

The Gippsland Anglican

Volume 114, Number 6, July 2017

Published in Gippsland Diocese since 1904

Photo: Christine Morris



Dean Susanna Pain with Timothy Perryman; Bishop Kay Goldsworthy; Elijah, Emma and David Perryman; Archdeacon Philip Muston

David Perryman ordained priest

Jan Down

The Rev'd David Perryman was ordained Priest in the Church of God by Bishop Kay Goldsworthy at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale, on Saturday 10 June.

David said afterwards, "Words can't describe the feeling of having the bishop's hands on my head, while surrounded by friends, and being set aside for ministry" and he looks forward to being able to share this experience with the next person coming through for ordination.

The cathedral was close to capacity, with clergy coming from across the diocese, people from David's former parish of Wonthaggi and from Avon where he has been Curate-in-Charge since March this year, as well as many family and friends.

Dean Susanna Pain began the service with an acknowledgment of the land of the Gunai-Kurnai people and welcomed everyone to the cathedral. The preacher was the Rev'd Lyndon Phillips, who led David on retreat at the



Timothy Perryman stealing the show at lunch after the service

Abbey, Raymond Island, for the three days leading up to the ordination. Lyndon, speaking about the Road to Emmaus story which she and David had studied on the retreat, said "Jesus is our companion on the way, but we don't always recognize him".

David, who was a store manager at KFC before going into the ministry, said he is "loving every minute" of ministry at Stratford, in the parish of Avon, adding that at times it is "busier than KFC on a Friday night drive-thru".

At Easter this year, the parish started a Sunday School and they now have a Bible Study getting underway.

A major annual event in the community at Stratford is the Shakespeare Festival in April.

This year the church held a 1662 Evensong as part of the festival, and David invited the Rev'd Nikolai Blaskow (who has produced Shakespeare's *MacBeth*) to preach. David, who led the ecumenical service, says "it took a lot of practice to get the 1662 language down pat". There were about 75 people in the little church, including some from the wider community, the Stratford Singers who performed, and people from other churches.

David expressed delight in the spirit of the parish. He said people are willing to try new things, are generous and mission-focused, and it is "great to be able to take the gospel out in different forms".

As well as ministering in Avon, David is the Bishop's Chaplain, working in the Registry Office in Sale two days a week. He said "We are very, very lucky to have such a good bishop", drawing a contrast with profit-focused bosses. He added that the Registry staff are "awesome – a good crew, who work hard and banter well" and are like "another little family".

Bishop Kay Goldsworthy honoured as pioneer

Jan Down

The Rt Rev'd Kay Goldsworthy, first woman bishop in the Anglican Church of Australia and 12th Bishop of Gippsland, has been appointed Officer of the Order of Australia for "distinguished service to religion through the Anglican Church of Australia, as a pioneer and role model for women, to church administration, and to pastoral care and equality".

When Bp Kay was first appointed to Gippsland, she spoke of her sense of "doors opening" as she discerned a call from God. Now, as she looks back on many years of ministry; of being one of the first women deacons, then priests and finally the first woman bishop in Australia,

she explains that she did not set out to be a pioneer for women in ministry. But there came a point where she had to admit and accept that this was happening, and to take up the responsibility that came with it. "When you're first through something, you want the door behind you to be wide open" for others to come through, she said.

First sensing a call to ministry at the age of sixteen, Bp Kay explains that what was in her mind at the time was simply, "I want to work for God seven days a week". She rang Deaconess House and was advised to finish her studies and come back in a few years' time.

Continued on page 3



Opening doors for women in ministry: Bishop Kay Goldsworthy

Index

From the Bishop	2
Parish to Parish	2
Manasseh Gahima consecrated	3
Around the parishes	4 – 7
Kids' Min: Eight years of <i>mainly music</i>	8
Daniel Lowe: Copping it	9
Reflection: Heather Toms	10
Nils von Kalm: The power of one	11
Faith at Work: David Chambers	12
Diocesan Calendar	12

No fear in love

Rabbi Lord Jonathon Sacks, chief Rabbi in the UK for many years, once said “Tomorrow’s world is born in what we teach our children today”.

It is on the surface a warming thought. Perhaps even an invitation to self-congratulation on the lessons taught. But, if we look to the wider story of community fears, of political insecurity around the world, of wars and civil unrest, and of the incredible number of women, men and children displaced and homeless as a result of conflict we might ask ourselves what were the lessons learned by the last two generations of children, that have led us to this point?

At the risk of over generalizing – something that’s hard to avoid when speaking of the global – perhaps the post war baby boomer generation of the West learnt some lessons that haven’t been all good, or good for all. Growing economies, consumerism, assumption of educational opportunities and employment, growing individualism as well as freedom of speech, awareness and action in the face of social injustice have contributed to the mixed bag that we are.

My father looked at the multi-cultural growth of Australia with suspicion. His children looked



Bishop Kay Goldsworthy

on it as an adventure. In our household, the introduction of a dish my mother was pleased to call “chow mein” (think cabbage, mince and tinned pineapple) in no way prepared us for the delights of cuisine from far-off lands which are our common fare today. Or for the delights that have come from growing up with friends for whom these foods are just one part of their cultural heritage.

For Christians, this mixed bag has meant learning to live with neighbours who express their faith very differently, but no less meaningfully, from us. Orthodox Easter celebrations; street processions on feast days with icons and images of saints; women who remove their shoes as they enter church and others who veil their heads as they go to communion; the drums and dance and rhythm of worship from countries across Africa; the lavish dress code especially for Sunday.

Theologies, worship practices, ways of understanding how Christ is present, of considering the past and of looking to the future are all part of this mixed bag. There is much to learn alongside each other. Remember the image of future hope in the song of Revelation’s vision, “I looked and there was a great multitude...from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne of the Lamb...” REV 7:9

For Christians, this mixed bag has also meant learning something else besides the patterns of our parent’s faith. It has meant learning that there are many different faiths alive in our community. The rhythm of community life is changing as we welcome, befriend and learn where they are similar and what are their distinct differences.

Tomorrow’s world is being born in what we are teaching our children today. They are growing into a world enriched by difference and at the same time marked by fear of the other. The gospels show us again and again that Jesus welcomed strangers, that he made friends of those who were outsiders, of those who seemed different. Jesus saw in them not the categories defined for them by others, but human beings, fashioned in the image of God, worthy of dignity and of God’s love, mercy and grace.

