

The Gippsland Anglican

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Cathrine Muston commissioned

Jan Down

Cathrine Muston was commissioned as the new Gippsland Community Development Officer, Anglicare Parish Partnerships, at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale, on Thursday 27 October.

Ms Muston will build on the work of encouraging and enabling parishes to build deeper links with their communities, which was established by her predecessor Sarah Gover, who was Community Development Officer for seven years. There is a special focus on outreach programs that enable people who may be marginalised to participate in the common life of parishes.

The service was led by Bp Kay Goldsworthy, who spoke to encourage Cathrine in her new role, and the Dean of the Cathedral, the Very Rev'd Susanna Pain. The readings were from Micah 6:6-8 and Luke 4: 16-21. Two John Bell hymns were sung: "Will you come and follow me?" and "Jesus Christ is waiting".

The service included the Anglicare Victoria Prayer:

*Living and eternal God,
enable us by your Spirit
to live in your example.
Strengthen and encourage
all who work and support
the mission of Anglicare
Victoria.*

*We thank you for all
those who have serviced
the welfare of others in
past years. Bring us to your
generosity of spirit so
we may also serve in
building your community.
In the name of Christ.
Amen*

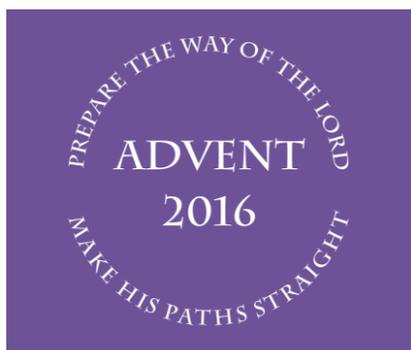
Jane Anderson, Area Manager of Anglicare Victoria welcomed Cathrine on behalf of Anglicare and the Rev'd Sue Jacka gave the welcome on behalf of the Anglican diocese.

Photo: Christine Morris



The Very Rev'd Susanna Pain; Jane Anderson, Area Manager of Anglicare Victoria; Bp Kay Goldsworthy; Cathrine Muston; Dennis Minster, Anglicare Program Manager; and Geoff Ryan, Parish Partnerships Manager for Anglicare Victoria

During the service, Cathrine was charged with being "a disturber of those who cannot see the needs and aspirations of the less advantaged and the marginalised". Later, in responding, Cathrine said "I am glad to be in a role where I am given permission to be a 'disturber' as I have often been in trouble for being so in other roles", and that she felt a call on her life to be an advocate for those without a voice. She concluded, "I want to be a worker for the Kingdom of God where all are welcome and equal and valued". At the conclusion of the service, the congregation enjoyed refreshments and fellowship in the Delbridge Hall.



Ballarat comes to Gippsland



Photo: Geoff Pittaway

Bp Garry Weatherill of Ballarat and Gippsland's Bp Kay Goldsworthy at the recent clergy retreat

The Gippsland clergy retreat this year at Palotti College Retreat Centre was led by Bp Garry Weatherill from the diocese of Ballarat, whose teaching and wisdom were much appreciated as clergy enjoyed a slower pace for a few days, with time for fellowship and renewal.

(See report by the Rev'd Chris McAleer, page 3)

Index

From the Bishop	2
Stay close to Jesus	3
Passing on the mission baton	3
Around the diocese	4-7
RSCM Summer School	4
Advent / Christmas resources	5
Drivers retire to Bairnsdale	5
Working with the community	6
Pilgrimage strengthens faith	7
Kids Min	8
Rich Lanham: For young disciples	9
Singing our way through Advent and Christmas	9
Theological reflection: Brenda Burney	10
Editorial	10
God in the sex-ed classroom?	11
Earth Care Card	11
Faith and Work: Anthea Christian	12
Diocesan Calendar	12

A couple of months ago I turned 60. Or did I already mention that? Any birthday after 29 ending in zero is serious business. It tends to concentrate the mind.

Ours is not a family that took notice of the eight stages that the 20th century psychologist Erik Erikson saw as necessary to grow healthy human beings. If we had been, perhaps my role – as the youngest in providing occasions for sighing and raised eyebrows and wondering when I would “grow up” – might well have taken a different course.

Erikson’s theory suggests that 60 is still the “middle adulthood years”, yet the advent of a new decade still includes looking back at milestones, celebrations and joys of life. It also means, of course, looking back over sorrows, griefs, missteps, as grace and God’s loving abundance works in human weakness.

Growing up isn’t just a matter of staying alive and getting older. It demands the ability to reflect on the life we live, the gift life is, and how we would like to use the time available to us. Growing up, becoming adult, maturing – whatever word we use, the same process is necessary for communities, countries, families and individuals, as we try to act beyond self interest, imagining the common good. In a word, it is necessary that we grow beyond childish ways.

The song which St Paul sings in 1 Corinthians 13 paints a vivid picture for us of the Christian community at its best. “Love is patient; love is kind; love is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its



Bishop Kay Goldsworthy

Beyond childish ways

own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.”

The setting for this poetry is plainly the revelation offered us in the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus; namely that God is love and nothing but love. And Paul is sure, as we also can be sure, that such love is enough and more than enough, enough to sustain us in the present, and provide hope as we work for the coming of God’s dream, something we can know before the dust settles, something to be known fully one day even as we have been fully known. “When I was

a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face.”

Sometimes we need reminding that faith is for grown-ups, not just for children. This means facing the world as it is, rather than as we might wish it to be. One thing this generation of believers has to take on board is that the church isn’t seen as trustworthy anymore by lots of people in our communities.

This doesn’t necessarily mean though, that people aren’t interested in what followers of Jesus, people of faith and hope and love believe, how we think about the great questions facing us all, and how things look in the light of faith.

They want to know what we we have to say about Australia’s response to asylum seekers who have been in off shore detention centres for

years. They want to know what insights we have about people of different races and cultures and religions living alongside each other respectfully. They want to know how we are standing alongside Aboriginal Australians on the long journey of reconciliation.

They want to know how Christians approach the changed and changing shape of families in today’s world. They want to know how we feel about the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer, about so-called “free” market economies, about the big banks, about housing and hospitals and schools, about ordinary people doing it tough. They want to know what we believe about suffering, about minority issues, about euthanasia, about life and death and heaven and hell.

We are about to embark on another Advent – those four weeks leading up to Christmas when God chooses to take our flesh and live among us. The temptation to stay with the baby and to be caught up in nostalgia and day-dreaming may be great, but that luxury is simply unavailable to us in 2016. Bethlehem belongs to the real world in all its beauty and all its pain, and the Child in the manger calls us to walk with him and struggle with him, to take our courage in both hands, to find our feet and to find our voice.

