

The Gippsland Anglican

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Kay Goldsworthy elected Archbishop of Perth



Bishop Kay Goldsworthy

Jan Down

In a letter to the diocese on 29 August, Bishop Kay Goldsworthy announced that she had been elected as Archbishop of Perth and would

be laying up her pastoral staff in Gippsland on 16 December. Her installation in St George's Cathedral, Perth will take place on Saturday 10 February 2018.

Bishop Kay will be the first female archbishop in Australia.

Since the announcement was made, congratulations have been flooding in, while the news was immediately broadcast in both the mainstream and Christian media.

(continued on page 3)



The Rev'd Bevil Lunson and Ernie Purcell outside the Food Pantry, waiting for a delivery from Food Bank in Melbourne

Orbost Food Pantry feeds 130 families

Cathrine Muston

Anglicare Community Development Officer

There is a quiet revolution happening in Orbost, developing from a longstanding ministry of emergency relief, originally run from the Anglican Rectory.

The Orbost Food Pantry is now situated in a sunny spot in the main street of Orbost with friendly volunteers on hand to help distribute food that is transported from Food Bank in Melbourne each fortnight. The Rev'd Bevil and Barbara Lunson, along with a team of volunteers, provide food hampers for up to 130 families a week.

A town of approximately 2,500 people, Orbost and the surrounding district has more than its fair share of young families who have moved to the area in search of affordable housing. With the area having approximately 19.8% of single parent households, and a median income significantly less than the Victorian average, many young families are stretched to the limit. The closure of the last saw mill in Cann River earlier this year has also added to the unemployment in the area.

On the day I visited, volunteer Ernie Purcell was on hand to help unload the pallets from Food Bank, and soon the shelves and back room were stacked with boxes of grocery staples as well as a few gourmet selections. Families were soon dropping in to collect groceries for the week, stopping for a chat and to share local news. Many travel from Buchan, Turbut, Goongerah, Cabbage Tree and Cann River as this is the only service of its kind in the area.

The project is supported by many in the community. Each week, the local Catholic Primary school makes soup and packs it in take-away containers for the Food Pantry freezer to supplement food parcels. The wooden pallets that are left each fortnight are used by volunteers to work into benches and pieces of furniture.

There are plans to set up a drop-in centre in the shop across the courtyard so that those who travel into town can have a space in which to rest and have a cuppa with a friendly face. This would provide an opportunity for volunteers to use their skills and connect with the wider community and for those who may be struggling to make ends meet to be cared for. It seems simple enough, but the impact that such a place can have on people's sense of worth is significant. In Orbost and surrounds, a small group of faithful people are feeding people who are hungry, caring for the lonely and supporting families down on their luck. That's revolutionary.

Index

From the Bishop	2
Parish to parish	2
Kay Goldsworthy elected Archbishop of Perth	3
Around the parishes	4 – 7
Kid's min: Traralgon	8
Parents needs a village too	9
James Oakley	
Reflection: Chris McAleer	10
Editorial	10
On the right to assisted dying	11
Sue Fordham	
Earth care card	11
Faith at work:	12
Ernie Walker	
Diocesan calendar	12

Liminal times

This is a time of change and transition for us all – one of those times we call “liminal”, from the Latin word for “threshold”. As well-known Franciscan friar Richard Rohr says, “We have to allow ourselves to be drawn into sacred space, into liminality. All transformation takes place here. We have to allow ourselves to be drawn out of business-as-usual and remain patiently on the threshold where we are betwixt and between the familiar and the completely unknown”.

Many of you will recall my recent pastoral letter, but others may not have seen it, so it is on record here as well:

By now you will have heard the news that I have been elected as the next Archbishop of Perth, and have accepted that appointment. I know that many of you will be disappointed and some of you hurt by this change in the course of our ministry and plans for the Church in Gippsland. Some will be thinking, “Here we go again!”

As a bishop, I encourage and exhort others to be open when the Church calls them. It seems that while I have been busy making plans, so happily settled here in Gippsland, the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church



Bishop Kay Goldsworthy

has led in another direction. After prayerful consideration and taking counsel, I believe I need to allow that discernment and have responded to it by saying yes.

Jeri and I love being here. Being with you in your parishes, in the schools and in the chaplaincy ministries is a joy. I appreciate the ways in which you are at the heart of your local communities and the care and concern you have for loving service.

Gippsland is a generous and loving community and I thank God for your welcome of us and your deep commitment to bringing the story and life of Jesus to bear in every place you live and serve. In the ministry we share, God's grace has been revealed and his love made known.

This week the Senior Staff have met to plan for the next few months and beyond. I will lay up my pastoral staff on 16

December. I will let you know more details as we have plans in place.

In the meantime, we will pray for the Diocese as we put our minds to what the future will bring for us all. I remain committed to the ministry round set out between now and December, when Jeri and I will say farewell with sadness and with faith in the future which God has in store for us all.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ equip us with every good gift, working in us what is pleasing in his sight.

This liminal space is part of our lives more widely, of course, and for all of us as we navigate our way through the marriage equality survey. There are many voices raised on both sides of this issue, and it is clear that Christians of all denominations, like the wider community, have a variety of responses to same sex marriage being passed into law.

At the General Synod held in September, a resolution was passed asking the Doctrine Commission

to facilitate a respectful conversation in our church by means of a collection of essays on marriage and same-sex relationships that explores Scriptural and theological issues relating to the following: “The doctrine of marriage

expressed in the formularies of the Anglican Church of Australia. Our current Australian context, exploring the relationship between the State's definition of marriage and the church's doctrine of marriage. Key Old Testament and New Testament texts on sex, marriage and friendship. Scripture and hermeneutics. A theology of blessing. A theology of desire. Godly disagreement on this issue and the case for and against same-sex marriage and/or the blessing of same-sex unions.”

This work will take time, and will certainly not be finished before the result of the survey has been published or legislation passed. It is, however, an ongoing commitment to help Anglicans to contribute thoughtfully and caringly to public conversation, bringing genuinely Christian reflection to the table, rather than misunderstandings of scripture or talking theological nonsense.

Whatever lies ahead, we followers of Jesus are charged with bringing his love and grace to all our neighbours. We are always navigating liminal places as we live into God's future without fear, and it is always a case of “here we go again”. Keep the faith, be tender with one another, walk in Christ's light and love just as he loves.

Peace

+Kay

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Editor: Jan Down

Tel: 0407 614 661

Email: editor@gippsanglican.org.au

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Parish to Parish: praying for each other

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

This diocesan prayer diary features three parishes each month, in alphabetical order. Diocesan organizations will also be included. Each parish sends in its own profile and prayer needs.

TAMBO
EASTERN REGION

St Matthew, Bruthen
St Mary, Buchan
St Columb, Swan Reach
Locum Priest: Bishop Jeffrey Driver

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, on the Princes Highway, has recently updated its buildings. 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 Cafe Church from 2.30 – 4pm, 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.