How easy it is to see difference

as a threat. It is part of the landscape, both background and foreground, of everyday life as reported in newsprint, television and social media. People highlighting those defined as “different” and therefore somehow dangerous are constantly at the top of the news feed.

I have been particularly saddened to hear a politician recently call for removal of children with autism from mainstream schooling. However this was meant, it has landed painfully on many in the community. Perhaps the answer lies more in resourcing of schools rather than another lesson of “them” and “us”. Whatever the particular situation of each child and family in this, there is a question to be asked about how we see our common humanity in all its guises, and welcome it. We might well ask “who next?”

Can we teach the lesson we have learnt from Christ? Not “them” and “us” but “us together”. Human beings loved by God. Can we teach the lesson that we read in 1 John “God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them” ... “There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us.”

1 JOHN 16,18-19
Peace and grace.

+Kay

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

MORWELL
WESTERN REGION

St Mary, Morwell
Rector: The Rev’d David Head

St Mary’s Morwell is a happy, diverse, multicultural parish aiming to meet the needs of both our elderly and our younger people. Attendance at the two Sunday services ranges from the mid 30s to the mid 50s, with 10 to 15 for the mid-week service. It is a relaxed, liberal catholic style parish in liturgical and theological practice with a good preaching tradition.

Prayer Points:

1. Strength, wisdom, vision and grace to meet the changing face and

demands of Morwell as it transitions into a new and uncertain future.

2. Ability to give appropriate support and care where we can to those affected by the power station and mill closures.
3. Leaders to be found to help grow our youth and Sunday School ministries.

NAR NAR GOON AND
CARDINIA LAKES
(EPISCOPAL DISTRICT)
WESTERN REGION

Cornerstone Anglican,
Cardinia Lakes
Rector: The Rev’d Chris McAleer

The railway town of Nar Nar Goon (population about 1000) is very close to Greater Melbourne’s urban growth boundary. St John’s (built 1894) has a traditional Holy Communion at 10 am on Sundays. The opportunity shop is just down the street.

Cornerstone Anglican Church meets in the rectory at Cardinia Lakes, a new estate in Pakenham East, for a contemporary praise and worship service at 5:00 pm on Sundays, and Bible studies at 7:00 pm on Wednesdays. Prayer points: for growth in the Thursday after school art program and Sunday School at St John’s; completion and launch of the Men’s Breakfast barbecue trailer; town planning approval for the St John Community Centre; and boldness to joyfully share the good news.

NEERIM SOUTH
(COOPERATING CHURCHES)
WESTERN REGION

St John Neerim South
St James Buln Buln
St Andrew Noojee
Priest-in-Charge:
The Rev’d Dr John Batt

Give thanks and pray for the continuing strong connection with the local community. Parishioners and Rector are

involved in a wide range of community organization and activities.

Recently 28 young people attended the Youth Music Festival at Forest Edge; some made Christian commitments. Please pray for our young people and the youth leadership team, especially the team leader John and his family.

The St John’s Op Shop is very well supported and is seen as a great asset to the community. Give thanks for the volunteers who see it as service to the church and community. Please pray for the timely completion of the new Op Shop and Ministry Centre.

Prayer

Gracious God, we bring before you the needs of these parishes: Morwell, Nar Nar Goon / Cardinia Lakes and Neerim South. 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.

Manasseh Gahima consecrated

Philip Muston

It was a break from parish routine to make the journey, representing Gippsland Diocese, to Gahini, Rwanda, for the Consecration of Manasseh Gahima as Assistant Bishop of Gahini. Manasseh is a great friend of Gippsland and of our parish, having spent time with us during two visits. It was great to spend time with him, Rose and their growing family.

The service itself was the first to be held in the newly completed Cathedral at Gahini, an extra cause for celebration. It holds 2000 people, but another 1000 took part outside. A wide range of church leaders, including many bishops, came from throughout Rwanda as well as from Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, the USA and the UK.



Bishop Manasseh Gahima

The Archbishop of Rwanda along with Bishop Alexis Bilindibagabo led the 5.5 hour service, which included

two choirs and speeches from senior Government figures, eager to stress the importance of the church's

part in maintaining national unity in times of great change and spectacular growth in Rwanda. These days Bishop Alexis has challenging national responsibilities and Bishop Manasseh as assistant bishop will be able to offer increased pastoral care to the clergy of Gahini Diocese, a role for which he is eminently qualified. His wife Rose knelt behind him during the

consecration and their family of eight children were prayed for with him. John Broadbent accompanied me on the trip at his own expense and we were able to take various gifts and presents to Gahini for our link parishes, the hospital and rehabilitation centre, as well as for Manasseh.

Continued on page 9



The new cathedral, Gahini

Bishop Kay Goldsworthy honoured as pioneer

Continued from page 1

In her early twenties, Kay was working in a restaurant and could see a career path in front of her, but also saw that it wouldn't be right for her to take that path. By this time she was clear about her call to ministry. She offered again and was accepted "for all ministries open to women", which at the time meant becoming either a deaconess or a "trained woman worker". She became a deaconess and eventually one of the first women ordained deacons by Archbishop David Penman in 1986.

As an aside, Bp Kay says she has been intrigued and surprised to discover, on reading *Great Faithfulness*, a history of the Gippsland Anglican Diocese, that Bishop Cranswick appears to have been technically ordaining women as deacons as early as 1920: "Under Bishop Cranswick, the deaconesses were placed in charge of Parochial Districts under the supervision of an Archdeacon... They were ordained according to the Prayer Book ordinal for Deacons and their status was exactly equivalent to Deacons."

"Bishop Cranswick also sanctioned the use of the title 'The Reverend' before

the Deaconess's name to help clarify their status within the Church" (pp 28-29 *Great Faithfulness*).

In the early days of the movement for the ordination of women, there were some difficult moments, as Bp Kay remembers. There were people so opposed and worried, she says, some were literally shaking their fingers at women and saying, "You women are going to destroy this church". But she had a sense of not being alone in this big movement. "If it had not been for the strong support from lay people, clergy and bishops, who were sensing this as a movement of the Spirit, it would not have happened – but it did", Bishop Kay explains.

