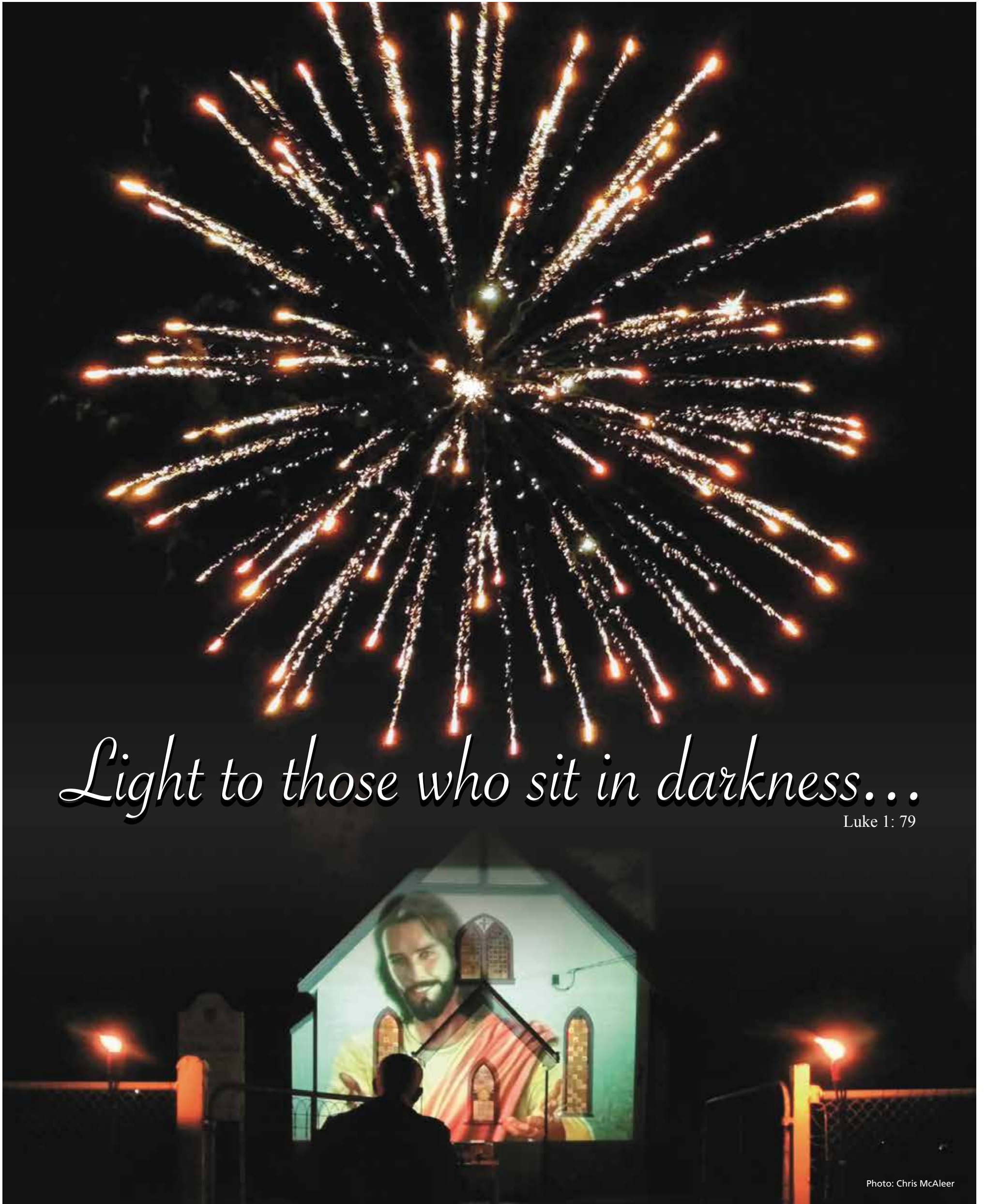


The Gippsland Anglican

Volume 115, Number 11, December 2018

Published in Gippsland Diocese since 1904



Light to those who sit in darkness...

Luke 1: 79

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Good news for all must be good news for each

With the start of Advent we move into Year C of our lectionary cycle, the year of Luke. In a recent reading of this gospel, biblical scholar Tom Wright shows how the evangelist skilfully weaves together good news that is at once particular and universal.

At the start of Acts, the sequel to Luke, Peter says to the crowd on the day of Pentecost, "This promise is for you and for your children, and for everyone who is far away" (Acts 2:39). So too, "good news of great joy for all people" (Luke 2:10) is delivered specifically to the shepherds, and to Zechariah and Elizabeth, and to Mary, and to Simeon and Anna.

This good news is not necessarily "nice news" or "easy news", as Simeon warns Mary (Luke 2:34-35). Nor is it a radical departure from God's (universal) purposes with respect to God's (particular) people Israel. As coming king of the house of David, and "son of God" (2 Sam 7:13-14a), Jesus will embody and enact God's all-embracing

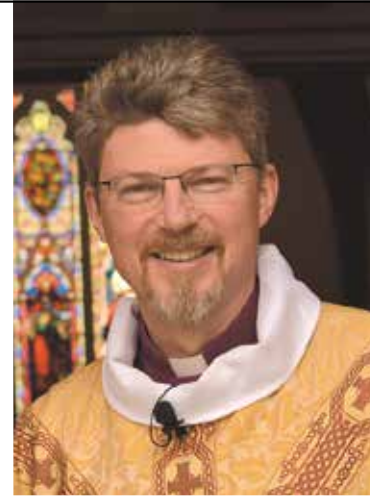
justice which was uniquely entrusted to that royal line.

Thick with expectancy from the Hebrew scriptures, Mary's song anticipates this, foreshadowing the reversal and upheaval inherent in Jesus' teaching about the kingdom. Wright calls it "the gospel before the gospel, a fierce bright shout of triumph thirty weeks before Bethlehem, thirty years before Calvary and Easter" (*Luke for Everyone*, 14). As such her exultation – *Magnificat* – resounds through centuries of Christian worship, recalling

"Christmas gives us a person; not an idea, or a doctrine, or a program."

God's promises to Abraham and Sarah, whose story of divine visitation in Genesis lingers behind that of Zechariah and Elizabeth.

Zechariah, likewise, when speech returns to him, bursts forth in praise of God's long-awaited deliverance (Luke 1:67-79): salvation described in both political and spiritual terms; a vision in which the call to holiness is inseparable from the experience of being released from oppression, and forgiveness is integral to finding the paths of peace.



