

The Gippsland Anglican

Volume 114, Number 2, March 2017

Published in Gippsland Diocese since 1904



Avon River, Stratford

Jan Down

The little church of Holy Trinity Stratford was filled and the mood joyful at the induction of the Rev'd David Perryman as Curate in Charge of the parish of Avon on Monday 6 February.

Avon has been without a priest for two years, and parishioners expressed their happiness that David was coming to minister among them, along with his wife Emma and young children Timothy and Elijah.

Clergy, family and friends came from across the diocese, including a contingent from the parish of Wonthaggi, where David has been a Youth Group Support Worker and Deacon Assistant.

Bp Kay Goldsworthy preached on the gospel reading from MARK 6: 45-56 where Jesus walks over the lake to join his disciples in their boat, then heals crowds of people on the lake shore.

Bp Kay spoke about the sense of urgency that runs through the gospel of Mark, with the word often translated as "immediately" being found about 40 times in the gospel. She noted how, when the boat came to shore and the people recognised Jesus, they rushed about the region to bring the sick to him to be healed.

"Immediately, people go and tell", Bp Kay noted. She said, "The good news of Jesus cannot be contained" and encouraged David "to have a great sense of urgency" about getting out into the "market places" of the parish and sharing the good news of Jesus.

Bp Kay also said that David, as a "millennial" – a person reaching adulthood in the early part of the 21st century – brings special gifts to the parish, including the children, whom she encouraged the parish to welcome.

Cr Darren McCubbin welcomed David and Emma on behalf of the Wellington Shire, while Father Peter Bickley, Dean of the Roman Catholic Cathedral in Sale, welcomed them on behalf of the other local churches and warmly invited David to join the Ministers' Association. The Very Rev'd Susanna Pain, Dean of the Anglican Cathedral in Sale, welcomed David to the Eastern Deanery, and encouraged him, as he begins this new role, to be himself.

Members of the Avon parish also warmly welcomed David and family. Denise Vranek expressed the parish's delight at David's acceptance of the appointment and his great hopes and plans for ministry in Avon; May Kyne offered flowers to Emma; and Jane Macqueen presented books for the children.



The Rev'd David Perryman and his wife Emma after the induction

Avon welcomes David Perryman

In responding, David thanked his home parish of Wonthaggi; those who had welcomed him to Avon; and Emma and his family for their support. He commented that he has come from places where ecumenical work has been strong, and that he looks forward to seeing more of this. David said "I am excited for what we can do as we take up this mission together".

David now begins a dual role as Curate in Charge of Avon (four days per week) and Bishop's Chaplain in Sale (two days per week).



L-R Sam Peters with baby Elijah Perryman, the Rev'd Graeme Peters, rector of Wonthaggi and the Rev'd David Perryman at supper after the induction service

Index

From the Bishop	2
Parish to Parish	2
New ways of being church	3
Around the diocese	4-7
Free wine, Sundays	4
Kids' Min: Maffra	8
Why I have refrained from telling others that I am a Christian	9
Reflection: Nikolai Blaskow, on Nietzsche	10
Editorial	10
Cathrine Muston on Ageing	11
Earth Care Card	11
Faith at Work: Julie and Colin Irving	12
Diocesan Calendar	12

What are you reading through Lent?

I hope this is a question that people are asking Anglicans across Gippsland. When asked I hope there are immediate and plentiful responses. Lent is a time of year when people might just enquire about your spiritual habits, about what you believe, about where you look when you want to go more deeply into the scriptures, or what reflection, prayer and action your wider reading leads to.



Bishop Kay Goldsworthy

There are several Lenten study materials easily available for use either individually or in groups. And it's not too late to start for this Lent. People I've been asking are reading things as diverse as *Dethroning Mammon* by Justin Welby, The Archbishop of Canterbury, *Lentwise: Spiritual Essentials for Real Life* by Paula Gooder, *Into the Desert* the Anglican Board of Mission 40 day Bible study for this year, and Rowan William's latest book *God With Us – The Meaning of the Cross and Resurrection Then and Now*.

A little closer to home the Rev'd Dr Jim Connelly's new book, *Mountain Boy* has just been published. *Mountain Boy* is for younger readers but I want to include it in the list of books you might include in your Lent reading. Here's why.

We Christians are fond of using words that we hope will

speak of new life, of hope, of transformation in our parishes and with those further afield who may care to listen. We're all aware of the great yearning people have to hear more than the same old platitudes and well-worn phrases, about our deepest hopes, our dreams, our fears and the longings we experience.

We want to hear words that connect to our experience. We need images and stories that we can relate to, and that help us make sense of who we are, of the world we inhabit, our relationships, the skin we live in and yes, even the possibility of God.

Mountain Boy is a story for and about young people. From his own store of experience as a native West Gippslander and skills gained working with young people over many years, Jim has woven the story of Brock. Brock is eleven years

old and lives with the physical constraints of cerebral palsy, the challenges of his parents' broken relationship and a yearning to dare to reach beyond the boundaries placed on him by others.

Brock's story invites us, both older and younger readers into the life of a child living with the decisions of the adults around him. Brock's story invites us to look more closely at the frailties and the fears of families as we meet his mother and her gentle care, and his father, a former serviceman who, as a soldier in Afghanistan, had not once faltered in his determination.

Brock's story also reaches into the memories many of us have of being left out, of being in group B. This is an experience which we know and can name no matter what our age. As a five year old once said to me, "I'm in the dummies group, everyone knows that."

Brock's story also reaches into the longing of being more than that which others define as our place. And for Brock it's in the shadow and on the precipice of Cannibal Mountain that the call to dare to find himself anew is brought to life.

In the Bible God is often present on mountains where new and astounding revelations are made to ordinary and very

human beings. Mountains in biblical literature are places where God and people meet. In *Mountain Boy* the promise of Emmanuel – God with us – is brought gently, quietly, dramatically and beautifully to life.

There's an image in this story that I found reminiscent of one of those biblical moments. 1 KINGS 19 tells the story of Elijah, running for his life and afraid. On a mountain he finds himself in the midst of stormy winds, of earthquake, and of fire and then what been variously translated as "a still small voice, a luminous silence, a thin place". A place in which something new comes to birth. A place of sunlight, warmth and grace.

In the company of kookaburras, flowering dogwood, the grey green of Australian bush, the rich earth colours of the Garfield landscape and some ferocious Gippsland weather, Brock dares to reach out to a new boundary, a far horizon, a transforming moment.

This story of loss, hope and new life reminds me of the ancient Easter song, "Be glad, let earth be glad, as glory floods her..."

Good reading,

(see also page 6,

Mountain Boy launch report)

The Gippsland Anglican

Member of Australasian Religious Press Association
Member of Community Newspapers Association of Victoria
Registered by Australia Post
Print Post Number 34352/00018

The *Gippsland Anglican* is the official newspaper of and is published by The Anglican Diocese of Gippsland, 453 Raymond Street, Sale, Victoria, 3850.
www.gippsanglican.org.au

Editor: Jan Down
Tel: 0407 614 661
Email: editor@gippsanglican.org.au
Contributions are due by 15th of the month prior to publication

Layout by Devine Design
Printed by Fairfax Media,
30-32 Grandlee Drive,
Wendouree, Victoria, 3355.

The editor reserves the right of final choice and format of material included in each issue. *The Gippsland Anglican* and the editor cannot necessarily verify any material used in this publication. Views contained in submitted material are those of contributors.

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

Parish to Parish: praying for each other

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

This year *TGA* introduces a diocesan prayer diary, with three parishes featured each month. Diocesan organisations will also be included. Each parish sends in its own profile and prayer needs.