TRAFALGAR
WESTERN REGION

St Mary, Trafalgar
St Mark, Yarragon
St Mark, Thorpdale
Rector: The Rev'd Sue Jacka

Trafalgar parish consists of Trafalgar and Yarragon which are growing and Thorpdale which like many farming communities has a shrinking population. Strong community

spirit exists in all three towns, although many newer residents have come from city areas and have less local focus.

Prayer points: that our worship may be vibrant, allowing new people to find a spiritual home; our busy Sunday School – for creative, engaging ideas for the teachers; our Opp Shop as a place of welcome; new energy for our well-established *mainly music*; the afterschool kids church (Trafalgar and Yarragon); for a youth and family worker; and for creative ways to connect with older adults.

TRARALGON
EASTERN REGION

St. James, Traralgon
St. John, Glengarry
St. David, Toongabbie
St. Stephen, Traralgon South
Rector: Canon Jeff Richardson

In Traralgon parish our motto is “To know Christ and to make

Him known”. As a parish we offer outreach to the local community through our Op Shop, monthly community lunches and breakfasts and weekly playgroup.

We have a growing number of young families attending and we offer the “What's in the Bible” Sunday School program to the children.

The “Seek And You Will Find” Op Shop, in the main street of town, has been very successful since opening in 2013.

Pray for continued spiritual growth within the community and for continued health for Canon Jeff and our ministry team.

Prayer

Gracious God, we bring before you the needs of these parishes: Tambo, Trafalgar and Traralgon. May they discover new ways to serve You. Equip them to make the gospel relevant as they care for all wherever You may lead. And in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Kay Goldsworthy elected Archbishop of Perth

(Continued from page 1)

Archdeacon Edie Ashley commented "I'm thrilled for Bishop Kay. She will make a wonderful contribution as Archbishop to the Anglican church in Perth. I also recognize the significance of her appointment as Archbishop, the first woman to take this role in Australia, for men and women, young and old – and for the Anglican Church of Australia. I wish her every good wish, support and God's blessing.

"On the other hand, I am sorry to admit that I am a little sad that she will be leaving Gippsland. Amongst other initiatives, it was under Bishop Kay's leadership that The Abbey Chapter worked through a period of discernment towards adopting a Franciscan Framework for life and ministry at The Abbey. I was looking forward to working with Bishop Kay as we lived into that decision. In the economy of God who knows how we might share the journey into the future! Bishop Kay – Go well and God bless."

Bishop Kay said that when she heard the news of her election, she was very surprised; she had not been expecting this at all. She had become aware that people were talking about the possibility of her becoming Archbishop of Perth, but she had been expecting to retire from Gippsland.



Bishop of Gippsland staff

However, as she said in her letter:

As a bishop, I encourage and exhort others to be open when the Church calls them. It seems that while I have been busy making plans, so happily settled here in Gippsland, the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church has led in another direction. After prayerful consideration and taking counsel, I believe I need to allow that discernment and have responded to it by saying yes.

Expanding on this, Bishop Kay explained that her understanding of God's guidance within the Anglican church is that "no one person decides that they are going to be in ministry in a particular role. It is always a process of discernment" – which involves listening to others when they tap you on the shoulder and suggest that God may be leading you to a certain ministry.

It was a difficult decision, Bishop Kay said, also acknowledging in her letter that she was aware it would be disappointing to many in Gippsland. But she commented recently, "I found it really comforting... that a number of people from in Gippsland have said 'I really think God has been in this, and we will miss you, but we think that this has been of God'. And that has been affirming. And I also believe that if God is in this, then God is going to be in what unfolds next here in Gippsland as well".

Bishop Kay believes Gippsland is in a good position now to go on with its mission. When she first arrived, she found the grief over Bishop John McIntyre's sudden death was still very raw, and this impacted on everything – all the plans people had invested in with Bishop John. She feels her ministry here has been "in very large part to help all those fraying and dislocating and grief-filled spaces – to work through some of those

things". So she feels her time in Gippsland has been one of transition for the diocese.

Archdeacon Graham Knott commented: "Kay is the first bishop during the last thirty five years to have visited all four centres in our parish. She cares about all God's people as a remarkable and wise shepherd and pastor."

Looking ahead to Perth, Bishop Kay says she doesn't have a formulated vision in mind, but is aware that she has to "land in a place that I know, but is different", and likewise, that while they know her, she too is different, having been changed by her experiences in Gippsland. So her plan is to be attentive, to listen and discover where the plans and energy are emerging in the Perth diocese.

The former Archbishop of Perth, Roger Herft, retired in December 2016, a year earlier than he intended, after admitting to the Royal

"I also believe that if God is in this, then God is going to be in what unfolds next here in Gippsland as well".

Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sex Abuse that he had let down survivors of abuse when he was Bishop of Newcastle. Bishop

Kay's hope is for renewed trust to be built – "for the Church everywhere, not just in Perth".

Perth diocese's Archbishop Election Committee considered candidates from around the world. The Diocesan Administrator in Perth, Bishop Kate Wilmot, welcomed Bishop Kay's election, commenting "The Archbishop-elect has fulfilled her ministry for more than three decades in three Australian dioceses and brings a breadth and depth of wisdom and an ability to collaborate with diverse members of the Church community... [she] is well known in Perth and has displayed excellent leadership and hospitality across the Perth community. We are very much looking forward to welcoming Bishop Kay and her husband Jeri James back to the Perth community".

Archdeacon of the Western Region of Gippsland, Philip Muston, who will take over as



Bishop Kay at Morwell in March this year for an outdoor ecumenical prayer service

Administrator when Bishop Kay leaves, said "We wish Bishop Kay every blessing and our best wishes in her new role as Archbishop of Perth. Her appointment to that office is a great honour. We have grown to love her for her careful pastoral care and wisdom.

"We had hoped she would be with us for much longer, but it is not to be. After a settling in period, Bishop Kay's leadership was beginning to bear fruit in terms of a continuing diocesan vision and plan. We'll do our best to keep things moving during the interregnum."

The task of finding a new bishop for Gippsland will be less complex than it was in 2014, after the sudden death of Bishop John McIntyre. Much of the information from the extensive consultation around the diocese in 2014 will remain relevant, so this process will not need to be repeated.

The Selection Board is likely to be convening in October. The remaining months of this year will provide an opportunity for the diocese to plan ahead as well as for Bishop Kay to say farewell.



Be a part of supporting the Aboriginal Ministry Fund

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

Be a part of achieving these aims.

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453 Raymond Street, Sale, Victoria
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Mary's Day baptism and confirmation

**Carolyn Raymond
Morwell**

There are several parishes around Gippsland that proudly bear the name of Mary the Mother of our Lord Jesus. I hope they celebrate this special day, when we give thanks for Mary who offered her life in obedience to God, bringing to birth our Lord and Saviour.

We know of her nurture of Jesus and later of her following him as he travelled as an itinerant teacher. Her presence at the cross as Jesus hung there in pain and torment; and her part in the infant church of the resurrection. I could not help but remember the title the Christian church in Palestine gives to Mary. They call her Our Lady; a title which speaks of intimacy and worship.

