 2025. From our final Chapel Service led by Rev. Mark Mickelburgh, the Valedictory Service with families and friends, the student-driven Farewell Assembly and Goodbye Walk through every grade at the school, to our Graduation Evening, where parents and carers took the opportunity to get together and enjoy the last goodbye, we are extremely proud of this group of students.



All Saints Anglican School - Shepparton

Founders Day

The Vicar of St Augustine's Anglican Church Shepparton, the Rev'd Jerome Francis acknowledged he felt privileged to be the celebrant on Founders Day at All Saints Anglican School, Shepparton. The school marks this occasion with a special service to commemorate All Saints day, from where the school's name comes. It is a time for the community to come together and reflect on the school's history and values.

Rev'd Jerome went on to say that the annual celebration of Founders Day was uplifting, as students, staff and some parents came together to honour this special moment in our school's story. Moments like these remind us how strongly our community is held together by faith, gratitude and a shared purpose. The joy on the students' faces said it all.

The staff's pride was inspiring and the presence of families made the celebration feel complete. Rev'd Jerome concluded with a special word of

thanks to the Principal, Mr Jim Laussen and to Mr. Bill Boyer, Coordinator of Faith and Mission, for his warm invitation and support.



Around Our Parishes

CHRISTMAS SERVICE TIMES

BEECHWORTH	MARYSVILLE	WANGARATTA	YARRAWONGA
Christ Church, Beechworth Wednesday, 17 December, 7.30pm Nine Lessons & Carols Christmas Eve, Wednesday, 24 December, 7pm Solemn Mass of the Night Christmas Day, Thursday, 25 December, 9.30am Sung Mass St Jude's Eldorado Sunday, 21 December, 5pm Ecumenical Carol Service Christmas Eve, Wednesday, 24 December, 5pm Family Eucharist	14th December at 10am, Buxton First Eucharist of Christmas 24th December at 6pm, Marysville Christmas Day service 25th December, 9am, Christmas Eucharist, Buxton.	Christmas Eve 6pm Family Worship, Holy Trinity Cathedral. 7pm Christmas Eucharist, St Paul's Glenrowan. 9.45pm Carol Singing, Holy Trinity Cathedral. 10.30pm Midnight Mass, Holy Trinity Cathedral. Christmas Day 8am Holy Eucharist, Holy Trinity Cathedral. 9.30am Christmas Eucharist, St Michael's Wangaratta. 9.30am Christmas Eucharist, All Saints Moyhu. 10am Sung Eucharist, Holy Trinity Cathedral. 11am Christmas Eucharist, Holy Trinity Whitfield.	Ecumenical Carol Service December 14th 7pm at St Cuthbert's, Yarrowonga Blue Christmas Service December 23rd 6:30 pm at St Cuthbert's, Yarrowonga Family Service December 24th 7pm at St Cuthbert's, Yarrowonga Christmas Eucharist December 24th 9pm at St Thomas', St James Christmas Eucharist December 25th 9am at St Cuthbert's, Yarrowonga
COBRAM		WODONGA	
EUROA	MILAWA	St John's, Wodonga	
Christmas Eve 4.30 pm St Dunstan's, Violet Town 6.30 pm St Paul's, Rushworth 11.00 pm St Paul's, Euroa Christmas Day 8.30am, Christ Church, Murchison 10.00 am St Paul's, Euroa	Christmas Day 25th December at 9am, Milawa	Christmas Eve 11pm - Midnight Mass Christmas Day 9am - Sung Eucharist with Carols	
NORTHERN ALBURY			
Christmas Eve 6pm All-Age Service with Holy Communion, St James' Lavington 8pm Holy Communion, St Paul's Jindera Christmas Day 9.30am Holy Communion, St Mark's North Albury			

*Please contact
your local
Parish directly
for their service
times if they are
not listed.*

A Challenging Sunday Morning

Sunday 19th October was a challenge for Rev'd Dr Helen Malcolm and the parishioners at St. George's, Numurkah.

