

# The Gippsland Anglican

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*“As the star shone as a guiding light to the wise men and the shepherds,  
so we are to be guiding lights to tell the story of the birth of Jesus  
for generations to come.”*

JENNY KOCH

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# Waiting and watching

Turning our calendars over to December signals the Advent season of hope as we look to Christmas and beyond. Turning to December is more than the flipping of another page and a quick look at the landscape picture for the month. It's more than a cursory glance at the numbers 1-31.

December is the month in which we watch. Time set aside to wait. Time for keeping vigil. Time to allow waiting, watching, hoping, expecting that the love which lies deep in the heart of God will arrive for us in Jesus and his wonderful love will be present to overflowing. December is the month during which hope stands fast in the face of everything that rises up against its power.

In recent weeks we have all been waiting and watching for the community's response to the question of marriage equality in the postal survey and the advent of new law allowing same sex couples to marry. This Christmas many families will be planning weddings, and while they won't be taking place in Anglican Churches, we Anglicans have to work out how it is that we can be part of welcoming families that may be shaped differently from our own into the Church. The Church which is welcoming of others, a sign of the love of Christ for all

people made up of communities of that love and grace.

We have been waiting and watching as the Victorian government after long, long debates passed assisted dying legislation. We Anglicans will need to work out how our pastoral ministry extends to this new reality, caring for those who in faith and hope may make decisions which challenge us. We will need to be as steadily alongside those who walk step by step with their very dear ones as they discern and decide and seek our prayer and our love.

We have been waiting and watching with those hundreds of men on Manus Island, many keeping vigil and protest at Australia's treatment of refugees and asylum seekers kept for years in off-shore detention

centres. We Anglicans can speak about welcome and grace and make our voices heard to speak up as Jesus did.

We have been waiting and watching for the final report of the Royal Commission into child sexual abuse due on 15 December. We Anglicans have been shamed by our part in the stories told to and through the Commission. And we have the opportunity to act with care for those whose voices have been heard. Who have spoken truth and let the light in.

This December these things are seeking our response, the birthing of God's love for this day and time. We can respond in love, even in those things which we find hard to come to terms with. Why? Because of the love which has made a home



Bishop Kay Goldsworthy

in this world for us, with us, alongside us. Jesus the one for whom we wait and watch with eager longing.

This is my final Page Two article for *The Gippsland Anglican*. It has taken a while to put on paper. I thank the editor Jan Down for her patience and care of this paper and I thank all of you who read it, for the care and consideration you give to all that we writers offer.

This morning as I walked around the lake in Sale the mist was such an image of the waiting and watching we are doing in December. As you wait and watch for the 13th Bishop of Gippsland may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

It has been a great blessing to have been with you over these last few years. Love and peace



Mist on Lake Guthridge

## The Gippsland Anglican

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### Advertising Rates

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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 will also be included. Each parish sends in its own profile and prayer needs.

### YARRAM SOUTHERN REGION

The Parish of Yarram, on the border of the Southern and Eastern regions, is home to the oldest wooden church in Victoria, Christ Church Tarrville. Our parish is also the birthplace of the diocese of Gippsland.

Next year 2018 will mark 150 years of the parish, and the centenary of Holy Trinity Yarram, with many activities planned. We welcome your prayers for this Advent and Christmas Season – our third annual Christmas Tree Trail; Selfies at the Stable in the main street on Christmas Eve;

and a new activity we are calling Advent for All where we hope to involve everyone (especially the young) in worship on the first Sunday in Advent.

### THE ANAM CARA COMMUNITY

Anam Cara is a community of people of prayer who seek to deepen their journey into God. We offer quiet days throughout the year where all are welcome and we can grow in the ability to be still in our busy world. We provide a fortnightly newsletter for encouragement, reflection and prayer. Pray for us as we plan our next year's program and encourage others on the journey.

### KIDS PLUS+ GIPPSLAND

Kidsplus+ Gippsland is an intergenerational network of people within the Anglican Diocese of Gippsland who

link together to provide prayer, active support and leadership within parishes for Children's and Youth Ministry. Please pray for: our five Gippsland representatives attending the Australian GFS KidsPlus+ Conference January 7 – 14; those preparing for our March Diocesan KidsPlus+ Camp at Coonawarra resort; all parishes as they plan for children's Youth and adult ministries 2018; and current or prospective participants of our Diocesan Leader Development Workshops.

### ANGLICAN MOTHERS UNION

Anglican Mothers' Union Australia is part of the world-wide Mothers' Union showing "Christian Care for Families". Gippsland has 10 branches from East Gippsland to Phillip Island with 130 members. Please pray that

as many members age they will still feel valued in their membership and know the value of their prayers and support of the many projects MU undertakes in other countries and within Australia.

### THE ABBEY

The Abbey, a Centre for Spirituality and the Environment on Raymond Island, offers hospitality for retreats, conferences, groups, families and individuals. Please pray for: January with large church groups; the Simply Alive Retreat; travellers and holiday guests. Give thanks for February and March bookings; pray that God will bring others to The Abbey; for the Abbey Program 2018, for Chapter, staff, supporters and volunteers, and for The Abbey as we live into the Franciscan Way.

Please also pray for the two Anglican schools of the diocese: **St Paul's Anglican Grammar School** and **Gippsland Grammar School**.

# Dedicated, blessed and open for business

The Abbey: John McIntyre Centre Stage 1

Sue Fordham

On Thursday October 19 stage 1 of the John McIntyre Centre was dedicated and blessed by Bishop Kay Goldsworthy in front of 70 ardent Abbey supporters, staff, volunteers, tradespeople and benefactors.

Stage one comprises the handsome new reception and administration building and forecourt linking it with the A frame, a new entrance, sealed car park, fencing and garden works.

It is the culmination of several years of planning, fund raising and sheer hard work by the Abbey Chapter, supporters and staff and the tradespeople who made it happen.

