

The Gippsland Anglican

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Jan Down

Geoff Pittaway installed as Canon

Dean Susanna Pain admitted and installed the Rev'd Geoff Pittaway as a Canon at St Paul's Cathedral in Sale during the service of Evening Prayer on Sunday 13 August.

Geoff said that it was "a privilege and an honour" to be made a Canon of the Cathedral. His sermon, based on the readings from PSALM 85 and ROMANS 5: 1-11, was in essence an expression of thanks to various significant people in his life – and to Jesus.

He thanked his mother for taking him to church as a child, and his father, who first told the 22 year old Geoff that it was "a bloody silly idea" for him to become a priest, telling him to "Go and get a real job!" But after Geoff had worked for Telecom for twelve years, and then told his father he was going into the ministry, his father completely changed his mind and said "That's fantastic".

Geoff thanked his wife, Liz, for encouraging him to seek ordination and for giving him 28 years of ministry support. Amongst others, he thanked the Rev'd Chris Carolane, who had been a high school friend and was the one who brought Geoff to know Christ at the age of sixteen.

But having thanked all these important people, Geoff said "All those things pale into insignificance compared with thanking Jesus for what he has done for me".

Commenting on ROMANS 5: 7, 8, where Paul says "rarely will anyone die for a righteous

person", Geoff related the story of Father Maximilian Kolbe, who was imprisoned at Auschwitz during the Second World War. When ten prisoners were condemned to death, Maximilian stepped forward to take the place of a man with a wife and children. His offer was accepted and he died in that man's place. Then Geoff said "He gave his life for one man, but Jesus gave his life for the whole world".

Geoff looks forward to the opportunity to preach on further occasions at the cathedral. Asked whether there is anything different about teaching in the 21st century, Geoff said that the eternal truths of scripture don't change, but they need to be applied to the circumstances of the day. In the 21st century, this means "finding as many ways as possible to communicate to people that God loves them and that Christ died for them".

Geoff later mentioned that at his church in Mirboo North, they have recently been studying the book of Esther. The words that Mordecai spoke to Esther, that she may have been placed where she was in the palace "for such a time as this" have resonated with him, as he contemplated his new role.

The service was well-attended, with about 80 people from Sale and from around the diocese, including over thirty from Geoff's parish of Mirboo North. A time of good food and fellowship followed in the Delbridge hall.



Photo: Karena King

Arthur McPherson, Marion Dewar, David Chambers, Annette Hollands, the Hon John Delzoppo, Christine Morris, Dean Susanna Pain, the Rev'd Canon Geoff Pittaway, Bishop Kay Goldsworthy and the Rev'd Canon Jeff Richardson



TGA wins two ARPA awards

The Gippsland Anglican was awarded bronze for "Best Regional Publication" at the Australasian Religious Press Conference held in Auckland, New Zealand, on 26 August. Jan Down received a silver award for "Best News Story", for her report in June 2016: "Synod side-steps on marriage".

The Melbourne Anglican, which is inserted into TGA each month, was awarded "Publication of the Year".

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Making home real for others

Whenever a holiday comes to an end, I'm a bit sorry to be saying goodbye to the people, the place, the experience, the time that we've had. But, like lots of people, I also look forward to returning home. To being in familiar surroundings, back in my own territory. For most of us there truly is, "no place like home".

For many of us followers of Jesus, the word "home" describes much more than where we live. It's the way in which we experience the welcoming love of our Heavenly Father. God opening his arms to welcome us back to him is a strong image which we know from the parable of the prodigal son, and with which many Christians identify.

The idea of God as our home is at the heart of the prayer attributed to St Augustine

*Creator God,
You have made us for
yourself,
and our hearts are restless
Until they find their rest
in you.*

But of course the idea of home, the reality of home,



Bishop Kay Goldsworthy

safe harbour, our own country, the grace of welcome is not the every day experience for many.

For millions of people around the world, home is the place they can't go back to. For far too many women and children, home is a place of violence and abuse. In Victoria housing affordability is a major issue for people who live on or near the poverty line.

Last month I was shocked

to hear from Anglicare that more children are in out of home care in Gippsland than in any other region of Victoria.

Home means different things to us all: it's our castle, it's our safe harbour, it's the ground in which we dig, and plant, or our shelter from life's storms.

Perhaps we can't all take in someone who needs to know the safety of home that so many of us take for granted

but there are ways that we can contribute to making something of home real for others.

Maybe you could help out at the local school breakfast club or contribute to Anglicare's fund which helps children who are in out of home care go on an excursion or learn a musical instrument. Perhaps you could write to your local member about those people who are still being held in detention or being threatened with no future hope on Manus Island and Nauru.

Perhaps you could welcome someone for whom home is lonely to share a meal or a cuppa. Perhaps you could investigate becoming a foster parent. Or invite a neighbour who is lonely to come with you to church.

*Creator God,
You have made us for
yourself,
and our hearts are restless
until they find their rest in
you:
teach us to offer ourselves to
your service,
that here we may have your
peace,
and in the world to come
may see you face to face;
through Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen.*

+Kay

The Gippsland Anglican

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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.

PAYNESVILLE EASTERN REGION

St Peter's by the Lake, Paynesville
Abbey Church of St Barnabas,
Raymond Island
Priest at Paynesville and The
Abbey: Archdeacon Edie Ashley

Paynesville attracts many retirees and those seeking a change from the pace of the city to the peace of the Gippsland Lakes. The parish encompasses Paynesville, Eagle Point, Newlands Arm and Raymond Island.

The opportunities of the Lakes and the wonder of the environment form the backdrop for worship and work, creativity and prayer.

The St Peter's Quiet Garden

overlooking the Lake, and the open church, welcome all for contemplation and prayer.

The Diocesan Mission at The Abbey is supported by many from St Peter's by the Lake.

Pray that we might be present within the community, alert to the call of God, responsive to the needs of the ageing and open to connect in new ways that minister God's love to families within the community.

ROSEDALE EASTERN REGION

St Mark, Rosedale
St Paul, Gormandale
Christ Church, Carrajung
Priest-in-Charge: The Rev'd
Lyndon Phillips

Rosedale Township is nestled between Traralgon and Sale, providing a comfortable country lifestyle with easy access to larger rural cities. The towns of Gormandale and Carrajung are the gathering spaces of their

prospective farming areas that offer support and fellowship to all residents.

Rosedale Parish is a welcoming space that embraces all who come to worship or to engage with the wider community. Our faith community is very involved within the worship time. We are committed to expressing God's love, in whatever situation we find ourselves.

Please pray for continuing spiritual growth and vitality; for our wider community as Rosedale and surrounds welcome new families; and for leaders to be involved with our children and youth projects.