BUNYIP (EPISCOPAL DISTRICT) WESTERN REGION

Locum Priest:
The Rev'd Ken Parker

We are a little parish with challenges. We love our beautiful church and are proud of our rich tradition of worship. We work hard to lift our profile in the community because we believe we offer something worthwhile.

We hope to establish a program of regular spirituality days. The first will be on Lady Day, 25 March.

Our parish hall is soon to be refurbished. This excites us and will enhance our ministry of hospitality.

Currently our finances look healthy, because the diocese supports our ministry. The challenge comes when that support concludes!

Our priest is with us two days a week – for Sunday worship and for our lively Wednesday eucharist, which is always followed by lunch.

CHURCHILL / BOOLARRA / YINNAR WESTERN REGION

Cooperating Churches in Churchill

Christ Church, Boolarra
Uniting Church, Yinnar
Holy Innocents, Yinnar South
Priest-in-charge: The Rev'd Brenda Burney

Our intentional focus over the last four years has been in better connecting with our community. Our relationship with the Churchill Neighbourhood Centre is growing, with church members

playing pivotal roles on the Community Garden Group and in the Community Café. We have a stall at the monthly Lion's Market and our monthly Coffee Connections group and Saturday Breakfast as well as Mother's Day "High Tea" and Father's Day "Brew For Blokes" give us a chance to build on new and existing relationships. Ministry to children is important to us with Junior and Senior Youth groups, school holiday programs, Easter and Christmas Club programs and the Blue Moose mission over 10 days in December/January. Brenda meets regularly with the local school and uni chaplains.

CORNER INLET SOUTHERN REGION

Christ Church, Foster
St Thomas, Toora
Union Church, Fish Creek
Transfiguration, Hedley

Sandy Point
Rector: The Rev'd Tim Fletcher

The parish has recently run two Alpha courses and has a healthy teenage ministry. There are two *mainly music* groups, at Fish Creek and Toora. Lately the parish has been seeing a greater impact in the town of Toora, particularly through a stronger connection with the local school and school chaplain. Congregation numbers are increasing at Foster.

The recent death of a younger member of the parish has been a very sad loss.

Prayer

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



The chapel and revegetation on Raymond Island

New ways of being church

Jan Down

Just as much of Gippsland's best scenery is to be found off the highway, down back country roads; so new formations of church in the diocese may be discovered off to the side – in cafés, pubs, halls, or beside a lake.

"New ways of being church" has been a continuing exploration and experiment in the Gippsland Anglican diocese for some years, with some ventures becoming established, others still at the experimental stage and some just beginning. While varied in form, there is usually an emphasis on active participation.

Mainly messy

The many successful *mainly music* groups around the diocese can become "church" for some young families. Parents who come because the program meets a need for the children sometimes begin to find something more: a community to belong to and faith in God ignited or rekindled.

The parish of Bass / Phillip Island has recently formed a committee to investigate new ways of being church. They are currently considering the feasibility of having "Messy Church" at St Philip's, Cowes. Messy Church, often held in a church hall for convenience, is another way, particularly for young families, of being and "doing" church, where the emphasis is on "doing" rather than passively listening and sitting still.

Breakfast church

On alternating Saturday mornings in Warragul, men and women take it in turns to enjoy breakfast in a café. What happens here is a long way from the traditional "men's breakfast" in a church hall, with a guest speaker and "the ladies" cooking in the kitchen. Attendees pay for their own meals and there is no speaker. Instead there is reflection on a Bible passage, much discussion and prayer.

Archdeacon Philip Muston, rector at Warragul, said that the café breakfasts give people the time to get together in a more relaxed way. He explained, "The men started meeting at first: we could talk about stuff that we couldn't in mixed groups – like sex and relationships as well as sport. The women got so jealous that they set up their own group, meeting at the same time. What they talk about I'm not privy to."

All ages at 123

Well-recognised in the diocese as a new expression of church is the 123 centre in Sale, the initiative of the Rev'd Rich and Julie Lanham. 123 is now running as a café five days a week, and is becoming a popular place for parents of young children to have a coffee and chat after playgroup. The space is set up for children to play, with low tables, rugs and toys on the floor.

In December last year, 123 held an Open Mic night for young people which was well attended. Rich Lanham said it was "a real hit" and there are plans to hold another similar event soon.

Rich also spoke about the success that 123 has had with a number of students who have been significantly disengaged with schools. At 123 they have found a place where they can do something practical, which has helped them to find a way back into education and life.

The volunteer base at 123 is made up of people from 15 years to over 70, some of whom have no connection with traditional church. There is no regular gathering for worship as yet. When the kitchen is fully kitted out, the Lanhams plan to offer a short course such as *Alpha* or *Christianity Explored*, where participants come each week to enjoy a meal and find out about the basics of Christianity in a relaxed setting.

Sacred space

For some people, the Abbey on Raymond Island is a sacred space where they come to talk, to rest, to reflect or pray.

Some come to work in the garden, others to stay in the motel units. Those who volunteer are not all traditional church goers. Abbey Priest, Archdeacon Edie Ashley, said that it was always the intention that The Abbey would be "a different way of being church". She explained that The Abbey is a community resource, but more than that, "It's the presence of the Kingdom in this community".

Accessibility

At St Mary's Mirboo North the flexible worship space allows for the modern church seating to be rearranged around small tables, and a "café church" service is conducted at 10.30 am twice a month. About 40% of those attending are children.

The Rector, Geoff Pittaway, said the café church was "designed to help children and families assimilate the Christian story and message into their own lives". He listed the five "pillars" of café church as praise, story (from the scriptures), prayer, activity (craft, games related to the theme) and food brought and shared.

St Mary's has also held

one ecumenically planned and provided service in the local pub, attended by 80 people (see *TGA* February 2016). The service was accessible to people in the community as well as churchgoers, and was well-advertised beforehand. Geoff said there are plans to hold another "church in the pub" this year.

Brick Club, a new ministry at St Mary's, offers support to families with children on the autism spectrum. This is held after school on Tuesdays, and caters for a wide range of needs, with a variety of activities offered. Geoff said that parents are very happy with the program.

Doubtless there are many other instances around the diocese of new forms of church being tried. They may be less visible than a prominent building on the main street, yet more accessible, especially to those who do not find traditional Anglican services helpful in finding or following Jesus.



Cafe church at St Mary's Mirboo North



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'.

Sing Alleluias for the Easter Season

Fay Magee

Planning ahead for your congregation's Easter music? Certainly the trap for Easter Day songs is to use last year's because they worked and with visitors to consider... But for the rest of the Easter season why not get adventurous!

To start with there are several "alleluias" in *Together in Song* which can be sung either as the Gospel acclamation or maybe as a sung response to the opening greeting. The Caribbean traditional song "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah" (720) is great fun, and can be sung unaccompanied as an expression of Easter spontaneity, with perhaps a tambourine or hand-drum. Another one from the Iona Community (701) has a similar mood and



can be sung with solo or small group cantor and harmonised response. The Taizé "Alleluia" (702) has the quiet strength of the minor key. With the Celtic "Alleluia" (257), the refrain can be used on its own.

Then there are lots of good songs/hymns we can explore. If there are children present "Big Kids, Little Kids" (719) is definitely a fun song. And once you've learnt the Easter version, remember to use the Christmas verse later in

the year. "Now the Green Blade Rises" (382) uses a French traditional melody which also works well with minimum accompaniment – hand drum, maybe treble recorder/flute. The lyrics for this song are quietly powerful, in the Dorian mode, but don't take it too slowly. "At the Dawning of Salvation" (392) is set to the easy-to-learn tune Nettleton and makes a good "sending-out" song.

