

The Gippsland Anglican

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“One who serves”

Jan Down

The Venerable Sue Jacka was collated as Archdeacon of the Western Region at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale, during a service of Evensong on the afternoon of 10 February.

Over a hundred people attended the service, including members of Sue's close and extended family, friends, clergy and others from across the diocese.

The Order for Evening Prayer was taken from the *Book of Common Prayer*, 1662, and from *A Prayer Book for Australia*, 1995, with sung responses led by Dean Susanna Pain, and the singing of selections from Psalm 119 led by the Rev'd Dean Spalding. A choir of people from around the diocese led the congregational singing.

Before the service began, and again during the prayers read by the Rev'd David

Head, a PowerPoint presentation showed photos from around the parishes of the Western Region bringing the churches to life.

In his sermon (preached on the Jubilee of his ordination), Archdeacon Clem Watts focused particularly on Jesus' words in Luke 22 where, at his last supper with the disciples he said, "I am among you as one who serves". A deacon, Clem noted, is one who serves, just as Jesus did throughout his three years of public ministry.

He explained that the Greek word for a servant is *doulos*, literally, a slave – one who is pledged or bound to serve. In Exodus 21, Clem reminded the congregation, there is a law concerning slaves, which says that if a slave who is about to be set free declares love for the master, and refuses to be freed, then the master should pierce the ear of the slave, who then becomes a slave for life.

Clem then suggested that

Sue's collation was like a metaphorical ear-piercing, making her a slave or servant of Christ for life. He quoted from a hymn by Frances Ridley Havergal, alluding to the same Exodus passage:

*I love, I love my Master,
I will not go out free
For He is my Redeemer;
He paid the price for me.*

Archdeacon Edie Ashley then presented Sue to Bishop Richard Treloar for her collation. Sue made her solemn promises, the Registrar, the Rev'd Brian Norris read the licence, and Bishop Richard duly collated Sue as Archdeacon of the Western Region.

As Sue was presented to the people, there was joyful applause.

Following the service, the congregation enjoyed further fellowship over a collation of another sort: a celebratory supper in the Delbridge Hall.

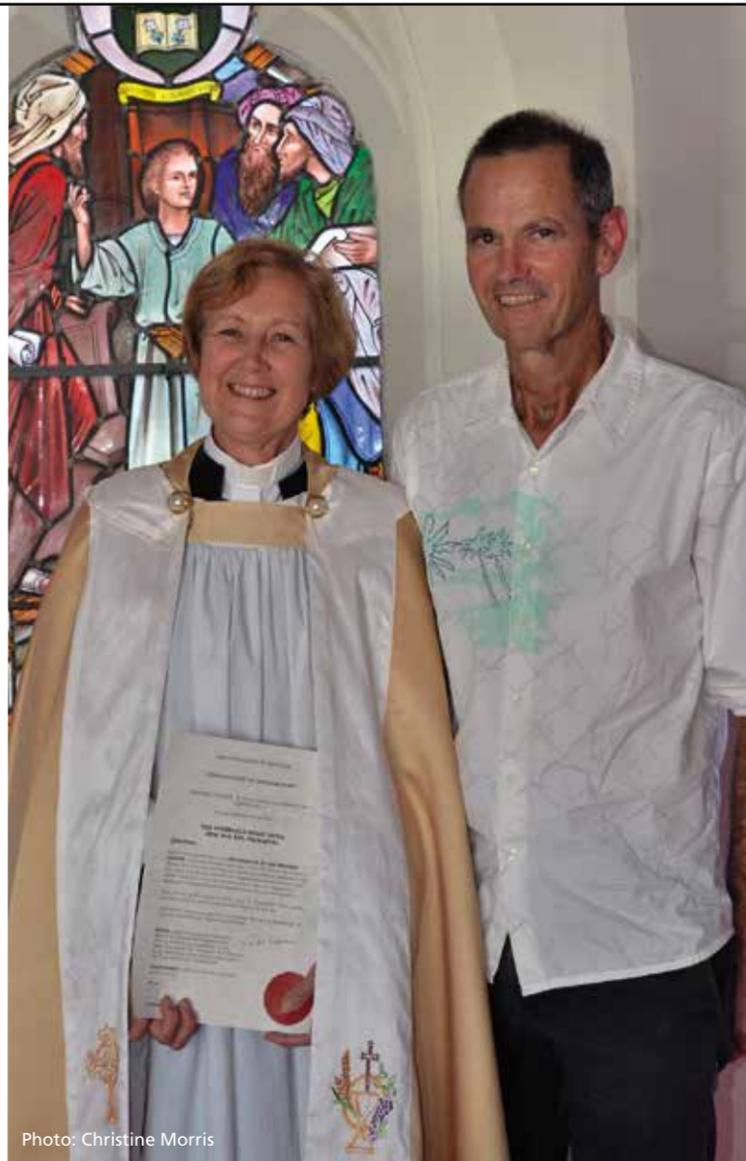


Photo: Christine Morris

The Ven Sue Jacka, and her husband Ross Jacka

Prayers and care as fires came close

Jan Down



Grantville fire, looking towards Glen Forbes Road, taken by Diana Wilson (parishioner of Bass / Phillip Island) from her front verandah

Fires came close to several Gippsland towns in February, while in January, a huge fire just south of Rosedale burned through at least 11,000 ha of native bush and pine plantations.

The Rev'd Colin Oakley from Westernport parish said the early February fire near Grantville "got to the edge of the Bass Highway" before it was contained by the CFA.

The Rev'd Jo White spoke with members of her parish of Bass / Phillip Island (mainly from St Paul's Bass) who were worried, as the fire was so close they could hear it as well as seeing the flames.

Jo said there were some losses of stock and pasture,

as well as wildlife. One woman who regularly sees 30 kangaroos grazing on her property in the mornings saw only three the day after the fire.

Jo and her husband Ken were in Melbourne on Friday 1 February and had to stay overnight, as roads were blocked. They were able to return home on Saturday morning in time for Jo to take a funeral scheduled for 1:00 pm.

Another fire that started near Walhalla, also early in February, came dangerously close to Toongabbie where Mark Woods, a parishioner at Tralralgon, lives with his wife Kim.

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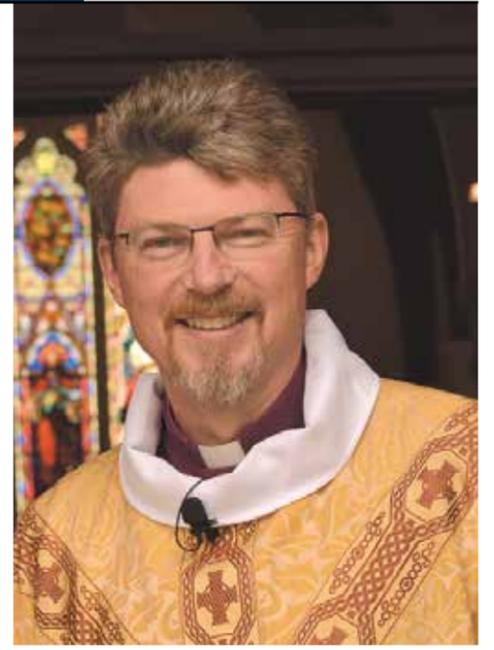
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Seasons and places



Bishop Richard Treloar

Autumn. Possibly my favourite season: the weather; the footy; our first-born's birthday; Lent and Easter (in the southern hemisphere at least). Relief from the fires, we hope; relief from the drought, we pray. Autumn.