That day was the annual Show Us Ya Wheels car show in Numurkah, attracting 100s of cars and 1000s of people. The church was surrounded by food stalls, displays, loud bands and all manner of vintage, street and hotted up cars. Streets were blocked off restricting access to and parking near St. George's.

Fortunately the engines stopped revving during Rev'd Helen's sermon and the service was finished just before the aerobatic flyover at 11:30! God was good to us!



Combined Service Central Goulburn

On Sunday 9th November we had a combined Eucharist service for Remembrance Day, with Revd Stacey Slater preaching. Stacey is an Army Chaplain who has been based at Puckapunyal for close to 2 years. Stacey spoke about the readings for the day, elaborated on one of the windows in Christ Church, in which St Barbara is depicted, and explained what her own role is in the Army. Her sermon was very interesting, especially about St Barbara and why she is a saint. I had not heard of St Barbara before then.

This was followed by our Parish Annual Meeting where many things were discussed and with The Revd. Andre's guidance, we looked at new ways to bring people to our churches in Seymour and Nagambie. This was followed by a bring and share lunch where no one went home hungry.

On Sunday 23rd November Bishop Clarence is visiting Christ Church Seymour to preside and preach as we are celebrating 160 years of an Anglican presence in Seymour. The service will be followed by another bring and share lunch.

Our normal services are 9am Sunday at Christ Church, Seymour and 11am at St John's, Nagambie. Both services are followed by fellowship and all are welcome to visit us.



Second Chance Op Shop Benalla

Our op shop is open to one and all, offering a selection of goods including clothing, homewares, books and a whole lot more in a welcoming environment. The shop's Facebook page currently has 749 followers, which has increased foot traffic and extended the reach of its posts to new audiences.

Each time the shop opens, it engages in mission-related activities that contribute to its reputation in the community for being generous and welcoming. We also donate clothing across the globe.

If you would be interested in assisting, either behind the scenes or within the shop, you are invited to contact Rev Mel at anglicanbenalla@bigpond.com or pop in during our opening hours and chat to a volunteer: Thursday/Friday 11-2 or Saturday 10-2.

Here is some feedback from our Facebook page:

A wonderful op shop of happiness!!! Great donations and great displays. Amazing. Great bargains. Great work and all voluntary, well done lovely ladies! The best Op Shop.

We hope you can call in when you are passing through Benalla or make us a destination visit.



Blessing of the Pets at Yarrawonga

On Sunday 19 October, St Cuthbert's Yarrawonga invited all animal owners to bring their pets to receive a blessing at an outdoor service. The celebration attracted some new people to our church to celebrate St Francis of Assisi, who was famous for his love of animals, nature and the poor. About 40 members of the local community attended and a lamb, a number of dogs, a blue tongue lizard and a cockatiel were given a blessing. Unfortunately, Max was unable to bring his cow. Roberta was also able to bless a couple of treasured pets who

are no longer with us.

The service was followed by a light meal of finger food and punch which was enjoyed by all. The pets also received some special treats from our Reverend Roberta. We look forward to our next Open Church service celebrating Advent on Sunday evening the 23rd November. The Open Church is a new initiative to welcome new people into the church community by providing a relaxed and fun service, which includes activities in the hall, a short service in the church, followed by a wholesome meal. The services are held on the third Sunday of each month and have been a wonderful opportunity to invite new people to God's table. Many thanks to the team that helps with planning activities, cooking food and cleaning up.



Bible study at St John's Thurgoona

By Glenda Mitchell

As a Mission District I felt it important to have a study group. I've always tried to live by the motto "know Christ and make Him known". Easier said than done. However, one can't make Christ known without knowing him. Therefore, study groups with others are important. In smaller

groups you learn to trust one another with the result you can be encouraged and even chastised!

