

The Gippsland Anglican

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Jan Down
with Sue Wilson

Fran Grimes inducted at Korumburra

On a typical wintry Korumburra afternoon, Sunday 23 July, 150 people gathered for the Induction of the Rev'd Fran Grimes as Priest in Charge.

Fran comes to Korumburra from the parish of Corner Inlet, where she has been Honorary Assistant Priest, with her main involvement at Fish Creek Union Church.

Bishop Kay Goldsworthy, preaching on John 6:24-35 where Jesus proclaims himself "the bread of life", asked what kind of person would come to feed and nurture the people in this parish. She affirmed that Fran is that person who has responded to God's call with a real desire to fulfil that need.

Mr Russell Broadbent, MHR, in his welcome speech, commended the congregation in their prayers, sharing with them the encouragement he personally felt knowing that he was being prayed for. His call to them was to pray for Fran diligently. There was much good humour in his speech and Russell concluded with the hope that the laughter in the church would continue.

The Mayor of South Gippsland, Cr Ray Argento, followed Russell and admitted that he was, indeed, a hard act to follow, but was not outdone in friendliness and humour. Like his fellow Corner Inlet residents, Ray was keen to tell Korumburra that their gain was Corner Inlet's loss.

Korumburra Baptist Minister, the Rev'd Ian Wilkinson, welcomed Fran on behalf of all the churches in the town and said he looks forward to them working together.

Fiona Bull, a warden at Korumburra, then welcomed Fran into the Parish and gave thanks for her arrival. Keryn

Cunningham represented the Poowong congregation with the presentation of a gift.

The Rev'd Geoff Pittaway then also welcomed Fran on behalf of all the clergy.

In responding, Fran shared her delight in being there, encouraged the people to share her excitement at God working in the parish and thanked them for their love and support.

Fran will be at Korumburra three days a week, while continuing to practise as a GP at Foster, Tarwin and Toora, dropping this work down from three days to two.

Speaking to *TGA* before the Induction, Fran said she had been impressed with the way Korumburra had kept things going between priests, especially in terms of communication and maintaining the beautiful church building. The parish has been well looked after by locum priests the Rev'd Graeme MacRobb and the Rev'd Amy Turner.

Fran is excited about beginning ministry at Korumburra, and sees the potential for outreach that the two kitchens, various halls and meeting spaces will provide. She is also very conscious that Korumburra is a community with some of the challenges common to regional towns. Anglicare has recently recognized Korumburra as a place of great need for families with young children.

Fran was deaconed in 2012 and ordained as a priest in 2014. From 2003, as a lay person, Fran was taking a leadership role at Fish Creek, coordinating services (conducted by Anglican and Uniting Church ministers) as well as overseeing the renovation and extension of the church building. The whole community rallied to



Photo: Kirra Grimes

assist with this work; even the local council, seeing that the extension would reach one metre into council land, sold their land to the church for \$1.

Fran has enjoyed running the *mainly music* program at Fish Creek for some years, as well as most recently teaching guitar to primary school children at the church on Tuesday afternoons. Many of these children are graduates of *mainly music* and many families are now connected to the church.

When the late Bishop John McIntyre, some years back, saw what was happening at Fish Creek, he said "This is a Fresh Expression of church!" As he and Fran talked, she began to discern a call from God to ordained ministry. She realised this was work that she loved and was passionate about, and so

began theological studies by distance education through St Mark's Theological College in Canberra.

Since losing her husband Michael to cancer in January

2016, Fran and her daughter Kirra have continued to live in their mud-brick house on three and a half acres of land out of Fish Creek. The name of the property is "Shalom".



Photo: Greg Bull

Archdeacon Graham Knott, the Rev'd Fran Grimes and Bishop Kay Goldsworthy

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Living as faithful minority

We Christians may very soon be a minority in the Australian population. For those of us who are “cradle Anglicans” – who’ve always felt part of a majority-held faith, if not denomination – this will be a new experience.

The 2016 census identified that only 52.1% of Australians classify themselves as Christian, and this figure appears to be dropping. Only 13.3 per cent of us say we are Anglicans – though that includes many nominal Anglicans who rarely or never actually take part in Anglican church worship – compared with 22.6% identifying themselves as Catholic.

We’ve long since come to terms with the fact the days are gone when the good old “C of E” was the default denomination for a majority of Australians. But when Christians of all denominations are almost a minority – well, that’s going to take some adjusting to. Migration and increasing secularism have put paid to cherished notions of Australia being “a Christian country”.

Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, Sikhs, are all increasingly common in our profile.



Archdeacon Philip Muston

Interestingly, Hinduism – not Islam – had the most significant growth between 2006 and 2016, driven by immigration from South Asia.

The percentage of Australia’s population reporting “no religion” has been growing for decades. Those claiming no religion increased from 19 per cent in 2006 to 30 per cent in 2016.

Young adults aged 18-34 were more likely to be affiliated with religions other than Christianity (12 per cent) and to report not having a religion (39 per cent) than other adult age groups. Older age groups,

particularly those aged 65 years and over, were more likely to report Christianity.

What all this means is that from now on we Christians are going to have to make an adjustment to our assumptions. We will no longer speak for the mainstream as until fairly recently we did.

And we are really going to have to be persuasive in a whole new way when it comes to defending our values and promoting our beliefs in the marketplace of ideas.

No longer can Christian leaders automatically expect a hearing because of their office.

Society has stopped listening to church officials as such (the Royal Commission didn’t help). In the next era Christian leaders will be listened to according to the respect and regard they have garnered among the people through service and integrity.

The Christian church has been in this situation at other times and places. There are, thankfully, many saints we can look to for inspiration.

Often when the church has been an oppressed minority it has gained ground most quickly. The early church, which was a minority in Western civilisation for 300 years, grew fastest in that period before the “Constantinian settlement”.

How did that come about? Well, amongst other things, when the plagues arrived the Christians didn’t run away, but stayed in the cities to care for their own as well as for others who’d been abandoned. The world noticed: “How those Christians love!”

Which could lead us on to how we would react to the threats of antibiotic-resistant superbugs or nuclear war or other things that are in the news, but hey, I’m out of room!

Blessings for the month

Philip Muston

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Advertising Rates

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

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.

MOE / NEWBOROUGH WESTERN REGION

St Luke, Moe
St Aidan, Newborough
(with Yallourn North, Erica and Walhalla)
Rector: The Rev’d Sathi Anthony

We would value prayers for our journey towards amalgamation of the two parishes. Moe and Newborough being only seven minutes apart, together, should have greater ministry potential. Between our congregations, we maintain both the Anglo-Catholic and middle-of-the-road/contemporary styles of worship. Members, though

small in number, do their best to maintain many of the traditional in-house ministries. New members have joined liturgical teams. Fundraising for the Cancer Council and domestic violence programs are attempts at connecting with the wider community. Pray that the “Anglican presence” will be a blessing to our wider community, that Anglicans in the community would desire to re-join our worshipping congregations and that the old Trinity House building in the town becomes a very effective space for Christian ministry.