If you are using online resources I hope you've found Resoundworship.org (UK). "Hallelujah, Christ is Risen" is a simple song which becomes a three-part round or alternatively, one group could stay with the first part and let the singing group take the other two parts. And remember you can learn many new hymns/songs on YouTube.

Sing for joy at Easter time!

Island Craft Market

Margaret Hancock
Bass / Phillip Island

According to the Parish Hall Diary, the monthly Island Craft Market at St. Philip's began on the second Saturday in July, 1997, when local craftsperson, Stephanie dal Castella, booked the Parish Hall for an "Arts and Crafts Fair". This must have been a great success, as it immediately became a second Saturday monthly event, run by a dedicated volunteer committee, now led by Monica Hirst and Jenny Hunt.

Initially, the St. Philip's congregation had no direct part in the Craft Market but in

2009 we were invited to take over the tea and coffee stall and to provide some sort of "take away" food, mainly for the stallholders.

Libby Sullivan and I took up this challenge, and immediately went on a learning curve – yes, of course we could make sandwiches, but could we wrap them up correctly? The answer was a loud "NO!" We didn't realise that bread came in umpteen different sizes, and that there is a specially sized grease proof paper to match! And we didn't understand the intricacies of using "Gladwrap" – which is surely one of the trickiest and most frustrating inventions of the twentieth century!

Well, experience is a great teacher! We soon discovered that, in cooler weather, soup was a welcome addition to our menu. And our patrons discovered that Libby is a very good cook, and an absolute star with interesting soups!

Soon after our activities began in the kitchen and servery, another enterprise started in the Emmaus Room, which is set up to operate quite independently of the kitchen – so, what about morning tea? What about Gwen Petersen's beautiful ginger fluff sponges – and Clive's scones – and Len's savoury muffins? And what about freshly brewed coffee and a selection of different teas? So began a very popular regular meeting place for stall holders and for visitors.



Craft stalls at St Philip's, Cowes

Free wine, Sundays

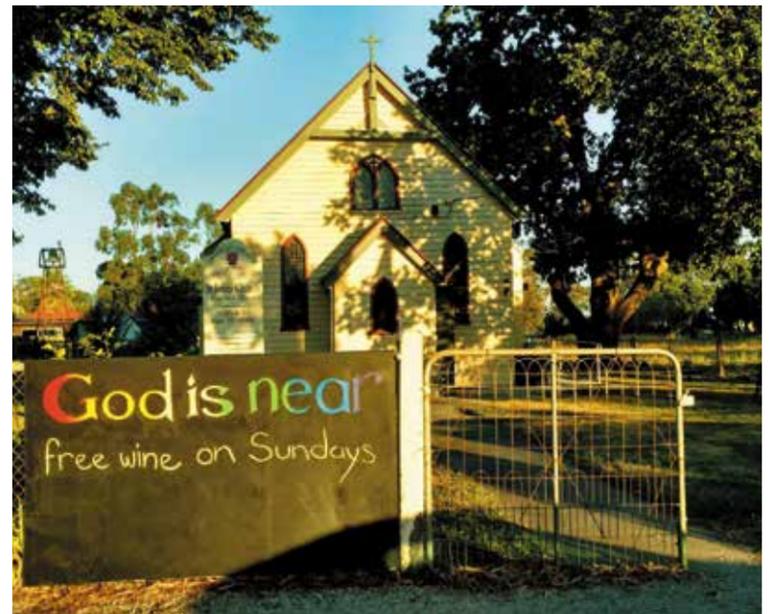
Chris McAleer
Nar Nar Goon

The 2017 season of the Folk and Acoustic Night kicked off on Friday the 16th January with a new seating arrangement inside the church and a new sign outside to welcome the musical aficionados with a reminder of the church's main purpose, that "God is near".

That same night, an intrepid local had scrawled under it in large letters, "Pub is closer"!

But being written with chalk, it had been smudged and looking messy, was mopped off.

It however inspired a response, "Free wine on Sundays", which brought a few chuckles from the local publican and some of the regulars!



A welcoming sign at St John's Nar Nar Goon



Folk and Acoustic Night at Nar Nar Goon



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

St James' first Community Breakfast

Traralgon

St James' Traralgon hosted their first Community Breakfast on Saturday 11 February. About thirty people attended the buffet style English Breakfast and listened to Russell Northe MLA for Morwell, address the proposed voluntary euthanasia legislation to be debated in the State Parliament in July this year, and the impact and ramifications the closure of the Hazelwood Power Station will have on the long term future of the Latrobe Valley.

Canon Jeff Richardson and his team of volunteers, including Cathrine Muston (Anglicare's Community Development Officer) offered an outstanding ministry of hospitality, and because of their efforts a number of people said they will be there for the next one in March!

Russell Northe explained that a government working group has released their findings on voluntary euthanasia which will be made public in the next month to two. A proposed bill for assisted or voluntary euthanasia is likely to be brought before



Russell North MLA and Canon Jeff Richardson at the community breakfast

both Houses in July. Russell suggested people should read the 400 page document to consider the broader issues around this matter.

Russell saw the closure of the Hazelwood Power Station as having a devastating impact within a number of sectors. The base-power that Hazelwood generates would no longer service Victoria, NSW, South Australia and Tasmania which means, he said, the likelihood of more power outages. While Hazelwood supplies twenty two percent of Victoria's

power, there is nothing planned to fill the gap and according to Russell Northe there is no plan to develop "clean" fossil fuel power plants.

He also stressed the impact Hazelwood's closure would have on over 1,000 workers directly and the many companies that service the power station indirectly; and he claimed there is nothing in the foreseeable future to replace Hazelwood with other forms of industry to at least provide employment for some of the retrenched workers.



Archdeacon Ted Gibson and his wife Annabel, and two of their sons, Mark and Tim (Michael is in Scotland).

60th anniversary of ordination: Ted Gibson

Ursula Plunkett Bairnsdale

Archdeacon Ted Gibson OAM celebrated the 60th Anniversary of his ordination at St John's Bairnsdale on 21 December 2016. 140 people, including members of the Uniting Church, were present at the weekly communion service. Canon Gordon Cooper and the Rev'd Jim Reeves are colleagues who were ordained on the same day as Ted many years later.

Archdeacon Ted was ordained at St Paul's Cathedral, Bunbury WA on a very hot morning in December 60 years ago, aged 22 years. His father, a butcher, had expected young Ted to follow him into the family business and it took him a long time to get over his disappointment.

During his years in WA, as well as ministering in parishes, Ted served as chaplain to a prison farm. He decided that he would like to do post-ordination training in hospital and prison chaplaincy.

He was married to Annabel by then and they were parents to their first son Tim.

There was no chaplaincy training in WA at that time. Ted, who had made friends in Gippsland while training at Ridley College, started to make enquiries and was offered Moe parish. The family relocated in 1965.

Ted's long and fruitful journey – his counselling, visits to homes and schools, hospitals and prisons, always being a good listener – has taken him to five parishes in Gippsland and two interstate. He served as Rector, here at St John's, for 10 years. He is now living in Bairnsdale in a busy retirement.

Ted spoke of Annabel who has been by his side for 57 years and the help he has received from her and their sons Tim, Mark and Michael.

When still at Ridley College Ted was given some good advice: "Read your Bible, say your Prayers and love your People".

Ted has followed this advice for 60 years.

