

The Gippsland Anglican

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Bishop Richard installed

Jan Down

The Rt Rev'd Dr Richard Stanley Treloar was installed as thirteenth Bishop of Gippsland at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale, at 11:00 am on Saturday, 18 August.

As the procession entered the Cathedral, representatives of the Gunaikurnai people played the didgeridoo and performed a smoking ceremony outside. The Dean, Susanna Pain, then welcomed everyone and acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land.

There was good humoured laughter as the Bishop's first knock on the Cathedral door coincided with Dean Susanna's "Let the doors be opened". Two more loud knocks ensued from outside, and with a light-hearted "Wow!" the Dean repeated her words, the doors were duly opened, and Bishop Richard entered. The captains of St Paul's Anglican Grammar School and of Gippsland Grammar, representing the Diocese, greeted and asked the traditional questions of the Bishop-elect.

When Bishop Richard had been presented by the Primate, Archbishop Philip Freier for his installation, the Rev'd Kathy Dalton welcomed him to country, and the Rev'd Phyllis Andy also acknowledged the traditional owners.

The Administrator, Archdeacon Philip Muston, inducted and installed the Bishop-elect in his Cathedra (the Bishop's chair). Dean Susanna then brought from the altar the Pastoral Staff of the Bishop of Gippsland, which Archdeacon Philip placed in the Bishop's hand.

As the new Bishop of Gippsland was presented to the people, there was thunderous applause.

Following the Bible readings, Bishop Richard began his sermon by saying:

Thank you for letting me in! Waiting outside I got to wondering: what does a bishop-elect do if the doors don't open? So I knocked a little harder than felt Anglican... and I'm good for the damage, Susanna! Thank you for letting us in – for inviting us in to your community. Leanne, Rachel and Nicholas share my gratitude for the wonderful Gippsland hospitality we've already received.

The theme of hospitality and inclusion continued, as Bishop Richard focused on King David bringing the ark of God to Jerusalem (2 Samuel 6), and Mary, the mother of Jesus, as the "living ark of God's covenant in Christ" (Luke 1).

Bishop Richard issued the diocese with an invitation: "Let us build a house of radical inclusion... where all are welcome, all voices valued, and all are safe; an open house, with a table at which all who know their need are fed".

During communion members and friends of the Choir of Christ Church South Yarra sang the Prayer of St Richard of Chichester, composed for the service by his friend and former Trinity College colleague, Michael Leighton Jones.

The Gippsland Grammar School Choir joined them in singing *Borgoditse Devo* by



Photo: Trevor Balm

The Rev'd Phyllis Andy, Bishop Richard Treloar, and the Rev'd Kathy Dalton

Sergei Rachmaninoff. Earlier in the service, the school choir also sang *Amen, Siakudumisa* (*Amen, sing praises to the Lord*).

Among those present at the Installation were Bishop Garry Weatherill of Ballarat, along with other Victorian Provincial bishops, Bishop Richard's brother, the Rev'd Canon Peter Treloar, Assistant Chaplain at Ballarat Grammar School, with his wife Jayne and their son Stephen; and Leanne Treloar's mother, Mrs Patsy Habeeb, who had travelled from Mississippi in the United States.

There were a number of

other visiting clergy and bishops, both active and retired, including Bishop Andrew St John from the US, who married Bishop Richard and Leanne.

Archdeacon Graham Knott oversaw the brief speeches of welcome that followed the service.

Archdeacon Edie Ashley, in welcoming Bishop Richard on behalf of the clergy, read Gerard Manly Hopkins' poem, *God's Grandeur*, and ended by saying "As you take up your ministry among us in this place... a place that bears most eloquently the grandeur of God in

creation, that wears most deeply the wounds and scars of human frailty, and that experiences time and again the overwhelming grace of God – may you be reminded that 'The Holy Ghost, over the bent world broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.' Bishop Richard, we are delighted to welcome you as Bishop of Gippsland."

Bishop Richard's reply of thanks to many people especially singled out Archdeacon Philip Muston, who had "so gently and ably" led the diocese as Administrator over the past nine months.

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Our baptismal calling

Installation sermon by Bishop Richard Treloar

2 Samuel 6:9-12, 17-19; Psalm 34; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 1:46-56

A feast that has at times divided us as Christians, and as Churches, unites us today, in this Octave of Mary, in celebrating that great and central mystery of our faith: “he... was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human”.

The 2004 statement of the Anglican Roman Catholic International Commission – “Mary: Grace and Hope in Christ” – reminds us that Mary’s “yes” to her calling echoes God’s own “yes” to humanity in this one “born of a woman”.

Mary’s “yes” is the epitome of every “Amen”, and – as such – it is not hers alone, but is an emblematic response to God’s grace and mercy to Abraham and his descendants for ever.

Among those, King David, the boy-shepherd called to be shepherd over Israel, who in our first reading is bringing the ark of God to his new political and spiritual capital of Jerusalem.

The journey is not an easy one, and the ark – a focus of God’s nearness to Israel in the relational blessings and demands of the covenant – becomes a burden for David, and he parks it at the house of Obed-edom for three months, asking rhetorically “How can the ark of the Lord come into my care?”

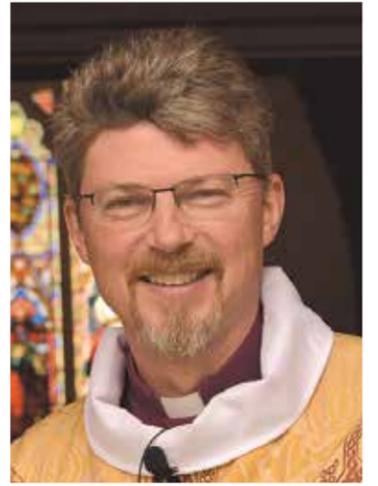
It’s a question echoed by Elizabeth on the visit of her kinswoman Mary: “why has this happened... that the mother of my Lord comes to me?” – the very question that prompts Mary’s song of praise in today’s gospel.

When David hears of the blessing which flows to the house of Obed-edom, he resumes his mission to bring the ark home. So too the one to be called blessed, who stays three months in the house of Elizabeth, moves from asking the angel Gabriel “How can this be?” to an Amen: “Let it be with me according to your word.”

With each resonance between these two stories Luke builds a picture of Mary as the living ark of God’s covenant in Christ: the promise of divine grace and mercy in the Word made flesh: born of a woman, born under the law.

Born under *Torah* – that law or teaching which has to do with life in the world under God in its wholeness and entirety, such that nothing stands outside of its orbit of concern or influence – abiding covenant, Jesus had as much to say about money and food as he did about prayer. For him to forgive was also to restore to community, and to heal the body was to enable socio-economic wellbeing.