Bishop Richard Treloar

It is through these individuals and households that Luke connects the story of Jesus to the wider narrative of God's justice and mercy in the covenant with Israel, itself a light to the nations (Luke 2:32). The good news is thus both deeply personal (though never "private") and cosmic; at once particular and universal. The characters who carry Luke's plot are not mere "ciphers", nor are they used instrumentally for a purpose that somehow overrides or bypasses their respective hopes and fears, or the struggles they share in community.

As we ponder again the mystery of God's presence to the world in a child so utterly dependent on the care and

the dignity extended by adults, no doubt we all rejoice at the thought that by Christmas most of the remaining refugee children on Nauru will have been brought to Australia. This is good news, even if nothing about it is "easy" or "nice". Three days later, on Holy Innocents, Matthew's account of the instrumental use of children to shore up wider political goals (Matt 2:13-18) will chasten, caution, and sober us.

The gospel is always relational, never abstract. The universal significance of this good news lies precisely in the particular form it takes in the divinely human one. Christmas gives us a person; not an idea, or a doctrine, or a program. As Tom Wright puts it: "The drama which now takes centre stage is truly the story of God, the world, and every ordinary human being who has ever lived in it". (*Luke for Everyone*, 8)

I wish you the blessings and the challenges of this great season in sharing good news for all that is also good news for each.

+RM

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Advertising Rates

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

Prayer Diary – beyond the parishes

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

THE ANAM CARA COMMUNITY

The Anam Cara community has a small group of servant leaders who work together to provide opportunities for people to grow their relationships with God. Quiet Days are days set aside for some teaching, prayer, reflection and fellowship with others. We provide a fortnightly email newsletter for encouragement and reflection and are happy to add interested people to our mailing list. Pray for our servant leaders in their planning and for days to be nourishing and welcoming to all.

123 CAFE, SALE

Prayer points for the 123 café: that our community of Sale will find refuge, acceptance and a place of comfort here at 123; for continual wisdom in our communication with those we

are working alongside; thanks to the Lord for wonderful volunteers and young people who add value while working at 123; thank God for the prayer support and financial support of our community; and we ask the Lord for direction and continued support.

ANGLICAN MOTHERS UNION

Anglican Mothers' Union Australia is part of the worldwide Mothers' Union showing "Christian Care for Families". Gippsland has 10 branches from East Gippsland to Phillip Island with 130 members. Please pray that as many members age they will still feel valued in their membership and know the value of their prayers and support of the many projects MU undertakes in other countries and within

Australia. Pray for those arranging the gathering of members from across the state to be held next year in Gippsland.

THE ABBEY

The Abbey, a Centre for Spirituality and the Environment on Raymond Island, welcomes individuals and groups for retreats, workshops, conferences, and "time out" holidays.

Give thanks for the gift and sacred wonder of The Abbey and its environment; for The Abbey Chapter, staff, supporters and volunteers. God has blessed us richly.

Pray for those who will visit in 2019; for The Abbey's ongoing development; for the surrounding fragile bushland and lakes; for the wildlife who look for food. Pray for rain.

ANGLICARE GIPPSLAND

Anglicare Victoria exists to resource and empower children, young people and families to achieve their full potential through the promotion of social justice, the strengthening of local communities and the provision of services. Our mission is to create a more just society by expressing God's love through service, education and advocacy.

Please pray for those involved in Foster and Kinship Care and for more volunteers to care for vulnerable children in our communities. Pray for families who are in conflict and struggling to make ends meet.

Please also pray for: St Paul's Anglican Grammar School and Gippsland Grammar School; the Aboriginal Ministry of the Rev'd Phyllis Andy and the Rev'd Kathy Dalton; the Registry staff; and Gippsland Anglican Retirement Living Ltd.

Ben Lanky Manton (1841–1929) honoured

The Rev'd Kathy Dalton's grandmother's grandfather, Ben Lanky Manton, was inducted into the Victorian Aboriginal Honour Roll for 2018 in a special ceremony at Federation Square, Melbourne on 10 October.



Jim Poulter, the Rev'd Kathy Dalton and Ronald Edwards

Edie Ashley

Kathy Dalton had known about Lanky Manton all her life, as her mother would often tell her stories and snippets of family history. Kathy remembers well her mother's words reminding her not to forget Lanky Manton, an "initiated cultural man", a leader and elder who shared friendship with non-Indigenous Australians.

Jim Poulter, a non-Aboriginal Australian, had grown up with stories of the friendship his great, great grandfather, John, shared with Aboriginal people in the Templestowe area in the 1840s. Jim knew that John had "forged a lasting friendship with one man" and Jim set about finding that man. He tells the story in *Finding Lanky Manton**

As a child, Lanky lived with his family in the Bulleen / Templestowe area where he established a strong relationship with the local community. At age 19 he moved on to the Swan Hill area and took up droving, returning ten years later in 1870 to the Coranderrk

Aboriginal Mission Station near Healesville. In 1903, Lanky became a Senior Elder at Coranderrk and continued to advocate against the constant threats of closure, taking any opportunity to address visiting dignitaries on the issue.

When Coranderrk did close in 1924, Ben Lanky Manton and his wife were amongst the last to leave and to join their family in Lake Tyers in 1927. He died at Lake Tyers on 26 May 1929 and is buried in the cemetery at Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust.

Lanky Manton was greatly loved and respected by all at Coranderrk, Lake Tyers and within the wider community. For many he was the embodiment of reconciliation; he wanted all Australians to feel pride in their Australian heritage.

Lanky's friendship with John and John's sons Willie and Tom continued from the 1840s until 1923.

Through the work of Jim Poulter the stories of Lanky Manton that Kathy had known came alive in a new way and Ben Lanky Manton was welcomed into the Aboriginal Honour Roll.

Kathy and her cousin Ronald Edwards, an outstanding artist in Gippsland, invited Jim to join them as the Victorian Minister for Aboriginal Affairs presented the certificate and beautifully crafted artefact. Kathy and Ronald replied with thanks.

Kathy passed the artefact to Jim Poulter who accepted it with pride and tears. The pattern of reconciliation that their forebears had experienced so many years ago was shared in this moment as Kathy and Roland and Jim stood together in recognition of Ben Lanky Manton. The Rev'd Phyllis Andy and I were honoured to be present.

In the words of Daniel Andrews, "The Honour Roll is a permanent testament to the stories of Aboriginal people and to the story of our state".