As time goes by Bairnsdale to celebrate 150 years

Peter Down

There will be great celebrations centered on St John's Anglican Church Bairnsdale as we reflect on 150 years of resident ministry in Bairnsdale.

It will be a time to remember, a time to give thanks for all that is past, and all those who have been part of our history, and to give thanks to God for all his blessings.

It is also a time to look ahead to include what we have recently achieved and where it is taking us. We have *mainly music*, for preschool aged children, Messy Church, which caters for older children, and both of these programs have a strong emphasis on families.

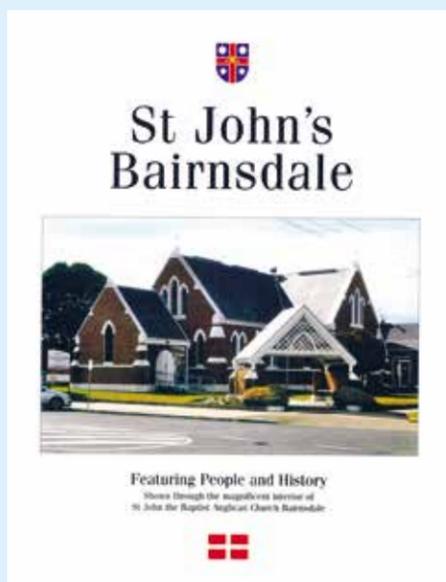
The celebrations commence on Saturday 29 April with Evensong at 6:00 pm, followed by a Parish Dinner.

A book recording the life of St John's, edited by Tim Gibson, will be launched at this function.

An updated book on St John's stained glass windows will also be available on the night for \$15, or from Archdeacon Ted Gibson (03) 5152 7823 or the church office on (03) 5152 3133.

The Sunday morning 8:15 am service on 30 April will be a said Eucharist, followed by light refreshments. Our main service at 10:00 am will be a Eucharist followed by a light lunch. We are pleased that Bishop Kay will be preaching and presiding at both of these services.

You are invited to join us at any, or all of these events. The cost of the dinner on Saturday night will be \$25 per head. If you are planning to attend, please contact the parish office 9:00 am – 12 noon week days on (03) 5152 3133.





SEMMENS FUNERALS
SERVICING GIPPSLAND
Col. Pat & Brad Semmens



Our Family Caring For Your Family Since 1979

Maffra 5147 1954
Sale 5144 1954
Heyfield 5148 3354

www.semmensfunerals.com.au
24 Hour Service

Member Of The Australian Funeral Directors Association



Celebrating Australia Day at St Mary's Morwell with the Rev'd David Head

Australia Day

Ned Kelly and Jesus

**Carolyn Raymond
Morwell**

What does Australia Day mean to you? We live in an amazing and beautiful country. We have greater freedom than most other countries in the world. Our population has come here from other countries right across the world, which gives us such opportunities to learn from other cultures.

As a nation we are coming to appreciate the long history and culture of our Aboriginal brothers and sisters. We value

inclusiveness and equality, but must continually fight to make sure those values translate into opportunity for all. There is so much to celebrate.

At St Mary's, when we celebrated Australia Day the church was decorated with many Australian flags, including our Aboriginal flag. Small Australian animals rested on the altar, the lectern, the prayer desk, the font and even the hatchway into the kitchen. Beautiful Aboriginal paintings were displayed around the church. The hymns reminded us of the magnificent, varied

and unique beauty of our land, a gift from our Creator. We sang to *Advance Australia Fair*, a joyful prayer that all may walk with God into the future of our country.

The theme of the sermon was Ned Kelly and Jesus! The Rev'd David Head spoke of two people we have made our heroes. This was a fascinating look at the similarities of their lives, the characteristics and values their lives revealed and which we seek to follow. As always, David made us think and look at ourselves.

Our last hymn was to the tune of *Waltzing Matilda*, with words written by David. The hymn spoke of our attitudes to those of us who are different. Our history of taking land from the Aborigines and then seeking, often violently, to control them. Then we have sought to turn away those who have come to our shores seeking asylum. The hymn ends, "help us Lord to open our hearts inclusively".

After the service we met at Immigration Park (what better place to celebrate Australia Day?) on the shores of Kernot Lake for a picnic, so celebrating our church, our community and our God-given country, Australia.

Jesus the forgiving victim:

"Listening for the Unheard Voice" –
A course for Lent at St Paul's Cathedral



Father James Alison, a Catholic theologian and priest, has been teaching this course for small groups for over twelve years. When a participant told him, "This is Christianity as I've never heard it before," Alison felt challenged to make the material more widely available.

You are invited into a journey of discovery. Along the way you will hear that unheard voice.

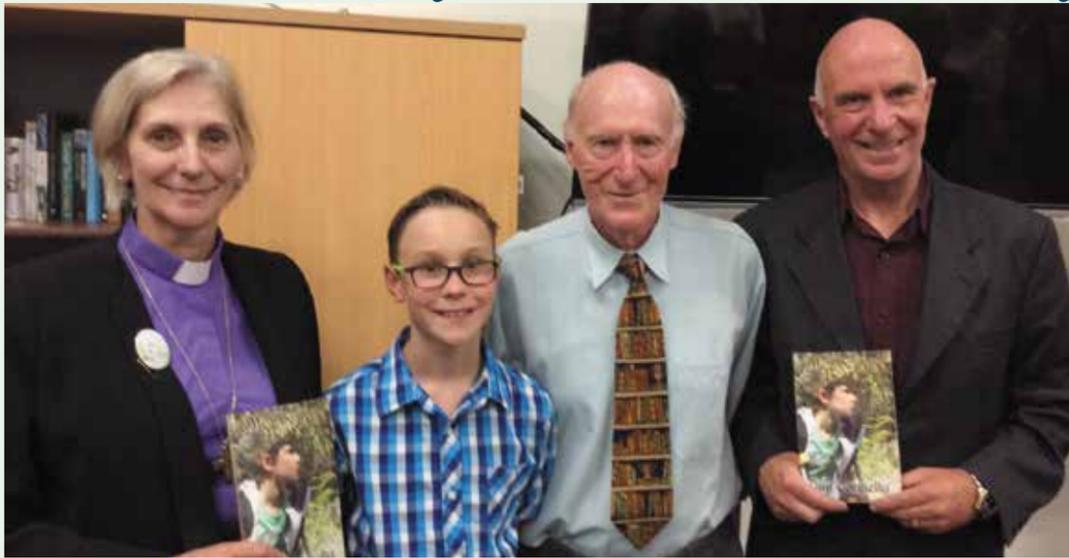
Part One is entitled "Starting human, staying human". This introduction to the Christian faith starts from the assumption that as we become more aware of dimensions of being human that we in fact know already, so the life of faith which God births within us will become richer and easier to explore and live.

The Rev'd Nikolai Blaskow will facilitate these DVD presentations by James Alison. Nikolai is currently a Doctoral candidate with Bangor University Wales with the Faculty of Philosophy and Religion, with a focus on the philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900) and the theorist René Girard (1923-2015) and the subject of "Resentment: towards a Christology without enemies".

You are warmly invited to join him on Monday nights throughout Lent: 6 March to 3 April, 7:30 – 9:00pm. For further information, phone the deanery office: 5144 2020.

See the calendar on page 12 for Cathedral service times for Lent and Easter.

Jim Connelly's "Mountain Boy" launched



Bishop Kay Goldsworthy, Luke West (the boy on the book cover), the Rev'd Dr Jim Connelly, Mark Biggs (launch host)

There was standing room only at the launch of Jim Connelly's latest book for children, *Mountain Boy*, at Drouin on Friday, 17 February.

