

The Gippsland Anglican

Volume 113, Number 2, March 2016

Published in Gippsland Diocese since 1904

Honours for June Treadwell and Graeme Winterton

Jan Down

June Treadwell of Paynesville and the Rev'd Canon Graeme Winterton, a former Rector of Bairnsdale and Honourary Priest at Drouin, have both received awards in the Australia Day Honours for 2016.

June is the recipient of an Order of Australia Medal, awarded "for service to education, Vision Australia and to the Anglican Diocese of Gippsland".

Archdeacon Edie Ashley said "I was thrilled for her, it was well-deserved", adding that June is "such a gracious person, always pointing to other volunteers who do so much".

At The Abbey Centre for Spirituality and the Environment on Raymond Island, June often assists in preparations for special events, adding her artistic touch as well practical help. She has run workshops at The Abbey; one on Gothic cathedrals (which she toured in Europe a few years ago) and another on the Dark Ages and Manuscripts. Her collages are on display in both The Abbey and the church of St Peter by the Lake at Paynesville.

June is a lay reader, a member of Parish Council, a Synod representative and a parish nominee to The Abbey Chapter. At the Paynesville church she has developed a choir and leads the singing on Sunday mornings.

In the field of education June has been an honorary lecturer in History and History of Art for the University of the Third Age at Bairnsdale, since 2007. She was Deputy Head of Caulfield Grammar School, Wheeler's Hill campus, 1982-1996. She was a member of the Australian College of Education and on the Advisory Committee, Co-education for Independent Schools.

June's service to Vision Australia includes reading for the Talking Newspaper Service for East Gippsland since 1997. She assisted her husband, Allan Nuske AM, a musician and builder who was born blind (and died in 2006), in establishing the Victorian Blind Golfers' Association and the Newlands

Singers. June was also President of the Bairnsdale Ladies Golf Club.

Characteristically, to celebrate her award, June invited the Paynesville

The Rev'd Graeme Winterton was made a Member of the Order of Australia, "For significant service to the community through disaster recovery and emergency support ministry, and to the Anglican Church of Australia".

Graeme explained that his work in emergencies had its origin in Bairnsdale during major floods and fires in East Gippsland which eventually led him to found the Victorian Council of Churches Emergencies Chaplaincy Network. He said that this has now become an integral part of Victoria's emergency management arrangements and is being implemented in other Australian states and New Zealand.

Graeme said that the award is "in reality the recognition of the seriously important role that over 1700 committed people from the faith communities provide in their caring response to the emotional and spiritual needs of people in times of crisis. It also recognises the significant contribution that Chaplaincy, which functions within many organisations and sectors, makes

church to her own home on Australia Day. Bishop Kay Goldsworthy and her husband Jeri James also attended the celebration.



The Rev'd Canon Graeme Winterton AM

to the well-being of the church and the wider community".

Graeme, who is now semi-retired, served as a chaplain in a variety of military and civil contexts, and was Secretary to the National Anglican Defence Force Board, 2001-2011. He still serves as a chaplain to Melbourne Legacy and occasionally acts as a locum tenens.



June Treadwell OAM, with her collage at St Peter by the Lake: "Earth, sea and sky: the interdependence of God's people and creation"

Photo courtesy Bairnsdale Advertiser

Life in Abundance

Conference draws range of Anglicans



The Rt Rev'd Professor Stephen Pickard at Trinity College in February

Gippsland Anglicans joined a diverse crowd of delegates from all over Australia to attend the recent Life in Abundance conference on mission and evangelism at Trinity College in Melbourne.

This was an innovative partnership event between the college and some of the Anglican Church's mission agencies: the Anglican Board of Mission; Anglican Overseas Aid; Anglicare Victoria; Benetas; and the Brotherhood of St Laurence.

The Rt Rev'd Professor Stephen Pickard, Executive Director of the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture was the keynote speaker, while the Rev'd Canon Professor Dorothy Lee, Dean of the Theological School at Trinity College, led the Bible studies.

Guest speakers were the Rt Rev'd Justin Duckworth, Bishop of Wellington in New Zealand and co-founder of Urban Vision; and the Rev'd Professor Stephen Bevans, SVD, who is a Roman Catholic priest in the society of the Divine Word, an international missionary congregation. Bp Kay Goldsworthy was Chaplain to the conference. (More reports page 3)

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The Foolishness of Love

us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.'

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe.

For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength."

(1:18-25)

In the coming weeks there are opportunities ahead through some of the richest liturgies in the church's year to celebrate what Paul proclaims: Christ crucified. In scripture, music and prayers; in the company of each other; in the symbols of rich colours; in the light of flickering candles shining on the faces of the newly baptized; in the washing of our feet, or sharing blessed bread and wine; coming face to face with this

story of love and its possibilities we stand together, longing to hear again the invitation to be embraced by the foolishness of God's love.

Lent moves us on, walking with Jesus, following the story of God's great love through this season of repentance and renewal. We are given space to enter into the reality of that love laid bare for the world. We are, to paraphrase Luke's gospel, invited once more "to set our faces toward Jerusalem" (Ch9); toward the possibility that the foolishness of God will reach into our darkness and transform it. The uncomfortable question arises for all who run, walk or stumble along after Jesus, "What are we being called to entrust to the grace of God's foolishness?"

Some of the Bible readings you will hear this Lent are stories about foolishness. Take the parable of the prodigal in Luke 15. Here is the son leaving home after wishing his father dead, diminishing himself and God knows who else in the wilderness of gaining his own identity, coming to the moment of realisation and repentance and returning home while reciting the litany of his sins and practising eating humble pie, which surely tasted better than the pig food.

And then he is engulfed by that extravagant love which runs toward him while he's still far off, to embrace, to welcome, to draw him into the safe haven of home.

Each of the characters behaves foolishly in this story. The son who goes away and gets into difficulty, the son who stays home and fumes, and the father who lets go, yet longs for his son's return. Here is a hint of the lengths to which God is prepared to go for love of us. Its not an image of a God who is content just to wait, but of one who respects the choice which has been fashioned into the fabric of our humanity.

I imagine the father of the parable thinking about his son, speaking of him, longing for his return, wishing him home, praying him safe. Here then is an image of the God who runs toward us, who wants to welcome us even with our every regret, every hurt, every sad and sorry story clinging to us. In this story I find a hint of the wild extravagance of that love which leads to the Holy City, to the place of complete and utter abandonment.