At his table, where everyone who knew their need had a place, and there was always enough and to spare, he embodied his proclamation of the kingdom of God: what the world might look like if the reconciling, just, and generous reign of the One he called Father were operative in human hearts; a household of radical



inclusion; a divine economy of gift, which overturns both the presumption of the powerful and the quiescence of the powerless, as prefigured by Mary, and by Hannah before her at the birth of Samuel, the prophet who first anoints David.

David and Mary respond to their respective vocations as – in some sense – bearers of this polity, this kingdom, with an offering: a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

David brings the ark into Jerusalem with great, if eyebrow-raising, rejoicing. Our first reading skips over the racier details, but let’s just say it was more like liturgical dance than Mary’s hymn! And in a proto-eucharistic gesture, he then takes portions of food and distributes them to all the people of Israel, that they might taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

The Gippsland Anglican

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Parish to Parish: praying for each other

“...That we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith...” (ROMANS 1:12)

ROSEDALE EASTERN REGION

St Mark, Rosedale
St Paul, Gormandale
Christ Church, Carrajung
Priest-in-Charge: The Rev’d Lyndon Phillips

Rosedale Township is nestled between Traralgon and Sale, providing a comfortable country lifestyle with easy access to larger rural cities. The towns of Gormandale and Carrajung are the gathering spaces of their respective farming areas that offer support and fellowship to all residents. Rosedale Parish is a welcoming space that embraces all who come to worship or to engage with the wider community. Our faith community is very involved within the worship time as we are committed to expressing God’s love, in whatever situation we find ourselves in.

Please pray for continuing spiritual growth and vitality; for our wider community as Rosedale and surrounds welcomes new families; and for leaders to be involved with our children and youth projects.

SALE 2018 EASTERN REGION

Cathedral Church of St Paul, Sale
St Alban’s, Kilmany
St Mark’s Anglican and Community Church, Loch Sport
St Anne’s, Golden Beach
Dean: The Very Rev’d Susanna Pain

We, at St Paul’s are “people of Christian faith – encouraging connection between the Divine and the everyday”, as our vision statement affirms. Our mission is to show Christ’s unconditional love in action.

Our goals for change and growth are: to engage inclusively with the community and each other; to nourish ourselves spiritually; and to be relevant and approachable to the community.

Prayer points: prayer for Messy church leadership, singers for a choir; for formation of new small groups; for new ways to serve the diocese; for Mens’ Retreat; arts projects; *mainly music*, Tadpoles, Messy Church volunteers and participants; prison outreach; building stronger relationships with Gippsland Grammar, the Police Force and the Gallery.

TAMBO EASTERN REGION

St Matthew, Bruthen
St Mary, Buchan
St Columb, Swan Reach

Rector: Vacant

Tambo Parish now comprises three centres of worship. The Rectory is located alongside St Matthew’s Church, Bruthen, and the Parish Opportunity Shop (believed to be the oldest in Gippsland) is on the Main Street next door to the Bullant Brewery. Swan Reach, with its updated buildings, is on the Princes Highway. St Columb’s is noted for the welcoming lunch after every late morning fortnightly service.

Buchan services began in 1894 and continue today on the third Sunday of each month with a loyal congregation drawn from far and near. The format is Café Church from 2:30 – 4:00 pm, concluding with the Lord’s Supper. To give more opportunity for fellowship at this monthly gathering the travellers usually meet for lunch at the recently rebuilt Buchan Hotel.

Prayers are asked for discernment concerning the process of appointing a new parish priest.

(Continued from page 2)

Coupled with her own thank-offering to this One who fills the hungry with good things, Mary's self-offering – her questioning "Amen" to a difficult and costly calling – models for us a eucharistic life. St Augustine of Hippo, whose feast day falls later this month, reflects on the vocation to live eucharistically with the newly baptised:

You are the body of Christ. In you and through you the work of the incarnation must go forward. You are to be taken, blessed, broken, and distributed, that you may be the means of grace, and vehicles of the eternal charity.

In baptism we are called, taken – as David and Mary were called: taken from what they knew, to do and be the seemingly impossible.

In baptism we are blessed, consecrated, set apart to take up ministries, lay and ordained – as David was anointed and Mary overshadowed.

In our baptismal following of the crucified and risen One we come to know our brokenness, as David faced his, and as a sword pierced Mary's heart also.

And in our "Amen" to this baptismal identity and vocation – our privilege and, yes, at times, our burden – we are sent out from this table as fleshy arks – human tabernacles – to the world God so loves.

As the shepherd-king David pitched a tent for the ark of the Lord to be a source of blessing for all Israel, and as Blessed Mary housed in her flesh the Word made flesh – let us build a house of radical inclusion, where all may rejoice in God's "yes" to humanity, God's "Amen" to creation: a house with interconnecting rooms of many shapes and sizes – as many as there are parishes and schools and chaplaincies and agencies around this Diocese and beyond; a house built with those who have gone before, on foundations already laid around Christ our cornerstone, and for those yet to come; a house that can accommodate and celebrate difference, of R-E-S-P-E-C-T, where all are welcome, all voices valued, and all are safe; an open house, with a table at which all who know their need are fed.

May our eucharistic life in

this household be our mission – our share in God's mission to the world in Christ.

And as we journey on together, may we "know him more clearly, love him

more dearly, and follow him more nearly."*

* From a Prayer of St Richard of Chichester, the text of which was set as an anthem for Richard's Installation Service by his friend and former Trinity College colleague Michael Leighton Jones.



Bishop Richard Treloar with his wife Leanne Habeeb and children, Rachel and Nicholas



Photos: Christine Morris

The traditional knock on the Cathedral door

Tracy Lauersen appointed to Warragul

Jan Down

The Rev'd Tracy Lauersen has been appointed as Rector in the Parish of Warragul.

Tracy is currently Senior Associate Minister at St Hilary's Network in Kew, and Director of the Peter Corney Training Centre.

Tracy said they are very excited about coming to Warragul and she looks forward to serving and

strengthening the people of the parish, "working alongside them to extend the Kingdom of God".

She added, on the personal side, that they are also happy about the prospect of a "tree change", leaving the city behind. At the same time, they will deeply miss the friends they have made at St Hilary's.

It is seven and a half years since the family arrived at St Hilary's, where Tracy had come in order to lead one of the evening congregations and to start up a training centre. This became the Peter Corney Training Centre, named in honour of a highly respected and influential former rector at Kew.

Tracy enjoys helping people grow in their faith and loves evangelism. Lately she has been assisting in a voluntary role at St Paul's Cathedral in Melbourne, simply being available to talk to tourists or anyone who drops in. She said there have been some

"amazing conversations" with people who know nothing about Jesus Christ.

The induction of the Rev'd Tracy Lauersen at St Paul's, Warragul will be

held on Tuesday 16 October at 7:30 pm. The diocese of Gippsland looks forward to welcoming Tracy, her husband Sven and their two daughters, Abbey and Freya.