Now, she comments that at the recent ordination of David Perryman there were three women involved in leading the service: the Dean Susanna Pain; herself, ordaining and presiding; and the Rev'd Lyndon Phillips, who preached, having led David on retreat. Bp Kay speaks of a sense of the ordinariness of this – that these leaders were there because of their fitness for the particular tasks, not because they were women.



Photo: Edie Ashley

Seven women bishops at The Abbey in April: Bishop Kay Goldsworthy; Bishop Victoria Matthews, Christchurch; Bishop Sarah Mc Neil, Grafton; Bishop Alison Taylor, Brisbane; Bishop Kate Wilmot, Perth; Bishop Helen-Anne Hartley, Waikato; Bishop Genieve Blackwell, Melbourne

Bishop Kay has found the Gippsland Diocese "welcoming, challenging, familiar and yet different. It is a different world from [the large diocese of] Perth". She sees the Anglican Church in Australia as being in a period of change and renewal, and "on a path hall-marked by a call to repentance, and seeking something new". She views the church as having a more humble place in the community than it had when she was growing up, and it can't be assumed the church has a place.

"The platforms are different. You have to make them. And that may not be a bad thing", she adds.

While the bishop acknowledges that at the wider level, people are suspicious of the church, at the local level, the church is alive and active; it is "people meeting people". "We are churches", she says, rather than "the church". And Bp Kay maintains the hope that "we will remain broad, welcoming and loving as Christians. The inclusive church is the one I want to belong to".

COMMENTS

"We couldn't imagine a more deserving person: part of the first wave of women priests, first woman to be made a bishop, and what a bishop! We are really blessed to have a person of such calibre to lead our church here in Gippsland".

Sue Fordham

"Bishop Kay has been a pioneer of women's ordination within the Anglican Church and a splendid role model for women who are considering ministry as a vocation. She has been a terrific pastor to the clergy as our diocesan bishop."

Archdeacon Philip Muston

In 1982 I was part of a lay training group that worked with Kay when she was a student in training. At one session I remember she turned to me and said "You know I'll never be ordained". How wrong she was!"

June Treadwell OAM



Some of the Westernport op shop staff assisting at the community meal



Coming up at The Abbey

Diocesan Retreat open to all

The 2017 Diocesan Retreat, open to both laity and clergy, will be held at The Abbey on Raymond Island in August and Anglicans across the Diocese are encouraged to join in this opportunity for spiritual renewal.

The Retreat will be conducted by the Very Reverend Susanna Pain, Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, with the enticing theme "Winter Earth and Pomegranates". It will commence on Friday 11 August at 5:00 pm and conclude at 3:30 pm on the following afternoon.

The cost of the Retreat has been contained with a fee of \$135 including shared accommodation and all meals from Friday evening to the Retreat conclusion. A single accommodation supplement is also available.

Whether a regular retreat attendee or someone considering coming for the first time, all are welcome as we take time together for a period of prayer and reflection.

Winter Feast

The fifth annual Winter Feast is being held at The Abbey on Saturday 19 August commencing at 12 noon.

Past participants will know what an enjoyable occasion the annual feast is. Previous chefs have included Bishop Kay, Jeff Richardson and Rich and Julie Lanham.

In keeping with this past practice another priest-cum-renowned chef, Nikolai Blaskow, will prepare a four course menu, with a European theme.

The charge for this event has been contained at \$55 per person, matching wines included, and all proceeds will be committed to the work of The Abbey in its service to the diocese and outreach to the wider community.

Don't miss this special occasion – seats are limited and booking is essential.

For further information and bookings for these two events, please contact Anna at The Abbey: 5156 6580 or info@theabbey.org.au

Feet, ears, hands, hearts – at work in our op shops

Colin Oakley
Westernport

Wandering around the parish op shop in Corinella, I suggested, let's put up a sign offering prayer. It sounds good to me, to let the people know that we're here for them with that God connection.

Many come in NOT looking for bargains. They come to talk to someone who will care enough to listen, without judgement. Someone who might even pray for them. A single parent with six kids, some with special needs. When the mountain is huge and unending, willing

ears are a God-send.

When someone comes in having lost everything, the feet are rushing to outfit them. No questions or judgement given. Members of the public come in all sorts of need. Some days are quiet, others are frantic, but the hearts are always open.

When I looked for a photo of the op shop staff together, I had to get a photo from elsewhere. Their hands were busy providing the free monthly meal at the community centre. That's where I found some of them together; this photo is of SOME them.

A big thanks to our op shop staff.

Pentecost in colour

Lakes Entrance/Metung



The Rev'd Canon Barbara Logan and assistant Alan Rowe at St John's Metung on Pentecost Sunday. The church was beautifully decorated with red balloons, red candles and white doves.

Swan Reach Harvest Thanksgiving

Tambo



Archdeacon Ted Gibson at the Swan Reach Thanksgiving service. Fresh goods were sold, money and canned goods were given to charity.



Kurnai elder, Cheryl Drayton, in discussion with Drouin Christian Fellowship Pastor Keith Gillam and his wife Julie at the Reconciliation Community Dinner following the ecumenical service at Christ Church

Service of Reconciliation and Healing

Drouin

The Rev'd Dean Spalding, rector at Drouin, recently collaborated with indigenous Kurnai elder, Cheryl Drayton and Cheryl's sister, Linda Mullet, to design a service of Reconciliation and Healing. This was held on Saturday 27 May, using some resources developed by ABM and Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, Victoria.

The Anglican Parish of Drouin, as part of the Drouin Combined Churches, was invited in late April to join with Cheryl Drayton to arrange some events for Reconciliation Week. This was facilitated by Elisabeth Willems as part of her role as Social and Community Planner for the Baw Baw Shire.

In the development of the service the planners sought to find and celebrate elements of genuine intersection between biblical and indigenous spirituality. Early in the planning of the service, Cheryl Drayton spoke of the intimate connection between land and people as being crucial to an understanding of indigenous spirituality, and so in the choosing of readings for the service, they sought readings that affirmed that sense of deep connection between land and people – Genesis 2:4b-9, which speaks of the creation of Adam from the dust of the ground; 2 Chronicles 7:11-14, which speaks of the promise of healing for the land; and the healing of the man born blind from John's Gospel in which Jesus makes mud from earth and saliva.



Reconciliation Week ecumenical service at Drouin

The service also incorporated the Kurnai smoking ritual and it was thought that this would be most appropriate just after the general confession and pronouncement of absolution, because of the connection of the smoking ritual with cleansing and dispersing of evil.