In her address, Bishop Kay Goldsworthy said the themes of the book – courage in the face of disability; overcoming prejudice; affinity with landscape; bringing family together – were universal themes that could be taken to heart by people of all ages.

The book is available from Jim at: ajcon@dcsi.net.au, and costs \$12.00, with a discount for multiple copies. Half the proceeds are given to the John McIntyre Centre Fund at A'Beckett Park. Over \$600.00 has already been sent to the fund through sales of the book. Gippsland parishes will soon be approached with a view to supporting the book and the John McIntyre Centre Fund.

A review of *Mountain Boy* will appear in next month's TGA.

Thanksgiving for the ministry of women

Anglican Women Australian State Conference
Newcastle 5 – 8 June



Bishop Kay Goldsworthy will speak at the annual Newcastle Diocesan Anglican Women's service on Tuesday 6 June at Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle. The service this year will form part of the Anglican Women Australia's bi-annual State Conference.

The conference will be hosted by Anglican Women, Diocese of Newcastle, at Club Macquarie, 458 Lake Road, Argenton, a suburb of the city of Lake Macquarie, near Newcastle, NSW. The theme of the conference is "Thanksgiving for the ministry of women".

For more information, see anglicanwomennewcastle.org.au

Stephen Baggs Funeral Directors

Talk to us about our at-need, pre-paid or pre-arranged funeral services.

613 MAIN STREET BAIRNSDALE
Call 24 hours on 5153 2150 or visit us at www.stephenbaggs.com.au

Fooze ball and faith sharing

Denise Hyland, team leader, reports on Churchill's Blue Moose Mission

From December 29 – January 7, "Blue Moose" was run each evening in the Churchill Community Hall from 8:00 pm – 1:00 pm. "Blue Moose" is a drop-in centre for the young people of the town, but people of all ages came and had a great time.

This is the second year that Blue Moose has run. The team this year was made up of thirteen young people from various churches in Melbourne as well as three Queenslanders who came down especially for Blue Moose. It was organised by Youth Dimension, an inter-church organisation based in the suburbs of Melbourne, in conjunction with the Churchill Co-operating Church.

On the first day in town, the team ran a sausage sizzle at Woolworths to advertise Blue Moose. Although the team were intending it to be a free barbecue for the community, they were overwhelmed by the generosity and friendliness of the community.

Each night around 20 locals joined the team for music,

chats, games of table-tennis, fooze ball, UNO and snacks. The evening also included a couple of special segments, featuring either some fun interactive games, showing of a short DVD, or different team members sharing about their life journey and relationship with God. The team were also happy to chat with locals about life and faith in a friendly and relaxed environment. During the day, team members enjoyed hanging out with some of the locals informally.

A highlight of the time was New Year's Eve with Blue Moose staying open till 12.30 for the team and locals to see in the New Year together – it was a fun time, leading up to midnight with Karaoke (including discovering some great voices amongst the locals!) and then having a Dance Party.

The team also ran a Kids' Club at the Co-operating Church on two consecutive days. The program included songs, crafts, games, puppets and snacks. It was a enjoyable time both for the leaders and the children who came.

During their time in Churchill, the team was kindly accommodated in the Co-operating Church building and had showers at the Churchill Football Club, Gaskin Park.

Many thanks to the Rev'd Brenda Burney, minister of the Co-operating church, for her hard work and invaluable assistance to the Blue Moose team, and also to the broader church community who helped the team in many different ways. Thank you too to Simon Clark from Churchill Council for his support and assistance both in the lead-up and during Blue Moose. Liz and Richard Henshaw and Geoff and Cathie Curwood from Churchill cooked for the Blue Moose team and provided amazing and delicious meals for a very hungry crew, which was greatly appreciated.

The Blue Moose team members were so thankful for the friendliness and warmth of the Churchill Community as a whole and take away some great memories of time in the town. They hope to be back next year.



The Blue Moose Mission Team at Churchill



Trafalgar's opportunity shop is looking good!

St Mary's op shop receives a facelift

Deirdre Crawley – Trafalgar

During the summer break, every advantage was taken to give our op shop some "tender loving care". It is a valuable ministry to our community, and it was decided to paint the interior.

In the course of the task, there was a stock clearance, furniture was moved, and shelving painted and replaced. With the ceiling and walls painted in lighter hues, and a contrasting feature wall, the staff and clients alike feel refreshed and uplifted when visiting this hub of activity. As a result of the furniture being rearranged, it is like a totally new space.

The area behind the counter has been changed with removal of the partition, and new noticeboards allow for display. With a new carpet laid and removal of the old vents along the west wall before the painting, we can look forward to a much warmer space during winter.

Grateful thanks are due to the team who so willingly prepared for this work, and the area for the scaffolding, required for the high ceiling. Also to Jill Mc Court who co-ordinated the project. A task well done.

Order of St Luke Open Day at Allansfield

An Open Day will be held at Allansfield, Reid St, Rhyll, Phillip Island, on Saturday March 25th, from 10:00 am. Allansfield is the retreat house managed by the Order of St Luke the Physician. The day will be led by Rev'd Lloyd George, the OSL Chaplain for Victoria.

There will be fellowship and sharing in the morning and the day will conclude at about 3:00 pm following a healing service.



All interested people are welcome to come for all (or part) of the day. Tea and coffee will be provided but visitors are asked to provide their own lunches.

The Order of St Luke is now preparing to hold its triennial conference in Melbourne in October. More information will soon be provided, but the keynote speakers will be Bishop John Harrower and Dr Grant Bickerton.



**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
453 Raymond Street, Sale, Victoria
PO Box 928, Sale, 3853
Telephone 03 5144 2044
Fax 03 5144 7183
Email registrar@gippsanglican.org.au

Meeting people where they are at

**Lynette Teese
Maffra**

It is remarkable how closely a hockey kit resembles “the armour of God”; or the making of a fruit cake explains so much about the kind of people God wants us to be.

With only a small number of children in church each week, children’s ministry at St John’s in Maffra has been integrated into the 9:30am service each Sunday. Rector Janet Wallis is intentional in presenting a children’s talk prior to her sermon, explaining one or other of the morning’s Bible readings. The “not so young” in the congregation listen just as intently as the children do!

For a number of years the 4th Sunday at 9.30am has been dubbed the All Age Family Worship Service, a less formal service with an interactive feel. Based on the Bible Readings of the day a theme is identified, sometimes “props” used, an acting out of the Bible passage or paper activities to be completed by all.

At a recent service, the church seating was rearranged and a long table set down the middle, party food and party games were included and there

was a practical acting out of LUKE 14.7-11, all planned and put together with the help of Lily and Harri (whose mum Elizabeth plays piano during the 9:30 am service). Harri had produced his own YouTube clip using Lego bricks and Lego people on the theme of random acts of kindness, which we watched during the service.

Mainly music has been operating in Maffra since 2009 and is a vibrant and thriving ministry with the church hall full to bursting most Thursday’s during term time. There is a dedicated team of six leaders, a willing band of grannies holding young babies while parents interact with their older children, and a delicious morning tea supplied by a roster of helpers follows the music session. In line with *mainly music* expectations, the morning tea is always home baked and is eagerly greeted by the mums, dads, grandparents and other adults who attend with the children.

We didn’t always understand the necessity of the home baked requirement but we do now; to see the positive effect the

provision of a home cooked cake or slice has on those present is unmistakable. It says “You are special; on this day, here is something really nice just for you – you are worth it”. We see friendships develop, we see conversations happening, and we see connections being made; *mainly music* is an extremely worthwhile ministry.