SALE EASTERN REGION

Cathedral Church of St Paul, Sale
St Alban's, Kilmany
St Mark's Anglican and
Community Church, Loch Sport
St Anne's, Golden Beach
Dean: The Very Rev'd
Susanna Pain

We, at St Paul's are "people of Christian faith – encouraging connection between the Divine and the every day", as our vision statement affirms. Our mission is to show Christ's unconditional love in action.

Our goals for change and growth are: to engage inclusively with the community and each other; to nourish ourselves spiritually; and to be relevant and approachable to the community.

Prayer points: thanksgiving and prayer for new youth group; for formation of new pastoral care team; for Spring Festival of Ideas, arts projects, and healing; Contemplative Services and Messy Church; mainly music and Tadpoles; and prison outreach.

Prayer

*Gracious God, we bring
before you the needs of
these parishes: Paynesville,
Rosedale and Sale. May
they discover new ways to
serve You. Equip them to
make the gospel relevant as
they care for all wherever
You may lead. And in Your
mercy, hear our prayer.*

The Abbey adopts a Franciscan model

Edie Ashley

Following a process of reflection and discernment The Abbey Chapter has decided to adopt a Franciscan model as the framework for The Abbey life and mission.

While it will take a little time to consciously live into this way of being, there is already the sense that what has developed at The Abbey over the last few years has taken us in the direction of Francis and in the way of Franciscan Spirituality. It is very early days – and we have much to learn, to live into and to celebrate.

The Abbey Chapter has been most grateful to Bishop Godfrey Fryar (Provincial Minister for the Asia-Pacific Region of the Third Order of the Society of St Francis) who has met with us, gently teaching us and talking with us through the time of decision;



Revegetation work near the Abbey of St Barnabas on Raymond Island

the “Melbourne Franciscans” have now offered to walk with us along the way.

The Abbey Program for October marks this important moment in the spiritual journey and life of The Abbey.

You are all invited to be part of the celebration!

We will celebrate the Feast of St Francis on 4th October with Eucharist in the Abbey Chapel of St Barnabas at 11:00 am.

The following weekend commencing 5:00 pm Friday 6 October and concluding 3:00 pm Saturday 7 October there will be an Abbey Retreat “With St Clare and St Francis”. At this retreat

we will revisit the lives of St Francis and St Clare, reflecting on their spirituality, pattern of prayer and way of being church.

We will also reflect on our Abbey journey through the lens of St Francis and St Clare and we will look forward in anticipation. Eucharist, led by Bishop Kay, marks the moment with thanksgiving. Lunch shared – a time for celebration. And after lunch The Chapel will remain open for silence and prayer for those wishing and able to stay.

On Sunday 8 October at 3:00 pm there will be a Blessing of the Animals on the oval at The Abbey.

Please let The Abbey know if you are coming to the retreat “With St Clare and St Francis” – by email: info@theabbey.org.au or phone (03) 51566580.

Archdeacon Edie Ashley is Archdeacon of the Eastern Region, Abbey Priest and Priest at Paynesville.

Lay Readers Training Days



The Rev'd Tony Wicking, one of the Lay Readers' Chaplains, looks on as participants work in small groups around the church at Drouin

Jan Down

Two Lay Readers Training Days, led by the Rev'd Jenny Ramage, the Rev'd Tony Wicking and the Rev'd Dr Dean Spalding, were held in August in Drouin and Bairnsdale. Both were well attended, with 29 at Drouin including leaders, and 18 at Bairnsdale.

New people exploring the possibility of lay readership as well as current Lay Readers appreciated the opportunity to develop preaching and leadership skills, while also

enjoying the fellowship, mutual encouragement and support of meeting together.

The day's program began with Morning Prayer, led by Kath Grundy at Bairnsdale and Helen Davies at Drouin. Tony Wicking then preached and as a learning exercise, the group critiqued the sermon.

Dean Spalding then presented an overview of Matthew's gospel, which Jane Macqueen, a Lay Reader at St Paul's Cathedral in Sale, said was “really helpful – a highlight of the day”.

After lunch, attendees were given a parable to study in small

groups. They then talked about how they would preach on this reading.

Bishop Kay Goldsworthy spent the final hour catching up with participants.

Lay Readers are people who have been identified within their parishes and approved by their parish council as having the skills and spiritual maturity to preach and to lead services (other than Holy Communion) as lay people – that is, without being ordained. After due process, including an interview with one of the Lay Readers' Chaplains, they are



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Fund

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

Be a part of achieving these aims.

Contact the Diocese of Gippsland
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Email registrar@gippsanglican.org.au

licensed for three years by the Bishop to:

...read prayers and to read and explain the Holy Scriptures and to preach in Churches or in other duly authorized places in the Diocese generally to render aid to the Clergy in all ministrations.

Lay Readers are required to attend a training day once a year, and their licence must be renewed every three years. There are currently about 50 active Lay Readers in the diocese.

Society of the Sacred Mission

Society Gathering & The Inaugural Herbert Kelly Lecture

Saturday October 7
St Peter's Eastern Hill, Melb.

11am Sung Eucharist followed by Lunch in the Hall after lunch

Herbert Kelly Lecture

Dr Keith Mascord
'Diversity and engagement in a changing world'.

RSVP 29 September
Fr Collin Griffiths
email: ssm.ballarat@gmail.com
Mobile: 0456 637 114

Journeying to Canterbury

Val Jones

As an eclectic group of history buffs, we set out for the Abbey of St Barnabas on Raymond Island on 7 and 8 July to discover more about Canterbury. The workshop was organized – and run – and catered for – by the wonderful June Treadwell and Sue Fordham.

Knowing the two days would have a medieval theme, I was rather apprehensive. I could cope with medieval food – and even medieval clothing – but hoped not to encounter medieval plumbing! My fears evaporated with fine food, warm rooms – and hot mulled wine!

We began by looking at a DVD and a presentation by June on the history of Canterbury. The site of Canterbury on the Stour River in Kent, England, has been inhabited since the Bronze Age. The Celts certainly had a large settlement until the Romans established a new town called *Durovernum Cantiacorum*.

When the Romans left in 410 the city virtually fell into ruins and was abandoned. With the arrival of St Augustine in 597 to convert the British King Ethelberg to Christianity, a Cathedral and Abbey were built at Canterbury. Successive invasions by the Danes saw the Cathedral burnt several times.

When William the Conqueror arrived in 1066 the people of Canterbury showed no resistance and a new castle was established as well as a new Cathedral. The Cathedral was built in the Norman Style, though later reconstruction was Romanesque. The murder, by the King's men, of the Archbishop of Canterbury Thomas

Becket in 1170 saw Canterbury and its Cathedral became notable throughout Christendom. Many, many pilgrims made their way to visit the shrine of St Thomas Becket.