What is it like, this foolishness of which Paul spoke? Foolishness – Jesus' love, the Father's love. Absolute love freely given, poured out. God deciding human beings are worth it. There are so many places in which our weakness can come face to face with God's strength, so many possibilities for the foolishness of God's love to touch us and draw us close. I hope that during Lent and as Easter 2016 dawns every Gippsland Anglican will tell someone the story of the power of God's wonderful, foolish love. Enough for them. Enough for all.

"Here is the son ...returning home, practising eating humble pie, which surely tasted better than the pig food."

+Kau

As Lent moves on and Easter approaches, school holidays will begin and most families will look forward to the break and time together. At the same time we will continue to pray for grace, mercy and justice for those babies and children threatened with return to offshore detention centres, for the millions of displaced people who continue to flee from war torn countries of the Middle East, and for survivors of abuse in this country.

As we move toward Easter I offer you this reflection on the foolishness of love.

In 1 Corinthians Paul addresses, among other things, the issue of divisions within the Christian community in Corinth. It seems that party factions and cliques had grown up around individuals. In the opening verses Paul makes clear the danger of such divisions. His claims and his theology emerge, and the centre of each is the Cross, Christ Crucified. He goes on to say:

"The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to



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The Gippsland Anglican

Member of Australasian Religious Press Association
Member of Community Newspapers Association of Victoria
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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“A crack for the Spirit of God”

– Stephen Pickard at the Life in Abundance conference

Jan Down

Professor Pickard’s opening address at the Life in Abundance conference on mission and evangelism was titled “Dangerous ideas: why private religion is bad news for the good news in Australia” and began with his proposition that “the praise of God is the natural response to life in abundance of God”.

He saw this life in abundance as referring to a quality rather than a quantity of life, and therefore not a prosperity gospel, but a life with hope, leading to gratitude and praise; praise being a gift rather than something self-generated.

This “reflex for praise” is what impels Christians to speak about God to others; it is the impulse for mission.

Professor Pickard said that in Australia privatised religion is a dangerous idea because it “distorts, cages and evaporates the praise of God”. It is dangerous, he said, because it removes the life of faith from the public sphere. It becomes a “soul religion” with a “negative assessment of creation”, and is bad news for the good news because it “sees the world as a place to be delivered from and it evaporates the embodiment of faith”.

He distinguished, however, between a “soul religion” and the contemplative traditions which have tended to lead people outwards into action in the world.

Commenting on a popular notion among some contemporary atheists, that religion itself is a dangerous idea because it leads to violence, Professor Pickard said rather

that it is the *privatisation* of religion that is dangerous. By contrast, he pointed out that the Five Marks of Mission are about life in the public space, where Jesus lived his life. The Five Marks of Mission include proclaiming the good news; nurturing new believers; responding to human need; addressing injustice and violence and pursuing peace; and safeguarding the integrity of creation.

Professor Pickard senses a new atmosphere is emerging, citing the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change multi-faith body as an example of an opening up of the public space in Australia. He suggested that the privatisation of religion may have run its course and that “a crack for the Spirit of God” is developing, offering new opportunities for mission.

Comments from conference delegates:

“Many of us have prayed for and sought after a National Conference like this that brought together Anglicans of all shapes and sizes, black and white, high and low, rural and metropolitan, academics and front line practitioners and stirrers like me from all over Australia with sponsored participants from the smaller countries around us.

The staff of Trinity (all of them) were amazing in providing us with a balanced agenda that literally forced us to take a fresh look at all of the Five Marks of Mission that should be, but rarely are what shapes who we are, whose we are and what we should have as our priorities and where we spend our church money.

Undergirding everything presented and explored in the Conference were the three rather amazing Bible studies presented by Professor Dorothy Lee on the principal scriptures in the gospel relating to God’s mission then and now that he invites us to participate in. Her willingness to accept an invitation to come to Gippsland sometime this year and help us to understand better that gospel and to help start making the sharing of it a priority was, for me, the cherry on the top of an encouraging four day treat.”

The Rev’d Canon Graeme MacRobb

“Excellent speakers, a well organised program, with good worship and a general spirit of encouragement. I appreciated the sentiments expressed by the keynote speaker; the starting point of mission and evangelism being praise of God, and integrity of life and relationship. And that mission and evangelism has to do with being where God is already present and working in response to God and God’s Spirit.”

Archdeacon Edie Ashley

“It was encouraging, especially Dorothy Lee’s Bible studies – it is exciting, what is in the Bible. Keynote talks were interesting – they pose questions for you to consider rather than providing answers. It was good being with people on a similar journey, but with other perspectives.”

Ross Jacka

“It’s always good to have some quality input over a number of days. I also came away encouraged that in the national church there are quite a number of younger clergy and I think that in Gippsland we could investigate ways to get in touch with younger theological students outside our diocese who aren’t yet committed to other dioceses.”

The Rev’d Sue Jacka

“Provided a space for challenging and innovative ideas to wrestle and settle within us as we heard how different communities and traditions enter into mission within their own environments...I would recommend such a gathering in the future to all interested in the proclamation of the Good News, not only for the wider community but also within our parish settings.”

The Rev’d Lyndon Phillips



Photos: Jan Down



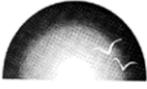
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L-R: Tracel Devereux, Penny Gibson, John Batt and Jim Connelly Photo: Andrew Batt

A wedding at Neerim South

John Batt and Penny Gibson

Joy Andrews

On Saturday 21 November at the Drouin Anglican Church the Reverend Doctor Jim Connelly conducted the marriage ceremony of the Reverend Doctor John Batt and Penny Gibson. John is the incumbent in the Co-operating Parish of Neerim South and Penny is a Deacon at the Baptist church in Rokeby, a position she will relinquish following her marriage to enable her to devote her energies to her role in the Co-operating Parish of Neerim South.

On a glorious late spring afternoon a large group of friends and relatives gathered to celebrate this happy occasion

in the church, which was festooned with peony roses in the colours of pink and white as was the church hall where an afternoon tea reception was held following the ceremony.

The radiant bride wore a gown of white lace over satin with flowers on the lace delicately beaded.