Perhaps you will join a study group, or a change or protest movement, or speak out against injustice in the Holy Land, or discrimination in your own neighbourhood. Whatever you do, let your watchword be that prayer and action go together, for those who pray risk becoming God-bearers like Mary in in a dangerous world.

Peace and grace and courage to you for the journey through Advent and Christmas and beyond.

+ Kay

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Photo by Geoff Pittaway



The Rev'd Dr Dean Spalding, the Rev'd Graeme Peters, and the Rev'd Colin Oakley

Staying close to Jesus Clergy Retreat 2016

Chris McAleer

It was the long-awaited clergy retreat, delayed for a day on account of a violent and fatally tragic storm. Despite the best efforts of the

CFA, as we travelled through Millgrove, it resembled a disaster area with eucalyptus debris littering the roadside, electricity cables still lying on the ground and across driveways.

Our venue, Pallotti College Retreat Centre, was still without power for its second day as the Gippsland clergy settled in for two days of spiritual reflection under the direction of Bishop Garry Weatherill of

Ballarat. As if by God's design, the lights came on during the reflection on discipleship, the second of our five sessions. By integrating songs from Paul Kelly, theological prose from Walter Bruggemann, and the lyrical creativity of Michael Leunig with his firmly grounded experiences, Bishop Garry covered the topics of incarnation, discipleship, crucifixion, love and the Church in perceptive and profoundly insightful ways.

“...a call to pray for new ears; that from little things big things grow.”

Amidst the programmed opportunities for concentrated reflection, corporate worship and silent prayer, there were occasions to reflect on the grandeur of the trees and the gardens, the trusting nature of a king parrot, the echo of chainsaws and the kookaburras who joyously signalled the end of each day.

There were also many memorable, perhaps some

unforgettable, insights and reminders: a call to pray for new ears; that from little things big things grow; may God Easter us in joy and strength; deeper water is calling us on; someone needs to make the gravy; love is always born; nothing can be loved at speed; and the three important insights for everyone's spiritual journey – stay close to Jesus!

After the two days, while packing to leave, I was reminded of the young grandmother who had died in the storm – of the real world that God calls us back into, now slightly changed. Hopefully we are more ready to undertake the journey, with God's art of the gentle revolution.

The Rev'd Chris McAleer is Rector of the Episcopal District of Nar Nar Goon and Cardinia Lakes.

Passing on the mission baton

“Who is my neighbour?” – a CMS Gippsland seminar and dinner at Warragul



CMS Gippsland dinner at the Warragul Anglican Church

inexpensive buffet-style dinner, chosen with an eye to accommodating young families.

After dinner Olivia Mulherin from Leongatha provided up-to-the-minute news of her parents, David and Prue Boyd, who are serving with CMS in D.R. Congo, before Bethany Vaughan described how God called her to trust him, and then to train at CMS' federal training facility, St Andrew's Hall, for missionary service in Cambodia. Finally, Wei-Han Kuan (Victorian State Director of CMS) spoke about the core business of

CMS, raising up missionaries and deploying them long term around the world. He concluded “to be a missionary just means to be grasped by God and by this truth, that we are set apart for the work of worshipping him and telling others the good news about Jesus”.

Around 65 people attended the CMS Gippsland 2016 event, and it is hoped it will continue to grow and become a regular feature of our annual calendar.

The Rev'd Katie Peken is Associate Priest at Warragul.

Katie Peken

was led by Gaylene Harrower, who described how she has used her love of animals to start a donkey-ride outreach and a fundraising ferret zoo. She explained how anyone can use the hobbies they love and excel at to start conversations about Jesus, or raise money to support missions.

Meanwhile, children from Prep to Year 7 learned about missionary Gladys Aylward, famous for trekking more than 100 Chinese orphans to safety in 1940. The Chinese experience included using chop-sticks to eat mini-spring rolls, prawn crackers, and even lychees, washed down with green tea.

During a break, guests were able to mingle with members of the CMS team, and the space was transformed for an

I see being a Christian as a kind of relay. Each generation is responsible for running its own race of doing and supporting Jesus' mission in the world, and also passing the baton to the next generation. But it's official – the average age of people who support mission – whether financially, by praying, or by volunteering – is getting older and older. Somewhere, the baton is being dropped.

Hosted by Warragul Anglican Church on 8 October, the new annual CMS Gippsland event is an attempt to pass on a heart for mission to younger Christians.

The afternoon program “Using your passion to reach your neighbour for Christ”,



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The Church, over the years, has been blessed with the generosity of Anglicans and others in support of its mission. One way you can support this ideal in a relatively easy way, is to make a gift through your will. In the first instance, of course, you will consider carefully the needs of your immediate family and friends before proceeding with a bequest to the church.

We offer a way of helping you to carry out your wishes. Your gift, through your bequest, will be very much appreciated. You may wish to support the Diocese of Gippsland as a whole, or your own parish, or for a particular purpose.

Making your bequest in your Will is a simple procedure, although in preparing or amending your Will you should always consult a solicitor. The Registrar of the Diocese of Gippsland has information to assist you in making a bequest, including the form of words you and your solicitor might want to use.

Telephone Brian Norris on 03 5144 2044, or go to www.gippsanglican.org.au and search 'bequests'.



360° views from the tower of Liverpool Cathedral

Royal School of Church Music International Summer School

Marion Dewar, a musician of the Leongatha parish, reports on a significant part of her recent three month trip abroad. A music teacher for 43 years, Marion has been involved in RSCM since the 1970s.

On Monday morning 8 August 2016 I arrived in Liverpool armed with a copy of my International Summer School 2016 booking form. I left Liverpool on Sunday evening, 14 August, with one ISS Book, 14 Service Books, pages of notes and music, many photographs, new friends and some wonderful memories.

Worship followed the liturgy and music forms from the Church of Scotland, Iona, Methodist, Anglican, Lutheran and Roman Catholic traditions. Choral Eucharist, Choral Evensong, Matins, Choral Vespers, Catholic Mass, Vigil Mass, Compline and Lutheran Vespers were included.

The buildings used included Liverpool Cathedral, Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral, St Margaret's Church, St Bride's Church and St Francis Xavier Church.

There were six Australians in attendance, with four from New Zealand, 43 from UK, and 20 from the rest of the world – a grand total of 73.

Some of the speakers (and their areas of expertise) were Dr Hugh Benham (early English church music), the Rev'd Helen Bent Associate of RSCM (musician and priest), Eoghan Desmond (composer), Rosemary Field Associate of RSCM (RSCM Deputy Director), Christopher Hodgkinson (Gregorian Chant), Graham Kendrick, Fellow of RSCM (modern worship music) and Dr Christopher McElroy (Director of Music, Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral); all capably led by RSCM Director Andrew Reid, who visited Australia in 2015.