The question is sometimes asked about the number of families who cross over into church attendance which is an unfortunate way of measuring its success. For the families who

“...For the families who attend, *mainly music* is church for now...”

attend, *mainly music* is church for now; we sing God songs, we say grace before we have morning tea, we acknowledge the presence of the church people, and of course we meet on church grounds. Small beginnings and open doors!

Messy Church is a new ministry in Maffra with the plan to operate fortnightly during term time. The children come from school, hopefully with their families to follow, there are snacks, activities, songs, a short time in the church itself, and a Bible story followed by a shared meal before going home. We have had a positive start so far.



Brian Teese and Dave Gover demonstrate the “Armour of God” (also good for stopping approaching hockey balls travelling at 180 km/hr although this was not tested in church)

Our Christmas Crib Service is well attended by young and old. Each year we spread out the contents of several large suitcases full of nativity costumes: angels, shepherds, wise men, Mary and Joseph, a few sheep and a lone donkey. Anyone who wishes to dress up is encouraged, young and old, and when the time comes we have a “real” baby playing the role of Baby Jesus. The Christmas message is clear as we welcome once again the birth of Christ and wish all families a joyous Christmas Day.

**RED CREPE
STAGE
CURTAINS**
are available
from St.Thomas’
Bunyip.

Any enquires
please ring
5629 5295
for more details

Life FM
Gippsland
103.9

Broadcasting Christian Music
24 hours a day 7 days a week.

Uplifting, encouraging and empowering
...that’s our aim

204 Raymond Street, Sale, Vic., 3850
Telephone: 03 5143 0355
Fax: 03 5143 0388
Feedback: 03 5143 0357
www.lifefm.com.au

Life changing radio..... 103.9



The party in church: an acting out of Luke 14: 7-11 – guests at a wedding banquet

Why I have refrained from telling others that I am a “Christian”

Jia Pan Xiao

I am currently serving Jesus on a short term mission. In this foreign land, I have shared my testimony, I have prayed for people, and have even proclaimed the Gospel. However, I have not told anyone that I am a “Christian”.

No, I do not fear persecution and I am definitely not ashamed of calling myself a “Christian”. I refrain from using the word because I realise that in this local community the word “Christian” is often associated with negative stereotypes.

“Christian” – what do you think it means?

Before I called Jesus my saviour, I perceived all “Christians” to be “church-goers that prayed to a God”. Yes, I know – this was a very rudimentary definition. Once I became a “Christian” myself, I started to interpret the word differently.

Nowadays, my definition of the word is much more sophisticated.

However, during this mission trip, I quickly learnt that my interpretation, or a Western-centric interpretation of the word, was very different to the local community’s interpretation.

As Muslims, the local people believed that “Christians” are individuals who:

- drink alcohol and consume pork;
- dress inappropriately and;
- are lackadaisical in their obedience to God.

Accordingly, in this community, the word “Christian” is associated with negative stereotypes, and the use of the word is a hindrance to the proclamation of the Gospel.

“Becoming the local people to win the local people”

In order to remove negative stereotypes, and to enable opportunities for sharing the Gospel, the local missionaries are constantly applying, and reflecting on, 1 CORINTHIANS 9: 19 – 23. They implored that I do the same.

In these verses, Paul informs us that he became a Jew to win the Jews. He subjected himself to the law to win those under the law. He even became weak to win those who are weak.

And all of this was done for the sake of the gospel.

In my present context, “becoming like the local people” involves:

- consistently wearing pants despite the ridiculous heat;
- limiting the things that I eat, and how I eat;
- ensuring that the words I speak are edifying;
- living in local housing and not the hotel, and finally;
- living a life that is in total obedience to my God.

It is obvious that living in this manner has really challenged the local people.

They have asked me: “Are you a Muslim?” To which I respond: “No”. Pursuant to my Chinese ethnicity, they often ask: “Then are you Buddhist?” To which I respond: “No. In fact, I am a follower of Jesus Christ”.

The next remark will often commence with: “But aren’t all Christians...”

Keeping my identity while I am away

The local people have quickly learnt that I believe in the “Christian” God, yet, they observe that my current lifestyle and mannerisms are disparate from what they believe to be “Christian”.

This has helped generate amazing conversations that remove the negative stereotypes associated with Christianity.

As a short-term visitor, my goal isn’t necessarily to convert every single individual into a follower of Jesus Christ. Four weeks is just not enough time.

However, helping to remove some of the negative stereotypes associated with being a “Christian”, and thereby, allowing the local missionaries to do their job, is something that I can definitely help out with.

This article was first published in Christian Today, January 2017 by Press Service International and is reprinted with permission. Jia Pan Xiao is a PSI columnist.

Jia Pan Xiao has recently completed a Juris Doctor at the University of New South Wales. In his spare time, he watches American sports, drinks coffee and devours chocolate mud-cake. He attends GracePoint Chinese Presbyterian Church and will commence working as a lawyer in early 2017.

Free Lenten study book available from AOA

This year the Anglican Overseas Aid Lenten reflection is themed *Giving Up, Taking Up*. People often talk of “giving something up for Lent”, which is a part of its rich tradition of self-sacrifice and doing without. While there are many aspects of Christian discipleship that do involve a turning away or self-denial, our discipleship may also require a “turning to” or a “taking up”.

The booklet gives suggestions about aspects for “giving up” and “taking up” in different

areas of our Christian walk. Lent is a good time to consider these areas, although our discipleship continues all year.

Suitable for personal reflection, small group study guide, or whole of church resource, this booklet is free to any person or church that requests them.

Anglican Overseas Aid is also translating the booklet into Mandarin Chinese.

Order your copies of the booklets from Anglican Overseas Aid.

Please contact us on: 1800 249 880 or email: aoa@anglicanoverseasaid.org.au



Barry & Annette Lett
FUNERAL DIRECTORS
 We offer care, compassion and service with dignity, for the people of Gippsland
 Caring and personal 24-hour service
 Chapel facilities available.
67 Macarthur Street, Sale
Phone 5143 1232
www.lettsfunerals.com.au
 Member Australian Funeral Directors Association

New website for The Abbey



Lakeshore at The Abbey on Raymond Island – one of many photos on the new website. See them all at: www.theabbey.org.au

Like Jesus, Nietzsche affirmed life

Nikolai Blaskow

The will to truth” and the “will to power” summarise the life-long struggle for meaning and significance of one of the most influential, misunderstood and so – misinterpreted, and misrepresented thinkers in the history of philosophy.

It is Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900) who, in the context of an increasingly violent and chaotic world very similar to our own in the 21st century, mounted a ferocious campaign against those who would seek to promote meaninglessness (nihilism) and the abuse of power in all its forms.

Instead, like Jesus, he upholds the simple principle of affirming and honouring life in all its fullness and in all its expressions: he aimed in his intellectual endeavours to be someone who says “yes” to life. This is not the accepted reading of Nietzsche’s thinking, I know. Many dismiss him as a God-killer and a Christ-denier.

The reality is very different. The truth is, that he is more identified with the Jesus of the *Evangel*, as opposed to *that kind Christ* (the Christ of King Wilhelm II of Germany, who with the blessing of the Lutheran Church sent millions of young German men to their deaths on the Western Front with “Gott mit uns” “God with us” emblazoned on their belt buckles and their helmets) – and so Nietzsche was against *that kind of God*.

No – it was *this* Jesus of the *Evangel*’s legacy to humankind, says Nietzsche, in which he believes:

...his behavior before the judges... before the accusers and all kinds of slander and scorn – his behavior on the cross. He does not resist, he does not defend his right, he takes

no step to ward off the worst; on the contrary, he provokes it. And he begs, he suffers, he loves with those, in those who do him evil. Not to resist, not to be angry, not to hold responsible but to resist not even the evil one – to love him.

