

The Gippsland Anglican

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Bishop Manasseh visits Gippsland



Photo: Christine Morris

Bishop Manasseh Gahima from the Diocese of Rwanda and Mr Luke Karemangingo, Principal of the Gahini Secondary School, visited parishes and Anglican schools in the Gippsland Anglican diocese in April.

The Anglican Dioceses of Gahini in Rwanda, and Gippsland, have a long-standing friendship. Bishop Manasseh has visited Gippsland twice before, and Gippslanders, including Anglican school students, have also visited Gahini.

Seated, L-R: Bishop Manasseh Gahima, Luke Karemangingo, Stan Bruhn. Back: Dean Susanna Pain and the Rev'd Nikolai Blaskow. Bishop Manasseh was speaking at a dinner at St Paul's Cathedral in Sale.

Philip Muston appointed to Lakes Entrance / Metung

Jan Down

Archdeacon Philip Muston, currently Administrator of the Diocese and Rector of Warragul, has been appointed Rector of Lakes Entrance / Metung.

He expects to take up the position about September this year, after a new bishop has been installed and he has had some annual leave.

Archdeacon Philip commented on the way that God had led them in removing various obstacles to the move, one of which was that his wife, Cathrine, the Community Development Officer for Anglicare in Gippsland, is currently based at Morwell, in the western end of the diocese. However, Anglicare have said they will allow Cathrine to work mainly from Bairnsdale.

Philip looks forward to having more of a pastoral role, and less administrative work. "I want to concentrate on being a parish minister for the last few years before I retire", he said.

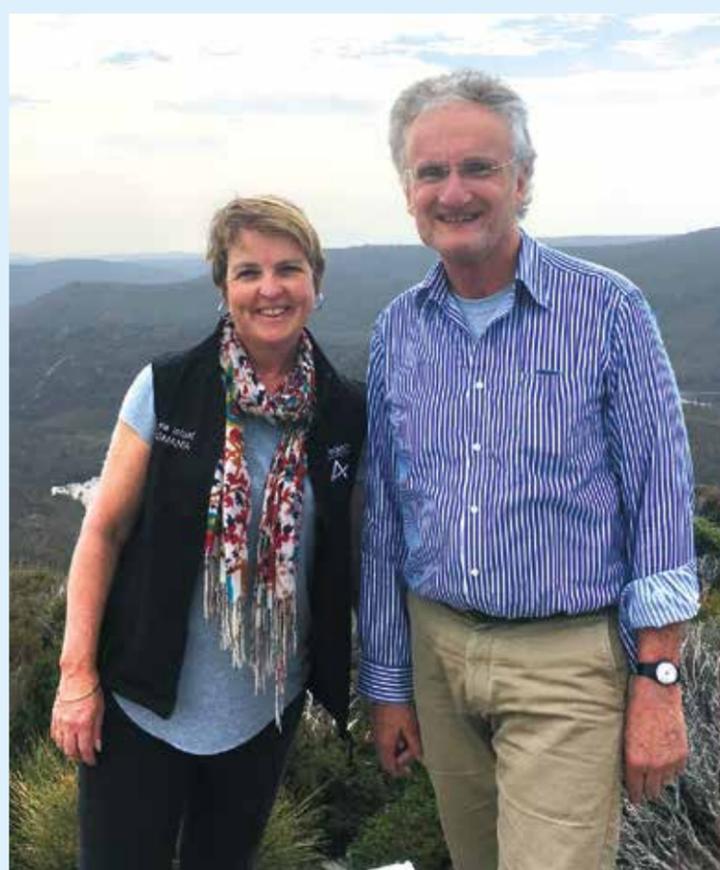
He is also enthusiastic about the Lake Tyers connection with Aboriginal priest, the Rev'd Phyllis Andy, and the *Get out for Good* prison program. "And yes, I will be interested in the local arts activities, in Lakes / Metung – which I am told are vibrant – and in the Eastern Region generally such as the Bruthen Blues Festival each summer."

He added, "I will of course miss the loving and lively community of Warragul Anglican Church greatly: 16 years is a long time to develop relationships, and we have made many deep and dear friendships over the years."

Cathrine Muston said she felt strongly that the way was being paved. "It has been God's leading. It will involve us in a different way of ministering both in Lakes Entrance / Metung and across the diocese. I'm really excited about the move."

Cathrine will continue to live in their Warragul house at least until the end of this year, as they have an Aboriginal student, Roshawn Watson from the Pilbara region, in the north of Western Australia living with them while she is studying for her VCE.

Thinking about living partly in Warragul while Philip is in Lakes Entrance, Cathrine noted "It will be good to have a base in the east and a base in the west."



Philip and Cathrine Muston on Cradle Mountain, Tasmania

Index

From the Administrator 2

Parish to parish 2

Hydrogen project launched 3

Around the Diocese 4-7

Kids' Min: Drouin 8

For young disciples: Who am I? 9

Anglicare Fare: Children and Mothers in Mind 9

Reflection: Lingering in the season 10

Editorial 10

A serious change in law Graham Toohill 11

Wholly holy: Barriers to belonging 12

Diocesan calendar 12

A partnership made in heaven?

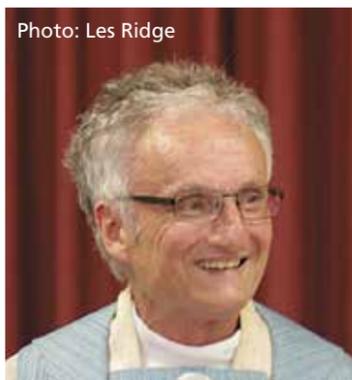


Photo: Les Ridge

Archdeacon Phillip Muston

It's always interesting to see what's familiar afresh through visiting eyes. How does a foreigner experience the Dawn Service on Anzac Day, or lunch at the RSL to follow? What does he make of a Diocese where parishes are kept afloat often through the proceeds of op shops?

Whenever friends from Rwanda come to Gippsland we grow to appreciate our situation anew, especially through someone like our friend Manasseh Gahima. We gain from his positivity, his joy in living and the stories he brings from a part of the world where the church is growing fast.

Bishop Manasseh knows and loves people in many parts of Gippsland. He knows our clergy

by name, even if they don't yet know him, and he knows many lay people in our parish communities. He remembers us as individuals and prays for us.

Few of us come away from meeting with Bishop Manasseh without feeling more positive about our lives and work. I guess you could say we see a little bit of Jesus in Manasseh, and he some-times gives us the impression that he catches a tiny glimpse of Jesus in ordinary-old-us. That's encouraging.

Manasseh is the Coadjutor Bishop of Gahini these days. That means that he is assured of taking over from Bishop Alexis Bilindabagabo, when the latter retires in the coming year or two.

Bishops in Africa are usually much more prominent public figures than they are in secularised Australia, yet live in far more challenging circumstances.