Over summer I read *The Shepherd's Life: A Tale of the Lake District*. It's an illuminating third-generation account of the art and science of farming the fells in England's north. Reviewing it for *The New York Times*, Michiko Kakutani describes it as "A book about continuity and roots and a sense of belonging in an age that's increasingly about mobility and self-invention".

James Rebanks' endearing work has just four chapters – Summer, Autumn, Winter, Spring – and an Introduction: "Hefted". Hefted is an adjective describing livestock that have become accustomed and attached to an area of upland pasture. It comes from an Old Norse word meaning "tradition".

Mobility and self-invention

are indeed badges of honour in our culture. We pride ourselves on being self-made, *sui generis*. Yet the Judeo-Christian tradition challenges the idea that we have no story other than that which we choose, or create for ourselves. Rather, we are shaped and formed by the great stories that have, in a sense, chosen us.

Rebanks cites a poem by Indigenous Australian writer Oodgeroo Noonuccal, part of which reads: "The past is all about us and within / ... I know this little present / Is not the all of me, whose long making / Is so much of the past". (From *The Dawn is at Hand* 1992).

Our First Nations peoples live and breathe this intrinsic connection between tradition and place, both of which have their seasons. So too, in a different way, do our farmers.

In the "postmodern anywhere" of the West, as in cyberspace, being "hefted" or attached to a particular set of formative stories

and practices that are grounded in specific places is often regarded as a constraint, an impediment to liberty. In contrast, Rebanks describes "a rooted freedom", participation in a common weal as a function of a community based relationship with land, and with seasons, and with stories and practices that show us who we are.

This is not to say we should stay put in one location, of course. Movement has always been part of being human, and Christians are a pilgrim people. "Place" is about more than geography; place can be sacred space, to which we may stay connected even as we move.

The experience of worship bears this out: whenever and wherever we gather for Eucharist there is really only one altar-table, one sanctuary, one communion. That "sacramental everywhere" is among the greatest gifts of belonging to the Church catholic, or universal.

The season of Lent calls

"'Place' is about more than geography; place can be sacred space, to which we may stay connected even as we move."

us to make a journey: a journey from what is comfortable and familiar; a journey towards our true home in the body of the Crucified and Risen one. Along the way we hear again the stories – engage once more in the rituals and practices – that tell us who and whose we are, and remind us of our "long making" in "this little now".

In the footsteps of him whose service is perfect freedom, may our Lenten journey see us hefted more and more to the cross and empty tomb – that rock from which we're hewn.

+RM

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Prayer Diary: around the parishes

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

BUNYIP
(ESPISCOPAL DISTRICT)
WESTERN REGION

St Thomas
Locum Priest:
The Rev'd Ken Parker

Little by little we are renewing our connections with the community. The recent Black Saturday Fires commemoration showed us this. May we find greater confidence in this regard. Our monthly pop-up op-shop celebrates a year of life and has found a place in people's interest. We need your prayers for our mentor program with the Bunyip Primary School which Ruth and Raelene are co-ordinating. Pray for our ministry at the

Hillview Aged Care Hostel and our search for a house for our priest: for wisdom and courage. Our spirituality days and Bunyip Lectures continue – pray for continued interest and support.

CHURCHILL / BOOLARRA /
YINNAR
WESTERN REGION

Cooperating churches in Churchill
Christ Church, Boolarra
Uniting Church, Yinnar
Minister: Peter Carter

Our focus over the last few years has been in better connecting with our community. Our relationship with the Churchill Neighbourhood Centre continues to grow, with

church members playing pivotal roles on the Community Garden Group and in the Community Café. Several church members also serve at the breakfast program at Churchill Primary School.

We have a stall at the monthly Lion's Market and on IGA Market Days. The monthly Coffee Connections group gives us a chance to build on new and existing relationships. Ministry to children is important to us, with youth groups, school holiday programs, Easter and Christmas Club programs as well as a Christmas Eve Crib Service.

We are heartened to know we have a new minister who plans to continue our

outreach and church building aims. We pray for God's leading and guidance for our parish into the future

CORNER INLET
SOUTHERN REGION

Christ Church, Foster
St Thomas, Toora
Union Church, Fish Creek
Transfiguration, Hedley
Sandy Point
Rector: The Rev'd Tim Fletcher

Our op shop is struggling against new and bigger op shops. The congregation at Foster remains constant, but smaller centres are under pressure. We have had a lovely summer of visitors and missions. We are strongly reliant on cooperating ministries with other denominations in local congregations.



Michael Vanderree (Churches of Christ Victoria), Peter Carter, and Des Parker (Uniting Church Presbytery Chair) joined Bishop Richard in signing the Covenant

leadership are always matters for careful negotiation, both for the parish and for our Bishop with other denominational leaders, requiring a considerable degree of grace. As Bishop Richard said, "Cooperating parishes are mirrors – reflecting our essential unity in Christ; and they are lamps – showing the way to the more visible unity to which we aspire".

We pray God's blessing on Peter's future ministry among us.

The Rev'd David Head is Rector of Morwell and Regional Dean of the Western Region.

Judith Lake for Heyfield

The Rev'd Judith Lake has been appointed as Priest-in-Charge of the Parish of Heyfield. Judith has served since 2011 as Honorary Deacon and Associate Priest at St Stephen's Richmond, combining this ministry with hospital chaplaincy, and as the Mothers' Union Chaplain in the Diocese of Melbourne.

Her induction will take place after Easter, at a date to be advised.

Peter Carter inducted at Churchill

David Head

The Cooperating Parish of Churchill / Boolarra / Yinnar celebrated the joyous induction of their new Minister, Peter Carter, on Sunday 17 February at 3:00 pm in Churchill itself.

Peter is a Churches of Christ Pastor, who will live in the clergy house at Boolarra with his wife Tracy and three daughters. He was previously a motor mechanic by trade and has just finished his Bachelor of Ministry through the Bible College of Victoria. Already fully accredited, he is to be ordained in the Churches of Christ in May.

The induction service was led by the Rev'd Michael Vanderree, Community Team Leader, Churches of Christ VIC/TAS. He began with a Communion Service and then delivered a sermon on "Equipping for Ministry", using some interesting examples of the minister being a bone setter, a fishing

net mender and a solver of puzzles in congregational work. He stressed to the congregation (in a Monty Python allusion) that Peter is just human and not the Messiah!

Bishop Richard Treloar together with Michael Vanderree and Uniting Church Presbytery Chair, Des Parker, signed the Covenant of Cooperation between the churches. Bishop Richard then welcomed Peter to the region on behalf of the Anglican Diocese. Peter hopes to be a regular part of the Western Regional Deanery meetings when he can.