Archdeacon Edie Ashley is Archdeacon of the Eastern Region, Priest at Paynesville and at The Abbey

* *Finding Lanky Manton*, a 16 page booklet, is available from the Royal Historical Society of Victoria. See also the 2018 Victorian Aboriginal Honour Roll at: www.dpc.vic.gov.au

ABOUT OUR COVER

The Rev'd Chris McAleer created the composite image, showing the face of Jesus projected onto the church of St John's, Nar Nar Goon, for several hours on the 23 and 24 December 2017. Chris said, "The fireworks are from the Nar Nar Goon Christmas Festival which is held over the footy oval, directly in line behind the Church, but a few weeks beforehand... The image of Jesus reminded those who passed by, and those who did a U-turn to have a second look, that He is the reason for the season."

GIPPSLAND DIOCESE VACANCIES

EASTERN REGION

- Heyfield
- Orbost

SOUTHERN REGION

- Yarram

Ringling bells for children detained on Nauru

TRAFALGAR



Churches have been asked to ring their bells once for each child detained, every Friday at 12 noon until there are no children in detention

Sue Newcombe rings the bell at Yarragon. They are also being rung at Yarragon and Trafalgar, while Thorpdale's bell is currently out of action.

LAKES ENTRANCE



Ian Buckland rings the bell at St Nicholas' Lakes Entrance. They have also been rung weekly at St John's Metung. Each ring is accompanied by a prayer for a child on Nauru.

Remembrance Day 2018

100th anniversary of the Armistice

MORWELL – UNDER “WAR CONDITIONS”



DROUIN

Remembrance Day at Christ Church Drouin

Dean Spalding

The First World War exacted an enormous sacrificial cost upon Australia at a time when its population was a little less than 6 million – more than 60,000 Australian men perished from 1914–1918 in the conflict. That’s about one in every 100 in the population. Remembrance Day on 11 November this year

marked the centenary of the 1918 Armistice and the end of the First World War.

Christ Church Drouin has been anticipating this important centenary for over a year. The Baw Baw Singers, a vocal and instrumental ensemble, agreed to put together a concert called “Pack Up Your Troubles” with songs from around the time of the First World War, capturing the spirit of the way in which song served to help folk endure the great hardship of war.

The concert was attended by close to 300 people, who then enjoyed afternoon tea in the Parish Hall.

The Baw Baw Shire parks and gardens coordinator facilitated the planting of six commemorative golden elm trees – each tree representing about 10,000 Australian men who perished in the 1914–1918 War.

The RSL agreed to grant to the trees official “commemorative” status. Some of the Christ Church youth helped prepare the verge for planting. These trees were planted on 8 October and then, on Remembrance Day, just before the concert, they were blessed and dedicated to the memory of those who perished in the First World War and as an act of thanksgiving for the armistice and its centenary.

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

We shall keep the faith on the back of a used envelope. From that day she vowed to wear a red poppy of Flanders Fields as a sign of remembrance. (Find her poem at: www.greatwar.co.uk)

We remembered, and will never forget.



The Rev’d Bruce Charles accompanying hymns at St Mary’s Morwell

Pam Remington Lane

St Mary’s Remembrance Day service had an authentic early twentieth-century atmosphere, with soft light from candles and stained-glass windows. Stage management was not involved: the power was out.

The challenging question: “How should we as Christians view World War 1?” was examined by Father David, making us consider how we should regard all or any wars. Referring to the many nationalistic hymns of the time, he reminded us of the beautiful second verse of “I vow to thee, my country”, where the peace of the heavenly kingdom is the focus:

*And there’s another country,
I’ve heard of long ago
Most dear to them that love her,
most great to them that know;
We may not count her armies,
we may not see her King;
Her fortress is a faithful heart,
her pride is suffering;
And soul by soul and silently
her shining bounds increase,
And her ways are ways of gentleness,
and all her paths are peace.*

As the organ could not be played, the Reverend Bruce Charles played beautiful accompaniment to the hymns on violin.

Morning tea afterwards was thanks to the gas stove, with water heated in saucepans and decanted into jugs, but the coffee plunger was definitely 21st century.



SALE

Children’s paintings on Remembrance Day at St Paul’s Cathedral, Sale

Dean Susanna Pain

Bishop Richard presided and Chaplain Andrew Knox from the Sale RAAF Base preached at the Remembrance Day services at St Paul’s Cathedral. We observed a minute’s silence at both the 8:00 am and 11:00 am services. At the end of the 11:00 am silence we heard the planes fly overhead.

It was a special and moving day to keep both Defence Force Sunday and Remembrance Day. The church was filled with people wearing red poppies, and there was a presentation of remembrance.

The children discovered the memorial to those who died in both World War 1 and World War 2. They listened to stories and painted their responses, including the sinking of a ship, and poppies.

Chaplain Andrew shared some of his story, and spoke of “Forgetting and Remembering”. He concluded with a poem by Moina Michael who, having read John McCrae’s poem *In Flanders Fields*, made a personal pledge to “keep the faith”. She felt compelled to make a note of this pledge and hastily scribbled down a response entitled.

New hosts commissioned at Allansfield



Reg and Dianne Wilkinson, new hosts at Allansfield

Lloyd George

On Saturday 20 October a St Luke’s-tide gathering was held at Allansfield Healing Home at Rhyll, Phillip Island which included the commissioning of Reg and Dianne Wilkinson as the new hosts. Reg and Di replace David

and Trudy Sharman, who have moved to Queensland after six years in the role.

Reg and Di are from South Australia and have been involved in the Christian healing ministry for many years, including a time as managers of the Manna Healing Centre at Taranaki, New Zealand.

Allansfield operates under the auspice of the Order of St Luke the Physician and we are pleased to have Reg and Di taking up this position. They, in turn, feel privileged and joyful to be able to participate in this ministry, which allows them to be part of the journey of many people into wholeness.

Allansfield is able to provide short-term accommodation for individuals or for small groups.

Please make any enquiries direct to Reg and Di on (03) 59 569333, or by email to: allansfield@oslhealing.com.au.

The Rev’d Lloyd George is the Gippsland OSL Chaplain. For any general enquiries about OSL Healing Ministries please contact him on: 0427 460 485.

Koori community organizations tour



Philip Muston

Ken Hutton, Naomy Nesimahan, Archdeacon Edie Ashley, Tracey Moffat, Nicky Moffat, the Rev'd Philip Muston, Bishop Richard Treloar, Grattan Mullett, the Rev'd Phyllis Andy, Cathrine Muston

The Rev'd Phyllis Andy and Archdeacon Edie Ashley led a wide-ranging introduction of Bishop Richard Treloar to Koori Community organizations in East Gippsland on December 9.

Bishop Richard, Archdeacon Edie, Anglicare Parish Partnerships officer Cathrine Muston and I, along with other church representatives, began the

day at the Lake Tyers Trust village, where ranger Charmaine Sellings showed us over St John's Church, the Health Centre, and the Early Learning Centre.