Over the course of the two days we looked at the construction of the Cathedral and disastrous fires that dogged its medieval life. As a prelude to discussing the murder of Becket, the Rev'd Ken Parker gave a short address on the nature of martyrdom. He pointed to the fine line between Becket's seeking martyrdom as a means of glory and a choosing to do God's will, even if it meant death. Ken left us with the image of walking the plank of a seesaw and being precariously balanced in the middle so that opinion might go either way. We read passages from the play by T. S. Eliot – *Murder In The Cathedral* which further developed ideas on martyrdom.

During dinner on the first night, Sue treated us to an introduction to *Canterbury Tales* by Geoffrey Chaucer, written in the 14th century. Chaucer's Tales are stories told by a disparate group of people who are making a pilgrimage to Becket's Shrine in Canterbury. Sue later gave an overview of all the pilgrims but then selected the "Miller's Tale" for our special study. Read in Sue's theatrical voice (in modern English) the bawdy and very funny tale came alive.

June introduced us to early music played around the time of Becket's death. We looked at the mainly percussion instruments used and listened to some early songs. A wonderful time was had by all.

I enrol in anything June and Sue present because I know I will learn a lot – and have great fun. What's next?



Participants warming up with a cuppa at the workshop

Jesus Christ, friend of the outcast – badges

Chris McAleer

Jesus Christ was accused of being a friend of tax-collectors (as in collaborators/traitors) and sinners (MATTHEW 11:19). Perhaps it is an idea whose time has come again. It was 35 years ago while I was ministering on Hindley Street as a member of the Godcares Mission to Adelaide, coordinated by United Christian Forum, that the inspiration for a badge for Christian youth workers was born.

It has been regularly re-minted in various patterns and colours for most of the last three and a half decades. This year's badge design has a Maltese cross in the centre, signifying the centrality of Jesus Christ. The four birds signify those who come together in Jesus' name.

As well as being an excellent conversation starter, it proclaims a truth that the marginalised in our society want to hear and experience.



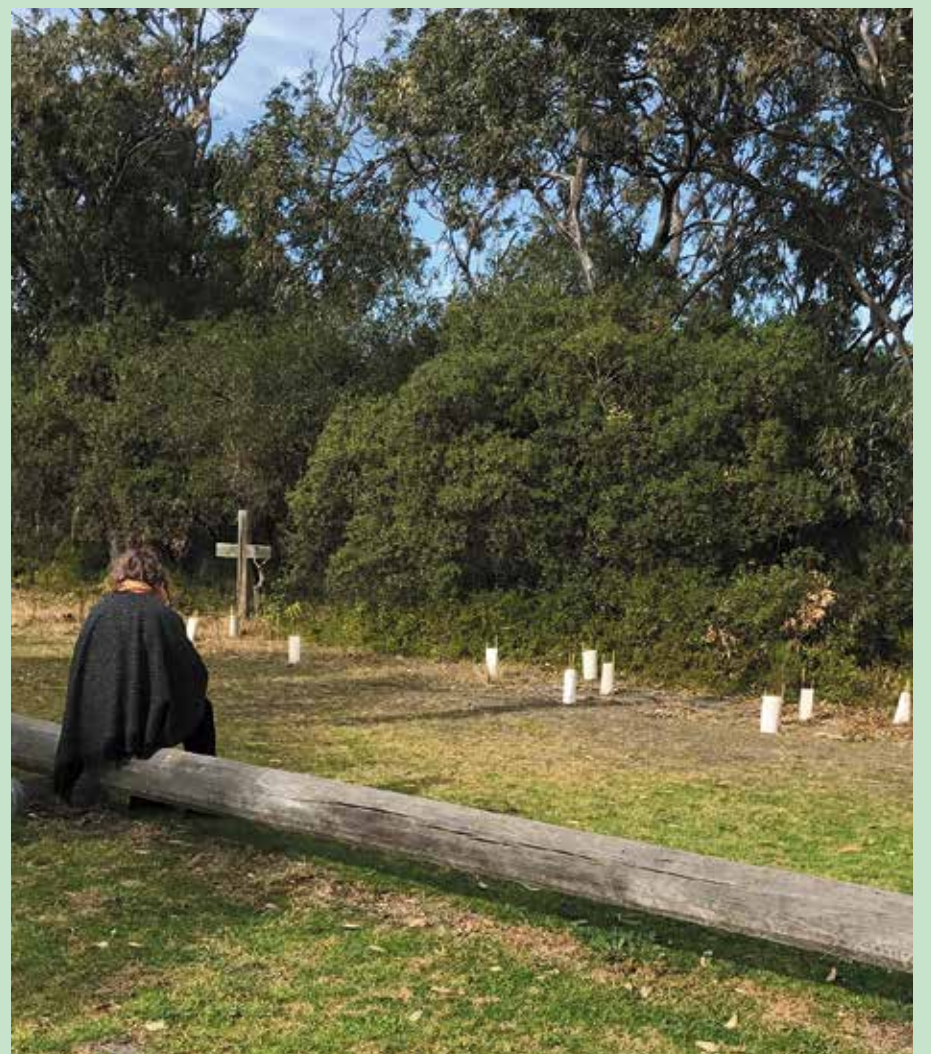
And for those who were wondering, the two holes are for sewing onto leather jackets or vests, to assist the pin and clasp on the back. Historically, motorcyclist's badges have a bad habit of falling off and becoming lost badges without extra security.

Like motorcyclists who have lost a much valued badge and don't want to repeat the experience, those who desire to do their best for Christ rely on the Holy Spirit as their back-up! ROMANS 5:8: "While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

The badges are 29 mm in diameter and are available for sale for \$5 including postage. Contact: chrismcale@gmail.com

The Rev'd Chris McAleer is Priest-in-Charge, Nar Nar Goon.

Diocesan Retreat



The Diocesan Retreat at The Abbey, led by Dean Susanna Pain, spoke of creativity in the heart of winter – a time to lay down the burden we carry, to rest, be renewed in silence.



The Rev'd Tony Wicking talks with the children at his farewell service

Bairnsdale farewells Tony Wicking

Ursula Plunkett

On Sunday 30 July the Rev'd Tony Wicking celebrated his last Sunday with us before retiring from the Bairnsdale Parish. Both services were well attended. At the 10:00 am service Bairnsdale Campus musicians helped with the music and our singers were in good form. Tony talked to the children about remembering the good and not so good occasions in their young lives. He talked to the adults of his and our memories, of his eight years of ministry, including the worst three years of his life. His wife Marilyn had been a loving and supportive influence at all times. He noted things accomplished and others which he had not yet achieved. He thanked Johnno's for their support of the church and



Tony has a lot of help, cutting the cake

the many volunteers for their loyal service. Twelve parishioners from Mordialloc, Tony's first parish as Priest, made the trip to farewell him, a much appreciated surprize. As usual, children helped Tony set up for Holy Communion. The service closed with the wonderful and emotional blessing "May the Feet of God Walk with You".