Penny was attended by her sister-in-law Tracel Devereux, flower girls Hayley and Lucy Tepper and page boy Zac Tepper. John's best man was his brother Colin. After a honeymoon spent in Europe and Great Britain John and Penny have made their home in the Manse at Neerim South where it is hoped they will spend many happy years among the parishioners of the Co-operating Parish of Neerim South.

“Walking Humbly with God” through Lent

Mary Nicholls – Moe / Newborough



Shrove Tuesday lunch

Moe Anglican Parishioners enjoyed the Shrove Tuesday Pancake luncheon, hosted by the guild in the restful garden setting of parishioner, Marion Noppert's home.

As with many other parishes, this fellowship occasion heralded the commencement of our Lenten Study Programs, this year using Dr Tim

Gaden's material “Walking Humbly with God”. The Young Adults Fellowship, the Men's Breakfast group, and three other study groups have been offered for parishioners of Moe / Newborough parishes.

Our parish GFS Kidsplus+ children's and youth ministry programs are based around the weekly themes presented in the studies.

Farewell Danielle!

Danielle Matthews, who has worked in the Diocesan Registry Office for the past eleven years, recently moved on to a new job in Bairnsdale, which means considerably less travel for her. She is very much missed, and all wish her well in her new position. Thank you Danielle!



Danielle at the Synod dinner last year

Communicating with Joan

Allan Huggins explains how Joan Singleton, a clergy widow aged 93, can still enjoy visits or messages, despite being deaf and almost blind.

He calls on those who remember her to send Joan a message.



Joan singleton with Jan Huggins

Singleton is a familiar name in Lang Lang, Foster, Yallourn-Newborough, and other Gippsland towns. The Rev'd John Singleton was rector in those parishes, until his death from a boating incident in the 1970s.

Joan, wife of John, will be remembered for her bright English manner and her friendship with many Anglicans in Gippsland.

Joan has lived as a widow for the past 40 years, in Sale, Rosedale, and Clifton Waters Village in Bairnsdale. At the age of 93 Joan still enjoys good health, but has few visitors to her room at Maddox Gardens hostel in Bairnsdale.

Unfortunately Joan is completely deaf, and has only 10% eyesight; this makes communication very difficult. However, she clearly remembers her connections with many former parishioners in Gippsland, although she is unable to contact them.

In spite of her poor vision and complete deafness, Joan is always positive, and retains her bright and cheerful outlook on life. She is a person of great fun and her memory is excellent.

Her son Keith lives in the Bairnsdale

area and is able to support Joan and keep her in touch with the world around her.

Communicating with Joan requires the writing of a few words in very large letters on a whiteboard; Joan reads these words and is able to respond to her visitor, though only limited communication is possible.

A project is planned to enable Joan have contact with those she remembers from her earlier life. Friends from Joan's past are invited to give their names and a sentence of greeting. These messages will be expanded into very large print; Joan will read them carefully and slowly, then recall stories and memories from past friends. This will enable Joan to be more connected to the world around her.

Messages for Joan can be sent to allanhuggins@bigpond.com, or by telephone to Allan at 0418 320 133, or by mail to 7 Ambrose Court Yarragon 3823.

Archdeacon Allan Huggins is a former Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, Sale, and was Diocesan Archdeacon in Canberra / Goulburn diocese in the 1990s.

Celebrating diversity, lamenting bigotry

Australia Day at St Mary's Morwell

Carolyn Raymond

How wonderful to celebrate our country, our multicultural society and to pray for our nation. St Mary's held a special celebration service for Australia Day. The church was decorated with Australian flags, Aboriginal paintings and toy Australian animals.

At St Mary's we love to sing. We are so privileged to have Ruth Vanderzalm as our talented organist. She encourages us to make a joyful noise to the Lord, which we do with enthusiasm! This day our first hymn was a modern one by the Australian writer, Elizabeth J Smith. We extolled the beauty and variety of landscape.

Our final hymn was to the tune of *Waltzing Matilda*, but with powerful words written by the Rev'd David Head. This hymn looked at the history of Australia; the bigotry of the past and our lack of understanding for the Aboriginal people, and our need to welcome those who come to our shores seeking safety. It ended with a prayer for us to open our hearts to each other:

*Now we face a new world of warfare
terror, landlessness,
Calling us to welcome from afar
the refugee.
Our history of welcome has been
blighted by our bigotry
Help us Lord to open all our hearts
inclusively.*

David also read the Aboriginal prayer to the Great Spirit and the prayer for Australia Day from our Prayer Book.

Acknowledging our history informs us about who we are. David gave us a talk about the history of all the many art works in our church, beginning with the amazing mural, *The Ascending Christ*, by Arthur Boyd which uplifts us Sunday by Sunday. Our magnificent stained glass windows, one showing events from the Old Testament and another events from Christ's life, were created by a local artist.

Artists who were or are members of our church family have given the church wonderful gifts. We have the Pieta from Bob Pelcham, and a beautiful glass chalice, made by Tony Hanning. Our own Jacqueline Johns painted a baptism. This picture shows expressionless faces in black to represent all people and it has always spoken strongly to our Sudanese church family, helping them feel included.

We have a wonderful painting of the Turtle Dreaming, by local Aboriginal artist, Ronald Edwards, which helps to strengthen our links with the Aboriginal community. Our church holds a wealth of art work, connecting us to our faith and our community.

After the service many of us from both the 8 am and 10 am services met together for a picnic at Immigration Park, in Morwell. We all spent some time looking at the list of names of people who have migrated to the Latrobe Valley and the information plaques which detail the many and varied contributions of those migrants. This is a very fitting place to enjoy and celebrate Australia Day.



The Rev'd David Head (centre); the Raymond family; Alan and Rosalie Davey at Immigration Park



Wendy Pope Photo: The Rev'd Jo White

Wendy Pope honoured

Mrs Wendy Pope; active, loved and respected member of Holy Trinity Yarram received an Australia Day honour: Rotary Club of Yarram Citizen of the Year 2016.

Jean Heasley, Quiet Achiever of the Year

Christine McIntosh – Maffra

Our own Jean Heasley from St. John's in Maffra was the well-deserved, but very surprised, recipient of the Wellington Shire's Australia Day "Quiet Achiever of the Year" award which was presented at the Australia Day Barbecue held in Victoria Park.