At Lakes Entrance Aboriginal Health Association we were hosted by Health Team Coordinator Rachel Clulow.

Then to GLaWAC, the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters

Aboriginal Corporation's extensive headquarters at Kalimna West, where we enjoyed lunch and heard a talk on Cultural Heritage Management by elder and Cultural Hub Manager Grattan Mullett.

The tour finished in Bairnsdale at the Gippsland and East Gippsland Aboriginal Co-op, where we visited the Krowathunkoolong Keeping

Place, a sacred collection of artefacts and documents related to history from the first white contact in Gippsland.

Bishop Richard expressed the group's thanks when he said how moved we had been by all we had seen, and how evident was the respect of each of the agencies for "Auntie Phyllis" and her pastoral work as an elder in the Aboriginal community of East Gippsland.

The Archbishop of Melbourne's Executive Officer, Ken Hutton, also took part in the visits. He said Archbishop Freier was keen to see the work in East Gippsland himself. "I now have a much better understanding of the work that you and others are doing in the community and it is very inspirational to see," he told Phyllis.



Placard drawn by Alan Solomon, painted by staff at GEGAC

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

Philip Kissick – happy to hold things in tension



The Rev'd Philip Kissick

Jan Down

UCA in parishes and chaplaincies in Victoria and New Zealand.

In 1999 Philip was ordained in the Anglican Church, in the Diocese of Wangaratta, and then served in parishes and chaplaincies in Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia.

The change of denomination was

partly due to a number of issues in the Uniting Church back in the 1990s, one of which was the ordination of gay people. While Philip was in favour himself, he was disappointed that there were those within the Uniting Church who did not want to hear the other points of view within its walls. "It's different now", Philip stresses, but at the time he sensed a "fraying of the capacity to hold things in tension".

Another significant part of Philip's decision to join the Anglican Church was that he

had always been drawn to a more liturgical and sacramental style, which he felt was integral to Anglicanism.

Philip identifies the heart of his ministry as preaching, public worship and Bible Study groups, as well as connecting with the community where he is living.

He and his wife Ruth come to Gippsland from Geelong, where Ruth, a secondary school Maths teacher, has been working at Christian College Geelong, while Philip was taking locums in the Ballarat diocese.

When they move to Bruthen, Ruth will teach Maths as well as Religion in Society at Nagle College, a Roman Catholic co-educational secondary school in Bairnsdale.

Philip is now looking forward to "being part of a rural community and parish and being able again to have a greater involvement than simply the conducting of occasional worship services".

The service of Induction and Installation will be held at St Matthew's Bruthen on Wednesday, 16 January, at 7:30 pm.

David Head appointed Regional Dean of the west

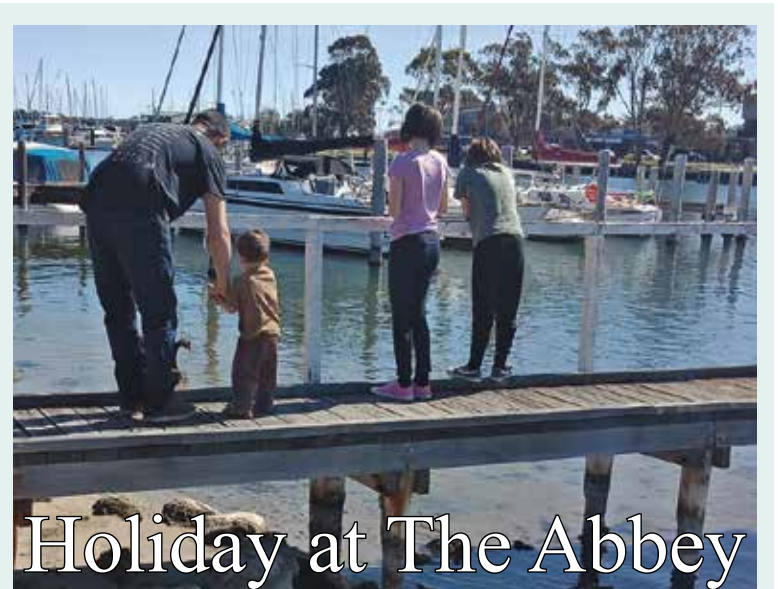


The Rev'd David Head has been appointed Regional Dean for the Western Region. David is Rector of the Parish of Morwell and has almost 40 years experience in ordained ministry.

He has been in the Diocese of Gippsland for over six years and is now in his second term on Bishop-in-Council. David

is also involved in several other Diocesan bodies and committees.

Commenting on the appointment, David said "I am delighted to be able to give pastoral care and understanding to my colleagues in my role as Western Regional Dean: so much for gradually and gently moving into retirement!"



Holiday at The Abbey

A family enjoys a holiday at The Abbey, as guests of Anglican Mothers Union

Reach Out Concert and High Tea



Phil Beggs and John Rees, of beggs2differ, performing at the Reach Out Concert

Martin Shaw Korumuburra

A Reach Out Concert and High Tea held on Sunday, October 7, was thoroughly enjoyed by the eighty-five people who attended.

We were wonderfully entertained by a cappella singers, Acoustic Kitchen, singer guitarist Aaron Freeman, bush poet Steve Horton, and Phil Beggs and John Rees from beggs2differ. The High Tea, prepared by the wonderful cooks of our Parish, was simply too delicious to resist.

All funds raised will go towards hosting a group of English students and their families to enjoy a day in beautiful South Gippsland, and some country hospitality. These students are made up of migrants, refugees

and asylum seekers and are enrolled in the Program for Improving English (PIE), which operates from St. Mary's Roman Catholic Parish in Dandenong. They have limited opportunity to learn and grow in our society without understanding the English language. Introducing students to mainstream Australian culture is an important part of the Program.

Fiona and Phil Beggs, both retired teachers, have been part of this Program for the past two years, and have shared with us the satisfaction they feel in being involved. They have found it to be "...a great joy and privilege..." to work with their students.

Equally the students appreciate the opportunity to learn English. With this knowledge, they are better equipped in finding



Over 60 people enjoyed lunch and fellowship at Bishops Court

Retired clergy gathering

Laurie Baker

An enjoyable afternoon was had by everyone at the recent Retired Clergy Gathering, renewing friendships and meeting some more recently retired clergy who have moved to Gippsland.

A very warm thank you to Bishop Richard for opening his home and making us so welcome. Much of the success of the day must attributed to Sue Court and the tireless effort she put into organizing the catering, and helping Bishop

Richard care for us.