The Rev'd Tracy Lauersen, her husband Sven and their daughters, Abbey and Freya

GIPPSLAND DIOCESE VACANT PARISHES:

EASTERN REGION

- Heyfield
- Orbost
- Tambo

SOUTHERN REGION

- Yarram

WESTERN REGION

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



Korumburra / Poowong people met to develop a Mission Action Plan

Developing our Mission Action Plan

Martin Shaw
Korumburra / Poowong

Over recent months our rector, the Rev'd Fran Grimes, has been talking to us about "our call to mission", within our parish and more importantly within our community.

The little blue diocesan brochure entitled "JESUS CHRIST here and now for Gippsland", has been waved about regularly during services, to the extent we have concerns that a shoulder injury may have ensued. More importantly, it highlights Fran's passion and desire to lead us forward on

this journey of understanding and appreciating our capabilities and resources and how they can best serve both parish and community.

A date was set (29 July) and we all received invitations to meet and provide input into the development of our Mission Action Plan. We held a combined service, with the meeting sandwiched between morning tea and lunch. The session was based on SWOT principles – identification of our Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. We were slow to get going but with cake and coffee on board we soon had impressive lists for each category.

Phil and Fiona Beggs were team leaders, generating discussion on each point raised in each SWOT category. The first thirty minutes saw us still discussing the first point listed in the "strengths" category and with what looked like fifty or more issues to discuss, there was an uncomfortable feeling that sleeping bags may be required before we finished. We did however get into the swing of things and moved efficiently and I must say, in

depth, through the matters raised. To assist this process, Phil diplomatically amended the "Threats" category to "Challenges".

Our team leaders did a marvellous job and captured the context of each of the points listed. It is so easy to read what has been written and interpret it differently to what the writer was trying to say.

Our discussions surprised us in identifying how well set-up we are as a parish and how strong our links are within the community. Also significantly, people opened up about how important we are to each other as individuals, providing friendship and encouragement through our Christian faith. These were uplifting and powerful outcomes, providing a strong base as we consider the implementation of some of the initiatives proposed.

In the Diocesan brochure, our then Bishop Kay wrote as an aim "... proclaim God's love in the communities in which we live and work and play, here and now". There is no doubt the meeting showed that we are closer to doing this than we thought.

It was uplifting to be part of such a committed team supporting each other whilst developing a plan for our future. God's love was working with us this day.

Contemplating art

Cynthia Grove
Sale

One morning in early July eight people met with Dean Susanna Pain at the Sale Art Gallery for a morning of contemplation.

After a sharing of what motivated us to come, and our personal relationship (if any) with "Art", Susanna led us in a reflection on the role of art in our connection with the Holy Spirit and our own spirituality.

"Walk around the Gallery," Susanna said, "and look at the art works. Find one that you feel a connection to." The link could be a moment in our personal history, the aesthetics of the piece, a connection to something that interests us. Do we like it? Is it beautiful, ugly, in-between or somehow challenging? Does it speak to a moment of joy, peace, or some deep concern? Does it move us and if so, why? And do we feel when gazing at the work that we are receiving something from the mind of the artist – if only we could quite understand it?

My own choice is not, in my eyes, beautiful, but it is a work that is hard to comprehend; it is for me a challenging work.

With the chosen piece (some chose paintings, others embroideries, lino-cuts, pots) we were asked to sit and contemplate it for up to 30 minutes, exploring the questions posed above. Rejoining the group, we were able to explore privately our thoughts and reactions in word or our own art. As we later shared with each other something of that experience, several of us had tears in our eyes and were shaken with emotion.

I don't know about you but I, who love art galleries, often find it hard to find the time to get there. One friend I know doesn't want to be bothered by art. That friend lives many hours drive away but I believe she would have been, like us, moved by the experience of that contemplative connection with art.



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Dr Ganzorig Bekhochir, Caroline Beischer, Dr David Beischer and Chojjoo Ochirsum

Visitors from Mongolia

Jane Peters
Wonthaggi / Inverloch

The Wonthaggi Inverloch parish has been encouraged recently by visitors from Mongolia. The visit was organized by Dr David Beischer, who has visited Mongolia several times to serve through VET Net, a Christian non-government organization that works with vets and communities throughout Mongolia.

David organized two vets from the organization to visit Australia for a month of professional development and training, based in the local clinic as part of a dairy residency program. Initially only one visa was granted for Dr Ganzorig Bekhochir, but, in an answer to prayer, a different type of visa and backing from the local federal member, Russel Broadbent, enabled Chojjoo Ochirsum, a younger man, also to take advantage of the training.

The Mongolian Leadership Team is led by Dr Ganzorig Bekhochir. He describes how he became involved with VET Net. "When I was a student, Mongolia had many problems, as the Russians had withdrawn economic and professional expertise suddenly after the dissolution of the Soviet Union. I began going along to English classes with Gerald and Frances Mitchum who had come to Mongolia to work with veterinary students. The people I met were kind and generous. I also began to listen to the Bible studies and teaching and came to trust in Jesus."

From small beginnings with just a handful of Mongolian professionals, today VET Net has grown to employ over 70 Mongolian staff who work directly with Mongolian vets, offer small animal training and also support training and education in rural areas through summer schools for the children.

Ganzo and Chojjoo shared about a recently launched project called Gift of Love, which is a partnership between VET Net, the local Mongolian churches and overseas donors. It serves the dual purpose of providing food for needy families during the harsh Mongolian winters, and much needed livestock medicine for the local herders (farmers).

Herders have livestock but often don't have cash to buy veterinary medicines. The Gift of Love allows the herders to pay VET Net with sheep. A sheep is worth about A\$60. A donation for this amount from an overseas donor pays for the drugs VET Net supplies and allows them to give the sheep

to the church. The local church knows the families in their area who require assistance – often elderly widows who are caring for young grandchildren – and visits them as part of the program and gifts them with several animals.

The slaughtered sheep are then put in the deep freezer (on the roof) and eaten through the winter. This is a practical way of the church showing its care for the widows and orphans. The equivalent of 80 sheep had been donated to the Gift of Love program during the month that Ganzo and Chojjoo were in Australia.

Ganzo and Chojjoo shared that the church in Mongolia is young, having only really begun in the 1990s after the end of the Soviet Union. Because of this, the church is full of young people. It still needs much support, but it is growing and reaching out to every county as well as into the Veterinary school in the capital Ulaanbaatar, with the good news of Jesus.

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

Report from Ministry to the Dying Working Group

Sue Fordham

The group, set up by a motion of the 2017 synod to investigate and report on an appropriate way to minister to the dying and their families, first met in October last year and has been meeting at intervals since.

The committee was established in response to what was then imminent Victorian government legislation to permit assisted dying under stringent guidelines.