The event was carefully orchestrated in advance. The ferry was out again so local shipwright, Rob Ashworth and his boat were commissioned to take guests onto the island and back.

Archdeacon Edie Ashley offered guests a warm welcome



The new reception and administration building

and the liturgy commenced early with an acknowledgement of land by the Rev'd Phyllis Andy.

Robert Fordham, Abbey Chapter member, spoke about this development in the context of the inspiration for the Abbey; the late Bishop John McIntyre; the future vision for the Abbey and the history of the new works.

Point was made about the many onerous regulations that had to be satisfied and in particular the generous work of planners Crowther and Sadler in helping to bring the works to fruition.

Michael Sadler and daughter Kate Young were present and a conference room was dedicated to the Sadler family to recognise their tireless and generous work.

Robert also mentioned the importance of the episcopal leadership of Bishop Kay in championing the work of the Abbey in the diocese and beyond, the tireless work of Abbey priest Edie Ashley and above all the generous benefaction of individuals, parishes and dioceses across Australia in supporting this \$200,000 project.

Staff, Anna Esdaile and Val Wilson, were thanked as were volunteers Ken Wilson, Peter Edwards, Graham Barnett, Stan Livingstone, Steve Lazarus and Sharon Jacobs.

Robert also called attention to the refurbishment of West



Michael Sadler, Archdeacon Edie Ashley, Kate Young, Jan McIntyre and Bishop Kay Goldsworthy



Just making sure the PA works! Archdeacon Edie Ashley, Bishop Kay Goldsworthy and Robert Fordham AM. Robert was acknowledged by Archdeacon Edie Ashley for all the work he did, "managing the build brilliantly"

Cottage, not in itself part of stage one but a work achieved thanks to the work of local builder and project advisor, John Crowe.

Bishop Kay's address was about signs and icons; signs that needed to be installed at the Abbey and icons or windows through which others can glean an understanding of God. She saw the Abbey itself as iconographic in that sense;

something which can point ourselves and others to something, someone beyond ourselves. She invited us to become signposts for others, to allow ourselves to be touched by a Spirit greater than our own.

Jan McIntyre was there and sprinkled blessed water on the plaque to be installed on the outside of the new reception and administration building.

## People moves

**The Rev'd Jo White**, who has been rector in the parish of Yarram since June 2013, has been appointed as the new rector of Bass / Phillip Island.

Jo's final Sunday in Yarram will be 4 February, when the parish celebrates the Centenary of the laying of the Foundation Stone at Holy Trinity. The induction date is still to be announced.

**Kellie Harris** has resigned and leaves just before Christmas. Kellie has worked as PA to Bishop Kay Goldsworthy and has been a valued member of the Registry team. She is moving closer to Melbourne to be near family. Bishop Kay said "We wish her God's blessing for the next chapter and thank her for all her work and care as part of the Registry staff".

**The Rev'd Canon Barb Logan** has resigned from Lakes Entrance and Metung due to illness. Her farewell in the parish will be on 10 December.

## Our Christmas cover

This year's Christmas cover artist, Jenny Koch, of Nar Nar Goon parish, is founder of Patmos Artist community and co-founder of the Art and Soul course, combining art and therapy.

The front cover shows a photo of the oil painting Jenny created for TGA. See Jenny's website: [jenniferkoch.webs.com/](http://jenniferkoch.webs.com/).



## A LASTING GIFT: A bequest to the Anglican Diocese of Gippsland or your parish

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](http://www.gippsanglican.org.au) and search 'bequests'.

# Faith involves risk!

**Kerrie Armstrong  
Warragul**

We had a fantastic youth group event for grade 6 and above on a recent Saturday. We travelled to Cape Patterson and tried sand dune boarding where the

kids flew down some very steep sand dunes on boogie boards.

Later we talked about how having faith often involves risk. Just as sand dune boarding has an element of risk to it – so does faith. We have to step out and go even though we don't always know what's going to happen.



*Warragul youth group members learn about faith and risk while sand dune boarding*

# Triple treat

**Wendy Nickson  
Lakes Entrance**

St Nicholas', Lakes Entrance, enjoyed a very special day on Sunday 22 October, with Bishop Kay's last visit to our parish before her departure to Perth.

She baptised and confirmed Tracey Emma Arnold in the presence

of family, friends and a delighted congregation. Then followed the commissioning of Valerie Jones as a Lay Reader of our parish.

Bishop Kay's inspiring address will be well remembered and all wished her well for the future.



*Tracey Emma Arnold was baptised and confirmed by Bishop Kay*



*Val Jones was commissioned as a Lay Reader at Lakes Entrance*

## "CALLING FOR RAIN" – ART WORKSHOPS

Artist Sofie Dieu plans to run free workshops with East Gippsland's communities early next year. She is calling for help to raise funds to make this project a reality.

Sophie will address the hardship caused by the current drought and inherent risks of summer fires. All the artworks produced will be exhibited at East Gippsland Art Gallery (EGAG) in March 2018 for a month.

The Great Alpine Gallery invited Sofie last August to take part in its residency program. For two weeks she painted and wrote poetry about the Tambo Valley and its residents. She later wrote a book about it: On the Great Alpine Road (released 01/12/17).

In 2016 Sophie was one of the four artists who worked on the Camperdown Cemetery installation for

the Sydney Biennale. She also co-curated "Keeping the body in mind" as part of The Big Anxiety Festival, in Sydney. In 2017, her work was shown during Vivid Sydney.

People can help Sofie promote her fund raising campaign by tagging #calling4rain and @sofiedieu in social media and by making a donation through her website: [www.sofie-dieu.com/](http://www.sofie-dieu.com/).



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St John's Maffra opportunity shop

## Diocesan workshop for op shops

Alice Weatherall

On Monday 30 October Drouin Anglican Church hosted co-ordinators and volunteers from about twenty opportunity shops around the diocese for a workshop to discuss what makes their op shops work and to gain some insight into other workable ideas.

