

The Gippsland Anglican

Volume 115, Number 7, August 2018

Published in Gippsland Diocese since 1904

Inspiring consecration service for Bishop Richard Treloar



Photos: Jan Down

Jan Down

In the front row: L-R: Dean Andreas Loewe, Bishop Richard Treloar with children Rachel and Nicholas Archbishop Philip Freier, Dr Leanne Habeeb

The Ordination and Consecration as a Bishop in the Church of God of the Rev'd Dr Richard Treloar took place on the Feast of Mary Magdalene at 10:30 am on Saturday 21 July, at St Paul's Cathedral in Melbourne.

It was a service with heart – deeply prayerful, very joyful, and a work of great collaboration.

The Bishop of Ballarat, the Rt Rev'd Garry Weatherill, led the retreat for Fr Richard just before his consecration, and preached on the day. He stressed that “the first job of the Bishop is to maintain the church's witness to the resurrection of Jesus Christ... and if that's the only thing you do Richard, it will be enough!”

The Dean of Melbourne, the Very Rev'd Dr Andreas Loewe,

welcomed the congregation and gave the Acknowledgement of Country.

Ms Val Jones, Lay Reader from the Gippsland Parish of Lakes Entrance and Metung, read from Isaiah 51: 1–4, ...“look to the rock from which you were hewn”, and the Rev'd Canon Peter Treloar, Bishop Richard's brother and Assistant Chaplain at Ballarat Grammar School, read from 2 Corinthians 5: 14–20, “For the love of Christ urges us on...”. The Gospel reading, read by the Rev'd Marilyn Hope was from John 20: 1–18, the story of Mary Magdalene's encounter with the risen Christ, and his commission to her to witness to the resurrection.

Many Gippslanders travelled up to Melbourne to attend the service. There were people from Bishop Richard's former parish of Christ Church South Yarra and the Christ Church

Grammar School; from his former diocese of Ballarat; Archbishop Kay Goldsworthy (the previous Bishop of Gippsland) from Perth; theological students from Trinity College where Bishop Richard has been Chaplain and Stewart Lecturer; bishops and clergy of the Melbourne, Ballarat, Gippsland and other dioceses; and many family and friends, including some from his home town of Sydney. Bishop Richard's mother in Sydney, who is about to turn 90, was there in spirit, watching the service as it was live-streamed.

Bishop Genieve Blackwell (Melbourne Diocese); Mrs Buntly Calder (Vicar's Warden, Christ Church South Yarra); Bishop Jeffrey Driver (former Bishop of Gippsland); Mrs Chrissy Gamble (Principal, Christ Church Grammar School); Archdeacon

Philip Muston (Administrator, Diocese of Gippsland); and Professor Peter Sherlock (Vice-Chancellor, University of Divinity, and Authorized Lay Minister, Christ Church South Yarra) presented the candidate to Archbishop Philip Freier for ordination and consecration as a bishop.

The Rev'd Brian Norris, Registrar of the Diocese of Gippsland affirmed Bishop Richard's qualifications and administered the declarations and oaths of the candidate.

The Hon Robert Fordham AM and Gippsland's Diocesan Chancellor, Ms Rowena Armstrong AO, QC, presented Bishop Richard with a Bible as a symbol of ministry. Rachel

and Nicholas, the children of Bishop Richard, assisted by their mother Dr Leanne Habeeb, very capably and happily presented the pectoral cross. He was also presented with an episcopal ring and staff, the latter being one that had belonged to Bishop James Grant AM.

A large contingent of bishops joined the Primate and Archbishop of Melbourne, Philip Freier, for the Prayer of Consecration.

The Service of Consecration was set within the Eucharist, with the Choir of St Paul's Cathedral augmented by guests from the Choir of Christ Church South Yarra, the musical setting being the Communion Service in F – by Harold Darke.

After the service, an informal lunch was held at Christ Church South Yarra. As Bishop Richard entered the hall, there was a great cheer and applause. Having given a heart-felt word of thanks to the many people who had assisted him on the way to this day, Bishop Richard said with a smile that the removalist truck was due to arrive on Friday, and amongst other things, would be transporting about 10,000 pieces of Lego down to Sale.

The Gippsland Diocese looks forward to the Installation of Bishop Richard at 11:00 am on Saturday 18 August, at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale.



Val Jones reads the Bible

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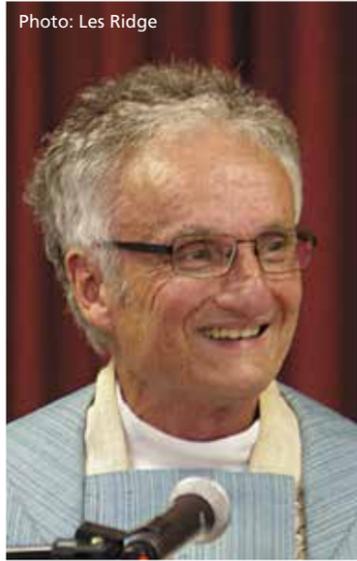


Photo: Les Ridge

Archdeacon Phillip Muston

Vocations for all

hear Jesus' call to follow him until our later years, in which case our Christian vocation will be a relatively late one.

If that's the case, we can take inspiration from Biblical figures such as Moses, who didn't receive his calling to lead the Israelites out of Egypt until he was 80. Or before him Abraham, called in his 70s to head out across the desert from Iran to found a new people in Palestine.

God never plans for us to retire from his service. As we get physically less capable with age, our vocation may change to reflect that. Have you ever considered that you might have a vocation to prayer and intercession? Those of us out on the front lines of service depend on the prayers of faithful intercessors.

Bishop Richard will depend on your prayers as he undertakes his very challenging vocation as Bishop of Gippsland...

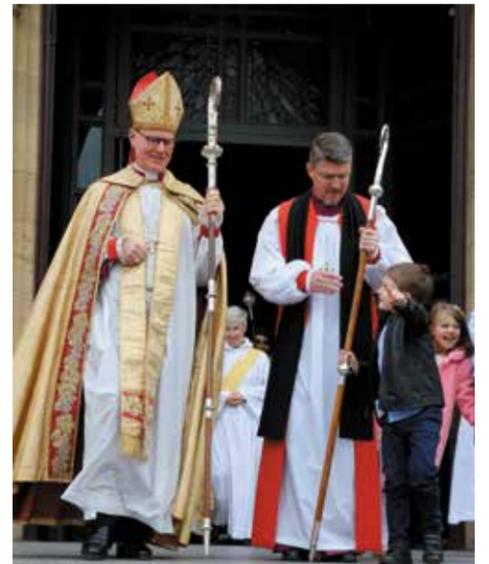
he undertakes his very challenging vocation as Bishop of Gippsland. Most of us have only partial understanding of the kind of things he will be up against as our leader. In the 21st century being a bishop is surely more difficult than it was back in Christendom. Ask me why sometime and I'll explain!

This whole area of calling and vocation will be a diocesan focus in the coming months. We are having a "Vocational Sunday" on 21 October, when parish and other church communities are being asked to focus preaching and prayer on helping our people to (re) consider vocation, both individual and corporate.

Of course, some will be called to pastoral offices within the Church, ordained (set apart) to specialize in ministries of service, word, sacrament and pastoral care.