A lunch for 120 people, including visitors and representatives of other denominations, followed the service. Towards the end of the meal Geoff Cuckson, Rector's Warden, presented Rector Tony with a generous gift from parishioners and a bag of amusing goodies including a sailing boat, heavy with gold coins, to take on the cruise he would soon be going on. He will spend time with his sons and their families in America and Japan. Farewell messages have been received from Bishop Kay and her husband, and our nomads up north and overseas. The children helped Tony cut a special cake, made by Peggie Arthur, a church warden. She gave him a final blessing, repeating the words of the beautiful hymn we had sung for him. It was a good send-off.

Mary Sumner Day

Jenny MacRobb and Bev Foster

Mothers' Union members from across Gippsland gathered at Christ Church Drouin to celebrate Mary Sumner Day on Wednesday 9 August. We are grateful to the Rector, the Rev'd Dean Spalding, for his care in arranging the day, the service, and the choice of appropriate hymns acknowledging women in the Bible. Mary Sumner was the founder in the UK of the Mothers' Union 141 years ago in 1876. She saw the need to encourage and teach mothers in her village to bring up and educate their children in the faith of the Church. This small beginning has led to the formation of branches in 83 countries across the world. Our guest for the day was the Rev'd Anne Kennedy, Australian President of Mothers' Union. Earlier this year Anne represented Australian members at the Worldwide Council meeting held in Ireland. Two promotional videos were shown. In one video clip, members spoke of their reasons for joining and one woman told of her return to church after 20 years because of the welcome

and acceptance she received from Mothers' Union members. The other video showed aspects of the world wide work done by members. This included providing beds and meals for the homeless in Manchester UK, and the setting up of business enterprises in African countries to enable women to pay for the education of their children. A portion of our subscriptions go to help world wide projects such as these and literacy programs. Anne told the story of an illiterate clergy wife who decided she should learn to read when her husband became a bishop. Mothers' Union members taught her and she now reads the Bible in both English and her native language. This month we celebrate 125 years of Mothers' Union in Australia and, to mark the occasion, several Gippsland members are travelling to Tasmania. The first Branch was formed in 1892 at Cullenswood, near Launceston. We look forward to meeting up with delegates from around the world, including Lynne Tembey, the Worldwide President of the largest Christian women's organization in the world, Mothers' Union.



Photo: Jenny Ramage

The service celebrating Mary Sumner Day at Drouin

About Majuk in Perth



Photo: Mary Nicholls

About Majuk, Australian Junior Delegate and Gippsland Representative, and Gail Orchard, Australian Chairperson, after the opening service of the 22nd World Council of GFS in July, at St George's Cathedral in Perth. Twenty four countries were represented at this event.

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Joan Green, Bishop Kay Goldsworthy and Eric Kent

Bishop Kay visits Westernport

Colin Oakley

As I write this, I'm also watching a film, *The Help*. It's set during the civil rights battle, in the 60's, in the USA, between black and white people. It's a movie that starts out lightly with lots of humour but ends with a serious punch at white entitlement and the lives hurt. It reminded me of a bishop's visit.

The bishops in their role of leading and hearing the people, do a lot of visiting. During which, generally they put aside their "entitlement" of a leader in order to sit down with people and hear their stories.

This may not be as serious as the situation in the film, but is still one where others and their stories become important and

valuable. Christian leaders, as modelled here in the photo, are those who put differences aside to serve all of God's people, valuing them and loving them all. Sometimes it's hard, sometimes it's not. Often bishops will find themselves in all kinds of places with odd people. In this photo, Bishop Kay is talking to two Anglicans (not odd), after a service of combined Anglican and Uniting members in a Uniting Church. She dealt with an unknown liturgy as if she had written it herself.

It was relief for me how the service had come together. A Uniting member (Jan) had managed to bring together lighting and heating renovations in time so we had a warm and welcoming church. A ring-in organist (Sue), from another church, but in the same

parish, saved the Bishop from the effects of auditory sedition. That is, my keyboard playing. So I remain frocked and still employed. And a new screen also adorned the wall.

The two notables in this picture with Bishop Kay, are Joan Green, a long-time server, and Eric Kent. Many will remember Eric from previous Synods and as a parliamentary member. To the sides and behind the photographer, are a myriad of members of both denominations, of the same parish, and piles of lovely food. We held the Bishop captive until it was all gone.

Everyone enjoyed Bishop Kay's visit very much.

The Rev'd Colin Oakley is Priest-in-Charge, Westernport parish.

Parish Treasurers Consultations

The Registrar, Mr Brian Norris, will conduct five treasurers' consultations around the Diocese from September through to November this year.

Mr Norris said that the role of treasurer is becoming more complex, with increasing compliance requirements. More parishes now have external treasurers (some paid, others voluntary) and the treasurer no longer has to be on the parish council.

The sessions will begin at 4:00 pm and are expected to last for up to two hours. The locations are as follows:

Bairnsdale: Thursday 28 Sep.
Sale: Thursday 26 Oct.
Warragul: Tuesday 31 Oct.
Morwell: Thursday 2 Nov.
Leongatha: Thursday 30 Nov.

Booking sites can be found via the diocesan website: gippsanglican.org.au
Contact details: Mr Brian Norris, Registrar
Phone 03 5144 2044. Email: registrar@gippsanglican.org.au

Op Shop Workshop Drouin

A workshop for those who run op Shops in the Diocese will be held at Christ Church Drouin on Monday 30 October, with tea and coffee available from 9:30 am for a 10:00 am start, then running to 1:00 pm, with lunch to follow.

The host for the day will be Pauline Davies. The draft program for the day and a link for booking can be found on the News page of the diocesan website: gippsanglican.org.au

Wednesday Winter Warmers

Marion Dewar – Leongatha

Leongatha midweek congregation has enjoyed Wednesday Winter Warmers, along with a short time for shared conversation, during June, July and August.

A cup of soup and a piece or two of bread for each person has been brought into

the church immediately after the service, so extending the atmosphere of *koinonia*. Visitors and staff have also been included.

St Peter's Ladies' Guild members offered this gesture, with soup being provided by Coral Johnston and Margaret Stokes.



Lay Reader Richard Pedlow, Phyl Davison, Sacristan Margaret Cassar, Marj Prosser, St Peter's Ladies' Guild President Coral Johnston

Day of fun and fellowship

Tambo

Bishop Jeffrey Driver on trumpet and Ann Burns, who led the singing, at a recent parish gathering at St Matthews in Bruthen. After church, a casserole lunch was followed by an afternoon music concert with Bruce Ardley on organ and Ernie Walker playing some jazz.