It was decided to extend the scope of the committee's deliberations to include, not just a response to assisted dying, but to the broader Christian ministry to the dying and their families.

In the absence of a given frame of reference at the beginning, the working group decided that it should begin with a general theological overview of our attitude to life, death and dying; to the philosophical and ethical framework in which we might deliberate on these issues; to a Christian perspective on palliative care; and the way in which all three speak to what is the new law on physician assisted dying.

Chairperson, Kaye Thurbon (Paynesville parish of St Peter's by the Lake), appreciating the diversity of opinion on the legislation and the passion with which opinion was held, has ensured that at all times

discussion remain respectful, positive and constructive.

At the July meeting, the Rev'd David Head presented a succinct and masterly theological overview, the Rev'd Graham Toohill followed with a Christian overview of the strengths of a well organized, properly funded and universally available system of palliative care and the Rev'd Nikolai Blaskow offered a paper on the philosophical and ethical framework in which the current law might be critiqued.

The working group felt reassured at the general consensus of direction followed by the three papers. While imperfect at this stage, and arrived at as the result of considerable good will, the papers and a report linking the themes and providing resources for the ministry are still works in progress.

At our next meeting in October the Reverend Nikolai Blaskow will present a case study that he believes might clarify some of the issues and inform our Christian response to the new law and more broadly to our ministry to the terminally ill and their families.

Any lay or clerical member of the diocese wishing to have input into the working group's deliberations is invited to submit contributions to the chairperson, Kaye Thurbon at nkthurbon9@bigpond.com or minute taker, Sue Fordham at susanfordham45@gmail.com



A holding cross

Young Adults Winter Tribal Retreat

Alisha Moyle (Jones)

It began as a seed. A response to God's call and vision to gather young "next generation" adults from across the Diocese as a "tribe" to the heart of The Abbey over a relaxed, wholesome weekend. With thanks to Archdeacon Edie Ashley who opened the doors in support of the vision with the Rev'd Dave Perryman alongside in pastoral support and direction.

The call became an invitation as we cast the nets across the Diocese, through much prayer and preparation.

Arriving at the A Frame, we relaxed into watching *The Shack*, which sparked conversation on Trinity.

Saturday morning began with Edie introducing the special essence of The Abbey and its environment in a guided tour, concluding with a blessing and prayer in the Chapel.

Morning tea led us together around the campfire for spiritual nourishment, with Dave leading a powerful Bible reflection on Colossians 3:12-17, central to the vision of the Young Adults tribe. There was fruitful discussion, giving energy for the journey ahead.

Our "manna" appeared from Clergy Conference Retreat the week preceding, and 123 Cafe bread which sufficiently satisfied and nourished our bodies over the retreat weekend.

Rain persistently fell as we were ushered into the A Frame to peacefully reflect on the Rev'd Jude Benton's Pilgrim Walk guide.

All cosy, our tribe gathered in uplifting casual worship music and fellowship with Dave on guitar and Anthony Hahn on organ.

Josh Hasan led us in fellowship over a relaxed game or two with great skill. Our creative prayer wall grew and knitting began.

There was a blessed touch from Jennifer, who decorated our family tribal dinner table with a collection of native plants from around the grounds of The Abbey, ahead of an evening feast.

Edie wore the chef's hat for the evening with all tasty provisions. Retreat participant, Jack, used his hospitality skills and formed a culinary team. Both served us a warming and

wholesome two-course meal as we invited the company of Jesus.

As the night sky cleared to reveal stars under the full moon, we united by the campfire with informal worship, supper, fellowship and prayer.

On Sunday morning we had a special campfire Eucharist. The service was prepared by Dave, led by me. Our congregation was made whole with brother

and sister kangaroos; breaking damper and taking wine for Holy Communion; and the worship music team of the Perryman family, with special intercessions and prayers for the road ahead.

"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:25 (NIV)



The Rev'd David Perryman on guitar, Anthony Hahn on organ, for worship at the retreat

God's amazing grace

David Perryman

There's a time in one's life where you begin to look back on all the blessings that have flowed out of your life. I wanted to write about one such blessing that recently occurred on the Young Adults Retreat down at The Abbey.

Our middle child Elijah has always been a bit of adventurer, a toddler with no fear. At the retreat we were gathered in the A-Frame playing some card games. Emma and I were so engrossed by the games that we failed to realize that Elijah had been absent for the last twenty minutes. Clearly, he had found out how the doors worked in the A-Frame and wandered off outside.

It's worth noting here that it was very wet outside, and at night.

We began to frantically search around the site for Elijah, looking for any trace of him. After a few minutes, I jumped in the car and took off to search the surrounding streets.

As I drove, I desperately prayed to God for a safe return for him. I pleaded for the Spirit's



David and Emma Perryman

guidance for the direction I was to take. I ended up driving up to the east of the Abbey on a random track, near the smaller jetties. Coming to a place where the car couldn't enter I frantically U-Turned and headed back up the track.

I had barely started when I had to stop. Emotionally overwhelmed and facing the thought of not seeing my son again, I rested my head on the steering wheel, swamped by

emotion and frantic prayer.

It was at that point that I raised my head and to my deep amazement, I found myself looking at Elijah, who was about five metres away in the middle of a walking path off to the side of the main track, just staring at the car.

I ran out of the car, embraced him and wept, and wept, unable to let go of him. Other than being a little drenched from a few puddles he was fine.

In reflecting on this event, I was drawn to the parable of the prodigal son. In that moment, I identified with the father who ran out and flung his arms around his son. This son who could easily have been dead, was found alive. How much more must God feel when we find our way to him? A child of his, lost but safely found. I thought I knew what grace was, but for me, this just reveals how much deeper God's grace flows.

I will be eternally thankful of this. I am eternally thankful for Elijah's safe return, in full knowledge that many parents have been in similar situations where things have ended

differently. I am thankful for the amazing young adults' community who so readily helped us in searching for Eli, without hesitation, and to Edie for taking care of our other boys whilst we searched.

Our God is a God beyond words. I would say amazing, but that word can't do enough justice, none can. All I can say is that because of our gracious God, we still have our son. Because of his grace and faithfulness, our family is still together, and just that bit wiser.

The Rev'd David Perryman is Priest-in-Charge in the parish of Avon.

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The Abbey Feast: another triumph

Sue Fordham

The 2018 Abbey Feast was a triumph in so many ways. Nearly 90 “feasters” from all parts of the diocese and beyond attended and the A-frame bulged with laughing, chattering well-fed people.

This year, the Right Reverend Dr Jeffrey Driver was the celebrity chef and those not knowing of his culinary and gastronomic skills were a bit apprehensive about the connection between “Bishop in the Church of God” and food.

All concern was well and truly put to rest as the feast progressed.