To that end, the Diocese is holding a Discernment Afternoon on 26 August at St James', Traralgon, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. This will be a chance to discuss, ask questions and seek feedback, for people who sense that they may have a vocation to ordination.

This will be my last letter as Administrator before we welcome our new Bishop, Richard Treloar, at his Installation at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale, on August 18 at 11:00 am. There will be



Is that the way to Gippsland Dad?

enough room for all comers that day – if the Cathedral is full there will be an overflow room with a big screen in Delbridge Hall adjacent. Do make the journey if you are able: it should be a great day.

In the meantime, let's continue to pray for Bishop Richard, his wife Leanne, and children Rachel and Nicholas as they move to Sale and begin settling in. For Leanne it will mean beginning a new job in her profession as an organizational psychologist, and for the children a new school.

May God bless you in your vocation and in your service in Christ.

Philip Muston

The Gippsland Anglican

Member of Australasian Religious Press Association

Registered by Australia Post
Print Post Number 34352/00018

The *Gippsland Anglican* is the official newspaper of and is published by The Anglican Diocese of Gippsland, 453 Raymond Street, Sale, Victoria, 3850. www.gippsanglican.org.au

Editor: Jan Down
Tel: 0407 614 661
Email: editor@gippsanglican.org.au
Contributions are due by 15th of the month prior to publication

Layout by Devine Design
Printed by Fairfax Media,
30-32 Grandlee Drive,
Wendouree, Victoria, 3355.

The editor reserves the right of final choice and format of material included in each issue. The *Gippsland Anglican* and the editor cannot necessarily verify any material used in this publication. Views contained in submitted material are those of contributors.

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Please contact the editor for all advertising submissions, costing and enquiries, including about inserts in the newspaper. A full advertising schedule can be sent out upon request.

Parish to Parish: praying for each other

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

OMEO EASTERN REGION

Christ Church, Omeo
St Paul, Benambra
Union Church, Ensay

Honorary Priest-in-Charge:
The Rev'd Thelma Langshaw

Omeo is a tiny, pretty, drive-through town for other places on the Great Alpine Road, sometimes bringing in trade from tourists passing through. Set between mountains, it has extremes of hot and cold weather. The Rev'd Thelma Langshaw, Honorary Priest-in-Charge at Omeo, is now into her 11th year in the parish. Please pray for good connections between the school and the church. Prayers are also asked for encouragement for the congregation

ORBOST EASTERN REGION

St James, Orbost
Locum: The Rev'd Bevil Lunson

We have had some answers to prayer. The Food Pantry has opened a Drop In Centre next door to the Pantry with funding from Anglicare Parish Partnerships. They are also now able to provide a lunch fortnightly with volunteers offering to cook a hot meal, soup and desserts which is a real blessing. We also have a monthly donation of pies and sausage rolls from Patties. We have purchased a barbeque to cook the lunch. We have been provided with bench seats and tables made by the Men's Shed, with funding provided by Rotary, and as they have just offered

us more funding, we intend to purchase a patio heater to make lunch in the courtyard a little more comfortable on very cold days, as most people prefer to sit outside. The lunch is proving very popular with 30 – 40 people attending. God is good.

Our temporary organist at St James would like to retire, so we still need prayer for a new organist, and for growth in our congregation, but we are a very happy group with lots of community support.

PAYNESVILLE EASTERN REGION

St Peter's by the Lake, Paynesville Abbey Church of St Barnabas, Raymond Island
Priest at Paynesville and The Abbey: Archdeacon Edie Ashley

Paynesville attracts many retirees and those seeking a change from the pace of the city to the peace of the Gippsland Lakes. The parish encompasses Paynesville, Eagle Point, Newlands Arm and Raymond Island.

The opportunities of the Lakes and the wonder of the environment form the backdrop for worship and work, creativity and prayer.

The St Peter's Quiet Garden overlooking the Lake, and the open church, welcome all for contemplation and prayer.

The Diocesan Mission at The Abbey is supported by many from St Peter's by the Lake.

Pray that we might be present within the community, alert to the call of God, responsive to the needs of the ageing and open to connect in new ways that minister God's love to families within the community.

Celebrating women's leadership

NAIDOC Week Service at Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust

Jan Down

Extra seats had to be hastily set out, as more and more people arrived for the 2018 NAIDOC Week service at Lake Tyers on Sunday afternoon, 8 July.

Fortunately, due to the icy gale blowing and intermittent showers, the service was being held in the large, well-heated hall, rather than in the small, picturesque but unheated church of St John's – otherwise the sixty to seventy people who came could not have been accommodated.

One reason for the larger crowd this year was that some of the volunteers from the "Float Project" were there, including team member Andrea Lane, who explained they had come along to add their support and join the celebration. They in turn appreciate the support of the Rev'd Phyllis Andy, who is keen to bring together the two communities of Lake Tyers and Lake Tyers Beach. These two settlements are geographically very close – separated only by a short stretch of water – but by road, over 20 km apart.

The Float Project attracted a Small Towns Transformation Funding grant of \$350,000 from the State Government, most of which is going into building a boat (currently at Fisherman's Landing and nearly finished) which will take artists and environmental scientists

around Lake Tyers to work on board as they contemplate the natural environment around them. Some of the budget for the project will go into funding Artists in Residence on the floating art and research studio – a work of art in itself (see float3909.com and the Float Facebook page for photos and more information).

When all was ready, Gunai Elder, Wayne Thorpe, began the service with a brief historical introduction, and played the didgeridoo. The Rev'd Phyllis Andy welcomed everyone and gave the Acknowledgement of Country.

Madge Hood read from Ruth 1: 6-16, then Auntie Phyllis spoke, showing the connections between Ruth's faithfulness and commitment to her mother-in-law and this year's theme for NAIDOC Week, "Because of Her, We Can", which drew attention to the leadership and achievements of indigenous women.

Auntie Phyllis commented that "women are always out there doing things for the community", and giving backbone to the church. She showed a photo of her great-grandmother, Bessy Flower "a very Christian woman", who was sent out from Western Australia by the Anglican Church to the Moravian Ramahyuck Mission just outside Sale and became an influential leader in Gippsland, in both church and community.



The blessing was read by (L-R) Madge Hood, Archdeacon Edie Ashley, the Rev'd Phyllis Andy and Archdeacon Philip Muston

Auntie Phyllis paid respects to the many women who had led, inspired and "walked with us in the life of the church", including her sister, Auntie Rita Hood, Barb Anderson and Helen Gibson. She also acknowledged Auntie Mary Harrison, Mother Phyllis Morgan, Mother Shirley Bottom and Marie Vines.

It might equally be noted that Auntie Phyllis herself embodies this year's NAIDOC WEEK theme both in her work in the community and in her leadership in the church.

The service included prayers led by Archdeacon Edie Ashley, giving thanks for the First Nations people of

Australia; praying for unity as one people in Christ; for Aboriginal ministry in the diocese; and for Australian politicians to be guided to seek justice and peace for all in this land.

Madge Hood, David and Shirley Murray and Dorothy Jack came forward for the lighting of the Paschal candle. The congregation

joined in the prayer, "God of Holy Dreaming" from *A Prayer Book for Australia*, then joined hands to sing "Bind us Together Lord".