Manasseh loves coming to Gippsland. He enjoys catching up with us and having a break from the huge demands on him in Rwanda.

With Manasseh this time was Mr Luke Karemangingo, the Principal of Gahini Secondary

College, who spent time at Gippsland Grammar and St Paul's Anglican Grammar, sharing educational insights and getting insights into such things as the latest educational technology.

Manasseh and Luke have been here not just on a social visit, but to promote and further the partnership we have in mission with our sister Diocese in Eastern Rwanda. The partnership goes back to Bishop Jeff Driver's time, begun through his friendship with Bishop Alexis. Many of us have learned so much from it, and had our consciousness so expanded through it, that we may wonder whether it is indeed a partnership made in heaven. God has been very gracious to us through it, and we give thanks to God for it.

This time Manasseh has been keen to set up a scheme where some of us might sponsor Gahini teenagers to stay in secondary schooling for about \$25 a month. That's all it would take to enable kids from poorer families not to have to leave school early in order to help support their families.

I know such a scheme was

tried once before but failed because of administration problems. Manasseh says that these days through technology (such as WhatsApp) it could be much more directly and simply administered. He also says that to establish quick and cheap contact with your link parish in Rwanda, WhatsApp is what works.

By the time you read this the name of our new Bishop may already have been announced. As I write the 12 member Election Board is about to go into "conclave" for three days as we interview a short list of candidates and hopefully come to an understanding of who God is providing as our next episcopal leader.

It's an exciting, busy and demanding time, and those of us involved as Synod's representatives are very grateful for your prayers. Thank you, and keep praying for our soon-to-be bishop, for as Administrator I've had a glimpse of the kind of load and pressures they will be facing when they begin in office. And I look forward to going to Lakes / Metung later in the year.

Philip Muston

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Parish to Parish: praying for each other

"...That we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith..." (ROMANS 1:12)

This diocesan prayer diary features three parishes each month, appearing in alphabetical order. Diocesan organizations are also included. Each parish sends in its own profile and prayer needs.

KORUMBURRA SOUTHERN REGION

St Paul, Korumburra
All Saints, Poowong
Priest-in-Charge:
The Rev'd Dr Fran Grimes

We are a large parish with increasing residential development. We come together to worship God and share God's love as shown in Jesus Christ. Currently we are exploring the Diocesan Vision – "Jesus Christ Here and Now for Gippsland" – and each Sunday encouraging our congregation to live "Faithfully, Generously and Joyfully".

We started *mainly music* this year and have had a great response providing much opportunity to connect with young families.

Our op shop moves in May/June and we pray the new venue will help us better serve our community.

Monthly outreach sausage sizzles are particularly enjoyed by families in Poowong on their way to and from basketball. Weekly "Reflections in the Rectory" help build us up in fellowship around God's word. We are building stronger relationships with all the churches in our parish, sharing resources so we can more effectively proclaim the gospel to our towns.

LAKES ENTRANCE AND METUNG EASTERN REGION

St Nicholas, Lakes Entrance
St John, Metung
Locum: The Rev'd Heather Toms

Lakes Entrance is a seaside resort and fishing port in eastern Victoria and Metung is a picturesque village located on the Gippsland Lakes. The parish community welcomes all visitors and we extend love and fellowship through

the many activities offered in both centres. Our outreach and connection within both communities is offered through: *mainly music*, Bible Studies, Op Shops, baptisms, coffee and chat at local coffee shop, afternoon teas with guest speaker organized by Social Group and Missions, Men's breakfast, SecondBite, day care, Fellowship group, aged care services, Meals on Wheels and school concert. Please pray for these ministries; for people who begin to hear the "gentle voice" at the heart of life; for the older members of our congregation; and for the newly appointed incumbent, Philip Muston, his wife Cathrine and their ministry within the parish and the wider community.

LEONGATHA SOUTHERN REGION

St Peter, Leongatha
St David, Meeniyon
St Andrew, Dumbalk
St Andrew (Union Church)
Tarwin Lower
Rector: Archdeacon Graham Knott

Leongatha is an active parish with diverse daily ministries. The usual Sunday attendance in the main centre is around 110 adults plus 35 aged under 16. In addition to the Rector Belinda is Lay Ministry Assistant and Janice looks after the office. We are hoping to appoint a paid Children and Family Worker this year and would value prayer for that. Developing commitment around fresh vision is a challenge as is motivating more people to be actively and sacrificially involved in ministry.

Building teams while developing training and capacity is a further item for prayer. The parish is currently interviewing architects with a view to the one chosen developing a concept design for our Leongatha facility. Tarwin Lower has recently started a Primary Aged After School Club. The churches at Meeniyon and Dumbalk are being encouraged to connect in innovative ways with their communities. We are appreciative of and aware that we need prayer at this time.



Loy Yang Power Station

Photo courtesy AGL



Artist's impression

Hydrogen production plant

Image courtesy Kawasaki

Hydrogen project launched

Jan Down

The State and Federal Governments have each contributed \$50 million towards a pilot project to convert Latrobe Valley brown coal into liquid hydrogen for export to Japan, where it is to be used for power generation and for fuel cells in electric cars.

The Hydrogen Energy Supply Chain (HESC) project

was launched at Loy Yang Complex on Friday 12 April. The Victorian Government announced that the pilot project will create 400 jobs in the Latrobe Valley, and “potentially thousands more in the future”.

The Japanese government, along with a consortium of Japanese energy and infrastructure companies, led by Kawasaki Heavy Industries, are also contributing funding to this \$496 million dollar pilot project.

As producing hydrogen from brown coal will create very large quantities of carbon emissions, the project will require carbon capture and storage (CCS) during the commercial phase to be environmentally sustainable.

Environment Victoria and RenewEconomy have pointed out that hydrogen can be produced from renewable sources at far less cost, without producing carbon emissions. Both the ACT and South Australia have started hydrogen from renewables projects.

GIPPSLAND DIOCESE VACANT PARISHES.

EASTERN REGION

- Croajingolong
- Heyfield
- Orbost
- Tambo

SOUTHERN REGION

- Yarram

WESTERN REGION

- Churchill / Boolarra / Yinnar (Church of Christ appointment)
- Warragul (from 30 June)

COMMENT

Don't depend on just one industry

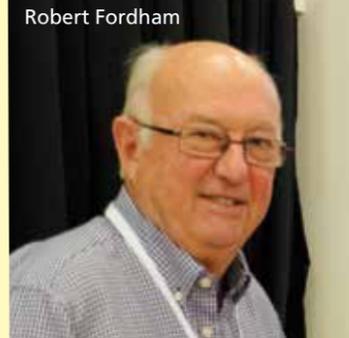
Robert Fordham AM, former Deputy Premier of Victoria and the Minister responsible for the State Electricity Commission from 1985 – 1988, considers the historical and current context of the HESC coal to hydrogen project, and the role of the Christian Church.