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Clifton Waters Men's Shed builds Buddy Benches

Val Jones

Clifton Waters has a very well used – and very neat Men's Shed. As well as many ongoing projects the men are currently involved in a special project to build "buddy benches" for students in remote East Gippsland schools.

This is a joint initiative with Bunnings Bairnsdale providing all the materials, a supervisor and a ute for delivery of the benches to remote schools. The benches are very solid and built to withstand an outdoor environment.

The concept originated in Queensland and any student who is feeling "down" and sits on the bench will be quickly joined by other students who will offer support.



Les Ryan in the Men's Shed with a "Buddy Bench" in the foreground

Application for grants now open

The Diocese of Gippsland, in partnership with Anglicare Victoria, is pleased to announce the next grants round is open. Parishes are invited to apply for grants (up to \$5000) in order to strengthen links between churches and local communities. Grants can be for new projects, or for a new initiative of an existing project.

In the past, funds have been awarded to parishes to enable the purchase of equipment for community meals, playground equipment for playgroups and to set up "Brick" Clubs (an after school club based around Lego).

For further details and assistance with your application, please contact Cathrine Muston, Community Development Officer (Parish Partnerships) on 0458 450 370 or 5136 9112.

Applications close 18 September 2017.



Bill Knibbs, the Rev'd Ken Rogers, Sue O'Loughlan and the Rev'd Jo White celebrate Sea Sunday with hand knitted beanies. Used by permission Yarram Standard News.

Sea Sunday at Port Albert

Glenda Amos

Sea Sunday was celebrated at the Port Albert Hall on Sunday 16 July this year.

Parishioners from Holy Trinity, Yarram and St John's, Port Albert joined together to enjoy a delicious hot soup luncheon before listening to guest speaker, the Reverend Ken Rogers, talk about the work of the Mission to Seafarers.

Ken Rogers retired from active ministry in 2006 and relocated to Melbourne. His involvement in the Mission to Seafarers began over twenty years ago and he continues to serve on the Board in Melbourne. One of the oldest charities in Australia, the Mission to Seafarers dates back to 1857. Seafarers are welcomed daily to the Port of Melbourne.

Parishioners from Yarram and Port Albert presented Ken with some hand-knitted

beanies to be distributed to seafarers in the city. This is a ministry to those who sail the seas, sometimes away from family and friends for long periods of time. The warmth of the beanie would hopefully give them comfort of mind, body and spirit until they reached land again.

Prayer of course plays an important role in the mission's activities along with practical support, such as the beanies. \$150 was also donated to the Mission to Seafarers.



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Collaborative Youth Ministry

David Perryman
Avon

When I was asked to write this article my first thought was, what on earth do I know about Youth Ministry? From my earliest memories in growing up in my home church, I remember being by myself in terms of age. I grew up with a predominantly older congregation with little to no contact with other children at church.

My first vivid memories of any form of interaction with other Christians my own age were through the Cowarr camps held at Raymond Island. These were largely responsible for my continuing faith development and in time, the place where I would make my decision to explore my call to ordained ministry.

Without these interactions and chances to grow my faith, who knows where I would have ended up? My experiences growing up without other Christians my own age is one of the factors driving me to ensure my children do not have the same experience.

My previous experiences in both my placement churches gave me valuable insights into

Youth Ministry but in a way I found that nothing can quite fully prepare you for taking on the responsibility when you are placed into a parish. In a way this article will be more of a first impressions rather than a full story as I will leave that to my more experienced colleagues.

My first defining lesson was on the importance of collaborative Youth Ministry – no one person can do it alone. I found this in both my placements but especially now that I'm here at Avon.

If anything I've been blown away. By the time I arrived at Avon, the *mainly music* program was already strong and flourishing. A few months passed and we discerned a need for a Sunday school. The importance was too great, as the children who were coming needed the opportunity to be able to learn and engage with good teaching about God and the faith.

In all of this I've been amazed at the teams co-ordinating both the programs for our Sunday School and *mainly music*. Their passion and commitment to ensuring our church is able to actively engage with our children and youth is an encouraging sight to see, a team with a great outlook, still young at heart.



Kids' Min in full swing at Avon

In time our aim in Avon is to begin our own youth group and family service. Whether these take on a Messy Church model or something different will be a consideration in due course. In any case, we look forward to the creation of safe spaces for great times and memories.

I think above all else, youth ministry requires a willingness to shake things up. It requires a willingness to explore different expressions of church/worship to ensure the Gospel can be faithfully preached and taught across all generations. I know I look forward to exploring the ways in which our parish and indeed our diocese as a whole can engage effectively in this ministry.

The Rev'd David Perryman
is Curate-in-Charge, Avon

School leaders represent St Paul's at Anglican Schools Service

The School Captains and Deputy Captains of St Paul's Anglican Grammar School recently attended the Anglican Schools Service at St Paul's Cathedral in Melbourne, along with the School Chaplain the Rev'd

Daniel Lowe and Principal Lisa Moloney.

More than 20 Victorian Anglican Schools were represented at the service and the cathedral was filled with staff and students from across the state.



St Paul's Year 12 students (L-R) Damon Guy (School Captain), Hilary Pammer-Green (Deputy School Captain), Joshua McKinley (Deputy School Captain) and Penny Davies (School Captain) outside St Paul's Cathedral in Melbourne



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'.

Are we producing Survivors or Ninja Warriors?

Daniel Lowe



The Rev'd Daniel Lowe

Like many others, our household has not escaped unscathed from the recent screening of the first Australian *Ninja Warrior* series.

Thankfully there have been no serious injuries but we have learnt that children should not watch any *Ninja Warrior* within an hour of bedtime if we are going to have any hope of getting them settled. For all its formulaic hype, there is something compelling about watching very fit people attempting such challenging obstacles. And of course an interesting back story helps add to the sense of drama.

Descriptions of *Ninja Warrior* contestants often focus on words like courage, determination, grit and perseverance. All worthy attributes. In thinking about this, I was struck by the contrast with the way contestants on reality show *Survivor* are described. Here, the ability to lie, manipulate and deceive are considered desirable traits. It got me wondering what sort of descriptors we would want used about our children. Do we encourage survivors or ninja warriors?

The conclusion that I reached, somewhat to my surprise, is that I actually prefer the ninja warrior model. What's more, I think the ninja warrior model sits very closely with the life Jesus calls us to.

Let me explain. In *Survivor*, the aim is to "outwit, outplay and outlast" everyone else. Alliances are formed purely for selfish gain and the end goal is to win at all cost. I suspect many young people feel at times like they are in an episode of *Survivor* as they try to navigate the challenges of the classroom or the playground, but for them it is no game.