This parish is an unusual example of what is becoming more common in today's Church. As a cooperating

parish, it is unusual in that it began life 52 years ago as one, right from its foundation.

A cooperating parish is one in which local congregations, most commonly Anglican and Uniting Church, have combined so as to work together under a Memorandum of Understanding for ministry and governance called a Covenant.

There are three cooperating parishes in the Anglican Diocese of Gippsland, the other two being Neerim South and Croajingolong (though other parishes may have individual centres that function ecumenically or have covenanted relationships with ecumenical partners). Both currently have Anglican clergy as their ministers.

Such arrangements require significant preparation, discussion and collaboration as to the best use of existing church facilities, housing for the clergy and the appropriate ministry required to meet the needs of all participating traditions. Usually such ministry is shared, by rotation of clerical appointment between the participating denominations.

The issues of different styles of sacramentality, models of ministry and lay



Parish Council and Elders pray for Peter Carter

GIPPSLAND DIOCESE VACANCIES

SOUTHERN REGION

- Mirboo North
- Yarram



Be a part of supporting the Aboriginal Ministry Fund

The AMF exists to resource employment of Aboriginal people in ministry; training of Aboriginal people for ministry; development of Aboriginal ministry in the community; the planting of Aboriginal churches; education of the Diocese about Aboriginal issues.

Be a part of achieving these aims.

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Asylum Seekers project

Carolyn Raymond
Morwell

Every parish across the Diocese has this decision to make every year. At St Mary's we discuss the possibilities and make the decision at our Annual Meeting in November. Which group will we support financially in the coming year? This is an opportunity to learn about many groups who are aiming to support people in need.

At the end of last year as a parish we chose to raise money this year for the Asylum Seeker Centre in Dandenong. On Sunday 20 January, the founder of the organization, David Spitteler and his wife Yvonne, travelled down to Morwell to tell us more about the work of the Centre.

The Asylum Seeker Centre works to support asylum seekers, many of whom are



David Spitteler (left) speaking to Jenny and Rob Roy at morning tea

on a bridging visa which does not permit them to work. They receive less than Newstart Allowance, which is about half the pension. This makes living in our communities very difficult.

The centre runs a food bank and distributes food packs, food vouchers and toiletries. At the end of last year they had 501 asylum seekers registered. They came from Myanmar (many are Rohingya), Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Iran

and many other countries.

All the workers at the centre are voluntary and all funding is donated. Much of the funding comes from churches and service clubs.

The centre also provides placements for secondary age students doing work experience and tertiary students doing research. We are pleased to support this amazing organization. We have become part of the church in action.



Photo: Christine Morris

Val Jones (left) celebrating with Grace Gray on Grace's 100th birthday in Sale in 2015

Valerie Jones – a tribute

1937 – 2019

Valerie Jones, former wife of Bishop Arthur Jones, died in January. Archdeacon Ted Gibson OAM reflects on her time in Gippsland.

Hearing the news of Valerie Jones' death immediately brought back memories of the visit to Bishops court, Sale, three years after she had returned from Albany for a family event and were invited to morning tea. It was a cold day but the welcome was warm, there was a blazing fire in the lounge room and the scones were straight from the oven.

Valerie's background in catering served her well and in her twelve years in Sale she was to the forefront in coping with many large events both at the Cathedral and at Bishops court. She had an amazing ability to gather helpers around her and in the process of working together they became firm friends.

Being a country woman, she related well to people all over Gippsland and beyond and her three year term as National President of the Anglican Women of Australia was memorable. The Lambeth Conference visit in 1998 revealed that Valerie could dine with royalty yet keep the common touch.

The Bishops court years were notable for being full of activity both inside and

out with many visitors and fundraising dinners. Shade houses were constructed in the gardens, and the site was registered as a Quiet Garden for people to come by arrangement to stay for short visits. With the grounds around Bishops court having been sub-divided and sold to provide an endowment for the upkeep of Bishops court, the area was smaller than the previous horse paddock era. Valerie also arranged Quiet days in different parts of the Diocese.

There were many facets to her life: she described herself as a "wheeler and dealer"; she loved arts and crafts; and a day out at the races was a treat. People came to Bishops court who had never been there before and the fundraisers for the various causes were memorable.

For her 70th birthday the Kilmany church ladies drove all the way to Dubbo to share it with her – friends for life. In her retirement years she came back from Canberra to share in Cathedral parishioner, Grace Gray's 100th birthday at the Cathedral.

Truly she was too dearly loved to be forgotten. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Thanks to Ro Verspaandonk

Sale

Ro Verspaandonk has retired after 25 years of children's ministry at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale, as well as many years in other churches.

At a service in January, Ro was presented with flowers and a booklet containing photos of her activities with the children over the years, memories and messages of thanks.

Christine Morris, who has worked with Ro in children's ministry at St Paul's Cathedral and at summer holiday programs, said that what

stood out most was Ro's creativity. There were always visual aids or 3D props to help bring Bible stories to life. Tables were turned upside down to make boats, red cellophane represented fire, and story characters were created from cardboard tubes. One particularly memorable activity was the time Ro and the children built a room-sized castle from refrigerator boxes.

Christine said that with Ro "Everything was done big and bold and hands-on", and that "she has had a real passion for

the children and their families, and was also very prayerful".

Ro's husband was the Rev'd Joseph Maria (Josh) Verspaandonk, who migrated from Holland (the Netherlands) in 1950, coming to Gippsland in 1975 where he ministered in the parishes of Orbost, Rosedale and Lakes Entrance / Metung until retiring early due to ill health in 1992. He died in 2014. Josh, too, was known for his story-telling ability and he and Ro worked as a team.



Photo: Christine Morris

Ro Verspaandonk presented with flowers and booklet at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale



After the confirmation of Matt John (centre, in front of Bishop Richard) at St Peter's Mallacoota

Confirmation and curry with the Bishop

**Jude Benton
Croajingolong**

Over the weekend of 19 – 20 January, Bishop Richard, along with son Nick, made his first official visit to the Parish of Croajingolong, which was greatly appreciated by the congregations.

On the Saturday night they participated in our second “Dinner, Prayer and Praise” service in Cann River. This new initiative came out of the need to provide an alternative time to worship for families who work on Sunday mornings.

Sixteen people gathered together for an informal time of Bible reading, worship and prayer. In lieu of a sermon, people were encouraged to discuss the reading over a pot-luck dinner which included the host family’s beautiful home-made curry.

It was fantastic to see people from both Mallacoota and Cann River sharing together, encouraging each other, and then praying for the communities in which we live and minister.

When Bishop Richard closed the evening with a blessing, he reinforced that this is an authentic way of being church, and an initiative to be supported into the future.

On Sunday morning we then met at St Peter’s Mallacoota for a confirmation service of 12 year old Matt John. This was the first confirmation in the parish since 1992! At the start of the service I interviewed Matt who shared openly about his faith in the God who is always present with him, and in particular how much the recent SUFM (Scripture Union Family Mission) had meant to him.