The service incorporated music mainly from the country gospel tradition for reasons of familiarity and accessibility to a wide range of people.

After the service there was a communal dinner in the parish hall which was shared in a big circle of tables, with a large reading mat and play space for children in the centre. It was really encouraging to see all the children play together so well – with a revival of games from children's folklore (and not an electronic device in sight).

Members of the indigenous communities and a wide range of church communities met again on Sunday afternoon for another time of gathering, discussion and eating together.

These events in Drouin during Reconciliation Week, it is hoped, will serve as a catalyst for further gatherings throughout the year continuing a journey towards fuller reconciliation and healing.

Children and youth lead service

Drouin

Under the guidance of the Rev'd Jenny Ramage, youth and children planned and led a service at Christ Church Drouin with the theme "What makes a good witness?"

The young people took on welcoming and service roles and performed a theatrical skit about a Cheese Room restaurant and the theft of a cheese platter and money, while patrons and staff were preoccupied.

The Rev'd Dean Spalding preached a homily to pick up on the theme of witness. If closeness to Jesus helps us to be better witnesses about him, what motivates our desire to draw close to Jesus? Why do we love him? What are your "top ten"

reasons for wanting to "see Jesus more clearly, love him more dearly, and follow him more nearly?" Dean shared his "top ten" reasons for loving Jesus with the congregation. The full homily is on the Drouin website under "Rector's Notes": anglicanparishdrouin.org.au



Children and youth performing a skit about the theft of a cheese platter

Symbol and colour in worship

Carolyn Raymond Morwell

Our rector at Morwell, the Rev'd David Head, has a great gift for using symbol and colour as part of our worship. The congregation at St Mary's really appreciates this addition to our worship. As we celebrate the festivals of the Christian year or celebrate and pray for a specific group or issue in our community, our worship is heightened by the decoration throughout the church.

Late in May we celebrated Reconciliation Week by dedicating a Sunday service to prayer and reflection on the need for full reconciliation with our indigenous brothers and sisters. The Aboriginal flag, and a large poster of the photos of Aboriginal people who have worked for reconciliation throughout the years, provided a focus for prayer and increased our knowledge of those who have worked so hard to bring us all closer together.

The celebration of Pentecost was joyous, with the church a sea of red.

Symbols of the flame of the Holy Spirit were blossoming before the altar, on candles throughout the church and behind the table where people light their prayer candles.

St Mary's has a beautiful wall hanging of the Holy Spirit titled "Come Holy Spirit" which was lit with a spot light. Most of the congregation wore red. We are also blessed with amazing vestments made by Ann Connelly. These beautiful red vestments joined with the red throughout the church to shout our joy at the festival of Pentecost.

As a congregation we find these visual images go with us into the week, as we continue in prayer.



Pastor Stephen Riek (from Sudan) absorbing the information on a poster of significant Aboriginal men and women who have worked for reconciliation



Johnno's Fashion Parade raised \$4,500 for the Bairnsdale Hospital

Fashion parade raises funds for hospital

**Ursula Plunkett
Bairnsdale**

Johnno's Outreach Centre's annual Fashion Parade in May was once again a sell-out, with 200 people there to enjoy the clothes and the food. Champagne was served to welcome them on a cool night!

Everything shown was very wearable and there were some fun moments with the models. When the show finished everything was for sale and there was the usual scramble to get to the clothes. A cheque for \$4500 was presented to Bairnsdale Hospital to help pay for some expensive equipment.

John Matthews farewelled

At a well-attended post-World Day of Prayer luncheon,

organised by Marie Stripp, John Matthews, a long time member of the church and choir, spoke of his move to Queanbeyan in early July. Having given away most of his furniture, his intention is to join a community which serves the sick and homeless. Our good wishes and blessings go with him.

Clifton Waters Village's two day concert of "Fun, Fellowship and Family", was just as the title promised! There were skits, amazing tap dancing and the singing of "The Carnival is Over" for John Matthews, who has lived at the village for some years. A presentation was made to John who has been an active and keen member in most productions at the village.

Busker making a difference

Mel Yeates is a young woman busking her way around the country to help fund the fight against cancer and depression. She's called her mission "A Girl, Her Car and Her Guitar" and was delighted when the community at Gippsland Grammar opened its doors to her in June.

"It's basically me, my car and my guitar, busking from town to town around Australia, raising funds and awareness for Beyond

Blue and Love Your Sister," Mel explained.

"I just want to get the word out there that people aren't alone in their sadness or their anger and that there are people out there who can help..."

"In Year 9, I had two friends tragically killed when a tree landed on their tent on a school camp and attending one funeral's always hard, but two in one day was absolutely devastating. Around the same

time, my cousin got leukaemia and it just all accumulated into me falling into this downward spiral. And it took me years to recover. I didn't realise how sad and angry I was until I started feeling happy again."

After the visit to students at Gippsland Grammar's Bairnsdale Junior Campus Ms Yeates had raised \$58,000 with a goal of \$100,000 by the end of the year. Students were inspired and engaged by her personal story.



Travelling performer Mel Yeates was welcomed with open arms by students at Gippsland Grammar Bairnsdale Campus when she travelled through East Gippsland

St Paul's canteen: re-"fresh"ed

St Paul's Anglican Grammar School has made some changes to the School's canteen at the Warragul Campus, in line with its commitment to being a health promoting school under the Victorian Government's Healthy Achievement Program.

The School has employed Ann Vanderzalm, a

qualified chef, as the food services manager who is passionate about sourcing healthy, seasonal and local produce and providing students with a great variety of healthy and tasty food options at the canteen.

The food produced through the canteen is all homemade and supplied

fresh from local suppliers.

Ann uses seasonal produce and with the months getting colder is making a lot of pumpkin soup and corn on the cob as well as fresh apple juice and fruit smoothies.

A competition was open to students in Term 1 to name the canteen which will be called 'Tastebuds'.



St Paul's students Olivia Castello and Sienna Vanderzalm, with qualified Chef Ann Vanderzalm in the newly revamped canteen at the Warragul Campus



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

Tony Wicking to retire

Jan Down

The Rev'd Tony Wicking, who has been rector at Bairnsdale for the past eight years, will conduct his last service in the parish on 30 July before taking Long Service Leave and officially retiring in early September.