The speaker, Pauline Davies, coordinator of the Drouin Anglican church opportunity shop, was introduced by the Drouin Anglican Rector, Dean Spalding. Our Diocesan Registrar, Brian Norris spoke about the areas in our Anglican Opportunity Shop Handbook involving Working with Children and Occupational Health and Safety issues that may require investigating further and updating.

The perceived aim from all shops is to work for the church and to share a percentage of sales with their chosen charity organizations. In some cases they were working to pay the stipend of their rector.

A representative from each explained where they were from, how many volunteers they could call on and some spoke about the demographics and location of their particular shop. All praised the work of their volunteers which varied from 12 to 80. In most cases very few of the volunteers were church goers so we are grateful that they are volunteering to assist our ministries. Again we cannot thank the volunteers enough – most of whom are retirees.

All shops received too much rubbish and disposing of same is a constant financial and physical headache. The excess clothing, not suitable for the shop, mainly went to Lifeline, while one shop sent theirs to the Diabetes Foundation. The not-so-wearable clothing, bags and shoes went to a couple of pick-up companies who sent them overseas.

Nothing is wasted; even metal items can be redesigned into usable articles. The group touched briefly on theft within the shops and all agreed that if anyone is so desperately in need, they can ask and be assisted free of charge.

## Angels and pancakes for All Hallows' Eve

Nar Nar Goon

Instead of waiting to have our doors knocked upon on 31 October, we decided to provide free pancakes and sweet treats to celebrate All Hallows' Eve at St John's Anglican Church in Nar Nar Goon. With a prominent location on Main Street, a colourful signboard, two angels complete with white robes and wings, and the portable BBQ trailer to attract attention, it was a contrast to the little children dressed up as witches, vampires and grim reapers who were traipsing up and down the street with their parents in tow. It was also a wonderful opportunity to present the Christian feast of All Saints' Day/All Hallows' Eve through conversations and colourful handouts.



Genevieve Shallard, Jenny and John Koch and Kate Doolan offering something sweet for All Hallows' Eve

## Croajingolong is growing



Pet Blessing at St Peter's Mallacoota, Sunday 1 October. The Rev'd Heather Cahill blessed and anointed the pets.

The Rev'd Heather Cahill has been ministering in the cooperating parish of Croajingolong since July, after returning from Townsville, where she has been co-ordinating chaplain in the Townsville Hospital for three years.

Sunday attendance at St Peter's Mallacoota was then about five people. The average congregation at the moment is around 20.

A pet blessing was held in October and a Service of Remembrance on All Saints' Day for families who have been bereaved in recent years.

A parish barbeque after church one Sunday was enjoyed so much, Heather said "People did not want to leave and go home!"

Heather is conducting regular Anglican and Uniting Church services in the three centres of Mallacoota, Cann River and Genoa. On the fifth Sunday there is an ecumenical service which includes the Roman Catholics.

A short AGM, the first in three years, was held to elect positions to make decisions pending the annual AGM which was later held on 31 October. There is now a new

Parish Council of ten members which will meet as required – at least four times per year.

Repairs are being made to buildings in the parish and the Op Shop is going well, while needing extra volunteers. Cann River's average congregation is now around ten, with weekly services. Genoa has a monthly service with around six attendants at present, with hopes to increase this next year.

The parish now has a Bible study each Wednesday afternoon, with around eight to ten attending, including two young adults who are part of the congregation most weeks, along with their parents who have recently moved to the area.

Heather conducted one Quiet Day and will be holding another immediately prior to Advent. They are now planning for Christmas services and January activities as the town has already begun to swell with holiday makers. Heather said that most weeks recently they have had several visitors present at Sunday services.

## Diocesan working group considers ministry to the dying

A diocesan working group to investigate the theological and pastoral implications of ministry to the dying, including "assisted dying", has begun meeting monthly. The group of lay and ordained people is chaired by Archdeacon Philip Muston and includes two doctors. A range of views is represented.

A successful motion at Synod in May requested Bishop in Council to convene this working group after a motion rejecting euthanasia and "physician-assisted suicide" was narrowly lost.



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## Two milestones for Yarram next year

Glenda Amos

The Yarram parish celebrates two milestones in 2018 – the Centenary of the Holy Trinity building and 150 years since the first Anglican Church was built in Yarram.

A service on 4 February will celebrate the laying of the foundation stone for the present Holy Trinity building in 1918. In September on the weekend of 9th, the parish will welcome everyone to mark both the Centenary and 150 years of worship in the Parish of Yarram.



Holy Trinity Anglican Church at Yarram

An invitation list is being compiled and anyone with connections to Holy Trinity is asked to phone 5182 5853 with contact details. A small band of parishioners is

preparing an historical display and commemoration document. Stories and recollections especially up to 1950 would be much appreciated.

## Prayer workshop for Southern Regional Deanery

Marion Dewar

St Andrew's Union Church Tarwin Lower was the venue for the Southern Regional Deanery meeting on Friday 20 October. Guests were impressed by the work done by local congregation members of Anglican and Uniting folk (average Sunday attendance of 14) over the last few years: the labyrinth; opening up the property by dismantling front and side fences; tank garden, garden arbour with seating; garden seats; and most recently, extension of the kitchen.

The day began with a welcome cuppa and introductions. Clergy and lay representatives were present from the parishes of Bass / Phillip Island, Westernport, Korumburra / Poowong, Leongatha, Mirboo North and Wonthaggi / Inverloch.

Guest speaker the Very Rev'd Susanna Pain (from St Paul's Cathedral, Sale) was introduced by Regional

Dean the Rev'd Canon Geoff Pittaway (Mirboo North). It was Dean Susanna's first visit to the southern region of the diocese. Susanna presented an address and workshop on prayer through art and contemplation. She talked about various forms of prayer, the use of art (images) and movement in prayer, the symbolic re-presentation of our Christian journey through

word and picture, and the value of silence and music as aids to prayer.