Following the service, we concluded the weekend with yet more food and conversation – a barbeque lunch at Betka beach. This was not only a great way to conclude a weekend with the Bishop, but also to showcase to him this most beautiful part of his diocese in the hope he will return soon.

The Rev’d Jude Benton is Priest-in-Charge at Croajingolong.



Singing at the Cann River “Dinner, Prayer and Praise” service

Richard Connelly appointed Registrar

Bishop Richard Treloar has announced the appointment of Mr Richard Connelly as the next Registrar of the Diocese of Gippsland.

Richard will take up this new role on 1 July, following the retirement of the Rev’d Brian Norris on 30 June. In the meantime, Richard will undertake some project work for the Diocese on a part-time basis, getting to know the workings of the Registry Office and working with Brian and the Registry staff to enable a smooth handover.

Richard commented, “I am conscious of the great legacy of Brian Norris, who has served the Diocese faithfully and well over such a long period. It is very humbling to consider the shoes I am to fill, and I look forward to the challenges and opportunities this role will bring”.

Richard is currently the Deputy Director of Professional Standards in Gippsland, Deputy Chair of the Board of St Paul’s Anglican Grammar School, and is an active, worshipping member of St Paul’s Anglican Church in Warragul, where he has served as a Warden and Treasurer.

He has extensive experience in governance and law, having held professional positions in Child Protection, and as the Principal and business manager of a law firm providing family law services.

Richard grew up in Gippsland, the son of the Rev’d Canon Dr James (Jim) and Anne Connelly, and is a former student of Gippsland Grammar. He is married to Annette, and they have three children: Lucy, Simon and Tom.

Having come to faith at an Easter youth camp at Lake Tyers in his teens, Richard holds fond memories of hiking programs across the Bogong High Plains, and celebrating the Eucharist on the summit of Mt Hotham with Bishop Chynoweth, who would come to meet the hikers each year. Richard is still a keen bushwalker and cyclist.



Richard Connelly

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Around the Diocese



Games with Josh Hasan (back, centre) at Thorpdale

craft activities. Josh Hasan, youth and families pastor at the church, provided games and outdoor activities for those with boundless energy.

We used two stories from Australian author Andrew McDonough which employ fun cartoon-like characters to emphasize helpful teaching. *Claudia the Caterpillar* is all about change, while *Echidnas on Everest* is how we can all be a little spiky sometimes, but we need to get along.

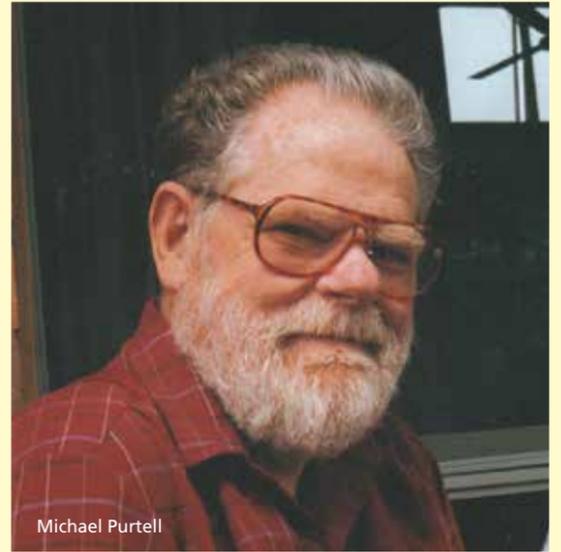
These stories provided a simple path to letting the children (and their parents) know that God loves them and wants to be their friend. The water play in the last half hour was great fun ... and a good way to cool down!

For a special treat this year, we enjoyed freshly made donuts in the first four days as Pam and Colin Watters from Dolby in Queensland were visiting Josh and brought along their donut equipment.

A wonderful team of volunteers assisted in making the program a success, including adults from the parish or community, with many years experience, and teenage helpers.

These holiday programs generate very positive feedback both from the families involved and from the wider community who see the church doing something tangibly helpful in the community. They provide new members for our weekly Kids Church (JAFFA) and we often have thoughtful conversations with the parents who come along.

The Ven Sue Jacka is Archdeacon of the Western Region and Rector of Trafalgar.



Vale Michael Purtell

1936 – 2018

The Rev'd Michael Edward Purtell served as a priest in the Gippsland Diocese for nineteen years, from 1963 until he retired in 1982.

Archdeacon Allan Huggins remembers him as a very dedicated and faithful priest, as well as a practical one. Allan and Jan got to know Michael and Fay when they came to Leongatha, and they have kept in touch with the family.

Archdeacon Ted Gibson remembers the time when he and Annabel called in on the rectory at Stratford, when Michael and his wife Fay had just moved in. Although they were still unpacking their furniture, Michael was out in the rectory paddock, with the tractor, digging up the soil to establish his vegetable garden. Ted thought it said something important about Michael's relationship with the land.

Ted also commented that Michael had a clear understanding that in the Anglican church, the basic unit is the Diocese, within which the parishes cluster. Michael encouraged his parishioners to connect with other parishes because he "had a Diocesan mind".

Michael was deaconed in 1959 and ordained priest in the Diocese of Armidale in 1960. He served in Quirindi and Tamworth parishes as a curate, then came to Gippsland as rector of the parish of Stratford, serving there from 1963 – 1969. He also served as prison chaplain during this time.

From 1969 – 1976, Michael was rector of Leongatha, and was then was appointed school chaplain at Traralgon High School in 1976. He retired in 1982 for health reasons. His wife Fay faithfully cared for him for the remainder of his life.

The family moved from Traralgon to Frankston, and in later years Michael was cared for in Village Baxter.

Michael died in February 2018 and his funeral took place in St Luke's Frankston on 27 February, 2018. His ashes will be interred in the memorial garden at St Luke's Frankston.

Kids Holiday Club

Sue Jacka
Trafalgar

parish, starting at Yarragon, then Trafalgar and concluding in Thorpdale.

Trafalgar parish once again held a six day series of kids' activities across the three towns in the

The weather was hot and so a good number of children enjoyed indoor games and

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Top 5 tips to achieve your money goals in 2019

Budget

Work out where your money is going! Start with the essential costs like rent or mortgage, food, bills and transport, then allocate money for any debts.

Savings

Having savings set aside will help cover you in case of an emergency. Set up an automatic recurring payment to regularly transfer money into a high-interest savings account that is hard to withdraw from.

Debts

Break down what you owe into manageable chunks by prioritising what you can pay first.

You could start by making extra repayments on your smallest debt first then move on to the next smallest, and so on.

Super

If your super is spread out across multiple funds, you are paying multiple sets of fees that are reducing your balance. Your super is your nest egg for your future, so why not start the year by consolidating your super

into one fund so you pay less fees and grow your lump sum faster

Think about contributing extra to your super to grow your balance.

Invest

It's best to choose an investment based on how long you are prepared to have your money tied up. Growth assets like shares and property that usually have better long-term returns, can be more volatile in the short term.

By putting a good plan in place and committing to keeping your money on the right course,

you are more likely to achieve your 2019 goals!