Archdeacon Philip Muston, Archdeacon Edie Ashley, Auntie Phyllis and Madge Hood gave the blessing together, and all then enjoyed afternoon tea.

GIPPSLAND DIOCESE VACANT PARISHES:

EASTERN REGION

- Heyfield
- Orbost
- Tambo

SOUTHERN REGION

- Yarram

WESTERN REGION

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



Gunai Elder, Wayne Thorpe, on the didgeridoo



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.

Contact the Diocese of Gippsland
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Open house at heritage church

**Ruth Green
Bunyip**

St Thomas' Bunyip celebrated its Patronal Festival on 1 July this year by hosting an "Open House".

In the posters distributed around the town, people were invited to join us at St Thomas', the Heritage Church on the Hill, to celebrate our Patronal Festival and partake of a free barbeque, a recital, and a church tour conducted by the Rev'd Dr Jim Connelly.

A number of strangers joined us in the recently restored church hall, for lunch, where forty people sat around a large table. On the menu were sausages, home made hamburgers

and various salads with lashings of the obligatory tomato sauce.

Before and after lunch we enjoyed Laurie Malcolm's recital of country songs which he delivered with great energy. There was much conversation and laughter.

After lunch the church was almost full as we joined with Fr Jim to hear his excellent talk about the building's history.

Beginning outside, Jim drew our attention to the most beautiful work at St Thomas', which is set in the lovely gardens: the *Christus Rex*, made at the request of Fr Fred Morrey, by Sr Jocelyn Anne of the (Anglican) Poor Clares who were then at Stroud in NSW.

It is a very beautiful memorial to the local pioneers and continues to be a focus for devotion and prayer in the church grounds. Jim also mentioned the A'Beckett memorial gate, which originally stood where the Lych Gate now stands.

The church was built on land donated by the A'Beckett family who also donated the three stained glass windows in the sanctuary, the cross and altar vases, as well as the first organ.

After working bees and fundraising, the church was built at the cost of £375. The foundation stone was laid by Mrs A'Beckett and it was opened on 28 December, 1902. The service that day included 12 baptisms.

The many other features Fr Jim talked to us about included the very pretty belfry tower, its bell still rung before each service. Later the Walsingham Lady Chapel, was added in 1996 and the Good Shepherd, Evans, window (from St Mary's Garfield) was reinstalled at St Thomas' in 2017.

We were thankful for the beautiful weather and the fruitfulness of the day. Will we do it again? Well as Father Ken says, "We have another opportunity on 7 October with the Blessing of the Animals".



Listening to Laurie Malcolm's guitar performance in the hall

Winter markets popular

**Glenda Amos
Yarram**

The Parish of Yarram continues to maintain strong community connections through a variety of activities.

During the months of May, June and July we held markets in the hall and church grounds on the second and fourth Saturdays. Members of Holy Trinity see this venture as an ideal opportunity to engage with the local community.

David Hartmaier and Derek Rothwell are the driving forces – setting up the Hall, collecting donations

of furniture and household goods and welcoming everyone who comes in search of a bargain. Several community members have taken stalls to display their goods as well.

Over 100 people visit each market, many enjoying morning tea with fresh scones and slices and a chat, thanks to many helpers in the kitchen.

The markets are extending the community connection Holy Trinity has with Yarram through the Twice Blessed Op Shop. We continue to build relationships which support people in all walks of life.



Sue and Renae display their goods

Journey to the centre of the Diocese

Geoff Pittaway

Cartoon by Colin Oakley

It is not often that parishioners from around the Diocese get to visit, encourage, or share in ministry life with the Cathedral staff and its people. In fact, we forget that there is a congregation there that is just like ours, with the same needs, desires, hopes, ministry goals, and challenges as ours.

As a Clerical Canon of the Diocese, it is one of my roles to promote the Cathedral and the Diocese around the parishes. This has seemed an amorphous task considering the parochial and somewhat isolationist nature of parish life. So what to do?

At the most recent Greater Chapter meeting of the Cathedral I, possibly hastily, suggested that it was high



time that the parishes were invited to come visit and share in a time of worship with the cathedral parish congregation on a mutually agreeable Sunday. I shelved the idea until the Dean reminded me that I had

suggested this notion!

So, now I am working on persuading my congregation to get on a bus and travel to Sale on Sunday 9 September for a visit, combined service in the afternoon, and a meal together,

before heading back to Mirboo North again. It may prove as arduous and challenging as Jules Verne's *Journey to the Centre of the Earth* to encourage everyone – old, young, able, less able, traditional, radical – but I am convinced that this is a noble task and long overdue.

The Cathedral is the hub of the Diocese and as such we ought to, at least once in the lifetime of our parish, commit to connecting with the centre in order that that whole is reconnected and stabilised.

Who knows, we may yet find that it is possible to visit each other across parish and even regional boundaries for the same purpose rather than simply keeping to ourselves!

Watch this space. I will write again if the trip goes ahead and I will encourage you to consider how you can be more closely bound to each other too.

The Rev'd Canon Geoff Pittaway is Rector, St. Mary's Mirboo North, and Regional Dean of the Southern Region.



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Refugee Week in East Gippsland

**Eleanor Paterson
and Michael Fox
Paynesville**

The Gospel reading for Refugee Sunday, Matthew 25: 31–46:

“...In as much as you did it for the least of my people, you did it for me...”

Archdeacon Edie Ashley challenged us through the reading from Matthew’s Gospel to look beyond ourselves for the stranger in our midst. We are called to act for the

men, women and children seeking refuge from persecution, war, homelessness and poverty and see Christ in each of them.

Every evening of Refugee Week at St Peter by the Lake we kept vigil for refugees and asylum seekers world-wide and especially for those desperate people languishing on Manus Island and Nauru, who have risked their lives seeking a place to call home.

The climax of the week was our joining other Christians and those in the broader community of the East

Gippsland Asylum Seeker Support Group (EGASS) for the screening of *The Staging Post* to a packed house at Bairnsdale’s Sun Cinema. This wonderful and uplifting film was made BY refugees setting up their own school FOR refugees in Indonesia, some of whom had been waiting for ten years.

The message of the film – the power of community – was deeply moving, inspiring us to be like them and never give up. Refugees working together have now developed ten more refugee learning centres.



Photo reprinted with permission of *The Bairnsdale Advertiser*

The *Staging Post* refugee cinematographer, Khadim Dai; director, Jolyon Hoff; and refugee cinematographer, Muzafer Ali, were joined by East Gippsland Asylum Seeker Support Group’s Joy Windle (second right) at the screening of the documentary.

St Philip’s Worship Committee

**Kath Kent
Bass / Phillip Island**

Following a consultative meeting held at St Philip’s in July 2016, a group of interested people gathered in August to discuss “New Ways of Being Church”, as it was felt that there was a need for this congregation to look seriously at how to share our faith with newcomers of all ages.

We considered different ways of worship, particularly with a desire to encourage children into the fellowship of the church. Time was spent looking into new movements in the church, such as *mainly music* and *Messy Church*. We invited a speaker from the Melbourne Diocese to visit and advise us. We also held a



stimulating Friday night film and discussion night.