OMEO EASTERN REGION

Christ Church, Omeo
St Paul, Benambra
Union Church, Ensay
Honorary Priest-in-Charge:
The Rev’d Thelma Langshaw

Omeo is a tiny, pretty, drive-through town for other places, on the Great Alpine Road, sometimes bringing in trade from tourists passing through. Set between mountains, it has extremes of hot and cold weather. The Rev’d Thelma Langshaw, Honorary Priest-in-Charge at Omeo, is now into her 10th year in the parish. A new retaining wall between the vicarage and church has been installed after successful fundraising. Please pray for good connections between the school and the church, and for encouragement for the congregation.

ORBOST EASTERN REGION

St James, Orbost
Locum: The Rev’d Bevil Lunson
Orbost is a small town in East Gippsland currently undergoing

some hardship due to saw-mill closures and unemployment. The church runs a Food Pantry which is currently feeding 130 people with free groceries each week. The op shop, which raises funds for church programs, has expanded into the next door shop. This means having staff in both shops as there is a wall between the two, so please pray for more volunteers. We would be glad of prayer for a new organist and for growth in our small congregation, especially for younger people to join us.

Prayer

Gracious God, we bring before you the needs of these parishes: : Moe / Newborough, Omeo and Orbost. 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.

NAIDOC Week at Lake Tyers

Cathrine Muston

The directions said “follow along to the Lake Tyers Aboriginal Community where you will see the spire of the St John’s church” which we did. But we were not prepared for the breathtaking beauty and grandeur of the landscape before us: the historic white church overlooking the inlet and Lake Tyers beach. Such beauty and simplicity was evident in the landscape, and in the special NAIDOC week service led by the Rev’d Phyllis Andy.

Nicky Moffatt gave a “Welcome to Country” and played the didgeridoo to welcome us into the small timber church and then the service began with an earth, water and fire ceremony. The congregation, made up of people from across the Diocese and the Lake Tyers Community, walked through



The Rev’d Phyllis Andy and Tracey Moffatt

the smoke, put their hands in the dirt and washed with water to prepare ourselves for a sacred time. We sang, listened to God’s Word, and prayed together. Nicky sang a song about the

influence his grandmother had on him and others in the community, honouring her strength and courage. Aunty Phyllis spoke about the theme “Our Languages Matter” and the significance of learning her

own Noongar language.

We prayed for those who have given their lives to ministry among Indigenous people and gave thanks for the work of faithful Bible translators who have kept Aboriginal languages alive. A candle was lit, and we joined in a prayer written by Lenore Parker entitled, “God of Holy Dreaming”; a prayer that entwines the earthiness of Indigenous understanding of creation, with the gospel story.

Over a cup of tea after the service, stories of the history of Lake Tyers Mission and the separation of Aboriginal people were shared, along with stories of how we are bound together in our faith and in commitment to authentic reconciliation.



St John’s church, Lake Tyers

NAIDOC week has its roots in the work of William Cooper, a Yorta Yorta man who asked churches to start praying for his people. William Cooper’s legacy of advocacy on behalf of Aboriginal people is significant and it is worth investigating his story more fully if you don’t already know of him.

Children’s artistic talents shine in NAIDOC art exhibition



Painting by Shamira Hayes – people’s choice award winner (8 years old)

As a part of NAIDOC week celebrations in the Latrobe Valley, Anglicare Victoria organised a children’s art competition. Based on the theme “Our Languages Matter”, school aged children were encouraged to submit their art work for display at the Gathering Place on Friday 7th July. Children from pre-school through to secondary school took part in the competition with a total of forty-one submissions received. Two entries were designs painted on

boomerangs; the rest were paint on canvas, many completed by those who attend the Gathering Place youth group on Friday nights. The idea for the art competition came from Anglicare Victoria’s

Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Committee to encourage the community to become engaged with NAIDOC Week as a way to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. A number of the entries were symbolic of the theme for NAIDOC Week, “Our Languages Matter” and some used the colours of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flag, while others painted a favourite memory, such as going “turtling with Nan”. Winners were awarded prizes in each age category. Local elders were on hand to select the winners, and all said it was a difficult job. Locals who attended the event were

also able to vote for their favourite artwork. The “People’s Choice award” went to eight year old Shamira Hayes, who said that her painting (pictured) was about “passing our culture on through our language”. As well as a barbeque lunch, art activities were organised for children, for some school holiday fun.



Children participating in activities such as rock painting, boomerang painting and making coasters from tiles



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
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The Crossing Drop In Centre, Drouin

Celebrating 25 years of outreach within the community

Tania Ernst

The Crossing was a building I'd known by sight, located in an old service station in Drouin's town centre back in the 90s; a Christian run place where one could go and hang out, have a light meal and cuppa and know someone cared enough to listen. Over the years I lost touch with it as the servo building was demolished, and life went on.

Years later I began to really explore my faith journey as my interests changed and I invested in studying it a bit deeper. I was now properly aware of a humble, slightly dilapidated, unobtrusive place two doors away from my parish Anglican Church at Drouin. The Crossing – a Christian book shop and cafe – held Bible study sessions regularly on Tuesdays, my day off. I'd just never been there.

Going into the room was a little confronting – it was as if I'd unintentionally interrupted a meeting of some sort, as a group was gathered around a long table. But with a warm welcome I entered and haven't really left its warm, welcoming and hospitable presence for going on five years now. I'm rather entrenched here, a regular presence along with a number of other loyal local Christians who have successfully kept The Crossing sounding a steady hum in the hearts of people around the area, bringing love and encouragement to a greater number of individuals from all realms who haven't felt too much love during tough times in their lives.

I too have found a direction for my love and celebration in the work of the Lord's presence in this place and just as I found it confronting to enter, so do the greater number of people experiencing relationship breakdown and financial distress, homelessness and loneliness whom we are meeting each day.

We continue to offer a place of comfort and hospitality with a meal or regular food relief or financial assistance offered in challenging circumstances. With renewed vigour we have made connections with Drouin businesses and service clubs who now support us, as have our churches. We pray that we

gain more devoted volunteers and better knowledge so we can better support people in need of a shower and bed each night – those who are living tough on the streets. We find this area is sadly under-resourced, with few options available, as rental prices here have become so high and limited.

Graeme Harrison, the Uniting Church minister in Drouin from 1992-1998, witnessed The Crossing change from a vision into a reality. In his recent words written for the 25th anniversary:

I considered it then (and still do) one of the major actions of God in Drouin. I believe this for several reasons:

1. The focus on "the least, the last, and the lost" is a real focus of Jesus which was seen again and again in his earthly ministry.
2. Christians came together regardless of denomination in order to do Jesus' work.
3. It was getting Christians out of the churches and into the community where Christians have always done their best work in every age and every nation.
4. The Crossing was not a church building because it recognised that many people in the community are not comfortable in our spaces. So the Crossing committee sought to be in common spaces of the community; the shopping strip, the library, and the main street. All for the sake of the comfort of the people we serve; how Christlike.