We have such a group and at the correct time we studied Hope 25. A real challenge. However, we are ably led by our wonderful priest Maryann and encouraged by her and the others attending to grow in faith and hopefully be a witness to others. We believe that we don't have to stand on a soap box, but we do have to show people that we care for them and their needs. Hopefully they will see in us something worth finding out about.



It was 'Trinity Wednesday' all Round!

By Rex Everett

It all happened in 'threes' on Wednesday 10th September at St James' Lavington in the Parish of Northern Albury.

Three candidates – Scott, Stephanie and Melissa – were blessed richly by Father, Son and Holy Spirit at their Confirmation.

Three Bishops were present, Bp. Clarence and his two guests: Bp. Donald Kirk of Riverina and Bp. Rickson Maomaoru of Southern Malaita & Sikaiana (Solomon Islands).

In addition there were three others dressed in White Robes: the two locum priests and Marion Henry who was being licensed as a Lay Reader.



It was a wonderful celebration for all involved with great love and encouragement for the candidates who have taken a fabulous new

step on their Christian journey.

Friends of the Cathedral: An Invitation to Serve

As we approach the end of the year, I am grateful to reflect on my year as Secretary of the Friends of the Cathedral. It has been a privilege to continue the faithful work of Eunice Cardwell, who served in this role with remarkable dedication for many years.

After prayerful consideration, I have decided

not to nominate for Secretary in 2026, as I reassess the various roles I hold around the Cathedral and my (in)ability to meet my commitments. However, this change brings a wonderful opportunity for someone new to step into a meaningful and fulfilling ministry. The Friends of the Cathedral warmly invite members of our church community to consider becoming involved as Secretary, as a Committee member, or simply as a Friend. Every contribution strengthens our shared mission.

The Friends exist to gather in fellowship those who love our Cathedral and wish to further its work. Our objectives include supporting the Cathedral's ministry and maintenance, assisting in charitable activities and helping ensure that the Cathedral has the resources it needs to flourish. Over the years, the Friends have significantly enriched the furnishings and

fabric of our beloved building.

The role of Secretary is ideal for someone who enjoys planning and organising. Responsibilities include helping coordinate annual events, such as parish visits, the annual dinner, various fundraisers, sending Christmas cards with the coming year's program and attending meetings to record minutes. It is a rewarding way to serve God, the Cathedral and its community.

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday 7th December 2025 in Purbrick Hall following Mass at the Cathedral, and our Annual General Meeting will take place in early 2026 (date to be confirmed).

If you feel called to contribute, we would love to welcome you.

Parish Annual Meeting at St Augustine's, Shepparton

The Parish Annual Meeting held on 13th November was conducted successfully, drawing strong attendance and engagement from parishioners. In his opening remarks Rev'd Jerome thanked the many committed and dedicated members of the Parish whose hard work was so important to the St Augustine's community. The atmosphere was positive, with

many attendees expressing support for the direction of the parish and offering constructive suggestions to enhance our outreach to the local community.

Positive highlights of the meeting were the ideas presented by parish members regarding how the parish could broaden its involvement and impact in the wider community. These suggestions will be considered in the coming months as part of our ongoing commitment to making the parish a welcoming and active presence in the area.

All required leadership and committee positions were successfully nominated, with a robust process ensuring that all roles will be filled for the coming three years. Ballots were conducted to elect the various office-bearers, resulting in a strong leadership team ready to guide

the parish forward and ensuring the ongoing 'business' and mission of the church will remain in capable hands.

The Parish Annual Meeting not only fulfilled its formal obligations, but also fostered a spirit of optimism and unity. With a renewed leadership team and a clear focus on expanding our outreach, the parish is well-positioned for continued growth and positive impact in the years ahead. The meeting concluded with a heartfelt thank you to Rev'd Jerome for his commitment and loving care.

