

The Gippsland Anglican

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Janet Wallis inducted at Maffra

Jan Down

The Rev'd Janet Eryl Wallis was inducted as Priest in Charge of the parish of Maffra on Thursday 4 August.

Family, friends, Maffra parishioners and others from Janet's previous parishes, as well as clergy from across the diocese filled the church of St John's Maffra.

Ordained deacon in 1997, Janet has ministered in the parishes of Rosedale, Mirboo North and Leongatha. In 2014 she concentrated on conducting civil funerals. Chaplaincy roles followed at the Sale Specialist School and Grey Street Primary in Traralgon.

Janet and her husband Peter moved to Gippsland from New South Wales in 1987 when Peter was appointed Registrar of the Diocese, a role he served in for sixteen years. He is currently Practice Manager at Breed Street Medical Clinic in Traralgon.

At the induction service, Bp Kay Goldsworthy preached on the apostle Peter's "watershed moment" in the gospel reading from Matthew 16: 13-23.

She identified some common watershed moments or turning points in people's lives, such as a wedding day, the birth of a child, or a death. Having



The Rev'd Janet Wallis and her husband Peter, after the induction

just returned from Europe, the bishop observed that people there were talking about "before Brexit" and "after Brexit".

Bp Kay went on to say that when Jesus asked Peter "Who do you say that I am?" it was a turning point for Peter, as he declared that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of the living God. She said that, as Jesus predicted, Simon did become Peter (the rock); he "grew into a

bold apostle, founding a community, the people of The Way". She reminded the congregation "We are all part of this community and with all our frailties and fears, we can continue to proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, and tell the good news of God's reconciling love".

After the service, Councillor Peter Cleary welcomed Janet on behalf of the Mayor and the Wellington Shire.

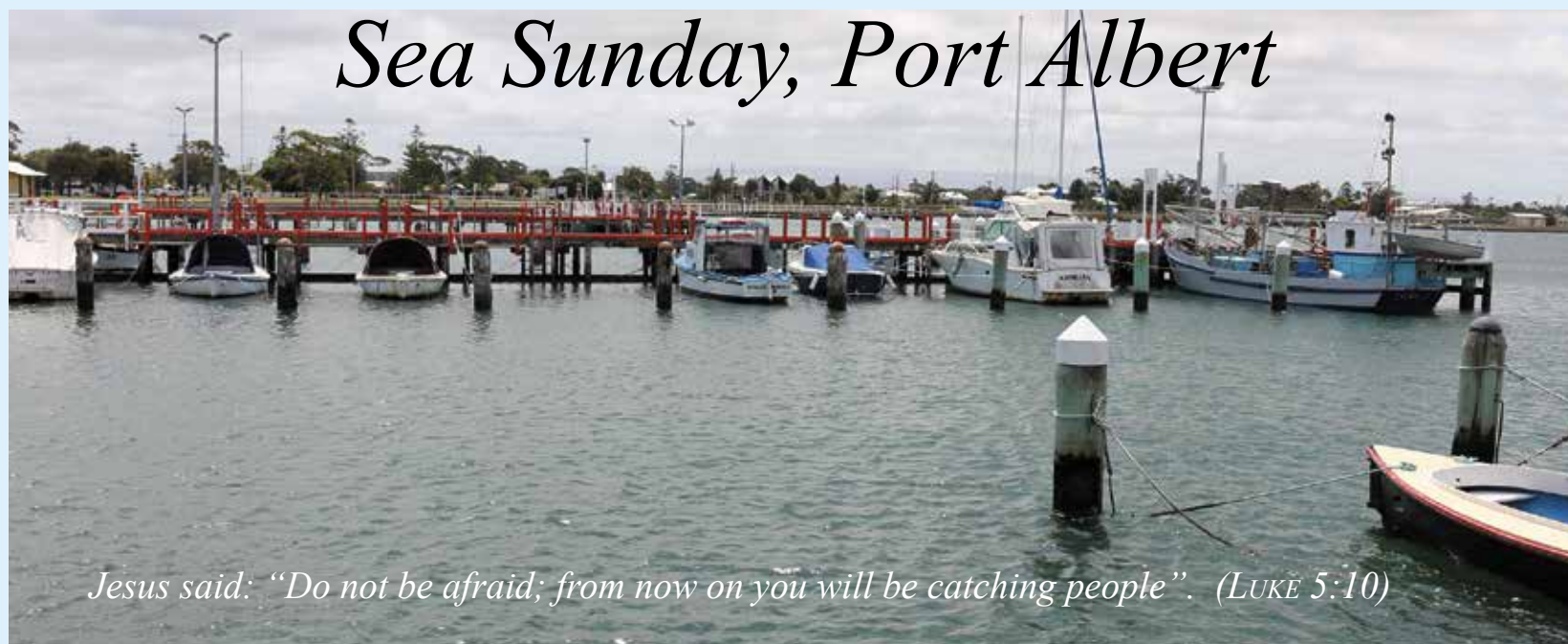
The Maffra Uniting Church minister, the Rev'd Sandra Houghton, and the Roman Catholic priest, Father Darren Howie, welcomed Janet on behalf of the wider church community in Maffra. Sandra Houghton noted that there had been a combined churches council for a long time in the town, with churches supporting each other in many activities, including the annual combined Palm Sunday parade.

Maffra church warden, Jeff Wheaton, welcomed Janet and her husband Peter on behalf of the parish, saying Maffra was delighted to have them. Janet has been locum in the parish for the past few months. She responded with words of thanks both to Maffra and to the people of Traralgon parish, who she said had nurtured her over the past couple of years.

Janet expressed her hopes for the future: "I long to see the church alive and active in the community and drawing people to know the love and grace of God. I look forward to the fellowship of being in church together and having the opportunity to walk with people in their journey of faith. I hope we will learn and grow together".

Celebrations and fellowship continued after the service, with supper in the church hall.

Sea Sunday, Port Albert



Jesus said: "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people". (LUKE 5:10)

The congregation of St John's, Port Albert, celebrated Sea Sunday on Sunday 7 August. Port Albert, one of Victoria's oldest sea ports, still has some working fishing boats. Andrea Fleming, CEO of the Mission to Seafarers, was the visiting speaker at the service held in the community hall.

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Spring cleaning for mission

Have you filled out your census form yet? Did you eventually get online? Across Australia people reported confusion and frustration as the website crashed and the information meant to be recorded on Tuesday 9 August had to be delayed until people could get back online or fill in a paper Census form and post it.

I had planned to be quietly at home, pen at the ready to complete our form. However due to the birth of a granddaughter a few weeks earlier than anticipated I spent Census night in another city. A number of new billboards had sprung up in local shopping centres and other prominent places. The message on them read, "Not Religious anymore? Mark no religion on the 2016 census".