Tony came to Bairnsdale following four years in the parish of Echuca. He has also ministered in Mordialloc, Caulfield South, North Dandenong and Brighton. Before becoming a priest, he was a primary school teacher for seven years, but says people weren't surprized when he entered the ministry; he suspects he always had that calling, which grew within him until he finally gave in and accepted it.

Bairnsdale has been "a really good parish" Tony says. "There's a lot of energy, a lot of desire to do things, and the plant supports that". Johnno's Outreach Centre, the parish op shop, had



The Rev'd Tony Wicking

already started before he came, and is a major strength of the parish, donating back into the community.

The church has also, in recent years, initiated good children and family mission, Tony says, with *mainly music*, Messy Church, and experimenting with different styles of services.

It has been a learning parish for Tony. He said "I've learnt more in the last eight years than in all other years of my ministry. It's been very good for me that way."

There have been some tough and sad times in recent

years. Tony and his wife Marilyn both had cancer, and Marilyn died last year. Looking back, Tony says "I can't praise the parish enough for how much support we received from them in that time. They were so compassionate and understanding and gave us the room to do what we needed to do, with grace."

During Tony's time in Gippsland he has been Lay Reader Chaplain, and has been on the boards of both Gippsland Grammar School and Gippsland Anglican Retirement Living. On retirement, he is looking at staying in the Bairnsdale area, possibly at GARL's Clifton Waters Retirement Village at Wy Yung.

Tony has a son in Japan and another in America, and there are four grandchildren. He is looking forward to catching up with them more in retirement, as well as taking on locums. He says he has enjoyed his time in ministry in Gippsland, appreciating the "collegiality of other clergy, who work well together in Gippsland".



Photo courtesy Mirboo North Times

Neil and Isabel Trease, Mirboo North

More Gippsland Anglicans honoured

Gippsland Anglicans honoured in the Queens Birthday List included Mr Peter Jennings from Giffard West, and Mrs Isabel and Mr Neil Trease from Mirboo North.

Peter Jennings was awarded a Medal (OAM) of the Order of Australia "for service to the community of Gippsland". He was a member of the Foundation Board of Gippsland Grammar School and served on the Board for many years. He was a Pro Bono Financial Counsellor with the Gippsland Rural Financial Counselling Service 1997-2001; has served as a volunteer fire fighter with the CFA; and was a founding member (1981) of the Stradbroke/Woodside Farm Trees Group, Landcare, among a host of other things.

Mrs Jan Henry, Deputy Principal of Gippsland Grammar said "Peter was always a passionate supporter of the school, as a parent and as a member of the board and various committees. He made a significant contribution, including offering wise counsel".

Isabel and Neil Trease were each also awarded the OAM, "for service to the community through social welfare organisations".

The couple are parishioners of St Mary's Mirboo North and their rector, the Rev'd Geoff Pittaway commented: "Neil and Isabel have been tireless workers in the community in a variety of ways, working with the volunteer ambulance service, in the area of disability and through a host of committees and organizations in the Mirboo North area, and are well-deserving of this award".

Mrs Cathrine Muston, Anglicare Community Development Worker, made a personal comment: "I've known Isabel and Neil my entire life and have admired their commitment to so many aspects of their local community. It was those trips to Mirboo North as a child to visit the Trease family that showed me how caring country communities were. Isabel and Neil are always welcoming whenever I turn up on their doorstep".

Parish Partnership grants available

Did you know that your parish may be eligible for a Parish Partnership grant to support the work you are doing in engaging with the local community?

Every year, Anglicare Victoria and the Diocese of Gippsland provide small grants (up to \$5000) to parishes that enable churches to better engage with their local communities. Recently, these grants have supported the purchase of a mobile food trailer for men's breakfasts at Nar Nar Goon/East Pakenham, the purchase of Lego blocks for an after school 'Brick Club' at Mirboo North, and catering equipment for the community breakfast in the Traralgon parish.

In the past, these grants have also helped in set up costs for *mainly music* programs, children's playground equipment and in



Cathrine Muston with a tiny cheque

the provision of a small stipend for a youth worker.

If your parish is already engaging in the community but needs equipment to continue the work, or if you have a project that you think could get started with a small seeding grant, then Anglicare Victoria's

Parish Partnership worker, Cathrine Muston, would like to talk with you. Cathrine can meet with you to discuss your ideas and help you to complete the funding application. With the new round to begin in August, now is the time to prepare.

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

Bridge to church – eight years of *mainly music*

Sue Jacka

In August, Trafalgar parish will celebrate eight years of *mainly music*! When I was new in the parish I looked at possibilities for outreach to families with preschoolers. I needed something that would appeal to parents wanting something a bit special for their children and that would allow us to share the good news of Jesus in a practical and relevant way with the parents.

Currently, there are *mainly music* programs in several Gippsland parishes, possibly due to the fact that Sarah Gover, in her time in Anglicare Parish Partnerships, actively encouraged their establishment.

The fun, interactive songs and rhymes used in *mainly music* provide much needed ways of encouraging positive touch and a time when the parents can be child focussed for 30 minutes. I love seeing the children's face light up when we let off untied balloons or get out a parachute.

As a session is planned, a couple of "God Songs" are included to tell of God's love

and care. Each session also incorporates a "Think Spot" – a time when the presenter can share a short story, provide some supportive information about child development and show the relevance of Christian faith to the everyday lives of these young families.

The morning tea that follows the session is all about connecting and making friends. A home-made slice or cake and a cuppa brought to the mums makes them feel valued. And when there's a problem with the cooking it gives us all a laugh – it is such a leveller. Last week my choc chip muffins all broke as they came out of the pan; you can imagine the stories that provoked.

The team for *mainly music* all come from the church and as friendship connections are made between generations, it is easier to invite participants to church events and services. Building and maintaining a team takes time and I have found that younger volunteers often return to work when their children have reached school age.

Not all people who try *mainly music* will like it – some will not appreciate the God content, some will prefer

a playgroup without the need to sing and jump with their child. However, our parish has found that it continues to be a very useful introduction to the church community. We have had several baptisms of *mainly music* children and a number of families have come to church.