(*Der Antichrist*, 35. November 26, 1888)

Thus for Nietzsche “the will to truth” speaks directly to the reality of the human condition where the majority seem to be happy with the comfort of a certainty whose assumptions (even when they are false, and unfair) are never questioned because to do so is just too inconvenient and untimely for them. To use a metaphor drawn from the film trilogy *The Matrix* as an example to explain Nietzsche’s nuanced meaning here: people prefer to take the “blue pill” of denial and repression and live in unreality and make-believe, than take the “red pill” of the stark reality in which they find themselves: a broken, oppressive, exploitative and violent world with which we are all too often complicit.

Here’s where the “will to power” comes into the equation. This is Nietzsche’s answer to falsehood and oppression and those who are life deniers and death dealers: we don’t just have to lie under other people’s toxic behavior – we are called to overcome and to become something better – to flourish, tapping into a life force that actively incites change, and brings into existence beautiful “new and powerful births”, an attitude of mind that even in the midst of the bitterness of defeat, be it an illness, a failed marriage, and even more terrible – circumstances not of our own making, where we are able to say as “we look at each other and gaze on the green meadow over which the cool evening [is] running just then” able to say in the teeth of it all,



The Rev'd Nikolai Blaskow

“life was never dearer to me than all my wisdom ever was.”

Jesus himself a great, “Yes-sayer” whom Nietzsche admired and respected, is equally as encouraging – he says: “Be of good cheer – I have overcome the world”, the inference being, that we can too.

The Rev'd Nikolai Blaskow is a doctoral candidate with Bangor University, Wales UK; his topic: Ressentiment (resentment) Friedrich Nietzsche contra René Girard: toward a Christology without enemies.

EDITORIAL

Security

The closure of the Hazelwood power station this month is an historic moment that should not go unmarked. It is a time to give thanks for decades of reliable power. For those whose livelihoods it has sustained, it may be a sad and worrying time.

It is also the beginning of the end of coal powered electricity generation in Victoria, as other ageing plants reach the end of their lifespans. It is to be hoped it may then also mark the beginning of a healthier era for Latrobe Valley residents who will not have to live with coal-related illnesses and for all of us who will stand to benefit less directly.

There are three closely linked issues associated with the closures and all of them have to do with security: energy security; employment security; and preserving the safest climate still possible for current and future generations.

In broad terms, renewable energy is an important part of the solution to all three of these issues. What is required is bipartisan policy so that industry can have the certainty it needs in order to invest in new technology.

Obviously not every worker from the Latrobe Valley who has lost a job due to Hazelwood closing will find new employment in the renewable energy sector, and even those who do are not all going to find jobs immediately. The jobs are not there yet. Businesses and organisations that are working to create them urgently need more support.

However, looking at the question more widely, jobs in renewable energy are growing. According to modelling by Ernst and Young, “50% renewable electricity by 2030 would create more than 28,000 jobs nation-wide” (Climatecouncil.org. au 2/2/17).

Climate change threatens the lives and livelihoods of people all over the world. It is a threat that is hard to grasp: while moving slowly, it requires us to act quickly and forcefully if we are to have enough impact.

According to a recent scientific report, “We can still keep global warming below 2 degrees largely thanks to increasing use of clean energy, a global decline in coal use, improvements in energy efficiency, and a consequent stalling of emissions from fossil fuels over the past three years” (australiangeographic.com.au 31/1/2017). Renewable energy is the only way to go.

Renewables can supply baseload power as well as managing peaks in demand, as has been shown in the *Zero Carbon Australia Stationary Energy Plan* (bze.org.au). The world is turning away from fossil fuels. Security means investing in renewables, which are now becoming cheaper to build than coal plants.

Christians have a different perspective – a secure base from which to approach the challenges and opportunities in front of us. Our security is in the God who created this world, who raised Jesus Christ from the dead and who is always present with us. So we can speak out all the more strongly on the need for investment in the Latrobe Valley that will supply secure jobs, secure power and a safer climate.

ABC Radio National’s Religion Programs

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

The Rhythm Divine

Geoff Wood

Sunday 5:30 am – repeated: Sunday 9:30 pm

For more details: abc.net.au

Ageing

Cathrine Muston, Community Development Officer for Anglicare, reflects on what really matters as we age.

When I was One,
I had just begun.
When I was Two,
I was nearly new.
When I was Three
I was hardly me.
When I was Four,
I was not much more.
When I was Five,
I was just alive,
But now I am Six,
I'm as clever as clever,
So I think I'll be six now
for ever and ever.

(Now We are Six,
A.A. Milne, 1927)

Alas, A A Milne's naïve and optimistic poem is not based in reality and we find ourselves wondering how we got to 50, 60, 70 and beyond and we don't always feel too "clever"!

On the one hand, we are the privileged generations in our capacity to achieve such life expectancy, but on the other, the complexities of living longer are requiring new thinking and new ways of being. Living longer means that our superannuation, our health and our relationships needs to last longer. This is both a wonderful opportunity (who doesn't aim for a diamond anniversary?!), but also a challenge (pension cuts, health cuts).

Between now and 2050, it is expected that the world's population over 60 will more than double. So how do we approach ageing in this new world?

In many ways, we may like to deny reality as the poem suggests. We can put our heads in the sand and pretend



that we are still young, that there will be plenty of time in the future for the things that matter to us. In other ways we can recognise that, as the writer of Ecclesiastes implies, the day of our birth clogged us with material things and that the day of our death will bring with it true liberty.

In reality that "unclogging" of our lives at death, often means leaving a mountain of "stuff" for our kids and loved ones to sort through. This can lead to all sorts of wonderful discoveries – like love letters or a forgotten photograph – along with hours and hours of trips to the tip and the op shop. This would seem to be a fulfilment of the refrain from Ecclesiastes that "Once again I saw that nothing on earth makes sense. For example, some people don't have friends or family. But they are never satisfied with what they own, and they never stop working to get more. They should ask themselves, 'Why am I always working to have more? Who will get what I leave behind?' What a senseless and miserable life!" (ECCLESIASTES 4:7-8 CEV).

What do we do with a lifetime of accumulated stuff? What do we do with things when we need them no more?

Our family has recently lost a loved, elderly member and the sifting and sorting of his lifetime of goods and belongings was cause for contemplation: on what our legacy is and of how little importance others may place on our own sentimental memories. The carefully collected souvenirs of a lifetime are easily dispensed with by those for whom they have no meaning. There were all sorts of knick knacks and pieces of paper, books, and paintings that nobody really wanted. In the end, even he didn't want them either. That his life was full also of people who witnessed to his faithfulness in service and his care for people gave no rise to clutter or unclogging. It was the witness to a life well lived in service of God's Kingdom.

If the second half of life is a stripping away as Jung suggests, then surely it is important that we focus our energies on the intangible things: our ability to love, our integrity, our trustworthiness; and disentangle ourselves from the material stuff that clogs our houses and our sheds. The accumulation of goods is not going to prepare us for an eternity with God. But a decluttering of "stuff" and a focus on the people we encounter will provide us with riches and a "cleverness" that our six year old selves could never have imagined.

EARTH CARE CARD

- Tips and inspiration for churches and households



27 Enter your church for a Five Leaf Eco Award

One inspiring and organised way for churches – rather than just individual Christians – to live out their calling to care for God's earth is to enter the Five Leaf Eco Awards scheme. This is a very impressive Australian ecumenical environmental change program specifically designed for churches and religious organisations.