Apart from her tireless commitment to St. John's, Jean is a member of Maffra Rotary Club, helps out at St Michael's Primary School in Heyfield, Maffra Hospital Auxiliary, St John's Op Shop and Maffra Ladies Probus Club. She volunteers at the *mainly music* preschool program and helps train medical students by role playing patients for the Extended Gippsland Regional Inter-professional Partnership in Simulation program.



Samuel McCarthy

Mirboo North Youth Community Contribution Award: Samuel McCarthy

Samuel's contributions include: Mirboo North Junior Basketball player and coach; Year 11 Mirboo North Secondary College leadership; Duke of Edinburgh Award 2013; attended National Young Leaders' Day 2015. Sam is an asset to Mirboo North.

The Rev'd Geoff Pittway
Rector of Mirboo North

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WESTERN REGION

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Drouin
Moe/Newborough
Morwell
Nar Nar Goon
Neerim South
Traralgon
Trafalgar
Warragul

SOUTHERN REGION

Bass/Phillip Island
Corner Inlet
Korumburra
Leongatha
Mirboo North
Westernport
Wonthaggi/Inverloch
Yarram

EASTERN REGION

Avon
Bairnsdale
Croajingolong
Heyfield
Lakes Entrance
Maffra
Omeo
Orbost
Paynesville
Rosedale
Sale
Tambo

PHOTOGRAPHS – PAGE 9

9. Maffra
10. Raymond Island
Photo: Edie Ashley
11. Sale
12. Croajingolong
Photo: Roger Jackman
13. Korumburra
14. Paynesville
15. Raymond Island
16. Yarram

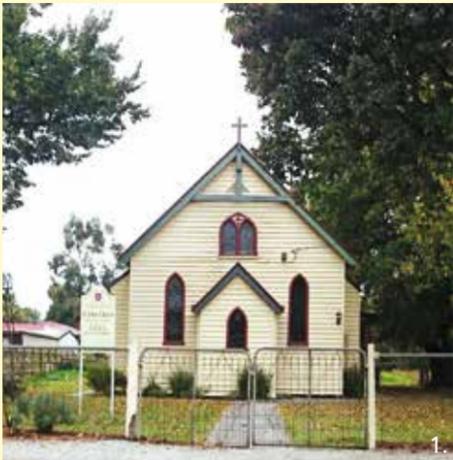
PHOTOGRAPHS

6. Wonthaggi *Photo: Jane Peters*
- 7 & 8. Port Albert, Bairnsdale.

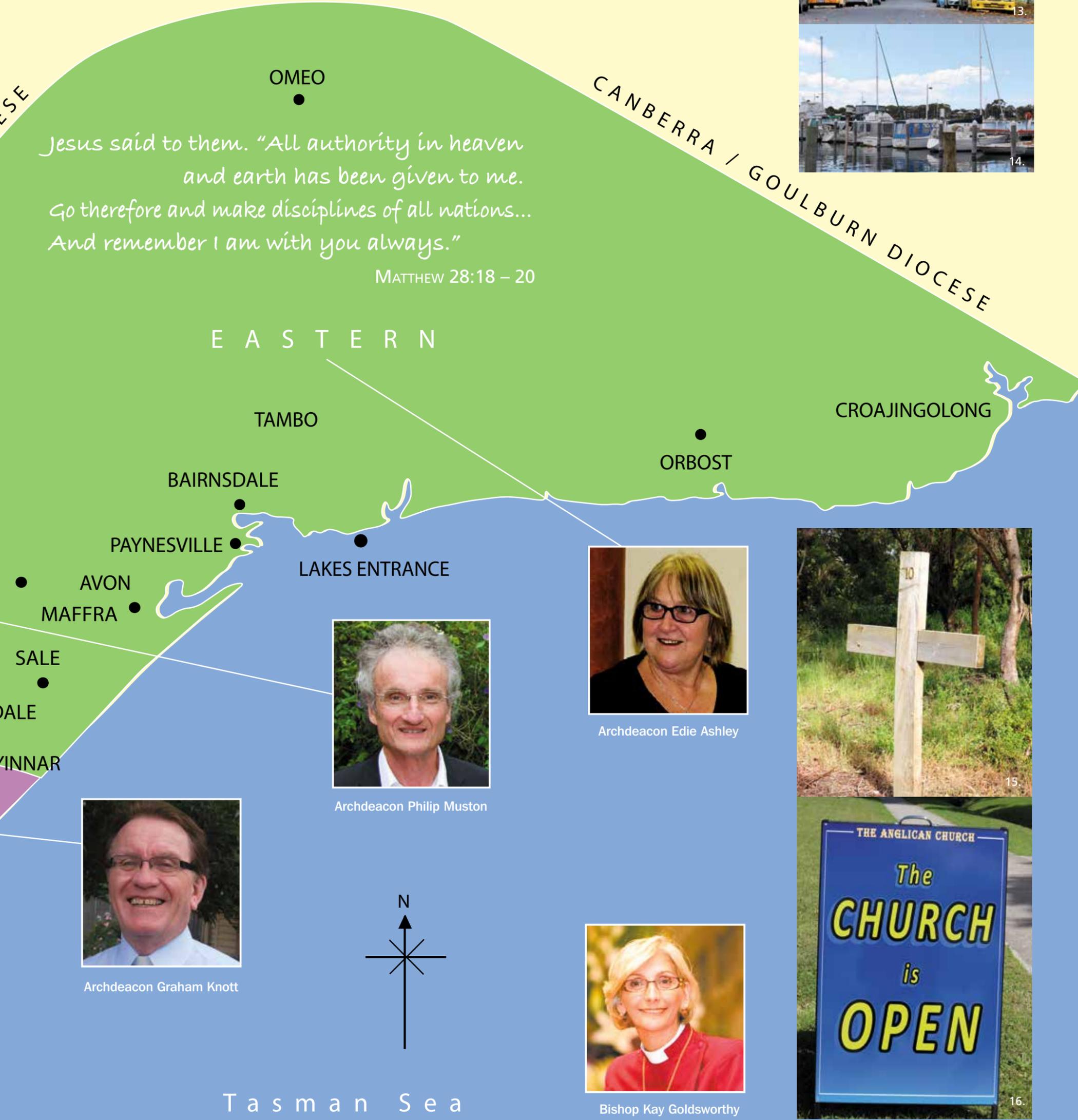


PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Nar Nar Goon
Photo: Chris McAleer
2. Sale
3. Warragul
4. Toora
5. Croajingolong
Photo: Roger Jackman