We have encouraged people to come to church events like our Christmas Eve crib service because it is an easy entrance into the culture of church. I was keen to make Sunday worship at Trafalgar family friendly while still catering for the needs of other parishioners. We improved our sound system so people could hear above the inevitable noise that small children will make. We have a table at the back with quiet toys (Lego, soft toys, drawing materials) and we cover this with a large piece of fabric to encourage quiet. Children go out for some of the service to an active Sunday School program and are encouraged to participate in the service. Sometimes they will read the Bible and they have contributed prayers. And after the service, the kids love morning tea and time to play with their friends.



Mainly fun at mainly music, Trafalgar



Bouncing teddies at mainly music

After eight years of *mainly music* some of our first children are now "twens" and many continue to be part of our afterschool program or family events. Having a flow of programs from preschool to teenage years is very helpful in developing their own

Christian faith. Our weekly JAFFAs afterschool programs are vibrant and from time to time we hold family events. Maintaining a regular youth group is ideal too.

The Rev'd Sue Jacka is rector at Trafalgar.



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'.



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

Territory Cops

Daniel Lowe

We humans have a tendency to be territorial. Sometimes there are good reasons for this – the protection of family, the young, the vulnerable, or perhaps the protection of privacy. In this we are little different to animals.

The difference of course is that we are not governed purely by instincts. We are able to make reasoned moral decisions about how we treat others. These decisions are played out at all levels of life, from foreign policy and border control to the politics of sibling bedrooms or family bathrooms.

In fact the way we teach our young people to treat each other, the values we instil in them now, will go a long way towards shaping the decisions they might make when they become our policy makers and law enforcers. Therefore it is vitally important that we help our young people navigate the territorial disputes that arise at home and at school in a way that equips them to act with respect and compassion as they journey into adulthood.

The Bible is very clear about how God's people are to treat those who find themselves in foreign territory.

“When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt” (LEVITICUS 19:33-34).

Does this mean that there should be no borders? No boundaries? This is not so much about who is allowed to go where, but more about how we should treat those that find themselves, through accident or circumstance, in a foreign area.



The Rev'd Daniel Lowe

At a national level this is a call to treat the likes of refugees and asylum seekers with compassion and respect. It is a call to care for those in our own country who have no home of their own. It is a call to an attitude that begins in the homes and school grounds of our young people.

So next time your children argue about “who touched my things” or your child comes home complaining about the younger students who walk through “our space”, consider using this as an opportunity to discuss what it might mean to treat that “invader” with respect and compassion – to love them as you love yourself.

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

Manasseh Gahima consecrated

Continued from page 3

Philip Muston

I met with Archdeacon Robert, rector of Kirameruzi, and with Gaspard, pastor of Gakenke. I could tell that the gifts from Warragul parishioners were unexpected but very much appreciated. Manasseh greatly appreciated the shirts we gave him for his new role, and the silver pectoral cross made in Sale, with the Gahini crest on it, along with silver earrings for Rose. In turn we appreciated being guests at a reception in the remote home village where Manasseh's 90 year old mother lives, attended

by his extended family, which includes some very impressive and accomplished people, older and younger: those over the age of 23 all participants in the Rwandan Repatriation movement following the genocide of 1994.

I noticed many changes in Rwanda since my last visit in 2009. Big new government buildings are springing up everywhere in the capital, Kigali. Lots of money is pouring in from various sources. In Gahini there is a new, modern Rehabilitation Centre being built to Western standards, and the new Cathedral seems to designed

to match the “new Rwanda” in style and scope. And yet the signs of widespread poverty are still everywhere to be seen among ordinary people.

A highlight of our visit was being able to spend a day in the capital, Kigali, with David and Prue Boyd, who drove over from Congo (8 hours) to see us. We had a great time of catching up: we took them out to dinner and they took us out to brunch. Congo is a much more chaotic and lawless society than Rwanda, and it was good to see David and Prue relaxing over the 24 hours. They are in good form, though tired and looking forward to a visit home in October, when we will see them.

Archdeacon Philip Muston is Archdeacon of the Western Region and rector at Warragul.



Gahini clergy in procession to the cathedral for the consecration of Bishop Manasseh Gahima



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



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



SEMMENS FUNERALS
SERVICING GIPPSLAND
Col, Pat & Brad Semmens

Maffra	5147 1954
Sale	5144 1954
Heyfield	5148 3354

www.semmensfunerals.com.au
24 Hour Service



Our Family Caring For Your Family Since 1979
Member Of The Australian Funeral Directors Association

Who is my neighbour?

Heather Toms

“The lawyer answered Jesus, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.’”
(LUKE 10:27)

But then the lawyer turns to Jesus and asks, “Who is my neighbour?”

As I conduct four services each week, along with many pastoral encounters in my prison chaplaincy these words take on a very real, personal and deeply challenging meaning.

Hear, O Israel,
the Lord our God, the Lord is one.
Love the Lord your God
with all your heart,
with all your soul,
with all your mind,
and with all your strength.
This is the first and the great
commandment.
The second is like it:
Love your neighbour as yourself.
There is no commandment greater
than these.

The Scripture speaks of love and how we are to live our lives according to God’s great commandment to love your neighbour as yourself. Who is my neighbour? The “nice” people living next door, or only people with whom

I have the most in common? Are my neighbours only those with whom I have developed a good trusting relationship?

Or are my neighbours the refugees struggling to assimilate or our indigenous brothers and sisters who have struggled to be accepted and belong, offering their wonderful culture and traditions and long awaiting reconciliation.

Or is my neighbour the person who is incarcerated, the unlovable, considered to be less than human (as they often tell me), the bottom of society, and the forgotten people. The people who appear in the newspapers and many more who do not appear, who are just forgotten, who accept their wrongdoings and want to do their time and return home.

Is it our incarcerated neighbours struggling with addictions? Does it mean walking the hard miles with them on their journey, speaking of the important things about forgiveness and proclaiming the grace of God? Costly love! It is a vulnerable and very lonely road when society and social media in general wants punishment rather than offering hope and the love of Christ and the grace of God which can be far more restorative.

I grapple and wrestle with this constantly. I know that God loves them, cares about each one of them; they are irreplaceable and to be loved as Christ



The Rev'd Heather Toms

would love them. This does not mean that I agree with their crimes, and I believe in accountability and consequences, but I do know that our God is a forgiving God when we come to Him and repent of our sins.

It is the love that Jesus shows to others that offers us a glimpse of God’s love. Jesus’ love embraced all the people he met, those who accepted him and those who did not. Because of his intimate union with God, it was divine love that Jesus offered to others; to those who were easy to love and those who were not. His entire life revealed God’s universal, unselfish, merciful love.