I have since been on the website of the Atheist Foundation of Australia to read more of their message encouraging Australians to mark No Religion on the 2016 Census form. This isn't the first time that people have been encouraged toward a no religion option. However, it's the first time that the option to put No Religion was placed as the first box in the list of possible options for that question.

There has been a marked change in how people have answered the question about religion in the last two Census years. Almost 64% of Australians answered yes to being Christian in 2006. In 2011 this had dropped to 61%. At the same time more

people than ever before have marked the box No Religion over the same period. That category has increased from almost 19% in 2006 to 22% in 2011.

Perhaps some see this shift as the end for Christian faith in secular Australia. It's useful to note though that it is a margin of only 3% across those years.

Some of this change will be due to the changing pattern of migration. Some of it is due to the movement identified by sociologist Hugh McKay as SBNR, "Spiritual But Not Religious". Some of it is due to the ways in which the Christian churches have not adequately met the changing needs of people seeking faith and meaning in a 21st Century world. Some of it is the cost of past abuse and cover-ups which have been the subject of scrutiny since the late 1990s.

And, I suspect some of it is because those of us who are Christians; who meet around the scriptures and share together in Eucharist, have either forgotten how to tell others that story of love and its workings in our lives or feel we can't speak from under the weight of the shame of past sins, and bad behaviour.

That's a lot of baggage, most of it unhelpful to our proclamation of God's good news of love for the world. It infiltrates local worshipping communities



Bishop Kay Goldsworthy

and keeps us focussed not on the Spirit of grace alive and present, but on the grudges and gripes of day to day life in the company of others.

"Take the next swipe at an old and seemingly immovable prejudice or fear."

The philosopher Alain De Botton in his book *Religion for Atheists* points to the poverty of a position which fails to recognise the depths that religion offers the human community.

"Religion is above all a symbol of what exceeds us and an education in the advantages of recognising our paltriness. It has natural sympathies with all those aspects of existence which decentre us: glaciers, oceans, microscopic life forms, newborn babies, the resonant language of Milton's Paradise Lost. Being put in our place by something larger, older, greater than ourselves is not a humiliation; it should be accepted as a relief from our insanely hopeful ambitions for our lives".

This spring could be just the right season for all of us to do some internal spring cleaning. Get out the proverbial duster and clear the cobwebs. Be like the housewife of the parable sweeping everywhere to find the thing of value which was lost. Look into the corners where harboured hurts and long held grudges think they can safely hide away and stay out of sight. Which of course they don't. Take the next swipe at an old and

seemingly immovable prejudice or fear. Use proper tools, your Bible, prayer – both spoken and silent, seek forgiveness if you should, clear your heart and mind for the presence of God, seek out the counsel of priest or spiritual mentor.

Remember the words of the first letter to the Church in Thessalonica, "In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus" (1THESS 5:18). Find one thing every single day of spring for which you can give thanks. And do. Give thanks to God. For health, or friendship restored, or a new perception of the mystery of God's love in Christ. For a native flower or animal. For the music and the colours of earth, sky, sea. For abundance. Give thanks that you can give. That you have enough. And then some. Reach out and tell another person about how your life has changed since knowing Jesus' forgiveness. Give thanks for the power of prayer to transform lives as the Holy Spirit wills.

God's love for the people of Gippsland is real, true and unstinting. The challenge for those of us who know Christ's power to save, to heal and to bring new life is working out how we can be better equipped to tell the story of his love in our communities. In parishes, schools, prisons and hospitals, encouraging those in our care to grow in their discipleship and help others to come to Christ is of utmost importance.

No doubt come next April we will hear of the rise in numbers of those who marked the "No Religion" box in the 2016 Australian Census. I pray that neither you nor I will be a reason for anyone to do that again.

Peace and grace,

+Kay

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DIOCESE OF GIPPSLAND

Under the auspices of the Safe Church Training Agreement
of the National Council of Churches in Australia

Safe Church Awareness Workshops 2016

will be held at

St Paul's Anglican Church, Korumburra
Saturday 20 August 2016 9:30 am to 4:00 pm
and

St Paul's Anglican Church, Warragul
Saturday 22 October 2016 9:30 am to 4:00 pm

To register please email: your name, parish,
position in parish, contact email and phone to:
registryoffice@gippsanglican.org.au

Cost: \$30 (Invoiced after the event) BYO lunch

Enquiries to Brian Norris or Sue Court on (03) 5144 2044



OFFICE OF THE | Director of
Professional Standards

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

Cathrine Muston appointed to Anglicare

Jan Down

Cathrine Muston has been appointed as the Diocesan Community Development Officer (Parish Partnerships) with Anglicare Victoria, beginning her new role on 1 September.

Dennis Minster, Program Manager at Anglicare, commented “We’re really excited to have Cathrine on board. We know that her experience and passion with young people will stand her in good stead. We’re excited that she has that connection with parishes in Gippsland.”

Cathrine herself is excited about the work ahead, and has many hopes and ideas. An important goal is to “help churches build strong community links”. She added “The community needs to see that churches offer not just practical and pastoral help, but purpose and meaning in life”.

The Community Development Officer’s role is to provide support and encouragement for parishes to enable them to identify ways in which they can develop responses to community needs. The Parish Partnerships Program provides seeding grants to assist parishes to set up projects in their local



communities. The PPP committee meets bi-monthly at the Anglicare office in Morwell, which is where Cathrine will be based.

Bishop Kay Goldsworthy said she was delighted with

Cathrine’s appointment. She added “Cathrine brings a host of skills and wide experience of the area and of the church, and concern for those who

need a helping hand. Her experience as a teacher means she knows well the issues and concerns of young people and families”.

Cathrine identified one of her strongest skills as “connectivity” – being able to connect ideas and people. She said she has been interested and involved in community development since well before the term was in common use and courses were offered.

Archdeacon Philip Muston, husband of Cathrine, commented “I’m very happy for her, as community development has long been one of her passions and interests, and it will be a refreshing opportunity to use her communication abilities in a whole new way after teaching for 20 odd years”.

Cathrine has been teaching commerce and humanities subjects, including Christian Studies, at St Paul’s Grammar School in Warragul for the past 12 years. Previous to this, she taught at Warragul Regional College and Perth Modern School.

As well as her teaching experience, Cathrine brings well-honed leadership skills developed in parish ministry over 30 years. While she and Philip were living in Darwin, Cathrine worked for Darwin Marriage Education Inc, now Anglicare NT, conducting marriage and pre-marriage courses. She was also instrumental in the development of playgroups in Darwin, and became President of the Playgroup Association of the Northern Territory.

At the Warragul Anglican church, Cathrine has led music in Sunday services; led and hosted small groups as well as the Marriage Course; mentored young people; and initiated and run community lunches. She is also a Lay Reader in the church.

Cathrine takes over the role of Community Development Officer from Sarah Gover, who finished her seven years of service at the end of 2015, when her family moved to Queensland.

ANGLICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND

Interest rates for deposits with the A.D.F. effective from 1 September, 2016 are:

- **1.50% At Call**
- **2.80% Term Deposits to \$100,000**
- **3.00% Term Deposits over \$100,000**

Note: Neither the Anglican Diocese of Gippsland nor the Anglican Development Fund – Gippsland is prudentially supervised by APRA. Contributions to the Fund do not obtain the benefit of depositor protection provisions of the Banking Act 1959.



Be a part of supporting the Aboriginal Ministry Fund

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

Be a part of achieving these aims.

Contact the Diocese of Gippsland
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PO Box 928, Sale, 3853
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Email registrar@gippsanglican.org.au



A LASTING GIFT: A bequest to the Anglican Diocese of Gippsland or your parish

The Church, over the years, has been blessed with the generosity of Anglicans and others in support of its mission. One way you can support this ideal in a relatively easy way, is to make a gift through your will. In the first instance, of course, you will consider carefully the needs of your immediate family and friends before proceeding with a bequest to the church.

We offer a way of helping you to carry out your wishes. Your gift, through your bequest, will be very much appreciated. You may wish to support the Diocese of Gippsland as a whole, or your own parish, or for a particular purpose.

Making your bequest in your Will is a simple procedure, although in preparing or amending your Will you should always consult a solicitor. The Registrar of the Diocese of Gippsland has information to assist you in making a bequest, including the form of words you and your solicitor might want to use.

Telephone Brian Norris on 03 5144 2044, or go to www.gippsanglican.org.au and search ‘bequests’.



John Glynn, Dennis Minster and Jane Anderson (both of Anglicare Victoria), Peter and Margaret Down

Odyssey House to partner with Hope Restart and Education Centre

Peter Down

The Interim Committee of the Hope Restart and Education Centre, East Gippsland Inc has announced that Odyssey House Victoria has agreed to be a partner as the appointed service provider for the Centre.

The Permanent Board is expected to be announced over coming weeks.

Odyssey has been providing rehabilitation services to people with substance abuse since 1954. Having them working with the Board in this facility will be of immense importance. They have the knowledge and experience gained over many years to provide the best and most effective treatment possible.

They are currently providing input to the proposed building design for the project. Knowing what is needed to support their

own work properly will be of enormous benefit.

At the same time, the Committee has commenced negotiations with Anglicare Victoria to secure them as a partner.

Anglicare have worked with Odyssey in other projects, and are enthusiastic to be involved in the project. The procedures and governance protocols are currently being worked through.

Both of these organisations have well-known names and reputations, which will assist in all avenues for funding – Government, public and private.

The proponents for the Centre look forward to a productive relationship with both parties during progress of the development of the Hope Restart and Education Centre Inc.



Photo: Edie Ashley

The Abbey Feast 2016

The Abbey Feast 2016 in full swing!

Edie Ashley

Saturday 13 August, the day of the Feast, dawned with blue skies. The A-Frame had been lovingly prepared with a white and burgundy colour theme and beautiful table decorations, all set up for the 78 guests who had booked for The Abbey Feast 2016.

For guests who arrived early there was time for stroll around The Abbey grounds, time to appreciate the lake, spot the koalas, look for the Tawnys and for some to find the beautiful, but hidden nodding greenhood orchids.

Doors opened at 11.30am and guests were greeted with a glass of champagne or juice, the chance to find their seat and enjoy the antipasto prepared by Canon

Jeff and the team of assistants from Traralgon.

Bishop Kay, Chairperson of The Abbey Chapter, welcomed everyone to the 2016 Feast, Archdeacon Ted Gibson led us all in the singing of grace "Praise God from whom all blessings flow", and the first course was served: a pork and turkey terrine with an apple and cranberry tartlet; or seafood crepe sautéed in butter, garlic, dill, white wine and finished with cream and parmesan cheese.

The A Frame was alive with conversation as people caught up with friends.

The main course was a choice of marinated lamb shank on a bed of creamed potato with a demi-glazed sauce and served with sautéed brussel spouts; or butter chicken with rice pilaf and cashews. The sweets were

sticky date and pecan baked cheese cake, with caramel sauce and folded Chantilly cream; or mocha mousse and berry liquored gâteau.

As courses were served, the warmth of conversation continued into the afternoon. There was interest in the upcoming program and plans for future developments for The Abbey.

It was after sweets and coffee, as people were relaxing together, that we invited Chief Chef, Canon Jeff Richardson and the kitchen support team Shelley, Glenda and Debbie to come into the A Frame. They were greeted with thanks and applause! The Feast this year raised about \$3000 for The Abbey – thanks to all involved.

Archdeacon Edie Ashley is Archdeacon of the Eastern Region, Priest, St Peter's by the Lake, Paynesville and Abbey Priest.

Presentation to Brian Turner



Photo: Christine Morris

The Reverends Brian and Anne Turner, Lay Canon Arthur McPherson and Locum Dean, the Rev'd Ken Parker

On Sunday 14 August, at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale, the Rev'd Brian Turner was presented with a certificate to honour his work on the refurbishment of the cathedral facilities. Lay Canon, Arthur McPherson, made the following speech:

On behalf of the Cathedral Parish of St Paul's Sale it is my honour and a privilege to present this Certificate of Appreciation to the Reverend Brian Turner.

This certificate is to honour the work that Brian gave to this Cathedral in the vision, planning, ability, guidance and leadership of a team that refurbished and built the facilities that we have available to us today in this precinct.

We now have a modern multi-purpose hall, annexed to the cathedral, a clergy standard Deanery residence, rental

properties on the precinct in the form of two new built units and a refurbished old deanery as well as a refurbished Cathedral.

It was no small task, but the abilities of Brian (Bob the Builder) saw it all happen with the object of not only refurbishing the precinct but providing a future income stream that would help fund an assistant in ministry for the Dean.

All of this, of course, came at a cost and after realising that the income stream from these new facilities was being used to support a lower than expected offerings income, the Cathedral Chapter started an appeal to enable itself to pay off the building costs and bring the income stream into a sounder position to consider an assistant in ministry to the Dean.

It is not the loan that is causing the cathedral to seek assistance

in paying off the loan more quickly. The rental from the units and old Deanery more than cover the loan repayments. However the other streams of income are not meeting the everyday running costs of the parish.

It is unfortunate that what was set out in the appeal to the wider Diocese was read that we at the cathedral were having difficulty in paying off the loan. As the chairman of chapter I feel I must bear the blame for this misunderstanding of the intent of the desire to have the loan paid off in a shorter time, thus enabling the cathedral to support its concept of funding an assistant priest for the dean.

Therefore as a token of appreciation and recognition of this ongoing income stream we each personally give Brian our thanks for a job well done in providing this precinct to us.

Celebration and confirmation

Orbost

If you weren't at St James Hall on Saturday night, 23 July for "The Curse of the Mummy" you missed out on the event of the year. The hall was a riot of fun, food, costumes and decorations.