C E S E O F G I P P S L A N D



Archdeacon Philip Muston



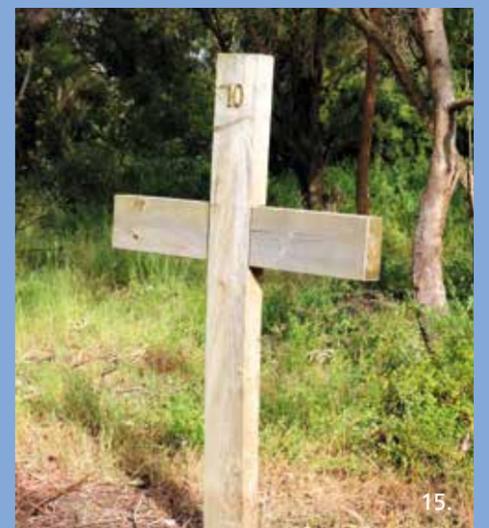
Archdeacon Edie Ashley



Archdeacon Graham Knott



Bishop Kay Goldsworthy



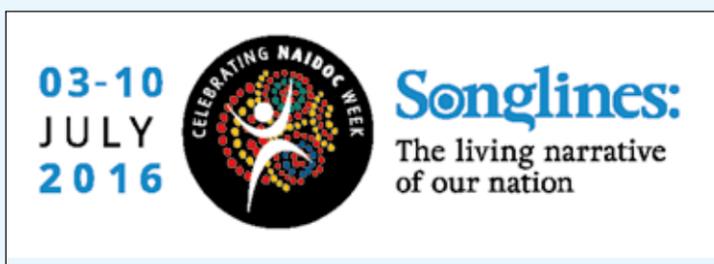
Prefects inducted

Gippsland Grammar inducted its student leaders for 2016 at a special assembly. Principal David Baker announced Solomon Jones of Longford and Jordan Rowand of Sale as School Captains, and Henry Davis, Nungurner, and Zoe Czempinski, Tyers, as Vice Captains.



Standing (L to R) Gippsland Grammar Deputy Principal Jan Henry, Joshua Buck of Lakes Entrance, Henry Davis of Nungurner (Vice Captain), Samuel Whelan of Maffra, Kate Lynch of Sale, Solomon Jones of Longford (School Captain), Kirsten Clamp of Sale, William Jones of Sale, Abbey Wright of Winnindoo, Thomas Brougham of Glengarry, Nilupul Mudunna of Sale and Gippsland Grammar Principal David Baker. Seated are Lillie Jago, Sale, Jordan Rowand, Sale (School Captain), Coco Henry of Tinamba, Emily Vale of Longford, Zoe Czempinski of Tyers (Vice Captain) and Damaris De Kock of Wy Yung.

Nominations for NAIDOC awards open



2016 National NAIDOC logo

Songlines are the oldest living narrative of our nation, and will be the focus for the 2016 NAIDOC Week celebrations.

NAIDOC Week 2016 will run from 3-10 July. It is a time to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture and achievements and is an opportunity to recognise the contributions

that Indigenous Australians make to our country and our society.

Many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people contribute to Australian society through art, music culture, sport, education and training, environmental preservation and community leadership.

If someone in your community deserves to be recognised for their contribution, you can nominate them for a 2016 National NAIDOC Award via the NAIDOC website: www.naidoc.org.au/

Entries for National NAIDOC Awards close on Monday 18 April 2016.

Leading by example

This year's 2016 St Paul's Anglican Grammar School Captains have once again been inducted into their leadership positions at a recent "whole school" assembly.

The School is proud to introduce George Smith and Claire Thomas as the 2016 captains of St Paul's.

The School is also proud to introduce our Traralgon Secondary School Captains for 2016 – Hayden Row and Isabel Rayner-Lawton, our 2016 Traralgon Junior School captains – Charlotte Shaw and William Pendergast and our 2016 Warragul Junior School Captains – Charlotte Fraser and Saxxon Weekes.



The St Paul's 2016 School Captains, George Smith and Claire Thomas with Principal Ms Lisa Moloney and Head of St Paul's Warragul Secondary School Ms Laura Butterworth.



St Paul's Warragul Junior School Captains, Charlotte Fraser and Saxxon Weekes with the Head of St Paul's Warragul Junior School Mr Rowan van Raay.



St Paul's Traralgon Junior School Captains, Charlotte Shaw and William Pendergast with Head of St Paul's Junior School, Andy McNabb.



St Paul's Traralgon Secondary School Captains, Hayden Row and Isabel Rayner-Lawton with Head of St Paul's Traralgon Secondary School, Stephen Klemke.



Autism Awareness Day at St John's, Bairnsdale

Autism Awareness Day

**Marie Randall
Bairnsdale**

Arranged by Von Dubbeld, with input from various interested groups, this Saturday in October 2015 was staffed by volunteers in catering, stall managers, our MC Mr Peter Down, and barbecue aficionados from our parish family.

Fifty-five persons, approximately double the number of participants (as compared to the last Expo held in May, 2015), travelled to Bairnsdale from Paynesville, Sale, Lakes Entrance and Bruthen.

Parents, siblings, teachers, friends and others all gave favourable feedback, and many, including presenters, asked when St John's might hold another presentation.

People were pleased with the welcome given by parishioners, with some being

surprised at how many were prepared to cheerfully give up their Saturday.

The talks were well received, helpful, and informative as stated on the feedback comments. Our computer and screen worked well, and speech was clear.

The barbecue raised \$132.00 for the AMAZE organisation, which is the peak organisation for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in Victoria and gives guidelines to parents, lobbies for grants, and directs people to other groups who can help with specific needs.

The groups who contributed to our day included: In Touch, Anglicare, Scope, AMAZE, Equine Facilitated Learning, Nana's Weighted Blankets, UnitingCare and local autism support groups.

We are now planning another series of Autism Awareness events during April, 2016.