Thank you to Dean Susanna Pain for all of her assistance at the Cathedral and Bishops Court.

We all enjoyed the day very much.

The Rev'd Laurie Baker is a retired priest living in Maffra.

employment and in settling into our society with more confidence and enthusiasm.

The next step is to plan the trip – to provide a special day for the students and their families. It will be great to share stories, learn from each other, and hopefully forge longer-term connections. If you would like to be a part of this next step, we would welcome you aboard.

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

Aged Care – What you ought to know

If your ability to live independently starts to decline and you need help with daily living activities such as cooking, cleaning and personal care, you may need to move into residential care.

The costs for residential care are divided into three categories:

COST OF ACCOMMODATION

DAILY CARE FEES

EXTRA SERVICES

The daily care fees can be up to \$109,285 per year, but a large portion is paid by the government. The contribution you would pay is between \$18,491 and \$45,723 depending on your financial means.

For most people however, the biggest concern is how to pay for a room. These will commonly be between \$400,000 – \$600,000.

These lump sum payments are called Refundable Accommodation Deposits – RADs.

Let's examine some of the facts around accommodation payments.

Example

Bert is moving into residential care. He is a widower on the full age pension with a home worth \$420,000 and \$20,000 in the bank. The service he and his family have chosen is asking for a RAD of \$530,000 (or \$86.54 per day).

Bert is worried that he cannot afford a place in this service without asking his children for help. He sought advice on his options and decided to take the advice to:

- Sell his home
- Use the net sale proceeds to pay a \$400,000 RAD, leaving a DAP of \$21.23 per day on the remaining \$130,000

- Instruct the service provider to deduct the DAP each month from his RAD

This leaves his \$23,824 age pension to cover his daily care fees of \$21,210 per year (this includes the basic daily fee and the means-tested care fee) plus some personal expenses. His DAP is deducted from his RAD leaving Bert financially self-sufficient and keeping a \$20,000 cash reserve to meet other expenses.

Advice from a professional who is experienced in aged care can help you to make the right decisions.

For more information please contact Julie Irving, DMG Financial, 1300 932 3843.

Disclaimer: The information in this article is general and does not take into account your particular circumstances. We recommend specific tax or legal advice be sought before any action is taken and refer to the relevant Product Disclosure Statement before investing in any product. Rates current to 30 June 2018.





Bishop Jeffrey Driver handing over a donated laptop to Fathers Luscomb Bera and Giles Motisi (centre) in PNG

Bishop Jeffrey's work with students in PNG

Students at Newton College in Popondetta, PNG, are studying a new curriculum as a result of work by three people well known in Gippsland.

With the backing of ABM, Bishop Jeffrey Driver, a former Bishop of Gippsland, has been coordinating a curriculum review. He has written several new subject outlines and has been assisted by the Rev'd Dr John Wright, from Cowes, and also a previous Dean, The Rev'd Dr Don Saines, from Trinity College.

This is the first year that the college has been teaching subjects from the revised curriculum. With the new subjects come new methods of assessments and an emphasis on students as learners in a learning community, not just recipients of information.

While in the past most assessment was through written examination, assessments now include essays, book reviews, exegetical exercises and oral presentations. Students have found the transition challenging as it puts much more emphasis on their own research and writing. The college has tried to provide additional support for students through this transition.

This year, there has also been a focus on developing the ministry formation program, with a renewed emphasis on student placements and shared reflection on the practice of ministry. For first year students, the focus of their placements is the

college community itself; the chapel and some youth ministry. Other students are assigned to parishes and in the future it is hoped that there will be opportunities for chaplaincy experience.

The work renewing the teaching and learning program has been supported by other more "down to earth" involvements, with Bishop Jeffrey and volunteers from Australia, including Heyfield Parish's David Chambers, working at practical things like restoring the college water supply, developing a chicken rearing project, and establishing a carpentry workshop.

Bishop Jeffrey appointed as intentional locum at Yarram

At Bishop Richard's invitation, Bishop Jeffrey Driver, will be the interim intentional locum for the Parish of Yarram during the season of Advent and perhaps a little beyond.

Working with and providing

some weekends off for the current locum (the Rev'd Amy Turner), Bishop Jeffrey will spend part of each week living in the Holy Trinity Rectory and meeting with parishioners in addition to taking Sunday and Christmas services at all centres.

Bishop Richard has asked Bishop Jeffrey to reflect with the people of the Parish on the shape of future ministry there, including lay ministry and leadership, with a view to being ready to convene the Clergy Appointments Board in 2019, and to actively seek a new Rector for Yarram.

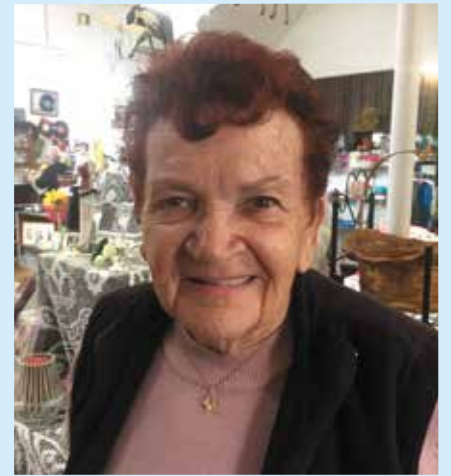
Bishop Richard commented: "We are richly blessed to have the wisdom, experience, and local knowledge of Bishop Jeffrey in our midst, and I am grateful for his willingness to serve, as well as his heart for the work of theological education in Popondetta – and indeed here in Gippsland, where we hope to draw on his expertise with those discerning vocations to ordained ministry".

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A life shattered and renewed: Shirley Gibson



Sue Jacka Trafalgar

This coming February marks the 10th anniversary of Black Saturday when devastating fires swept through several parts of Victoria. It changed the way that we all think about bushfires. For some, it changed their lives forever as countless homes and 173 loved ones were lost. These people have suffered ongoing trauma.

Shirley Gibson is one whose life was shattered by the Callignee fires when she lost two adult sons and the family home. Shirley's story is naturally of loss and grief, but also of finding God, learning to forgive the arsonist who started the fire and finding new hope and reasons for living. It's a lovely story of how God uses us in unlikely ways and comes to us in many ways.

I first met Shirley in Yarragon where she had moved after the fires. I was supervising children on a water "slip and slide" during our annual holiday outreach program. Shirley approached me, asking if I minded if she watched the children because they were so full of life and energy. Aware of Child Safe protocols, I sat and listened as she told me she was a retired teacher who volunteered at the local school. Could she please

volunteer with us? Yes she had a "Working With Children" card! I explained that we were a Christian outreach. "Yes, I need to find out more about God too".

