

“When they saw that the star had stopped they were overwhelmed with joy.”

MATTHEW 2: 10

The Gippsland Anglican

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Emmanuel!



“And what if the Star of Bethlehem appeared over Gippsland?” Original pastel drawing by June Treadwell



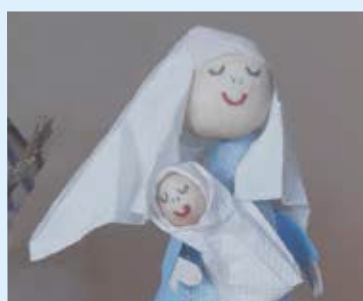
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Giving and receiving

So, what do you want for Christmas? No doubt this question is being asked in many households across Gippsland right now. Some people will have a list, others will have been dropping hints for a while, and then there are those of us who really want the magic of someone knowing just the perfect gift for us.

Whatever our approach to getting what we want for Christmas it's clear that for most of us the Christmas starting point is an assumption that we will be receiving gifts. After all, this is part of what Christmas means.

As we look across the world and see the many ways in which people are suffering because of conflict and disaster our thinking about the gifts we might get this Christmas are cast in a different light.

Closer to home the issues which many families in Gippsland are facing this Christmas make it clear that



Bishop Kay Goldsworthy

for many in our communities this Christmas will be a time of scarcity rather than plenty. There are a lot of challenges facing people across Gippsland this Christmas.

Last week I spoke with a farmer who hasn't had payment for milk at different times this year. Anglicare offices throughout Gippsland report a 20% increase in the number of people coming to them for Emergency Relief, many of these women and children who have had to leave their homes and everything they own quickly because of domestic violence.

Across the La Trobe Valley people are anxious about what the impact of the closure of Hazelwood will mean for them and their families. Despite the opportunities being spoken of for new clean energy industries and other transitional plans the anxiety people feel for the future is very real.

leading. Ordinary, everyday people like you and me.

So, what do you want for Christmas?

Let me make a few suggestions. Giving to the Anglicare Christmas appeal will ensure that vulnerable children and families across Gippsland will receive a gift this year. Visiting or contacting someone who has been bereaved this year and inviting them to the Carol service or Christmas day service with you. Spend the same on your giving to the Anglican Board of Mission or Anglican Overseas Aid as you do on your Christmas lunch. Tell someone who doesn't yet know it the story of Jesus' birth from Luke 2.

Think about forgiveness and what it means for you and for the people you love. Do something good for another person. Think about ringing that family member you've been apart from to say happy Christmas. Remember how lonely a neighbour or friend who is separated from their family and won't see the kids this Christmas will be feeling. Volunteer to teach English as a Second Language to refugees and others newly arrived in this country. Write to your local members of parliament and ask them to make room for more refugees.

Be the face of Christmas for someone. See what blessing this giving can be. Learn Christmas again. And remember, the story of Christmas and God's gift of love in the baby of Bethlehem is enough. More than enough.

May the blessing of Christmas love be yours.

+Kay

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Tel: 0407 614 661

Email: editor@gippsanglican.org.au
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Sustainability Festival a huge success

Raymond Island

Scott Power, Chief Climate Scientist at the Bureau of Meteorology, addressing an enthusiastic audience

Sue Fordham

When it comes to outdoor events, the weather is everything...or almost everything. The organiser of the Sustainability Festival, Abbey priest, Archdeacon Edie Ashley, sweated on the weather forecasts. As it happened, the day was brilliant, the best day in the whole of October: light breezes, uninterrupted sunshine, blue skies and mirror-still water on the lake. This year, the draw card was the Chief Climate Scientist at the Bureau of Meteorology, Scott Power. Illawarra, the conference building next to the chapel, was packed for his talk and no one was disappointed. Scott's talk satisfied everyone from the scientifically sophisticated to novices. He began by comparing climate from 800,000 years ago until the industrial revolution, with the climate from the industrial revolution to the present; the point being that human input to climate was minimal before the industrial revolution but significant after it. The data showed, post industrial revolution to present day, an exponential increase in carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gasses due to an increased use of fossil fuels, hence an increase in indicators of global warming: rising temperatures, warmer oceans, increasing sea levels, declining air quality, declining rainfall and increasing drought conditions. He explained the mathematical modelling scientists use to predict possible future climate scenarios, depending on action taken in the present: reducing emissions; limiting emissions; or doing nothing at all about emissions.

The best scenario leaves us with a 2 degree celsius temperature increase, he said. The "do nothing" option would leave us with a planet that we could barely inhabit. While adaptive behaviours would help us live with the former, they would be inadequate in handling the worst case scenario. Scott spoke of proactive ways in which we might work to cut global greenhouse emissions and the audience had insightful input into the discussion. While Scott was speaking, children and parents were exploring the lakes' edge with Erin from Bugblitz. They enjoyed finding the little creatures in the water, catching and counting them, checking them under the microscope, and just getting their feet wet! Later in the day, Ian Southall from Ecohub explored community energy initiatives that might help to minimise climate change and enhance independence of individuals and communities from fossil fuel generated energy.

The oval was dotted with environmental displays: face painting with environmental themes and local wildlife for kids; colouring and other kids' corner options along with East Gippsland Shire information supporting sustainable living choices. Andy Booth from Gippsland Plains Conservation Management Network highlighted the importance of habitat for threatened birdlife. Not just talk – Andy demonstrated his skill at climbing and installing bird boxes as he scaled one of the beautiful redgums at The Abbey. And as if on cue, the koala and its baby that had been resting in the tree relocated itself to explore the recently installed bird box. Lynette Teese displayed recycled and "reimagined" clothing; there were health support groups, koala care and rescue workers, spinners, organic food growers, and experts in recycling and managing waste, all eager to share their ideas with the large numbers of people who came.

"...the "do nothing" option would leave us with a planet that we could barely inhabit..."



Pedal bike milkshake maker

In addition, there were the popular SES and CFA displays and ecological bus tours of Raymond Island. Good food is the constant that underpins a day like this. Abbey volunteers provided coffee and cake and Abbey chef, Ian Pearson, delighted everyone with his wonderful

curries, samosas and foccacias. Ann and Ian Miller fascinated the young and young at heart with their pedal powered smoothies. This festival was a huge success thanks to the sponsorship of the East Gippsland Shire Council and donations from Narkoojee and Feast on East.



Our Languages Matter
2-9 JULY 2017

2017 NAIDOC Week theme announced

The 2017 theme – Our Languages Matter – aims to emphasise and celebrate the role that Indigenous languages play in both cultural identity, linking people to their land and water, and in the transmission of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, spirituality and rites, through story and song.

Of the 250+ languages identified in the late 18th century, only about 120 are still spoken, and many are at risk of being lost.
(Information from naidoc.org.au)

The NAIDOC Week poster competition, relating to the 2017 theme, is now open. The National NAIDOC Committee also encourages people to acknowledge the contributions of outstanding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals by nominating them for a 2017 National NAIDOC Award.

There are ten categories covering the fields of art, education and training, sport, environment and leadership.