Glenrowan Community ConTACT

By Robyn Coles

Glenrowan Community ConTACT Celebrated it's 20th Anniversary with a HIGH TEA on the 15th October at St Paul's Anglican Church in Glenrowan. It was a happy occasion catching up with past & present friends.

Also known as "Drop -In" it was started by three local ladies Lynn Gent, Jillian Kimber & Robyn Coles to bring people together – if you were new to town, living alone, young, elderly, it was a chance to meet others once a month in a friendly environment for a Cuppa & Chat. We have seen many faces over the years, had lots of activities, meals, guest speakers and themed days.

For the past six years Dianne Peacock and

Robyn coordinate with much help from members of St Paul's Congregation and still meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, 2pm -3:30pm. We encourage those who receive the reminders

to bring a friend or anyone they know who may enjoy an outing...to try and spread the word!

All are Welcome.



The Church that Moved 70 Years Ago

The Big Shift - When the rising waters of the enlarged Lake Hume meant that Tallangatta had to 'go west' to its new site at Bolga, the original 'Church of England', built in 1898, was relocated to its present site on the corner of Queen Elizabeth Drive and Towong Street.

Laying the Foundation Stones - When the Foundation Stone was laid by the then Governor of Victoria, Sir Dallas Brooks, on September 25th 1955, the Anglicans of 'Old Tallangatta' hauled their pews out of the church and carried them down the valley to the approximate spot among the raw soil at the new location, then sat on them to watch the ceremony. The Reverend R.G. Tavaré, Parish Priest, re-laid the original church's Foundation Stone, set in place by Archdeacon Henry Langley on March 8th 1898. The small, silver-plated trowel used in the ceremony still enjoys pride of place in the church. Months later the present Anglican Church of Christ the King was completed and the old site abandoned.

The buildings - The church and rectory were built by A.B. and M.A. Chick under a 17,000 pounds (\$34,000) contract let by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission. Although the commission paid for most of the Church, the Parish had to find an extra 2500 pounds (\$5000) because it exceeded the value of the old church and rectory by that amount.

The West Window - Bullioh pioneers - Before the town was moved, the people of Bullioh were busily raising money to build a church of their own. This ambition gradually faded as people became more mobile in improved motor cars. The project was eventually abandoned and the money already raised was used to install and dedicate the west window 'In Memory of the



Bullioh Pioneers'.

The Other Windows - The east window, behind the altar, was carefully transported from the original church and set in its new location, as were a number of windows in the 'fishbone structure' of the side walls, donated over time by family connections and dedicated to the memory of Charles and Elizabeth Hillas, William and Helena Fleming, Bruce and Mavis Holloway, Alice and Benjamin Butler, Norma Julia McDonald and John Lawrence Fisher.

The Parish Hall Came Too! - The Parish Hall, a weatherboard structure built in the old town in the early 1930s, was moved by truck in three sections to its current location and all its familiar events, especially the Old Time Dances, continued to be part of church life. In 1990, ongoing maintenance costs for a weatherboard structure led to the 'Brick the Hall' fund raiser, where encouragement to 'buy a brick' raised enough to produce the splendid brick clad building that was dedicated by the then Rector, Canon Laurie Allott and Bishop Robert Beale on December 6th 1990.

The 40th Anniversary Celebration and beyond - It's 30 years since the 'Big Shift' was celebrated on September 24th 1995. In those thirty years

many things have happened. Notable among these have been the following:

Centenary Celebration - March 8th 1998 - a large crowd of worshippers gathered in the dry lake bed at the old town, occupying the site of the original church, to take part in a wind blown and quite unique outdoor celebration of the eucharist. There was even a baptism. After lunch back at the Parish Hall a number of events were enjoyed. The most recent of the side windows, crafted in a Resurrection theme, was given by parishioners to mark the centenary. At the same time six windows were placed high in the walls of the sanctuary, on either side of the altar, donated by the following parishioners - Jim and Merle Moyle, the Trenchard family, the Milsom family, Jeanette Foster and daughters, Bob and Ruby Mitchell and the Aldrich family.