The awards cover five areas: buildings; worship; congregation; outreach; and community leadership. There are criteria for each award and the website provides many resources. Anglican churches in Western Australia and New South Wales have received awards. Perhaps a Gippsland church will be the first Anglican church in Victoria to qualify? See fiveleafecoawards.org and try the survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/2NCKCYY



St Luke's Maylands, WA, is presented with two awards by Five Leaf Eco-Awards founder Jessica Morthorpe (photo reprinted with permission)

Handley & Anderson

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Servicing South Gippsland & Phillip Island

Scott & Sharon Anderson

With care & dignity we serve
South Gippsland and Phillip Island

Main Office:

WONTHAGGI/INVERLOCH (03) 5672 1074

176-178 Graham Street, Wonthaggi, 3995

Fax: (03) 5672 1747

email: randm33@bigpond.net.au

PHILLIP ISLAND

(03) 5952 5171

15 Warley Avenue, Cowes, 3922 (by appointment only)

Pre-paid & pre-arranged funeral plans available.

CARING & PERSONAL 24 HOUR SERVICE

www.handleyandandersonfunerals.com.au

MEMBER OF AUSTRALIAN FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

Latrobe Valley Funeral Services

- Qualified, experienced and caring staff
- Modern chapels
- Refreshments and catering facilities available
- Secure, guaranteed, pre-paid and pre-arranged funeral plans
- Over 70 years of service to the Latrobe Valley

MOE 5126 1111
MORWELL 5134 4937
TRARALGON 5174 2258

Owned and operated by Paul and Katrina McInnes
Proud member of the Australian Funeral Directors Association and the Australian and British Institutes of Embalming

PAUL McINNES
Director

JOHN GALBRAITH
Consultant

MARK RIDDLE
Consultant

DAVID HASTIE
Consultant

Jan Down

Julie and Colin Irving

Financial planner, aged care volunteer, Sale

When Julie Irving was studying, she made a promise to God that if she could be given the strength and ability to complete a degree, she would use her skills within the church.

Julie was 35 when she started her university course. She came from a family where the boys were sent to the Grammar School while the girls went to the high school, and for a long time she felt resentful. However, after reading Anthony Robbins' *Unleash the Power Within* she realised that she needed to stop blaming others for her missed educational opportunities, and take responsibility for herself. She and her sister were in fact the only ones in the family to obtain degrees.

Julie is now one of the partners in a financial planning firm in Sale. Julie's job is to "organise the complexities of people's financial lives and give them strategies to help them achieve their aspirations" – work which she clearly finds very satisfying. This satisfaction comes from "knowing that I've improved the financial outcomes for my clients; they're achieving goals they never would have dreamed of". She also likes playing with figures and filling out forms – not everyone's cup of tea!

On a typical day Julie may be helping a client to work out what car they can afford to buy, or how much they should be contributing to their superannuation fund. As a Centrelink Specialist, Julie advises people about their entitlements and helps them meet their Centrelink reporting requirements.

Centrelink is a source of increasing frustration. Julie says "I find the Government's inadequate resourcing of Centrelink very difficult and it is getting worse every year".

Julie feels lucky to be working in a firm that prioritises ethical considerations, the community and employee health and well-being. When it comes to advising clients on Centrelink benefits or minimising tax, Julie says "only strategies sanctioned by the ATO and Centrelink are recommended".



Julie and Colin Irving

Julie is also an aged care advisor, helping families to work out the best aged care plan for a family member. She says that yes, the government does provide facilities for people with no assets, living entirely on the pension, though the facility may require up to 85% of their pension, and there can be a long wait for a place, unless there is an urgent medical need.

Julie comments, "I've always liked the elderly; they're great role models and their stories are interesting; it's a section of the population I like to hang with".

Colin also works with elderly people volunteering two days a week at two aged care facilities in Sale: Ashleigh House Elderly Citizens Village and Opal Specialist Aged Care home. Colin takes Ashleigh House residents out in the bus, accompanied by a carer, to various activities such as fishing expeditions, museums and the RSL for a meal, music program or the pokies. He says that being fully retired gives him the opportunity to

do this work and he is glad to be occupied.

Colin also cooks the meals at home and works in the couple's extensive vegetable garden. He runs the barbecue, a fundraiser for the cathedral, at the Sale Makers' Market each month, with proceeds put towards improvements to the cathedral kitchen.

Both Colin and Julie see their work as serving God. Julie says "I feel like I'm doing God's work. I feel like an advocate for people who don't have one". She explains that many people do not discuss their finances with family and have no-one they can confide in outside the family. Her faith in God makes a big difference, Julie says. "I treat people the way I'd want to be treated". I make sure they receive value-for-money services and build their trust gradually.

Colin hopes that one day if he's in aged care, someone will want to visit him. He says that he loves "being with the oldies, listening and talking with them, telling stories".

With both Julie and Colin also being members of the parish council, their lives of service are very full.

Diocesan calendar

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

March

Mondays to Thursdays in Lent 5:15 pm – 5:45 pm, Breathing Space: reflection, silence and prayer, St Paul's Cathedral, Sale, using ABM "Into the desert". See also page 6

- 4 9:00 am – 1:00 pm St Paul's Men's Breakfast Group "Big Garage Sale", Delbridge Hall, next to the Cathedral, Sale – with jumping castle, barbeque and coffee stall. Funds raised will go to the Cathedral
- 12 7:30 pm Tenebrae Service, St Paul's Cathedral, Sale
- 18 9:30 am – 3:30 pm Anam Cara Community Quiet Day – Aspects of Prayer. Inquiries: Jane 0411 316 346
- 24 10:30 am for 11:00 am service, MU Gippsland Lady Day, St Paul's Cathedral, Sale. Book sale, BYO lunch. Afternoon speakers: Peter and Margaret Down on the "Hope" project in Bairnsdale
- 25 10:00 am – 3:00 pm Open Day at OSL Retreat, Allansfield, Reid St Rhyll, Phillip Island
- 25 10:30 am – 2:30 pm, St Thomas' Bunyip Quiet Day on Mary: The Feast of the Annunciation. Speaker: the Rev'd Dr Dean Spalding. Bring lunch to share, offering invited.
- 26 4:00 pm Country and Western Concert on the Green at St. Thomas' Bunyip, with Laurie Malcolm and Ian Chatfield, entertainers – a return of these lively performers. Refreshments, small cost
- 31 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm Safe Church Awareness Refresher Course, St John's Anglican Church, Bairnsdale

April

- 1 9:30 am – 4:00 pm Safe Church Awareness Workshop (full) St John's Bairnsdale
- 9 8:00 am and 10:00 am Palm Sunday services at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale
- 29-30 Bairnsdale 150th, see page 5

Holy Week Services at St Paul's Cathedral:

- 11 11:00 am Renewal of Vows
- 13 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service
- 14 9:00 am Good Friday Service
- 14 3:00 pm Stations of the Cross
- 15 8:00 pm The Vigil
- 16 8:00 am and 10:00 am Easter Sunday

May

- 5 – 7 Creative Spirit Festival, Parish Hall, St Philip's, Cowes, Phillip Island. Details: anglicanparishbassphillipisland.com
- 19 – 21 Gippsland Synod, Bairnsdale
- 28 5:00 pm Affinity Collective Afternoon Concert, St Paul's Cathedral, Sale, followed by meet the artist and refreshments. Music of Beethoven, Dohnányi. Guest pianist, Alex Waite. Tickets at Gippsland Music & Sound 51447860: \$20 Family \$40 with concessions available.