At St Mary's we had a wonderful celebration for Mary's Day. We had Bishop Kay with us to preach and to celebrate the Eucharist. She gave us a vision of Mary as a feisty woman living her life in obedience to God. She called on us, both men and women, to be feisty as we too live out our lives for Jesus.

During the service Bishop Kay baptised and confirmed Tammy Austen. She also admitted Chelsea Holt to Holy Communion. The congregation all clapped to celebrate and support Tammy and Chelsea as they took these steps on their Christian journey.



The Rev'd David Head, Tammy Austen, Chelsea Holt (front) and Bishop Kay Goldsworthy

The church was decorated with many reminders of Mary. The flowers were white lilies, a symbol of Mary. There were small sculptures and wood carvings of Mary. Before the altar was draped a blue cloth, blue being the symbol of compassion and of Mary the Mother of our Lord.

After the service the parish provided lunch for the congregation and all the many friends and family who had come to support Tammy and Chelsea.

Leongatha Daffodil Festival 2017



Displays at the Daffodil Festival, St Peter's Leongatha

St Peter's Church joined with the community to celebrate the annual Daffodil Festival – Thursday 31 August to Sunday 3 September. The church was adorned with flower arrangements from all churches in Leongatha and Dumbalk/Meeniyan.

Lace was the other feature this year. Displays of craft in thread, yarn, wood and metal were set around the nave. These varied from altar frontal and table lace from St Peter's Church to lace surplices and tablecloths from St Laurence's Catholic Church. As well, knitting, crochet, tatting, lace and woodwork articles both large and small were loaned by congregation and community members along with wedding dresses and bedspreads.

Refreshments were served all day. Led by Coral Johnston, Guild, Mothers Union and Op Shop members assisted with preparing the displays and serving the refreshments. Many helpers made light work on set up days and the set down afternoon.

Koorooman Wool Group also had a display of their work with a working loom and spinning wheel, operated by Colleen Harvey. Maryann Ashton demonstrated bobbin lace. Marion Dewar had prepared a photo show of wood and metal lace work from India and Leongatha. Hot and cold drinks were a gift from the Church and entry was free. Many visitors gave a donation for Mukti Mission (India).

Nar Nar Goon Men's Breakfast

The Rev'd Chris McAleer – Priest-in-charge



Reg Speedie, Mick Lucas and John Koch ready to fire up the barbeque

After many months of preparation we held our first Men's Breakfast at St John's Church in Nar Nar Goon. We had no idea of who might be coming other than our guest speaker, Geoff Bramley, who is the captain of the local CFA as well as the president of the Progress Association. We had the mobile barbecue and pop-up gazebo erected before the showers came and by 8 am several had begun to arrive and share in a hot breakfast of bacon and double-yolk eggs, along with tea and coffee, with cereals for those who were so inclined.

Geoff spoke about the importance of good role-models in his life and shared personal experiences that many in the audience, both young and not so young, could relate to. It was considered by several of the locals to be an unqualified success and we are organising the next Men's Breakfasts at both Nar Nar Goon and Cardinia Lakes, with guest speakers to continue the theme of encouraging good role modelling.

We are very thankful for Annie and Geoff Ball for their donation of the double-yolk eggs and for Anglicare Gippsland's assistance, without which the mobile barbecue could not have been completed.

First year celebrations of Orbost second shop



L-R: Bev Weir, Helen Munday and Elaine Hofen at the celebratory morning tea

Helen Mundy and Elaine Hofen have worked tirelessly over the past year to organise the opening of a second shop for St James Orbost Trash & Treasure and, together with a great group of volunteers, to keep the shop running successfully.

A lovely morning tea was enjoyed by those who attended the celebrations.

Doors and hearts wide open

Christ church Drouin opened its doors to the community on the weekend of 26–27 August, for a celebration of the tenth anniversary of the dedication of their new building.

The Rev'd Dr Dean Spalding's homily for the anniversary:

Ten years ago today Bishop John McIntyre famously started a sermon which began, "In the history of the people of God, God and buildings have a chequered history". He encouraged us to think about how a building might serve the Kingdom of God, but only if the people in that building would reflect the character of God – reflect God's justice, compassion, peace and grace.

Further, Bishop John suggested a litmus test as to whether we would hold the correct attitude to our new building – and that litmus test was our preparedness, not to own the building for ourselves, but truly to dedicate it to God; in a sense to "give it up" and let the building be opened to our community.

The litmus test of the litmus test then was that, if, in five, ten or twenty years he returned and found the building in pristine condition, then we may have failed to hear God's call in this respect. Bishop John's hope was that he might return someday and find the building in a less pristine state, perhaps with children's hand prints on the walls – hence the art of the hand prints from our SCAMPS children, that we have displayed for the anniversary.

When we came to the planning of the Anniversary Weekend we wanted to honour Bishop John's vision of a transition from dedicating our building to the glory of God to our opening of our doors to the community that they might be enthusiastically welcomed into this building as a place of spirituality and encounter with God; a place of discipleship and nurture.

There is still some way to go in completely fulfilling that vision, but I pray that we are on the right trajectory. We continue to pray that this will be a place of welcome and hospitality to all and that it is a place where people from all walks will encounter God, encounter the character of God and encounter God's people reflecting God's hospitable character."



Old and young enjoyed morning tea

Four events over one weekend

There were four parts to the weekend celebration, beginning on Saturday with an open church morning attracting sixty people who came see the displays and enjoy the morning tea, then a traditional Anniversary Evensong at 5:00 pm led by Bishop Kay and the Rev'd Jenny Ramage.

Sunday Morning's Anniversary Holy Communion was led by the Youth Liturgy Team and included the video of Bishop John's sermon from the Dedication ten years ago.

Finally, there was a Pleasant Sunday afternoon concert with the Baw Baw Singers attracting 200 people. These afternoon concerts have been going for eight years, and are an intentional expression of

opening up and giving up the building to the wider community.

So many made long journeys to attend the Anniversary Weekend. People really joined in the spirit of opening the building with wide-open doors and welcoming hearts.



Children's handprints created by the SCAMPS children as a symbol of the church giving up the building to God

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Hospitality month

Glenda Amos Yarram

Members of the Yarram parish had many opportunities to share hospitality with friends, family and the wider community during September.

Invitation is the first step in offering hospitality. Our Diocesan vision is to "Grow in Christ and invite others to go with us on the journey". Hebrews 13:2 tells us, "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares".

The Big Hymn Sing was the first opportunity for parishioners to invite friends to join in a pleasant Sunday afternoon. The afternoon was compered by the Rev'd Jo White. Music was provided by Ken White and Shannon Ray to accompany the hymns. A variety of hymns were sung, from the traditional "A Church's One Foundation"

and "Onward Christian Soldiers" to the "Prayer of St Francis" and "Shout to the Lord".

The Rev'd Jo White and Ken invited everyone to lunch on Sunday at the Rectory. Hot soup and rolls, followed by a pleasant time of fellowship was enjoyed by those who were able to join Jo and Ken.