For more information: naidoc.org.au



Protesters gather in Cowes town square as Graham Sim gives a brief address

PARISHIONERS PROTEST

Keith Edwards
Bass / Phillip Island

In sympathy with many refugee advocacy groups demonstrating in cities and towns around the country, the Phillip Island branch of Rural Australians for Refugees recently staged a rally in the town square in Thompson Avenue, Cowes. Some 50 people rallied, principally in protest at the Federal Government's proposed "keep them out of Australia forever" legislation. Prominent RAR supporter, Graham Sim, addressed the group briefly, and there was a rousing chorus, led by Fay Magee, of Shirley Murray's Song for Human Rights, worthy of any Welsh football crowd.

The Rev'd Keith Edwards is a retired Anglican priest.

Nature's gifts

**Pam Schembri
Bunyip**

Father Alan Jones conducted the Blessing of the Pets on 9 October at St Thomas' Anglican Church, Bunyip. Parishioners brought their dogs and a special guinea pig called Watermelon to be blessed. All the animals were on their best behaviour throughout the service and an enjoyable morning was had by all.

On Saturday 22 October

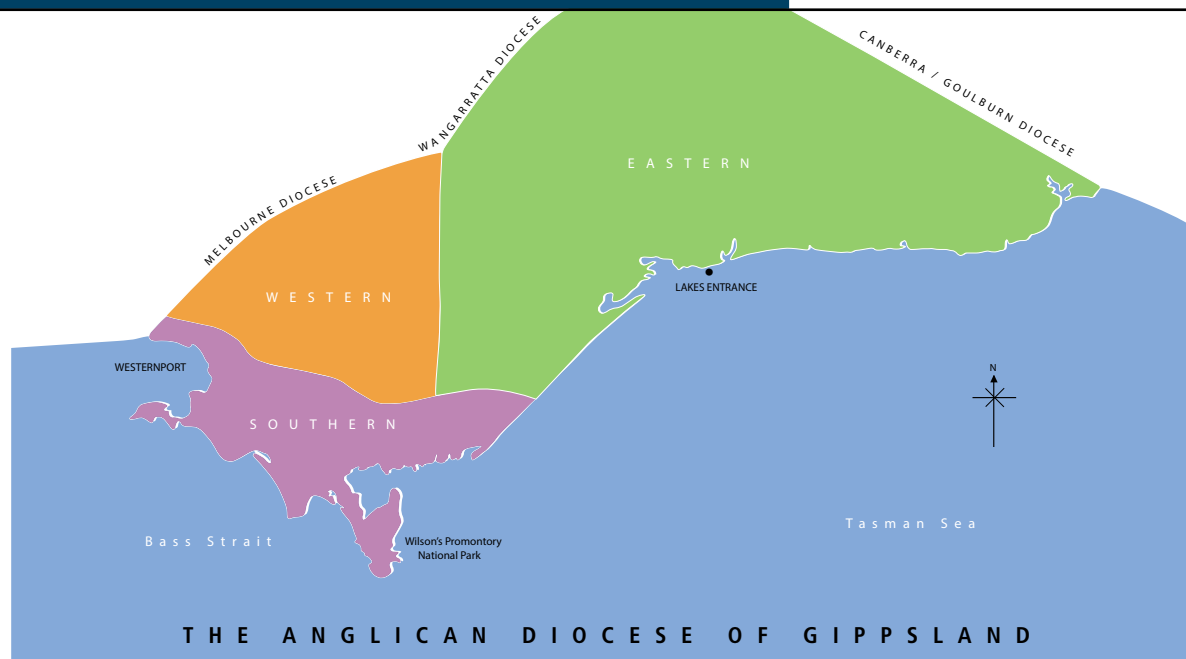
the Annual Flower Show was held in the church hall. Although the weather was very cold and wet many people braved the elements to have a look at the beautiful displays. A steady stream of people came through the door enjoying a sausage sizzle and Devonshire Tea. The Church Mice also had a very successful day selling hand made articles along with the cake stall. Outside the plant stall holders braved the elements and were very pleased with the number of plants sold.



Blessing of the Pets at St Thomas' Bunyip



Bunyip Flower Show



Diocesan Strategic Directions – regional consultations

Southern Region

About 32 people attended St. George's Corinella to have a "conversation" around future Diocesan Strategic Directions.

The key theme emerging was the ability to ask "Why is such and such important - what is the intentional focus of any ministry?" There was a very broad list of activities found across the Region, and awareness that each parish could learn from other parishes' ministry opportunities. There was also a desire to be able to support and encourage each other more, and this could spread across regions as well.

The importance of any and every ministry was ultimately focused, through Trevor Smith's careful guidance, on our desire to make Jesus known as Lord and Saviour to all, by all means.

The Rev'd Geoff Pittaway

Western Region

On Sunday 30th October, about 40 people from across the Western Region gathered to add their thoughts and hopes for the Diocesan strategic directions for the next five years. There was good representation from across all our parishes and like all deanery meetings, it was good to be able to hear what is happening in various parishes.

The facilitator the Rev'd Trevor Smith asked for our ideas about what was most important for the diocese first and we then divided into groups based on our interests in these particular areas. It was good to think deeply about these possibilities, what brings the hope of the gospel and what are the challenges.

The Rev'd Sue Jacka

Eastern Region

The Eastern Region gathered at Holy Trinity Stratford on Saturday 19 November and, after a lovely morning tea provided by our hosts and some reflective worship, we shared the importance and direction of intentionality of ministry and mission in our own parishes.

Trevor then led us into the "if it were possible..." and there were so many ideas that he nearly got writer's cramp taking them all down! Three groups formed to take an idea and drill down into why it was important, which left us with vision statements for these three areas of ministry. What we all took from the day was an overall desire to increase our sharing of ministry and mission together and improve our communication with each other.

The Rev'd Canon Barb Logan

Happy anniversary to St John's Metung

Jenny Romano, warden St. John's Metung

St John's Metung is 125 years old this year and that called for a celebration. Past members and friends were all sent written invitations and an open invitation was extended to community groups within the area to attend a special service on Sunday 13 November, followed by morning tea.

Our sister parish, St Nic's of Lakes Entrance, joined us and combined their "musos" with our organist. Bp Kay Goldsworthy was also in attendance.

St. John's Anglican Church is one of Metung's oldest buildings dating back 125 years. It was originally the chapel of

John Parker King who was the grandson of Governor King, the 3rd Governor of the Colony of New South Wales. The first service was held on Christmas Day in 1891 in a chapel which is now the nave of the present church, on his property called "Mairburn" which is in the present Mairburn Rd area. It was later moved to its present site on Stirling Rd. The complete history of the church is a fascinating read and has now been revised.

The present hall was added to the rear of the church in 1987 and the person who headed up the building committee was Frank Strange, secretary and tireless worker for St. John's. A memorial window for Frank, a gift from his family, has recently been installed in the porch leading into the hall.

The hall adds extra seating to the church in special times and can be closed off and used for community activities like Metung Community Care, AA, Red Cross and Bloodhound meetings. The hall is also used weekly for the Metung Singers who meet here for practice sessions.