The business meeting included brief reports from the parishes, the Regional Dean and the Archdeacon, as well as a planning discussion for 2018.

The day ended with a service of Holy Communion with Archdeacon Graham Knott (Leongatha) presiding, followed by lunch.



Walking the labyrinth at St Andrew's Union Church Tarwin Lower



Gippsland Grammar science teacher Leanne Caithness and Year 12 students Lauren Stephenson, Jessica Thompson and Nellie Hunt pack the lab coats in preparation for their trip to Rwanda for "Schoolies"

## Bishop Manasseh to visit in March 2018

Bishop Manasseh Gahima is visiting Gippsland from Gahini for two weeks from 5 March next year.

He will be spending time in a limited number of parishes and is available for visits. Those parishes that would like a visit (and to contribute to the costs) should contact Archdeacon Philip Muston on 0405 644244.

### Anglican schools' students take off for Gahini

As an alternative "schoolies" trip, students from the two Anglican schools are travelling to Gahini where they will spend time working in the school and volunteering in the community.

Two students from St

Paul's, along with Head of Warragul Junior School, Rowan van Raay, make the trip this year. From Gippsland Grammar there are four students with two members of staff – Science teacher, Leanne Caithness and Chaplain, the Rev'd Nikolai Blaskow.

Gippsland Grammar raised \$17,000 this year to help build a Science laboratory at Gahini Secondary School in Rwanda. The money was raised through casual dress days, cake stalls and student versus teachers basketball and netball games where spectators were required to make a donation to watch.

The Gippsland Grammar students will take with them a donation of more than 50 lab coats.

## Canon Jeff's daughter Kate ordained

On Saturday 25 November the Rev'd Kate Jacob, the eldest daughter of the Reverend Canon Jeff Richardson, was ordained a priest at St Paul's Cathedral Melbourne, by the Most Reverend Dr Philip Freier.

Kate's journey to the priesthood began in the Gippsland Diocese after attending Women's 32 Cursillo Weekend in 2008. Thereafter she studied at Ridley College and the Australian Catholic University where she obtained her degree in teaching. Kate has spent the last two years as part of the Chaplaincy



L-R The Rev'd Canon Jeff Richardson, Archbishop Philip Freier and the Rev'd Kate Jacob

team at Beacon Hills Anglican School and in 2018 will take

up a Chaplaincy position at Caulfield Grammar School.



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# Bishop Jeffrey urges support for clergy training in PNG

Bishop Jeffrey Driver is appealing to Gippsland Anglicans to help support Newton College in Papua New Guinea.

A previous Bishop of Gippsland, Bishop Jeffrey is working with the Anglican Board of Mission Australia (ABM) and the House of Bishops of the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea, to improve theological education and ministry training at the college located near Popondetta.

The College opened in 1981 on its present 200 acre site at Jonita, about eight kilometres from Popondetta.

On initial appearances, it is an idyllic site, with about 25 cottage style buildings spread across a large area and surrounded by coconut palms. A beautiful semi-open-air chapel sits in the centre.

A closer look reveals a college that has had little refreshment or repair since it was located on this site. Most of the buildings are in real need of repair. The water supply has failed and power generation is minimal and sometimes intermittent. There is no vehicle for transport. The curriculum has been little changed for decades. The library has had few acquisitions for decades.



The tropical setting of Newton College. The surrounds provide an opportunity for students to grow gardens for food.

Bishop Jeffrey believes finance from the Church of PNG and partner churches has been sporadic and inadequate.

He said "I have been asked by the Church in PNG and ABM Australia to offer support to the college and will be spending four to five months at Newton next year and will maintain some involvement after that. I have agreed to do this on a pro-bono basis. The commitment and the spirit of staff and students is impressive, but I am deeply concerned about a serious lack of resources and money. Lecturers are often left without pay (which in any event is very low). Staff and students live a subsistence existence.

"Progress is being made.

But much more remains to be done. If the Anglican Church is to have its place in the future of PNG then leaders with deep theological roots and a strong sense of their own cultural identity will be essential."

Bishop Jeffrey said that he hoped parishes and individuals would see the importance of supporting our neighbouring Church in PNG. He pointed out that in the past there were strong links between Gippsland and the Church in PNG.

Payments can be made to ABM Australia, marked for Newton College (there is a facility on the ABM website).

Bishop Jeffrey and Lindy retired back to Gippsland in 2016 and are presently living in Bairnsdale.



Margaret and Peter Down with the Rev'd David Head at Morwell

## Learning about the new Hope Re-Start Centre

Carolyn Raymond – Morwell

Peter and Margaret Down came to St Mary's to tell us all about their work to establish this new centre in Bairnsdale.

Hope Re-Start is the wonderful name given to the drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre which is planned for Bairnsdale. Three years ago Peter and Margaret Down became aware of the pressing need for such a centre in East Gippsland. They feel strongly their responsibility to come alongside these people and assist them in this struggle.

The plan is for the centre to have 50 beds available for residents coming from all over East Gippsland. Land has been leased in Bairnsdale. Much money has been raised (more is needed). Odyssey House has agreed to train future staff for Hope Re-Start so the program will be run along similar lines.

The Congregation was very interested to learn about the need for Hope New-Start, the hard work which has gone into liaising with Government, with community organizations and churches. We were very impressed that plans are so well advanced, for such an ambitious project. Thank you Peter and Margaret for travelling from Bairnsdale to share with us.

At St Mary's recent AGM there was a unanimous decision to adopt Hope Re-Start as our mission project for 2018.

## New Youth and Family Pastor for Trafalgar Parish

Sue Jacka

Josh Hasan will be the new Youth and Family pastor at St Mary's Trafalgar. Josh and his wife Jenny are building a house in Yarragon which should be completed in April. They have been married for six years, with no kids yet.