The Latrobe Valley has one of the largest deposits of brown coal in the world, much of it readily recoverable, and the harnessing of these deposits to generate electricity and to make briquettes became the foundation for Victoria's growth through the 20th Century – the electrification of the railways, the development of manufacturing industry and meeting the domestic needs of Victorian homes for power and heating.

As Melbourne prospered and grew, the State Electricity Commission (SEC) mined more coal and built more power stations in the Valley. Morwell, Traralgon, Moe and Churchill all grew rapidly as people came from other parts of Australia and overseas to address the demand for more power.

The Latrobe Valley's dependence on a single industry first became a concern following the privatization of the SEC and then rapidly escalated as scientists and health bodies informed the public of new understandings of the impact on the environment of emissions arising from brown coal generated power.

This, the 21st century, has seen governments across the world wrestle with what is seen to be a threat to our very existence arising from human-generated climate change and the consequent need to recalibrate our living to achieve environmental sustainability. Both our Australian and Victorian Governments are very much



Robert Fordham

caught up in this challenge.

It is also clear that this is a matter for all of us, as individuals and as communities. The Christian Church is very much to the forefront. This is reflected for example in the ground breaking Papal Encyclical “On Care For Our Common Home” by Pope Francis, and within the Anglican Church by making care for the environment a Mark of Mission for our Communion. (see anglicancommunion.org/mission/marks-of-mission.aspx)

Supporting statements have been made by our General Synod in Australia and by individual dioceses, including our own in Gippsland.

It is in this context that we should consider the news of a joint initiative to generate hydrogen for export to Japan from Latrobe Valley brown coal. Various Japanese industrial conglomerates have been researching potential uses of this coal for the past 40 years, but to date the possibilities have not proved economic. Now of course any development must not only be economic – it must also not be harmful to the environment.

The sticking point for this

proposed hydrogen project will be the emerging science of “carbon capture and storage” with the media reports suggesting that the proponents plan to dispose underground the very significant carbon emissions that would be a consequence of the hydrogen generation. The science to safely achieve such an outcome is far from complete and presumably will be the focus of this joint Australian-Japanese initiative.

Time will tell whether this project will be the much sought after salvation for the long-suffering Latrobe Valley communities but in my opinion they should not be dependent on this project alone.

For generations much of Australia thrived as a result of power generated in the Latrobe Valley and although the industrial and social landscape has changed the people of the Valley should not be discarded and forgotten.

It should be a prime focus for Government to respond to the needs of these communities for employment opportunities, for community development and for welfare support. Some important initiatives are now underway by both the Australian and Victorian Governments, but we have a long way to go.

The Church will continue to have a role as it strives to support the just needs of the people and communities of the Latrobe Valley and the environmental sustainability required for God's creation.



Photo: Nicole Jackson

Children and adults entered into the spirit of Palm Sunday

Real donkey for Palm Sunday

**Sue Jacka
Trafalgar**

Palm Sunday was a very colourful affair at St Mary's Trafalgar this year. As well as the regular palm crosses and branches, we had a costumed parade, complete with a real donkey!

Like many parishes, we have a set of costumes approximating first century Palestine clothing. So,

we decided to have these available for as many parishioners as wanted to get into the spirit of what it might have been like that first Palm Sunday as Jesus was greeted by the welcoming crowds as he entered Jerusalem.

Josh Hasan, our youth and family pastor, was dressed as Jesus and quite a number of the children and a few adults rose to the challenge. Everyone was prepared

to participate with loud hosannas, calls of "Jesus, Prince of Peace" and waving of palm crosses or branches.

Rosemary, a regular in our Opp Shop, has the donkey, Trooper, and she willingly gave her services to bring this famous Bible story to life in a very memorable way.

*The Rev'd Sue Jacka is
Rector at Trafalgar.*

Stations of the Cross with a difference

**Elizabeth Albiston
Bunyip**

St Thomas, Bunyip (Fr Ken Parker), provided a wonderful experience for the people who gathered as pilgrims to walk the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday afternoon. Those who attended were not only from within the parish, but a number also attended from outside the diocese.

This was no "traditional" ritual, but rather, a rich experience using the remarkable images of Gippsland artist, Pat Waters in her "Stations of the Cross" series.

Those who were there could not help but be deeply connected as they walked around the park-like property of the church, where Fr Ken strategically placed the various artworks. Each station was placed against either the trunk of a tree or the wood of the Church buildings – this was no coincidence, it had purposeful meaning!



Jesus takes up the cross": one of Pat Waters' Stations of the Cross paintings

At each station, there was a short reading, followed by some skilfully led dialogue as to what each person saw in that particular image, concluding with a brief liturgical prayer.

In all, the afternoon connected each of us profoundly with the Christ of Calvary, with those involved on the way to Calvary, and the "Hope of Glory"!

Fine Print

This year's Easter play for Bass / Phillip Island parish, reviewed by Kath Kent

Fine Print, the play, written and produced by Les Ridge for the start of Holy Week, was the centrepiece of an evening including a shared dinner at St Philip's, Cowes, on the eve of Palm Sunday.

The play was well written and well cast with John Dawson, (a surgeon in his working life) playing Josiah Bottomley, a semi-retired surgeon, Jenny Dawson as Josiah's wife Celeste, Pauleen Leditschke as the nurse (in real life a retired nursing sister) and Sandy Ridge as Josiah's sister, a missionary.

The play was set in a hospital in the UK, and Josiah Bottomley has collapsed whilst playing golf. His wife visits him when he regains consciousness. She is greeted by a very angry and difficult patient. Act I explores with humour the inner fears of the patient, who feels helpless after a lifetime of helping others in their times of need.

During the visit, Josiah suffers minor chest pains, fear again descends on him and his thoughts are on his past indiscretions. He admits to his

wife that this experience has led him to contemplate his own mortality, even though he considers himself an atheist.

The Act closes with the nurse bringing medication and a letter for Josiah. As he reads it, he suddenly experiences more heart pains. The audience was left wondering where the author of the play was taking us and looking forward to the second Act with anticipation.

Act II shows the couple deeply concerned about the contents of the letter which contains an accusation of misconduct directed at Josiah, as his sister Constance – a missionary who has returned home to the UK after many years absence – arrives to visit her ailing brother.

Their conversation, skilfully written, is the catalyst for the non-believing Josiah to find meaning in his life and begin a relationship with Jesus through the life and witness of his sister.

The Parish is fortunate indeed to have such a talented person to provide us once again with food for thought.



The writer (top left) and cast of Fine Print, post-performance

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Putting some Easter back into Palm Sunday

Chris McAleer
Nar Nar Goon

Instead of competing with a local community event on Palm Sunday, Cornerstone Church decided to join in with the Community Day event that included the Pakenham Concert Band at Cardinia Lakes' Windermere Park from 2:00 – 4:00 pm.