145 guests were provided with a three course meal and were entertained throughout the evening by the "ladies" from the Heavenly Twilight Nursing Home and the Nowa Nowa Men's Choir. Imported

from somewhere overseas, at enormous expense, was that famous singing group "Fabba".

The highlight of the night was the Orbost St James Players with their production of "The Curse of the Mummy" written by the retired rector of the parish, now locum, the Rev'd Bevil Lunson.

The catering team outdid themselves with a vast array of food – soups, casseroles and desserts.



This year the function was attended by Bishop Kay Goldsworthy, who also presided at the Eucharist and Confirmation Service held the following Sunday morning. George Bridges, who is in Grade 6 at Orbost Primary School, was the young person confirmed. His parents, Rod and Leanne Bridges are members of the congregation.

Bishop Kay's visit enabled her to meet the parishioners and residents of Orbost, chatting over lunch which followed the service.

The function on Saturday night is held annually to celebrate St James' day and is a major fundraising event.



Above: George Bridges with Bishop Kay and the Rev'd Bevil Lunson

Left: "Ladies" from the Heavenly Twilight Nursing Home entertaining the crowd at St James' Orbost: Faye, Bevil, Joe, Richard and Barbara



Graeme Hastie sang to the Rev'd Jenny Ramage at her retirement service

Nurturing Christian publishers in difficult places

Jane Peters – Wonthaggi

The Wonthaggi Inverloch parish recently joined together in a combined parish service where we heard from Sparklit National Director, Michael Collie.

Michael and his wife Elspeth have been regular visitors since they were linked with the parish in the early 90s before they went to work in Argentina with CMS. Now National Director of Sparklit, Michael is currently doing globally what he was doing locally in Latin America: nurturing emerging indigenous Christian publishers in difficult places.

He shared the moving story of Lothy Hueang, whose vision is to see Christian books published in her own language because "books can go where I cannot".

Over lunch Michael shared stories of what is happening in different parts of the world through Sparklit (which we discovered was formerly called SPCK or the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge). We took time to pray for each area as they were discussed and Michael challenged us to continue to pray for the work of Sparklit around the world.



Sparklit National Director, Michael Collie, speaks about Christian book publishing at Wonthaggi

Korumburra farewells Jenny Ramage

Lyn Gilbert

The Rev'd Jenny Ramage has retired, taking her last service at St. Paul's Korumburra on Sunday 24 July.

The whole parish of Korumburra, including Poowong, worshipped together, with a congregation of 100 people, many from groups Jenny was a member of or led, including Rotary, Milpara Community House, craft group, youth group and community kitchen.

After the service all enjoyed a soup and sandwich lunch, preceded by the presentation of a gift to Jenny from the parish and speeches of thanks

for Jenny's ministry among the congregation and wider community.

Jenny was also presented with a "Retirement Survival Kit" containing such items as a bag of marbles (in case she loses hers), a bucket (for her bucket list), a paper clip (to hold it all together) and some books.

The ministers from other churches in Korumburra were able to attend the lunch following their own church commitments.

It was a happy send-off for Jenny with thanks for her ministry in Korumburra and Poowong and best wishes for this new phase of her life.

Order of St Luke offers training, fellowship day

The Order of St Luke the Physician will hold a training and fellowship day at **Christ Church, Drouin** on **Saturday 15 October**. This will be a follow-up to the day which was held last year at St James' Church, Traralgon.

The theme will be "The Question of Healing Services", the title of a much-read book by the Rev'd John Richards. The day will be led by the Rev'd Lloyd George, the OSL State Chaplain for Victoria, with support from the Latrobe Valley Chapter of the Order.

The day will begin at 10.00 am with morning tea, followed by a program beginning at 10.30. Some suggestions will be presented for healing ministry in local churches, whether as part of regular worship or in services specially organised for healing. There will be opportunities for sharing and discussion. Following lunch there will be a healing service, to conclude



Judy and Lloyd George

around 3.00 pm. The OSL will also make available books and literature to assist in developing this ministry.

The OSL has been active in Australia since 1960 and has had a presence in Gippsland for over forty years. It continues to operate the retreat house "Allansfield" at Rhyll on Philip Island. The order began in the USA in 1947, but it is part of a much larger movement from the early twentieth century which has brought a world-wide revival and renewal of understanding of the ministry of healing.

It is now an ecumenical order, found in many countries. Its purpose is to support and encourage healing ministry, believing it to be essential to

the gospel and not an "optional extra" as it is sometimes regarded. The late Bishop Morris Maddocks, founder of the Acorn Christian Healing Foundation, has expressed this well: "The health of a church will depend on the wholeness of its life in prayer... a church with a devoted purpose of being in Christ will be a healing church".

Prior registration is not required and all interested people are welcome and encouraged to attend on this day. Tea and coffee will be provided but attenders are asked to provide their own lunch. For any enquiries or further information please contact Lloyd George on 0427 460 485.



Laurie Malcolm and Ian Chatfield entertaining Bunyip parishioners

Bunyip festivities

Pam Schembri

The church of St Thomas at Bunyip celebrated its Patronal Festival on Sunday 2 July with a special sung Eucharist followed by a magnificent high morning tea.

The congregation enjoyed the best of Bunyip cooking attractively displayed, with tea and coffee served from shiny silver pots. The very social gathering was enjoyed by all.

In June we had a Pleasant Sunday Afternoon with local musicians, Laurie Malcolm and Ian Chatfield providing great country and western songs. Money collected from the gold coin donation was sent to a chosen charity and the parishioners supplied afternoon tea. A great afternoon was had by all and we look forward to another fun afternoon later in the year.

Football Sunday

Carolyn Raymond Morwell

At St Mary's we see ourselves as trend-setters! We recently celebrated this important sport, our love for the game and (of course) our particular teams.

Football Sunday was a Wow! We all wore scarves, beanies and (if we had them) football shirts. Even the altar was decked out with football scarves. I think some people had a competition about who could wear the most outrageous beanie. We were all wonderfully warm on a cold winter Sunday.

It is amazing that no one has thought to include Football Sunday in the lectionary; perhaps St Mary's should recommend it for next year!

The Rev'd David Head even preached about football. He acknowledged that for some people football is almost a

religion. Just as players in a football team must all be disciplined in their preparation by attending training regularly, so we must "train as Christ's followers" through prayer and worship. We must work together as a team, working with God and striving to win the match, to bring God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

To assist those who can't do without football, we also have an on-going footy tipping competition. This is fun, but also a way to raise money for our mission project.

After the service, the congregation was treated to a lunch of homemade soup and muffins – decorated in football colours. We bit into a muffin decorated in, for example, bright blue and white, or black and red. This was quite an amazing experience. Thank you Danielle and Annalise, we all enjoyed our football muffins.