Another lovely leadlight window has recently been installed in the porch leading into the church. This window remembers the dedication John Sedgley gave to the church during his time spent in Metung. Both windows depict a little of what Metung is all about; one being a yacht and the other depicting a fish, all tied in with a suitable passage from the Bible. Both windows were dedicated during the service.

Following the service the congregation, of well over 100, gathered together in the hall and with raised glasses of champagne toasted St John's,

with a rounding chorus of "Happy Birthday!" Bishop Kay and Canon Barb together cut the cake. The centrepiece of the cake was a replica of the original church which was made for the 100th Anniversary service, 25 years ago. It was made out of icing and surprisingly it had weathered well and was able to be used again.



Anniversary cake, with a model of the church created in icing 25 years ago



A new window at St John's, dedicated to John Sedgley, depicting his yacht, Shadowfax, rounding Shaving point in Metung

Fay Magee

Trinity College Theological School recently hosted “a day for clergy and lay people to be enriched by the Gospel readings from Matthew and the Old Testament readings from Isaiah”. Seven intrepid Gippsland Anglicans made the trip to participate in the program to be ready for the “Year of Matthew” which commences with Advent this year.

Trinity staff, the Rev’d Canon Professor Dorothy Lee and the Rev’d Dr Robyn Whitaker were joined by Bp Lindsay Urwin (Vicar, Christ Church, Brunswick) and were all received enthusiastically by a gathering of over 80 people from far and wide.

The opening session from Dorothy Lee reminded us of the background, narrative structure and main theological themes of this Gospel. Professor Lee is able to bring skilfully together a rich smorgasbord of references from throughout Christian history; a chance to see what is important in reading in our time.

Bp Lindsay titled the second session “30 Minutes to Raise the Dead”, John Ruskin’s description of the preacher’s art. Again we were taken on an energetic journey through a host of ideas on the matter of preaching from Matthew. Although I’m not in the preaching role it was a good insight into the process of preaching from Matthew during the coming year, bringing out the “old and the new”, seeing what others have said about Matthew through the millennia. Bp Lindsay stressed the

THE YEAR OF MATTHEW



Window at St Paul’s Cathedral, Sale
Photo: Christine Morris

need to keep reading the whole gospel throughout the year, never taking just a snapshot of verses viewed in isolation, but regarding the whole gospel as a “moving picture”. Bp Lindsay also provided a comprehensive list of references and “key thoughts”.

After lunch the challenge was to be alert for all the gems provided by Robyn Whitaker. In introducing “Isaiah in Matthew and Advent” we were enlivened by joining in singing the great plainsong hymn from the 9th century texts, “O come, O come, Emmanuel”, which includes five of the “O Antiphons”. Dr Whitaker

explained major themes and then set us all to work in small groups which was also enlightening.

Overall, a great time had by all! A day like this provides not only a good “refresher” but a day to reflect and discuss with colleagues and make connections with the wider Anglican community, particularly helpful for those who live a little further away.

Trinity’s Theological School is planning a number of events for 2017, some part of the ongoing academic program, as well as special focus days and 3-4 day

intensives. I have particularly enjoyed “auditing” a course (no assessment!) this past semester on the subject “Spirit, Church, World” with Don Saines as lecturer. Many subjects are available online and could be undertaken locally, perhaps with others interested. Comprehensive materials are available for download each week as well as the audio-visual of each lecture. Check the Trinity College website for more details.

As well as being a musician and educator, Fay Magee has enjoyed further study at Trinity and completed an MA in Music and Theology.



Dr Ree Boddé

THINK PREVENT Active Bystander Workshop

Jan Misiurka
Newborough

Gender based violence (GBV) has certainly been in the news of late and in 2015 I was asked to attend a Think Prevent Active Bystander Training Day in Melbourne. Following this experience I worked with our partnership parishes of Moe and Newborough, along with our Mothers Union Branch, to bring this program to Gippsland.

Designed to motivate men and women to work together to end men’s violence against women and children, “Think Prevent” is an active bystander education program that puts faith leaders at the heart of prevention efforts. This prevention work includes awareness-raising, understanding the attitudes and behaviors that drive violence and provides a range of interventions to prevent violence from occurring in the first place. With Dr Ree Boddé to lead us, the date of Remembrance Day was set for our workshop, with the attendees from several denominations and parishes present on the day.

Ree pointed out that for change, the conditions for women that contribute to violence need to

be understood, so that the chance it will happen again will be minimised, with the role of attitudes key to the prevention of violence against women.

A culture can be set up in which violence is not plainly denounced, or is even supported or condoned; where attitudes that excuse, play down, justify, diminish or shift the blame for the violence from the perpetrator to the victim are accepted. These attitudes need to be reversed and it is as active bystanders, with understanding, that we can help change the attitudes and support the victims of violence.

Statistics show the number of women and children affected by GBV are very high. As I sat at the school waiting to pick up my grandchild this was brought home to me as I counted one in four women and thought of them as victims, and one in four children who had observed gender violence! (At no stage was it disputed that men can also suffer from domestic violence, but statistically more women die from domestic violence each year.)

It is hoped that from this workshop we can build on our expertise and that more workshops can be delivered, to spread the information into our communities, so providing a biblical commitment to gender equality, respectful gender relationships and freedom from violence.

Advent & Christmas Gift Appeal 2016

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www.abmission.org/christmas2016



ANGLICAN BOARD OF MISSION
Working for Love, Hope & Justice

Harvest festival in spring

Mary Nicholls
Moe / Newborough

It might have been spring but Moe and Newborough parishes celebrated our Harvest festival in October, offering the service of thanksgiving with gifts of fresh fruit and vegetables, processed food for the discretionary cupboard and indeed seedlings ready for the community garden and next year's crop. Fittingly, a ploughman's lunch was enjoyed near the community garden and shed. A joyous day!

Moe Parish once again staffed the coffee and doughnut stall for the community bonfire night. This annual event certainly helps

our fundraising and is the "place to be" to meet our many community friends. Despite some reticence at the thought of "battered doughnuts" we found at least 58 satisfied customers as well as those who consumed over 950 jam doughnuts. So yes, the guild members thanked our younger parishioners for this suggestion and assistance to augment our sales.



Enjoying a ploughman's lunch after the harvest festival service

The Adult Friends of GFS Kidsplus+ and Affiliated Ministries met at St Mary's Morwell for the Annual Thanksgiving service. We thanked the Reverend David Head for leading us in the service and his message from the story of Zaccheus, reminding us of our ministry to all who seek to know Jesus.

At the conclusion of the service we were delighted to award GFS Life membership certificates to Carol Johnstone (Traralgon) and Gail Mowat (Sale) in appreciation of their many years of service through GFS leadership, Leader Development Presentations, camp and Activity Day organisation,

GFS Thanksgiving Service



Presentation of GFS Life Membership awards to Carol Johnstone and Gale Mowat

representation at Diocesan, State, National and in Carol's case, World GFS conferences and camps.

Over thirty of our group enjoyed the fellowship luncheon at The Morwell Club.



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'.