Following the retirement of the Rev’d Greg Magee and during the interregnum, decisions were postponed until a new rector was appointed. The Rev’d Jo White was given notes taken at the various meetings, so that she was fully briefed on the work to

date. This led to an open discussion with Jo and members of the group at the rectory, which provided new impetus.

In June this year, we had a follow-up meeting to begin planning for the future. Jo suggested that this group become a formal committee of the parish and be known henceforth as The Worship Committee, which was unanimously supported.

We already see change in the way we worship at St Philip’s. We all enjoy the Early Word and look forward to what might be achieved in the future. We are delighted to have the full support of our rector and to be working toward our first service in October.

Gippsland Joins National Redress Scheme

The Rev’d Brian Norris, Registrar

The Bishop-in-Council of the Diocese in June 2018 resolved to join the National Redress Scheme established by the Commonwealth Government.

The National Redress Scheme provides acknowledgement and support to people who experienced institutional child sexual abuse.

The Scheme was created in response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, which estimated that 60,000 people experienced institutional child sexual abuse in Australia.

Redress is an alternative to seeking compensation through the courts.

The National Redress Scheme can provide three things:

- access to counselling;
- a payment; and
- a direct personal response from the institution (e.g. an apology) for people who want it.

The scheme started on 1 July 2018 and will run for 10 years.

Lay Reader Training Days appreciated

Tony Wicking

Lay Readers across the diocese met on two Saturdays recently for their annual training day, one at the cathedral, the other at Drouin. These days are designed to provide opportunity for Lay Readers to have some spiritual and practical input to help them in their important ministry. In addition it helps create a sense of collegiality amongst them.

This year we began with

Morning Prayer led by a Lay Reader. As usual, opportunity was given for feedback from those present, which helps lay readers to improve their delivery of the service. Usually this is met with a high degree of praise and encouragement.

The Rev’d Jenny Ramage presented a session on Spirituality and Prayer. This looked at the difference between spirituality and religion and different types of prayer, and included practising a type of meditation.



Marion Dewar and Helen Davies at a Lay Readers’ Training Day

There was then a practical example of *Lectio Divina*, an ancient practice of reflecting upon a passage of scripture. The session finished with other examples of prayer, including the use of crosses, candles and labyrinths.

After lunch the Rev’d Dean Spalding presented a session on the gospel of Mark, as this year’s gospel readings at the communion service are from Mark. Because the Lay Readers preach, it was important that they have

an understanding of the characteristics of the gospel. This led them to move into groups to prepare an outline of a sermon they might present later in the year on the Sunday after clergy retreat – an appropriate time for them to preach as it will help clergy to concentrate on the retreat rather than having to worry about preparing a sermon.

These training days are well attended and enjoyed by the Lay Readers. They are also open to others such as Liturgical Assistants who may want to explore what being a Lay Reader involves.

The Rev’d Tony Wicking is Chaplain to Lay Readers.

Bairnsdale visitors inspire

Ursula Plunkett

David Grier, of the Prison Fellowship in Melbourne, was introduced by our Rector, the Rev'd Brenda Burney at both services on 17 June. Having visited several prisons in Victoria for several years, David now visits regularly at the Remand Prison in Melbourne.

The Prison Fellowship was founded by Chuck Colson, who was imprisoned in the late 1970s over the Watergate scandal. His observations on how prisoners were treated convinced him that they needed hope for the future and ongoing help to stay out of prison. Today, Prison Fellowship International works in 120 countries and is the largest association of Christian ministries working within the criminal justice field.

In Australia over 1000 volunteer men and women visit prisons, run programs, look after prisoners' children, organize camps for them and provide Christmas presents.

For the prisoner, volunteers can be a listening ear or encourage Bible studies and sport, supply books and other needs. Most importantly, a prisoner is met on release from prison, taken to his accommodation, given food, then taken to Centrelink or bank if needed on the next day and to buy a mobile phone. The volunteers also like to take their charges for cups of coffee.

The Fellowship cares for the families and some volunteers keep in touch for some time. The prayer is that with God's help the strength will be there for them to stay out of prison.

We were reminded by Rector Brenda Burney that Prison Fellowship relies on donations as there is no government funding.

Visioning with Rich Lanham

Rector Brenda and the Parish Council invited the Rev'd Rich Lanham to lead us in a vision to discern what we would like our parish to look like in the future, particularly in the next five years. After opening in prayer Rich talked about TRUST – trust in God.

The session was a positive affirmation of relationships with the community, the assets we have and ministries we are involved in. This is the start of questioning how it is working and what we are to do next. Are we using



Photo: Dorothy Scott

Geraldine and David Grier, of the Prison Fellowship, at St John's Bairnsdale

the resources we have to their fullest?

We saw that we have to remember that we are a congregation full of capacity and ability and allow God the Holy Spirit to direct the next steps. So many questions and possible answers – we sat in

groups and tried to work some of it out in one hour!

At the lunch that followed, the churchwardens said another big thank you to the Rev'd Dr Chris Shields and his wife Rosemary for assisting in the interim between Rectors Tony and Brenda.

Four baptisms and a breakfast

Chris McAleer
Nar Nar Goon / Pakenham East

Outdoor baptisms in a warm spa

On Thursday 21 June, four young adults took the plunge and were baptized into the Christian faith on a very chilly night under a canopy of stars, made warmer through the good number of family and friends in attendance.

It was a wonderful opportunity for all present to reflect on our own journeys of faith. Thanks to John and Jenny Koch, the spa was thoroughly warmed up to ensure there were no hypothermia issues related

to the cold, and there was enough space as a venue to do justice to the event.

As soon as the baptismal service was concluded, we shared in a multi-cultural supper surrounded by the warmth of friends and a red-gum space heater. Though outdoor baptisms usually take place in the warmer months, we may have started a memorable tradition for winter baptisms, that despite the chills will hopefully be re-visited sometime in the future!

Men's Breakfast with an author and principal

On Saturday 23 June, Peter Wells, the principal of Chairo Christian School's Nar Nar Goon campus, was our visiting guest speaker. In addition to his interesting back-story, his overseas work in developing an international school and his award-winning first novel, the drama of an unexpected life-and-death incident was unforgettable.

He told how the taxi he



A wholesome supper after the baptisms

and his son were travelling in hit a truck coming in the opposite direction on a motorway on the way to Jakarta Airport. As men and fathers, most of those

present could relate to the whole range of emotions that Peter went through during the initial rescue, extensive operations and extended recovery, not just of himself but of his son Asher, with lessons to share on how to best survive such events.

Peter also shared a little about his first foray into fictional novels with his book, *The Kingdom of the Air*. I have the "community" copy which I am reading avidly as there are several others waiting in line!

The Rev'd Chris McAleer is Priest-in-Charge in the Episcopal District of Nar Nar Goon and Pakenham East.



Dean, Sally, Anita and Michael reflect on their baptism into the Christian faith



Geoff, Peter, James and Michael with the LCD screen that showed us the visuals of the near tragedy

Jonah and the dolphins

The annual Clergy Conference at Raymond Island

David Head

Around 23 clergy of the Gippsland Diocese gathered at The Abbey Anglican Centre on Raymond Island from June 18 to 21 for their annual Clergy Conference. It was wonderful to have good quality time together. There was also a full program arranged with guest speakers to explore issues of ministry interest and importance.