Over many conversations, it emerged that Shirley had a Plymouth Brethren background which she had left as a somewhat rebellious teenager. She joined our Yarragon congregation, was baptised and is a regular volunteer with the kids' church there, "JAFFA".

Shirley has found encouragement and solace in the Prayer Book services and is greatly relieved that Anglicans are not ruled by strict guidelines, but are each expected to listen to what God says through Scripture and the Spirit. She has considerable gifts in working with children and appreciates the energy and love they share.

Shirley's story will be told on *Australian Story* on 10 December. The filming process has been a testing time as it has understandably brought the horrors to the fore, yet Shirley felt led to participate in it and hopes that others will find hope and healing through her story.

Shirley also has her story in Chloe Hooper's book about the Black Saturday fires, *The Arsonist*.

The Ven Sue Jacka is Rector of Trafalgar.



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Outdoor fun at Brick Club, Mirboo North

Brick Club provides network of support

Bev Piper
Mirboo North

Brick Club at Mirboo North meets every Tuesday afternoon. It is where a group of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and their siblings come to play.

Moreover it is a group for the children's carers who sometimes have really tough days. The adults can have a chat, cuppa and be free of responsibility for a short time, knowing their children are in a safe environment.

The "Brick" part refers to Lego blocks. It is documented that these blocks are very attractive and keep children with ASD engaged. A chat at Brick Club this week revealed some of the guardians' thoughts about the service. One carer wrote "It is a support network where he can

use his imagination and he is gaining some independence and is learning to share".

Another wrote "I have two grandchildren whom I care for permanently and I find the group a great way for the kids to mix with others kids, and I enjoy a cup of tea and a catch-up with the other ladies in the community".

The women of this small group have become a support network for one another. Sometimes they seek advice from the convener, sometimes not. Typically they seek out each other. "Being able to talk to people who are dealing with similar issues is a great support" and Brick Club offers the "opportunity for my autistic son to socialize".

It is the "connection" that Brick Club offers for the carers and the children that has become its principal purpose.

A GIFT FIT FOR A KING
2018 CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Our generosity and service, including gifts of water, food and aid, are received as gifts to the Saviour King himself.

Paraphrase, Matthew 25:37-40



Photo: Julia Loersch/Act for Peace

The New Testament contains more than one reference to gifts being given to Jesus, our King – one of which is easy to miss. In Matthew 25, the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats, the King replies 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Serving those in dire humanitarian need is a way of serving our Lord.

Our Rapid Response Emergency Fund has been used over the years to respond to disasters in various parts of the world. From famine in South Sudan, to the Rohingya refugee crisis, to the recent tsunami in Sulawesi, Indonesia, money from this fund has been deployed to respond with immediate care for people who are in dire need.

These immediate and life-saving needs include food, shelter, clean water, safe spaces for children, and medical care. Without your support, we would not be able to respond as quickly as we have.

Your financial support has saved lives.

We never know when disaster will strike a particular location. When it does happen though, responding with the compassion of Christ is something we are called and privileged to do.

As our partners mobilise on the ground to provide emergency relief and life-saving aid, we need to again find generous hearts.

Please donate to our Christmas Appeal to help people recover and resettle after disaster strikes.

HOW TO DONATE

- 1 Online: anglicanoverseasaid.org.au
- 2 Phone: 1800 249 880
- 3 Post: 2018 Christmas Appeal
Anglican Overseas Aid, PO Box 389, Abbotsford, VIC 3067

Donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible

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Asking questions of traditions

relationship with him, and through our actions invite others in our lives through the holiday period to experience this too.

Josh Hasan is Youth Pastor in the parish of Trafalgar.

Josh Hasan



Josh Hasan

My thoughts of Christmas as a child are a bit different from those of most Christians. Firstly, I had good moral parents and the Christmas story was somewhat important to the family, but it was more of a traditional ritual than believing in something that could transform my life.

We would see relatives from both sides of the family and they were good social gatherings. I do not recall learning from my parents that Christmas was something serious other than family time. It was only when I finished secondary college that I started asking questions of some of the Christian traditions.

When I gave my life to the Lord I started to see things differently. It wasn't about what I knew about Christmas,

actually not big on the Christmas period because of the commercialism and the high expectations I feel people have of me. For example I would rather cook a meal, invite people and spend quality time with them, sharing the love that Jesus has for them, than endlessly buying presents and becoming stressed out, making sure there is enough money in the bank for the Christmas festival.

A few years ago, my brother came for Christmas after we as a family had not seen him for a while. He came, we had Christmas dinner, and it was one of the best experiences I have ever had. I did share presents with him, but it was his company that was so splendid, and for the first time in my Christian walk I felt I did enough just to welcome him and to show him that God loves him through my actions.

Christmas is of the utmost

but rather having a conviction in my heart that actually God had come to rescue me and he is serious about his people walking with him.

What does this mean for young people today? I encourage young people to ask questions of the things we do and follow. It's only in having a conviction in our hearts that we come to realize that we actually need a saviour and we become open to having a personal relationship with Jesus.

As a Christian now, I'm

Anglicare Fare

Foster Care Family Fun Day

Cathrine Muston, Anglicare Development Officer

Kinship and Foster Carers are heroes in our community, providing support and care to vulnerable children and young people. Recently Anglicare Victoria, along with other out-of-home care partners, hosted a Kinship and Foster Care Family Fun Day at Old Gippsdown in Moe as a part of Foster Care Week.

Children and their Carers enjoyed games, activities and entertainment as well as yummy food. Jan Misiurka who attended the day as a volunteer said that it was a fabulous day with a lot of support and networking going on and children having a "tremendously fun time!"

Activities included balloon moulding, face painting and jumping castles as well as relay races and nice things to eat. The Country Women's Association were on hand to provide plenty of tea and cake. Carers, workers and children were all enjoying the day which is the first time it has run in Gippsland.



Anglicare Victoria's Recruitment Team – Placement and Support: Surinder Demetrios (Team Leader), Linda Petho and Amy Smart setting up for the Family Fun Day

If you'd like to know more about becoming a Foster Carer yourself please contact our Carer Recruitment team on 5135 9555.

PANCAKES NOT PUMPKINS



Angel Genevieve serving some interestingly-dressed young Nar Nar Gooners!

**Chris McAleer
Nar Nar Goon**

St John's Anglican Church in Nar Nar Goon was once again declared a ghou, witch, vampire, grim-reaper, walking-dead and pumpkin-free zone between 5:00 and 7:00 pm on 31 October.