All decked out for Football Sunday at St Mary's Morwell



Maree Barnes

Vale Maree Barnes

19/12/52 – 11/08/16

Mary Nicholls

Behind the highlights, fun, challenges and memories experienced by many hundreds of children, youth and families through Gippsland GFS Kidsplus+ sponsored activities, the astute observer only would have recognised the hard work, enthusiasm, and faithfulness in service of Maree Barnes. Her passion to encourage children

to find Jesus as their friend, and through Him, develop their individual talents, was her motivation, sustaining her quiet, unheralded ministry.

What a joy to see the sparkle in the eye and hear her empathy, compassion and love as she would describe a child's delighted reaction to a new challenge and achievement. Likewise how proud she was to learn of family celebrations and goal attainments of past

GFS youth members, many of whom she had mentored along with other team members.

As a member of the Traralgon Parish GFS Branch and the Diocesan Council since 1991, her contributions to the Diocesan, State and by association National GFS family have been significant. Maree served as diocesan GFS secretary as well as her two terms as Victorian State Council Secretary.

Much of the organisational work associated with past Diocesan Cowwarr Weir picnics, sports days, theatre sports, camps, adult fellowship and leader development weekends, to name just a few, was inspired and accomplished by Maree.

Recently, despite her failing health, we were delighted that she was able to assist in the preparations and celebration of our 130th Anniversary of GFS Gippsland, held at The Summit, Trafalgar East. It was an opportunity for her to meet again with the many GFS friends travelling from Ballarat, Melbourne and Sydney. Yes, her GFS family was extensive. We will all miss her, and give thanks for her faithful service. Our love and prayers continue with her family: Keith, Katrina, Michelle and Tracy. May she rest in peace.



Sea Sunday St John's Port Albert

The Rev'd Jo White and Andrea Fleming (in the red boots) with St John's congregation on Sea Sunday

Jo White

On Sea Sunday the small congregation of St John's, Port Albert, was swelled by the addition of a number of local fishermen and members of the Coast Guard for a lunch at the Port Albert Community Hall followed by a service which I led and an address by the CEO of the Mission to Seafarers, Andrea Fleming.

Sea Sunday is an international day of prayer for those who work at sea, and is held across the Anglican Communion on the second Sunday in July each year. The congregation of St John's, Port Albert, held their own Sea

Sunday on Sunday 7 August.

Seafarers work and live in certain isolation and often dangerous and harsh conditions. As an island nation Australia relies on seafarers for the provision of all manner of goods. Seafarers who ply our waters and dock in our ports rely on the Mission to Seafarers for support and on-shore facilities that contribute to their wellbeing. The Mission is one of the oldest charities in Australia dating back to 1857.

St John's Port Albert is proud to be associated with the Mission to Seafarers and has chosen it as their particular charity because of the Port's proud history and long connection with the sea and with seafarers. There are

still a number of fishermen working out of Port Albert as well as many pleasure craft.

Earlier this year Port Albert celebrated the 175th anniversary of the establishment of the Port. St John's Anglican Church is named after its patron Saint John, who was himself a fisherman working in the family business until Jesus called him and his brother to leave their nets and follow him. Jesus said to James and John, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people". (LUKE 5:10)

The Friends of St John's presented the Mission with a cheque and an offering was also made by those attending.

The Rev'd Jo White is Rector of the parish of Yarram.



June Treadwell

Fay Magee leads singing at the Hymnfest

On Sunday 24 July we were delighted to welcome Fay McGee to conduct a Hymnfest at St Peter's by the Lake.

Fay, a musician and long-time music educator, has always been involved in congregational and communal singing. Her experience and leadership were

evident at the Hymnfest at Paynesville when people came from the different church congregations and together we enjoyed creating a great sound, singing old and new songs, all of which fed the soul.

Fay also taught us new songs by singing unaccompanied; we echoed each line just to make sure we were able to follow. "Unaccompanied singing does not have to be scary", said Fay. "Most people can sing, and singing is one way of building community as well as being inclusive and welcoming." This was certainly our experience at the Hymnfest.

Afternoon tea helped us prepare our voices for the second half of the program, when Fay introduced us to different ways of singing short songs, such as those composed by John Bell, which can be used more or less spontaneously.

Thanks to Fay for a great afternoon's singing!



The congregation enjoying coffee and cake after the service, at Yarragon's unique coffee shop

Fellowship at Fozigobble

Allan Huggins

Fozigobble Café is the next stop after each Sunday morning service at Yarragon. This unique coffee shop on the highway is where all the congregation is welcomed after worship. The new practice has proved an excellent way of bonding together for the members of St Mark's Yarragon.

On August 14, Shirley Gibson was welcomed into the congregation as a baptised member, and this was celebrated at Fozigobble's after the service. At her baptism, Shirley spoke with great feeling about her life, and the losses she has experienced. Becoming part of St Mark's Yarragon has helped her find healing and a new peace.



Shirley Gibson at her baptism, with the Rev'd Sue Jacka and sponsor Alison Petschel

Moe and Newborough to amalgamate

The amalgamation of Moe and Newborough parishes, which was initiated by the parishioners, has been approved in principle by Bishop in Council, and is now proceeding. This amalgamation of two parishes into one is the first of its kind in the Gippsland diocese, which raises some interesting technical questions.

The Registrar Brian Norris and Archdeacon Philip

Muston recently met with the wardens to discuss what each parish might consider as essential conditions for a successful amalgamation, and how to ensure that the traditions and identities of each parish are safeguarded as much as possible. Parishioners were asked beforehand to communicate their thoughts on these questions with their wardens.



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Production gave opportunities for student development



Year 11 student Grace Attard as "Belle" in the yellow gown which took over 70 hours to create and Year 12 student Samuel Chilver as the "Beast" in the St Paul's musical production of *Beauty and the Beast*

St Paul's Anglican Grammar School's musical production of *Beauty and the Beast* was a huge success with over 1400 tickets sold over the four shows held at the West Gippsland Arts Centre.

St Paul's teacher, Casey Hall, who directed and choreographed the musical production said "Being part of a show such as this is a unique experience that presents students with opportunities for development in ways that are unparalleled in everyday school life, and I can safely say that each student involved in *Beauty and the Beast* 2016 will walk away from this experience a more resilient, insightful and fulfilled young person".

Based on the smash hit 1991 Disney movie, *Beauty and the Beast* tells the story of beautiful and intelligent Belle, a young woman who feels out of place in her provincial French village and finds herself imprisoned in the magical castle of a terrifying beast.

The musical was accompanied by a 32 piece orchestra, and the School invited children in the community to dress as their favourite *Beauty and the Beast* character at Saturday's matinee, where they had the opportunity to meet and greet the cast after the performance.

Having dedicated countless hours for rehearsals, production, direction, set construction, costume organisation and stage props, students, staff and parents are feeling very proud of the outcome of the show.