In *Ninja Warrior* the participants compete less against one another than they do against the course itself. Also unlike other competitions, the other participants cheer on each ninja running the course,

wanting to see others succeed. While the course is intense, the competitors are genuinely cheering for one another.

This is the experience I want my children to have in the classroom and in the playground. Ambitious challenges are tackled, obstacles are overcome, stumbles and falls are expected and carry no shame, and all the while family, friends and fellow participants encourage and cheer each other on.

This is also the experience of the Christian life that the writer of Hebrews had in mind. "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another..." (HEBREWS 10:24-25).

Like every aspect of life, our spiritual journey can be both challenging and rewarding. Jesus does not call his followers to an easy road. For this reason, it is important that we share the journey together – encouraging each other through challenging times and cheering each other on.

How is your family's spiritual ninja training going?

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



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BETTER TOMORROWS

He is the Still Point in a Turning World

Fran Grimes

As a high school student, I was often asked by my teachers to prepare reflections for my classmates. This was to encourage some slowing down from the pressures of adolescence, such as trying to keep up with the latest social activities, music fads on 3XY's Top 40, and who was "going around" with whom.

One of the resources provided by my teachers was Michael Link's book, *He is the Still Point in a Turning World* – very 1970s, with lots of groovy photos and accompanying thoughts. The words in the title, however, are borrowed from T. S. Eliot's "Burnt Norton" poem, the first of his *Four Quartets*, where he speaks of the still point as being "where the dance is".

The book's title is one I have never forgotten and which has travelled with me through life, from teenage years through adulthood to now, where it remains a solid truth anchoring me in inevitable and constant times of change.

My last three years have held more change and turning than I would ever have wished for. Losing first my mother and then, a year later, my husband meant life would never be the same. Change was everywhere I walked. All my seeming constants and certainties were shifting. Even my long career as a GP was taking a back seat to God's call to me to ordained ministry.

And yet God remained the still point. I was learning to rest on His eternal changelessness.

In the midst of my busy week, the Evening Collect on Tuesdays and Thursdays reinforces the truth of God's changelessness.

Be present, merciful God,
and protect us through the
hours of this night: that we,
who are wearied by the
changes and chances of this
fleeting world, may rest on
your eternal changelessness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen



By still water

More than ever He has become my strong tower and mighty rock. As I keep my eyes on Him, whatever I am going through, He is still God and has not changed. I can now even begin to see "where the dance is."

Most recently, as I was pondering my new Parish ministry where God was "enlarging the place of my tent," the words In ISAIAH 54:5 leapt out at me: "For your maker is your husband, the Lord Almighty is his name – The Holy one of Israel is your Redeemer."

God knows me so well and He is with me in the midst of all the changes. Beginning and ending each day in His presence with daily prayer and

reading His word, He unfailingly meets me and feeds me with assurances of His love and care. As I still myself before Him I gain strength for whatever lies ahead. Knowing that God is God, and that He is in control of every situation I face, and that He will work it out for good, allows me to launch into the uncertainties of the day ahead with confidence.

He is the still point in a turning world.

*The Rev'd Fran Grimes is
Priest-in-Charge, Korumburra
Poowong parish.*

EDITORIAL

First get the numbers right

Sometimes it really matters that we get our numbers right.

A builder can't take a "near enough is good enough" approach. Structural members must be the correct size so they will be able to support the building. The builder must check the Building Code and get the calculations right or the building may not be structurally safe.

It is no use the builder consulting his doctor or accountant for an opinion on this. Nor can the decision be based on how much the timber will cost.

Similarly, when it comes to climate change, we need accurate information about how much we need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to avoid disastrous results; we need the information to come from the right authority; and we need to accept their figures, regardless of the cost (whether monetary or social). Only then can we decide on the action.

It would be faulty logic to say we can't reduce emissions by X amount because it would be too hard. If less than X is not enough, it is not enough. The building is at risk of collapse.

When a group of religious leaders from various faiths (including Christian) looked at the numbers, they became so convinced of the need to stop the Adani Carmichael coal mine from going ahead in Queensland, that they camped in the Minister for the Environment's building, refusing to leave and risking arrest (see ARRC Facebook Page or tasmaniantimes.com – both 25/7/17). They wanted the minister, Mr Josh Frydenburg, to revoke the environmental approval for the mine.

Many of us want to take a middle of the road approach – finding the sensible compromise is a very Anglican way to solve problems. But are we basing our approach on the numbers – on how much needs to be done, and how quickly?

If the middle of the road approach sounds sensible, see above. We need to know how much is enough, not what looks sensible to us. This is a complex and confronting issue, yet we need to grapple with it and reach agreement. Only then will the church be able to take a lead in the community and be the prophetic voice of Christ on this issue.

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Neither safe nor compassionate

Victoria’s proposed “assisted dying” legislation

Denise Cooper-Clarke

A “Voluntary Assisted Dying” Bill has recently been introduced into the Victorian Parliament. Voluntary assisted dying (VAD) involves, at the patient’s request, either the provision of a prescription for lethal medication which the patient may then take to end their life (otherwise known as doctor or physician-assisted suicide), or, if the patient is physically unable to take the medication, administration of a lethal injection (otherwise known as voluntary euthanasia).

The Voluntary Assisted Dying Ministerial Advisory Panel was tasked with the development of a “safe and compassionate” voluntary assisted dying (VAD) framework for Victoria. In their final report released on July 21st, 2017, they made 57 recommendations to the Health Minister, Jill Hennessy in relation to proposed legislation for VAD. I believe that legislation based on these recommendations will be neither safe nor compassionate.

There is no denying that some people (a small minority of patients) in the last stage of their life experience pain or other symptoms which are difficult to manage. Access to skilled palliative care services (by no means always available, especially in rural areas) reduces the proportion of patients in this distressing situation and is known to decrease requests for help to end people’s lives. Still, for these people we might think that if there is no other option, doctor-assisted suicide or euthanasia could be morally justified. But that is not the same question as whether these practices should be legalised in a much broader range of circumstances, as will be the case if the proposed legislation is passed.

The proposed legislation will not be safe because, despite the claim that the safeguards in the proposed legislation make it the “most conservative in the world”, this is far from the case. If a patient is over the age of 18, has the capacity to make medical decisions and is suffering from a medical condition which is “advanced, progressive and will cause death”, they will meet the proposed criteria for VAD if they report “suffering that cannot be relieved in a manner (the patient) deems tolerable”.

This suffering does not need to be physical, but includes suffering related to “the nature and prognosis of

the disease”, “loss of autonomy or loss of dignity” or concerns about these. And whether the patient is suffering is not for a doctor or anyone else to judge but determined according to the patient’s own perception, since suffering is “individual and subjective”. Overseas studies in jurisdictions where assisted suicide and/or euthanasia are legal have shown that pain is not the primary reason for requests for assisted dying. Rather what motivates such requests are psychological factors: “depression, hopelessness, being tired of life, loss of control and loss of dignity”.