God's hand is on this ministry. It could never have survived and grown over 25 years in a tough secular environment without that blessing. And of course that blessing is not for us; it is given to us to share with the community.

The Crossing Drop In Centre is located at 134a Princes Way Drouin. We are open Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri 10:00 am – 4:00 pm and Sat 9:30 am – 12:00 noon. More info at www.thecrossing.org.au or phone 5625 2655.



The Crossing Drop In Centre, Drouin



Lian (Julian) Zhu and Lihua (Rachel) Chen were confirmed by Bishop Kay Goldsworthy

Traralgon confirmation

On Sunday 18 June Bishop Kay Goldsworthy visited the Parish of Traralgon to confirm husband and wife, Lian (Julian) Zhu and Lihua (Rachel) Chen, who became members of St James congregation in late 2016, and in early 2017 were baptised into God's Church.

At the conclusion of the Confirmation Service Flight Lieutenant Dr Jordan and Sarah Breed and their children Elijah and Sophie were farewelled. David Gittins offered

a few words of appreciation and Canon Jeff Richardson said a special blessing for the family.

Dr Jordan was a Diocesan Lay Reader and a member of Bishop in Council. He has been assigned to the Edinburgh RAAF base in Adelaide.

Finally Mr Mark Woods presented Bishop Kay with a sheath of flowers and congratulated her on behalf the parish for receiving the Officer of the Order of Australia award in the Queen's Birthday honours.

Valuing our volunteers

Carolyn Raymond
Morwell

To honour our volunteers St Mary's recently held a service for Volunteer and Harvest Festival Sunday.

Many in the congregation at St Mary's work for service organisations like Rotary and Lions; in schools; assisting new migrants and refugees; or helping the elderly and sick. We are especially aware of the tireless work of the volunteers at our op shop, Fossick and Find. We know that we are reliant on the money the shop brings to the parish. We are also grateful for the outreach to the community given generously by

everyone who works at Fossick and Find. We know that volunteer work results in a harvest of love and goods.

During the service all volunteers who work at Fossick and Find were asked to stand and were formally thanked for their work. Then all other volunteers joined them and their work was acknowledged. The theme of Thanks was extolled in the hymns, in the sermon and in blessing of all the produce. We were grateful for the money raised towards our new notice board through the sale of garden or kitchen produce and Anglicare was grateful for the boxes of groceries delivered to the office the following day. A true celebration.



Garden and kitchen produce at St Mary's Morwell

Dorothy Lee challenges large Abbey audience

Sue Fordham

On Saturday June 17, The Rev'd Canon Professor Dorothy Lee engaged a capacity audience at The Abbey speaking to her latest book, *The Gospels Speak*, subtitled, *Addressing Life's Questions*.

This lively theologian held her audience as first she teased out the issues of suffering and evil as addressed by Mark's Gospel, then the search for meaning as found in John's Gospel.

She began with a general discussion about how to read the Bible, describing it in terms of "dialogue with scripture", allowing for culture, context and genre in actively engaging, questioning, then seeing how our own story might be understood within it.

She said that each reader brings their own story to the reading and the text might therefore speak to each reader differently.

Beginning with Mark and the issue of suffering, she began with reminding us about the recent controversy of Steven Fry asking why he should respect a "capricious, mean-minded, stupid God...?". "Bone cancer in children...? how dare you!" he said in an interview. He is now being investigated by Irish police for alleged blasphemy.

While understanding Fry's outrage she responded that though his view of God was not her view, Christians too railed at God in their most despairing moments. She pointed to Mark describing a God who shared most profoundly in suffering and was with all people in their darkest moments.

Mark, a "genius as story teller and theologian" has the cross overshadow his entire narrative. In other words, the Christian is not protected from suffering, but is protected from being alone in it.

She reminded us that in Mark's temptation in the wilderness story, Jesus finally achieves a harmony with nature (lying down with wild beasts) and the heavenly world. Evil, she observed, was the opposite of harmony, or as Augustine said, evil was "the nothing that is something".

Michael Fox reflects

With St John's gospel Dorothy reminded us of the parallel with Genesis 1:1: "In the beginning..."; Jesus is the Son of God through whom all things are made.

Our relationships are with Christ himself. He is eternal life, here and now. Individualism is abolished. We are embedded in community and live in relation within the Holy Trinity. This is for us to know



there is life beyond death. We are to be channels of his love, branches of the Vine, making our lives meaningful in the world; "Come farther in, come farther up" challenges Aslan, the Christ-like lion in C. S. Lewis' *The Last Battle*.

Sinners we are. We need to confess the sins of our society. But we are absolved, and God will "Confirm and strengthen us in all goodness"; the Light shines in the darkness.

We need to know that some things are abominable, evil – but not people; we speak the truth in love, showing love, not just talking about it.

Mathew's gospel has five teaching blocks followed by miracles. Here we see Jesus authentic in word and deed. So we are likewise challenged, to be Christ-like.

We know we can fail. But we are not alone; God is with us, forgiving, giving us time to see the world around us, driving us to see and act with the poor, desperate and lonely; His compassion and His mercy motivating us to be a blessing for others, and inclusive in our hospitality, so living authentically.

What a wonderful three hours! Such clarity, such encouragement! Dorothy Lee's *The Gospels Speak*. All thanks!



A cathedral banner, including Loy Yang power station

New Cathedral arts group plans provocative installation

Jan Down

A new arts group at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale, is planning an ambitious multi-media installation for the evening of 14 October this year.

With the working title of "Burnt Earth" the installation will explore controversial environmental issues.

The Rev'd Nikolai Blaskow, who initiated and leads the new group, points out that Gippsland – with its forestry, dairy farms, coal and power stations – is in the midst of debate on the environment.

He said the idea for the show came to him when he was driving towards the Loy Yang power station, seeing the white clouds of evaporating steam against a blue sky. He thought to himself "I should hate this place", yet he was seeing beauty.

This experience encapsulated for Nikolai the paradoxes and contradictions of climate change. He explained, "The whole installation is to ask questions and provoke, not to provide answers, but to show light on the dilemmas that face us". He added that Indigenous people have given us an example in their care for the environment, so the evening will begin with a smoking ceremony, and there are likely to be other elements relating to Aboriginal history in Gippsland.

Many artists from different cultures will contribute to the installation, which will include dance, music, drama, sculpture, film, photography, collage, light, sound and silence, with an interactive zone and a quiet area.

Three hundred umbrellas – black and coloured – will hang from the cathedral ceiling.