A peppercorn tree was planted by Parish Councillor Sue O'Loughlan and Wellington Shire Councillor Gayle Maher

Christ Church, Tarraville celebrates 160 years

Glenda Amos
Yarram

In glorious late spring sunshine, the 160th Anniversary of the founding of Christ Church, Tarraville was celebrated on Sunday 20 November, the Feast Day of Christ the King.

A display of memorabilia and historical records was set up in the old Tarraville school building, which has become a living museum for the locality.

The Archive group spent many months collecting historical information to create the display. A number of boards made by the Yarram Men's Shed were used to mount the displays showing: people who have been part of the Christ Church congregation; past clergy; the first officiating clergyman, the Rev'd Willoughby Bean; and the restoration and refurbishment of the building.

The church was filled with almost 70 people for the welcome and introduction to the day's festivities. The Reverend Jo White gave a brief outline of the refurbishment before everyone gathered outside the church for the Civic reception. A peppercorn tree was then planted in the grounds, by Parish Councillor Sue O'Loughlan and Wellington Shire Councillor Gayle Maher.

Afternoon tea was served throughout the afternoon by an able band of volunteers, as people viewed the display and shared memories of past times and people connected with Christ Church.

Evensong, attended by nearly 50 people, completed the day's celebrations. Ken White played Caro Mio Bien

(a favourite of Ada Crossley who began her musical career singing in Christ Church) as people gathered in the church. The clergy procession of lay ministers, David Miller and Graeme Peacock, Archdeacon Graham Knott, the Reverend Jo White and the Right Reverend Kay Goldsworthy, Bishop of Gippsland was led by crucifer Shannon Ray, a descendant of one of the early families at Tarraville. Past clergy Jim Reeves and Russell Macqueen were also present.

Bishop Kay spoke of her pleasure in sharing this special occasion with those who have a deep love of this area of Gippsland. She read from The Church of our Fathers a letter which detailed the concern of a resident in 1844, that there was the need for clergy and a church in this newly settled area. That gift of hope and faith led to the love of God being spread in this part of Gippsland.

The final hymn *Majesty* completed a lovely service. Champagne, chicken sandwiches and strawberries were enjoyed by those present, in the late afternoon sunshine after the service.

Many people contributed to the refurbishment of Christ church during 2016. A new picket fence and sign were erected and the interior of the church has been repainted in greys. The exterior of the building will receive a new coat of paint in the coming months – recent wet weather has played havoc with the outdoor work. Thanks also go to the Anglican Diocese of Gippsland, Wellington Shire Council, Bunnings, and the Yarram Men's Shed.



John Krause, Gordon McPhee, Nick Holes and Rod Burney, who rode from Pakenham, Korumburra, Woori Yallock and Churchill

Brave Bikers' Breakfast

Chris McAleer

A dozen very committed bikers rode from as far away as South Yarra and Carrum Downs in cold, windy and wet conditions, while an equal number of perhaps more sensible attendees came by car to the second Bikers' Breakfast at St John's Church, Nar Nar Goon on Saturday 5 November.

The St John's Ladies served up their usual high quality barbecued bacon and double-

yolked egg buns along with morning tea, which were gratefully received.

Despite the weather it was another great opportunity to catch up with many long-standing friends and to make some new ones, as we sheltered from the rain inside the church and around the kitchen out the back.

The unofficial longest distance award went to Chris Sellick of the Pilgrim Christian Motorcycle Club, who rode

from South Yarra, but flew over from Port Hedland, WA before collecting his Triumph from Bendigo!

Thanks to the members of Christian Motorcyclists Association's Gippsland Chapter, the Ambassadors for Jesus Christ Motorcycle Ministry, Connect Riders and Pilgrim CMC for checking out the weather forecast and still deciding to attend.

Hopefully, the Lord will bless us with a warm day for our next breakfast!

The Rev'd Chris McAleer is the Rector at Nar Nar Goon.

A challenge to heart and mind Diocesan Retreat

Sue Fordham

The Diocesan Retreat held at the Abbey on the first weekend in November attracted a lot of interest: 15 adults and two children enjoyed the stimulating leadership of Fr Ken Parker and the company of each other.

The theme for the retreat could well have been, The Stations of Creation, centred as it was on the seven creation art works of Leonard French, each accompanied by a purpose written poem by James McAuley.

Each of the seven art works corresponded to Day 1 to Day 7 of the Genesis story and was French's response to his son's question, "How did it all begin?"

The seven paintings, dense with symbols deriving from Byzantine, Greek, Islamic and Celtic traditions as well as – some retreatants felt – from Aboriginal tradition, expressed



Time for contemplation at The Abbey, Raymond Island

and distilled a breadth of wisdom and understanding.

The seven paintings, taken as a single entity, show the circle developing until it is the strongest final symbol of unity. Crosses and bird symbols interchange, then by Day 3 the birds are circled and by Day 5 the cross, all powerful, disappears until it re-emerges, encircled on the last day, the day of Sabbath.

The early serpent symbol develops until its transformation into the embracing man and woman in the painting.

These emerging and transforming symbols were a focus of much lively discussion.

Fr Ken, referring to both art works and poetry, asked us to consider the word or words we live by, the power that words have and what enables us to live out our word, our values.

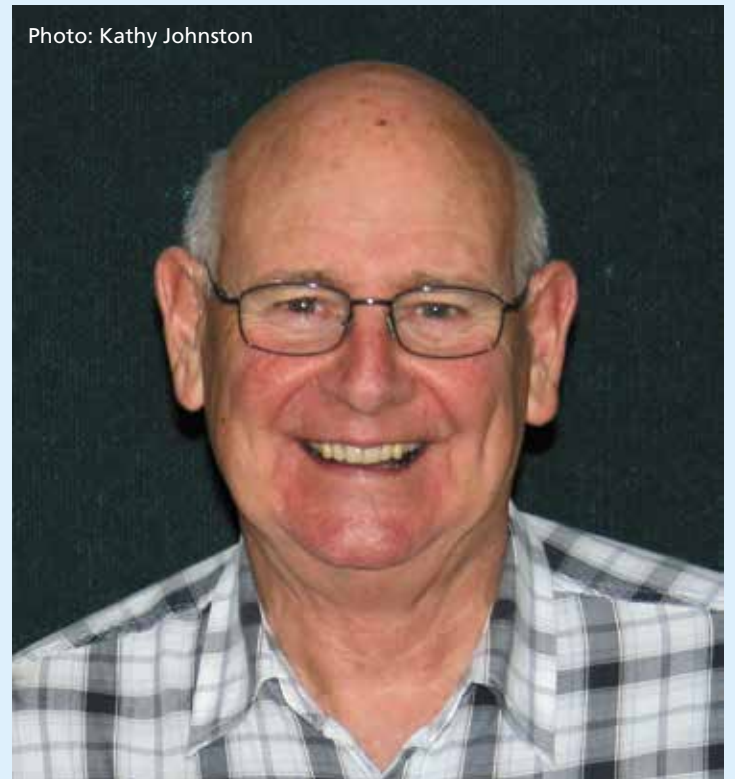
We then pondered the word or words the current church professes, lives by or ought to live by.