We lovingly cooked and served up the mini-pancakes, this year with chocolate topping and hundreds and thousands sprinkled on top. We also offered a selection of specially chosen treats from our big jar, which was close to empty by

the time dutiful parents came to escort their children home.

All Hallows' Eve is a wonderful, once-in-a-year opportunity to engage with locals about the origin of Halloween and life in general. Unexpectedly, this year's main queries were about the new parish centre being built next door. The responses to news of the planned activities such as playgroups, an afterschool homework / activities club and youth group were positively encouraging.

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



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What does Christmas look like to you?

Jude Benton

I've never experienced a white Christmas. Growing up in New Zealand and then moving to Australia five years ago, I have always found it hot.

Yet this is the second year when as the festive season approaches, our household has included a teenage exchange student from Germany. While for me that first summery taste of fresh cherries indicates that Christmas is around the corner, for both Nico in 2016, and now Christina, the idea that Christmas could occur amongst the heat of summer is a concept not so easily imagined.

Which makes me ask the question, what does Christmas look like to you?

Is it set amidst a frozen wonderland, or a European village of Christmas markets, or on the beach, or sweltering in a house somewhere after feeling that one must fulfil the English custom of a hot Christmas lunch?

During my student years, Christmas looked like days and nights of retail work, dealing with stressed-out customers and over-tired colleagues, all set to a sound track of endless radio Christmas carols.

Hopefully for many readers of this paper, part of our Christmas looks like church. But even that image will change from person to person. Does a church



The angelic Jude Benton

Christmas look like happy children eating lollies off their Christingle, or adults listening to the choir at a Cathedral? Is it seeing your family with you in the service, or is it standing in a small rural church offering Christmas communion to faithful parishioners?

The reality is, what Christmas looks like to us is tied up in our history, experience, expectation, culture and location... and all of this can both help and hinder us in looking beyond the event of Christmas to the reason for Christmas.

In the complexity of all the things culture tells us we must buy, provide, create, cook or do to have the "perfect Christmas", we can all too easily miss

the reason that we celebrate in the first place: a baby, who is God incarnate, born to show humanity who God is, and how they can connect with God.

He was not born amongst pomp

and ceremony, to the wealthy and the important, but instead in a manger, to inexperienced parents, who were beginning the journey of their lives.

There's a great movie clip called "Retooning the Nativity" (See: www.ignitermedia.com/products/7148-retooning-the-nativity) which strips away the padding that we add to the Nativity story and brings it back to that same simplicity – the image of Mary and Joseph looking over their newborn son, with the light of the star shining above.

Take a moment and picture that scene.

However we celebrate this Christmas, may we remember that image, and once again be struck by the miracle that "The Word became flesh and blood and made his dwelling among us".

The Rev'd Jude Benton is Priest-in-Charge, in the Parish of Croajingolong.

EDITORIAL

Freedom of movement

Would you rather live in America, New Zealand or Australia? Did you choose to live in this country, in Gippsland, in your particular town, your street?

While most of us have some limitations to our choice of location, such as work and family, we take a certain amount of freedom of movement for granted.

Others are forced to leave their countries suddenly because of war, persecution or famine. They leave unprepared and unwilling, with no choice about where they settle. It comes down to what country will accept them.

The federal government's recent proposal to require migrants to stay in rural areas for up to five years may include refugees, even further restricting their freedom of movement, as Alan Tudge, the Minister for Cities, Urban Infrastructure and Population has acknowledged (Radio National Breakfast 9/10/18).

While for some, there may well be a happy outcome, where they find work and become part of their new communities, others may not be so lucky. So perhaps if this policy goes ahead, some flexibility could be built into it.

The rapid growth in Sydney and Melbourne is a complex issue, with many questions to be considered, and this particular idea has merit in that it is an attempt to distribute the growth more evenly. It may bring benefits to both city and country. But it would certainly be unfair to lay the burden of the big cities' problems on the shoulders of those who did not willingly choose to leave their home countries.

Children, of course, have even less choice, so some of our churches will keep ringing their bells until every child on Nauru has been brought to Australia.

Jesus was a child refugee. As a man, he moved about freely for a brief time, but his movement became increasingly restricted as he faced the hostility of the religious authorities. Finally, he was nailed to a cross – no freedom of movement there. But in giving up his freedom, he set us free.

*Who is this so weak and helpless,
child of lowly Hebrew maid,
rudely in a stable sheltered,
coldly in a manger laid?
'Tis the Lord of all creation,
who this wondrous path hath trod;
He is God from everlasting,
and to everlasting God."*

(From a hymn by Bishop William Walsham How, 1867)



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The calling of Lay Reader

Dean Spalding

There is a strong tradition in Gippsland of active and accomplished Lay Readers making a valuable contribution to the liturgical life of their parishes. Lay Readers lead congregations in the Liturgy of the Word and they offer the Prayers of the People. A less widely-known capacity is Lay Readers' license to preach – usually about three times a year.

The preaching of our Lay Readers adds diversity to the homiletic life of the parishes. Lay Readers also “locum” within the Diocese across parish boundaries, adding to those upon whom Archdeacons can call in times of vacancies in parishes.

Excellent opportunities for hearing the parish Lay Readers preach include Synod Sunday, the Sunday after Clergy Retreat – that clergy might make a good retreat – and the Sunday after Clergy Conference. Parishes might also call upon their Lay Readers to preach when clergy are on annual leave, or simply on a regular basis.

Once a month, usually the second Sunday of the month, one of Drouin's Lay Readers preaches. In November it was Ron Mace's turn. Ron has been a Lay Reader for 26 years and regularly preaches at Drouin, as well as leading Morning Prayer or Prayer and Praise in neighbouring vacant parishes when the need arises. Here is a little of what Ron preached on Sunday 18 November on a

challenging Gospel text from Mark's Gospel (13:1-11):

We are the creations of a forgiving Creator. On this life's journey, in joyous and difficult times, we are God's own. We came from God and to God we shall return. No matter what happens, we can depend on love to see us through. The “end” is not the end, but only the beginning. We need to fill our lives with love, forgiveness, compassion and the beauty of God. I believe I can say assuredly, “all shall be well, all manner of things shall be well”.

Jesus tells us that the end is just the beginning of what God has planned (Revelation 21:5).



Ron Mace, Lay Reader at Drouin

God assures us: “Behold I shall make all things new”. So, as the world seems to be colliding into chaos all round us, with evil, greed and meanness rampant throughout, let us try to act in love and forgiveness while standing up for what is good and right, and remember we are in the palm of God's hand.