While originally Nikolai had conceived of the arts group (now calling itself ITN Arts Gippsland) as being a youth group with an arts focus, it has evolved into a multi-age group of about a dozen people, and is still growing.

The purpose of the group, Nikolai explained, is to open up issues, taking a creative approach, without making pronouncements. Theologically, he says, "Romans chapter 8 says it for me". He added, "The cathedral is a centre of the arts and education – education in the best sense, of provocation".

A week after the installation, the Rev'd Dr Graeme Garrett, adjunct faculty member of Trinity College, will preach and there will be a workshop on climate change, focussing on the oceans.

The Burnt Earth installation will be opened by Simon Gregg, Curator at the Gippsland Art Gallery in Sale, and will run from 6:00 – 9:00 pm on Sunday 14 October.



The Rev'd Nikolai Blaskow



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'.



Photo: Richard Collyer

Children created a jumbo sized picture from the story of *The Lost Son*

Korumburra school holiday activities

Lyn Gilbert

The Combined Churches of Korumburra again held an activities morning in the first week of the school holidays at St Paul's Anglican Church. Sixteen primary aged children attended between 10 am and 12 noon joining in games, singing, art and a video.

The theme was "The Lost Son", the parable of the prodigal son, which was presented in a video and games as well as jumbo sizing a picture.

The children were each given a large square of paper and a small coloured section of the

full picture. The small pieces of the picture had been upsized in black outline onto the large sheets of paper. The children then painted the larger sized piece following the colours in the small piece.

At the end of the session the jumbo sized paintings were put together, revealing the prodigal son being greeted by his father on his return, with the caption "Like a loving father, God longs to welcome back all his children". It was a great activity and much enjoyed by all the children.

The leadership team is from the Anglican, Baptist, Southern Hills, Uniting and Lutheran churches in Korumburra.

The call to leadership – "Is it I Lord?"

GFS Kidsplus + Gippsland operates as a network throughout our Gippsland Diocese, to encourage, support and equip parishes in sustaining and nurturing outreach ministries in their local communities.

We plan to facilitate opportunities for parish members to identify and recognize personal gifts and talents which might be utilized in outreach to children, youth,

families and adult individuals.

The first of what we hope will be a series of workshops will be offered on Saturday 23 September (please refer to advertisement on page 8) to encourage consideration of leadership responsibilities and possibilities. This workshop will be held at Drouin Anglican Church, and open to all. Please consider your availability.

GFS Kidsplus+ has a nationally approved syllabus

suiting all models of ministry as we consider areas of discipleship, values and strategies, child development, programming, ministry models, faith sharing, teamwork, leadership styles, and resources for use within a parish, diocesan or community environment.

Come along and help us explore opportunities and possibilities for new or expanded ministry.

The Order of St Luke Triennial Conference

The triennial conference of the Order of St Luke the Physician will be held this year in Melbourne from October 2nd to 6th. The venue will be the Waverley International Hotel, Springvale Road, Glen Waverley.

The Order, like others within the church, is facing challenging and changing times. Accordingly, the theme for this conference will be, "Walking in Faith into the Future". The Order has been active in Australia since it began in 1960 at Christ Church, St. Laurence in Sydney under the leadership of Father John Hope. It is dedicated to encouraging and supporting healing ministry within churches.

At each conference the Pearce Memorial lecture is given in tribute to the late Andrew Pearce, a former national chaplain of the Order. This year it will be presented by Bishop



John Harrower on the subject "Dealing with Trauma?".

There will be four keynote speakers who will also provide workshops from which participants may choose. They will include Dr Grant Bickerton, Christian psychologist, who has been much involved in ministry formation in the Melbourne diocese and elsewhere. The others are the Rev'd Bruce Reekie, on the theology of healing, the Rev'd Bill Sim, chaplain of the OSL New Zealand, and Pastor Jason Rawlings who will speak on "Keys to Unlock Australia".

Bible studies will be offered by the Rev'd Geoff McAuliffe, who will be inducted at the conference as the incoming National Chaplain by the retiring chaplain, the Rev'd Trevor Butler.

The Order of St Luke has, since its beginnings in the USA in 1947, been an ecumenical organization and all interested persons are welcome to attend, either in residence for the full four days, or as participants in day or evening sessions. Full information and registration forms can be obtained from the national office of OSL Healing Ministries. Please contact the acting secretary on (03) 9837 5097 or at oslaust@bigpond.com. The Victorian State Chaplain, the Rev'd Lloyd George, is also pleased to receive enquiries on 0427 460 485. The OSL website is at: www.osl.org.au.

Breakfast farewell and thanks

Ursula Plunkett
Bairnsdale

A special breakfast, between the two Sunday services, was held to say "thank you" to Marie Stripp and Bensa Seymour and to farewell John Matthews.

Marie Stripp is retiring after being the co-ordinator for the Pastoral Care team for many years. Bensa Seymour has cleaned our church for over ten years and feels it's time to retire. John Matthews will be leaving us to live in Queanbeyan. He'll be associated with an Anglican Order which helps and works with the sick, homeless and hungry. We wish him well.

An Inter-Church Pastoral Group lunch is being held

at St John's on 20th July. The guest speaker is from the Smith Family and will be speaking about their learning program.

St John's parishioners are being encouraged by Rector Tony to participate in "Times of Prayer"

starting on Sunday 16 July at 1pm. We need to seek guidance from God about our church's future and the appointment of our next Rector. This prayer time will be ongoing. Rector Tony will be retiring at the end of July.



Bensa Seymour, John Matthews and Marie Stripp



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

Geoff Pittaway – new canon

Jan Down

The Rev'd Geoff Pittaway, rector at Mirboo North, has been appointed as a Canon of St Paul's Cathedral in Sale, and will be installed by Dean Susanna Pain at the 5:00 pm Evensong on Sunday, 13 August.

When Bishop Kay Goldsworthy asked if Geoff was willing to take up this appointment, Geoff replied "I guess so. Do I have to wear more funny clothes? I'm not sure I'll Cope". Since the news came out, Geoff has had many canon jokes fired at him.

But speaking seriously, Geoff said that he is "happy to take up the privilege and honour of the role in order to support the work of the diocese and the cathedral".



The Rev'd Geoff Pittaway at the NAIDOC service at Lake Tyers

Geoff is known for his gifts of teaching and preaching and says it is a joy to use them. When he asked Dean Susanna what a canon does, she said there would be opportunities to preach – and also to prune the roses. Geoff replied that he is happy to do both.

Geoff commented that in taking up this role, he has a sense of "coming almost a full

circle", in that his grandfather was also a canon of the cathedral at Sale. Canon A E Clark was the author of *Church of our Fathers*, a history of the church in Gippsland 1847–1947.

As canon, Geoff also becomes a member of the Greater Chapter of the cathedral, which meets about once a year.