Hors d’oeuvres with wines from Narkoojee, Jacob’s Creek and Taylors were followed by two soups: Thai curry pumpkin or Moroccan sweet potato. These soups were subtle and flavoursome and everyone at my table declared them a triumph. The pity was that we couldn’t have both. Or maybe not, given what was to follow.

The main course was a choice between lamb shanks in red wine braise served on a bed of mashed potato with beans, or fish fillet in coconut



Bob Harrison helps out in the kitchen

cream, lime and coriander. I had the fish and that was beautiful, but the lamb shanks looked and smelled like a gourmand’s delight. The meat fell off the bone and the aromas, as the waitresses walked past the table, really set the taste buds going.

The finale was a choice of two desserts: panna cotta or

sticky date pudding. Originally, I had been served the panna cotta but when I returned to my table after a pretty amateurish stint at waitressing, I found sticky date had replaced it. Never mind, both were really yummy, so I didn’t mind.

The kitchen team of six, headed by Bishop Jeffrey and Lindy Driver did a fabulously professional job. Not only was the food faultless but the timing was spot on, with course following course seamlessly and at decent intervals.

Archdeacon Philip Muston said grace before the meal and Archdeacon Edie Ashley welcomed the feasters and supporters of the Abbey. It is expected that about \$4,000 was raised towards the work of the Abbey.



The Feast in full swing

Parish contributions rise to 11%

Bishop In Council (BIC) has raised parish contributions from 9% to 11%, effective from October this year.

This will bring the Gippsland Anglican Diocese closer to levels in other rural Victorian dioceses, such as Ballarat (14.74%), Bendigo (13.9%) and Wangaratta (11%). Melbourne Diocese asks 11% on the first \$60,000 of assessable income and 16% on income over \$60,000.

Looking interstate, Tasmania’s rate, mandatory for parishes, is set at

13% of “live giving” income (offerings, trading, fundraising etc), and at 23% of investment income. Bunbury, in Western Australia, has been asking 10% for about the last twelve years.

Gippsland’s Registrar, the Rev’d Brian Norris, commented that there are some budgetary challenges, and as BIC has been working on the new budget, the timing was right to review the rate. He said there was a “significant deficit” anticipated for the year 2018–19, and therefore a need to increase income,

decrease expenditure, or both.

While the total amount from parish contributions has increased, as a proportion of the diocese’s income it has gone down.

Mr Norris also noted that Gippsland uses the term “contribution” rather than “assessment” because parish contributions in the Gippsland Diocese are voluntary.

The decision to raise contributions was made in late June and has recently been communicated to parishes. (See *Correspondence*, page 11)



“May the FARCE be with you”

St James’ Patronal Festival, Orbost

Star Wars was the theme for this year’s patronal festival event at St James’, Orbost. The Rev’d Bevil Lunson’s production was aptly titled “May the FARCE be with you”.

There were other items of entertainment in the program, including a performance by the Nowa Nowa men’s choir.

Fun, food and fellowship were enjoyed by all, and some have already booked their seats for next year!



The Rev’d Bevil Lunson presenting a Patsy Cline number, “I’ve got the memories but she’s got you”



Bev Weir as Slappa the slug



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.

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Maffra Messy Church

Janet Wallis

Messy Church at St John's Maffra commenced in 2014 with a monthly session. In 2017, a revamped program began, with second weekly sessions, during school term time, and is still going strong.

The sessions, held on a Thursday afternoon, 3:45 to 6:00 pm, are a burst of excitement from the arrival of the first child. Many of the children come straight from school, and we can hear their footsteps running up the footpaths to the Parish Centre, before they rush in. Family members then arrive, while others arrive in a family group.

In the warmer weather, we begin with games outside, while in colder weather there are indoor games. This is usually an active time, and a good "getting to know you" time.

After the routine washing of hands, it is fruit and drink time. Thank you to the helpers in the kitchen who magically time the setting out of the fruit and drink. Much chatter goes on here.

Story time is a more settled activity. The children gather on cushions and rugs and sit on the floor. This is the first telling of the Bible story, and includes drama, participation, question and answer, and lots of spontaneous discussion.

Story time flows into a variety of craft, related to the

Bible story. Some sessions have included cooking, where pizza preparation has proved the most popular. Other sessions have included science activities; the overflowing of force of bubbles formed by making a "lava lamp" proved very entertaining.

In the church, action songs are a favourite, especially when the air guitar sequences come up. The second telling of the Bible story is shown via video on the large screen. We have prayer time in church, which the children love. They are invited to light a candle and say a prayer, whether aloud or silently, and we all join in the "Amen".

Other times, we have "jelly bean prayers". Children choose a jelly bean from the jar. Each colour indicates a different prayer topic: someone you love; something you are sorry for; yourself; the world; our leaders. Small prayer cards are available for



Children learning at Messy Church

prompts. The children only get to eat the jelly bean after their pray – a real exercise in self-control.

The parents and helpers in the kitchen once again, magically, have the dining tables set with table cloths, knives, forks and spoons, upon the children's return. Seeing the children and families sitting at the tables together as a church family is quite touching.

Grace is either said or sung. Our helpers in the kitchen plate the meal, and helpers are chosen from the children to serve the meals to the table. Dessert follows, with much delight. At the end of the meal, there is a brief summary of the theme to the Bible story.

The Rev'd Janet Wallis is Rector at Maffra.

Language and culture tour in Japan

Seventeen students and three staff members from St Paul's Anglican Grammar School have recently returned from a 16 day language and culture tour in Japan.

The tour provides the students with the opportunity to practise and improve their Japanese language skills and learn more about Japanese culture and school life.

Students explored Tokyo before a five night homestay,

staying with their host brother or sister and attending the St Paul's sister school, Hinode Junior and Senior High School, all while learning more about Japanese life through their homestay.

Year 11 student Joshua Suhaven said, "I think I have gained a slightly different understanding of the world and how people think. I have also gained valuable conversational skills in another language".



Jessica Pisani with children at Hinode Kindergarten, Tokyo

Anglicare Parish Partnership Grant Applications now open

Parishes are encouraged to apply for Parish Partnership Grants to support parish-run programs that strengthen links with the local community.

In the past, grants to support *mainly music*, after school clubs, community meals and events have been successful in receiving grant funding. Application forms along with guidelines to assist with the process have now been sent to all parishes.

For further information, support and advice on your project, please contact Cathrine Muston at Anglicare Victoria on phone: 5135 9555 mobile: 0458 450 370 email: cathrine.muston@anglicarevictoria.org.au.





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'.

Ready Player One?

Daniel Lowe

I love a bit of escapism and indulged in some recently by taking my son to see the movie *Ready Player One*.

While there were some glaring holes in the plotline and a disappointing ending, the exploration of virtual reality was fantastic and the plethora of 80's references gave me a real buzz. What really got me thinking, though, was the idea of how we perceive reality and find purpose.