For more tips please contact Julie Irving DMG Financial on 1300 WEADVISE Source : MoneySmart January 2019

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The Rev'd Dr John Batt (far left) and others outside the new Op Shop / Ministry Centre on Opening Day

Neerim South Op Shop – one year young!

Forty plus folk gathered on the evening of Saturday 15 December to celebrate the first anniversary of the official opening of the new Op Shop / Ministry Centre at Neerim South. Bishop Richard Treloar also came to meet and join in with parishioners, volunteers and friends of the Op Shop.

The Rev'd Dr John Batt and Parish Council Chairperson Mrs Beth Delzoppo spoke, acknowledging the contribution by the Anglican Diocese of Gippsland and Bishop-in-Council for making available trust moneys to complete the job after costs unexpectedly mounted because of the abandonment of the project

by the original builder. They thanked the Uniting Church for allowing the proceeds of the sale of the old Methodist Church site in Main Neerim Road to be used as part of the seeding money for the project in conjunction with other Anglican Trust moneys held for the Parish of Neerim South.

Bishop Richard congratulated Parish Council for stepping out in faith and committing to the project. The building is completed and the repayment of the loan from the Gippsland Diocese has begun. The Bishop thanked the volunteer workers for making the Op Shop such a place of welcome and hospitality.

A birthday cake was produced and happy birthday was sung with much gusto. A hearty supper in typical Neerim South tradition with way too much food was enjoyed by all, a fitting testimony to the spirit of generosity which has been a hallmark of the Neerim South Op Shop since its inception.

The recent installation of LED lighting in the church and the imminent addition of solar panels and battery system to the Op Shop / Ministry Centre will also help maximize the profits of the Op Shop so that the good work that the volunteers are doing will not go to paying power bills.

Safe Ministry in Gippsland

Val Jones

Every person has the right to be safe in the Anglican Church. Sadly, this has not been the case. The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse has exposed the extent of abuse in our Church. Not only have individuals been irretrievably damaged but, worse still, Church organizations and practices have enabled that abuse. All this has happened in our Church – and on our watch.

The wound lies deep in our hearts and our sorrow is fathomless. Clearly things must change.

The Anglican Church of Australia has responded to the Royal Commission by setting up the Safe Ministry Commission. This group is working through all the recommendations of the Royal Commission and has, thus far, produced new screening and referee documents as well as *The Safe Ministry to Children Canon 2017*. Gippsland has been quick to respond to the Canon's requirement that

each Diocese set up a Safe Ministry Authority (SMA).

The SMA met for the first time in January. It comprises: Val Jones (Chair), the Rev'd Tracy Laursen (Deputy Chair), the Rev'd David Perryman (Minutes), Cheryl Russell (Director of Professional Standards), Jill Wood, the Rev'd Brenda Burney, the Rev'd Brian Norris and the Rev'd Jenny Ramage.

The task of the SMA is to ensure people are safe in our Diocese – especially children and the vulnerable. We are initially focused on

screening of people – clergy and laity. Expect to see much wider screening and referee checking. We are also looking at compliance. Expect to see regular updating of licences and authorities. We will also be looking at training and support. Expect to see

much more child safety training and more online resources.

We need all your support and prayers as we chart new waters and strive to change the culture and practice of our church. This is no small task – but it is imperative that we get it right.



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Easter Pilgrimage to the Abbey

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The Abbey is a sacred place, a place that speaks of the wonder of God and of God's creation. It is a vulnerable and fragile environment that holds in its embrace those who come to spend time on its shores. It is a place for reflection and contemplation, for walking and appreciating the journey from Maundy Thursday to Easter morning, through the cross to new life.

The liturgies of Easter – of death and new life, of crucifixion to resurrection, commence on Thursday evening, 18 April and conclude on Sunday morning 21 April. Step by step, they take us personally on the journey, to the place of deep engagement, great passion and a surprising celebration of resurrection.

There will be a Eucharist and foot-washing on Thursday evening, a Good Friday morning service, Stations of the Cross Friday afternoon, Easter Light Service on Easter Eve (Saturday night) and Eucharist on the morning of Easter Day.

Some of the services will be held at St Peter's by the Lake, Paynesville; others at The Abbey on Raymond Island. You will be sharing the journey with people from St Peter's, with Bishop Richard and the family on Saturday evening and Sunday morning and others who visit for the Easter celebrations.

These few days are not all church services and liturgies though – there is also space for a little time out. Paynesville (just across on the ferry from The Abbey) is abuzz with festivities at this time of the year, while Raymond Island is an ideal place to explore, and to spot the koalas, kangaroos and echidna.

We'd love to see you at The Abbey for Easter.

Bookings: The Abbey: info@theabbey.org.au or phone (03) 5156 6580

Cost per person twin share: \$262

Cost per person single: \$475. Breakfast included.



Kids' Min

Photo: Carol Monson



Coralie Esbert welcomes children to a new year of SALT Club

Warragul children's ministry

SALT Club Coralie Esbert

"SALT (Serve, Act, Live, and Testify) Club is an integral part of children's ministry at Warragul Anglican Church. SALT Club's mission is to help our children know God, understand the Bible, pray and witness to others about Jesus. Children also develop lasting relationships with their peers helping them to feel secure and connected within the church.

SALT Club runs throughout school terms, where the children are invited to participate in the program whilst the family

service (9:45am) is running. We are blessed with a large group of children, 35 in all, who are divided into age-appropriate groups for the sessions.

Leaders who are involved in SALT Club are passionate, committed, and caring members of our Church. All our leaders are trained and accredited as Safe Church leaders. We work together to ensure that the children are safe and happy.

Children from 2 years old to 13 years old are invited to participate in SALT Club. At the end of Year 7, children are then able to transition

into Youth Group and other church ministries.



mainly music in full swing

This term the children are exploring the themes of God's creation, hope and salvation, and Jesus' love for us, through a variety of engaging and fun activities, crafts, songs, and stories. At the centre of every session is God's word as we read and learn from the Bible together.

We look forward to God's continued blessing on this ministry, as well as the children and leaders involved.

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mainly music Deepthy Blanchard

The Warragul *mainly music* ministry is a blessing to our community and our team. It is not merely an affordable music playgroup where all sing and dance, followed by the adults enjoying a cuppa while the kids play. Parents value the safe environment and they relish the delicious morning tea lovingly made by members of our congregation.

We have seen lifelong friendships being made and children develop through musical interaction with their parents/carers. Families benefit from the cross-generational interactions between children, parents and team members.

Alongside these joyous moments we have stood beside families and cared for them during times of hardship – from

being a listening ear, giving a warm hug or meal or doing a load of their laundry, to urgent babysitting.

All of this also applies to the team itself. Every term, week and session, we focus on being the salt and light amongst the largely unchurched group of attendees. In doing so, we ourselves have grown in faith, pastoral care and evangelism. God has carried us through year after year, and whenever we felt tired or questioned our effectiveness in ministering to these people, God has repeatedly shown us that He is planting seeds.