Jenny grew up in Keilor and Essendon whilst Josh was a local boy in Shady Creek. They met each other on a Scripture Union family mission in Queenscliff and they have been worshipping at St Paul's Anglican church in Warragul.

Josh has worked previously with Youth For Christ as a youth worker. He is now working two days a week as a School chaplain at Neerim District Secondary College. He is excited about ministry with young people and has visited the JAFFAs programs at Trafalgar and Yarragon. Josh will be studying towards a Bachelor of Ministry at Ridley college part-time.



Jenny is an Auditor for Crowe Horwath based in Warragul. She is a manager of the auditing team and travels to various country

towns for specific jobs.

The Rev'd Sue Jacka is Rector at Trafalgar.

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# Ready, set, messy!

**Von Dubbeld  
Bairnsdale**

Another fun time was shared in Messy Church at St John's Bairnsdale on 5 November. The story for the day was

of "The Ten Lamps", five of which were prepared, but five of which ran out of oil.

Participants once again made a fun mess while running a schoolbag-packing relay, decorating Hosanna banners, icing smart and silly cupcakes,

making paint-spinning prayer pictures, moulding clay lamps and creating iPad art. As they worked they discussed readiness; how to prepare ourselves for Jesus' return; and what the oil represented.

Together the group shared wedding stories, sang "Here Comes the Bride" and

discussed what it would be like to be a bride, waiting for her groom. An action prayer helped everyone ask God to keep their heart-lamps lit for Jesus. And a yummy meal of chicken and salad was shared amidst much conversation.

Messy Church has been greatly enjoyed this year at St John the Baptist Anglican

Church, Bairnsdale. Multi-generational friendships were grown alongside the inevitable mess and fun of it all each month. What a great way to discover and rediscover the stories that Jesus told. May these blessings continue to flow through the life-stories of all our Messy Church participants!



Sophie Jones and Adileen Reddy display a Hosanna banner



Jacob Clarke and Rowan Dubbeld enjoying some iPad Art

## REDEEMING INNOCENTS 2017 CHRISTMAS APPEAL



Photo: IOCC/Paul Jeffrey. Used with permission of IOCC.

*"Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod." Matthew 2:14-15a*

The Twelfth Night of Christmas is also Epiphany, when Christ is revealed to the Wise Men. After this revelation, Joseph and Mary flee to Egypt with Jesus, to avoid the 'Massacre of the Innocents'. As a vulnerable babe, Jesus was not in a position to protect himself, and his parents had to respond practically and faithfully to the warning from God.

Today, facing similar crises, many parents do the same, fleeing danger in places such as Syria (see photo), Myanmar and South Sudan. In other circumstances, there is no option to flee, and parents have to protect their children in different ways. Our partners are there to help.

This Christmas, we invite you to support our partners as they help to protect vulnerable children.

### HOW TO DONATE

- 1 Online: [anglicanoverseasaid.org.au](http://anglicanoverseasaid.org.au)
- 2 By phone: 1800 249 880
- 3 By post: 2017 Christmas Appeal  
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# Unlocking compassion

James Oakley

*A couple loses their child.*

*A family's house burns down.*

*A refugee is handed back to the government he is fleeing.*

*A letter arrives from the Salvation Army – donations are needed to support the homeless through another cold winter.*

Events occur every day that arouse our sympathy and compassion. Some are more significant to us than others. Some of them prompt me to action – protest, or lobbying, writing, or a donation. Some of them pass by. Whatever the event, my response is influenced by my faith – my action or inaction demonstrates my priorities and my convictions.

I was once blessed to hear Terry Williams speak on the subject of faith formation in children. Terry is a children's ministry specialist with Scripture Union, and he visited Launceston, speaking on the topic of "Haemorrhaging Faith" – the alarming drop-out rate of young people from churches across the western world. His message was that this represents a failure of churches and families to properly disciple their young people in the faith.

We churches and families are failing to combine the information that we get from the Bible, religious education and preaching with formational experiences that put flesh on this knowledge. As a result, the Christian experience of many young people often fails to connect with the reality of life in the 21st century, and Christianity is seen as irrelevant, or childish, or outdated.

As a result of these observations, Scripture Union and a number of other agencies have undertaken research to identify significant formational experiences that have helped Christians put their faith into practice. There are ten key areas. Terry's challenge to us was to think of ways that our young people can be included in and exposed to formational



*A group of seasonal workers from Timor Leste joined in the recent vigil at Bairnsdale, organized by the East Gippsland Asylum Seekers Support Group, to draw attention to the ongoing suffering of the refugees on Manus Island and Nauru*

experiences in all ten of these areas<sup>1</sup>

One area is "responding with compassion". All of the scenarios I listed at the start of this column move me to compassion, and many of them move me to action. As I was listening to Terry speak, I was cut with the thought that my compassion in these areas is private – almost completely hidden from my children.

They do not see me make the charitable donation. They do not read my email to the politician. They do not see me sign the online petition. And although my children might see my wife or me give material help to a family in need, or might see us visit a hurting friend, they are not involved in or engaged in those acts.

How much better would things be, for our children and for our world, if we were to involve them in our faith-motivated compassionate responses? How much more powerful if we were to equip them to put their compassionate feelings into deeds?

I confess that this is not something we do well as a family at the moment. I would also venture to say that it's not something that my church does well, but one shining exception to that statement stands out. St Aidan's (Riverlinks) recently ran an informal church service based around the theme of asylum seekers and refugees. Our whole worshipping community was involved in this service, from my 4 ½

year-old son to our nearly 90-year-old "matriarch".

We heard from the Bible about God's welcome of the stranger and the alien. We spent time praying for the 51 million refugees and displaced people around the world (Ed: now 65.6 million). We spent time praying for the people in detention centres in Australia, Nauru and Manus Island.

We heard one of our leaders confess how God had changed her attitude from "stop the boats" to one of compassion for the desperate asylum seekers fleeing persecution, with no other safe haven to run to, and no other transport options but the sea.