As three of our congregation are on the Cardinia Lakes Residents Group's committee, we successfully promoted

the idea to include a "Happy Easter" colouring competition, an "Easter" egg hunt, along with providing an opportunity for local children to paint an "Easter" mural. A pop-up marquee for shelter from the rain, a low colouring table, several chairs, lots of drop-sheets and the coloured pencils, crayons and paints were all that was needed for a creative two hours of interaction with the dozens of families who dropped by.

Children of varying age groups from many

nationalities arrived, some with excellent painting skills, colour composition and brush control. There were also some kindergarten candidates who needed more supervision than was available, which occasionally led to a clash of artistic visions for the end product. However, everything worked out well.

The aim of the project was to put "Easter" back into a secular Community Day and to visually remind everyone that the three crosses on a hill are a central part of the "Easter Story" by having them centrally placed on both the colouring competition and the mural.

One young girl shared her thoughts on Easter by painting, "I love Ester", a secondary student wanted to make sure that "Easter" stood out, while a lad who loves pizza decided to paint a pizza-coloured Easter egg!

Though there are always some restrictions on how far one may go when accepted as part of another group's secular community event, the day would have been missing an important spiritual ingredient if the opportunity that was presented wasn't embraced with energy and a lot of hard work! We hope that it helped remind the young children and their parents who came along of the importance of Easter.

*The Rev'd Chris McAleer
is Priest-in-Charge,
Nar Nar Goon.*



Children painting an Easter mural at the Community Day in Windermere Park

Seder meal at St Nicholas

Wendy Nickson
Lakes Entrance

The Parish of Lakes Entrance and Metung marked Maundy Thursday by gathering for a Seder meal, based on the traditional Jewish tradition but adapted for a Christian ceremony.

It includes several formalities recalling the journey of the Israelites which ended in settlement in the Holy Land. A candle is lit, wine drunk, bitter, sweet and salty herbs eaten, a hand washing ceremony is performed. A lamb course and then sweet is provided.



David Murray and Graeme Sprott share the hand washing ceremony

Signs of life

Harvest Festival and Holy Week
in Croajingolong parish

Heather Cahill

The parish Palm Sunday service this year in Mallacoota included our 2018 Harvest Festival celebration.

Many parishioners contributed to our excellent display. The produce was then given to the Health Centre to assist with lunches for the elderly. These community lunches are provided twice each week at the Centre.

The next activity during Holy Week was a Seder Meal held at the Manse on Holy Thursday evening, when the symbolic meaning of a Passover meal was told in story form. The group was then joined by others for the re-enactment of the Last Supper which included the washing of feet following the gospel reading, prior to our time of communion and the stripping of the altar and sanctuary area.

On Good Friday morning, visitors and locals joined together for a very special service of readings which included a study on Jesus' last words from the cross.

People were then invited to lay the stone that they collected at the beginning of the service at the foot of a rugged cross which had been placed in front of the altar.

Over the weekend, the church grounds were enhanced by three empty wooden crosses as a sign to the community of the real meaning of Easter. On Easter Day around 55 people of all generations gathered for a joyous Service of New Light, Renewal of Baptismal Vows and the celebration of Holy Communion. Later that morning, people gathered at St John's, Cann River to share in a similar service.

Our other exciting news is that the manse looks wonderful with its new coats of paint reflecting seaside colours, and the op shop painting is almost complete, in the same colours. Our church of St John at Cann River has a new main sign, which is a reminder to the community and visitors of the reason for the cute wooden building behind it.

*The Rev'd Heather
Cahill is locum priest in
Croajingolong parish.*



Ilan and Val Quick and Max Karlz admiring the new sign at Cann River

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Reflections on faith through film

Christine McIntosh
Maffra

For the past three years Lenten studies at St John's in Maffra have been based on popular films. This has proved to be thought provoking, challenging and enjoyable. The studies encouraged reflection and reassessment of our own lives as we studied the characters and their actions, and the accompanying Bible readings. In 2016 and 2017, the study was led by parishioners, while this year's study was led by our rector, Janet Wallis.

Hilary Brand, author of two of the courses, draws a parallel between the Bible and modern films in their use of visual metaphors to present some abstract concepts – such as blessing, testing, passion, change, strength, compassion, envy and doubt – far more effectively than the use of words alone. She reminds us that in film these images are often subtle and fleeting – perhaps a facial expression, or an action occurring in the background – but nevertheless completely intentional. Hilary believes that using films can be an excellent starting point for “exploring big issues about

God and what it means to be truly human”, and can draw out buried feelings in a safe and encouraging environment.

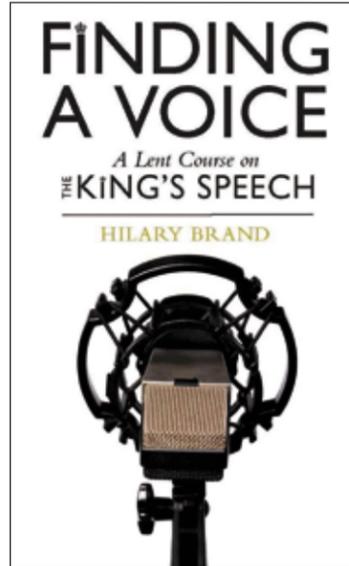
In 2016 we studied Hilary Brand's *Christ and the Chocolaterie*, inspired by the film *Chocolat*, which was based on the bestselling novel by Joanne Harris.

Last year's study was based on the film *Les Miserables*. Written by the Rev'd Jonathon Meyers, *Another Story Must Begin* is an original Lent course based on the film, Victor Hugo's novel (*Les Miserables*) and the stage adaptation.

For this year we had Hilary Brand's *Finding a Voice*, based on the film *The King's Speech* starring Colin Firth as Bertie, the stuttering, reluctant sovereign, and our own Geoffrey Rush, as Lionel Logue, the speech therapist who befriended and encouraged him.

We were encouraged to relate the film to what the Bible has to say about such universal issues as discouragement and determination, fear and friendship, calling and courage.

In the Old Testament we read of frightened and reluctant leaders whom God commands to speak out, and in the New Testament many of Christ's followers are



called to spread the good news in the face of opposition and punishment. But the New Testament also contains frequent exhortations to be encouragers and supporters of others. We only have to think of St. Paul and his letters to the early Christians full of earnest encouragement to love and support one another.

These films, while made for entertainment, provide an opportunity to examine emotions and relationships, characters and events, and relate them within the context of our own lives and to the teachings of the Bible. We are encouraged to feel so much that we start to think!



Arches of palm branches at St Mary's Morwell for Palm Sunday

Powerful symbols for Holy Week

Carolyn Raymond
Morwell

All Christians have just travelled through the most significant week of our Christian calendar. We have journeyed from the expectations of Palm Sunday to the joy and celebration of Easter Day. We have experienced Jesus' very public ministry and how this led to his Passion, his Crucifixion, and his joyous Resurrection.