Photo: Carol Monson

Drama activity at SALT Club, Warragul Anglican Church



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Rwanda – extraordinary and memorable



2018 Year 12 St Paul's Anglican Grammar School student Lauren Clark playing a game with local Rwandan children during her service tour in lieu of "schoolies" late last year

Six students from Gippsland Grammar and two from St Paul's Anglican Grammar School travelled with

teachers Peter Ries (Gippsland Grammar) and Coralie Esbert (St Paul's) to Rwanda on a service tour late last year in lieu

of attending "Schoolies" activities.

On the 18 day trip students taught Maths, English and Art at the local school in

Gahini and played sports such as football (soccer), basketball and skipping with the local children.

The students also painted blackboards for the schools, catalogued books at the library, visited the local hospital and new rehab centre and joined in choir practice and dancing with the "Rays of Hope Choir".

They travelled to Kayonza where they visited the markets including the Women's Opportunity Centre with different working stations of basket making, cheese making, yoghurt making and beading. They also visited the Genocide Memorial Museum in Kigali and learned about the area's painful history.

Lauren Clark (St Paul's) said "It is difficult to articulate the influence this trip can have on your outlook on life and how the acceptance, love and happiness these people can share for complete strangers can open your eyes to the ability we all have as individuals to be just as

accommodating, accepting, loving and willing to share such happiness with one another".

Coralie Esbert, Head of Year 9 at St Paul's Anglican Grammar School, and a member of St Paul's Anglican Church in Warragul, represented the Gippsland Anglican Diocese and was responsible for any religious activities, such as grace and prayers when the group were invited to people's homes – including Bishop Manasseh's home, Principal Luke's home, and the farewell dinner that was organized in their honour.

Coralie assisted with Bible readings during the church service and prayed with the Rwandan children and staff after sessions with the school students. She said, "I also spoke at length with Bishop Alexis and Bishop Manasseh to continue to enhance the Diocese's link with Gippsland Diocese. On behalf of the Gippsland Diocese we also took four projectors for the Rwandan church and parishes to use".

Anglicare Fare

Financial Counselling at Anglicare Victoria

Cathrine Muston, Anglicare Development Officer

Most of us would have some familiarity with the stress caused by the confluence of Christmas, summer holidays, school fees and books that hit us in December and January.

Credit card bills in February can deliver a blow as we realize how much we have spent, along with the electricity bill for the air conditioning that was so necessary over a hot summer. Most of us are able to budget and plan in order to minimize the impact, but sometimes other factors make that just impossible.

For those who have the added trauma of extended illness, disability, marriage breakdown, violence or abuse, the build-up of bills can seem overwhelming and insurmountable. At times like this, it is worth remembering that there is help available.

Anglicare Victoria's Financial Counselling program runs throughout the Diocese of Gippsland to provide support for those suffering financial hardship due to complex factors. Highly trained counsellors are able to assist those who are at

risk of losing their house, or being declared bankrupt.

The other Sunday I met Mike*. When he learned that I worked for Anglicare, his face lit up and he exclaimed, "Anglicare saved me!" It turns out that Mike's marriage had broken down, he was forced to leave his rental accommodation and he was struggling with repayment of debts accrued due to easy bank credit.

He was at a very low point and felt that there was no way out, and contemplated ending it all. Then he spoke to one of Anglicare's financial counsellors. She was able to help Mike



Chris Jones, financial counsellor, explaining how to use the Dollar Diary to Community Services Manager Michelle Tarant

to find a way out of the hole he was in and enable him to see that life could go on. She negotiated with the banks and other companies and soon had Mike back on track.

There are many such cases that our financial counsellors see on a daily basis. Assisting people who have fallen victim to unscrupulous lenders, or who have had personal circumstances compound their financial distress is all in a day's work.

If you, or someone you know, is struggling with debt, unable to pay bills or thinking about bankruptcy, then Anglicare Victoria's financial counsellors may be able to help. It is a free and confidential service available to people throughout Gippsland. To make an appointment to see one of our financial counsellors call 1800 286 260.

*not his real name

Dollar Diary

As a practical tool to assist people in managing their money, Anglicare Victoria

financial counsellor Chris Jones has developed the Dollar Diary. Chris noticed that there was a need for those who were working to get back in control of their spending – particularly those who were family violence survivors – with a way to keep records.

The result is a beautifully presented A5 sized book that has space for diary notes and helpful services as well as a handy monthly calendar with space for goals and records of spending. The diary enables you to keep a record of pay dates, when major bills and other expenses such as birthdays and celebrations are due so that it is easier to plan ahead and make the most of your money. The Dollar Diary is available free of charge. If you would like a copy for yourself or a friend, you can contact the Morwell office on 5135 9555.



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Time and songs in Lent



Dean Spalding suggests some ideas for biblical reflection and singing in Lent

There's a prayerful hymn "Lord of Creation" (*Together in Song* 626) in which the singer vows every dimension of their being to God – their praise, will, mind, and heart – their "all". One dimension of our "all", that we might re-dedicate as we pursue our Lenten calling, is our time.

Not just our minutes, hours and days – but also our very way of thinking about time. Lent, by its very nature as a forty-day fast, shapes our attitude to time. But this year, each of the six Lenten Sunday Gospel readings also offers to tinker with our attitude to time. Throughout Lent, sing "Love Will Be Our Lenten Calling" (*TiS* 684).

Lent 1 – Luke 4:1-15

Jesus in the wilderness where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. We are modern "get down to business" people. Would we ever spend such a considerable time at the beginning of something in spiritual warfare,

contemplation or prayer? Jesus' constant companion throughout this time is not the devil – it is the Spirit. The presence of the Holy Spirit sings like a refrain "bookending" the passage – "full of the holy Spirit", "led by the Spirit", "filled with the Spirit". Sing "Filled with the Spirit" (*TiS* 411).

Lent 2 – Luke 13:1-9

Time is now fleeting, so repent.

For some, through no fault of their own, time in this world is cut short. And so Jesus urges us to bear fruit worthy of repentance. The fruitless fig tree is living on borrowed time – it's wasting the soil. Come on tree! Look at the time! Sing "Softly and Tenderly".

Lent 3 – Luke 13:31-35

Jesus will not be harried or derailed by Herod's threats.

Jesus said to them, "Go and tell that fox, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and

performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem.'" Jesus, it seems, doesn't do "five-year plans" but rather "three-day plans". And our Lenten journey takes us toward his ultimate three-day plan. And no threat of Herod will stop our arrival at the glorious third day of that plan. Sing Sydney Carter's, "Said Judas to Mary" – it seems to draw much inspiration from this Gospel and the Gospel for Lent 5.

Lent 4 – Luke 15:11-32

The Parable of the Man with Two Sons.

On this Sunday we rejoice and are refreshed by the reading of the glorious "Gospel within the Gospel". So many elements to refine our conception of time. The danger of desiring something too quickly. The compassion of watching and waiting when time seems to pass too slowly. The folly of stalling out in the field – sitting with our futile resentments for too long. Google "The End of the Story of Sin and Forgiveness" (in inverted commas) and scroll to page 45 to get to some perfect hymn lyrics by Elizabeth Smith for this Parable (use tune *TiS* 263).