Unless we “see” our neighbour, we cannot be a neighbour. “Seeing” our neighbour means loving that person as much as we love ourselves.

I am reminded of something I read by the Rev’d Dr Martin Luther King:

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments

of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.

The true neighbour will risk his position, his prestige, and even his life for the welfare of others. In dangerous valleys and hazardous pathways, he will lift some bruised and beaten brother to a higher and more noble life.

Jesus calls us to these two great commandments – for everyone – love everyone, accept everyone, welcome everyone without qualification. Just as Jesus opened his arms to save all, he is telling us to open our arms and be healed with our neighbours.

‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and all of your soul, and all of your mind – and you shall love your neighbour as yourself.’

The Rev'd Heather Toms is a Hospital and Prison Chaplain and Honorary Priest Assistant at Rosedale.

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

EDITORIAL

Science matters

One very large banner at the March for Science on Earth Day (22 April) in Melbourne was carried for the Humanist Society of Victoria, an organisation that has some very laudable aims, but unfortunately also rejects “theistic and supernatural views of reality” (vichumanist.org.au).

So we might wonder how many of the approximately 3000 people who joined the Melbourne march – and those in cities around the world – were Christians? We’ll never know that figure, but certainly there were some. *Christian Today* reported before the Melbourne event that there were Christians planning to march.

So there were Christians marching beside atheists, to stand out against the current erosion of respect for scientific endeavour.

These days the “new atheists” often accuse Christians of believing in fairy tales. We are described as having “an invisible friend”; as if we just need to grow up and jettison our childish beliefs.

So Christians can feel hounded by atheists and atheists by Christians, but these marches found us on the same side, supporting the scientists who are having to fight for research funding, with some even receiving death threats when their findings have been unpalatable.

The irony is that while the atheists ridicule us for believing in God, we are in fact just as concerned with truth as they are. We have good reason for valuing science; we believe in a Creator God, incarnate in Jesus of Nazareth.

This puts our feet on solid ground – literally. We see order and meaning in the universe; it is therefore worth studying. When we pursue any branch of science, we learn something more about God, because God’s imprint is on everything he created.

As Christians, we respect scientists, many of whom are Christians themselves of course. We know that we are safe to explore all aspects of scientific discovery, because it is God’s own handiwork we are exploring.

And we also believe (along with plenty of scientists) that there is much more to reality than can be understood through the scientific method – such as art and music and love.

May our politicians and policy makers remember what our current world owes to scientific discoveries, and give the scientists space to continue the good work.



Travelling together in the same direction

Photo: Michael Down

The power of one

Nils von Kalm

We're one but we're not the same
We get to carry each other
– U2, *One*

In John chapter 17, verse 1, Jesus prayed that his disciples would be one as he and the Father are one. It was a prayer of boldness and, on the surface at least, impossibly naïve and unrealistic.

But the fact that this prayer was largely lived out in the life of the early Christian movement is evidence to me that this was not just a humanly-powered movement.

Jesus said we are the light of the world. He said we are to be an alternative community, caring for those nobody else cares about, being one in love and grace, and accepting each other.

In Jesus' new order, there are no dividing lines between people of different ethnicities or genders. The walls of division are torn down. There are no statuses; everyone is equal.

We see this first in Jesus' strange choice of disciples. You had the tax collector, Matthew. Tax collectors were hated in those days because they gained their riches through ripping people off, and they worked for the oppressive occupying Roman regime.

Then alongside Matthew you had the Zealot, Simon. Zealots advocated violent overthrow of the Romans. Simon would initially have been attracted to Jesus because of the popular belief of the time that the messiah would come to do just that: ride into Jerusalem as a conquering ruler and throw out the oppressors once and for all.

Just in these two people, you had worldviews which couldn't have been more opposed. It was like having a member of the Socialist Left on the same team as a hard-line US Republican. And Jesus prays that they will be one. It was a bold prayer!

But as the Spirit came at Pentecost and the church gained momentum, outbreaks of God's rule began to undermine that of the Empire.

The early church

The early church was characterised by everyone sharing what they owned. In fact, they didn't even consider property to belong to any one individual. They broke bread together, prayed together, and shared everything. They loved their neighbours and took in those whom the rest of the culture abandoned.

Social historian, Rodney Stark, says that a major reason for the explosive growth in the fledgling Christian movement in the first century was their care for the poor. When baby girls were literally left out to die by their parents, the Christians would take them in and raise them. Similarly, when plagues struck much of the empire, Christians risked their lives to care for the sick. Many Christians died in the process, but they did so living

out the command of their Master that whenever they did it to the least, they were doing it to Jesus himself.

But it wasn't some socialist utopia that the Christians were setting up. They knew that would never work. No economic or political system would ever bring in the kingdom of God. What drove the early Christians was the Spirit of God within them.

It wasn't through any form of politics, though it was political. It wasn't through any economic system, though it had powerful economic implications. It was through their faithful following of Jesus that the early Christians changed the world. They were outward looking, seeking only to love rather than look for love, seeking to understand rather than worrying about being understood, and seeking to console the broken-hearted rather than concerning themselves too much with their own consolation. Some of today's church can take a lesson from that.

No wonder Jesus prayed that bold prayer the night before he died. It was answered, and it has been answered again and again through the ages as Christians have come together to abolish slavery, to gain rights for women, to bring children out of sex trafficking and to pressure government to give our fair share of aid to the poor of the world.

The dream Jesus had and prayed for has materialised over and over throughout history. In God's new order, these dreams become reality as together we tear down the walls of division that divide this broken world.

Nils von Kalm is from Melbourne, Australia and has a passion for showing how the Gospel is relevant to life in the 21st century.

This article was first published in Christian Today, June 2017, and is reprinted with permission.

EARTH CARE CARD

– Tips and inspiration for churches and households



#30 English churches shrink their footprint

The Church of England has a national environmental campaign called Shrinking the Footprint.

Their Shrinking the Footprint section of churcheare.co.uk assists parishes by offering a free energy audit tool, steps to getting started, advice and inspiration through case studies.

One interesting feature is a map of England showing scores of churches with waterless toilets. Many churches have installed solar panels. The Church of the Good Shepherd in Tatham Fells replaced their 30 year old solid fuel boiler with a biomass boiler.