Much quiet time was spent in mindful observation of the natural world around us at the Abbey and the issue of what constitutes prayer or prayerfulness.

Session times were revelatory and stimulating. The quiet times in between sessions allowed participants to build on and explore the issues of values and prayerfulness, the question of what it takes to enrich our Sabbath moments, to help us to become 'imparadised' as James McAuley so richly expressed it.

This wonderful experience was enhanced by the fine meals provided by our Abbey chef, Ian Pearson.

Photo: Kathy Johnston



The Rev'd Brian Turner

Vale Brian Turner

Jane Macqueen

At the Thanksgiving Service for the life of Brian Anthony Turner on 16 November, Bishop Bruce Wilson described Brian as a man with two vocations, both divine callings. He was called to be both a carpenter and a clergy person. He was a man who built Christian community and houses.

Brian was called to the diocese of Gippsland in 2002 following ministries in Canberra/Goulburn, London and the Bathurst diocese. He served as Dean of St Paul's Cathedral for almost eight years and then came out of retirement to care for the Parish of Avon until November 2015 when his illness prevented him from continuing.

In that time many have benefited greatly from his gifts in both areas of his calling. Brian has left a legacy of beautiful welcoming worship spaces, a Cathedral precinct that is outstanding, a practical and welcoming plant at Stratford and the groundwork done for future growth at the Abbey of St Barnabas.

And yet it was made clear as we celebrated Brian's life that his passion for building community, for bringing out the best in people and encouraging them was perhaps his greatest gift. Brian believed ministry was primarily concerned with the 'cure of

souls'. He believed in the extravagant love of God and he lived that out by loving extravagantly himself. He cared for his people as whole spiritual persons and he fed, encouraged and nurtured so many in his care.

Brian's daughters Katherine and Joanne shared memories of their dad that many in the congregation could also connect with. They concluded that the one powerful and overarching theme running through their memories was that their dad made them feel special. They described him as a connector, a bringer of joy and love who was really good at getting stuff done and making people feel special. Anne's sons, David, Richard and Phillip also spoke of the fun-loving man they loved and respected as Brize.

Brian was a servant leader of the Anam Cara Community and his wisdom, encouragement and attention to detail will be greatly missed.

Brian and Anne have been a wonderful team in ministering alongside each other. Brian's primary role which he lived out alongside his ministry was his care for Anne and he delighted in this. In his final months and days Anne cared beautifully for him in their home that Brian had built. He was an inspiration as he lived his final year knowing that death was close. He died peacefully and with grace, as he had lived.

Mary accepted the challenge

Leongatha



Leongatha children made Mary figures for the nativity tree



Bubble fun at the mainly music 5th birthday party

At Kids' Church, during the 10:00 am service at St Peter's Leongatha, the children have recently been learning about "Unlikely Heroes" through a series of lessons from Hillsong (Sydney).

The final session was about Mary, the mother of Jesus, accepting the challenge of what God was asking her to do, and the children learned that we don't need to be afraid of taking on any challenge God may give us, as we know that

"...[we] can do all things through Christ who strengthens us"

PHILIPPIANS 4:13

2017 Kidsplus+ Camp at Forest Edge Neerim East

This camp has been booked for the weekend of 24-26 March next year.

Expressions of interest are invited now from children and youth and any potential leaders from our parishes.

Please contact:
gippskidsplus@people.com
or phone Carol on 51748445
for application forms.
The cost will be \$100.00.

Bible Society videos and lessons are also being used for some teaching about Christmas, and the children have been making nativity trees, which carry the characters from the story.

June Knott is the Coordinator of Kids' Church, finding the resources and planning the program. There are 9-10 people

on the team, with two leaders rostered on each Sunday to teach up to 25 children.

During the week at Leongatha there is a Pray 'n' Play group for mothers and pre-schoolers, and a *mainly music* group, both led by Sue Toohill, and assisted by June. *Mainly music* recently celebrated its 5th birthday.

Kidsplus+ Traffic School



Boys from Trafalgar and Moe at the recent annual Kidplus+ Traffic School at Morwell

The Kidsplus+ Traffic School is an annual event planned and sponsored financially by GFS Kidsplus+Gippsland.

It provides an opportunity for children and families associated with diocesan Sunday Schools, *mainly music*, JAFFA and other children's ministry activities to learn and have fun together.




The impending birth of a new child fills many new parents with a mixture of terror and awe. A fragile new life enters the world, heralded by cries and wails as fresh air fills lungs for the first time. Every birth offers a sense of uncertainty and hope, as new life struggles to gain a foothold in the world away from the womb.

In many developing countries the hope of new birth is mingled with fear; fear that the baby or mother won't survive, fear of some complications for the mother and child. For many this fear is part of everyday life, especially in countries with high maternal and infant mortality rates.

This Christmas, please consider the work of our partner in north Kenya, the Anglican Church of Kenya, as they work with remote Maasai communities. Your support will help them to create safe, practical, dignified and clean environments for giving birth that enable women and babies in remote communities more access to life-saving care.

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For young disciples

Jesus set aside his rights

Daniel Lowe

The Rev'd Daniel Lowe



Latreasa Goodman called 911 three times to report that McDonalds had run out of McNuggets. Latreasa had ordered and paid for her McNuggets, but Macca's told her that they had run out and could not refund her money, but that she could have something else from the menu. Latreasa was not impressed and so rang 911 claiming that it was an emergency."

When I read this story recently, my first thought was "only in America!" On further reflection, I realised that this simultaneously funny and sad story could just as easily play out in any Gippsland town. We live in a world that is obsessed with getting what we want and on standing on our rights.

Remember the first time you declared "You can't tell me what to do"? That was you standing on your rights

(Of course the likely response you may have heard would be something like, "I am your mother/father and I can tell you what to do. And if you don't do it quick smart...").

The Christian narrative takes a different approach to rights. Christians are called repeatedly to stand up for the rights of the marginalised and the voiceless. At the same time Christians are also called to follow in the steps of Jesus who "did not consider equality with God something to be used to his

own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing

by taking the very nature of a servant..." (Philippians 2:6-7). Jesus was willing to set aside his own rights in order to care for others.

Earlier this year our year 7 students were learning about people of faith who have done something remarkable in their lives to address an injustice in the world. Names like Mother Teresa, Corrie Ten Boom, William Wilberforce and Caroline Chisholm featured heavily. These are people who set aside their own rights or privileges for the sake of others. When we talk about instilling the values of compassion and respect, this is part of the vision we have for them – that their passion and energy might be invested in caring for the needs of others, especially those who do not share the same privileges that we do.

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

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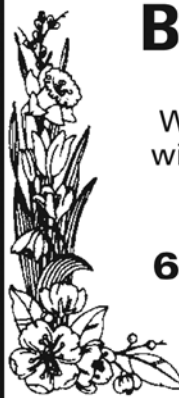
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Recycle-Me yo-yos!

Cathrine Muston

Community Development Officer, Anglicare

This year, Recycle-Me, the Warragul Anglican Church op shop, decided to assist the Anglicare Victoria's Gippsland Food and Toy Appeal. Store manager, Gwen Dale, put a Christmas tree in the window and has been amazed at the community response, with donations of new, age-appropriate toys and Christmas food coming in steadily.