Hearts made by the people of St Thomas Anglican church and the Uniting Church craft group in Bunyip, for flood affected Queenslanders

A heart for your pocket

Barb Smith, Bishop's PA at Rockhampton

With the national media covering the recent cyclone and flood in our region, Rockhampton was brought to the attention of people far and wide.

While residents in our city had plenty of warning and assistance to prepare for the water coming down our river, and even those in the cyclone affected areas had some time to prepare, there were areas that were not so fortunate.

Some areas were inundated with never-before seen flood levels, that travelled as a wall of water and rose metres in a very short period of time. This had a devastating impact on a small rural area in the northern part of our Diocese particularly.

A group of people in Victoria were particularly interested in showing support for anyone who may have been affected by these natural disasters.

Support doesn't necessarily need to come by way of money, and while these people were praying for victims they contacted us regarding a token of their support.

The people of St Thomas Anglican church and the Uniting Church craft group in Bunyip, Victoria sent a parcel of pocket hearts for us to distribute. Their idea is that these hearts will be distributed as we feel appropriate to people letting them know that they are in someone's thoughts and prayers.

We will be forwarding a small parcel of these to the people of the Clarke Creek area, letting them know that

the pocket hearts come with thoughts and prayers of many. I'm sure that such a beautiful and heartfelt gesture will bring some comfort to people who have suffered loss, and who will be recovering for a long time to come yet, from a very trying event.

We will also be distributing some pocket hearts to all parishes so as they may gift them to people that are needing a little extra comfort in their lives, and help them remember that they are always in someone's thoughts and prayers.

This article first appeared in The Anglican Church of Central Queensland Gazette, May 2017, and is reprinted with kind permission.

Winter food for Anglicare

Heather Clarke
Bunyip



This photo shows the result of Bunyip's recent Winter Food Appeal for Anglicare. Each week's appeal focussed on a particular type of food or commodity such as cereals, UHT milk, tinned goods, or baby needs. The results were outstanding, and we offer our thanks to all who participated, including the Church Mice who organised the delivery of the goods to Anglicare, Morwell.

Messy Church explores God's promises

Marg Burnell
Sale

St. Paul's Messy Church in Sale is well under way and has now been meeting for three months. Messy Church offers an alternative way of doing church, of reflecting on the scriptures, of praying, of being community. It is intergenerational, encouraging people of all ages to share in worship in creative and gentle ways.

Messy Church meets monthly, basing activities on a theme. Our June gathering centred around God's promises for us. The rainbow provided both a focus in the quiet reflective area and a creative opportunity to put together a colourful mosaic. Other activities included working with clay, a treasure hunt for copies of some of the promises given to us through scripture, conversation around Rublev's icon and a hanging display of named stars. These stars then set the scene for an interactive prayer time and the story of Abraham, his faith over long years of waiting and God's promise to make him into a great nation. The evening concluded with conversations



Judah Levchenko and his father, Nicholas, work together at the clay table

over the dinner table, with a choice of home-made winter soups and sandwiches.

Regular attenders of St. Paul's have taken up this new form of doing church with a lot of enthusiasm and excitement. As a result a strong team is emerging with the combined vision of welcoming people into the St. Paul's community of faith. Support has also come from other parishes in Gippsland, with volunteers from Messy Churches at St John's Bairnsdale and St John's Maffra sharing their experiences and knowledge.

If you would like to find out more about St. Paul's Messy Church please contact Marg on 0411 748 656 or Dean Susanna on 0418 637 469.

Two Gippsland events coming up: Messy Church and Mission, Saturday 2 September, 1:00 pm–3:30 pm at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale. Register online: ucavt.goregister.com.au/messychurchmission More info – Sue Lester, Gippsland Coordinator: 0418 529 662 or sue.lester@bigpond.com

Re:generations 2017 – exploring intergenerational ministry and mission, Friday 1 September, 10:00 – 3:00 pm at Warragul Uniting Church, 220 Sutton St Warragul. Cost \$10. Register online: ucavt.goregister.com.au/regeneration2017. Facilitated by Chris Barnett from the Centre for Theology and Mission. Info: info@ctm.uca.edu.au

Cooperating for children's ministry

**Ruth Place and
Brenda Burney**

Children's ministry has always been important to me (Brenda). As a child, I was able to enjoy learning about Jesus because of the commitment the adults in my church made to passing on the good news in a way that was exciting and fun but still had great meaning. I still remember my Religious Education classes at school, going to Sunday School every week and, later on, our youth group – YACS – which grew from our confirmation classes.

The Cooperating Parish of Churchill, Boolarra, Yinnar has a long history of commitment to children's ministry. As a young adult in the early 80s I helped with the Friday Night Youth group.

As well as Sunday School and Children's Ministry time during worship on Sundays, there has generally been a dedicated ministry to children in some form during the week. One of the most exciting and valuable programs we have undertaken is Christmas and Easter Club.

It began about nine years ago when Christian Religious teachers became scarce.

Locally we weren't able to properly service our local schools. Our UCA Supply Minister at the time, the Rev'd Ivy Goodwin, suggested we invite the children from grades 1 and 2 at Churchill Primary School to attend an Easter program at the church. The school was happy to be involved. The children came, the Easter story was presented, they sang a song, enjoyed various craft activities, said a prayer then returned to school. They returned for more of the same the following week, each receiving a small Easter gift as they left.

The program was so well received that we decided to see if the school would like to do a Christmas Club too. They did and the Grade 3s and 4s joined in this time as well. Christmas Club and Easter Club continue to be a major strength of our children's ministry with over 100 children participating in Easter Club this year as Boolarra and Yinnar Primary Schools joined the program. We couldn't do it without our dedicated team of volunteers, who come from our own parish and from other local churches.

From time to time we run activities during the school



Playing "Porridge Pants" at a Youth Group Messy Games night

holidays, including a Lego-based program designed and run by parishioners Cathie and Allan Halliwell. It will run for one week of the September holidays this year. Music Playgroup is another activity we run during the holidays. These activities help connect us to the wider community as well as giving us opportunities to share the gospel.

We run a monthly Youth Group for primary to early secondary level students. Our activities include Messy Games nights, cooking, science experiments, bonfires, hikes, sports nights and movie nights. We always have a devotion as part of our program. We are very blessed to have these opportunities to share our faith.

*The Rev'd Brenda Burney
is rector at Churchill /
Boolarra / Yinnar. Ruth Place
is a TGA correspondent.*



Leadership training workshop

for children and youth parish workers and others interested

Saturday 23rd September

10:00 am – 1:00 pm – lunch provided

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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'.

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

Children and grief

James Oakley

When my Gran died not so long ago, her death didn't come as a surprise – she was 95, and we had noticed her getting more and more frail. As it happened, I was away walking in Freycinet National Park as she started to deteriorate, so I emerged from the park to the news that she had died. I was spared the hour by hour news of her bad reaction to the morphine. I did not hear the reports from family about how she had stopped eating and drinking. I did not have to make the difficult decision of whether to fly up to Sydney to see her one last time before she died.