Firstly, Marilyn Clark, a now retired Lecturer in Old Testament and a Hebrew Scholar from St Mark's National Theological Centre in Canberra, presented three substantial Bible Studies on the Book of Jonah. These studies were a very detailed look at this extremely important, but often misunderstood, book of the Old Testament.

Jonah is usually remembered as a whimsical story about a

whale (actually just a big fish in the Hebrew) that is most suitable for Sunday School consumption. Marilyn carefully and exuberantly unpacked the deep, powerful and vibrant meaning of the ongoing confrontation between Jonah, a very reluctant prophet of God, and God's purpose of compassionate love for all people and all creatures, and in this case even those who are Israel's worst enemies, but who confront their ways and repent.

Amazingly, Nineveh repents and God delivers them from divine judgement. But Jonah is volcanically angry because God is so merciful and compassionate. As if in divine response to this story, just after it was read in the chapel several dolphins were seen to dance in the waves of the lake outside the big chapel window. What a delight to us all!

The Rev'd Dr Conrad Parsons, the Youth Ministry Consultant for the Archdiocese of Melbourne, spoke about the importance of training up a team of Youth Ministry Leaders for regions of the Diocese before a parish even begins to consider forming a new Youth Group Ministry.

He cogently argued that the reason Melbourne Diocese and most dioceses had been unsuccessful in ongoing Youth Ministry is their failure to establish a good continual discernment, training and coaching program for youth leaders which enabled replacement strategies for Youth Ministry in a parish as leaders moved on, no replacement is available, and the ministry crumbles. He then invited us to join in a hands-on exercise in using his preferred



Photo: Jo White

Clergy taking time out on the lake shore

and already successful model for discerning, training and coaching for current and future Youth Leaders.

Mr Chris Barnett works at the Uniting Church Centre for Theology and Ministry for Victoria in the area of Intergenerational Ministry. He spoke to us with great verve and passion about the importance of an "Intergenerational View of Ministry" for all parishes to explore and hopefully begin to work with. Every parish, even the ones that are made up of only, say, the 50 to 90 age group still has at least three different generations, if each generation is seen to cover about fifteen years.

We explored the different generations amongst the clergy and we saw that each group had different experiences of expected behaviour, of major world defining events that changed society for ever in their time, and of different music and cultural determinants.

It was quite a revelation

for many of us to realize that each 15-year generation had such different defining major characteristics from the previous and the following ones. These differences are of course huge between a 1930's teen and a millennial teen. Some styles of Intergenerational Worship ideas that may be used were also explored.

Overall, it was a very interesting and challenging three days of learning together in a most beautiful setting with koalas, wallabies and kangaroos quite easily encountered in nearby walks and a prolific birdlife around the Lake's edge, including elegant black swans, proud pelicans and partying parrots. The meals were also most enjoyable – through the generous and gracious catering of David and Deb Chambers of Heyfield Parish and for this hospitality and feeding we were all most grateful.

The Reverend David Head is Rector at Morwell.



Photo: Colin Oakley

The Rev'd Dr Conrad Parsons speaks about training youth ministry leaders

Warragul's farewell for the Mustons



The Rev'd Tony Wicking leads prayers for Archdeacon Philip and Cathrine Muston

Archdeacon Philip and Cathrine Muston were bid farewell at Warragul Anglican Church on Sunday 24 June. Philip and Cathrine have been at Warragul for sixteen years, having moved from Perth in 2002.

Cathrine commented in her

farewell article for the Parish News, "Before we left Perth a parishioner told me that she thought that Warragul would be 'good for [my] soul'. She was right and I have been thankful to God for calling us here. I have been able to grow as a disciple of Christ here because of the way in which I and my

family have been nurtured and loved".

Having been Administrator of the Diocese for the past seven months, Philip looks forward to handing over the reins to the new bishop very soon. He commented: "It's been a very happy parish ministry for me on the whole: there were

challenges to meet while on the Board of St Paul's Grammar after 2009, and during the last few years with two long spells as Administrator taking me away from the parish, but I will always be grateful to those who've been the spiritual bedrock of the parish for their prayers and consistent support over the years".

He will take up his next appointment as Rector at

Lakes Entrance and Metung around September, while Cathrine will continue in her role as Community Development Officer for Anglicare.

The Rev'd Tony Wicking, who has been locum at Warragul for the past few months, led the service and the Rev'd Daniel Lowe, chaplain at St Paul's Grammar School, was MC for the farewell lunch.

ABC Radio National's Religion Programs

Frequencies: Bairnsdale - 106.3 FM (3ABC RN)
Melbourne - 621 AM (3RN)

Religion and Ethics Report

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

The Spirit of Things

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

God Forbid

James Carleton Sunday 6:00 am
– repeated Sunday 10:00 pm and Monday 2:00pm

For more details: abc.net.au

Established! Messy Church one year on

Marg Burnell
Sale

St Paul's Cathedral's Messy Church community recently celebrated its first birthday. The celebration was marked with a large birthday cake decorated by some of the children and "balloon" prayers.

Over the year, Messy Church has provided an alternative form of church that is highly interactive with a focus on fun and informality. As well as having hands-on activities, there are quiet spaces for prayer and reflection and for simply relaxing and enjoying a chat with others. The support of 123 Café



Fruit of the Spirit banner

has been an invaluable blessing with the provision of nutritious meals each month.

The year has seen many highlights. Recently, members of the community completed a "Fruit of the Spirit" banner, made up of individually embroidered tapestry squares. More than fifteen people,

aged from six years up to those in their eighties, took part. From its inception, St Paul's Messy Church has been intentionally inter-generational, aiming to bring together people at all ages and stages of life.

May Jenkins, who organized the activity, was thrilled at the response shown by participants. She said that those who took part were keen to see the banner through to completion. Many of them

were new to embroidery. Each person brought their own creative flair, including one child who sewed a small caterpillar onto the



Chanelle Caruana helps to decorate the Messy Church birthday cake

leaf of a bunch of grapes! Participants also had a lot of researching references to fruit in the Bible.

Practical love unites school communities

While there are many differences between Gippsland Grammar and Gahini Secondary School, in Rwanda, the connection and relationships they share never waver. During term two, Gahini Secondary School Principal Luke Karemangingo and Bishop Manaseh from the Gahini Diocese visited Gippsland Grammar on a professional development tour.

For more than 10 years the two schools have enjoyed a partnership. Each community has enjoyed the ripple effect

of the "practical love". Annually, Gippsland Grammar students, as an alternative to "schoolies", visit Rwanda to enhance the understanding of the philosophy of service learning which has had a positive impact on both the Rwandan and Australian students.

The visitors expressed their gratitude to the Gippsland Grammar community, which has for the last four years fundraised to help build a science laboratory in Gahini. African students are now reaping the rewards according to Gahini Principal Luke Karemangingo.



Rwandan visitors Bishop Manaseh and Luke Karemangingo enjoy a laugh with Gippsland Grammar chaplain, the Rev'd Rich Lanham, as they wander around the school grounds of the senior campus

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Wed 5 Sept	7pm	St James' Ivanhoe, Youth & Young Adults Dessert Night
Thurs 6 Sept	12-2pm	St Paul's Anglican Church, Warragul, Spring Lunch*

RSVP Tuesday 28 August to victoria@bushchurchaid.com.au or call 03 9457 7556 * Spring Lunches cost \$20 per person

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Discerning a vocation to ordained ministry?