The Church of England has a carbon reduction target of 80% by 2050 (in line with English Government commitments). What is your church's target? Could your parish council set one?

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

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

David Chambers calls the drive between Heyfield and Rosedale each morning (on the way to work at Traralgon) his “God time”. With the sun on his left hand side, this is his quiet time to give thanks, give God his problems and ask for blessings on the day.

David is the Asset Management Information System Coordinator at Gippsland Water, managing the IPS 8 software program that records everything about Gippsland Waters’ assets, right down the last length of pipe and the smallest maintenance task. David says it is a “whole-of-life asset management package”, which was set up in 2010 and, with over 100,000 assets to be mapped, is still being developed.

Gippsland Water is the largest non-metropolitan water corporation in Victoria, in terms of both employment and income. It employs over 250 people and supplies water to over 65,000 properties. David sees it as an “employer of choice” and finds his work very satisfying.

David’s faith in God influences both the work he does and the way he goes about it. He says it means “trying to reduce our ecological footprint”, but it’s also about serving people, and listening to what a customer wants. “A lot of it is the people relationships”, David says. In supervising people, he aims to make sure that they have felt listened to. His motto is “If you look after the people, they look after the job”.

The policies of the organisation also support this approach. David recalls the time when John Mitchell, a parishioner at St James’ Traralgon, was CEO at Gippsland Water. John would walk around the office, talking to people a few times a week and had a significant influence on the ethos of the place.

David and his wife Debbie are people of strong faith, deeply involved in the Anglican church at Heyfield – but this was not always the case.

David and his first wife Elaine were living at Heyfield with their four children, when she was diagnosed with an aggressive form of pancreatic cancer. At the time, neither of them was a committed Christian, as they had drifted away from the church in their teens.

David Chambers

Asset Management Information System Coordinator,
Gippsland Water – Heyfield



David Chambers (Papa) reads a bed-time story to grand-daughters Amy Smith (left) and Gemma Thomas (right)

When they agreed to have a Christian couple come to visit them after Elaine became ill, David says he was just expecting to put up with being preached at. What actually happened was that Peter and Ailsa Rickards walked into their lives and asked “What can we do for you?” Elaine and David were blown away by this. No God talk, just an offer of practical help. This led to the beginning

of a deep friendship, and to a re-awakening of faith for both David and Elaine.

David describes a “road to Damascus moment” when he was out on the road, only a few days before Elaine died. He suddenly knew that she would always be with him. And he had a powerful realisation that “Christ hung on a cross for me, as an individual”.

The following day David found out that Elaine had had just the same realisation, so there was a shared joy. Within days, she was gone and David’s life was changed, but he now had a faith in God to sustain him.

Some time later, he met Debbie, to whom he has now been married for nearly 30 years. Last year, Deb had a serious health scare, being rushed to hospital with a brain aneurysm. She was flown to Melbourne for emergency surgery, which was successful, and apart from some continuing headaches, she is now well.

Both David and Deb are lay readers in the Heyfield church, which has been without a rector for close to two years. They lead a service once a month and assist visiting clergy on the other Sundays. They also work with Parish Council and the Rev’d Lyndon Phillips, rector at Rosedale, who is now at Heyfield one day a week, to help keep things going at Heyfield.

David and Deb have a role in the wider diocese as well. David has been on Bishop in Council for many years, but it is the couple’s cooking skills that have lately come to the fore. They have been catering for the Gippsland clergy conference for the last few years and find this is something they do well together. David says it’s a lot of hard work, but very enjoyable, and he delights in being able to “minister to the ministers”.

They have also catered for camps – including the Kidsplus camp recently – and cook for the church cake stall and morning tea at the monthly community market. In earlier days they were heavily involved in the Cowarr movement, a version of Cursillo for young people. They loved being part of outreach to the teenagers of the diocese.

As David comes up to retirement from his Gippsland Water job next year, he is looking at what God may be calling him to next. Some form of church ministry is looking very likely.

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.

July

- 2 2:30 pm NAIDOC Week service, Lake Tyers Aboriginal trust
- 2 3:00 pm Sung Evensong for the Feast of St Thomas the Doubter at St Thomas’ Bunyip. Byrdsong Choir to sing. Refreshments after.
- 7 5:00 pm Friday – 3:30 pm Saturday: Come with Chaucer’s Pilgrims to Canterbury Cathedral, then dine at the Tabard Inn Presenters: June Treadwell and Sue Fordham. History of Canterbury Cathedral, music and art. For full details: Phone 5156 6580 or email info@theabbey.org.au
- 22 9:30 am – 3:30 pm Lay Reader Training Day, St John’s Bairnsdale, Bishop Kay to lead
- 22 9:30 am – 3:30 pm Anam Cara Community Quiet Day, St Mary’s Morwell, with the Rev’d Dr Dean Spalding
- 23 9:30 am Eucharist followed by Patronal Festival Lunch, St James’ Traralgon

August

- 5 Lay Readers’ Training Day, Drouin
- 11 6:30 pm – 9:30 Safe Church Awareness Workshop Refresher at St Peter’s Anglican Church, Leongatha
- 11–12 5:00 pm Friday to 3.30 pm Saturday: Gippsland Diocesan Retreat at The Abbey, Raymond Island: “Winter Earth and Pomegranates”, led by the Very Rev’d Susanna Pain
- 19 12:00 noon The Abbey Feast, with Chef Nikolai Blaskow
- 27 9:30 am Celebrating John Bunyan, author of *Pilgrim’s Progress*, at St Thomas’ Bunyip
- 28 11:00 am Annual Legacy Widows’ Service, St James Traralgon

September

- 2 10:00 am A quiet day at St Thomas Bunyip focussing on pilgrimage, with reflections from those who have made pilgrimage to Santiago, around the Mornington Peninsula, and along the Celtic way.
- 16 2:00 – 5:00 pm Workshop with Alan Cadwallader, New Testament scholar and Robyn Cadwallader, author, on “Body and soul – the conflicts and the gifts of the past” at St Paul’s Cathedral, Sale
- 24 9:30 am Celebrating Sabine-Gould, author of “Onward Christian Soldiers” at St Thomas Bunyip

Traralgon Community Meals at St James

First Saturday of the month, Community Breakfast – gold coin donation.

Fourth Friday of the month, Community Lunch: 3 course meal \$5 with concession card or \$12 without.