All the services at St Mary's are filled with symbol. Accompanying Jesus as he rode on a donkey into Jerusalem, we worshipped in a church where the points of entry to the church and to each area within the church, were made into doorways with arching palm branches.

The baptismal font and the paschal candle stood in front of the altar, reminding us of all those who, like us, have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection.

The cross hanging above the altar was no longer draped in the purple of Lent but in the gold of Holy Week. After the service on Good Friday we all shared Hot Cross Buns, the mark of the cross on each bun. On Easter Day the flowers reaching up to the heavens, the sculpture of the butterfly and the Easter eggs we shared, all spoke of new life in Christ.

The use of symbol and re-enactments continue to make the services of Holy Week powerful and uplifting. We entered into Jesus' experience and all it meant for us.

Improved facility at Leongatha

Marion Dewar

Members of Leongatha congregations now enjoy morning tea in the recently refurbished narthex. Extraneous objects have been removed to make the full area available and sets of round tables and comfortable chairs have been added. People now sit and enjoy a leisurely cuppa and a chat in surroundings

more conducive to robust conversation and friendly interaction.

The Rector requested passionfruit sponge for the inaugural event. Most still enter the church via the steps and “front door” at the street end but all now exit via the tower doors directly into the narthex. Those who prefer the stepless mode use the narthex door for both entry and exit.



Enjoying morning tea after the 8:00 am service in the recently refurbished Leongatha narthex

Good Friday service at Christ Church, Tarraville

Glenda Amos
Yarram

Over 100 people of all ages filled Christ Church, Tarraville for an ecumenical Good Friday service. The Rev'd Graeme MacRobb led the service and spoke about the sacrifice made by Jesus, on the Cross, for us all. Warren Peart provided music on the organ for the hymns. The reading of the Passion was shared with a member of each Yarram church taking part. The traditional hymns – *When I survey the Wondrous Cross* and *The Old Rugged Cross* were sung along with the more modern hymn *Freely, Freely*. The chorus of this hymn – “Freely, freely, you have received, Freely, freely give.

Go in my name, and because you believe, Others will know that I live.” is the message of Easter.

This service has become an important part of Easter celebrations in the Yarram district, in the oldest wooden church still in use in Victoria. Only special services and the Good Friday service have been held in recent years.

However, a service of Morning Prayer is planned on the

fifth Sundays of the month during 2018. The first of these services will be on Sunday 29 April at 9:00 am.

Hot Cross buns were served for morning tea at the old Tarraville school, at the conclusion of the service.



Wooden cross at Christ Church, Tarraville



Sergeant Danny Hower (centre) with some of the crowd at the Men's Breakfast

Breakfast with police sergeant

**Chris McAleer
Nar Nar Goon**

Despite the drizzly morning of 24 March 2018, Sergeant Danny Hower of the Bunyip Police Station kindly turned up to be the guest speaker at our monthly Men's Breakfast at St John's Church, Main Street, Nar Nar Goon.

As usual we had the accompanying sizzle of barbecue bacon and eggs, plus cereals, toast, juice, hot drinks and lots of catching up between those who turned up.

Sergeant Danny immediately helped set the tone by taking off his tie as he settled into a frank retelling of his journey from growing up in 1960s Berwick through to his early life experiences and memorable incidents over his last thirty years in the police force.

His good humour, honesty and the community-centred attitude to his role received a ringing endorsement from the enthusiastic crowd who were present.

An hour after the breakfast had officially ended, Danny was still happily answering queries and chatting about life with several of the motorcyclists who had dropped in.

Overall, it was a morning that helped reinforce our appreciation of all the jobs that many in our locality carry out daily, that enable the wider community to enjoy the quality of life and security which we often take for granted and a ringing endorsement that events such as Men's Breakfasts are important in helping to build relationships within a community.

*The Rev'd Chris McAleer
is Priest-in-Charge,
Nar Nar Goon.*

Farewell cocktail party

**Kath Kent
Bass/ Phillip Island**

The Rev'd Jo and husband Ken opened the rectory for a Cocktail Party on 6 April to farewell Priscilla and John Stott, as they leave for their new home in New South Wales.

Priscilla has served as Rector's Warden in recent years and John (dubbed Mr Plants) assisted the Parish by propagating plants and making all sorts of delicious jams.

The rectory was full of the buzz and excitement of more than 20 happy people sharing companionship and

enjoying the hospitality afforded by the convivial surrounds that proved to be just right for such an event. Warm weather allowed the guests to spread out onto the north-facing deck and into the garden.

Glasses were raised to wish Priscilla and John a happy and prosperous change of home base. Ralph Leditschke proposed a toast and Jo led the assembly in the singing of *For They Are Jolly Good Fellows*, followed by a hearty three cheers!

It was delightful to see everyone enjoying themselves, as we wished John and Priscilla God's blessing for the future.



L-R: Ralph Leditschke, Priscilla and John Stott, the Rev'd Jo White

Music in the garden

St Peter's by the Lake and the Paynesville Music Festival

Eddie Ashley

As in previous years, on the third Sunday in February, the full East Gippsland Symphonia played in the 9:30 church service at St Peter's by the Lake – all the hymns and even the responses in the Thanksgiving, as well as some most appropriate music as we shared the bread and wine and then when all was over the whole orchestra played *How Great Thou Art* – and congregation and orchestra broke into song. A number of visitors joined our regular congregation for the service, and it was a wonderful time of celebration – even if it was the second week in Lent.

Thanks to Ernie Walker and members of the Symphonia, and to members of St Peter's who offered tea and coffee to those who gathered for the "Music in the Garden".

*Archdeacon Eddie Ashley is
Archdeacon of the Eastern Region,
Priest at Paynesville and The Abbey.*



*The East Gippsland Symphonia playing in the garden
at St Peter's by the Lake, Paynesville*

Celebrating her brilliant career

**Sue Fordham
Paynesville**

In March this year, Judy Rennick turned 80. Judy, organist at St Peter by the Lake Paynesville for as many years as anyone can remember, has held various offices in the church: warden, secretary, organist, vestry person, and so on.

Judy grew up in Daylesford, attended Methodist Ladies' College and became a music teacher in the Catholic school system. Married to Jim, they reared two fine sons and now exult in five wonderful grandchildren.

It is true to say that Judy has been the mainstay of St Peter's, being parish secretary even when St Peter's was a mere adjunct to St John's Bairnsdale. She has been a role model to everyone in sacrificial service.

So much is she valued and loved that the parish took Judy and Jim out to a lunch to celebrate her latest milestone.



Judy and her husband Jim celebrating with the parish

Lady Day



Photo: Karena King

A happy procession at the Lady Day service

Mothers Union celebrated Lady Day at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale on 26 March with 45 people attending from all over the diocese. Dean Susanna Pain preached and Cathrine Muston, Community Development Officer for Anglicare Gippsland, was the after-lunch speaker.