My Gran lived in NSW – in her own home in Sydney until the age of 94, and then lately in an aged care facility on the Central Coast. She was stubbornly independent, in that she never wanted to be a trouble to anyone. And she was completely dependable – my brothers, my sister and I always knew we could rely on her for a bed when we were in Sydney, for phone calls on special occasions, for visits when we were passing through. She never missed any of her great-grandkids' birthdays.

I knew my Gran mostly through her retirement years. She was a woman who travelled, and was ready with some marvellous stories and photos of her travels. But what sticks more in my mind was her enormous willingness to serve – she was involved in management of her local RSL

and bowls clubs for more years than I can remember.

My own kids got to know their great-Gran a little, but being so far away from her for almost all of their lives, they really didn't know her well. We couldn't get them up to the funeral. I was somewhat surprised at their reactions – my eldest was quite sad and quite put out that she couldn't come along. I suppose that she knew Gran best of the three children, which goes some way to explaining things.

But then I remembered that she was the one most affected when her other great-grandmother died. I guess she is more demonstrative with her grief, and finds greater comfort in ritual and in grieving alongside the wider family. (She is our little extravert!) My other two children seemed to lose interest once they knew that they weren't coming with us, and once they were satisfied with the arrangements for their care while Sally and I were away.

Since all this, I've done a little reading on children and grief, and a few things have caught my attention:

- The folk at Beyond Blue note, in the context of grief and bereavement, that children learn from adult behaviour and seek permission from adults. My own children, on our return from NSW, were asking me, "Do you feel sad?" (yes) and "Did you cry?" (no). I wondered at their interest, but it

makes sense – they were trying to work out what the rules are for this sort of thing, trying to work out how they should feel and react. In hindsight, I think I would make more of an effort to show them how my Gran's death affects me.

- Many different sites make mention of different grief reactions in children, ranging from the "classic" reactions of teariness and clinginess to more off-the-wall behaviours like anger, acting out, and regressive behaviour. Some children will internalize their grief, and just carry on behaviourally as if nothing had happened. It was a helpful reminder to me not to assume that my younger two children are unaffected because they haven't articulated their feelings.
- All the different commentators talk about how important it is to talk openly, simply and concretely about bereavement and loss. Using words like "died" or "death" is preferable to euphemisms like "passed away", "eternal sleep" or "left us".
- A very helpful South Australian website* describes how different ages deal with and understand grief and loss, ranging from pre-schoolers to teenagers. One observation that this site makes is that children in the upper primary age range

will start to ask questions about life after death. For my family and my Gran, this is a source of great hope. I wonder how I would go speaking with my kids about this in the context of the death of someone who is not a Christian?

- All the websites talk about the vast range of changes that can bring grief to children – changes including death of friends, family or pets, family break up, moving house or changing schools, illness (self or family member), loss of a friendship. It's helpful to remember that a child's grief may underlie what appears, on the surface, to be poor or inexplicable behaviour.

The last thought, and it's a little bit comforting, is that I felt (and still feel) really ill-equipped to deal with this issue with my kids. We're pretty well shielded from death and loss in our society, and we're used to leaving such complexities to the experts when they arise. While there is

a place for expert intervention where it is needed, it seems to me that most kids don't need that sort of intervention – they need a parent who is present, authentic and open with them. And I think I just might even be able to manage that.

James Oakley is a Children and Youth Ministry Worker in The Tasmanian Anglican diocese. This article is one of his "Parents as Pastors" columns, and was first published in The Tasmanian Anglican, December 2016. It is reprinted with permission

**Parenting and Child Health: chy.com – search for "grief and loss"*

- Some useful resources:**
- betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/grief-and-children
 - beyondblue.org.au/the-facts/suicide-prevention/understanding-suicide-and-grief/suicide-and-grief/what-is-grief-/children-and-grief
 - kidsmatter.edu.au/mental-health-matters/should-i-be-concerned/children-and-grief



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Not what I intended

Geoff Pittaway

I am writing this piece just two days before the Editor's deadline ... I don't like to rush things! However, it provides "grist for the mill" as another illustration for a sermon I preached recently on Romans 7:14-25.

In that passage St Paul (remember him: formerly "circumcised", favoured, zealous, Pharisee, faultless) describes the battle that rages within him – and in every Christian: "For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do – this I keep on doing." (7:19 NIV).

Now, not writing a piece for TGA is hardly a besetting sin, but it is indicative of one's ability to swap doing what is necessary in favour of the alternative which may be a lesser, even "evil" alternative.

My favoured illustration for the sermon was about my driving, which I described as both a pleasurable relaxation, and a frustrating necessity.

You may not drive like I do (my wife would applaud you for that!) but you may have noticed, as I have, that whenever another driver does something stupid and possibly dangerous in front of you, there is a tendency to "comment" on this behaviour.



Illustration: Colin Oakley

This can take the form of words, possibly ill-chosen but unheard by the offender, or actions such as a shake of the fist, possibly seen and inflammatory.

Subsequently, more often than not, one can easily fall into the same behaviour within two kilometres with someone else doing the mouthing and shaking of fist! St Paul said: "I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out". (7:18)

It is not necessary for me to point to even bigger issues that catch us out, even though we purport to follow Jesus Christ as His disciples. The small ones suffice to illustrate our besetting problem. It would be easy to become depressed over one's "failings" as a follower of the Lord. (Flagellation was once a common pastime of those who allowed these feelings to persist

– but so unnecessary!). St Paul is not actually performing some kind of verbal flagellation in Romans 7 – it is, in fact, a closely argued theology about our need to rest on God in Christ who is our Rescuer (v. 24b).

Neither ought we simply to say: "Well, it is just the sin living in me (7:17, 20); what can I do?" St. Paul's argument does not leave us in a dilemma. It points us to the problem, rightly understood, and to the solution that we claim through Christ. "Who will rescue me from this body of death?" is triumphantly answered with: "Thanks be to God – through Jesus Christ our Lord!"

The recognition of our tendency to sin, in all its forms, does not leave room for the Christian to look down at the ground (the place of death), but rather up into the face of God in Christ where true freedom is found. Despite our current, temporary, sinful nature we know that we will one day be free from our tendencies to sin when we pass into the presence of God in His fullness. Which is why Chapter 7 is followed by Chapter 8 leaving us without condemnation: "Through

Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death".

This maxim is well remembered when we look at others. Who knows their heart, but God? We cannot condemn others – even for poor driving – when we look at ourselves and our own struggle to get our inner desire to match our actions.

The Rev'd Geoff Pittaway is Rector at Mirboo North.

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EDITORIAL

Do we have invisible friends?

Jesus had invisible friends – at least, he made friends with invisible people.