Anglicare Victoria in Gippsland provides nearly 500 Christmas hampers to needy families each year. They enable families to have a celebration of a meal and a gift so that no one is excluded.

The appeal also inspired John Jowitt, a former trades teacher, to contribute to the toy appeal. Using an old idea and leftover wood from



his workshop, John and his grandsons made a dozen yo-yos to sell in Recycle Me with the proceeds to go to the purchase of presents for the toy appeal. The yo-yos were an instant hit and sold out quickly, bringing in \$60 towards the appeal.

Churchill Blue Moose Mission coming



The Blue Moose Mission Team last summer

The Blue Moose Mission team is coming to Churchill again this year, with a program for secondary school students running from 29 December to 7 January, from 8:00 – 11:00 pm.

Enjoy a super chilled space to hang out and chat, listen to live music and play some free pool.

Food and drinks will also be available. For more information, phone the Rev'd Brenda Burney on (03) 51221480



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Rediscovering the heart of Christmas

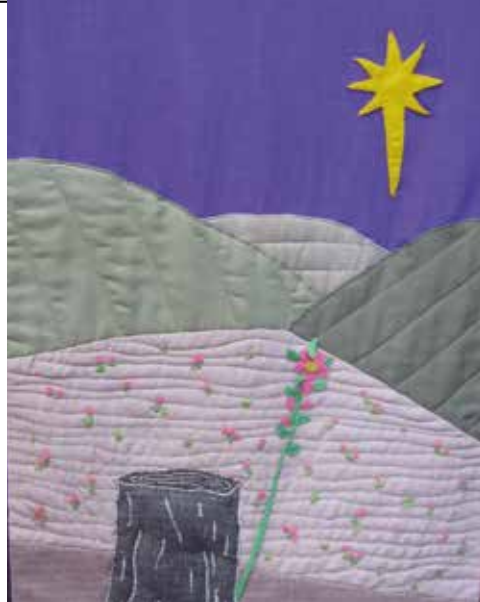
Lloyd George

I confess to having become, during my middle years, rather disillusioned with Christmas. The excess of sentimentality, the elaborate decorations and rampant commercialism seemed to have taken a toll. I even came to wonder if the English Puritans, who attempted (unsuccessfully) to ban Christmas celebrations in the seventeenth century, may have been right after all!

Now, in my later years, I have come to think quite differently. I cherish many fond memories of celebrations during my childhood in Melbourne – the family gatherings, the exchange of presents, the Christmas dinner (with sixpences in the pudding). I vividly recall singing carols by candlelight – not at a large public gathering but with the choir and congregation in the local parish church.

These memories all seem to focus on two things: family fellowship and worship. We are all prone to nostalgia as we grow older, but I do think there is much more to the re-emergence of these memories than simple nostalgia.

Journalist Peter Hitchens has described in his autobiography a personal journey from atheism to faith. With his better-known brother, the late Christopher Hitchens, he had moved from a conventional English public-school upbringing to become a rigorous atheist and iconoclast of all things religious. He identifies his attendance at a Christmas



"There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse..."

ISAIAH 11:1

carol service as a turning-point, referring to the "re-discovery of Christmas, which I had pretended to dislike for years."

I have never had to make such a faith journey myself, but I have experienced a similar "re-discovery" of Christmas.

Christmas has, in some form, already been with us for many weeks. In our church calendar we are in the season of Advent (literally, "coming"), which should be leading us on with feelings of anticipation and expectation. How we celebrate will depend very much on how we regard Christmas and on what our expectations are. I hope that when the season has past we will have a sense of fulfilment and not simply relief that it is all over!

The Gospels of Matthew and Luke give us the Christmas narrative with which we are familiar; the birth in the stable at Bethlehem and visits by the shepherds and wise men. The Gospel of John gives no such narrative, but the prologue places the coming of Jesus in the context of eternity and concludes, "The Word became flesh".

This surely brings us to the heart of Christmas and to what is unique about our Christian faith. Theologians call this the Incarnation – the union of the human and divine in which God is neither remote nor uncaring. In the person of Jesus he comes to us and shares with us in our day-to-day experiences.

John goes on to say, "The Word became flesh and lived among us". I have in the past thought of these words as descriptive of Jesus as a visitor who came and spent some time with us, teaching and encouraging. More to the point are the words of Peter Radcliffe, "God became bodily like us... at home

in his skin, at ease in himself, body and soul, a face without masks".

Many years ago there was a campaign with a slogan (and a song), "Put Christ back into Christmas." I understand the reason for this, but now I would say that there is no need for such a slogan. Rather, I would say that Jesus is already here among us, now and forever.

It is up to us to recognise and welcome him, to receive his love and to share it with others. Of course it is possible, as many do, to take part in Christmas festivities with no recognition of Jesus at all. But my hope and prayer is that this Christmas will be a time when we all recognise and welcome him again and that it will be a time of blessing, renewal and, if appropriate, re-discovery.

"The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory... full of grace and truth."

JOHN 1:14

The Rev'd Lloyd George is a retired priest now living in Warragul, and Victorian State Chaplain for the Order of St Luke.

EDITORIAL Treaty when?

Australia is the only Commonwealth nation that does not have a treaty with its First Peoples. Australians Together (formerly Concilia), an organisation working for better relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, points out that New Zealand's Treaty of Waitanga was signed in 1840, while Canada and the USA have treaties with their Indigenous peoples dating back to the 1600s (australianstogether.org.au).

Many Aboriginal people are now calling for a treaty, as one of Gippsland's Indigenous priests, the Rev'd Kathy Dalton, noted in a recent sermon (see TGA November). A treaty would constitute a formal settlement between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

The Rev'd Glenn Loughrey, Waradjuri man, artist and rector of St Oswald's Anglican Church in Glen Iris, was one of six speakers at a recent forum in Melbourne who argued for a treaty with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as more important than recognition in Australia's Constitution.

While most speakers called for a "Treaty now", Glenn Loughrey said we should not be in a hurry, explaining that there was a need first for incarnational dialogue. "God came to our mob", he said, but it took time. His advice was that Aboriginal people need to "build up the mob" so that there could be "no option but for a treaty".

The ecumenical forum, *Christian Perspectives on Treaty, Sovereignty and Constitutional Recognition*, a Victorian Council of Churches event, was held on 9 November at Wesley Uniting Church in Melbourne. Keynote speakers were Stuart McMillan, president of the Uniting Church in Australia and the Rev'd Ken Sumner, Victorian state director of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress and originally from the Koorong area.

Along with the Rev'd Glenn Loughrey, other members of the panel responding were Brooke Prentis, of the Waka Waka people and from the Salvation Army; Vicki Clarke, a Mutthi Mutthi/Wemba woman, former coordinator of Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Melbourne and member of the Interim Treaty Working Group in Victoria; and Adam Frogley, a Taungerong/Woi-Wurrung man from the Yarra Valley region of Victoria.