An exploratory session for anyone considering a call to ordained ministry will be held at St James' Church, 106 Grey Street, Traralgon on 26 August 2018 at 2:00 pm, concluding by about 4:00 pm. A further session will be held at St Paul's Cathedral, 149 Cunninghame, Sale on Sunday 25 November at 2:00 pm. If you would like to attend or want further information, details may be obtained from Archdeacon Graham Knott at: rectorleongatha1@bigpond.com/ (See also page 2 "From the Administrator".)

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Hack Attack!

Julie Bruce

Messenger: Did you send me this?

I opened up my Messenger account and discovered a strange video, my name attached.

“I don’t think so!” I warned my friend. Too late, curiosity had killed the cat. The message had been opened. The cat was out of the bag!

Messages started flying through cyberspace. I was dealing with a corrupted site.



I’d been hacked! How did it happen? Was it that time recently when I forgot to log off properly? I frantically scrolled down through my friends to warn them. Too late! More and more texts appeared telling others not to trust that message as they too had been hacked.

How was my hacker feeling? Did it give him/her a sense of achievement to mess up people’s online relationships and create mischief and anxiety? I felt targeted, vulnerable and distressed about being the subject of an attack.

I was rescued by a trusted young friend who gave instruction about password

changes and stronger safeguards. (Yes, I am an i-phone dinosaur, not to be trusted to venture into the settings without supervision.)

God has had to deal with a hacker too. One that actively spreads lies about Him, who is active in trying to destroy His world and entice His children into harmful ways. How to hurt a loving father? Target his children. Sow harmful weed messages of unbelief. Whisper to them that they are missing out if they try to follow His way. This hacker is an expert in his field!

Our loving Heavenly Father sent His Son to deal with the Evil Hacker. Nothing can destroy our relationship with

God, for the name of Jesus is our powerful safeguard to thwart the Hacker’s destructive plans.

Romans 8:38-39 states: *“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Julie Bruce is a chaplain at Newborough East Primary School, and a member of Moe-Newborough Anglican Church.

Anglicare Fare

The Home Stretch

Cathrine Muston

When do you know you’re an adult? Is it when you complete secondary education, get a job, get your driver’s licence or have a significant birthday? If these were the markers of adulthood then there could be a lot of people out there who have not yet made it to adulthood.

There are many things required when making our way into the adult world and fortunately for most of us we had parents to guide us through. But what if you’d never known an adult with a job? What if no one in your family completed high school? Or you didn’t have access to a reliable adult to help you to get 120 hours of driving practice?

This is often the experience of young people in out-of-home-care.

For a young person in care, your 18th birthday is not necessarily something to celebrate. It is the date set for the termination of your care and when the State sees you as “independent”.

Anglicare Victoria’s Home Stretch Campaign has been advocating on behalf of these young people to have the law changed so that young people can receive the support they need until the age of 21.

Sarah Morris leads a team at Anglicare Gippsland who provide support for young people as they make the transition to independent living, many after years of being in out-

of-home-care. Sarah says the needs of this group of young people are complex, as they are high risk young people in most need of services and stability, the ones that have often been put in the “too hard” basket. These young people have usually been confronted with intergenerational issues of violence, addiction and unemployment in their short lives and can be vulnerable to any unsafe adults around them.

On a typical day, Sarah and her team could be taking a young person to a medical appointment, liaising with their school or Centrelink, organizing housing and transport as well as advising on hygiene and diet. Her role often involves justice support and is often crisis driven. It’s not your usual 9-5 job, in fact it is a 24/7.

The issues these young people face are the reason why Anglicare Victoria has advocated so strongly for the State government to “make it 21”. Anglicare Victoria’s annual review tells us that approximately half of the young people leaving care will end up homeless, in prison, unemployed or a new parent. With the support of 120 other organizations, Anglicare Victoria is enabling young people who have left care to tell their stories so that governments, media and policy makers can understand the complexities involved, and provide the support they need until they are ready to take on the adult world.

As a good parent, we would never throw children out of school or home as soon as they turned 18. We know the importance of maintaining support for young people while they



gain the maturity needed to navigate the adult world.

If you’re one of the many Victorians that support our campaign, we want to hear from you. Add your name to the growing chorus of

supporters by emailing info@thehomestretch.org.au or calling Irina Stojcevska: 03 9412 6193.

You can also visit www.thehomestretch.org.au for more information.



OFFICE OF THE | Director of 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



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Basics and variables

Sathi Anthony

The rep at my Health Insurance asked, "Which church are you pastoring?"

"What do you mean?" I queried.

"Well, it appears as Rev'd Anthony on my screen!" he said. A discourse on church ensued. "We are a very committed Anglican family. My mother is the treasurer of an Anglican church", he said. "But, my wife and I are searching for an alternate church."

"Why?" I persisted.

He said, "Because, there is nothing in our churches for us young families. Especially the Sunday services lack something".

At my ordination, I was given a book entitled *Basics and Variables*. The title is all I remember of it. My Christian journey amidst the major religions of the world; questions erupting out of the many "when the rubber hits the road" realities of life; new social values and opinions seem to challenge the "Basics" of belief, while "Variables" invite me to consider possible alternatives and opportunities for new expressions of my basic beliefs.

Disgruntled Anglicans often point fingers at our "boring" hymns, and the "wordy and rambling" prayers of our Sunday liturgy. They may be theologically sound, but they don't seem to sound right with the younger generation.

Although Anglican worship is both traditional and contemporary, it is not all about music and being verbose. There are those moments of connecting with the undeniable transcendence, that which lies beyond the ordinary range of perception, through other word-expressions, rituals, symbols and silence. Beyond page 119 of our *Prayer Book*, there are many meaningful alternative prayer suggestions, with opportunities for inspirational "Variables". The eloquently worded prayers reflect our theology, and cover many relevant areas of individual, family, community, national and global concerns.

While celebrating The Divine (God) and all that is divine in humanity, our liturgies acknowledge our personal and collective strengths and gifts, weaknesses and brokenness. They allow us to reach out for healing, strength and renewal from The Divine and from one another. Like the lotus flower that emerges from the muddied waters beneath it, our liturgies arise out of the complexities of life and breathe life into them. Anglican worship is "heavenly minded", yet of "earthly use"!



Yet, is there too much of a brokenness-sentiment in our daily liturgies. Every time I attend worship – this – "I have not loved you and I haven't loved others" irritates me and deflates all my sincere attempts at biblical loving.

Is there also a touch of pomposity and colonialism in denying the authenticities of people of other faith traditions? A response to the recent Thailand cave escape "miracle, science or what" betrays a hesitant acknowledgement of divine intervention amidst a very secular exercise. Though many a "Please God", and "Thank you God" reverberated from the lips of many Christians, they also ascended from the hearts of Thai Buddhists. Should the common spiritual space of humanity be monopolized by Western-European Christian theology? *God has many names* is a challenging work by theologian and religious philosopher John Hicks. He argues for a true religious pluralism, respectful of the non-Christian traditions that have persisted over time – Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, and Islam.