ABC Radio National's Religion Programs

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

Religion and Ethics Report

Wednesday 5:30 pm – repeated: Thursday 5:30 am
www.abc.net.au/radionational/program/religionandethicsreport

Encounter

Saturday 5:00 pm – repeated: Wednesday 1:00 pm
www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/encounter

The Spirit of Things

Sunday 6:00 pm – repeated: Tuesday 1:00 pm
www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/spiritofthings

Rhythm Divine

Sunday 6:00 am – repeated: Monday 1:00 am (music program)
www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/rhythmdivine

GRANTS FOR REGIONAL ARTISTS

Regional artists are invited to apply for up to \$15,000 in project grants from the Regional Arts Fund.

The Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund supports sustainable cultural development in regional and remote Australia. Funding is targeted at activities that will have long-term cultural, economic and social benefits for individuals and communities through the development of partnerships and cultural networks.

There are two funding rounds per year. Applications for Round 1, 2016 close on Tuesday 15 March 2016. Artists can also apply for Regional Arts Fund Quick Response Grants at any time throughout the year.

The Regional Arts Fund is managed in Victoria by Regional Arts Victoria. A full list of previously successful projects is available online.

Autism Awareness Month
sharing, learning, belonging
@ St John's Ph: 5152 3133 f: SJF

St John the Baptist Anglican Church

cnr Service & Francis St, Bairnsdale

invites you to:

Sun 17th April

8:15/10am
3pm-4pm

Living with Autism interview.
In Touch: using all our senses to connect with God
- ASD-friendly worship for all ages, all abilities and all our senses.

Sun 24th April

8:15/10am

Worshipping with Autism interview.

Sat 30th April

10am-4pm

Autism Awareness Day
PD-certified workshops.

Sun 1st May

8:15/10am

Inclusive Worship guest preacher.

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) affects all walks of life, for those with a diagnosis as well as their families and carers. Here's an opportunity to increase your understanding and skills in supporting those living with ASD in your community, parish, ministry and worship.

We especially welcome you to visit and participate in the multi-sensory worship of *In Touch* on Sun 17th April. Come and enjoy this relaxed, multi-age and multi-ability worship atmosphere, where all our senses are used to experience the presence of God.

RSVPs are now being received for the full Autism Awareness Month @St John's program. Further details will appear in TGA April and are available upon request.

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Meditation on the move

Reflections on a five day silent retreat at Wilson's Promontory

Jo White

This was to be a test, an experiment – had I made sufficient preparations of mind, body and spirit to undertake five days of walking in silence with God?

My preparations began in earnest last December when my husband, Ken and I decided we would walk the Camino Santiago de Compostela (The Way of St James) in 2016. We started walking, training ourselves to walk longer and longer distances. We went shopping for gear – the boots, socks, pants, coat, pack etc. I decided to lose weight. If I was going to carry a 10 kilo pack I was not going to carry another 10 kilo around my waist.

So the time came for us to head off to Wilson's Prom with all our preparations made. In the heat of the first day we walked up Mount Oberon. It was relentless; every turn seemed to defeat me. As I dragged myself up this endless road

seats beckoned to me like the voice of Satan saying, "...Throw yourself down on this seat and God will send his angels to carry you away." I couldn't see much ahead of me; it was as if I were blind. My heart beat heavy in my breast and my head throbbed. I had to stop often to renew my strength. "...but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." (Isaiah 40:31)

Coming down the mountain was different: there was space, time to look around, and I could see again. This, it seemed, was a first glimpse of what God would do. When I am busy, too busy I cannot see things as they truly are, there are blinkers on my eyes so I am able to focus my attention only on the goal and not much else. God's voice is muffled by my own strivings. Come away, be released from such temptation



Jo White walking at Wilson's Prom Photo: Ken White

and see what the Lord your God will show you.

That same day we walked to Squeaky Beach across "the bridge of silence". It was a beautiful afternoon and there was excitement in the group about going for a swim. Walking in silence I heard the words of the psalmist: "Some put their trust in horses and chariots – the things of this world but I choose to put my trust in God". (Psalm 33:16-22)

I choose to trust God's creation and the provision of God in my body, my mind and my soul. This trusting is never final, it is never over, it is constantly entered into. It is about stripping off who I am layer by layer and exposing myself to God's creative power.

Each day we begin with prayer before we set out on our walking. It is a lovely time of gathering and settling. It is a time that sets the tone for our walking – walking together in silence with God.

Day 2 Today we are making two walks, the first to Lilly Pilly Gully and then to Vereker Lookout. As I set out on the Lilly Pilly track I am reminded that the journey out is also the journey within. This is a beautiful walk; as I walk I feel God's glory, grace, grandeur and love. Without warning I start to cry. What sort of tears? They are tears of love; God's love for creation, God's love for me. It's not about how I look or about how others look at me; it is about how God is

looking at me. God regards me with love.

I walked each day with a decorated stone given to each of us by the retreat team. My stone has three circles on it: a symbol of walking in the wilderness with God the three in one and one in three. Today I walked with God the Creator enveloping me, sheltering me, sustaining me. I walked with God the Son – Jesus as my companion on the way who whispers to me, "Let's have a conversation, let's be in each other's company." I walked with God the Holy Spirit who is energising me and the whole of creation today; prompting, reaching into the depths of my soul.

The Rev'd Jo White is Rector of Yarram

EDITORIAL

Good people, good policies please

When it comes to voting in a federal election, we look for politicians of integrity, and policies in accord with Christian ethics. Not one or the other, but both.

An MP needs to be a person of good character, with deeply held values, because he or she will be up against intense pressure from many sides, and needs to be someone who will be steadfast on the things that really matter. We want someone who cares more for their electorate and their country than their career in politics.

The need for good policies made public well before an election is equally important. We need to know what is on offer to improve the prospects of young people for education and jobs; how is housing to be made affordable for all? Will hospitals, schools and transport be properly funded? How will farmers and businesses be supported? How will the economy be managed for the well-being of all Australians as well as for the natural environment?

We want to see the fair and compassionate treatment of asylum seekers. We need to know – specifically – how the commitments made at the Climate Conference in Paris will be made good.

Gippsland candidates – how will you answer these questions?

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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'.

Blessing of the oils, renewal of vows

Sue Jacka

Each year on the Tuesday of Holy week there is a service when our Bishop blesses the oils used in ministry, the clergy have the opportunity to renew their ordination vows and lay people to recommit themselves in God's service. I have come to increasingly value this time.