From my point of view, the outstanding nature of the service was the way in which people of all ages were engaged. We heard about needs of refugees in the community and in detention. And everyone, children included, was challenged to think creatively and compassionately about our response. Some of the children's responses were, frankly, wishful thinking (like "break them all out of the detention centres").

Other responses were incredibly insightful – our children were motivated to think about giving gifts of toys, puzzles, Lego, DVDs to those children in detention (for whom boredom is a serious mental health concern).<sup>2</sup>

This example stands out to me, because I am convinced that our government is acting evilly in its response to asylum seekers. I am convinced that

its actions are contrary to the professed Christian faith of some of our leaders. Jesus does not condone detaining men, women and children to deter others. He would not condone returning people forcibly to countries they have fled, and He would condemn the demonisation of asylum seekers and refugees in public discourse.

I am angry that a government does these things in the name of the Australian people. But whatever your take on that stance, I hope that you can see the broader principle of this article – that allowing children to engage with the pain in the world around them, and to respond with Christian care and compassion, is a powerful way for them to experience life as a follower of Jesus. What forms might that take?

You might share the charity letters with your kids,

and invite them to consider how they can respond. You might speak with them (at an appropriate level) about the crises happening in families around them – illness, fire, death – and ask them how those people might be feeling, how God might like us to respond, and how we might help.

That discussion might lead to joint action by the whole family. It will certainly lead to opportunities to show how your trust in Jesus and obedience to Him connects with your world and motivates you to care and compassion.

*James Oakley is a Children and Youth Ministry Worker in the Tasmanian Anglican diocese. This article is one of his "Parents as Pastors" columns, and was first published in The Tasmanian Anglican, August 2015. It is reprinted with permission.*

1. A website has been set up with detail on these areas, and some suggested activities: [here2stay.org.au/](http://here2stay.org.au/)
2. Editor's note: The number of children in detention has greatly reduced since this article was written. There are now less than five children in detention according to the Australian Border Force report of 30 September 2017: *Immigration Detention and Community Statistics Summary*. There were still 1257 people in immigration detention facilities on 30/9/17.



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# Waiting with all creation

Edie Ashley

I spent a few days recently with friends at Blackheath in the NSW Blue Mountains west of Sydney. The weather was pleasant, the sun was shining and the cicadas were noisy. I was surprised to realize how the sound of the cicadas and the sight of the tall sandstone gums, the summer azaleas and smaller cottage garden flowers awoke within me the memory of childhood summers which as I think about them now were wonderful times that seemed to go on forever.

However, it was as we were walking along a little track near one of the many stunning lookouts that I noticed the smaller species of Xanthorrhoea (Grass Tree). I could not wait to go a little closer and take just a few photos – all the same, or so close to being identical it that it did not matter!

These magnificent small humble plants just sit alongside the taller more imposing eucalypts, giving style and grace to any collection of wild flowers and trees.

A little later, as we were on our way home, I spied another stand of xanthorrhoea beside the dirt track. These wonderful plants had grown their spikes and instead of such a graceful, gentle humble presence they were now standing to claim their own authority.



*Xanthorrhoea (Grass Trees) in flower after the 2009 fires*

Their flower spikes had grown, still brown and immature, but their presence was marked and commanding.

Immediately I was reminded of driving through the xanthorrhoeas at Wilsons Promontory, back in 2009 just after the bush fires. It was an image that was overwhelming at the time and has stayed with me over the years.

It was as if the xanthorrhoeas had been mass planted, and in response to the fire each had spiked and the flowerheads were covered with masses of little yellow flowers full of the seeds of new life.

The expression of life and hope within the backdrop of burnt and broken trees captured my mind and my heart and my spirit.

*Gracious God  
Thank you  
For the times of love and laughter*

*when we are aware of your gentle  
presence  
And our lives are graced with  
beauty and simplicity*

*For the times of challenge and  
resolution  
When we are given strength to  
know your love  
And to love with all our being*

*For the times when all seems  
black and charred, burnt and  
desolate  
And we are held in your love,  
waiting  
for the spike of flowers to grow,  
for the flowers to bud  
for the new seeds of hope  
to fall and germinate in places  
of despair and injustice,  
on lands and ecosystems in crisis*

*Thankyou*

*In faith and hope, grace and love  
we with all creation*

*Wait  
to celebrate your coming  
In the name of Jesus Christ,  
Amen*

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

## EDITORIAL

### Fix fake history, tell true stories

History shapes us into the people we are, regardless of how uninterested we may be in the past.

As we approach the end of this year, some things are looking more of a mess than ever. Refugees are still living in limbo on Manus Island, and we seem to have moved further away from Reconciliation – at least in the political arena – as the Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull announces that the proposal of an Indigenous Voice to Parliament has been rejected. This, after months (or in fact years) of careful, painstaking consultative work by the Referendum Council on Constitutional Recognition.

Is there still hope for success of the other proposal to come out of the Central Australian Indigenous summit, of a Makarrata Commission to “supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations and truth-telling about our history”, as the *Uluru Statement from the Heart* expressed it?

In other words, a way to fix the fake history of relations between Europeans and First Nations peoples, and make amends. At least a Makarrata Commission would not require a referendum.

Bishop Kay said in her President’s Address of Synod 2016, in response to the question of why we continue to include a Welcome to Country at public events, “There is a long lesson to learn and history shows that is easy to be forgetful... Remembering and honouring keeps us pointed in the right direction...” Remembering is important. It forms our attitudes and influences our decision-making. So we need to know what there is to remember. We need the gaps in our knowledge of the past to be filled.

One possible form of fixing fake history in Gippsland which has already been suggested is the renaming of the federal electoral division of McMillan. Angus McMillan was a Scottish pioneer and explorer who is believed to have led many of the Gippsland massacres of Aboriginal people. Yet he is remembered only for his success as a pastoralist and explorer. One way or another, it’s time the true, mixed bag of history was told, in every place where it has been hidden.