Finley thanks the people who saved his life

A young, grateful Gippsland Grammar student is going to lengths to give back to the hospital that saved his life.

Year 4 student Finley Warren is raising money to say thank to the Royal Children's Hospital by busking and bike riding from his home in Maffra all the way to the hospital in Melbourne – that's a whopping 230km.

It's been ten years since Finley was a patient in the Newborn Intensive Care Unit at the Royal Children's Hospital. Three major surgeries and around-the-clock care were needed to save his life.

Finley, who is the eldest son of Kelly and Glenn Warren, had Long-Gap Oesophageal Atresia, meaning his oesophagus wasn't connected to his stomach.

"With every birthday, we reminisce about those difficult early days," mum Kelly said. "The rawness of the emotions can make it seem like Fin's arrival was just yesterday."

Finley and his support crew was initially aiming to raise \$10,000 or \$1000 for each year since the hospital saved his life but with the current tally at \$9,500 it seems they will exceed all their expectations and wildest dreams.

The 10-year-old has been blown away by the support of the community.

"Fin's enthusiasm was pure motivation for us all. Fin's determination to give back to the hospital is truly inspiring and brings us so much joy. We couldn't be prouder," Kelly beamed.

They have called their fundraising efforts "A Celebration of Little Feet and Big Hearts".

Finley is busy training for his ride which will leave Maffra on October 2 to arrive to in Melbourne on October 6, the anniversary of his discharge date.



Finley Warren and friends

You can follow his progress and training on the Facebook page: www.facebook.com/ACelebrationofLittleFeetandBigHearts.



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Solid Foundation

Rich Lanham

We all know that when we build something we need to focus on the foundation. I remember as a young person building with playing cards. That's where you take playing cards and lean them against each other and stack them in an attempt to build a large house or tower.

We had a game where we would build a house of cards and shoot paper wads at them, propelled by rubber bands. It was a fun process and I remember that as we improved the design of our structures we also improved the destructive ability of our rubber band slingshots. I knew that I needed to concentrate on the initial design if I wanted to build a large, strong structure that could withstand the onslaught of paper projectiles. If I were careless with the placement of the first few cards that would impact on the structural integrity of the whole building and it would be easily destroyed.

Similarly new houses, apartment blocks and skyscrapers need engineers to be meticulous in their calculations when they design the foundations for these buildings. Otherwise whatever is built may come crumbling down.

Interestingly, we are very similar in our need to have a firm foundation for our lives. We could think of this in terms of the strength of our physical bodies or we can look more deeply at our hearts and minds. After all often the choices we make as we care for our physical bodies are a reflection of how we are feeling.



The Rev'd Rich Lanham

As our creator, God knows how much we need a strong foundation. As people we are continually confronted by moments and situations that test our resilience, our mental and physical strength. There is no escaping this aspect of human life, but there is a way to prepare for it. There are many verses in the Bible that give us guidance and advice in this regard but I will give you one:

“Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock. But anyone who hears my teaching and dismisses it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.” When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, for he taught with real authority – quite unlike their teachers of religious law.

MATTHEW 7:24-29

Jesus continually points us to the love of God and to the truth that we are valued and cherished by our creator. Jesus desires us to understand that there are many voices telling us how best to live and thrive, but the way to be complete is to return to the source of our existence: to seek our creator and discover the way we were meant to live, love and flourish.

The message of hope Jesus proclaims is freedom from fear and reconnection with our creator. The greatest engineer of all, who lovingly established our being, desires us to be strong in the knowledge of God's love and purpose. Jesus is our rock, our firm foundation; faith in his message will give us the strength to withstand and move through the challenges of life.

God bless you all.

The Rev'd Rich Lanham is Missional Priest of 123 and Chaplain at Gippsland Grammar School.



Christians and their bodies

Ann Miller

How should Christians regard their bodies, and behave towards them?

This question has exercised Christians and other thinkers for generations, going in cycles.

The Ancient Greeks, for example, went against the mores of the day in making nakedness (especially in men) heroic rather than shameful. The Romans had a more prudish attitude to the body, but like the Greeks, celebrated the body beautiful in Art and had many rituals that required nakedness.

The Victorians took prudishness to an extreme, covering the legs of pianos lest they cause offence or lustful thoughts, and the Post Modern era seems to have gone to the opposite extreme with an obsession with “perfection” of the body in the west.

Of course what is “beautiful” to one culture may be seen quite differently in another. The Western obsession with painfully thin androgynous-looking female bodies would not be seen as desirable by, say, the Buganda of Uganda, whose perception of female beauty runs to well covered curvaceousness! (If you are fat you are not starving, in cultures where starvation is a recent memory!)

Can we find any help in this minefield in the Bible?

Perhaps the most quoted verse in this context is from 1 CORINTHIANS 6 v19 : “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God”. For many people this is enough for them to respect and care for their bodies, but apparently not for all, or we would not have so many Christians who overeat, smoke, drink to excess and ignore the warning signals of their bodies. (Yes folks, there are plenty!)

For me the most important verse is from JOHN 15:5: “I am the vine , you are the branches...” That implies to me the most intimate of relationships, my body being part of the body of Christ.

Another concept I have found helpful is that of the gift of the body, and this works

well for those who are great at caring for others, but tend to ignore or downplay their own needs. Imagine you have been given a baby to look after, and it is your complete responsibility. Wouldn't you, once you had got over the shock, do all in your power to make sure that baby was safe, happy and healthy, that it achieved its full potential? That is essentially what you have been given by God, a vehicle to convey you around this world, to be God's hands, feet and eyes, to be God's body on Earth (Teresa of Avila paraphrased).

So how do we look after this wonderful gift?

Here again we can get very confused with the plethora of conflicting advice coming at us. Most people equate healthy lifestyle with diet, so we'll deal with that. This is not to minimize the importance of moderate exercise, rest, sleep, work, play, ultra violet light and social connectedness for good health.

National Dietary Guidelines consist of: Eating only what your body needs. Of course eating should also be pleasurable, but this should not be the only criterion. Drinking plenty of water (2 litres, more in hot weather).

Daily intake should be mainly of vegetables (5+) some fruit (2+) wholegrains (about the same as vegetables); protein – either as flesh, eggs, nuts, legumes and seeds, dairy or alternatives; small amounts of oils and occasional treats.

The traffic light colours are helpful here: red for foods to be avoided or used very occasionally: cakes, biscuits and lollies; orange for “sometimes” foods; and green for unlimited (essentially some vegetables). There is controversy about the guidelines which I am happy to debate!

Ann Miller is a doctor in Sale with an interest in spirituality and health. She is a parishioner at St Paul's Cathedral.

TGA Readership Survey



Thank you to all who took the time to participate in TGA's readership survey, which is now closed. The results, especially in the form of comments and suggestions, were enlightening and encouraging, and will assist us in planning and improving The Gippsland Anglican. Feedback is welcome at any time, and may be sent to editor@gippsanglican.org.au or phone 0407 614 661.