The 2016 Millennium Youth Choir had its own sessions and took part in several services. One of the highlights for them (and the adults) was recording Choral Vespers for BBC Radio Three.

I chose the *Liturgy and music for parish mission and ministry elective* and the *Contemporary congregational music elective*. I also attended sessions on *The development of English choral music* and *Singing plainchant*.

My workshops included *Iona and Taizé for parish use* (Miles Quick), *Shared ministry of clergy and musicians* (Helen Bent, Rosemary Field), *Christian song-writing in England – an overview of the last 40 years* (Graham Kendrick).

My individual session was with Miles Quick (RSCM Head of Congregational & Instrumental Music) and included a discussion on teaching new music to a congregation.

One evening we were entertained by *In Voice and Verse* (a concert of a "walk through" the Bible) – comprising a singer, an actor and an accompanist. Another highlight was a visit to David Wells Organ Builders workshop. We were treated to an organ demonstration at Liverpool Cathedral by Shean Bowers, which included a visit to the organ loft and the Lady Chapel organ gallery.

There was even time to walk around the city, meander down to the port area and climb the tower of Liverpool Cathedral for spectacular 360° views of the city.

Trafalgar Craft Group

The Trafalgar Craft group, led by Trish Walker, have been using their skills and time to knit and sew to support Anglicare Victoria's work in Gippsland.

Cathrine Muston, Parish Partnerships worker with Anglicare, was on hand to receive knitted rugs, scarves, knitted slippers and bed socks as well as beanies and a cute baby jumper. The donations will be provided to families

in need through a variety of programs. Trish and her group collect wool and materials for their items from local op shops.

As well as knitted goods, Glenn Erbs made some embroidered "Leaving in a Hurry" bags, complete with face washers and toiletries. These bags will be especially useful for those requiring emergency relief as toiletries and sanitary items are expensive.



Trish Walker with Cathrine Muston and the Rev'd Sue Jacka displaying the items made for Anglicare Victoria for distribution in Gippsland

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Bp Jeffrey Driver retires to Bairnsdale

Jan Down

Bishop Jeffrey Driver, former Archbishop of Adelaide (2005 – 2016), Metropolitan of South Australia, and Bishop of Gippsland (2001 – 2005) and his wife Lindy have recently “retired” to Bairnsdale, East Gippsland.

While Bp Jeff said he is “looking forward to doing things in a less pressured way”, their plans are for a very active retirement. Lindy is about to take off for eight weeks in South Sudan, where they are involved in establishing a primary health care clinic, while Bp Jeff continues to deliver some theological education within Australia and is looking to offer some teaching in Papua New Guinea.

Bp Jeff has an on-going relationship with St Barnabas College and Charles Sturt University. He plans to continue reading and writing,

with one particular focus growing out of the Adelaide diocese’s involvement with the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The discovery that whole communities can become secondary victims of abuse concerns him, and he believes that the Australian church needs to “think deeply and theologically” about this.

Bp Jeff is happy about the move to Bairnsdale, expressing a strong sense of connection with Gippsland and a deep spiritual connection with the local landscape. However, he said that in one sense, it did not matter too much where they were based, given their pursuits and their plans for mission-focused travel.



Bp Jeffrey Driver and his wife Lindy

Photograph by Sarah Stephens, courtesy of the Adelaide Anglican Diocese

Flavours of fellowship

Mary Nicholls
Moe / Newborough

Parishioners of Moe and Newborough were delighted to be part of a Sri Lankan Food and Culture Night with the culinary delights inspired and directed by Sandra Anthony and fellow Sri Lankan parishioner Carel Moses. The evening was hosted by the Moe Guild.

Our Rector, the Rev’d Sathi Anthony assisted with commentary on a prepared PowerPoint. The spread catered for all tastes, with dahl, curries, pappadams, traditional sweet watapan and spiced Love Cake amongst the treats.



Tables decorated in the colours of the Sri Lankan flag for the Food and Culture Night

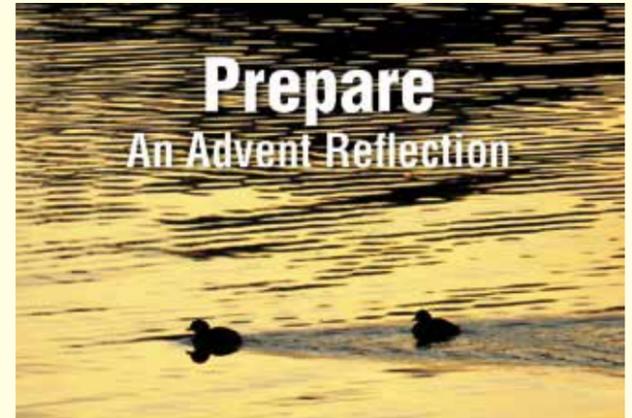
The parish’s Second Antique and Collectables Fair was a great success, attracting extra stallholders from across Gippsland and from Melbourne. It is well on the way to becoming an established event for the Antique

Collectable Trail blazers on the second Saturday each October.

Perfect weather enabled some outside stall holders to trade and visitors to view a selection of classic cars provided by parish and community friends.



Classic cars on display at the Antique and Collectables Fair



Advent reflection booklet from Anglican Overseas Aid

Advent /Christmas resources

Anglican Overseas Aid: Free Advent reflection booklet on the themes of Advent: hope, love, joy and peace – for personal reflection, small group study guide, or whole of church. Order copies of the booklets from Anglican Overseas Aid as soon as possible by ringing 1800 249 880 or email: aoa@anglicanoverseasaid.org.au

Anglican Board of Mission: Find weekly readings and reflections; Bible sentences and prayers to write in Christmas cards; and a Christmas Ecard you can send to family and friends at: abmission.org

Anglicare: View and order Anglicare Christmas cards at: anglicarevic.org.au

TEAR Australia: Order gifts from the TEAR Useful Gift Catalogue at: www.usefulgifts.org and find “Ideas for a Hopeful Christmas” at: tinyurl.com/zesmd5n

Church Missionary Society: Gift catalogue available at cms-gift-catalogue.myshopify.com

BCA: Buy Christmas puddings and cakes as well as cards, or a Banjo Bilby soft toy at: bushchurchaid.com.au

World Vision: Find the gift catalogue at: worldvision.com.au/gifts/

Gippsland diocese reviews Strategic Direction

The Strategic Vision, “Jesus Christ here and now for Gippsland” was adopted for 2013 – 2017, and is therefore due for review.

Bishop Kay Goldsworthy has asked the Rev’d Trevor Smith to lead consultations in each of the three regions, as part of the process of reviewing strategic directions for the diocese.