On Saturday of the next weekend, a special evening of Whisky Tasting and refreshments was provided by the Friends of St John's, at the Port Albert Hall. Peter Coates welcomed everyone on behalf of St John's church and Jo began the evening with grace. Whisky experts, Julian White and Brooke Hayman from Whisky and Alement entertained everyone with background details of five whiskies from Australia, Scotland and America.

Great discussion ensued during the evening about which was the best whisky. The Friends of St John's

served an array of delicacies to each table. The 50 guests included friends and family members from St John's as well as a group from the Holy Trinity congregation in Yarram. A vote of thanks, for the kitchen staff and visitors was given by Warren Curry.

Finally on Sunday 24, High Tea was served at Chester Hill, Won Wron. Graeme and Diane Peacock hosted members of the Yarram Parish as well as friends from across the community. A lovely sunny afternoon enabled everyone to enjoy sitting outside on the deck overlooking a beautiful valley.

A sumptuous array of refreshments was provided by many helpers. It was a fitting finale, to a month of hospitality and fellowship.



Friends of St John's, Port Albert



The tables were decorated in the red, white, blue and green of France and Italy

The Abbey Feast: a view from the kitchen

Sue Fordham

Let me start the day before the Feast, when June Treadwell, Robert Fordham and their small band of conscripts assembled in the A Frame to prepare the venue.

The theme was French-Italian so the tables were decorated in the red, white, blue and green of those countries. The napery, flowers and gleaming glassware made the tables eye-popping as Lisa Newton welcomed the feasters.

This is not intended as a Cinderella story. I was not consigned to the kitchen but very happily offered my limited skills to Sous Chefs, Iain and Ann Miller and Chef-to-the-Stars, Nikolai Blaskow.

Needing a kitchen hand and dish washer, ("dish pig" as it's known in the trade) my offer was promptly snapped up and

Carl Schmack was released after a time to perform work more commensurate with his more refined skills.

Let me say at the start that the food was plentiful, of the highest quality, truly a menu fit for a King ...or a bishop.

We began with French champagne to accompany the hors d'oeuvres; olives, sun dried tomatoes, a range of cheeses to make the connoisseur salivate, sausage, grilled capsicum and zucchini, artichokes and more.

Soup was served next; a choice between French onion – real French onion, not the stuff our mothers made – and genuine Italian tomato soup served with crusty bread. A pert Italian white wine accompanied the soups.

The main course: pork, chicken both stuffed and plain, mushrooms, onions, mashed potato, Dutch carrots and peas

all held together with the subtlest gravy. It was an absolute tour de force. Ok, so the servers couldn't distinguish between the meats ... no one's perfect and the French red wine helped the diners to forget the imperfections of the staff.

The final course was a choice between a baked crème caramel and strawberries and cream. Deeeeeeelicious!

Archdeacon Edie Ashley welcomed the guests and said grace. Robert Fordham spoke about the recent developments at the Abbey: the renovation of West Cottage, the near completed administration building and the planned forecourt linking the new building and the A Frame.

Bishop Kay thanked the generous and talented Chef Blaskow and his support team and announced a diocesan contribution of \$20,000 for the forecourt construction and also the date for the blessing and dedication of the new facilities on 19 October.

The A Frame echoed with laughter and impromptu speeches declaring this a very successful day.

Going up at Neerim South

St John's Op Shop and Ministry Centre, Neerim South

John Batt

Praise God, work on the new op shop and ministry centre building at St John's Neerim South, which had stalled, has now recommenced and the parish plans to have a grand celebration at the opening (if completed) or a blessing of the new building by Bishop Kay Goldsworthy on 10 December.

From humble beginnings in a back room at the local church, the St John's Op Shop has grown to be a thriving community service, recognised as a great community asset which helps countless local people through providing good quality recycled affordable goods and clothes. The shop has had a number of homes, all of which have worked well to varying degrees, but it was decided in 2013 to build a permanent, more suitable home on vacant church land in the main street adjacent to the church.

It was also decided to include a ministry centre/ community room for use by the church and other community organisations. Seeding money came from several sources and the Anglican diocese provided a loan for the remaining cost. But now those costs have blown out due to an unforeseen dispute with the builder.

A building company was contracted in 2014 but after an initial flurry of building activity all work stopped. After an unsuccessful attempt to resolve issues with the builder, legal action was commenced in early 2015. A resolution

was negotiated in 2016, but the building company went into receivership before completing the works, causing further delays.

Money had been given to the parish some 30 years earlier for the building of a church and hall and a residue was held in the "O'Hara Trust". The Diocesan Council, after legal consultation, agreed to its use to complete the construction of the new complex. The parish will also have to take out a larger loan to complete the building than was first envisaged.

The new Op Shop will provide much needed extra space and better working conditions. Volunteers are currently working in cramped conditions at a room in the church building and pay to store excess stock off site. Volunteer women transport the new stock weekly from the church to the current store 500 metres down the street.

The multi-purpose room is to be used for community-building activities such as youth and children's work, family fun activities, a community meals ministry, craft, Bible studies and coffee mornings, and would be made available for the use of appropriate community groups such as the CWA which is currently meeting in the church building.

The church has a strong youth, children's and families ministry led by John van de Marel who is keen to expand the work with young people and families in the community. John, the youth leadership team and the youth group are eagerly awaiting the completion of the building so that activities can be held in the new centre.



The Rev'd Dr John Batt and Beth Delzoppo planning for the future

An appeal has now been launched to reduce the loan amount as much as possible. We have greatly appreciated the keen community interest in the project so far, their patience and support of the op shop through this difficult and frustrating time and we look forward to a grand celebration before Christmas.

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

SPECIAL SYNOD

**Saturday 16 December 9:30 am
at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale
Lunch and Farewell Eucharist
for Bishop Kay Goldsworthy.**

A special session of Synod is being held to deal with certain child protection and associated legislation arising from the recent General Synod. This will be followed by a lunch and a farewell Eucharist and the laying up of the pastoral staff by Bishop Kay at around 1:00pm

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Abuok Maju, hosting a new American fellow conferee at our Australian day out at Whiteman's Park, WA.

GFS 22nd World Council

Gippslanders, Mary and Graeme Nicholls and Abuok Majuk were pleased to attend the 22nd World Council of the Girls Friendly Society, held in Perth during July. Over 220 people representing 25 countries were present. New member countries of Mozambique, Uganda, Honduras, Melanesia and Rwanda were welcomed.

Eighteen year old Abuok attended as the nominated Australian Junior delegate, helping host 16 international junior delegates and several other observers under the age of 30. Abuok reflects on her experience:

"I was both excited and grateful to have been able to attend the 22nd World Council of GFS and to have been able to represent GFS Australia as Junior National Delegate. It has been such an honour and pleasure to have been able to experience and contribute to such a big, united worldwide GFS Family. What a delight to be amongst representatives from so many countries as they worked to serve God in teaching the faith and caring for those in need."

As Junior delegates and young adult representatives we planned some additional activities between business meetings and full conference activities including: a bonfire including of course marshmallows, chocolate and wonderful singing; shopping (!); an activity day with obstacle course, rock climbing, flying fox and archery; some debriefing discussions and group discussions following the humbling and inspiring presentations by several of the GFS adults, who spoke of their particular calls to ordained ministries.