Oil is a wonderful Scriptural symbol of God's healing and presence. When it is blessed by our Bishop at a diocesan worship service, it also becomes a symbol of our unity in Christ. We share the ministry of bringing God's healing to those in need and encouraging people to enter more deeply and purposefully into God's presence. Our Bishop commends us to this ministry and asks God's blessing, not just on the oil itself but on our participation in God's work.

Why do I find the renewal of vows so moving? I have had two periods of paid Christian ministry, separated by times of teaching in secondary schools (which can also be seen as another form of ministry). My first time of Christian ministry was as a lay person and such a service was not offered for my participation. This service provides a time to reflect on how God has used me to impact others – a very humbling thought!

It also allows for a time when we can admit to and confess the times that we have not been faithful in our calling and to ask for God's forgiveness and renewal.



The Rev'd Sue Jacka

I have come to value this aspect because over my years of ministry I am more and more aware of the complexity of the needs and demands of ministry. It goes beyond leading people in a thoughtful worship service, as important as this is.

Wider ministry questions for me include: Have I been open to the Spirit's leading when I shape my daily priorities? Have I encouraged and trained others in their calling? To what extent have I been a voice for justice and mercy in my communities? Is the way that I live providing an attractive invitation to others to consider the Gospel call of Jesus?

These questions are not solely for ordained ministers, but for all believers. I encourage you to consider participating in this service.

The Rev'd Sue Jacka is Rector of Trafalgar

EARTH CARE CARD

- Tips and inspiration for churches and households



Old jumper on worm farm

#17 Be informed when buying clothes

Think of the end from the beginning. Think of the entire life cycle of your clothing. Having first decided whether you need a new item consider: what is this garment made from? Where and how was it made? How far has it travelled to get here? What other purpose might it serve when it is worn out? How will it affect the soil as it breaks down? A holey woollen jumper can make a good blanket for a worm farm and is a natural fibre that will break down easily. Old T-shirts can be cut up to make ties for tomato plants. There are no perfect choices, but there are better ones, as Shop Ethical points out.

See their guide to choosing clothes and other helpful information - e.g. on cotton and pesticides: ethical.org.au/.

Celebrating GFS Kidplus+ 130 year history

As GFS Kidsplus+ Gippsland celebrates 130 years of ministry this year, August will be a special month when we are requesting parishes, where they are able, to display any GFS Kidplus+ memorabilia relevant to their local areas.

We are also particularly looking for material to display at our formal 130 Anniversary celebration at the Summit Adventure Park, Trafalgar East on Saturday 30 April. Contact Mary: 51272929 or Carol: 51748445 if you can help.

Research through past publications and minute books reveal that there are very few Gippsland parishes who have not been served through this ministry at one time or another. Thirty branches of the Society have existed in Gippsland, but it is unlikely that one group has operated continuously over those 130 years. We will do our best to reveal this history for you, hoping that interested people can reciprocate by filling some blanks for us.

GFS is a world wide ministry of the Anglican church, founded in England by Mary Elizabeth Townsend (1875). The aim was to improve conditions and provide friendship for women (aged 14 to young adults) who had left home for work during the industrial revolution.

Success was such that early Australian settlers in SA brought the ministry with them. Within 10 years Gippsland joined this "Girls' Friendly Society", the first branch being in Sale, 1885, followed by Stratford 1886, Bairnsdale (1887) and Maffra and Omeo (1888). A sample program from the times found in Maffra records notes the following: "The ladies normally met each

fortnight and the meeting would open in prayer and Bible reading, followed by half an hour sewing, whilst the President, Mrs Hewton, read aloud. Music, singing and games followed".

That same Spirit continues to empower and strengthen our church leaders to minister to the young people and their families today, meeting local needs and supporting one another. Please consider how you too might join our current GFS Kidsplus+ Network in Gippsland, introducing appropriate ministry models, and supporting each other's parish ministries.

GFS Kidsplus+ today reaches out through single sex, and co-ed groups, kids clubs, playgroups, young adult fellowship groups, Adult Friends fellowship activities, camps, activity days, leader development opportunities and resource sharing.

Happily community and parish ministry initiatives are linked in the Network through our affiliation option, with 11 parishes last year. We hope they and others will renew their association in 2016. Check out our web site for information.

Gippy Goat Café

The first 2016 GFS Kidsplus+Network Adult Friends gathering was a relaxing afternoon at the relatively new Gippy Goat Café and farm near Yarragon. Perfect weather enabled us to enjoy the open air afternoon tea on the café's verandah while the children enjoyed the goat feeding and open games area. This marked the first of our celebrations of Gippsland's 130th year of GFS Ministry.