The Southern Region consultation was held on Saturday 22 October and the Western Region on Sunday 30 October. A meeting for the Eastern Region will be held on Saturday 12 November at Holy Trinity Stratford.



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Working with the community

Sue Jacka
Trafalgar

The Battle of Trafalgar is a community wide event which for the last several years has been greatly supported by the local Anglican Parish. We have found that working together with other locals to make this festival happen has not only been a very good way to serve the community but has forged positive relationships with people who have little contact with church. This has led to ongoing relationships and some very helpful conversations.

Anglicans have been an active part of the management committee which has met in our hall. This year only one actual event was held at



Greg Jones entertains at the music café

our church (the music café), but Anglicans have offered help to support other events. For instance, we provided first aid and the PA for the pet parade, made fairy floss

at the community night and helped with a host of fundraising activities so that the festival could proceed.

Greg Jones, who formerly worked with BCA, sang and played his variety of instruments at the music café on Sunday 16 October. He competently spanned the preferences of both older members of the audience with a few sing-a-long old-time favourites and the younger families with his more contemporary work. As expected, the delicious afternoon tea was appreciated by all present.

The Rev'd Sue Jacka is Rector of Trafalgar.



Trooper the donkey captivated the children. He also won best fancy dressed animal.

Jan Down

The Rev'd Kathy Dalton, Associate Priest, Koori Ministry at St Mary's Morwell, preaching on Sunday 16 October, said some Aboriginal people want recognition in Australia's Constitution, but what many are now calling for is a Treaty.

Relating Jesus' parable of the persistent widow and the unjust judge (Luke 18: 1-14) to Indigenous and European relations in Australia, the key words for Kathy were "discouraged", "protesting" and "injustice". She spoke about the early mission days when Aboriginal people first learned about Christianity. Many became Christians and continued to fight for justice and the recognition of their people, with NAIDOC Week (initiated by Christian Aboriginal people) coming to play a regular part.

After raising the question of a Treaty, Kathy ended with a challenge: "Is Australia ready? Is the Australian church ready?"

Are we ready for a Treaty?



The Rev'd Kathy Dalton at St Mary's Morwell

As well as preaching once a month at St Mary's, Kathy visits people in hospital, takes communion to Heritage Manor, an aged care facility in Morwell, and generally ministers to the Aboriginal people in Morwell and the surrounding area.

She is sometimes asked to do house blessings, where there will be a smoking ceremony and prayers, and the sprinkling of holy water. Kathy has been taking another

priest along with her so that they and the Aboriginal people can get to know each other. This is important partly because funerals which Kathy conducts may be held in Morwell, or any one of the nearby parishes, depending on where the person is to be buried.

The Aboriginal community has recently asked Kathy to start a Sunday School, which is likely to begin by being held fortnightly at St Mary's, with about 6 – 10 children.



Lacey and Ilar with their families, Helmut, Annalise and Danielle

Pets connect us to God

Carolyn Raymond
Morwell

Our pets are so much part of our lives. As St Francis knew, our connection with animals is life-affirming. As part of God's creation they connect us to God. To celebrate this powerful connection at St Mary's we held a "Blessing of the Pets service". We all welcomed Bruce, Tess, Lacey (she is very big), Lucy (who is even bigger) Ilar (very small), Oakie, and the only cat who came, Mr Fluffy. All the animals seemed to enjoy the service. Some joined in with the singing of the hymns. They all seemed to be happy to be patted by everyone.

The congregation enjoyed patting and making a fuss of our visitors. Each pet went forward with one or more of their owners and they received a blessing from the Rev'd David Head. They seemed to enjoy this. Mostly they wiggled so much that all the photos came out blurred!

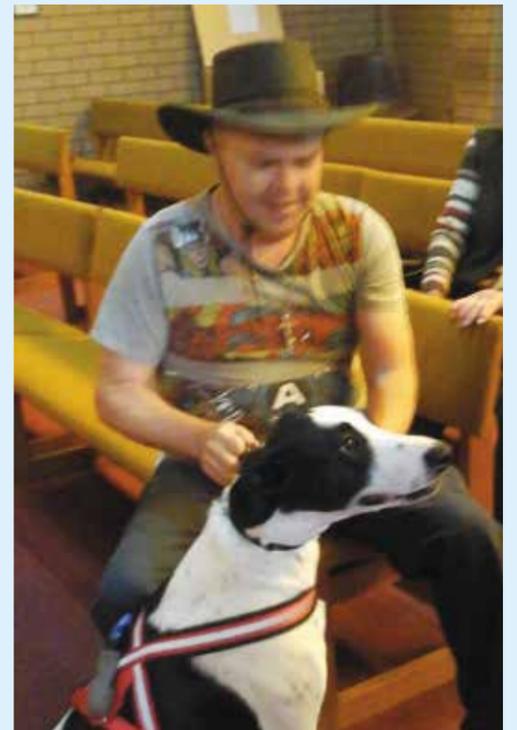
The hymns reflected God's gifts of nature and our joy in connecting to God through his creation. David told us a wonderful story about a little boy who

wandered around his home and neighbourhood looking for where God lived, but finding it difficult to get a satisfactory answer.

After asking his parents, the Indian lady who ran the local corner shop and the minister from his church, he spoke to an old man, who told him that God was an old friend and lived within his heart. The old man told the boy that God lived in his heart too. When he went home the boy wondered how he could look into his heart and see God.

He was playing with his dog. As he snuggled his dog he could feel the dog's heart beating. His own heart beat in response. This surely was God, one heart meeting another – God's gift of life and love.

Andrew and Lucy



Pilgrimage strengthens faith

Peter Mielke reflects on his Spanish Pilgrimage from Granada to Santiago de Compostela, 1150 km on foot, 52 walking days.

Peter Mielke
Sale

Some memorable experiences for me that I will carry with me for a long time were:

The old Roman quarters in Caceres; walking with those very gentle long-horned black cattle on the Extremadura plain; a night spent with the monks at the "Residencia of the Brothers", a mission for homeless and disabled men; getting lost and walking 22 km off course – a taxi and 30 euros fixed that; cooking for other pilgrims with Lawrence (my cousin's husband) at two of the Pilgrim Albergues; walking with Margret, another Aussie lass in her 60s from Orange who was walking the Camino for her husband who passed with cancer some time ago.



Peter Mielke, after a long hot climb up to Moclin

After I returned to Australia the Rev'd Ken Parker, then locum at the Anglican Cathedral in Sale, asked me how the journey had affected my faith. My answer to Ken was as follows:

My faith in humanity and a belief in the greater good that is out there was strengthened. It's not often that we get good news stories in the media today, but each time I travel it's great to see and experience the goodwill that the majority of the world's people have. My faith in human goodness was particularly strengthened through the support I experienced in Spain for those involved in pilgrimage. Pilgrimage is meant to be a little tough and the Spanish population appreciates this and will use opportunities to extend a hand to a pilgrim to help him or her along their way.