The projects being undertaken are diverse, alive and growing throughout the world. This opportunity enabled me to meet and befriend many wonderful, kind hearted people. Sharing each others' stories and backgrounds was an eye-opener – and what a privilege

to be able to sit together to brainstorm on concerns and possibilities to improve and help in one another's projects.

The biggest thing for me personally was the opportunity to meet such strong, committed GFS members who, regardless of the difficulties endured, (particularly in developing countries) were determined, strengthened and encouraged by one another, to serve their communities, looking towards future generations, with programs improving education, employment opportunities, social justice, environmental conditions and personal and faith development."

"What a delight to be amongst representatives from so many countries as they worked to serve God in teaching the faith and caring for those in need."

During the conference Anglicare WA representatives spoke about programs of education and support for victims of gender-based violence. The conference resolved to support the movement of anti gender-based violence, encouraging programs for education, support and prevention amongst our groups and communities.

Debra Saffrey Collins (Anglican Board of Missions) also spoke, encouraging us in forming partnerships for mission, challenging us all for community engagement, offering our support and resources to "Tell, Teach, Tend, Transform and Treasure" (all Marks of Mission).

We congratulate and thank Val Gribble (Rockhampton Diocese) for her contribution as World GFS President over this past three years and her co-ordination of this 22nd Council. The final service at Guildford Grammar Chapel included the commissioning of our new World president Thembeke Pama from South Africa, where the 23rd World Council will be held July 2020.

This report was prepared by Mary Nicholls and Abuok Majuk.

Wonthaggi / Inverloch Community Meal Program nominated for Anglicare award

Cathrine Muston

Anglicare Community Development Officer

Every year Anglicare Victoria acknowledges the extraordinary efforts contributed to our local community by workers and volunteers. This year the Wonthaggi / Inverloch Anglican parish was nominated in the "Outstanding Volunteer" category for their provision of a regular, nutritious meal for the local community.

Since March 2011, every Monday during school terms, three teams of volunteers are rostered to prepare, cook, serve and clear up, for up to 130 dinners. Each team has around 20 volunteers who take on the tasks of cooking, hosting and cleaning.

Hosts greet guests with respect and care is taken to ensure that all feel included and valued. Parish Partnerships has supported the program through provision of funds for equipment. Around 2000 kg of food per month is donated towards meals and hampers by local businesses and food rescue programs. Up to 35 children attend each week and enjoy the safe playground. The program has a good reputation in the local community, attracting both respect and support from local businesses, other welfare agencies and the local Council.

The Rev'd Graeme Peters, Rector of Wonthaggi / Inverloch parish said "The volunteers in our meal program have shown exceptional qualities. They have worked hard now for six years and between them have prepared around 25,000 meals for needy people. The amazing thing is they keep on smiling and really love what they are doing".

As nominees for the award, representative members from the volunteer team attended the Chairperson's Awards night held at the MCG Members Dining Room on 23 August. The evening was extra special as it was also a celebration for Anglicare Victoria's 20th Anniversary. Volunteer Wendy McBurnie said, "It was a very interesting evening and we appreciated very much our nomination for the volunteer section. I was very pleased to see foster parents being awarded for their great efforts."

The winners of the award on the night were the Peaceful Warriors, Lilydale – a team of dedicated volunteer mentors (mostly young men) providing young people with powerful role models of safe, healthy masculinity. The program has been running for 10 years.



The Rev'd Graeme Peters, Wendy McBurnie, Bert and Yvonne Bain, and Margaret Hunter from the Wonthaggi/Inverloch Anglican parish

DEDICATION AND BLESSING OF THE ABBEY'S NEW BUILDING

You are invited to the Dedication and Blessing of the Reception and Administration Building of the John McIntyre Centre, by the Right Reverend Kay Goldsworthy Bishop of Gippsland at The Abbey, Raymond Island on Thursday 19 October 2017 at 11:00am, followed by lunch.

RSVP is essential for catering purposes by Friday 6th October
Email info@theabbey.org.au, enquires: (03) 5156 6580.

Breakfast and learning at Sunday School

St James' Traralgon

Shelley Cooper

After the Gospel reading on Sunday morning, we signal to the kids that it's time to leave the worship area for Sunday School. Eager, the kids tear out to our youth room to start their lesson – a wonderful example to us “oldies” to approach the gospel with joy and enthusiasm.

Our class starts with general discussion on issues arising from the previous or coming week, then finishing with a prayer.

We then have breakfast. Noeline, our assistant, takes the children's orders. It is usually a simple affair of toast with vegemite, jam or Nutella. Fruit and fruit juice are also supplied.

Whilst this is being prepared we start our program, *What's in the Bible*, by Phil Vischer who

is the creator of *Veggie Tales*. Our Rector, the Rev'd Canon Jeff Richardson introduced and encouraged us to use this program after its success in the parish of Drouin.

This program is a DVD divided into four components to a lesson and approximately four lessons or weeks per DVD.

We have been lucky enough to have had a generous donation of a large flat screen TV and the kids sit there watching the lesson while munching on their toast.

The last segment of the DVD is a question and answer time and I am always blown away by how much the kids take in – even if sometimes they look like they are not listening.

We then either have a craft or games time where the lesson is consolidated through these fun activities.



L-R: Adhieu, Ayen, Lueth and Aman Mayen preparing to destroy the walls of Jericho!

Janet Milne and I are the two Sunday School teachers, along with assistant Noeline Feltham, at St James and we feel privileged in this important task of sharing the gospel with our most precious asset of the Church – our children, the future of the church.

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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'.



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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



Parents need a village too

James Oakley

When I was a boy of fourteen, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be twenty-one, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years.

Mark Twain

I’m always tickled by this quote. I think it’s because I can see myself in it – now from both sides. When I was growing up, I’m sure that the teenage me could have said this (less elegantly) without needing to cross his fingers. And now that my oldest is 10, I’m starting to see this attitude playing out in her. (Well, the first half at least. I hope and pray that we’ll make it through to the second!)

The quote came to mind recently because I’ve been thinking about mentoring. I think that the relationship captured in Mark Twain’s quote really does describe the organic mentoring relationship that is meant to occur between a parent and a child. A parent is not meant to be a child’s friend – they are called to a deeper and a higher role. They are called to nurture and support, but also to challenge and extend. Their relationship is meant to be lopsided. Our culture makes this role particularly hard, because there is an expectation that we will be able to do this all within the nuclear family!

The truth is that we all benefit from mentoring – having someone wiser (and usually older) to guide us through new waters. When I started out my life as a criminal lawyer, I was heavily dependent on the practical advice of a mentor (who was also my boss!). She was a very experienced criminal lawyer,

and was the person I observed in court to see how things were done. She was the one I would ask about the next step on a file, or the best way to present a case, or the appropriate range of sentences for a guilty plea. As I developed as a lawyer, I relied on her less and less. The writer of proverbs put it succinctly: “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.” – PROVERBS 27:17

The thing that strikes me more and more as my children grow older is how difficult it is to be a mentor to my own children. As they grow, they are (quite naturally) pulling away and developing independence. I would be worried if this wasn’t happening! There are two significant issues that this raises for me: firstly, how can I model a life that is at once independent and also open to wise and godly counsel; and secondly, how can I build up the village around my children, so that they have mentors they can go to for advice and guidance?