He invited the children and mothers to come to him. He talked to an excluded Samaritan woman at a well in the hottest part of the day. He insisted on meeting the blind man who kept shouting at him as he and his disciples were walking past. The lame, the lepers, the women who were banished for one reason or another, the short man who climbed a tree to see him. All the people that others did not notice.

There are many invisible people in our communities. There are the families with invisible members – perhaps there is one in jail, or isolated by mental illness. The whole family suffers, often in silence and invisibility.

Australia as a country is often blind to the poor; to refugees; to the consequences of our dealings with our own First Peoples.

On the local scene, there are church agencies such as Anglicare that do wonderful work, but what do we do as individuals? Shane Claiborne, in *The Irresistible Revolution*, tells of surveying committed Christians, asking them if Jesus spent time with the poor, and about 80% said yes. Asked if they spent time with the poor, less than 2% said yes. Shane writes that the tragedy in the church is "not that rich Christians do not care about the poor, but that rich Christians do not know the poor".

A man (now recovered and working) who used to sleep rough on the city streets and beg to support a drug habit, said recently that what people in that situation need most is not money or food (free food parcels are readily available in Melbourne at least) – it is relationship. They need someone to say hello and talk to them, to treat them like a real person. In other words, they need to be seen.

Gippsland Anglican Retirement Living

Val Jones

With so much recent media coverage of anything related to “retirement living”, it is timely to look at our own Gippsland Diocesan Retirement Village – Clifton Waters at Bairnsdale.

I joined the Gippsland Anglican Retirement Living Ltd (GARLL) Board eighteen months ago and although it has been a very steep learning curve, it continues to be a very exciting and rewarding experience. What makes this place so very special is something intangible – a sense of good will – an ethos – a warm feeling. These are things that cannot be manufactured or bought. Clifton Waters is a great blessing in our midst.

A little history

Early in 1953 Canon Smith attended an address by a member of the Brotherhood of St Lawrence at St John’s, Bairnsdale. Fired by the address and with an idea of a scheme for the elderly, Canon Smith communicated his idea to Miss Martin whose property “Mizpah” occupied 21 acres at Wy Yung (near Bairnsdale).

Subsequently Miss Martin sold the land to the Church of St John (Bairnsdale) for £2,100 – when it was worth at least twice that much. Miss Martin asked that the property be used “for something to help the aged”. The purchase was approved by the Vestry in June 1953 and a group established to draw up a constitution for the project. The inaugural meeting of the Clifton Waters Village Council was held at St John’s Rectory on 23 June 1953. The Village was to be for low income active retirees.

Canon Smith worked tirelessly to advertise the concept around Gippsland while different church groups and organizations fund-raised to build individual one- bedroom houses.

Over the years many homes were built – and also a community centre, administration building, maintenance shed, Men’s Shed, craft room and so on. Some homes have had substantial upgrades, some have been demolished. Newer and more diversified house types have been added. Some of the land was sold to Gippsland Grammar School so that a Junior Campus could be built next door to the Village.

The Village remained under the administration of St John’s Parish until 2010 when the Diocesan Trust Corporation took over the land and buildings. St John’s Parish is still very actively involved with the Village. The Diocese – which is in effect the “landlord” – engages the Gippsland Anglican Retirement Living Board (GARLL) to administer the Village.

Today Clifton Waters occupies about half of what remains of Miss Martin’s land. It has 91 sites and 89 units.

John Matthews

John Matthews has lived at Clifton Waters for the past 14 years and for 13 of them he has been Treasurer of the Social Club/Resident’s Association.

John says that when he first saw the Village, “What I loved was the park-like setting – so I’d have the ability to have a garden. I was looking for security. There are no strangers here – if someone sees a stranger they’ll ask, “Who’s that?” We don’t need a Neighbourhood Watch. I like the fellowship and sense of family... You can live in town and not know your next-door neighbours. Here, if someone is sick there is someone at the door with soup or something like that.”

Beryl Walden

Beryl Walden has lived at the Village for not quite two years. Her parents and her in-laws lived at Clifton Waters so she knew the place well. The walk along



Beryl Walden (far left) is involved in one of the many craft groups at Clifton Waters

the back of the village and the river is “Walden’s Walk” – named after her mother-in-law.

Beryl says “What I like about it here is that you get to know neighbours and people help one another – to a degree. There is a sense of community and lots of social activities – which I am really into. I like being busy and hate sitting at home. While I am able and fit I’m out and about and enjoying life and visiting friends”.

Lee Jameson, CEO

Lee Jameson took over as CEO of Clifton Waters 3 ½ years ago. Within her first six months new government aged care legislation was enacted.

She commented, “In 2015 the aged care industry changed, largely through self auditing by Consumer Affairs and the Government. Enormous work went into ‘tidying up’ contracts and in this respect the legislation has gone a long way in ensuring that when someone moves from place to place they can ‘compare apples with apples’”.

On the recent media coverage about retirement villages, Lee comments, “We so often face the challenges of the legacy of previous years. What’s happening in the media tends to be

about isolated cases and can be very sensationalist. They will tell the story of one or two residents – and these stories are very valid – but they are not the story of retirement living. They do not tell the whole story. We have an “open door” policy but that doesn’t mean all residents will see eye to eye with us. They say the industry average of unhappy residents is 4%.”

Lee sees the great strength of Clifton Waters is its community. “It’s interesting because all the residents say there wouldn’t be a better place to live – and I say there isn’t a better place to work. It’s wonderful to see someone come into the Village. They may feel hesitation or trepidation at first. We watch people blossom back into belonging. The strength of a Retirement Village is its community. Residents are ambassadors – showing people around etc. We have a program and make up a little hamper for new residents – and we invite them to activities.”



Clifton Waters in the 1950s

C O R R E S P O N D E N C E

Chief Scientist Alan Finkel in the review of the National Electricity Market has shown more wisdom and understanding of future energy markets than the idealistic views expressed by many academics.

Finkel has proposed a clean energy target (CET) that is technically neutral and not prescriptive on methods or resources used. The recommendations are outcome-focussed which surely is a rational and logical way to progress changes! Finkel is very aware that Australian communities and industries are seeking energy security and reliability at reasonable prices.

The debate is not about climate change but transition. High moral statements by the anti’s, such as “no coal is clean”, do little to address change! Gas has nearly 50% less emissions than coal and surely will underpin our electricity and energy needs for many decades.

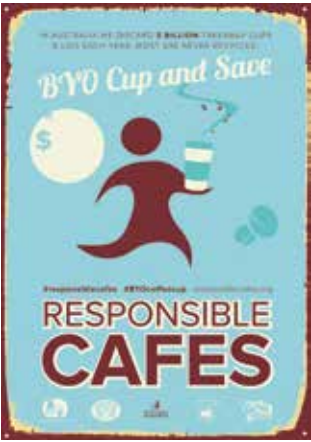
I believe the Finkel recommendations provide a blueprint for our future energy and provide security as well as meeting Australia’s global climate change commitments.