My "religious" faith is still a work in progress. Being able to mix with other pilgrims in Spain all seeking to strengthen their own faith was a great experience and one that has reinforced for me the direction I have taken in my life. Each Sunday I attend Church in Sale

there is a small piece I usually take away with me from the sermon that our minister offers. Often there is a bit I learn from others around me when we come together at church; my pilgrimage in Spain was a bit like that too – each day there was a little something that came along to help me with my religious faith.

I was lucky enough to spend seven days in Santiago. Often I would spend an hour or two watching other pilgrims coming into the plaza in front of the Cathedral – many hundreds every day; there was an evening pilgrim service in the Santiago Cathedral that Lawrence and I attended and despite arriving one hour early we could only get standing room positions in the church.

We also saw a pilgrim family pushing their mother in a wheelchair and a man helping a daughter who had cerebral palsy to complete her pilgrimage – these all were very powerful moments for me and in their own individual ways went toward strengthening my religious faith.

John Baldock introduces the Camino

A pilgrimage series at the Abbey

Sue Fordham

A highlight of a busy October at the Abbey was the pilgrimage/Camino series conducted by senior Melbourne priest, John Baldock.

It began on the Friday evening with a beautiful French themed meal and a session in the chapel which looked at our understanding and expectations of pilgrimage in the context of our Christian journey. The meditations, scriptural passages and prayers came from a rather wonderful book prepared by Fr John for the original exhibition of photographs by Earl Carter, displayed in St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne.

Each participant received a copy of the book and book lovers will understand me when I say that it was a perfect pocket size and the paper from which it was produced had a

lovely feel and 'new paper' smell. The photographs were lovely, simple, sometimes stark, drawing the observer in and complementing the text.

In the coming day and a half we thought through the purposes of pilgrimage, the stages of pilgrimage, the mind set of the pilgrim, the cult of St James as it developed historically and God's Hotel in Beaune as an example of the ultimate in love of neighbour.

This extraordinary series was punctuated by lovely food that was in sync with the focus of our meditations as a group. On the Saturday evening, for example, the Abbey chef, Ian Pearson prepared two beautiful paellas: one chicken and chorizo and the other seafood. It would not have been too huge a leap to imagine that we were on the Spanish section of the walk on the cusp of arriving at Santiago de Compostela.

We began with a reflection

from *The Way of Lao-Tsu*: "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step", then a reading from Genesis: "The Lord said to Abraham, 'Leave your country, your kinsfolk and your father's house for the land I will show you'. And Abraham set out, as the Lord had told him". These became the catalyst for our ongoing discussion of pilgrimage.

Earl Carter's photographs were commissioned by Penguin Books for two magnificent cookbooks of French and Spanish food and his commission was to capture the people, food, cultures and landscapes along the Camino route. The books, *A Food Lover's Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela* and *A Food Lover's Pilgrimage to France* are each works of art as well as a wonderful resource for people who like to cook.

The weekend was proof that food for the body and food for the soul are both blessings.



Food for the body and soul at The Abbey's introduction to pilgrimage series with the Rev'd John Baldock

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Cathedral children

Sale

On Sunday mornings at St Paul's cathedral in Sale, Ro Vespaandonk or Christine Morris bring the children to the front of the church for a short talk and a blessing before going out for a time of reflection and play focused on the day's readings. The children later return for communion.

On Tuesdays there is Tadpoles Playgroup led by Jan Lear and a team of helpers. The little ones have a fabulous time of play, including a jumping castle, playdough and a wonderful sandpit.

The time ends with fruit for the children and morning tea for parents.

On Thursdays Julie Lanham and her helpers run a *mainly music* program. The group currently has a two year waiting list! Children come with a parent or grandparent and have great fun singing and moving, then sharing morning tea.

We are currently exploring holding a monthly Messy Church / Godly Play style worship service on a Sunday afternoon.

Photo: Samuel King



Christine Morris with children at the cathedral, playfully exploring the story of Jesus welcoming children

GFS 130th celebration at Bishops court

Continuing GFS Gippsland's celebrations of 130 years of ministry, our October activity took us down memory lane as we gathered at Bishops court, Sale, for an afternoon inspired by the Olde Time GFS Rallies.

These gatherings were held annually, as close as possible to St Michael and All Angels' Day, the patron Saint's day for GFS Worldwide. The days would include worship and competition displays of art, craft, literature, cookery and photography, all being judged during the sports and tabloid games.

Following this tradition we were delighted to have Bishop

Kay lead us in worship in the Bishops court Chapel, with a service adapted this year from GFS member country Seirra Leone. Our group of adult friends and senior girls enjoyed lawn games of croquet, Kubb and Finska along with the giant Scrabble, before a relaxed afternoon tea on the verandah and lawns.

Displays of memorabilia were available with the current GFS members expressing considerable interest in viewing the Dora Beadle perpetual trophies usually awarded on Rally Days. Also of interest was Penny Clothier's tricorn hat worn by leaders until the 70s, in the days when girls wore and enjoyed the navy berets.

Thankyou Bishop Kay for the wonderful day and hospitality.

On the afternoon of Sunday 20 November from 3:00 – 5:00 pm, our free family

activity at the Morwell Traffic School will provide fellowship and fun for many of our younger children involved through Sunday schools,

playgroups, *mainly music* and kids' clubs throughout the diocese.

Contact Carol Johnstone on 51748445 or email: gippskidsplus@people.net.au for information.



Kubb game at Bishops court



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Practice makes perfect

Rich Lanham



The Rev'd Rich Lanham

I was talking to a group of year 4 students the other day and we were discussing how we learn and become good at doing things. I asked them if they knew how to write their names and they all said yes. I asked them if they had always been able to spell and write their name and they said no.

We discovered that we listen to our parents and teachers, we learn the letters and how they sound, we practise writing words and saying them and we practise spelling them. So because of all of the time and hard work the students had put into learning to spell and write, they had become very good at it.

I then explained to them that this approach is true for just about everything we focus on. If you put in the time and effort and commit to a task, you will become very good at it. I said, in fact, whatever you practise, you will become an expert at. This is a universal principle that most of us can understand.

Think of a musical instrument, sport, drawing, spelling, writing, or maths. Of course this also applies to other things as well like loving, caring, being generous, being understanding and being grateful.

There are also other things that we can become very good at if we practise them, but we may not be glad that we are experts; for instance, we can practise complaining, whining, being angry, disappointment, bitterness, exclusion or hatred.