Independently dependent

I must confess, this is a round about way of admitting that I would benefit from some mentoring as a parent. I’ve never been the father of teens, and in a few short years I will be. It would be extremely helpful for me to have someone older whom I could look to for advice. My parents and my parents-in-law live in different cities, so their capacity to give day-to-day advice or role-modelling is limited.

You might have parents nearby, but have decided that you do not want them as mentors or role models for your own parenting.

(Perhaps because they are not Christians themselves, or their values do not align with yours, or because you do not want to be a parent like them.) Either way, it might be beneficial to find someone in your church who can fill that role for you – someone who can speak into your life as a parent, and also as a Christian and as a husband/wife.

Apart from the practical benefits this could bring personally, it could be a way of modelling “independent dependence” for our children. If you are visible as you are mentored (your kids see you meet with your mentor, you speak with them about what you’re learning, how you’re changing, and what you find challenging), your children will see what it means to live in Christian community.

Village building

You know the old saying that it takes a village to raise a child. In a society that is increasingly fractured and individualistic, the church provides an awesome opportunity to create that village for our kids. How would it look in your life if some of the elders and empty-nesters in your church were regularly a part of your family? Or if some of the singles and young couples were big brothers and sisters for your children? If your pre-teen and teen children knew that they could speak with Aunty Flo about the thing that happened at school, the argument they had with Dad, or the weird passage they’d just read in their Bible?

I’m not suggesting that we suddenly all move in together in one big commune, but that with some deliberation and prayer, you might identify one or two people who could help your family on its journey through faith and life. Or (if you’re in this stage of life) you might identify a family you could bless through your presence, your wisdom, or your work.

James Oakley is a Children’s and Youth Ministry worker in the Tasmanian Anglican diocese. This article was originally published in The Tasmanian Anglican in October 2014, and is reprinted with permission.



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James Carleton
Sunday 6 am – repeated Sunday 10:00 pm
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Pilgrims in France

Chris McAleer

I wanted to do the Camino de Santiago across northern Spain while Karen wanted to visit Paris, so we compromised with an accidental pilgrimage whose highlights were visiting some of the many churches of France.

It's amazing what one can fit into a few weeks without the abridged and concentrated experiences that a bus tour presents. We wanted to meet and rub shoulders with real French people and chat with them, if at all possible, despite our very limited French through the use of a French SIM card and Google translate! Karen planned the itinerary and booked most of our accommodation through Airbnb, which was a great way to make contact with locals and find out more about their local history.

There's so much to see and take in throughout France; the scenery is amazingly varied, the architecture is breath-taking, the people are warm and friendly. But for me, the experience of seeing signs of the Camino in Lyon,

Condom-en-Armagnac, Bordeaux and Paris were a reminder that for centuries, other pilgrims have travelled the same path.

As undeniably impressive as the Eiffel Tower, Louvre, Notre Dame, Arc de Triomphe, Musée d'Orsay and Versailles all were, my personal highlights were unexpected surprises outside the capital. The first was on the footpath in front of Lyon Cathedral, where a brass disc with the pilgrim's shell symbol marked a starting point for the Camino de Santiago – a silent reminder that despite centuries of change there are those who value what is important.



Pilgrim's shell on footpath

The next highlight was experiencing the rebuilt fortress of Carcassonne and hearing an acapella group from Russia singing medieval hymns in the Basilica of Saint Nazaire in front of an international

audience who were awed by the moment!

The Place de la Bourse is a government building in Bordeaux that has a remarkable rectangular pool that casts amazing reflections during



Mont Saint-Michel

the day and night. The spectacle of children playing on the pool when the sprays are on and of many parents acting like children added a sense of playfulness to the whole and gave this grand design the atmosphere of a theatre of dreams.

The biggest surprise was Mont Saint-Michel where our visit on Sunday coincided with the Sunday service. The young nuns and monks were prostrate in silent prayer beforehand and when they began to sing, it sounded like a chorus of angels had suddenly joined in! It was the highlight of the whole trip to be worshipping with other like-minded souls from around the world.

At Omaha Beach we visited the Normandy American Cemetery on one of the few days it rained outside of Paris. Spending some time in the museum and then walking among

the ten thousand plus graves was a moving reminder that the freedom we have was achieved at a price.

Then back at Chartres where we stayed for our last night, we were able to experience the light show around their inspiringly magnificent cathedral and the town. We were blessed with the opportunity of meeting many interesting French locals, sharing their homes, their towns and in their worship. The high points weren't what I had thought they would be, but were better!

Wherever we go, in a sense we are always going to be pilgrims on a journey, and the moments when we feel something of God's hand and purpose are the moments that change us, the memories that matter.

The Rev'd Chris McAleer is Priest-in-Charge, Nar Nar Goon.

EDITORIAL

New Zealand v Australia

Seeing your country from a distance can be quite instructive.

In New Zealand the Maori people have just one language, while there were hundreds of Aboriginal languages and nations when Europeans first arrived and there are about 120 languages still spoken (naidoc.org.au). Australia's First Peoples have been here for up to 65,000 years, while the Maori people arrived in New Zealand from Polynesia a mere 700 – 1000 years ago.

In 1840, the first Governor of New Zealand, William Hobson, and over 500 Maori chiefs signed a treaty. Australia still has no treaty with her Indigenous people. But there is a new move in this direction.

In May this year the First Peoples National Convention at Uluru produced the *Uluru Statement from the Heart*, calling for "the establishment of a 'First Nations Voice' in the Australian Constitution and a 'Makarrata Commission' to supervise a process of 'agreement-making' and 'truth-telling' between governments and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples" (aph.gov.au).

Makarrata is a word from the language of the Yolgnu people of Arnhem Land capturing the idea of "two parties coming together after a struggle, healing the divisions of the past. It is about acknowledging that something has been done wrong, and it seeks to make things right" Noel Pearson explains. As such, it is an alternative to the word "treaty". It was already being used by the National Aboriginal Conference, back in the 1980s.

A Makarrata Commission would not require any constitutional amendment, but a Voice in Parliament would require change via a referendum – never an easy proposition in Australia.

How is the Anglican church responding to the *Uluru Statement*? It is heartening to learn that General Synod recently passed a motion in support of a First Nations Voice to Parliament. NATSIAC (National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council) is still to meet early in October, when it will discuss the *Statement* and prepare a response.

Reading the one page *Uluru Statement from the Heart* at referendumcouncil.org.au is one way of continuing the deep listening we need to do. Perhaps it could be read aloud and discussed in churches as a way of listening and responding together.

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On the right to assisted dying

Sue Fordham offers another perspective on a complex issue

At the age of 20 my moral universe was uncomplicated and uncompromising; abortion ... no, euthanasia ... no, property theft ... no, divorce ... no. All very black and white. Good and evil were polar opposites and self-evident.