Operation Christ Kids

**Jenny Ramage
Drouin**

Who are the OCKs?

What have they been up to?

Kids Ministry, in the Parish of Drouin, began a new era in May of 2017.

The congregation met and agreed to involve our young people in planning and being responsible for the last Sunday of the month, our 9 am service. The Youth Liturgy Team was formed, meeting on a Thursday night 4-5 pm during school term throughout 2017.

In January 2018, the Youth Liturgy Team met for a training and planning day for 2018. The outcome of the day was a new name and logo and "OCK" – Operation Christ Kids was formed.

The team consists of five young people: four are upper primary and one older teen; these young people have three adults as mentors. The aim of the group is to develop leadership skills and an understanding of how to plan worship services.

The young people are encouraged to understand the interpretation of scripture in the context of worship and to be aware of the complexities of intergenerational worship. The importance of involving others, the various needs of each age group, and other complex issues of worship service planning are all part of the training.

In the past 12 months they have planned some important services and are becoming involved in other weekly services – some with a mission and some with more of a community focus.

Planning for each of the church services has been a learning curve for all. They have chosen the music, remembering the needs of other generations, and included older hymns or choruses as well as some of the newer songs they enjoy.

Prayer in the services has become more interactive. For example, people have been invited to write their prayers down and lay them at the altar rail during communion. Some very moving moments have arisen for all ages as a result of the youth planning.

They have planned significant services – for example: Christ the King, Crib Service, Palm Sunday, and baptisms.

SHINE, an alternative to Halloween, is another event they organized which was a games night with a sausage sizzle. This required them to ask the assistance of other groups in the parish to cook the barbecue, shop for the food and set up for the games. The night was a great success and 2018 SHINE is planned.



Calvin suggested we make a processional cross from stripped palm branches. Drouin Rector, the Rev'd Dean Spalding, helped him.



Young people leading singing in church



Eating jelly off the plate. Elizabeth Willems enjoying the win at SHINE 2017

The future is bright, with youth co-leading Kid's Church and planning a thank you dinner for thirty, for Parish Council and local Shire Councillors, for their service to the

community. Who knows what else they will dream up as they learn to serve the Lord?

The Rev'd Jenny Ramage is Associate Family, Children and Youth Minister, Drouin.

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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'.

Who am I?

Daniel Lowe

The subject of identity formation is one that is getting a lot of air-time in certain circles. The alarming rise in mental health concerns amongst young people (particularly depression and anxiety), the complexities and sensitivities involved in public debate on gender and sexuality, beginning and end of life choices, disability, virtual reality and many more, all lead inevitably to fundamental questions of identity.

Prominent in this discussion is a growing body of research which is highly critical of the modern identity formation process. Of course we don't learn how we are meant to form our identity from scholarly papers and lectures. We learn through the stories our society surrounds us with – the plot lines of movies and TV shows, the

lyrics of songs, the things we applaud and celebrate on social media. These are the stories we tell which shape our view of ourselves.

And the dominant theme of the modern story is that of a hero's individual triumph over the oppressive expectations placed on them by some element of society or family. This is the modern identity story. I look inside myself, decide how I want to define myself and then declare it to the world and if the world doesn't like it then bad luck!

On the face of it this sounds great but the whole premise is fundamentally flawed. Firstly, humans are relational beings by nature and our identity cannot be formed outside of a relational context. In other words, self-determination doesn't work. We need our identity to be affirmed by someone externally.

Secondly, the idea that we are free to make our own

"The Christian view of humanity is the only one, religious or otherwise, in which our identity is received not achieved"



The Rev'd Daniel Lowe

choices about our identity is an illusion. There is always an external validator. On the one hand we are bombarded with the message that we should "follow our heart" and "be true to ourselves" but at the same time we are surrounded by messages that tell us we are too fat, too skinny, not fashionable enough, not successful enough etc. We are free to choose for ourselves as long as we choose what our culture approves of! No wonder young people are struggling. They are being crushed by the pressure of having to "find themselves" while at the same time being

pummelled by a barrage of messages telling them they are inadequate.

So is there an alternative? I want to suggest that the gospel story provides an alternative narrative for our identity which is far better than that which Western Society is promulgating. The Christian view of humanity is the only one, religious or otherwise, in which our identity is *received* not *achieved*. The Biblical notion that we are made in God's image is central to this. Our worth comes not from anything we do but simply from the fact that we are made in the image of God. We don't have to earn it in any way.

There is a common misconception that being a Christian is about being a good person, trying to live good lives and obey God's commands so that we earn favour with God. The Bible makes it quite clear (and a quick survey of human history will confirm) that none of us is capable of living up to God's perfect standards. It is only through God's grace, His gift to us, that we find our true worth.

This is the mystery and hope of Easter. God sacrifices His own perfect son so that through his death and resurrection we might be made perfect in him. And because of this gift we are freed from the burden of attaining perfection for ourselves and we are liberated from the demands of society to conform to its expectations. We may still find ourselves at odds with the culture around us but no longer do we stand on our own strength alone. Instead, we find our security and our value in the knowledge and love of the God who created all things and loves us as His own.

Who would you prefer to tell the story of your identity? Would you put it in the hands of the likes of Mark Zuckerberg? J.J. Abrams? Jerry Bruckheimer? Or would you prefer the narrative of your identity to come from the God whose love for us is so great that He willingly gave His own life for the sake of yours?

The Rev'd Daniel Lowe is School Chaplain at St Paul's Anglican Grammar.

Anglicare Fare

Children and Mothers in Mind

(It's the little things that count)

Cathrine Muston (Anglicare Community Development Officer)

The joy of playing with a small child on a soft colourful mat can be priceless. Many of us can recall such happy memories. But if you have experienced violence, either in your family of origin or from your partner, then such opportunities are even more special.

A new program run by Anglicare Victoria across Baw Baw, Latrobe, Bass Coast and South Gippsland Shires aims to provide support for mothers and young children to overcome the impact of trauma due to family violence and improve developmental outcomes for children. Each week for 22 weeks, mothers and their children (under 4 years old) are involved in creative play as a part of the program Children and Mothers In Mind (CMIM).

Trained facilitators, Andrea McCarrick and Kate O'Connor lead the program to increase



Kate O'Conner from Children and Mothers in Mind, with the quilt made by Nola Adams

Conference: Abundant Justice and Prophetic Imagination 16 – 18 July

St John's College, University of Queensland, in St Lucia, Brisbane

The purpose of this conference is to "inspire fresh thinking in a world of increasing complexity and rapid change, to seek insights into our prophetic vision for how the world could be, and to ask ourselves deeper questions, like how do we form, nurture, or participate in our communities, in life-giving ways?"

For a list of speakers and further information, see: abundantjustice.com/program/

parenting competency and support mothers to increase and improve their bond with their children. Part of this process includes Circle Time, where mothers and their children are encouraged to play and sing songs with their children.