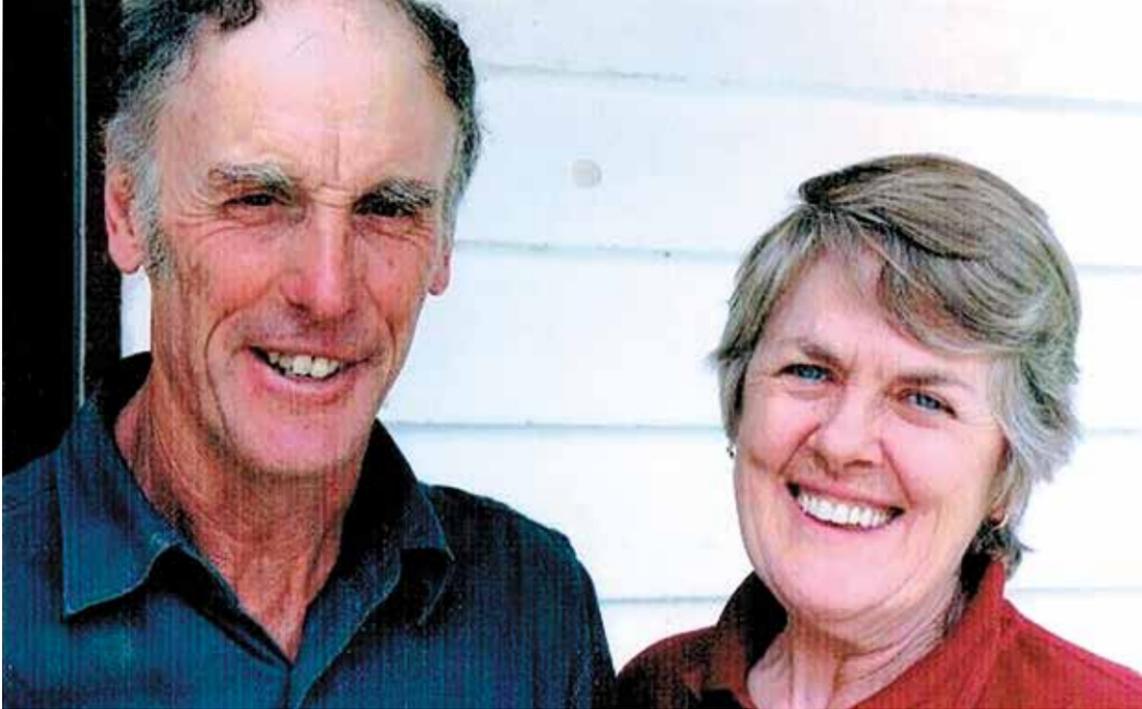


Declan with the kid

Photo: G. Purcell



Some of the group enjoying the afternoon tea at Gippy Goat cafe



Ruth and Robert Sage Beef farmers, Leongatha

Jan Down

Why retire when you love your work?

Ruth and Robert Sage, aged 70 and 69 respectively, run a beef farm in the beautiful undulating country of South Gippsland, five kilometres out of Leongatha, having moved across from dairy farming when the milking got too much, and they still delight in being on the farm.

Ruth says it is because she enjoys being outdoors so much. "If I had to go into the town, I don't know how I'd survive. I love creation – the new life in spring time, the birds, the scenic views". From their property they can see right down to Wilson's Promontory,

and at night the lights from the towns of Wonthaggi, Inverloch, Leongatha and Mirboo North are clearly visible.

It is not just the land that gives joy. Ruth says she is "smitten by four-legged animals". She has always reared the calves, which she names and grows to love. (Their cattle are mainly Angus, with a few Hereford, some Red Polls and Aussie Reds.) Ruth always works hard to care for her calves. She will get up in the middle of the night and go down to feed a sick calf and keep it alive. She believes "God's given us the cattle to look after" and she enjoys making sure they are.

The Sages feel blessed to have springs on their land, which has been important in the dry weather they have had since last September. They are now pumping water from the creek. Fortunately last season was good, and they have fodder in silage for feeding the cattle this year.

As with any kind of farming, weather is often a challenge. Sometimes rain will be forecast and not eventuate. It is hard work feeding cattle in winter when the ground is wet and soggy.

Another unpredictable force is the overseas market – prices may be down and then it is harder to make ends meet.

Ruth says her faith helps: "If you have a bad day, you know another day will be better". Faith "gives you hope for tomorrow". She quotes Psalm 121 which she loves: "I to the hills will lift mine eyes from whence cometh my help..." and adds "The promises in the Bible spur you on".

One of the harder parts of beef farming for Ruth is saying goodbye to the cows when they go off to market. Knowing they are going to be slaughtered is difficult, but she says to herself "Well, that's farming", and tries to put it to the back of her mind.

Robert describes himself as a "third generation Methodist" who has "grown up in the Christian faith". He says he has "always believed that everything we have is part of God's handiwork, and it does have an influence on how I do things".

He is a keen vegetable gardener and expresses his wonder at the amazing production from one little seed.

Ruth and Robert have now been part of St Peter's Anglican Church, Leongatha for fifteen years. Robert is a church warden, and attends wardens' meetings at 7 o'clock in the morning. Ruth plays keyboard and organ on Sundays once a month, which means getting up even earlier than usual, as they still have to feed the cattle before they leave for church.

The church people have been a source of support in hard times. Robert describes how they will come over to the farm and help out when there is a particular need. He enjoys being involved in various committees in the community, but feels there is "something extra" about the fellowship with church family.

The Sages see their work as serving God in the world because they are helping the economy and feeding people; "making the engine turn of the local economy", as Ruth puts it.

Their farm is almost organic – they don't use superphosphate, as they found the cows weren't getting the important minerals they needed, which left them prone to common metabolic diseases. They use homeopathics and their vet employs acupuncture for paralysis.

Ruth has been on the farm since 1972 when she and Robert were married, while Robert is the third generation there.

Ruth has the last word: "I'm really blessed because I'm a farmer's wife".

Diocesan calendar

First Saturday of each month: all welcome to walk the labyrinth at the end of Back Beach Road at San Remo, Phillip Island, from 10:30 am.

March 2016

- 8 6:15 pm Anglican Earthcare Gippsland – AGM by phone conference. Contact Edie Ashley for details: 5156 0511 or email: edieashley@bigpond.com
- 10 2:00 pm Adult Friends of GFS Kidsplus+ Social Afternoon Tea at BUPA aged care facility meeting room. Cost \$10.00 RSVP Carol 5174 8445
- 15 10:00 am Lady Day, St Paul's Cathedral, Sale. for refreshments, followed by 10:30 Holy Eucharist. Preacher: Bp Kay Goldsworthy. Christine Brain, Australian MU Overseas & Northern Outreach Coordinator will be guest speaker in the afternoon. All are welcome to help celebrate.
- 19 9.30am – 3.30 pm Anam Cara Quiet Day, Holy Trinity Stratford: "Towards Easter – A Lenten Reflection", led by Brian Turner, Kate Campbell and Jane Macqueen
- 19 6:00 for 6:30 pm *A Load of Garbage:* an Easter play in two acts, written and produced by Les Ridge. Performed for one night only at the Anglican Parish Hall, Cowes. Bring a main course or dessert to share before the performance. Entry by program, \$5 each.
- 20 Palm Sunday
- 22 10:30 am Blessing of Oils, Renewal of Vows, St Paul's Cathedral, Sale
- 24 Maundy Thursday
- 25 Good Friday
- 26 6:30 pm Easter Eve: New Fire and Easter Light Service at The Abbey Chapel of St Barnabas, Raymond Island. Bishop Kay will be present All are welcome, both to the service and the light meal to follow.
- 27 Easter Sunday

April

- 30 10:30 am GFS Victorian State Council Meeting at The Summit, Trafalgar East;
12:30 pm 130th year GFS Celebration BBQ Lunch followed by memorabilia displays, afternoon tea, children's and youth activity afternoon (flying fox, games and kayaking water fun). All welcome.

May

- 6 – 8 "Sense of Place" Creative Spirit Festival, Phillip Island, jointly organised and run by St Philip's Anglican and St John's Uniting Churches, Cowes.



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