In the movie, reality is so unpleasant and meaningless that most people choose to escape into the virtual world of The Oasis, where you can go anywhere, do anything, be anyone. "People come to The

Oasis for all the things they can do, but they stay because of all the things they can be. It's the only place that feels like I mean anything", says Wade Watts.

There is some tension throughout the movie about the merits of this escapism. Wade's love interest, Samantha, declares in frustration "This isn't just a game. I'm talking about actual life and death stuff". And yet in the end the movie fails to offer any real alternative to VR escapism and the best it can offer is an "ad free virtual experience".

But what if this world is the shadow world? What if there is more to life than what we see? What if the reality we experience is merely a shadow of a greater reality?

This is not a new idea. Consider the words of Shakespeare's Macbeth, "Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player that struts and frets his hour upon the stage and then is heard no more. It is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing." Macbeth recognizes the inadequacies of our material world but fails to see a way out.

The Bible puts a more hopeful spin on this idea. As the Apostle Paul writes,

"For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known"

(1 Corinthians 13:12).

For young disciples



Daniel Lowe

For Christians, the answer to the problems of this world is not an escape into a virtual reality but rather the embracing of a deeper reality.

"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

(John 3:17).

God invites us to join in this restorative work, doing what we can to make our own lives reflect the full

glorious reality intended for us by our creator. Reality is not something to escape but something to redeem.

I had fun escaping into a fantasy world as I watched the movie, but as I sat there with my son, I reflected that my hope and prayer for him is that he is being equipped to embrace reality in all its fullness, rather than to escape it. And that is the task we have as carers, parents and teachers. To equip our children for reality. A challenging task but, in the words of Oasis creator James Halliday,

"...as terrifying and painful as reality can be, it's also the only place where you can find true happiness. Because reality is real."

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

Anglicare Fare

New Regional Director for Gippsland

Cathrine Muston

Tim Pedlow has been appointed the new Regional Director for Anglicare in Gippsland. Tim has been with Anglicare for 12 years and held a number of leadership positions in the agency both in Gippsland and Southern Metro (Frankston) areas.

Tim's career has seen him focus on improving the lives of children and families, starting with four years in Child Protection before a move to Anglicare to oversee the Family Service Program areas.

Most recently he has held the position of Gippsland Regional Development Manager and has overseen the implementation of programs such as Cradle to Kinder (a four year program supporting young mothers until their babies reach kindergarten) as well as the TEACHaR and TEACH program which is a flexible education program for children and young people in out-of-home-care.

When asked what he thinks sets Anglicare Victoria apart as an agency, Tim says that having so many volunteers and foster carers who support our work makes a huge difference, as well as being a faith-based welfare agency which brings advantages. "The shared commitment to supporting those in need, providing advocacy for those in our community who are experiencing vulnerability and responding in a compassionate and loving way are all shared values of both the Christian faith but also those of Anglicare" he said.

Tim grew up in South Gippsland, and attended both St Peter's Leongatha and St Andrew's Dumbalk. As a boy he was a member of CEBS (Church of England Boys' Society). His Great Aunt Lucy was a member of the Community of the Holy Name and worked with the Mission to Streets and Lanes which would

go on to be incorporated into Anglicare Victoria in 1994. These connections are significant as Anglicare Victoria continues in partnership with parishes in the Diocese of Gippsland.

While the role of Regional Director will bring some new challenges, Tim is well placed to meet them. His approachable style and his deep understanding of the welfare sector, along with his strong core values, will enable him to continue to build relationships with staff in an expanding organization, and connections and partnerships with other community groups and organisations.

The challenge of responding to the issues faced by some in our community, and the excitement of innovation and new ways of responding to the needs of vulnerable children, young people and families, are the motivation for Tim Pedlow as Regional Director.



Tim Pedlow, new Regional Director for Anglicare



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Redemptive love

John Batt

On the evening of May 19, my wife Penny and I watched on TV a real-life fairytale play out of the prince who married the beautiful commoner. Of course, I refer to the dashing Prince Harry and the beautiful Meghan Markle, married at St George's Chapel, Windsor.

Bishop Michael Currey, the first African-American Presiding Bishop of the American Episcopal Church, spoke about the "redemptive power of love", quoting the late Dr Martin Luther King Jr:

Discover the power of love, the redemptive power of love. And when we do that, we will make of this old world a new world, for love is the only way.

The context to Dr King's quotation was 1960's America and the civil rights movement. Redemption for Dr King included social change based on justice for all people. The marriage ceremony had become a de-facto celebration, a microcosm, a hope-filled glimpse of the possibility of just such a positive social change that could spread beyond the royal family to all peoples.

I wondered what redemptive love would mean today? Ours is a throw-away world where it is easier to buy something new than repair or restore something worn out. I was pondering this while I was enjoying a rediscovered hobby – furniture restoration.

The presenting challenge was a small fold-down table, a 19th century family heirloom that had seen better days and had been banished to the shed. It was well made – no nails, only wooden joints; it appeared to be worth the effort to redeem. I began the project not quite sure what I might find under layers of stain.

As I worked the wood, many of the bumps and marks came out and the sanding stripped away the stain to reveal the natural beauty of God's original

work. A lovely timber grain emerged with its own distinguishing knots and imperfections.

I decided against re-staining the wood. After four coats of satin varnish, the table had taken on a totally new appearance. The redeemed table has now found pride of place back in the family home.

My mind went to Christ and his early life as a carpenter. Christ would have spent countless hours working on all sorts of woods with endless issues and problems to solve.

Jesus worked with wood and stone to shape and construct something useable and presentable. He would have had an eye to turn what had been cast off into something useful. No wonder Jesus was friend of the social outcasts, the tax collectors and sinners of his day. As a craftsman, he could see the potential for change and growth in such broken, human, raw material.

So too for us, redemptive love is about the here and now and eternity. It has personal, social and eschatological dimensions.



Restoration of a family heirloom – before...

Christ can see the stains, knots, blemishes, woundedness and faults which dog our human existence. Christ's love does its redeeming work in both the now and forever. The

final consummation of redemptive love's embrace is to restore us to our true humanity in Christ.

The choice is to respond to Christ's call on our life, to live out our baptism or to go our own way. At times we resist love's overtures! Why do we do that? We cling to what is transitory, taking comfort in what the material world has to offer. Our baptismal calling is to daily look to Christ, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith (Heb 12:2). As Bishop Curry has reminded us, the way of redemptive love is all powerful. Everything else will fall



...and after

away; "faith, hope and love are eternal and the greatest of these is love".

(1 Cor 13:13).

The Rev'd Dr John Batt is Priest-in-Charge, Neerim South.

EDITORIAL

Being the church in our times

There have been calls for a new coal-fired power plant from various quarters recently, including from our Prime Minister (at the time of writing) Malcolm Turnbull.