There’s another old story to be told of course, as we reach the end of 2017. On our front cover this month, artist Jenny Koch has given us a positive and important reminder that we have an extraordinary story of good news to pass on down the generations. God took the initiative to jump into our mess and do something about it.

Knowing the history of God acting in this world also helps form us into the people we are: people who, in the face of many horrors, still see meaning and hope in and for this world. So despite elements of gloom at the end of this year, we have reason to be hopeful, and to celebrate the coming of Christ with joy.

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# Advent: Learning anew to be human

Jasmine and Samuel Dow

*“One of the radical spirits in current thought has defined the task of this sombre age as ‘learning anew to be human’. On a more restricted scale, we must, I think, learn anew what is comprised within a full experience of created sense, of the enigma of creation as it is made sensible in the poem, in the painting, the musical statement.”*

*George Steiner, Real Presences*

Poetry, art, music, narrative, and creative expression provide lenses of viewing the world that are beyond the rational and that tap into something fundamental about being human. In a world where the media displays a constant stream of fear-evoking reporting, and news of violence and violation, the arts teach us again and again to be human together.

As we welcome the season of Advent – a time of learning anew to be human – St Paul’s Cathedral, Sale, is running an art exhibition, “Seasons of Birth and Creativity” to inspire this journey of delving deeper into the meaning of life, of created sense, of being human together.

My husband Samuel and I have been invited to open the exhibition by sharing our own story of birth and creativity. This is a poignant time as we prepare, this Advent, to welcome our second child into the world in January.

As I take this journey toward birth, I can’t help but reflect on Mary and Joseph’s own journey to the birth of Jesus. Were they too filled with anticipation, fear, wonder and joy? We know the story: an unwed virgin; a divine conception; an uncertain yet faithful husband; a dangerous political environment; the need to flee because of danger; refugees.

The art exhibition will remind us that the season of birth and creativity is full of hope and joy, but it can also be a time of anxiety, risk, grief, and dashed hope. I am acutely aware during this Advent season of the women and men who cannot bear children, and yet have a deep longing to do so; for the parents who have lost children; for the women who have suffered deeply with post-partum mental illness.

Our beautiful toddler is an incredible gift to Samuel and

happy and thriving. I was not. After the birth, I suffered with postpartum Obsessive Compulsive Disorder. I spent each moment of each day in fear.

I am lucky enough to be fairly aware of mental illness and sought medical help very quickly. Due to the assistance of some wonderful medical professionals, a very supportive husband, medication, and the gift of a sleeping baby, I recovered within six weeks and was able to transition into the great joy of being a mother. During the first six weeks I lived in great anxiety, and yet at the same time deep gratitude for this being who had been placed into our care.

One of the things I learnt after the birth of our first child was just how many people suffer postpartum. Even for those who are not diagnosed with mental illness, the birth of a child brings a great mix of emotions. It brings us face to face with the greatness and vulnerability of being



*The song of joy of the whole of creation at the birth of the newly born – sculpture by Claire Flack*



*The Rev'd Samuel Dow and the Rev'd Jasmine Dow with their daughter*

human, it teaches us anew to be human. Yet, women very rarely speak to other women about the vulnerable or broken side to the season of birth and creativity; perhaps this is part of the cause of the suffering.

This Advent, as the church prepares to welcome the Christ Child, born into this world of confusion and delight, we

again face the greatness and vulnerability of our humanity. If we allow this light of the world made flesh to illumine our being, we will learn anew to be human together.

*The Rev'd Jasmine Dow is a Missioner with the Anglican Board of Mission. The Rev'd Samuel Dow is College Chaplain at Trinity College*

## EXHIBITION OPENS 10 DECEMBER

The “Seasons of Birth and Creativity” exhibition will be opened at 11:30 am on Sunday 10 December by Jazz and Samuel Dow. The exhibition will be in place at Delbridge Hall, Cunninghame Street, Sale until Christmas.

There are 14 works by local and interstate artists using various media, including sculptures and fabric art. We are recognizing the parallels of the seasons of birth with the seasons or phases of creative action. We trust that when hung the works will be in “conversation” with other works, around a common theme. It is a way to deepen the conversation about Christmas.

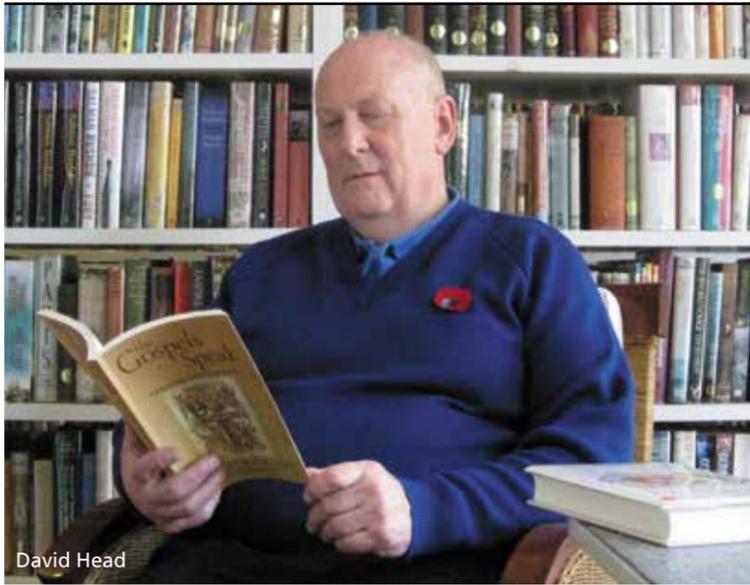


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## Holiday Reading Guide

### David Head

I have a huge library and I am a very wide and somewhat voracious reader. I have been keeping a journal of all the books I have read over many years and since the start of 2017 until writing this, I have read over 50 books.