Fifty odd years down the track and I have come to see that this binary view of ethical and moral questions is naïve and ignores the subtlety that circumstances or context impose on moral decision making.

In short, the moral world is a minefield. We are rarely confronted with the easy black and white situations. Most often we have to adjudicate on situations that are composed of almost infinite shades of grey. We need the wisdom of Solomon to navigate this life.

At May’s synod, we were invited to support a motion that in effect rejected legislation to support assisted dying.

The motion was based on the concept that life is God-given and therefore sacred, so to take life is to destroy the sacred, to play God.

In general, I support this assumption but have three provisos or qualifiers.

The first is that, as a church, we assert this concept but allow exceptions, so therefore the concept is not absolute but becomes conditional.

Let me illustrate. If life is sacred absolutely, why do we then as a church not advocate for pacifism? Why do we not oppose armed forces as part of our national life and refuse to engage in war – any war?

It seems that our ambivalence is really saying that life is conditionally sacred; conditional on national interest and personal defence.

The ideal versus the reality?

My second misgiving concerns how we define “life”. The motion to synod concerned the mechanistic “beating heart, breathing lung” view of life but ignored the qualitative aspects of life.

We can just as easily destroy “life” by how we treat other people, without actually extinguishing their breath or stopping their heart beat. The “destruction” of human life through child abuse in our religious institutions amply illustrates this. We enhance and impair each other daily whether we mean to or not. Life is more than just being alive.

My third misgiving is that, in a secular society, even within the church itself, while it is appropriate to debate values, it is not appropriate to impose them. Indeed, the Gippsland synod was equally divided on the assisted dying issue, so it would be impossible to send a single unequivocal message in any case.

Perhaps the best advice I could give is that if something that is legal offends your moral sensibilities then don’t do it. If you are implacably opposed to abortion, don’t have one. If you are opposed to same sex marriage then don’t marry someone who is the same sex as yourself. If you are opposed to divorce then stay married. If you are opposed to assisted dying then don’t avail yourself of it. Above all, accept the primacy of the human conscience and don’t dictate to other people how they ought live. We need to respect the sincerity of each other and maintain dialogue.



The opponents of assisted dying argue for better, more available palliative care and I agree with them. But palliative care is not in and of itself the whole answer. It cannot in all circumstances solve the pain problem. Nor can it necessarily answer the psychological suffering for all dying people.

Furthermore, the nudge nudge, wink, wink argument that “doctors will up the morphine to relieve suffering, so don’t worry about euthanasia”, is a poor one. It says that the afflicted can have no say in how they die but the doctor can play God. Since

My view on assisted dying is influenced by watching my father die from Motor Neurone Disease in 1990. MND is a progressive, cruel and insidious muscle-wasting disease potentially affecting the whole body. Stephen Hawking, an English theoretical physicist and cosmologist as well as Lou Gehrig a famous American baseball player and our own Neale Daniher, AFL star, are the most recognized of those afflicted by this disease.

My father’s death was particularly horrible, exacerbated by poor specialist medical care and the limited knowledge about the disease at the time.

Much has changed since 1990. Though cause and cure of MND are still tantalisingly out of reach, research, treatment of symptoms and public awareness have improved markedly.

when did a doctor have a better appreciation of pain than the sufferer? If it is wrong for the patient to play God, why is it okay for the doctor to do so?

My father knew that, at the end, he might drown in his own fluids as the muscles supporting his lungs failed. This awareness must have been dreadful beyond imagining.

I don’t know that my father would have accessed assisted dying had it been available. I don’t know whether I will when the time comes and if I am terminally and painfully ill. Perhaps I will and perhaps I will greedily hang on to every moment of living available to me. But knowing that I will have access to stringently safeguarded assisted dying will make those last days the more bearable.

CORRESPONDENCE

High energy costs cause pain in country

Bishop Huggins’s passion against mining (September *TMA*, presentation to Minister Frydenberg, page 9) may be more credible if the same passion was directed to supporting implementation of Dr Alan Finkel’s Blueprint for the future security of Australia’s Electricity Market.

We note that Australia has had very low cost energy but is now racing to becoming a country with the highest cost of energy. The pain that this is causing to low income residents appear to go unnoticed by the do-gooders.

However my major concern is the hardship that high energy costs will have on regional agribusiness, farmers and industry.

Although I do acknowledge everyone’s right to a view, I do find the noisy voices from our cities have a touch of hypocrisy. Our cities enjoy the benefits from mining, and on climate change issues, are the highest energy users.

As an Australian I believe the Finkel recommendations provide a blueprint for our future energy and provide security as well as meeting Australia’s global climate change commitments.

Alex Arbuthnot, Sale

EARTH CARE CARD

– Tips and inspiration for churches and households



#33 A more sustainable laundry

Gippsland Unwrapped is Tammy Logan’s blog about running a more sustainable household – with an emphasis on zero waste, avoiding plastic and palm oil. For her laundry she has been very inventive in finding solutions, even making new sponges from plaited T-shirt yarn for her laundry mop, rather than buying replacements.

Tammy has second-hand cane laundry baskets because they can be composted when worn out. It would be hard to think of a new use for a broken plastic laundry basket! Bamboo pegs are in the same category. Less frequent washing of clothes is often possible, saving on energy and water, while the clothes last longer.

Check out many other ideas for your household at gippslandunwrapped.com

Ernie Walker

Musician – Tambo (Swan Reach)

Jan Down

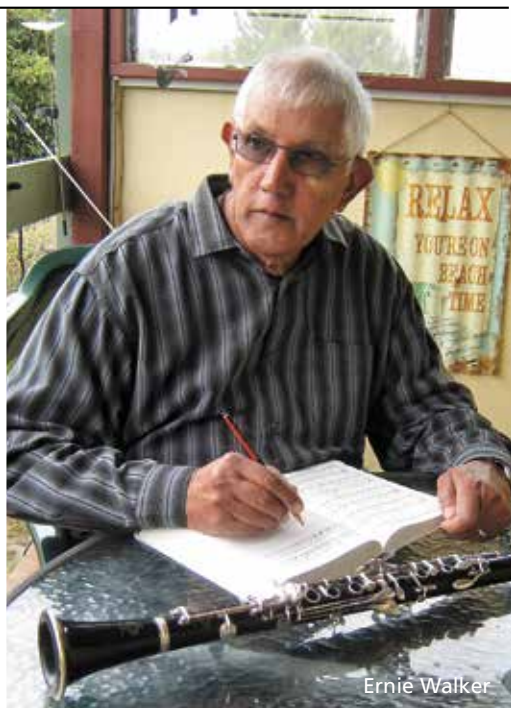
Ernie Walker has been “making a joyful noise to the Lord” (PSALM 100) from the age of six, though it wasn’t until he was sixteen that he began to play the clarinet. He has sung in choirs, played music and formed groups to sing or play music all through his life.

As a young boy he was raised in a Christian family. He attended Carey Baptist College in Sri Lanka, where a banner in the assembly hall read, “Attempt great things for God. Expect great things from God”; something he still believes in.