I'm sure none of us want to be experts in these things but we need to recognise that if we practise them in our lives they will become part of our character and personality. So enter Jesus and his desire for us to practise things that will grow and develop in us,

the characteristics we are made to reflect. In John 15: 1-4 Jesus says:

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful... Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me."

Jesus is telling us that God is like a gardener, who desires his garden (people) to be the best it (they) can be. Jesus is the "vine" or the plant that "we", the branches, are attached to. God prunes things in our lives that are not helpful, so we can be more fruitful. We need to allow the things in our lives that are not worth practising to be removed and leave them behind. Jesus says that if we

remain in him we will be fruitful. This means we will be able to be the people we were created to be.

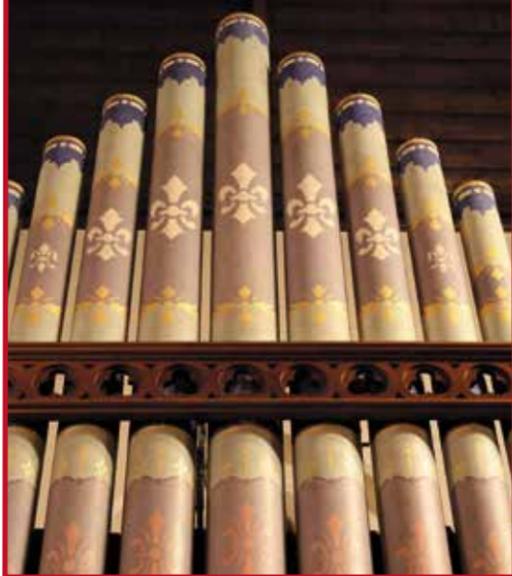
We are always faced with a choice to develop good habits or unhelpful ones. Jesus says that we will receive all we need when we practise depending on and trusting in him and his word. In a world where many voices attempt to give us many practices to be whole and human, Jesus reminds us that the way to be completely whole is to remain connected to himself, the source of life and love.

Imagine becoming an expert at remaining connected to Jesus. Let's keep practising.

God bless you.

The Rev'd Rich Lanham is Missional Priest of 123 and Chaplain at Gippsland Grammar School.

Singing our way through Advent and Christmas



Organ pipes at St Paul's cathedral Sale

Fay Magee

For many church musicians there can be some ambivalence as Christmas approaches. Is this where "the church" becomes a service industry, producing "products" the market expects? Is it actually possible to introduce a new Christmas song?

I like the opening sentence in the Preface to *The Oxford Book of Carols* (1928): "Carols are songs with a religious impulse that are simple, hilarious, popular, and modern." If you have time to read the rest of the Preface, it provides a detailed history.

The community singing of Christmas carols comes to us as part of Victorian Christmas traditions which are successfully embedded in our English cultural inheritance (and beyond). Interestingly, a collection entitled *Christmas Carols Ancient and Modern* was published in England in 1833, before *Hymns Ancient and Modern* (1861). Enthusiasm for carol singing resulted in a wider repertoire emerging during the later decades of the nineteenth century. At the same time, the serious collection of folk music throughout England contributed towards a sense that these were all part of a significant history of music-making, alongside carols from other European countries.

So our community gatherings for carol-singing continue ancient as well as more recent traditions. Carols were sung at other seasons of the year such as New Year and Easter and some of these appear in our current hymn collections.

So here we are with everyone wanting to have a jolly good sing and it seems we run out

of time! This can be a chance to make extra opportunities for this community-building activity, perhaps a tall order in a season of extreme busy-ness. The service known as "Nine Lessons and Carols" was devised by the Bishop of Truro in 1880, with several developments occurring since then. At St Philip's in Cowes we have devised a service of Songs and Readings for Advent and Christmas, held about mid-Advent, in which we explore a range of texts both sung and read.

You might be looking for something a little different to sing in Sunday services and there is new material available in various musical styles. If you have an instrumental ensemble or folk/rock band there are songs worth learning to accompany your congregation. The UK website resoundworship.org is part of the Jubilate group. Membership (free) enables you to download song scores, some free and others for the usual online rates. One song in their Christmas collection, *On Christmas Day* would be relatively easy for the congregation to learn with an anthem-like chorus.

Another good selection comes from American artist, Kathy Mattea, whose music takes in a variety of styles. The song *Mary, did you know*, was a great addition to one of our Advent-Christmas events. (score available from www.musicnotes.com)

At the same time, I really enjoy the potential for singing in Advent: a different strong theme each Sunday and the chance to explore some of the new repertoire around. With just four Sundays there is an opportunity to repeat a particular song each week: *He became poor that we may be rich*, 721 in *Together in Song* is one of John Bell's short songs. It is suggested as a gathering chant or could be used as the song before the Gospel reading.

One song gaining in popularity is *Christ be our Light*,

787 in the *TiS Supplement* and taking the theme of "light" into the darkness of many issues of justice for people around us.

So I wish you a great singing season; try something new which provides a "value-added" experience of Advent and Christmas.

Fay Magee is a musician, music educator and community music catalyst.

She has a strong interest in congregational singing, particularly the music of the past fifty years which she has witnessed first hand.



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Bowled over by gospel living in Gahini

Brenda Burney

Touchdown at Kigali International Airport signalled for me the realisation of a dream I'd had since 2006 – to visit our sister diocese in Gahini, Rwanda. My daughter, Sarah, had been there with Bishop John on a youth pilgrimage in 2006 and, on hearing her speak of the people she'd met and the places she'd visited, something stirred within me, fanning into a small yet flickering flame my own desire to go myself.

As more and more people I knew undertook the journey to Gahini, that desire grew ever stronger. The more I read and the more I heard, the more I wanted to go and experience this amazing place for myself. I had the great pleasure of meeting Bishop Alexis and some of the young people from Gahini Diocese when they came to Australia not long after Sarah's visit to Rwanda and, in 2013, the Rev'd Manasseh Gahima stayed with us for a few days while he was visiting Gippsland.

It was wonderful to able to show Manasseh what life was like for me in my parish and to introduce him to my family and friends; but to hear him speak of his journey through some of the darkest times in Rwanda's history and to see his faith in Christ shining so brightly through that darkness was truly amazing.

Sarah Gover had asked me to go on a couple of trips since 2013 but the dates just never managed to work out – that is, until January this year when Sarah asked if I would like to go to a conference in Gahini in June this year. That didn't leave much time to prepare but I had some long service leave due, so plans were excitedly made and a husband persuaded to come along.

My expectations of what this trip would be like were completely blown away in the first few days. I unexpectedly burst into tears several times as we moved about the village, meeting and greeting people, and as we were sitting on the hill at the conference listening to the passionate messages of church leaders from various Eastern African nations and to the stirring and magnificent voices of the many graceful choirs.