The scientific world has always challenged "Basics", which has resulted in exciting discoveries. Jesus might have played with the "Basics and Variables" of Judaism while introducing the "Good news". Ecumenism is centred around the "B and V" mutualities of Christian traditions. Counteracting the monocultural platform of the Anglican Church, a wider pluralistic or multicultural ecumenism, due to globalization, refugees, travel and trade is the conscience and experience of the contemporary generation.

In words, attitudes and deeds can our liturgies and ministries reflect such challenging variables while not surrendering our basics? So that "there is something in our churches for us young families"?

The Rev'd Sathi Anthony is Rector, Moe-Newborough.

EDITORIAL

Joining the dots in the Season of Creation

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby said in his one minute video statement for the Season of Creation:

The outlook of climate change is not potentially bad; it is potentially fatal for the most fragile countries and regions on earth, and for the billions of people who live in them.

These are strong words, thank God. Archbishop Welby is one of the Christian leaders of various denominations who have invited churches around the world to join in the Season of Creation, from 1 September to 4 October, St Francis' Day.

The Season of Creation website offers many suggestions and resources, including a liturgy for an ecumenical prayer service; ideas for sermons, retreats, local environmental action; and details about the Rise for Climate Action campaign.

The Season of Creation is an opportunity for churches and individuals to see connections we don't always notice. We can join the dots, for example, between local action and the global environmental crisis.

There are some promising initiatives on the way in Gippsland, such as the Star of the South Energy Project, an off-shore wind farm proposed for the waters off Port Albert, to supply enough power for 1.2 million homes and reduce emissions by about 10.5 million tonnes per annum.

There's the solar farm with 100,000 solar panels to be built near Maffra. There's the large-scale composting facility at Morwell, which is expected to divert 15,000 tonnes of food waste from landfill (*Latrobe Valley Express* 2 July, 2018).

The Earthworker cooperative is manufacturing solar hot water systems in Morwell, and the Gippy Bulk Buy Scheme will make these more affordable.

And of course there's the Diocese's Abbey Centre for Spirituality and the Environment on Raymond Island. The list goes on, and includes all those people who have been slogging away for years on the less visible but important projects to clean up and protect local waterways and threatened species, and/or those who choose to live differently from the mainstream, consumerist society.

All of these local responses relate to the global situation. The dots should also be joined between climate change and refugees, as we have noted before in this paper.

There are other connections to be made: between the slow progress on Reconciliation and the divorce from the natural world that is so commonly experienced; between church and community and world; and especially between God the Creator and the material creation. As we say in the Great Thanksgiving in our communion service: "Heaven AND EARTH are full of your glory".

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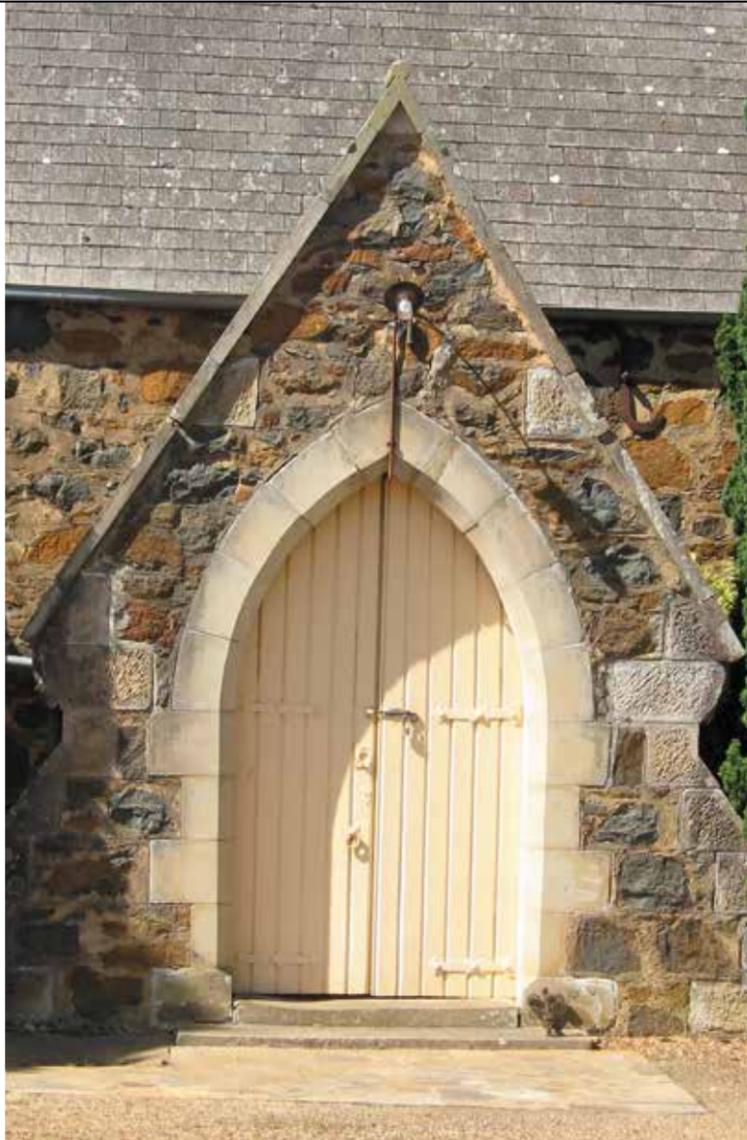
Expect the unchurched

Tony Wicking

The “Wholly Holy” article by Alex Griffiths in *TGA* May was one I found courageous, inspiring and challenging. I hope it was read by a large number of people and inwardly digested. We who have been brought up in the faith can learn much from his comments.

The article was courageous because I imagine it would be no easy task to be so open and honest as Alex was in relating how difficult it was for him to cross the threshold of a church as a “seeker”. To quote him, “For those brought up within a faith, perhaps it’s hard to imagine how daunting the church door can be to the outsider”. How willing would you be, as a seeker, to put your experiences in print as he has done? How deeply have we thought about the difficulties seekers face in crossing the threshold of the church. Well done Alex!

Inspiring, because he has persisted in returning week after week even though he does not understand what we do and why we do it. He finds things like “the language, sacraments and vestments to be stumbling blocks”. He goes on to say that he finds these and the “oft-repeated phrase that has lost all meaning through repetition” and “their very meaninglessness continue to alienate”. Strong words that are also courageous. Yet for



those of us brought up in the faith and see it as “the norm” we often fail to recognize that these things we love are stumbling blocks.

So here is where he challenges me and I hope you and your church as well. How welcoming are we? I am not just talking about whether we speak to strangers or visitors as they enter the church or over a “cuppa” afterwards. Some churches do this well.

I’m talking about our various practices; the style and the way we conduct our services; our vestments; the

language we use; the way we conduct the sacraments. Think also about the music we use, when we sit, stand and kneel and the way we use the prayer book. Just how welcoming of the outsider are we?

Just watch baptism families during the service to see how alienating it can be. Alex makes the statement

that “if the church is to grow – in numbers, maturity and relevance – then perhaps it needs to... step outside itself, and see it as outsiders do”. Perhaps we need to invite a non church-goer to come and critique our church to see how good we are. In reality we only have one shot at getting it right. If we don’t get it right, they will not return.