To enhance Circle Time for the families, Kate and Andrea were looking for a circular mat. Fortunately, Nola Adams, a parishioner of the Parish of Avon and long-time contributor to Anglicare through her quilted rugs, heard about this. It wasn't long before Nola had produced a soft and colourful circular quilt for the group to use.

"That is awesome" said one young mum when she saw the new mat and heard that it had been made especially for the group.

Another young mum was just enjoying lying on the mat and playing with her child before the group began.

Currently groups are operating in Leongatha and Morwell. If you know of a young mother who would benefit from the program, which is free of charge, you can call Anglicare on 5133 9998.

Such an opportunity to rebuild the mother-child relationship is certainly priceless.



Photo: Christine Morris

Lingering in the season

Sue Jacka

Have you noticed that the retail stores are always urging us to anticipate Christmas or Easter but they don't allow us to linger in the season? Come Easter Monday, Hot Cross buns and Easter eggs are marked down, cleared out and then the stores are onto the next thing! But the Church calendar invites us to allow the message of resurrection to penetrate deep and to bring Gospel life into those parts of ourselves that are dying or indeed into the parts that need to die.

I love this Easter season when we hear again stories of the resurrected Jesus appearing to his disciples and followers. Some of these characters are well known – like Peter and Thomas. Some we haven't heard of earlier in the Gospels, like Cleopas and his companion on the road to Emmaus. These stories invite us, as ordinary followers of Jesus, into a deeper understanding of the new life that Jesus promises us. His resurrection is a sign and seal of our own little "resurrections". In these Easter season accounts, we see the disciples in all their honest humanity.

We can imagine how the disciples felt as they were huddled together that first Resurrection evening. They had the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders. Fear was dominating their lives. Then suddenly, John's Gospel tells us, Jesus was standing among them, offering them his peace, peace that goes beyond human understanding. Peace that helps his followers move from their grief into the realm of God's possibility.

Peace that helps them to grasp the Kingdom of God and to be open to the promise of the Holy Spirit. It's a peace that we need today, just as much as those first disciples needed peace then.

Christians today are often dispirited and shackled by fear. Some find it difficult to accept change, not wanting to let go of "how things always were". Others want change – but can be dismayed by the obstacles. If we are honest, each of us finds personal change taxing at times and yet that is what Resurrection life is about – allowing Jesus to breathe his Spirit of peace into us so that we can grasp the possibilities that lie before us.

May your Easter season be one of growth and new life!

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EDITORIAL

Cultivating wonder

"Go into all the world", says Jesus, and "make disciples". But what is "the world"?

Many of his first hearers knew only "the world" of Palestine and nearby countries. As time went on, the gospel was taken out into a wider and wider world – a planet which was no longer seen to be at the centre of everything.

Time has expanded too. The first Christians expected Jesus' return in their own life-times, at least at the beginning. Two thousand years later, our understanding of time and space have also grown – or perhaps we should say diminished, in that we now know that there is so much more to know.

Marilynne Robinson, a great contemporary Christian thinker and writer, commented "It seems science may never find a way to confirm or reject the idea of multiple universes, or arrive at a satisfactory definition of time or gravity." (In her essay, "Humanism", in *The Givenness of Things*, 2015.)

So let's do some expansive imagining. Who knows how far we might have to take the gospel? "The world" might come to include other planets, or even other universes. Or not.

Depending on your point of view, you might see this kind of thinking as idle (even tiresome!) speculation – or perhaps wonder and delight at the "world" God has created, and awe at the God who could imagine it and bring it into being. Any and all responses are just part of the variety of this fascinating creation.

What evokes wonder for you? The working of the internal combustion engine? Flying buttresses or butterflies? A majestic wind turbine or Westminster Cathedral?

Marilynne Robinson (in the same essay) objects to those neuroscientists who want to reduce everything down to what can be explained by them, to what can be measured and pictured by their technology.

Professor Stephen Hawking, (the famous English theoretical physicist and cosmologist who died in March this year) wanted to ask the bigger, grander questions, such as "why the universe exists at all". While he concluded that there was no need for a God to explain the beginning of everything, and apparently remained an atheist, he also had a deep – and infectious – appreciation for the wonders of the universe.

Wonder is not far from worship, and is as much to be cultivated in adults as in children. So thank God for Stephen Hawking and all those scientists – whether they believe in God or not – who help us to understand and wonder at God's amazing creation.

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A serious change in law

Graham Toohill offers a Christian doctor's perspective on "assisted dying"

In 2017 the Victorian Parliament narrowly passed a bill legalizing "assisted dying". This means that the physician will be able to assist the terminally ill patient to die after their repeated request, by providing a prescription of lethal medication. If the patient is physically unable to take the lethal medicine themselves then the physician is authorized to give the patient a lethal injection to end their life.

A momentous change in the law of our land has occurred. I graduated in medicine at a time when the Hippocratic Oath of Doctors was held in high regard. It specifically states that I will not give lethal medicine even if asked to do so. How has our society decided that this high standard of ethical medicine is no longer required?

Fear of a painful death is a big part of the reason. Some people die suddenly without warning, others die slowly. The latter group face the possibility of suffering with loss of control, loss of dignity and the prospect of prolonged pain and grief for themselves and their loved ones. The feeling of becoming a burden, or feeling useless is also real for some. In the face of these feelings what should be our response?

Palliative care has developed rapidly in recent years and is highly effective in controlling pain and other symptoms of terminal illness. Publicly there is great ignorance about effective, high quality palliative care. Sadly, its poor provision in many places was well demonstrated by the emotional debates in parliament and synod describing the tragedy of people dying without the help that palliative care can provide.

In fact, palliative care is holistic care with a team

of people who care for the person physically, mentally, spiritually and socially. It is continuous, competent, concerned care. Where this is adequately available requests for euthanasia are very rare. Advanced care directives also enable people to express their wishes for their future care, if they are, at some stage, unable to talk for themselves.

In ethical situations, Christians need to ask the question "what would Jesus do?" Jesus says to all who will listen "Fear not for I am with you"; therefore fear should not be the prime motivator in the choices we make. His perfect love drives out all fear. Our body is a temple of the Holy Spirit and we are bought with a great price, the death of Jesus

our saviour. Our body no longer belongs to us but to God. Should we not then entrust ourselves to him, to take us to our eternal home in heaven when he decides the time is right for us?

In this life, we are called to take up our cross daily. This means surrendering our will to God's will. We are to fully rely on Jesus to enable us to live for him, until he calls us home, to be with him forever. He gives us the strength to live through the struggles of life and he will also give us the strength to face the time of our death.

The truth is that death is not the end. Through Christ's death and resurrection we can, with faith, look forward to eternal life with him, where there are no more tears, crying or pain, and death is no more.

However for those who do not know God and have not put their trust in Jesus, death is not a "merciful release" but rather it may be propelling them to a judgement for which they are unprepared. It may well be the worst thing we could ever do for them.