Lent 5 – John 12:1-8

Mary anoints Jesus.

We jump to John's Gospel for that liminal moment between the raising of Lazarus (John 11 – the "catalyst" for the Passion in John) – and the imminent hour in which Christ will be lifted up and glorified. Note the Lenten "signpost" – "She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial". Pentecost is also evoked if we read 12:8 ("but you do not always have me") with John 14:18 and 16:7. Sing "A Prophet Woman Broke a Jar" (*TiS* 696).

Lent 6 – Luke 19:28-40

The Entry into Jerusalem.

Another transitional or liminal moment – a hinge in time between Luke's account of Jesus' long journey to Jerusalem and the Passion. Sing "When His Time Was Over the Palms Lay Where They Fell" (*TiS* 357).

Lent slows us down and makes us aware of time in ways that call us to respond – sometimes with silence, stillness and waiting – sometimes with singing, repentance and action. But throughout, our attitude to time is changed – as we re-dedicate our lives to the Lord of time.

The Rev'd Dr Dean Spalding is Rector of Drouin.

EDITORIAL

Better thinking needed on mental health care

The Royal Commission into Mental Health is to be welcomed. There is clearly a need for such a deep and broad inquiry, even going by the number of submissions that have poured in, to help shape the terms of reference – 4,500 in less than a month, which, according to a report in *The Age* (17/1/19), is four times the number of people who made submissions to Victoria's Royal Commission into Family Violence.

Jane Anderson, Latrobe Health Advocate, last year named mental health as one of the three priorities for the next twelve months. In conversations with people in Latrobe, mental health and well-being was the most common issue raised.

Many people have pointed out the gaps in provision of care left after the closure of psychiatric hospitals and some community services. While we would not want to go back to the often cruel treatment and inappropriate institutionalisation of people that happened in the bad old days, we need more services in the community, so that people don't have to reach crisis point before receiving help.

More accommodation, and better, could save lives and lead to a better quality of life for many. Housing is needed where people with long-term, serious illnesses can have not only their mental health cared for, but their physical health and social well-being addressed with sensitivity and imagination.

If mental health care were properly funded, country areas could have something more to offer. Space, trees, animals and gardens to care for – all these could play an important part in recovery and well-being. Could we see group houses, properly staffed, on rural properties? We need to think bigger.

While certainly not a cure-all, the physical and mental health benefits of spending time in the natural world have been recognized.

Doctors in Scotland are now prescribing "bird watching, rambling and beach walks in the Atlantic winds" to help treat mental illness, diabetes, heart disease, stress and other conditions (*The Guardian* 5/10/18).

In Luke's telling of the sending out of the 70, Jesus charges them to "cure the sick" and tell the people that the Kingdom of God has come near. Healing remains part of the mission of the church. It makes most sense when we think of healing and salvation as wholeness of body and mind, which will be fully realized in the new creation.

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Black Saturday tenth anniversary

**Ken Parker
Bunyip**

The fires that devastated Victoria ten years ago had a lasting impact on the communities around Bunyip.

While no lives were lost, the fire in the Bunyip State Forest was a time of great distress and loss.

A major commemoration was held on the anniversary at Labertouche, which drew several hundred people.

A smaller number filled St Thomas' Church for an evening event of remembrance, story-telling and thanksgiving. The speakers enabled the

congregation to walk in the shoes of those who had experienced the terror and the grief.

Lt John Legione, who had commanded the Bunyip fire brigade on that day, spoke powerfully of the courage and determination of the fire fighters. Jaan Enden, a member of St. Thomas' church and a farmer at Labertouche, spoke publicly for the first time of how she and her late husband, Bruce, fought to save their house and animals.

Davina Veenstra from the Bunyip Community House told of the loving commitment of volunteers who provided support and sanctuary for victims of the fires in



Photo: Colin Oakley

After the fire, just south of Grantville, early February 2019

the days, weeks and months after the fires. George Fry, local historian, gave a remarkable bird's eye summing up of the traumatic time and expressed heart-felt appreciation of the fire brigade.

The Bunyip Singers, under the direction of Dorothy Myers, held the event together with a wonderful choice of songs. Members of the Uniting Church and Roman Catholic community also participated. Nobody was in a hurry to go home – everyone gathered under the trees for a drink and nibble.

The church was blessed by the tears of the night, the laughter and the conversation and a satisfying depth of community.

*The Rev'd Ken Parker is
Locum Priest at Bunyip.*

Prayers and care as fires came close

(continued from page 1)

Mark was listening to emergency broadcasts that day and judged it safe to keep his appointment in Melbourne, as there was only a very slight wind and the fire wasn't seen to be a threat at that stage, but conditions changed and as he reached the city, he heard the call for people to evacuate the town. That meant his wife Kim had to leave of course. The fire brought back memories for them of a terrible fire in 2006 which came within 400 metres of their house. Mark described Kim as "an incredibly brave woman".

In the present case, people were given the all-clear to return to their homes after a couple of hours, as rain began falling. Mark commented that this "gave heart to the fire fighters", as the big challenge

for them in fighting the fire was the difficult terrain, which is very steep and covered in old growth forest as well as plantation timber. And it has been so dry.

Every bushfire is a reminder of an earlier one in this country. As people remembered the Black Saturday fires of 2009 and other fires of recent years, prayers were offered in many churches around the Diocese.

The Rev'd David Head, Rector of Morwell, said that at the regular 10:00 am service on Wednesday 16 February, "We remembered the current bushfires and all in danger of life and property loss, and prayed for the safety and success of the emergency services and support teams... as well as remembering those who still have dreadful memories of and scars from the Black Saturday devastation of ten years ago".



Photo: APA

Rapid Relief Teams (an initiative of the Plymouth Brethren Christian Church) provided 3,300 meals for fire fighters at the Grantville fires in early February

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTER

The Anglican Parish of Traralgon is seeking an experienced children's and youth minister who is appropriately qualified for the position.

The successful applicant will be responsible for all ministries related to children and youth in the parish. Conditions of employment and job description available on request to the Rector, The Rev'd Canon Jeff Richardson 0400 539 905 and /or email jeff.stjames@bigpond.com



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Professional Standards

The Anglican Diocese of Gippsland does not tolerate abuse, misconduct and harm in its Christian community.

The Diocese is committed to ensuring all people in contact with the Church can participate in a safe and responsible environment. If you may have been harmed by a church worker, or know someone who has, please come forward.

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



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 and search 'bequests'.

Living Jesus' Way on earth

Philip Muston

Many of us – whether Orthodox, Protestant or Catholic – live a spiritualised version of the gospel: that is that if we believe in Jesus in our hearts and minds and take part in liturgy, we're saved by grace in the sense that we can be sure of going to heaven one day when we die.

That's a truncated version of the gospel which, although in essence true, does not do justice to the wholistic good news that our Lord Jesus preached, or that the apostles risked their lives to live and demonstrate. It was the *Acts* of the Apostles that had such an impact, along with their teaching.