It so happens I am reading a book by Andy Stanley titled *Deep and Wide*. It has the sub-title “Creating churches unchurched people love to attend”. Stanley is the lead pastor of a six-campus church in Atlanta, Georgia, USA that I have attended many times. One of the chapters in his book is about creating a welcoming environment. It encourages pastors/churches to examine critically the sort of environment they have and see what may be stumbling blocks to outsiders.

One of the comments he makes concerns how we do things. Too often we say and do things for those in the know. Do we ask how an outsider, a newcomer or a seeker may respond? Stanley says that often what we say and how we do things gives the impression that we are not expecting unchurched people. This alienates them immediately. How might our other practices do the same?

Thank you Alex for your article. I hope it encourages us all to re-examine what our churches do and say, so that we do not set up stumbling blocks to new comers and alienate them. Instead, let us become churches that expect the unchurched to attend, that are relevant and will grow.

The Rev’d Tony Wicking is a retired priest, living in Bairnsdale and currently locum tenens at Warragul.

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CORRESPONDENCE

Val Jones’ insights a lesson

The July issue of *TGA* sold out at Bunyip!

As ever it was a good and life-giving issue, full of stories about real people.

Special thanks for Val Jones’ article on the back page about ‘Becoming a lay reader’. Val’s insights are rich and her ability to reflect on her life is a lesson for me.

Her honesty and her willingness to be vulnerable invite each of us to be more attentive to our own calling and to seek ways of being better resourced.

Bless you Val in your ministry, and the editor in hers.

The Rev’d Ken Parker, priest at Bunyip.



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’.

Committed to meditation

**Marie Stripp
Bairnsdale**



Marie Stripp

I grew up on a dairy farm in Ferntree Gully, the youngest of four children. In my fourteenth year my life suffered some upheavals. I was attending confirmation classes with my two brothers, John and Graham. Graham came home with a headache one Saturday, was diagnosed with meningitis on Sunday and died on Tuesday. John and I were confirmed but I remember nothing about that service. I have heard from others how meaningful it was to them.

My parents separated early the next year and my mother and sister and I went to live in St Kilda. While we had always attended the Anglican Church, at this time we went to the Liberal Catholic Church in Richmond. The service had a very inclusive approach which I hadn't experienced before, and I loved the prayers which were used – some of which I still use in my private worship.

I met my husband Harry when I was eighteen and he was twenty-three – recently discharged from the Air Force. That marriage lasted sixty-six years. Harry died on New Year's Eve 2014.

Our first child born in 1951 didn't develop well and I took him back to the doctor who delivered him and was told that he was just a bit slow. Later tests showed he had an underactive thyroid gland which had slowed his development. He was by then two years old and the gap wasn't made up, but he attended Special School. Due to patient and diligent teachers he learned to read and write very well.

I worked for some time at The Brotherhood of St Lawrence (we now had four children) and once again I learned from the social workers not to judge people by their circumstances but to understand what had brought them to that state.

In the late 1970s I read in *The Age* about meditation and its positive effect when practised as a group. I joined "Melbourne Goodwill" and learned of its benefits to humanity. This meant more to me than just personal growth.

In 1981 we moved to Swan Reach. We had intended that our son Graham would come with us as he had worked with Sandringham Council for 15 years, but he refused to move saying he would be "disadvantaged". Later, however, after the Council became more mechanised, he came to Swan Reach, then eventually into his own house in Bairnsdale.

He had grown into a positive man and managed his life well, attending the Noweyung Centre for some years. Harry and I moved into Bairnsdale to be closer to him in 1992. He died of pneumonia in 1996.

The church at Swan Reach and St John's in Bairnsdale have been warm and welcoming. Around the year 2000 a meeting was advertised to form a group or groups to practise Christian Meditation. This was held at St Mary's Catholic Church in Bairnsdale, and was very well attended. Three small groups were formed – two of which are still active. My group of about 12 people meets on Tuesday mornings at St John's Bairnsdale.

I love the rapport that builds among the group. No demands are made on those who attend and one doesn't have to have a religious background. I have always preferred to look for similarities rather than differences when I work with others. The thought that made me commit myself to the practice of meditation every day, I have read expressed in several different ways. John Main expressed it this way:

Don't try to unravel the mystery but allow God to unveil his mystery in your heart. God will do so within the simple union of love you have in the deep centre of your being. It will be a personal, unique unravelling which makes a unique contribution to the universe as a whole and to the whole design of creation.

I am grateful for many things – for my family, my friends, my garden and for learning about meditation.

Diocesan calendar

August

- 10 2:00 pm Safe Church (Refresher) Workshop, Church of the Ascension, Inverloch
- 11 9:30 am – 4:00 pm Safe Church (Full) Workshop, Church of the Ascension, Inverloch
- 11 12 noon Saturday: The Abbey Feast with Chef Bishop Jeffrey Driver. Contact: The Abbey 51560511 or info@theabbey.org.au
- 12 2:00 pm "A Pleasant Sunday Afternoon" with a concert by Cath Connelly, Celtic harpist, followed by afternoon tea in the parish hall, at Christ Church, Drouin. Gold coin donation. Contact Drouin parish: office@anglicanparishdrouin.org.au
- 18 11:00 am Installation of the Rt Rev'd Richard Treloar as Bishop of Gippsland, St Paul's Cathedral, SALE
- 25 9:30 am – 3:30 pm Anam Cara Community Quiet Day at St Mary's Anglican Church Morwell. Facilitator: the Rev'd David Head
- 26 2:00 – 4:00 pm An exploratory session for those considering a call to ordained ministry: St James' Church, Traralgon. Details from Archdeacon Graham Knott: rectorleongatha1@bigpond.com/. (See also page 8 and page 2 "From the Administrator".)

September

- 1 9:30 – 3:00 pm Men's Retreat at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale. Theme: "The Way of the Son into the Far Country". Reflections by the Rev'd Nikolai Blaskow. Details: nikolai@nikolaiblaskow.com, or ring 0428167724
- 2 2:00 pm A Bunyip Lecture by Dr Brian Chapman: "Grief, Denial and Rage: A Revisionist View of Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata"
- 9 10:30 am Service of Celebration for 150 years of Parish of Yarram. Lunch to follow in parish hall
- 7-8 5:00 pm Friday – 3.30 pm Saturday: Diocesan Retreat at The Abbey, Raymond Island. The Retreat Leader will be Bishop Garry Weatherill. Bookings by 31 August: 03 5156 6580 or info@theabbey.org.au
- 8 Corinella Community Market

October

- 1-4 A holiday at The Abbey, guests of Mother's Union, for families in need of respite. Interested? Know a family who could be interested? Call Jan Misiurka 0475 067 145
- 7 12 noon The Blessing of the Animals at St Thomas' Bunyip, in honour of St Francis, with outdoor Eucharist including singing by The Blenders from Castlemaine. Barbeque to follow. Animals of all sorts welcome.
- 27 The 114th Flower Show at St Thomas' Bunyip



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You are warmly invited to the
**Installation of
Bishop Richard Treloar**
as 13th Bishop of Gippsland
11:00 am Saturday 18 August
St Paul's Cathedral, Cunninghame Street, Sale
Watch for further details: gippsanglican.org.au
or  Anglican Diocese of Gippsland