"Caring for the vulnerable and dying requires love and compassion over the long haul."



View from Mount Buffalo

So let us use every opportunity of the time given in a terminal illness, to care holistically with compassionate palliative care and share the good news of Jesus' love and saving grace, freely offered to all.

Assisted dying through the comprehensive use of palliative care is the only safe option for individuals and society. The new definition of assisted dying through the use of physician assisted suicide and euthanasia opens up many dangerous scenarios for vulnerable people. It greatly threatens disabled persons who daily cope with many of the issues faced by the terminally ill. The elderly can easily be made to feel that they are a burden to themselves, to their family and to society.

People with mental illness are particularly vulnerable under the new laws. It creates a threat to suicide prevention efforts as statistics show an increase in suicide rates in countries already practising physician assisted suicide.

Caring for the vulnerable and dying requires love and compassion over the long haul, accompanying and assisting them with excellent and dignified medical and spiritual care.

The Rev'd Dr Graham Toohill is Honorary Deacon Assistant in the parish of Leongatha.

An article is planned for a future edition on how the church can respond to the new laws.



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The Director of Professional Standards, Cheryl Russell, is available, and will maintain confidentiality, on telephone 03 5633 1573, on mobile 0407 563313, or email cherylrussell1@bigpond.com

Barriers to belonging

Alex Griffiths (of Loch Sport) reflects on the experience of an outsider joining the church.

I came to religion in middle years, not through some epiphany, nor from personal crisis. But rather as the result of long-persisting questions – the usual suspects, like why is there something rather than nothing at all, and how am I to live? – questions outside the purview of science or logic. And so I turned towards religion.

For those brought up within a faith, perhaps it's hard to imagine how daunting the church door can be to the outsider. Though I found both clergy and congregation welcoming, the stuff of religion – its texts, rituals, paraphernalia – acted as barriers to belonging. Everyone else knew how to respond, and seemed to draw deep and profound solace from the service. For me however, so much was meaningless, and the Prayer Book's language seemed geared to alienate.

Remember, I'd not the benefit of a personal experience of your god, nor had I the submissive vulnerability of one close to despair. I came as a fairly rational, enquiring adult – open-minded, I hope, but perhaps not disposed to uncritically accept all I saw and heard. So sitting beside others in the pews, I felt I was there under false pretences. I was an impostor, perhaps a dangerous and subversive influence. I was a serpent in my new friends' Eden, acting as they were but spiritually far removed.

Nevertheless, I've persisted with the church for the very reasons I first came seeking. Its premise, that meaning is to be found in relationship with others (with God also, I understand, but I'm not there yet), I know to be true as a lived reality. And to love one's neighbour as oneself, is a moral imperative I feel to be intrinsic, in the sense I think Jeremiah intends: "I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts." (31.33)

But I still find those other things – the language, sacraments, vestments – to be the stumbling blocks they've always been. And in that sense, I remain a serpent in the garden.



Alex Griffiths

"For those brought up within a faith, perhaps it's hard to imagine how daunting the church door can be to the outsider."

Perhaps for those immersed in the faith from birth, such things have an invisibility born of familiarity. Perhaps they carry the comfort of an oft-repeated phrase that has lost all meaning through repetition. But their very meaningfulness to me continues to alienate. And this is an issue, not just for me, but for the church also.

In the Genesis story, I've

never felt that Adam and Eve fell – rather, that they were pushed, like chicks from a nest, in order that they may grow and become fully human. The serpent was simply the means. If the church is also to grow – in numbers, maturity, relevance – then perhaps it needs to welcome the serpents back into the garden, and on their own terms. Perhaps the church needs to step outside itself, and see itself as outsiders do. After all, recent history would suggest such a step to be long overdue.

ABC Radio National's Religion Programs

Frequencies: Bairnsdale - 106.3 FM (3ABC RN)
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Religion and Ethics Report

Andrew West Wednesday 5:30 pm
– repeated: Thursday 5:30 am and Friday 11:00 am

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Rachel Kohnt Sunday 6:00 pm
– repeated: Wednesday 1:00 pm

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James Carletont Sunday 6:00 am
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For more details: abc.net.au



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Diocesan calendar

May

- 10 6:00 pm Safe Church Awareness Workshop – Refresher at St John's Maffra
- 19 12 noon – 2:00pm Pentecost Fundraising Lunch at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale: two courses: two roast meats and more! Chef Canon Jeff Richardson, cost: \$25 per adult, \$15 child. Family rates available
- 22 9:00 am – 4:30 pm First Aid Course for Clergy and Salaried Church Workers, on the skills and knowledge required to provide a first aid response to a casualty, at St Mark's Rosedale. More detail and to book, see diocesan website: gippsanglican.org.au
- 25 Community Lunch, Traralgon.*
- 26 9:30 am – 3:30 pm Anam Cara Community Quiet Day: "God of Surprises", led by the Rev'd Heather Toms, at Holy Trinity, Stratford
- 27 9:30 am St Thomas, Bunyip – we celebrate the rich and wonderful contribution of John and Charles Wesley to the whole Church of God, not least to Anglicanism!
- 27 2:00 pm "A Pleasant Sunday Afternoon" with a concert by the Warragul Municipal Band, directed by Benjamin Sim followed by afternoon tea in the parish hall at Christ Church Drouin. Gold coin donation. Contact Drouin parish: office@anglicanparishdrouin.org.au

June

- 3 1:00 pm Friends of the Cathedral Meeting all welcome. Contact the cathedral if you would like to become a friend!
- 3 2:30 pm Affinity Quartet Concert: a young Melbourne String group returning by popular demand. Adults \$20 – tickets can be purchased at the door.
- 13 10:00 am Anglican Mothers Union Australia – June Join In service at Newborough. Speakers from Latrobe Community Health Centres on "Falls Prevention"
- 18 – 21 Clergy Conference at The Abbey, Raymond Island
- 29 – 1 July 5:00 pm Friday – 2:00 pm Sunday: Young Adults Weekend at The Abbey: A special time to relax together at The Abbey, to talk, walk and enjoy the special beauty of Raymond Island, time to pray and explore spiritual things together. Contact The Abbey 5156 0511 or info@theabbey.org.au

- 30 9.30 am – 3:00 pm Lay Reader Training Day at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale

July

- 1 9:00 am St Peter's Patronal Festival including a "Back to Mallacoota Church" service followed by a Parish lunch at the Manse. All former clergy and congregational members warmly invited to attend.
- 1 9:30 am We keep our Patronal Feast with a joyous Eucharist at St Thomas, Bunyip. 12 noon community BBQ for all. In the afternoon we have our third BUNYIP LECTURE.
- 7 9:30 am – 3:00 pm Lay Reader Training Day at Christ Church, Drouin

* Community breakfasts and lunches are held at St James' Traralgon. Phone 5174 2045 or 0422 573 374