One might then agree that “Since psychological reasons dominate, one would think that requiring psychiatric evaluation would be a reasonable safeguard before providing euthanasia or physician-assisted suicide” (Ezekiel Emanuel, *Euthanasia and physician-*

“...pain is not the primary reason for requests for assisted dying...”

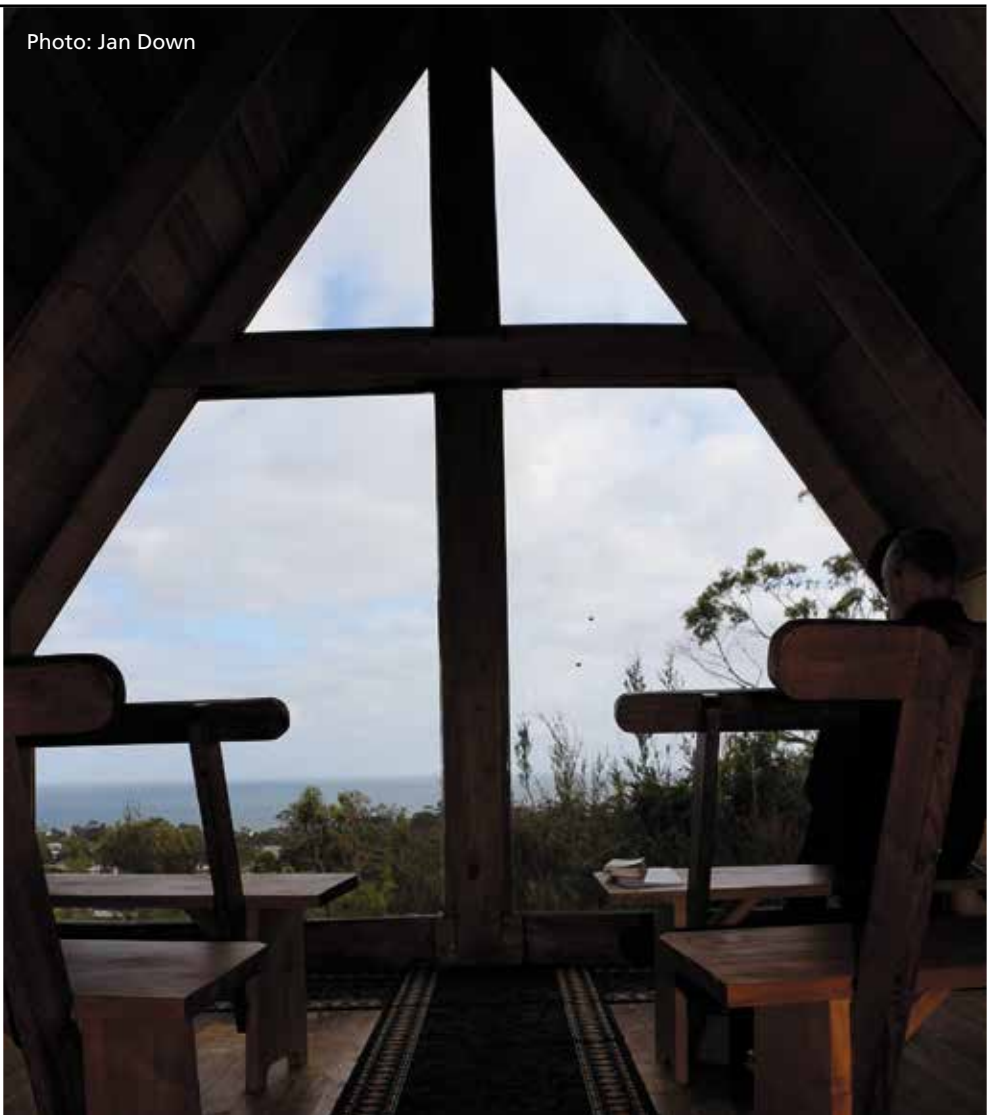
assisted suicide: focus on the data, Med J Aust 2017; 206 (8): 339-340). But under the proposed legislation, referral to a psychiatrist or counsellor is not mandatory if depression is suspected, unless it is so severe that the

patient’s decision-making capacity is in doubt. Many patients who ask for “assisted dying” will be depressed. But the presence of mental illness in itself will not disqualify a person who otherwise meets the criteria from accessing VAD, unless it is so severe that their decision making capacity is affected. Psychological suffering can often be relieved by psychotherapy and/or antidepressants, but patients will not necessarily be given this option. This “reasonable safeguard” has been rejected.

Similarly, there is no requirement in the proposed legislation that patients have any engagement with palliative care. Further, the proposed legislation will allow “assisted dying” for patients diagnosed with an “incurable disease, illness or medical condition... that will cause death within weeks or months, but *not longer than 12 months*”. This time period is longer than that in many overseas jurisdictions, and since predicting how long a patient has to live is very difficult for doctors, there is quite a margin for error.

Another concerning feature is that the time between the initial (verbal) request and the prescription of the lethal medication can be as short as ten days (allowing for a further written request and then a final verbal request). This is a very short time for someone to consider such a serious decision. And many patients

Photo: Jan Down



A bush chapel in Tasmania

will reverse their request given access to palliative care or psychological support. Under this legislation, they simply may not have the opportunity for this.

Nor is the proposed legislation compassionate. How is it compassionate to agree with someone who is so distressed that they wish to end their life that yes, their life is not worth living, and yes they would be better off dead? How is that more compassionate than getting alongside them and providing the best care and support so that they are able to find hope and meaning and even joy in the life that is left to them? The Ministerial Advisory Panel states that one of its guiding principles was that “Every human life has equal value”. But it seems that in “assisted dying” some lives are worth more than others.

Christians believe that all humans, regardless of their age, their ability or disability, or their state of health, are made in the image of God and so have great worth. To take someone’s life is symbolically to attack the image of God, God’s representative, and so God himself. For Christians, “All lives matter”.

Denise Cooper-Clarke is a graduate of medicine and theology with a Ph D in medical ethics, who works with ethos Centre for Christianity and Society.

If this article has raised issues relating to your own situation you may wish to contact Beyond Blue (phone 1300 224 636) or Lifeline (phone 13 11 14).

Next month in TGA – another viewpoint on assisted dying

EARTH CARE CARD

– Tips and inspiration for churches and households



#32 Exemplary church kitchens

Despite having only a tiny kitchen, the South Port Uniting Church has committed to separating their kitchen waste into recyclable material for the council collection; soft plastic wrapping to be recycled via the bins at Coles; food scraps for the compost; and land fill.