“...the outpouring of faith in Jesus that was happening all around me and the love that was being shown to me – a total stranger – was like nothing that I'd ever experienced before...”

I asked myself “why the tears?” I'm not a person who is normally known for such outbursts of emotion. What was it about this place and these people that caused such a depth of feeling in me?

As I reflected on what was happening to me, it occurred to me that the outpouring of faith in Jesus that was happening all around me and the love that was being shown to me – a total stranger – was like nothing that I'd ever experienced before.

Here there was an enthusiasm for faith and for life, for living out the gospel that was so powerful that it took me by surprise. It didn't sneak up on me. It hit me in waves – not little waves like you get in the shallows at the beach – but in the kind of huge waves that you find in the pounding surf – and they hit me over and over again.

As we sat on the hill at the conference, as we walked the dusty roads around Gahini meeting people and chatting with them, and as we travelled to some of our link parishes, it became clear to me that in our western lifestyle there are far too many things that distract us from living out our faith in the way our brothers and sisters in Gahini live it. To be amongst so many people openly and enthusiastically sharing their faith brought home to me just how much people in our communities miss out on – how much I miss out on – because life is so different for us.

We are often so busy that we don't walk from place to place – we drive. We miss out on so many conversations when we do this, so much sharing of life and love. We are so tied to our diaries, our computers and our phones, to meetings and paperwork and our “stuff” that we miss out on the real “stuff” – on the wonderful spontaneity of people as they go about their daily lives, the conversations, the handshakes, the hospitality, the sharing of stories, the generosity, the kindness ... the profound gift of the presence of the Holy Spirit as it fans into flame the life and love inside each one of us.

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

ROMANS 15:13

The Rev'd Brenda Burney is Rector of Churchill / Boolarra / Yinnar.



One of the choirs that sang at the conference in Gahini

EDITORIAL

An end and a beginning

The recent announcement that Hazelwood is to close at the end of March next year marks the end of years of rumours and speculation. It is very good to hear that the government has offered assistance for those whose jobs will end.

It is also something to know that there are groups in the Latrobe Valley that have been steadily getting on with creating environmentally sustainable employment opportunities and ventures which will help with the transition to a different economy.

Community group, Voices of the Valley has plans for a State Energy Innovation Centre, a research facility into new energy technologies, for which they have attracted some funding. They are advocating for community owned solar gardens and farms and are carrying on with research, planning and advocacy work.

Earthworker Cooperative aims to set up an Australia-wide network of community owned cooperatives, providing jobs in sustainable industries. They are currently setting up a factory in Morwell to manufacture solar hot water systems.

Another product ready to go is photovoltaic systems which can be installed with sodium-nickel 100% recyclable batteries for storage. In the mean-time, Earthworker is building partnerships with small business owners in the Latrobe Valley, and is also working with Voices of the Valley.

These and other groups that are proactively working to develop sustainable new jobs in the Latrobe Valley – and beyond – are inspiring and deserve support from government, community and church.

Disclosure statement: The writer holds debentures in Earthworker Cooperative.



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God in the sex-ed classroom?

Brief overviews of the varying approaches to sex education in some Gippsland Christian schools – Part 1

Jan Down

Bairnsdale Christian School (P-6)

“I’m very opposed to sex education being treated as a biology lesson with no values attached to it”, says Mr Richard Boonstra, Principal of Bairnsdale Christian School. Yes, he says, sex education is taught, but “not in a mainstream way”. The school has “a strong belief in the sanctity of the home” and believes parents are the ones best equipped for the job and should be involved.

Every two years (“to catch all the grade 5s and 6s”) the school runs mother/daughter and father/son nights, with families then being given access to an on-line DVD and a work book to go through with their children at home. This home work is then followed up in the classroom.

The values-based program they use is *Things Are Changing*, produced by Choicez Media. Mr Boonstra says the school’s offering of this program helps parents, some of whom may be a little reluctant, to get started with their children, and that parents respond very positively, especially appreciating the take-home resources.



Gippsland Grammar School (P-12)

Mark Yeowell, Head of St Anne’s P-6 campus of Gippsland Grammar School, says the *Catching on Early* program, produced by the Victorian State Education Department, is a good choice for the school because it has “a broader focus”, being a whole personal development program that starts very early in the primary years. He points out that this means puberty is not a detached topic, but simply the next step in the program the children have been working through with age-appropriate material for years.

Mr Yeowell said the program is not modified for teaching in a church school, as there is “nothing at odds with Christian values”. He adds that Gippsland Grammar is “an inclusive school” with gay and straight families, and does not make value judgements.

He explains that the content is not “values-laden”, but helps children to think for themselves, adding that he believes it is an important element of child protection, because they learn that “nothing is off-limits” to be talked about.

While the program is not explicitly Christian, Mr Yeowell says the core values of the school – compassion, leadership, excellence, respect and responsibility – “underpin all they do in the school”.

In the Senior School, sex education is part of the Health Program delivered by the Health teachers, and is covered to some extent in Biology classes. The school Principal, Mr David Baker, said that in the secondary years, there is more of a “nuts and bolts” approach, while the Chaplain separately teaches “RAVE” – Religion and Values Education, which includes some material on relationships.

Flinders Christian Community College (P-12)

At Flinders Christian Community College, rather than purchasing a particular program for puberty education in the upper primary years, they have taken material they find suitable from multiple sources, says grade 5/6 teacher Krystal Lear.

The annual Wellness Week for grade fives and sixes at the school begins with the children bringing in baby photos of themselves, and noticing how much they have already changed. This is a fun activity that helps break the ice, as the children can naturally be a little nervous about the topic, Ms Lear explains.

They are then divided into separate classes for the boys and the girls, with a male and a female teacher. They learn about self-esteem, healthy relationships and body changes. There is a Christian framework for the lessons. Ms Lear says discussions will include talk about how “God has created us as unique individuals, and how amazing it is that God has designed us the way he has”.

The grade six students are given an extra two lessons for a

brief introduction to reproduction. At the end of the week, the classes come back together to cook lunch and celebrate, with the last two periods being a “water event” providing a time for the students to “unwind and have fun together”.

For years 7 – 10, the school uses material from the *Safe Landing* program, produced by Family Planning Victoria. As the students mature, the emphasis is more on providing the information they need, and allowing them to form their own views. Catherine Barlow, Head of Senior Students, says “At the very core of it, if we start every sex education class with ‘This is what the Bible says’, we will lose them”. She explains they don’t want to be preached at, but need to make their own decisions. “It’s our job to empower them with the information”.