Jan Down, Editor



Tim Fletcher at Synod in May

Timeless truths

Tim Fletcher

Many years ago I was a Lifeline counsellor, and became a Lifeline shift supervisor. Perhaps the greatest lesson I learnt from this counselling experience was that I don't have all the answers.

I went on to work for the Salvation Army in another counselling role and was again reminded I don't have all the answers. Now I am the pastor of a small, multi congregation church and once again I am reminded in many pastoral situations I certainly do not have all the answers.

However, as a Christian, I have discovered a source of answers. The answers I have that I can be sure of are the answers I find in God's Word. In pastoral, preaching and prophetic circumstances the Bible provides some sure and certain answers. Those answers relate to God's will, in God's world, for God's people.

Luke encourages us to "know the certainty of the things you have been taught" (LUKE 1:4); John tells us that he wrote these things down "so that we would know the truth" (JOHN 21:25); Revelation warns us "not to add or subtract from God's Word" (REV 22:21); and Paul tells Timothy he is writing so that people might know how to conduct themselves (1 TIM 3:15).

Some would say, because the Bible does not tell them specifics like which car to buy, or sport to play, that it is open to interpretation. Others would suggest that every interpretation is of equal value.

These views would seem to diminish God's Word of its ability to shape us. Rather than hermeneutical gymnastics we need to seek the plain and obvious meaning of each passage. To look more at our interpretation rather than the plain meaning of the text would seem to be "elevating our thoughts more highly than we should, and to not be open to the transformative action of God's will" (ROM 12:2-3).

While one person's interpretation of the Bible cannot be said to be "right", it is possible to say some interpretations are "wrong". And, while we might read familiar passages or parables at different times in our lives and they have different application, the core meaning will never be reversed. God's commands to faith, love, righteousness and justice are always confronting us with new applications for each new circumstance while the core truths of salvation and God's character remain.

As a church we identify and clarify the timeless truths of God's word in creeds and the Articles and liturgy and synods. This process enables us to identify core and peripheral truths. It enables us to stay in fellowship with those with whom we disagree in matters of interpretation. But let us never assume that by finding another interpretation we can mould the Bible's truth to become palatable to societies' trends, or our own.

*The Rev'd Tim Fletcher
is Rector at Corner Inlet.*

EDITORIAL

Couch surfers in good company

While the minimum wage has recently been raised, Newstart and Youth Allowance benefits have not. Anglicare Victoria's CEO, Paul McDonald, wrote in June this year "There has been no real increase in the Newstart / Youth Allowance for more than 20 years. As a result these payments are now sitting 50% below the current poverty line".

Mr McDonald pointed out that this hole in Australia's safety net is occurring at the same time as a major drop in housing affordability.

For young people who move out of home for tertiary study, perhaps in Melbourne, or a regional centre, this can manifest as chronic housing insecurity. A room in a share-house, costing anywhere between \$100 – \$250 per week, might last only a few months before the household breaks up – for any number of reasons – and the student's studies are disrupted by another move. This is costly, stressful and time-consuming, but for many young people, it is their only option.

A country as stable and wealthy as Australia ought to be able to ensure that every citizen can find secure and affordable housing. Students necessarily living away from home should not have to be constantly worried by financial and housing pressures.

How did we come to this point where we seem to have accepted that young people who are studying or unemployed do not have an adequate living allowance or affordable housing? And what should we do about it?

Jesus was born into a poor family and, as an itinerant teacher and healer, did not have a home of his own. He said to a scribe who wanted to follow him, "Foxes have holes... but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head" (Matt 8:20). However, he would have experienced first century Jewish hospitality; when he came into a town, he could expect to be offered somewhere to stay. And when he sent the disciples out two by two, he expected them to be received into people's homes.

So Jesus' situation was not exactly that of the couch surfer in 21st century Australia. But God incarnate was poor and dependent on the generosity of others. God chose to enter the world in this way; to be told there was no room in the inn, but welcomed into a stable.

All through scripture, God reveals himself as on the side of the poor. "Who is like the Lord our God...? He raises the poor from the dust, and lifts the needy from the ash heap" (Psalm 113:5, 7). If God cares, so should we.

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David Head

Many traditional cultures lack what we in Western society call medical depression or even have a word for it. But in our modern consumer culture, levels of depression are growing rapidly and the age of onset of depression has plummeted from around 30 to around 14!

However, much so-called depression is unresponsive to anti-depressant drugs, and so a new type of mental dysfunction that mimics depression is now called “demoralization” or “losing morale for living”. It is a psycho-spiritual crisis where a person feels unable to locate meaning and purpose and existential pleasure in the activity of life and living.

Individualism, materialism, hyper-competitiveness, greed, overwork and debt are all part of this demoralization and are very negative factors in both personal psychological health and in general social well-being. Important resilience traits such as patience, forbearance, and inner courage and strength have given way to short attention spans, over indulgence and to a quick-fix, instant gratification approach to life.

This leads to what Noam Chomsky calls a philosophy of futility, where people feel bereft of any power to control or create significant meaning in their consumer lives. People are existentially bored. Boredom is caused not because an activity is necessarily inherently boring, but because it is not meaningful or relevant to a particular person. Existential boredom is where a person finds all of life ultimately uninteresting and unrewarding.

Rampant consumerism habituates people to an endless conveyor belt of “instant gratification” with no resulting long-term enjoyment or pleasure. Current philosophical thought states that happiness is made up of a triangle of absolute needs that must be met or you cannot achieve happiness. This is an equal-sided triangle made up of Pleasure, Purpose, and Meaning. If one or more of these needs is missing



Existentially bored?

then happiness cannot be found and maintained, and boredom and demoralization occur.

A society’s “moral net” or “infrastructure of well-being needs” must be met to maintain the psycho-spiritual health of its members. However, human culture has been mutating into a sociopathic marketing machine dominated by economic priorities and psychological manipulation. The more lost and disconnected and spiritually empty people become, the more susceptible they become to possible dangerous purveyors of persuasion who proclaim they can give meaning and purpose to life.

So we are faced very much today with the power of attraction of pseudo-messiahs such as violent jihadists and of mind-blowing drugs such as Ice. Our younger generation have generally become a trance generation with an insatiable desire for any new technology that can give momentary bytes of pleasure. This helps explain their fascination with Facebook and other instant connectivity apps that appear to give constant group involvement without any actual physical interaction, and which downsizes awareness of life going on around them, and profoundly blunts their emotional resources and responsiveness.

A society of demoralized people is unlikely to revolt, even though it sits on a powder-keg of pent-up frustration. But credibility and relevance and meaningful vision counteract demoralization, and this pent-up frustration can be released when a positive, credible cause or credible leadership is added to a person’s experience.