At the same time, an international study is published, finding that the climate is heading for a tipping point that may set off a domino effect, leaving much of the earth uninhabitable, according to lead researcher Professor Will Steffen at the Australian National University.

The study says that tipping point could be 2 degrees above pre-industrial temperatures (abc.net.au 7/8/18). We are already at 1 degree (at least) with about another half a degree locked in because of lags in the system.

If this study is correct, then the Paris Accord target of 1.5° to 2.0° is inadequate. Yet Australia's current policies are unlikely even to meet our Paris commitment.

In such a context, what is a Christian response?

We may be tempted to despair, to give up, to turn our heads away. Or perhaps to say, all will be well, God will take care of it. It's too big.

Jeremiah did not give up. He was compelled to keep speaking God's words to the people, though they refused to listen – the king even cut up his words and burnt them. What gave Jeremiah the strength to keep going?

In the face of our temptation to despair, prayer surely comes first. Jeremiah poured out his anguish to God (see chapter 15) knowing that God knows and cares.

Some of us might need time to grieve before we decide what comes next: for the loss of the dependability of nature; for the loss of beauty and diversity; for the possible horrors our children or grandchildren may face; for all those who will lose homes, land, livelihoods, even their countries.

Whatever we then do, doing it together helps. We are not meant to be alone. God in Trinity is not alone. We are called into life together; to be the church in our own times.

And not all the news is bad – what a joyful welcome there was for Bishop Richard at the Cathedral on Saturday 18 August. As Archdeacon Edie Ashley said at the service, Gippsland is a place of contrasts – of beauty and scars, and of God's grace at work in people. May Bishop Richard be assured of our prayers as he gets to know this beautiful region and its people.

On 8 September there will be Rise For Climate rallies held around the world, including one at Victory Park in Traralgon (see 350.org).

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Fixing the water supply at Newton College

David Chambers

Late last year Bishop Jeffrey Driver asked me to come to Newton College, near Popondetta PNG, to look at their water supply issues. Newton College is the one training facility for the ordination of clergy for the Anglican church in PNG. I travelled in May this year.

Popondetta is on the north side of PNG and is where people often go to walk the Kokoda Track. The college is situated about 9 km south of the town in two linked clearings. It has twenty plus houses for staff and married students, accommodation for the single students, three lecture rooms, library, administration building, workshop, a communal shelter

and a chapel, all set in lush lawn with colourful garden beds and surrounded by jungle.

Bishop Jeffrey introduced me at a communal meal as “the man who is going to fix our water problems”. These included the water supply to Bishop Jeffrey’s house; installing a new pump and connecting it to two new 10,000 litre tanks, then connecting the new tanks to the existing supply. The other major problem was the numerous leaks in the reticulation network.

First I worked on the water supply to Bishop Jeffrey’s house. Up to this point the supply had been via a ground level tank and a bucket or two to carry the water up into the house. We had a tank, a pump and some house plumbing. All I had to do was to connect it all together.

Having sorted out what fittings we had the next step was to zip into Popondetta and buy what we needed. A simple task you would think – the town is so close. First issue: the college does not have a vehicle so you go down and stand on the roadside and wait for a mini-bus to turn up. I had nine items to get; we visited all three hardware stores and still came up one short. So I rang my wife Deb and asked her to post it Express Post. The package eventually arrived a month later, long after I had left PNG.

But the connections were made, the roof tank filled and, for the first time since he had been at Newton, Bishop Jeffrey was able to have a shower, flush the toilet and turn on the taps, all without having to go downstairs to fill a bucket.

Over the following week I worked on improving the water supply to rest of the college. The work of digging trenches and hauling pipe around was done by the students, which was just as well because I was feeling the effects of the high humidity and an infected insect bite. My job, as Bishop Jeffrey kept on reminding me,



David Chambers about to connect the college water supply to the new 10,000 litre tanks, assisted by a number of the college students

was to provide the ideas and direct the work.

The ten days I spent at Newton presented many challenges, but I left the college with a sense of real achievement and having made many friends. I would like to thank Bishop Jeffrey for asking me and encouraging me while I was in PNG; the Parish of Heyfield for their generosity in paying my travel expenses; and my wife Deb for all her support.

There is still more work to be done to improve the amenity of the college and enable it to continue its work of training people to minister to God’s people in PNG and I am sure there is a role the people of Gippsland can play.

David Chambers, now retired, was the Asset Management Information System Coordinator for Gippsland Water. He is a Lay Reader at Heyfield.

C O R R E S P O N D E N C E

Why the increase in parish assessments?

I write in response to the decision by Bishop in Council (BiC) to raise parish assessment from 9 to 11%. Why? This is not merely an indexed increase but a change in the proportion of funds available for Gippsland Ministry. BiC has decided that they should have more funds and parishes have less. This will increase the diocese’s income from assessment by 22% and come out of funds previously available for parish ministry.

I can presume that the total number of Anglican worshippers in Gippsland has probably reduced, and this reduction has potentially a flow on reduction in assessment income for the diocese. What I am astounded by is that BiC response is to ask more income from stressed parishes. If the diocese is smaller then diocese specific expenses should become smaller rather than just ask greater assessment from fewer worshippers.

I am astounded at the process of this decision. This is in stark contrast to the situation in Tasmania. There have been no additional, unexpected costs to the diocese (such as in Tasmania with compensation claims); the decision was made without having a bishop; and the decision was not taken to synod for broad discussion and participation. In fact the decision was made in June and was not going to be announced until September. Maybe BiC were hoping that in all the new bishop news no one would notice.

It would be great to be able to avoid hard financial decisions and raise more funds just by changing a number, which is what BiC has done. I lead a parish which has to fund a full time minister, maintain three buildings and four congregations; we do not have exclusive use of any major trust fund income and we do not have a flourishing op shop. Our community is one tenth the size of Warragul or Sale. And so the significant majority of our income comes from congregation members supporting their local parish. Are they now expected to support the diocese as well?

This decision appears to show a BiC view that the diocese’s spending needs are more important than parish needs. Surely just as local churches serve their communities, the diocese’s purpose is to serve parishes and not be serviced by them. Does BiC realise that the diocese only exists because of parishes, and will only survive if parishes can grow? This is, in my opinion, an amazingly narrow minded and unhealthy decision and I hope BiC will reconsider.