Vicki Clarke said that the prospect of a treaty was giving Aboriginal people hope for the first time. She saw constitutional recognition as only lip-service. Brooke Prentis agreed that racist clauses in Australia's constitution should be removed, but argued for both a national treaty and individual treaties. (There are close to 40 nations within Victoria.)

If we can have both – if constitutional recognition can lead on to a Treaty and treaties – then let's get on with it. But if recognition is seen to be the end of the road, or if it is going to stall progress towards treaty, then it might be better to bypass it. We need to keep listening and talking. We may need patience, as Glenn Loughrey said, but we must make progress.

Christians, of all people – because we know the freedom of forgiveness through Christ – could be leading the way to a new and fair beginning. "God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself" (2Cor 5:19); therefore we too can be agents of reconciliation.

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God in the sex-ed classroom?

Brief overviews of the varying approaches to sex education in some Gippsland Christian schools – Part 2

Jan Down

St Paul’s Anglican Grammar School

Every second year in the Junior School, Family Life Victoria – a secular, non-government, not-for-profit association – presents the Family Life Program.

As well as the classroom lessons, families are offered a series of age appropriate sessions to support parents in helping their children learn about aspects of human sexuality, starting with “Body Basics” in years 1 and 2.

The grade 5 and 6 students are given three one hour sessions covering physical changes for boys and girls; emotional changes during puberty; and the process of conception, foetal development and birth in the context of family relationships. Parents also meet with the presenter to discuss the program.

For the secondary students, sex education and sexual health are taught during Health classes in years 7–10. Year 10 Health covers respectful relationships and sexual health, including the topics of Relationships, Respect, Values, Contraception, STIs and Diversity.



In response to the question about whether sex education in the school is presented within a Christian framework or world view, Ms Tanja Day-Henning, Head of Food, Health, PE, Outdoor and Sport Recreation at the Secondary Campus in Warragul, said, “Everything we teach at St Paul’s we do under the banner of our Anglican ethos”.

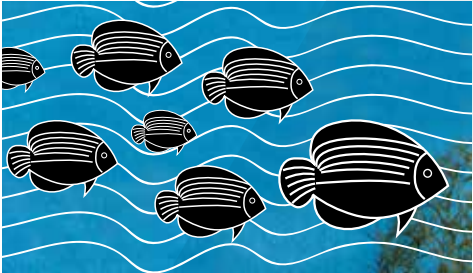
The school also explained that “Any information taught in regard to sex education is always taught with a respectful approach and harm minimisation emphasis”. Information about sex education in the school was supplied via the marketing department.

School Chaplain, the Rev’d Daniel Lowe, said the school’s approach in Health classes was a context of respectful relationships rather than a religious perspective. He added that in year 9 the students undertake a unit of work on town planning, during which the chaplain conducts a mock wedding service. This includes preaching a wedding sermon, which gives him an opportunity to provide some Christian content and perspectives.

Chairo Christian School

Chairo Christian School is a “ratio-enrolment school”, where up to 25% of students can be enrolled from families that are not regular church attenders. Programs are therefore designed to take this into account.

However, Rob Bray, Executive Principal at Chairo Christian School, says that Chairo is a Christian school, and they explain to parents their belief that “God is interested in all of life. There is no sacred/secular divide in our school. We don’t design curricula that way”.



Sex education, therefore, is delivered within a Christian values framework. While biological aspects are covered thoroughly in science education, Mr Bray says “Sex education is so much more than biology, and the social, emotional and spiritual dimensions are covered as well”.

The school draws on various resources, one of which is the character-based “No Apologies” program, produced by Focus on the Family.

Mr Bray observed that “adolescents are confronted with choices, and need to be well-informed”. Sex education programs in the school begin at the grade 5/6 level and often involve parents. He added, “Parenting is key to effective sex education” – there is a need for both school and parents to be involved.

Catholic schools

Mr Dom Ryan, Manager of Catholic Identity and Religious Education at the Catholic Education Centre in Warragul, was the spokesperson for the many Catholic schools in the Catholic diocese of Sale.

Mr Ryan said that sex education is taught from Prep to Year 12 in Catholic schools. In the primary schools, the Family Life Program, originally published by the Archdiocese of Hobart, is provided. Trained presenters come to evening sessions with parents and children from grades 1 – 6.

The evening sessions, which help parents to engage in conversations with their children, also support classroom teachers in “showing approaches to take that are developmentally appropriate in their classes”, Mr Ryan explained.



He commented that it would be unlikely that secular schools would choose the Family Life Program, as it has a Christian framework.

The secondary schools develop their own programs for sex education, drawing on various resources. Evening sessions may be offered to parents, but Mr Ryan said it is harder to have parent involvement once students reach this stage. However, parents are always informed and some do come when invited.

Sex education in the secondary years is taught as part of the Religious Education curriculum, and as such is delivered in the context of the Christian faith and Catholic doctrine.

EARTH CARE CARD

– Tips and inspiration for churches and households

25 Pass on old skills



Older people who are worried about climate change, resource depletion and economic instability sometimes ask – but what can we do? One important task is to pass on to a new generation the old skills that are being lost. This will help them to develop the resilience and resourcefulness they will increasingly need in a rapidly changing world. Teach boys and girls to knit, sew, make things from wood, cook meals from scratch, and grow the food first. The resourcefulness and skills that helped another generation through the Great Depression need to be revived. Churches have great potential as learning hubs – perhaps combining teaching on the theology of creation with skills training, for all ages.

ABC Radio National’s Religion Programs REVISED

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

Religion and Ethics Report

Andrew West
Wednesday 5:30 pm – repeated: Thursday 5:30 am

The Spirit of Things

Rachel Kohn
Sunday 6:00 pm – repeated: Wednesday 9:00 pm

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Geoff Wood
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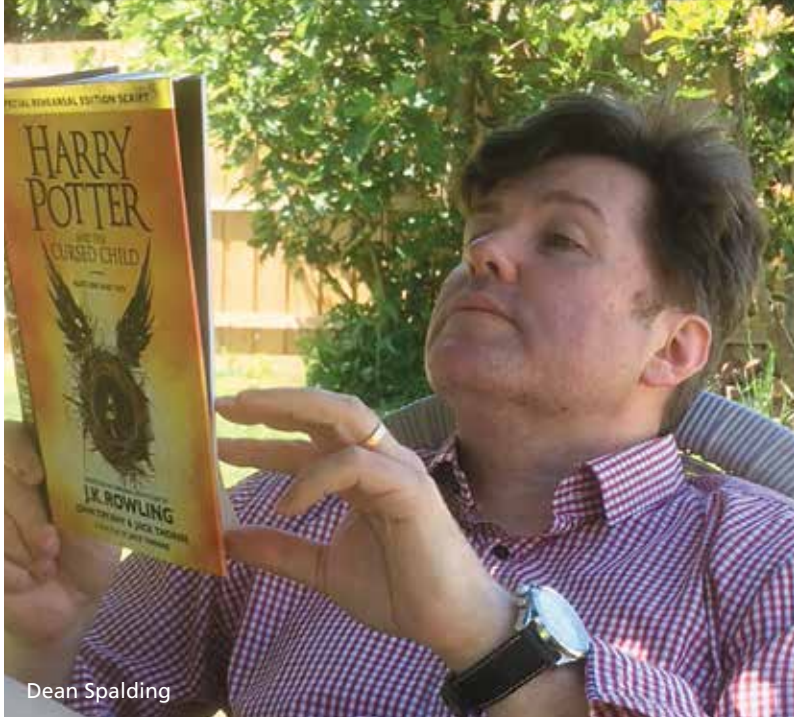
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Three summer sequels and a classic

Dean Spalding

The approach of the summer holidays is always filled with the anticipation of time for reading those books that I’ve been itching to read during the past year. What I’ve written below isn’t so much a book review as an account of why I’m looking forward to reading what I hope to pack in my holiday case. In the case of three of them, the anticipation has much to do with the fact that they are, in some sense, sequels.