Do you perhaps discern a call to the ministry of Lay Reading? Have you a passion for the Bible and liturgy – a love for opening up the scriptures and leading people in prayer? You might like to explore this with your Rector and speak to one of the Lay Readers' Chaplains about attending a Lay Readers' Training Day. These are not only open to currently-licensed Lay Readers but also to those who wish to explore the possibility of discerning a call to becoming a Lay Reader.

In the Diocese of Gippsland, the Lay Readers' Chaplains are the Reverends Tony Wicking, Jenny Ramage and myself; and the Lay Readers' Training Days for 2019 are Saturday 1 June (in Drouin) and Saturday 8 June (in Sale).

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



At the Regional Gathering for the South with Bishop Richard, following Vocations Sunday service: Wendy and Ian McBurnie (Inverloch), Jose Shelton and Jason Jose (Leongatha), and Belinda Seabrook (centre right) who is Ministry Assistant at Leongatha and in the Discernment process



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'.



Be a part of supporting the Aboriginal Ministry Fund

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

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

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

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

Holiday Reading Guide

Jane Peters

Photo: Graeme Peters



Jane Peters enjoying a summer read

When asked “Might you be willing to write our *TGA* back page Holiday Reading Guide?” my immediate thought was “Oh that’s a bit revealing. What will people think of my reading choices?” I was right. It was revealing – to me! My reading has been rather accidental this year, as manifested by the various books that I decided not to finish. My New Year’s resolution is to be a little more planned in my reading, but in the meantime here are some books that I have enjoyed.

Tim Winton’s *The Boy Behind the Iron Curtain* (Penguin, 2016) is an autobiography of one of my favourite Australian authors. With his remarkable ability he weaves together his passions, life experiences and the political concerns that shape and inform his writing.

He recounts his childhood memories following his father’s near fatal accident and the visits of the mysterious stranger to help at home. That led to his parents becoming “devout and lifelong Christians” and his “twice on Sundays” church upbringing that shaped not only his life but his writing.

Not surprisingly for those who have read Winton, the landscape, and particularly water and its emotional pull features strongly in many chapters. I enjoy his self reflection and the way that his writing helps me pay more careful attention to the natural world around me.

If I had been asked for only one recommendation for a book to read this summer it would be *Killing Christians: Living the faith where it’s not safe to believe* by Tom Doyle (Thomas Nelson, 2015). It is a book that could be read in an afternoon but must not be.

Each chapter is a stand-alone story of one of our brothers or sisters in Christ living or dying for their faith in different contexts in the Middle East. Many came to faith through dreams or visions and persevered in the face of extreme opposition. Each one should be read slowly, thoughtfully and prayerfully.

Be aware that they are confronting stories, both in what they relate and what they may reflect about our own commitment to following Jesus. They are also stories of hope and faith amidst tremendous persecution and danger. Even if you are not a reader and you only read one book this year (apart from the Bible), make it this one. Allow God to challenge you and “continue to remember those in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.”

Hebrews 13:3

A casual conversation at a work dinner with a gambling counsellor led me to read *One Last Spin: The Power*

and the *Peril of the Pokies* (Scribe Publications, 2016). Written by Drew Rooke, a freelance journalist, it delves into the world of the pokies from different angles. To help readers understand the problem they cause, he relates the stories of addicts and their families, and talks to neuroscientists and gambling counsellors. Attending a Gaming Trade Expo he talks with advocates for the industry and those involved in developing the increasingly sophisticated, and addictive machines.

It is an eye-opening book and gave me a much greater understanding of the politics and power behind Australia’s addiction to the pokies as well as the incredible toll they take on people’s lives.

Christian fiction is not a genre that usually interests me but I got involved with *Grace in the Shadows* (self-published, 2018) through my interest in Bible story-telling. This is the second fiction work of Australian author Christine Dillon following her debut novel, *Grace in Strange Disguise*. It relates the struggles of Esther, a physiotherapist in the late 80s, following treatment for breast cancer and coming to a new understanding of her faith. The story moves through themes of family breakdown, frustration with God, aspects of social inclusion as well as Bible story-telling and I found it hard to put down. It is a light but encouraging read for a hot summer afternoon.

Diocesan calendar

December

- 9 3:00 pm Ecumenical Service and Prayer Vigil to honour farmers and those affected by the drought, and to pray for rain, at St Paul’s Cathedral, Sale.
- 9 5:00 pm A special service of remembrance: “Remembering those not with us” at Christ Church, Drouin. Contact reception (03) 5625 4121
- 16 5:00 pm Traditional Lessons and Carols with Yallourn Madrigal Singers at St Paul’s Cathedral, Sale, followed by supper
- 17 5:30 pm Athlone barbecue and Christmas Carols: Athlone Hall, Athlone (Drouin Parish)
- 23 8:00 pm A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at St Thomas’ Bunyip, with the Bunyip Singers
- 30 9:30 am “Remembering Thomas of Canterbury” – Sue Fordham preaches as St Thomas’ Church, Bunyip. A festive lunch to follow.

Scripture Union partners with local churches to run family (SUFM) and youth (Theos) missions over the holiday period – Gippsland dates below. For details, see suvic.org.au

- 27 Dec – 2 Jan Cowes Theos
- 28 Dec – 5 Jan Inverloch SUFM
- 29 Dec – 4 Jan Lakes Entrance Theos
- 29 Dec – 6 Jan Mallacoota SUFM
- 29 Dec – 8 Jan Mallacoota Theos
- 31 Dec – 11 Jan Tidal River SUFM and Theos

January

Trafalgar Parish primary school holiday program from 10:00 am – 12 noon between Jan 15 and Jan 23, at Yarragon, Trafalgar and Thorpdale. Preschoolers are welcome with an adult. Details: Sue Jacka: 0409 757 170

- 16 7:30 pm Induction of the Rev’d Philip Kissick at St Matthew’s Bruthen

February

- 3 9:30 am Candlemass at Bunyip: the lovely feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, with procession and lighting of candles
- 10 4:00 pm Collation of Sue Jacka as Archdeacon of the Western region

For a deeper read you might like to delve into Brian Rosner’s *Known by God: A Biblical Theology of Personal Identity*. It was shortlisted for the Australian Christian Book of the Year 2018 and presents a very readable but deep, biblical foundation for human identity.

Autobiographical illustrations highlight reasons we need to understand our identity. The second half of the book reflects on the practical outcomes for our lives of knowing we are known by God.

I enjoyed the layout of this book which had gems like this one in the margins to complement the text: “If you are ‘true to yourself’ you will end up in a complete mess. The challenge is to take the ‘self’ you find within, and to choose wisely which impulses and desires to follow and which ones to resist” (N T Wright). Questions at the end of each chapter help to process what you have just read.

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