Of these 30% were theological/spiritual in nature, 30% were novels of various sorts, 18% biographies, 11% history/general knowledge and 11% on social issues. I rate each book with a one, two or 3-star rating, depending on how stimulating and worthwhile I found it to be. Here are just eight from the past year that achieved a three-star rating. Perhaps one of them may stimulate your interest to read it.

1. *Silence, A Christian History*,  
Diarmaid MacCulloch  
(Viking, USA, 2013)

This is an excellent, challenging and in-depth look at the history of the use of silence both in worship and in the wider church from Old Testament times to the current day. The author considered the questions: "How should one speak to God?" "Are our prayers more likely to be heard if we offer them quietly at home or loudly in church?" "How do we really know God is listening?" It is important to realize that there have been both positive forms of personal and communal silence and, sadly, darker forms of enforced silence imposed by the church to silence people who disagreed with church thinking or its power.

2. *Paris, Edward Rutherfurd*  
(Doubleday, USA, 2013)

Rutherfurd has written a number of superb and generally lengthy historical novels. *Paris* is a wonderful and powerful novelized story of the history of Paris following four different

families, who are at different levels of wealth and power, as they intertwine both positively and negatively with each other across the centuries. It centres around the building of the Eiffel Tower, and life during the Belle Epoque of Paris and then reflects back on history from there.

3. *The Divine Dance – The Trinity and your Transformation*,  
Richard Rohr  
(SPCK, London, 2016)

One of the best books I have ever read on seeking to give meaning and relevance in our lives, of the working of the Holy Trinity of God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It may sound heavy and boring, but I found it to be inspiring and a surprisingly enjoyable read. For me, one of the best reads this year!

4. *Talking to My Country*,  
Stan Grant  
(HarperCollins, Aus, 2016)

An excellent, very honest memoir about the pain and anger of growing up as Aboriginal in an essentially white Australia. Stan is a well-known reporter and TV presenter. He is a Wiradjuri man and grew up in country NSW. These are his very personal reflections on race, identity and the disempowerment of Aboriginal people throughout history. It is definitely a book that all Australians should read.

5. *George's Ghosts – Life of W B Yeats*, Brenda Maddox  
(Picador Macmillan, Aust, 2016)

Brenda writes brilliantly on one of the most written about, but least understood, literary giants of the 20th century. He is William Butler Yeats, Nobel Prize Laureate for Literature, a superb poet, ardent Irish nationalist, passionate about love and life, and a very flawed human being. This biography follows his unusual relationship with his

wife. To maintain and control her marriage in some degree of happiness, she decided to take on the role of an occult "voice from the other side" to guide Yeats in his writing and their sexual life through the "automatic writing" diaries she kept and which were only released late last century. I knew little about Yeats, but after reading this biography I was impelled to read some of his great poetry.

6. *The Gospels Speak*  
Dorothy Lee  
(Paulist Press, Aust, 2017)

An inventive look at the Gospels through the lens of several life questions which don't always have easy answers. Dorothy explores the meaning of suffering and evil through the lens of Mark's Gospel; the issues of fear and anxiety through the lens of Matthew's Gospel; the quest for meaning in life through St John's Gospel, and the search for divine purpose in life through St Luke's Gospel. It should be relatively easy reading even for the novice and has an excellent Foreword, Introduction and Conclusion to get bite sized tastes of the whole.

7. *The Dry*, Jane Harper  
(Pan Macmillan, Aust, 2016)

A superb debut murder/mystery novel set to become a bestseller. The story is set in a fictional present-day town in drought-ridden North Western Victoria and uncovers the awful secrets and dysfunctional relationships that erupt to dangerous levels when a one-time resident and now city detective returns to town, after many years, for a visit. Read and enjoy, if you have not already done so!

8. *The Blood of Lorraine*,  
Barbara Corrado Pope  
(Pegasus Books, USA, 2010)

This is Barbara's second murder mystery set in 19th Century France. This story is set in the large prosperous town of Nancy on the troubled border between France and the rising power of Germany and explores the vicious growing anti-semitism spurred on by the now infamous Dreyfus Affair. A baby's murder leads to accusations of ritual Jewish sacrifice and more murders cause dangerous currents throughout the Christian and Jewish communities in Nancy. A great read!

I hope at least one of these suggestions will stir and inspire your summer reading.

*The Rev'd David Head is  
Rector at Morwell.*

## Diocesan calendar

Second Saturday of each month: Corinella Community Market, 8:00 – 1:00 pm, Hughes Reserve, Corinella. Details: 0435736510

### December

- 10 11:30 am Opening of exhibition "Seasons of Birth and Creativity" by Jazz and Samuel Dow, Delbridge Hall at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale (see page 11)
- 16 9:30 am Special Session of Synod, followed by lunch and 1:00 pm Farewell Eucharist with the laying up of the pastoral staff by Bishop Kay Goldsworthy
- 17 7:30 – 9:00 pm Community Carols in the Old Shire Hall, Mirboo North
- 17 8:00 pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, St Paul's Cathedral, Sale
- 17 8:00 pm Festival of lessons and carols featuring Jim Connelly's Gippsland Carol at St Thomas, Bunyip

### SUMMER MISSIONS

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

### January

- 7 9:30 am Stations Of the Nativity at Bunyip. We use the original paintings of Shane Merry
- 22 5:30 pm – 3:30pm Thursday 25 "Simply Alive!" a gentle, creative space to begin the year. Led by Dean Susanna Pain, at The Abbey, Raymond Island. To book or further information contact The Abbey Phone: (03) 5156 6580 Email: [info@theabbey.org.au](mailto:info@theabbey.org.au)

### February

- 4 9:30 am Candlemas at Bunyip: the ancient ceremonies of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple
- 4 10:30 am Farewell for the Rev'd Jo White and Celebration of Centenary of laying of Foundation Stone at Holy Trinity, Yarram. Service will be followed by gourmet barbeque lunch.



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Applications are to be received no later than Wednesday, 10 January 2017 at 5:00 pm AWST.