He also attended church and Sunday School where he loved singing. Ernie’s grandfather was a man dedicated to preaching the gospel in his mainly Buddhist country. Having a great desire to start the local children early in the Christian faith, he obtained permission from the local Baptist Church to run a Sunday School in their hall. Children flocked in from the neighbouring streets to sing choruses and listen to the Bible stories. This was Ernie’s first experience of singing gospel songs.

There was no television at home, but Ernie listened to the big bands on the radio and developed a great love of music. Artie Shaw and Benny Goodman in particular, made a big impression.

When his father saw his interest he gave him a clarinet for his sixteenth birthday. Ernie then taught himself, sometimes getting a little help from other musicians. He did not learn to read music until much later – mainly after migrating to Australia in 1970. Listening to the radio, he would work out how to play the tunes by ear, which he believes is a great skill. After some time, his father sent him to a local musician for music lessons.



Ernie Walker

Ernie sees his musical ability as coming from God: “God has blessed me with this talent and I am confident that He rejoices when I glorify His name through music”.

As well as clarinet, Ernie plays all the saxophones: soprano, alto and tenor, but he most enjoys clarinet and alto sax. He plays for the East Gippsland Symphonia as well as for the church of St Columb in Swan Reach, and other churches as the need arises.

Ernie says “Thank God for the hymn writers as with church music, it is really gratifying to hearing voices praise God”. At the same time, he finds it hard work writing all the backing tracks for the hymns on computer, as the church doesn’t have a keyboard player at the moment.

Another challenge is the size of the congregation. “Since moving from Melbourne, where we could have a congregation of 150 plus at a service, it has been very challenging at times to do all this preparation for just a congregation of eight to fifteen. [But] This is where God wants me to be for now. As he has said, where two or three are gathered in His name, He is in their midst.”

And Ernie certainly sees this labour as worship and service to God. As he prepares the hymns, he spends time selecting them to be in keeping with the readings and the message for the day. His work is much appreciated by the congregation, who always thank him at the end of the service. They also attend special events when he is performing.

While he is now retired, Ernie still teaches private students at the local school. He says “It is really satisfying to watch them progress, to end up playing in high school band concerts”.

Since moving to Metung in 2000, Ernie spends much of his time in the garden, in the workshop mending equipment, and of course, listening to music. His work now is “whatever I’m called to do on the day. I wait and God gives me the message – you’re needed here today”. Often he will find himself talking to people, “encouraging them on”.

Back in Sri Lanka, Ernie’s first job was as a Funeral Director. “It was here I gained the skills of working with people and helping them through their time of sadness and grief. It was very interesting dealing with people from different cultures and religions. The fact is that at time of death all people experience the same sense of loss, and have to be helped and comforted through that process.”

After migrating to Australia, Ernie experienced discrimination at his first job interview. “I did not know it then that this would help me later in life in another job”. He then found work at Philips Electronics in Clayton, eventually becoming Purchasing Manger and continuing there for 22 years.

After a time of unemployment, Ernie next found work with the Salvation Army Training Program. “I felt that with the experience I had gained during my working life, it was an opportunity to contribute to others, especially the unemployed. I had the privilege of heading the first Mature Workers Program in Australia.

“When the funding for this program ended, another opportunity arose to supervise the state government-funded Community Business Employment Program. These jobs needed the skills of training and helping people get back into the workforce. It also needed the experience of negotiating with businesses to give these people the opportunity of earning a living.”

All the way through his life, Ernie has had a sense of being guided by God. At times when he has had to make decisions, he would always ask for God’s help and receive it. “In all walks of life, God has been my strength and refuge”.

Diocesan calendar

October

- 8 2:00 pm at Saint Aidan’s Newborough: a service to inaugurate the new Parish of Moe / Newborough
- 8 3:00 pm Blessing of the Animals on the oval at The Abbey, Raymond Island
- 13 10:30 am Anglicare Parish Partnerships Thank You Morning Tea for volunteers: **Trafalgar** Anglican Church. RSVP by 10 October: 03 5133 9998 or email jo.wilkinson@anglicarevic.org.au
- 14 Moe / Newborough Antiques and Collectables Fair
- 14 9:30 am – 3:30 pm “Simplicity and Stillness” Anam Cara Quiet Day, St Paul’s Cathedral, Sale, with Dean Susanna Pain
- 14 6:00 – 9:00 pm “Burnt Earth” multi-media art installation on environmental issues at St Paul’s Cathedral, Sale
- 18 2:00 pm Anglicare Parish Partnerships Thank You Afternoon Tea for volunteers at Holy Trinity Anglican Church, **Yarram**. RSVP by 10 October: 03 5133 9998 or email jo.wilkinson@anglicarevic.org.au
- 19 11:00 am Dedication and Blessing of the Reception and Administration Building of the John McIntyre Centre at The Abbey. RSVP (essential) to: info@theabbey.org.au or phone: 5156 6580
- 20 10:30 am Anglicare Parish Partnerships Thank You Morning Tea for volunteers at Holy Trinity Anglican Church, **Stratford**. RSVP by 16 October: 03 5133 9998 or email jo.wilkinson@anglicarevic.org.au
- 21 8:30 am – 12 noon Clifton Waters Village Annual Fair, Bairnsdale
- 21 1.30 – 5:00 pm The Earth is the Lord’s: Listening to God in Scripture and Creation, St Paul’s Cathedral, Sale, with Jan Morgan and Graeme Garrett
- 26 Parish Treasurers Consultation Day, **Sale**. Booking sites via gippsanglican.org.au, info: Brian Norris, Registrar. Phone 5144 2044. Email: registrar@gippsanglican.org.au
- 28 9:30 – 3:00 pm 115th Flower Show at St Thomas’ Bunyip
- 30 9:30 cuppa for 10:00 am – 2:30 pm Op Shop Workshop at Christ Church Drouin
- 31 Parish Treasurers Consultation Day, **Warragul**. Booking sites via gippsanglican.org.au, info: Brian Norris, Registrar. Phone 03 5144 2044. Email: registrar@gippsanglican.org.au

November

- 2 Parish Treasurers Consultation Day, **Morwell**. Booking sites via gippsanglican.org.au, info: Mr Brian Norris, Registrar. Phone 03 5144 2044. Email: registrar@gippsanglican.org.au
- 11 2:00 – 5:00 pm Using InterPlay forms to explore the creative potential of your voice. Led by Jenny Batten at Delbridge Hall, Cunninghame St Sale Suggested donation \$30. RSVP Susanna Pain 0418637469 or Susanna.pain@gmail.com
- 18 2:00 – 5:00 pm Open Garden at Oak Farm, 433 Old Telegraph Road East, Crossover, in aid of Neerim South Anglican Church Op Shop
- 25 11:00 am Anam Cara Thanksgiving Service, St Mary’s Morwell
- 30 Parish Treasurers Consultation Day, **Leongatha**. Booking sites via gippsanglican.org.au, info: Brian Norris, Registrar. Phone 03 5144 2044. Email: registrar@gippsanglican.org.au