In his new book *Beyond Belief*, Australian Social Researcher Hugh Mackay argues that a growing number of people and particularly young people are abandoning religion in favour of a different kind of spirituality – one not restricted by institutions or guidelines or rules. He calls it the SBNR, the “Spiritual But Not Religious” movement.

In an argument somewhat similar to what has been said above, Hugh states that society has been bombarded with mass-marketing where we are told that life’s greatest satisfaction is to “buy, buy, buy” and that will give us meaning and happiness. We are not to be allowed to experience sadness, pain, and loss, but to be filled with expectations of constant happiness by the gaining of material possessions and by having whatever we desire. Although many people are not drawn to the churches, they still believe there is a spiritual dimension out there to be found and explored. How do the churches bridge this relevance gap that has grown between them and the SBNR’s?

What sort of church community and church leadership are needed to inspire meaningfulness, relevance and credibility in our consumer driven and demoralized society?

The Rev’d David Head is Rector of Morwell.

(Much of the above was inspired by an article in the New Internationalist April 2016 edition called “The demoralised mind” by John F Schumaker.)

ABC Radio National’s Religion Programs

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

Religion and Ethics Report

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

Encounter

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

The Spirit of Things

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

Rhythm Divine

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

EARTH CARE CARD

– Tips and inspiration for churches and households



Photo: Lily Aagren

22 Build a tiny house...

...or at least one smaller than the current average. A 1950s house on a suburban block took far less energy to construct, heat and cool, while leaving enough land to keep chooks, grow vegetables, fruit trees and flowers to bring the bees. There is now a movement of people who are going even smaller, constructing really tiny houses, often in a deliberate rejection of consumerism, and a desire to live very lightly on the planet. Take a look at some inspiring examples, including some tiny houses in a Gippsland eco-village, built out of mainly recycled materials at really tiny cost. Go to simplicitycollective.com and search for “tiny house” where you can see some short videos of the building of different tiny dwellings.



L-R Neil McLennan, Elaine Hofen, Joan Herrmann, Helen Mundy, Jenny McLennan
– celebrating 10 years of St James' Trash and Treasure

Helen Mundy

Op shop manager Orbost

Jan Down

Retired farmer, now op shop manager, Helen Mundy, says "Op shops have come a long way over many years". She remembers when the old opportunity shop in a side street in Orbost had trestle tables with bags of clothes on them selling for \$1 a bag. "They've improved their standards", she says, especially in terms of presentation. "It's not just the poor and needy who come in. A lot of people just love op shops – scrounging around for bargains", Helen explains.

Helen has been working in St James Trash and Treasure for ten years, ever since another parishioner friend, Jenny McLennan and her husband, suggested the church run a more visible op shop in the main street. A group of women from the church were involved in setting it up: Helen and Jenny, Elaine Hofen and Joan Herrmann. They were able to rent the shop from a hotel in the town.

Helen enjoys the fellowship of co-workers and talking to people who come in. It tends to be quiet over winter, but a lot of tourists come in during the warmer months.

The op shop helps to give the Anglican church another

obvious presence in the town as well as providing funds. Helen comments, "We are out there as the church. We're being seen as the church in the community". The Rev'd Bevil Lunson, former Rector, now locum at St James', often drops in to the shop to chat with people.

"We are out there as the church. We're being seen as the church in the community".

Helen tells the story of a woman who was browsing the bookshelves, and said "You don't even have a Bible in the shop!" So they took note and now make sure there are always Bibles on the shelves, which they find people will buy.

Part of Helen's role as manager involves selecting volunteers – all women so far – and organising the roster for the shop, which is open five and a half days a week. She says sometimes it can be hard to find enough workers to cover the shifts. There are currently fifteen volunteers on the books.

So many goods are donated that space has become an issue, and Helen is excited about a new venture: they are opening up the next door shop, as a trial, and hope that this will enable them to expand beyond clothes, books and bric-a-brac to smaller pieces of furniture as well.

One of the challenges for Helen and the other volunteers is when a lot of donations come in at once, which then have to be sorted, clothing sometimes washed and ironed, and then displayed on racks. Some things are donated to Lifeline, while rags are given to trucking companies or garages. Very little goes to the tip.

There are tiring days, but Helen generally enjoys the work. She says "If I wasn't doing this, what would I be doing? We like to be busy. It keeps us happy".

Helen's husband Neville died seventeen years ago, after which she and her son continued the family farm for another ten years. Before running beef cattle, Neville and Helen had grown crops such as borlotti, cannellini and kidney beans, or maize. However, Helen says "it petered out". These industries have gone from the area, she explained, due to the cheaper prices for dried beans from overseas.

Helen came back into the church after Neville died, though she had always helped with church cooking, so the connection had been maintained. Of her faith she says, "It's just part of me. It's just how I am". Apart from the op shop management, Helen also assists in other ways, such as church catering, working for the fete, and being St James' treasurer.

A highlight for the op shop was its ten year anniversary. Held in combination with the Christmas break-up, the event attracted about 70 people who came along to enjoy a festive meal and entertainment.

Diocesan calendar

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

September

- 3 11:00 am Installation of the Rev'd Susanna Pain as Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, Sale
- 17 9:30 am – 3:30 pm Anam Cara Quiet Day with Bp Kay Goldsworthy at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale
- 23 Weekend Working Bee with Rod Burney at The Abbey, Raymond Island, painting Illawarra. Commences 5:00 pm Friday, concludes after lunch Sunday.
- 27–30 MU offers a holiday for families in need of respite. Contact the Rev'd Thelma Langshaw to nominate a family: 0428 458 367

October

- 2 2:00 pm Blessing of the animals at St John's, Port Albert
- 2 3:00 pm on the oval at The Abbey, Raymond Island: Blessing of the animals and pets
- 14 5:00 pm Friday – after lunch on Sunday at The Abbey, Raymond Island: A visual introduction to the Camino de Santiago walk, with the Rev'd John Baldock and team.
- 15 10:00 am – 3:00 pm: Order of St Luke Training Day at Christ Church, Drouin – details page 6
- 16 2:00 – 4:00 pm: Music Café at St Mary's Trafalgar
- 27 Bishop in Council meeting
- 29 10:00 am – 3:00 pm: Sustainability Festival: displays, demonstrations, stalls, products and food, info sharing, activities, crafts and games, for all the family. Details: 5156 6580

November

- 4 Friday evening – Saturday afternoon, Diocesan Retreat led by the Rev'd Ken Parker
- 20 2:00 pm 160th Celebrations at Christ Church, Tarraville: from 2:00 pm: exhibition of memorabilia with afternoon tea served throughout the afternoon in the historic Tarraville School House; 2:30 pm Civic Reception, Christ Church Tarraville; 5:00 pm Evensong with guest preacher the Right Reverend Kay Goldsworthy, Bishop of Gippsland, at Christ Church Tarraville



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