The Rev’d Tim Fletcher, Rector, Corner Inlet

See also page 7: Parish contributions to rise



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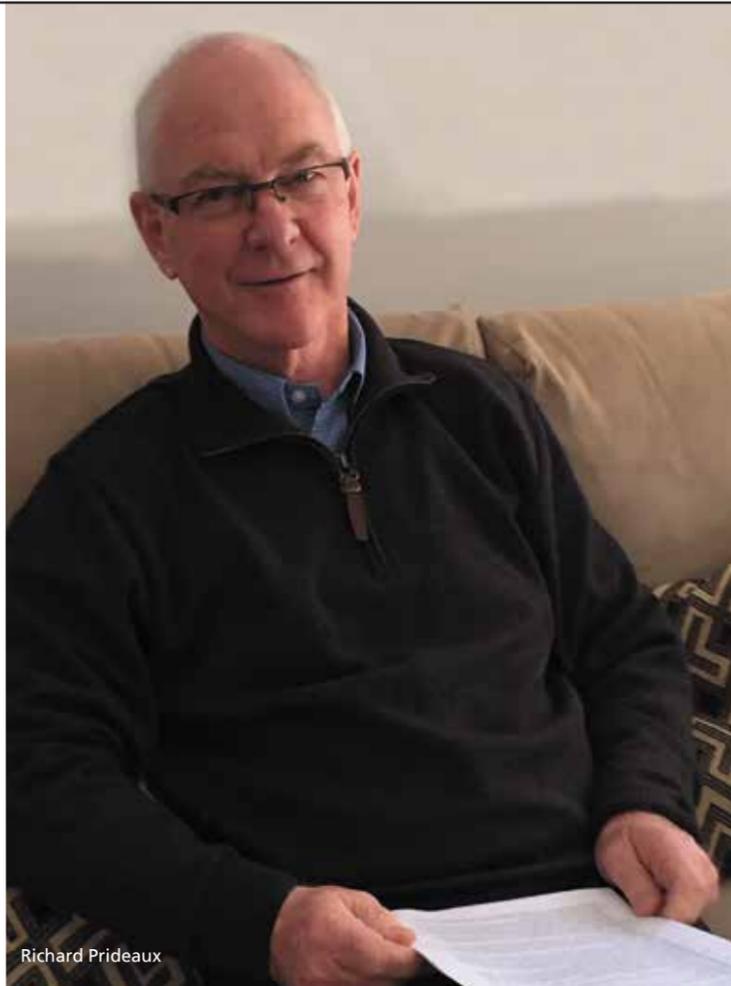
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Listening and studying

Richard Prideaux



Richard Prideaux

Bible study is seen by many as being very old hat these days, but for me it is the most important part of my Christian life, informing my spiritual life, my thinking, my worship and constantly challenging me to be more “wholly holy”.

Ever since I became a committed Christian, standing up for Christ when I was nine years old in the middle of the MCG in the 1959 Billy Graham Crusade, I have tried to read my Bible regularly each morning. I am sure I have missed some – for example, the morning our house nearly burnt down at 3:00 o’clock in the morning in Ivanhoe, after a late night party and an open fire mishap – but most mornings I’ve “read, marked and inwardly digested” a Bible passage.

In those days it was the Authorised Version and I still have my heavily underlined thick soft-covered black AV. I graduated to a much loved RSV given to me by Ann after our marriage and which, after some years, finally fell apart.

I currently use an NRSV and also enjoy the Phillips paraphrase, *The Jerusalem Bible* with notes and *The Message*. I suppose that waking up and reading the Bible is certainly the most consistent thing I have done in my life, although these days I have to insert having a coffee between waking up and reading the Bible!

For a large part of my life I have used Scripture Union notes of various kinds to assist me in understanding the Bible, but I have also greatly enjoyed other helps. At University I thoroughly enjoyed working through three years of *Search The Scriptures* and Ann and I are currently using Yancey and Quinn’s *Meet the Bible*, published in 2000, which has a year’s readings with very challenging practical application comment.

After I had studied theology and learned Greek and Hebrew, morning Bible study became problematic for a while. I quickly learned that I had to separate academic language learning from stepping back and just listening to God’s Word and reflecting deeply about it.

For me the temptation to keep studying and not listening was serious and I now try distinctly to separate these activities, but don’t always succeed!

One of my greatest joys over the years has been Bible memorization. Purple passages can be a trap if they are all one reads, but learning Philippians off by heart or a Psalm like 61, “*lead thou me to the rock that is higher than I*” or Psalm 39, “*I am Thy passing guest, a sojourner like all my fathers*” has brought me deep spiritual comfort.

In addition to my own Bible reading, each morning of Ann and my 47 years of marriage we have read a Bible passage together and prayed together. I know of no better way of knowing God than reading His word daily and so each day coming closer to the Living Word, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Richard and Ann Prideaux worship at St Philip’s on Phillip Island. Ann is a church warden and Richard is a Diocesan Lay Reader and a chaplain at Newhaven College.



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

Diocesan calendar

September

- 2 2:00 pm A Bunyip Lecture by Dr Brian Chapman: “Grief, Denial and Rage: A Revisionist View of Beethoven’s *Moonlight Sonata*”
- 7 5:30 pm – Saturday 3:30 pm Diocesan Retreat at The Abbey with Bishop Garry Weatherill. Details: info@theabbey.org.au or phone 5156 6580
- 8 Corinella Community Market
- 9 10:30 am Service of Celebration for 150 years of Parish of Yarram. Lunch to follow in parish hall
- 9 3:00 pm Mirboo North Parish visit to the Cathedral and service together
- 23 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm InterPlay Workshop, “Freshness and New Life” with Dean Susanna at St Paul’s Cathedral, Sale
- 30 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm Contemplative Quiet Afternoon at Gippsland Gallery, Sale, with Dean Susanna
- 30 2:00 pm Concert with David Johnston, theatre organist, at St Thomas’ Bunyip

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
- 6 Giant Garage Sale, St Paul’s Cathedral, Sale
- 6 Franciscan gathering at The Abbey
- 7 10:00 am Pet Blessings, St Paul’s Cathedral, Sale
- 7 12 noon The Blessing of the Animals at St Thomas’ Bunyip, with outdoor Eucharist including singing by The Blenders from Castlemaine. Barbeque to follow.
- 8 – 11 Clergy Retreat at the Palloti Retreat Centre, Millgrove
- 16 7:30 pm Induction of the Re’vd Tracy Lauersen at St Paul’s, Warragul
- 21 Vocation Sunday around the Diocese
- 26 2:00 pm Safe Church Refresher Workshop, St Mary’s Trafalgar
- 27 9:30 am Safe Church Full Workshop, St Mary’s Trafalgar
- 27 9:30 am – 3:30 pm The 114th Flower Show at St Thomas’ Bunyip
- 27 2:30 – 4:30 pm InterPlay with Peter Batten at the Deanery, 63 Market Street, Sale

November

- 11 1:30 – 4:00 pm Contemplative Quiet Afternoon at Sale Botanic Gardens with Dean Susanna
- 24 11:00 am Anam Cara Community Thanksgiving Service at St Paul’s Cathedral, Sale
- 24 Franciscan gathering at The Abbey
- 25 2:00 – 4:00 pm Vocation Day at St Paul’s Cathedral, Sale: please contact Archdeacon Graham Knott at rectorleongatha1@bigpond.com