More schools in Part 2 next month



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24 Christmas and Stuff

Have you seen *The Story of Stuff*, written by Annie Leonard, Louis Fox, and Jonah Sachs? It’s an on-line 20 minute fast-paced powerful little cartoon movie which has had a big impact since it first came out in 2007. It’s about how we make, use and throw away stuff, and the impact it is having on people and planet. Since then, there have been a further 8 films made and thousands of people have become involved in the movement around the world.

The original film and *The Story of Solutions* could be good films to show during Advent, to stimulate conversations about how and why Christians might make different choices about celebrating Christmas. Explore the website: storyofstuff.org

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Faith at work



Anthea Christian

Anthea Christian

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Jan Down

Anthea Christian (“I didn’t want to be Annie Oakley”) loved her eight years of teaching at the Coptic Orthodox School so much she says “I would have stayed there for the rest of my career”, but sadly the school, which was run by the Coptic diocese, closed down due to lack of funds.

Both Anthea’s parents were teachers (of maths and science) and she had been adamant as a teenager that she would not follow the same profession.

However, Anthea discovered “God had other ideas”. Her delight in teaching Sunday School first gave her an inkling; then, during an Alpha weekend, Anthea recalls, “I heard a voice saying ‘I want you to become a teacher’. I turned around and there was no one there”.

After this, Anthea enrolled in a Diploma of Education and “loved it from the first day of observation”. She felt “This is what I’m supposed to be doing”.

But three years of teaching in the state system left Anthea tired of feeling like a number,

and there was frustration in not being allowed to talk about her faith in the classroom, so she began looking for work in private schools. This is how she came to be teaching at St Anthony’s P–12 Coptic School. While there, she worked her way up, from being a classroom teacher and doing staff coaching, through to Head of Primary and then Acting Principal.

There were teachers at the school who taught the Coptic language (somewhat like Latin, Anthea says, though still spoken by a small number of people in Egypt) and religious belief. Anthea found it very interesting and enjoyed being in a Christian school where she was able to talk openly about God.

Merit certificates were based on the fruits of the Spirit, rather than criteria such as “Is this kid polite in class?”, as Anthea puts it. She was surprised and delighted to find that “When you’re looking for a particular thing, you will find it” – i.e. the fruits of the Spirit manifesting in the children.

There were of course differences about beliefs and traditions, but Anthea tried to avoid arguments. Fasting was important: they did not eat any

animal products on Wednesdays or Fridays, and there were other fasts during the year, such as Lent and the Holy Nativity Fast leading up to Christmas. But between Easter and Pentecost, there was no fasting, so Anthea found this the best time to run school camps, as there was no need to provide vegetarian meals.

The teachers were not told about the closure of the school until quite late in the year, by which time positions in other schools were mostly filled, so Anthea then did some emergency teaching, and also found some part-time work in a Jewish boys’ school – another interesting situation, in more ways than one.

In the morning a Rabbi would teach Jewish studies, then after lunch the classroom teacher would have them until 4:00 pm. But some of these grade 5 boys were seriously disruptive. Anthea had been warned that she would find the class challenging, and it was. The Rabbis also had trouble with these difficult boys but some of it may have been due to being a woman and an obvious Christian (just look at the surname). In fact, it became so stressful that Anthea found herself not wanting to go to work in the mornings. After two years at the school, she chose to leave.

Anthea had already been tutoring with a company in Berwick to supplement her teaching at the school. The tutoring work had helped with morale; it reminded her “I can make a difference. I’m not a bad teacher”. After leaving the school she increased her tutoring hours and is now working four days a week for the same company where she has been since 2013.

During office hours she works in the office, taking inquiries, organising (and doing) student assessments before assigning them to a tutor, creating schedules and managing accounts. The tutoring work then starts in the late afternoon and goes on into the evenings six nights a week, although that varies. She arrives home for dinner in Lang Lang somewhere between 7:00 and 9:30 pm; however, the many hours of driving – including to students’ homes in Bentleigh, Cranbourne, Carrum Downs, Keysborough, Chelsea and so on, does not seem to be a problem, as she finds the work so rewarding and she gets to listen to a lot of Christian radio.

Diocesan calendar

First Saturday of the month: walk the labyrinth at end of Back Beach Road, San Remo, Phillip Island, from 10:30 am.

November

- 4 Friday evening – Saturday afternoon, Diocesan Retreat led by the Rev’d Ken Parker.
- 5 8:30 am Bikers’ Breakfast at St John’s, 6 Main Street, Nar Nar Goon
- 11 10:00 am – 1:00 pm Anti-violence Active Bystander Workshop, led by Dr Ree Boddé, St Aidan’s, Torres Street, Newborough.
- 20 2:00 pm 160th Celebrations at Christ Church, Tarraville: from 2:00 pm: exhibition of memorabilia with afternoon tea in the historic Tarraville School House; 2:30 pm Civic Reception, Christ Church Tarraville; 5:00 pm Evensong with guest preacher Bp Kay Goldsworthy, at Christ Church Tarraville
- 20 3:00 – 5:00 pm Annual Kidsplus+ Family Traffic School Afternoon, Morwell, phone Carol: 51748445
- 25 7:30 pm Friday, Folk and Acoustic Night, St John’s, Nar Nar Goon

December

- 16 7:30 pm Friday, Folk and Acoustic Night, St John’s, Nar Nar Goon
- 18 2:00 pm St Alban’s Kilmany centenary celebration
- 18 2:00 pm Sunday Christmas Concert, St John’s Nar Nar Goon
- 18 8:00 pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at St Paul’s Cathedral, Sale

January

Scripture Union Family Camps and /or Theos at Cowes, Inverloch, Lakes Entrance, Mallacoota, Coolamatong, and around Victoria – see suvic.org.au for program dates and information.

Anthea believes that in her work she is using the gifts God has given her. She says “People who have faith come at their work in a different way. We are honest and passionate. We don’t take short cuts... And we’re still human”.

There have been some good conversations with students. One time, when they were studying a play about the life of Galileo, a year 12 student commented that it was about “science versus Christianity”. Anthea responded that, no, it was about “science versus the church. It was about power, not Christianity”.

In the Jewish school, teachers were not allowed to talk about planets orbiting the sun, as the very Orthodox Jews don’t accept this. So teachers could refer only to the position of the planets. Anthea says “The kids knew

anyway”. There were times when she could say “This is what I believe. This is what some scientists say. Go and do the research and find out for yourself”.

Anthea and her husband Colin Oakley came to Westernport parish in May this year, when Colin took up the appointment of Priest in Charge. Anthea says “For me it’s wonderful to see Colin using his gifts. And we are loving being in Westernport”. She attends both services on Sundays and fills in for people as needed, sometimes helping with the music by singing or playing the flute. The three congregations of Corinella, Koo Wee Rup and Lang Lang each take a turn during the month to have the 11:00 am service and host a lunch afterwards, so there is time for fellowship together.