In a way it's a truncation that is echoed in our creeds, which skip directly from Jesus' incarnation and birth to his suffering and death, without any mention of all the things that Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are at pains to show us happened in between.

They mention nothing of the most important things Jesus focused on throughout the gospels: the Kingdom of God, the commandments to love and forgive, the call to discipleship, the blessings ("beatitudes" that are promised to Jesus' followers as they work for God's Rule that we pray will be exercised "on earth as it is in heaven").

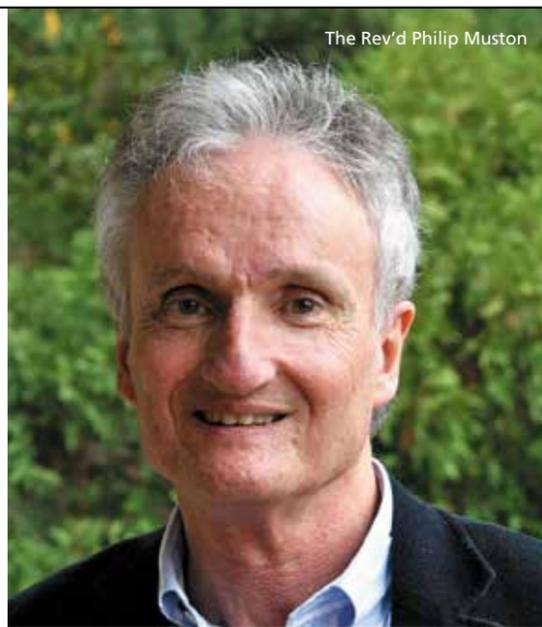
The gospel that Jesus and the apostles preached meant good news not only for life in

the hereafter but offered a "Way" to follow that enables us to start enjoying "eternal life" in this life as well as in the hereafter; in our life and work now as well as in our praising God with the angels in eternity; in the preparations we make today for resurrected life in a "new creation" that Paul writes of, and which Revelation pictures as played out back here on planet Earth. This will involve not just our relationships but our economic and political actions.

In this Year C of lectionary readings the economic and political implications of our Lord's message come flying out at us weekly from the Gospel according to Luke. Jesus treated attitude to money, alongside faith, as one of the most important indicators of spiritual vitality.

He began his public ministry in Galilee, according to Luke, by standing up in the synagogue of his home town and announcing a manifesto drawn from Isaiah 61. He had been anointed to proclaim good news to poor; freedom to captives; sight to blind; liberation to the oppressed; the year of Lord's favour. He did not just mean those who were spiritually poor, blind, or captive. In Luke "poor" means simply, actually poor. Prisoners would be released under God's rule; blind people would be physically healed, as Jesus demonstrated. He was setting out his agenda, which was the biblical agenda for the Messiah, and thus for the coming Kingdom of God.

Was it a left wing agenda or a right wing? Neither and both! You meet people from both sides of politics who claim Jesus is on their



The Rev'd Philip Muston

side, but he's on neither and both sides: "lefties" glory in his stress on community but may find his stress on individuals taking responsibility for themselves disturbing. Conservatives love the individualism but choke for example on his encouragement of redistribution of income and assets.

Neither and both: there are good and godly aspects to both left and right that are missing from the other. Both, in that there is a material aspect of Jesus' agenda that you can never ignore.

But don't ever join a political party thinking you can do God's work through devoting yourself purely to a left or right-wing agenda. Sooner or later you'll have to choose: God or Mammon. If you don't you could end up eventually committing to a General Franco or a Joseph Stalin. The Kingdom of God embraces the whole spectrum. Jesus is both radical and conservative depending on what issue's being debated.

Jesus Christ is the one we follow, in our economic and political lives, as well as our spiritual lives. We are captives neither to a capitalist agenda nor a socialist one. We do with our money what pleases Jesus, not our financial advisors. We vote not along political party lines, but according to which candidate's agenda most closely aligns with Jesus' agenda. There is great merit in our two-party system of Government (and worrying aspects to its current demise), but as Christians we must always be ready to "cross the floor".

Jesus is the answer: not just to our spiritual and eternal

"...as Christians we must always be ready to 'cross the floor'"

Diocesan calendar

March

- 6 5:30 pm Service of Lament in response to the national apology for institutional abuse: St Paul's Cathedral, Sale
- 13 Spiritual Direction Day at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale
- 16 9:30 am – 3:30 pm Anam Cara Quiet Day: "Ruminating with Ruth" – reflections led by Bishop Richard Treloar, at Holy Trinity Stratford. RSVP or further details, contact: Jane Macqueen: jamacqueen@gmail.com (0411 316 346) or Val Lawrence: vgl@aussiebb.com.au
- 25 11:00 am Anglican Mothers Union Lady Day, St Paul's Cathedral, Sale

April

- 3 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm Contemplative Quiet Afternoon with the Exhibition – Stations of the Cross, at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale
- 13 9:30 am – 3:00 pm Men's Retreat at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale: "The Practice of Living with Purpose", led by the Rev'd Nikolai Blaskow. Cost \$20 or donation. RSVP: 0428 167 724
- 18 – 22 Easter Pilgrimage to The Abbey: four nights on Raymond Island. Bookings and info: (03) 5156 6580 or email: info@theabbey.org.au (Details page 7)
- 19 3:00 pm Stations of the Cross using Briagalong artist Pat Waters' images in the church grounds at St Thomas' Bunyip

May

- 1 10:00 am Launch of Get out For Good program in Gippsland: Anglican Chaplain at Fulham CC, the Rev'd Heather Toms, will lead a service at St Paul's Cathedral, with a focus on Prison Chaplaincy, followed by morning tea and the official launch
- 4 12 noon – 4:00 pm The Abbey Dispersed Community Gathering. Cost \$20, lunch included. Bookings and info: (03) 5156 6580 or email: info@theabbey.org.au
- 5 Anglican Criminal Justice Ministry Sunday
- 17–19 39th Synod of the Diocese of Gippsland, Sale
- 30 6:00 pm Ascension Day Eucharist with a meal afterwards, St Thomas' Bunyip

needs, but to our practical and this-worldly dilemmas. Ask not just "What would Jesus do?", but "What would Jesus buy?". Ask not just "how would Jesus run my business?", but whether he would run such a business at all. People will say "Oh, but Jesus was idealistic and naïve. Do you really want to follow someone like that?" Dallas Willard puts it well when he says: "Jesus is Lord" can mean little in practice for anyone who has to hesitate before saying "Jesus is smart" (from *The Divine Conspiracy*). Or that Jesus knows what he's talking about.

God has placed us in a material world, not just as a

short-term waiting room for "heaven", but for abundant life in a creation that is good. There is much for us to learn in our earthly pilgrimage, through obedience to God and his eternal Son: obedience so often in regard to stewardship of material blessings, of which there are enough to go around if shared self-sacrificially. We look forward to a bodily resurrection, and life in a restored material world after time spent in the heavenly waiting room. That restored world might just be this one!

*The Rev'd Philip Muston
is Rector of Lakes
Entrance / Metung.*

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