Janet Hoare (Simply Living Project Worker at the church) says it has been a challenge to get everyone putting waste into the right bins as there are half a dozen groups using the kitchen each week, but they are getting closer. A sign above the bins is a help. The church’s Simply Living Project was started with the aim of exploring sustainability and stewardship as a Christian community.

Janet Lilley

Language teacher, carer, social worker
Neerim South (Buln Buln)

Jan Down

Afluent speaker of French, and with a basic competence in Japanese, Janet Lilley has worked for SOS Amitié, a telephone help-line in Paris; taught English in Japan; served as a social worker in Melbourne hospitals; taught French to adults and to groups of children in her home; and cared for her elderly mother through her final years, when she was becoming increasingly deaf, blind and psychotic.

Now almost seventy, Janet is still teaching French privately and finds it “a very rewarding thing to be doing at this time of my life” – she feels very privileged. As well as enjoying the teaching, she loves hearing about the lives of her students. She adds “I think of my teaching as a form of service. I can’t imagine just lolling around”.

As well as teaching French to several individuals (ranging in age from a Year 11 student to retirees) Janet takes one class a week at the Alexandra Club and two classes at the Lyceum Club in Melbourne. The Lyceum Club for university-educated women (and women who have distinguished themselves in philanthropy or public service) has existed for over 100 years and has 1500 members.

The women in Janet’s classes, mainly in their 70s, are people who are still interested in learning and find the classes stimulating. While they come from privileged backgrounds and have had professional work experience, they can sometimes lack confidence in learning another language, so Janet draws on her social work background in finding ways to engage and encourage them.

One class has been going for nine years, during which time two members have died from cancer. Having worked with cancer patients in hospitals, Janet has experience and skills beyond her language teaching, which she gladly offers.

Prayer has always been a part of Janet’s life, but became much more so after her father died in 2000.



Janet’s mother had been deaf from the age of eighteen due to Menière’s Disease. In her eighties she became legally blind and without the support of her devoted husband she could not have managed. His sudden death undermined her confidence in the future and she became psychotic.

When Janet’s brothers suggested that their mother should go into care, Janet disagreed, believing that she would feel more secure in the familiar surroundings of her own home. She undertook to care for her. “Our parents had given so much for us. It just seemed a natural thing to do”, Janet explained.

Given her mother’s psychosis, this was “very tough initially” Janet says. She quickly realized that her mother needed new structures in her life.

Faith had always been important to her mother, so Janet turned to the Anglican Prayer Book and was delighted to discover the daily offices, with Morning and Evening Prayer set out for each day of the week. Each morning she would light a candle and they would say the prayers together, eventually learning them by heart. This was a great help and joy for both of them.

It became even more important, as six months after the loss of Janet’s father, one of her brothers died tragically. This was a terrible time, Janet says, yet also “such a spiritually rich time”.

Janet still says the daily offices and can’t imagine how others manage without this start

to the day. She said “God’s presence in our lives... it is so basic to who I am and what sustains me in my daily life – it’s just a given”.

Eventually the family was able to find more support for their mother, with carers coming in, and they too would light a candle each morning, keeping the ritual going. Janet had her partner Rodger to go home to each night, which helped, and she also felt a powerful connection to all the other women around the world who do so much caring work.

Earlier in her life, a formative experience for Janet occurred when she was training to be a social worker. She chose to do one of her placements at Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea. Here she discovered what it was like, as a white woman, to be part of a minority population. She visited villages where people lived very simply, and attended the Anglican church run by the Franciscan friars. They invited her to fly down to Popondetta to meet Sister Helen and the other sisters in the Community of the Holy Name.

The sisters did not speak from sundown on Saturday night until after Mass on Sunday morning. In the morning, before breakfast, they walked a mile or so to the service at the Anglican Friary. Janet remembers the beauty of this walk, with views of Mt Lamington, yet not being able to comment on it because of the rule of silence – difficult for one so outgoing! Then there was the simple but delicious breakfast consisting of a bowl of brown rice, a banana and fresh milk from the friars’ cow.

Paris, where Janet later worked (1971–3) for SOS Amitié, must have been quite a contrast to New Guinea. But Janet remembers looking up at the Eiffel Tower and thinking to herself “This city that people associate with glamour and romance... has another side” – a side she was coming to know as she listened to people who rang because they were in so much emotional pain. Some were suicidal, some depressed and lonely, and she felt there was often a spiritual basis to their need – an emptiness in their lives.

Now Janet and Rodger divide their time between Melbourne and their small farm just north of Warragul, the town where she grew up. She attends St James’ Buln Buln when in Crossover and Christ Church, South Yarra when in the city.

Diocesan calendar

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

September

- 1 10:00 am – 3:00 pm Re:generation 2017 – exploring intergenerational ministry and mission with Chris Barnett at Warragul Uniting Church. Cost \$10. Information: info@ctm.uca.edu.au
- 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
For more information: Sue Lester: 0418 529 662
- 9 6:30 pm for 7:00 pm Whisky Tasting & Tapas, Friends of St John’s Port Albert at Port Albert Community Hall, Victoria St Port Albert
- 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
- 28 First of the Parish Treasurers Consultation Days. Details of time and locations page 6

October

- 1 11:30 am Blessing of the Animals at St John’s Port Albert
- 1 12:00 noon Blessing of the Animals in honour of St Francis: an outdoor Eucharist and a BBQ to follow, St Thomas, Bunyip
- 4 11:00 am Eucharist for the Feast of St Francis at The Abbey Chapel of St Barnabas, Raymond Island
- 6 5:00 pm Friday – 3:30 pm Saturday 7 October – Retreat with St Clare and St Francis at The Abbey (See page 3)
- 8 3:00 pm Blessing of the Animals on the oval at The Abbey
- 13 10:00 am Anglicare Parish Partnerships Thank You Morning Tea for volunteers: Trafalgar Anglican Church
- 14 Moe / Newborough Antiques and Collectables Fair
- 14 6:00 – 9:00 pm “Burnt Earth” multi-media art installation on environmental issues at St Paul’s Cathedral, Sale
- 21 1:30 – 5:00 pm The Earth is the Lord’s: Listening to God in Scripture and Creation, St Paul’s Cathedral, Sale, with Jan Morgan and Graeme Garrett
- 30 10:00 am Op Shop Workshop at Christ Church Drouin. (See page 6)

November

- 11 2:00 – 5:00 pm Discovering your playful voice. Using InterPlay forms to explore the creative potential of your voice. Led by Jenny Batten at Delbridge Hall, Cunninghame St Sale. Suggested donation \$30. RSVP Susanna Pain 0418637469 or Susanna.pain@gmail.com
- 18 2:00 – 5:00 pm Open Garden at Oak Farm, 433 Old Telegraph Road East, Crossover, in aid of Neerim South Anglican Church Op Shop