Alex Arbuthnot, Sale

EARTH CARE CARD

– Tips and inspiration for churches and households

#31 Responsible cafés



Take your own re-usable coffee cup (many with lids are commercially available) to a café that has registered with responsiblecafes.org and you can receive a discount on your take-away coffee, tea or hot chocolate, as well as helping to keep “disposable” cups out of land-fill.

Three billion take away cups are discarded every year in Australia, and most are not recycled, according to Responsible Cafés, a voluntary run organization of café owners and coffee drinkers.

You can find participating cafés by searching for your town on the Responsible Cafés map – including many in Gippsland. Participating cafés receive a vintage-style poster, information sheet and bi-yearly metrics. If your town doesn’t have a registered cafe, you could suggest they sign up.

Chris Bennie

Theological blogger – Bunyip



Chris Bennie, with Japanese tapestry in the background

Jan Down

Chris Bennie writes: “My theological position would be regarded as old-fashioned today as I have a definite belief in God’s power to act directly in, for want of a better term, a supernatural fashion in the physical, historical world in which we live”.

These words are taken from the “About” page of Chris’s blog, “A Pilgrim’s Way”, where Chris writes his reflections, mainly on theological topics. He has always been interested in theology, and is a graduate of Religious Studies from Latrobe University.

His first blog took the form of a letter to Colin Thornby, just after Colin died in 2013. Colin, who was a Community Soul Carer of the Anam Cara Community in Gippsland, had been Chris’s spiritual director, and had a major impact on his life. The blog is dedicated to Colin’s memory.

Since coming to the church at Bunyip (six years before retirement), Chris has also been deeply inspired and encouraged in his writing by Bishop Michael Hough, who took a locum in the parish a few years ago, and by the Rev’d Ken Parker, who is currently taking a longer locum there. Father Ken has included several short articles on seasonal topics from Chris’s blog in the Sunday

pew sheet, such as his recent reflection on the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, for the feast of Corpus Christi.

While Chris describes his blog (chrisnb.wordpress.com) as a dialogue between himself and God, he also hopes that it may be of service to others. “I would love to have more people read it and join in the conversation”, he says.

He can spend two to three hours a day writing, when he is feeling inspired, and says it can be quite compulsive. Some topics are challenging, but Chris is aware there are times when the brain works unconsciously; he will wake from sleep and suddenly find clarity on a question, or that there’s a new direction to take. There have been times when “it felt like God was writing it”.

Before moving to Gippsland, Chris attended St Peter’s Eastern Hill in Melbourne, which is where he first met Ken Parker, who worshipped at St Peter’s before he was ordained. Chris was involved in a Wednesday night Bible Study group there which was nick-named the Gourmet Bible Study because as well as seriously studying the Bible, the group enjoyed a good meal – “and a good splash of wine”.

Chris worked for the Department of Veteran Affairs for about sixteen years, latterly managing their desktop publishing. The Department ran an art competition for veterans and war widows each year, and Chris was involved

in the production of the book showcasing the artworks.

His appreciation of art and design (as well as books) has led him to become a member of the Folio Society of London which produces beautiful editions of the classics and also some facsimile editions of medieval illuminated manuscripts, some of which Chris now owns.

At the Anglican Church of St Thomas, Bunyip, Chris is a regular Eucharistic assistant. He also attends a weekly ecumenical meditation group at the Catholic Church in Warragul where he lives. The group is a member of the World Community of Christian Meditation (WCCM), founded and directed by John Main OSB.

Chris finds meditation helpful in letting go of “the monkey mind”. He says you can’t stop the chattering in the mind, but you can reach a point where you can ignore it. They use as a mantra “maranatha”, which is Aramaic for “Come Lord”. Concentrating on the syllables, Chris says, “takes you beyond yourself and back to the main purpose, which is to empty yourself and be in the presence of God”.

In an earlier blog this year (May 17) Chris showed his concern for the state of the church today and offered a way forward. He wrote:

We see the church all around us in retreat and apparent failure, its influence being lessened as people turn away more and more from all the failure and abuse... What we must do is what we have always been called upon to do: we must repent and believe the Gospel, we must pray always as Jesus in his earthly life did, laying hands on the sick, feeding the hungry and working to put to rights the wrongs we have done to each other and to those who are not within the church, and we must seek to restore the broken relationships and rebuild the Church, the Body of Christ, on the local as well as universal level. We must do it in faith and expectation that God will act. If we will be faithful in these small things God will be faithful in the big and he will truly bless and heal us and make his church live again so that the whole world may believe.

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.

August

- 5 Lay Readers’ Training Day, Drouin, led by Bishop Kay Goldsworthy
- 11 6:30 pm – 9:00 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
- 12 9:30 – 4:00 pm Safe Church Awareness (full) Workshop at St Peter’s Anglican Church, Leongatha
- 19 12:00 noon The Abbey Feast, with Chef Nikolai Blaskow Phone: 5156 6580 Email: info@theabbey.org.au.
- 26–27 Weekend-long celebration of 10th anniversary of the Dedication of Christ Church Drouin: “Open the doors and see all the people”.
Saturday 26 – 9:00 am – 12:00 noon open church morning – explore worship spaces, hear insights from current church groups and about the history; morning tea, then Anniversary Evensong at 5:00 pm.
Sunday 27 – 9:00 am Anniversary Holy Communion
- 27 2:00 pm A Pleasant Sunday Afternoon Concert at Christ Church Drouin, with vocal and instrumental ensemble, “Baw Baw Singers”
- 27 9:30 am “Who would true valour see”: a celebration of John Bunyan at St Thomas’ Bunyip
- 28 11:00 am Annual Legacy Widows’ Service, St James’ Traralgon

September

- 1 10:00 am – 3:00 pm Re:generation 2017 intergenerational ministry and mission at Warragul Uniting Church (see page 7)
- 2 10:00 am – 3:00 pm a Quiet Day on Pilgrimage at St Thomas, Bunyip
- 2 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm Messy Church and Mission, at St Paul’s Cathedral, Sale (see page 7)
- 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
- 23 10:00 am – 1:00 pm Leadership training workshop offered by GFS Kidsplus+ Network at Drouin Anglican Church. Express your interest RSVP: Carol Johnstone 5174 4845 / gippskidsplus@people.net.au or our Chaplain jenny.ramage@outlook@outlook.com
- 24 9:30 am “Who wrote *Onward Christian Soldiers*?” Celebrating Sabine Baring-Gould, at St Thomas, Bunyip

October

- 1 12:00 noon “Blessing of the Animals” in honour of St Francis: an outdoor Eucharist and a BBQ to follow, at St Thomas, Bunyip
- 14 6:00 – 9:00 pm “Burnt Earth” multi-media art installation on environmental issues at St Paul’s Cathedral, Sale (see page 5)