First up is Brendan Byrne’s commentary on St John’s Gospel *Life Abounding* (2014). This follows on from three excellent commentaries on Luke, Matthew and Mark (following the order of their release) – *The Hospitality of God* (2000); *Lifting the Burden* (2004) and *A Costly Freedom* (2008).

I first read *The Hospitality of God* on the summer holiday of 2003/4 at the Lighthouse at Wilson’s Prom and fell in love with the text so much that the next year I sought out the author and asked if he would supervise my honours thesis in biblical studies, then later my doctoral thesis.

The other three commentaries in the series have managed to combine a solid theological and scholarly foundation with accessibility to a lay audience. Responsible theology and a regard for pastoral care applications are also sensitively treated – and I suspect this will be the case with the fourth

commentary on John. There is great value in refreshing our reading of John’s Gospel as we head into Years A and B where John at least gets a guernsey in Lent and Easter.

Second on the list of sequels is J K Rowling’s *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* (Little Brown, 2016) which is the eighth official Harry Potter book after a hiatus of a decade. I’m looking forward to reading it because I liked the original series very much.

I know some Christians have reservations about the series because of the genre—featuring a magical school for wizards and witches—but I’ve always accepted the literary device as an instrument of analogy for examining some excellent questions about life, death, freedom and sacrifice. In the novels, the dark arts are always viewed by the narrator and the heroic characters as evil.

And those magical arts which try to predict the future are also treated with suspicion, by the main protagonists of the story – although room is left for authentic prophecy.

Along the course of the first seven novels, I appreciated Rowling’s examination of redemption brought about through sacrifice – with the deaths of characters like Dumbledore and Harry himself. I liked the way that the series made space for the redemption of seemingly irredeemable characters like Harry’s cousin, Dudley and Ron’s brother, Percy. I also loved the contribution of terms like “mudblood” which provides

a younger generation with a great inroad for understanding the New Testament situation of “Samaritans”; and the “Society for Promotion of Elvish Welfare” which helps a younger generation to examine the emancipation movement of the early 1800s.

In *The Cursed Child*, I’m looking forward to the teenage characters of the first seven novels now being adults with teenage children of their own, and tracing the struggles of this new generation to the history forged by their parents. Rowling does this type of three-dimensional and intergenerational character development really well as she demonstrated in her more realist, *The Casual Vacancy* (Little Brown, 2012).

The third sequel I’m looking forward to reading this summer is the seventeenth instalment of *The No. 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency* entitled *Precious and Grace* (Abacus, 2016) – named for the two marvellous protagonists of the series, Precious Ramotswe and Grace Makutsi.

I confess, I first fell in love with this series through its adaptation into an HBO seven-episode television mini-series. Then I discovered Alexander McCall Smith’s novels. They are page-turners. And I felt, having lived in far northern South Africa not far from the borders of Zimbabwe and Botswana in 2000, that McCall Smith had really captured some of the cultural distinctives of that part of Africa, often characterised by deep Christian faith, flavoured by enduring African wisdom and world-view.

There is one last book I hope to squeeze in my holiday case for further reading if time and children (!) allow. It isn’t a sequel – but a relatively recent translation of a classic. I’d love to read Clive James’s translation of Dante’s *The Divine Comedy* (Picador, paperback, 2015). I haven’t read much by James other than his autobiographical *Unreliable Memoirs* (Pan MacMillan, 1981), but that is enough to elicit my trust in him as a writer.

I also have a personal reason for wanting to read Dante’s *Comedy*. My mother’s maiden name is Cerchi. That name came down the line to her from an Italian ancestor who came in exile from Mantova, Italy, as one associated with the Belfiore martyrs, to Wedderburn in the Victorian

Diocesan calendar

For more Christmas services and events around the parishes see: gippsanglican.org.au

December

- 16 7:30 pm Friday, Folk and Acoustic Night, St John’s, Nar Nar Goon
- 18 2:00 pm Sunday Christmas Concert, St John’s, Nar Nar Goon
- 18 2:00 pm St Alban’s Kilmany centenary celebration
- 18 7:00 pm Carol Service at Saint Aidan’s Newborough
- 18 8:00 pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at St Paul’s Cathedral, Sale
- 18 8:00 pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at St Thomas’ Bunyip, supper to follow
- 24 5:00 pm Crib service, St Paul’s Cathedral, Sale
- 24 10.30 pm Eucharist with Carols, St John’s Bairnsdale
- 24 11.00 pm Holy Communion, St Paul’s Cathedral, Sale
- 25 9.00 am Eucharist, St John’s Bairnsdale

29 December - 7 January 8:00 pm – 11:00 pm Blue Moose Summer at Churchill – details page 9

Scripture Union Family Camps and /or Theos at Cowes, Inverloch, Lakes Entrance, Mallacoota, Coolamatong, and around Victoria – see suvic.org.au for program dates and information.

January

- 1 10:30 am Eucharist and picnic at Moe Botanical Gardens
- 7 8:30 am – 1:00 pm St Nicholas’ Lakes Entrance annual fete in the church and grounds

February

- 3 6:00 pm Progressive Dinner, Moe/Newborough parish (see website)
- 17 7:00 pm Trivia Night, Saint Luke’s hall, Moe, conducted by TRIVIOLOGY– not to be missed
- 26 2:00 – 3:00 pm A pleasant Sunday Afternoon with theatre organist David Johnston, St Thomas’ Bunyip, afternoon tea, \$15.00
- 28 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Luncheon, Moe/Newborough parish. For Moe/Newborough event details see: www.moenewboroughanglican.org

goldfields in the 1850s. Five and a half centuries earlier (1302), the Cerchis had been exiled to Mantova from Florence, in the political dispute that also saw Dante exiled – the White Guelfs’ exile by the Black Guelfs, which is what led to the writing of *The Divine Comedy*.

Exile has played such a significant role in my cultural and spiritual history – I’d love to understand more about its grief, but also how exile seems to have the capacity to awaken hope and spiritual depth.

Many works of the Jewish and Christian scriptures were written in exile. African-American Spirituals have their origin in exile; some of my favourite Irish and Australian folk music is about exile. *The Divine Comedy* strikes me as an excellent way to enter more deeply into that understanding – and from all accounts, James’ fresh translation offers English readers an accessible way into this Italian classic.

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