Millenium Banner - Under the guidance of the late Angela Braybrooks the millennium banner, celebrating 'The Light of Christ', was meticulously crafted by many people from this community and beyond and set in place inside the Parish Hall.

Photo above: Governor of Victoria, Sir Dallas Brooks, and Reverend Gordon Tavaré.

Blessing of the pets at Benalla

Our pets blessing service in Benalla was a wonderful celebration of God's creation and our relationship with creation that often centres around our pets.

We welcomed six dogs, a toy dog and some dog and cat photos, representing much loved and missed pets and of course our resident micro bats. We gave thanks for their love and companionship, we prayed for their health and happiness and everyone enjoyed a treat together in the sanctuary.

Thankfully all attendees (even the humans!) were well behaved and no unexpected messes needed cleaning up after Mass.



Benalla
hosts
Inaugural
Spring Sing

By Rev'd Mel Clarke

The very wet weather couldn't keep the crowds away on October 26th as Holy Trinity Church in Benalla hosted the inaugural Spring Sing event. Four choirs gathered to share their wonderful musical talents with a very appreciative audience.

The afternoon began with a performance by the Holy Trinity Choir, followed by the St John's Mansfield Choir, then Ostinato, who came from Wangaratta to sing for us. The event finished with a performance from The Woodend Warblers and a big sing along with all of the audience.

The feeling in the church was joyous and everyone who came along declared that we should do this again next year!

Photos right: Top - St Johns mansfield Choir. Bottom - The Woodend Warblers



Sustainability

By Rev'd John Jessop

The word sustainability is often linked to the environment or environmentalism; but what does it actually mean? The eighth meaning in the Concise Oxford Dictionary sums it up best: 'Keep going, continuously, keep sound, keep the effort etc.' So what might we hope to sustain, to keep going, to preserve? Perhaps the most important is our way of life, in the sense of human thriving, human progress. By any measure we live in the best of times, not the worst of times. Although global population in absolute poverty is lower than ever and food supply up, there are still millions of people who cook and heat with sticks and dung for whom sustained progress is vital. The ability to produce and maintain all the things for human health and thriving is essential. How is that sustained?

Then, we have the world in which we live: its beauty, health and productivity. There is no better time than Spring to appreciate the beauty and bounty of the earth as shown in the Albertine rose. The harsh frosts and dry weather of May, devastated our lime, and two frosts in November did for the fig; but they are both recovering. While making use of the bounty of the earth, we have a responsibility

to care for and develop our God-given environment. So how is this sustained?

There is, in some quarters, an ideology which depends on the 'tackling of climate change' – interpreted as cutting CO2 emissions. The paradox is that this undermines both human thriving and the natural environment. The first thing to note is that all human activity has very little effect on the global climate which has always changed. This is because of three physical factors: firstly, naturally occurring atmospheric CO2 contains radioactive C14, whereas CO2 from burning ancient fossil fuels has no C14. From this, CO2 from human activity is shown to be only 5% of the total, say 0.002% of atmospheric gases. Secondly, water, H2O, shares the same part of the infrared spectrum as CO2 and there is 25 to 100 times more water in the atmosphere than CO2. So the radiative forcing (warming) of CO2 is dwarfed by H2O. Thirdly, and most importantly, Henry's law describes how gases are absorbed by water. The evaporation and condensation of CO2 on the surface of the oceans maintains an equilibrium based on the temperature of the oceans. Ultimately our climate is controlled by the Sun and the oceans.

Spending trillions of dollars on trying to change the natural climate undermines the ability to sustain and improve human thriving. Trying to power the world by unreliable, non-

renewable, environmentally destructive, weather dependent, wind and solar is, in itself, unsustainable; More than that, it undermines wild life, industry and agriculture for absolutely no benefit to the climate.

