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# The Gippsland Anglican

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EASTER 2017

## Christ is Risen!

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

JOHN 11: 25–26

Photo: Jan Down

Manasseh Gahimi appointed Assistant Bishop, Gahini

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A few years ago, I spent Holy Week and Easter at Westminster Abbey. Palm Sunday began with people racing in a fun run.

During the service in the Abbey faint cheers could be heard from outside as spectators enthusiastically supported more than 30,000 people who had committed themselves to the race on the way to the finishing line. Elite athletes, professionals and amateurs, enthusiasts from all corners of the world, and of course many local people who run for pleasure, for fitness, to de-stress, to raise money and awareness for a charity or cause close to their heart. One thing is sure – everyone ran for a reason.

Last month on an ordinary afternoon in London people raced once again. This was not a fun run or a charity event. This time people were running for their lives because a lone attacker targeted people around and in the Westminster parliamentary buildings. Once again we were confronted with images of people fleeing danger in fear of their lives.

As sirens rang out, police and other first responders did their work. People once again gathered in Westminster Abbey, only this time they had gone not to worship, but to give information, to be safe.



Bishop Kay Goldsworthy

## A new day

Bishop Nick Baines of Leeds wrote, “Westminster Abbey swung into action and showed not only pastoral care (and prayer), but also the hospitality that characterizes such places. Parliamentarians, visitors and officials – more than 1,000 of us – used the time to talk and wait and conduct the sort of human relationships that defy the chaos that some would wish to reap”.

The Easter gospel stories also paint pictures of people running,

no longer away from Jesus' cross in fear for their lives, but rather towards something wholly new and life giving. The Easter morning story of an empty tomb, and the risen Lord is one we tell again and again. It's the story of our lives.

Resurrection belief for these first friends of Jesus begins at the empty tomb, the first evidence of Easter glory, and it continues with meetings with the Risen Lord. It starts with Mary in the

Easter garden hearing her name spoken, having her eyes opened. She holds on and lets go, she runs again, this time in sure and certain belief that the glory promised by Jesus had dawned with this new day. She ran in the light of Jesus' victory over sin and death – the dawning of the new day she knew in Jesus.

John's Easter morning picture of Magdalene, Peter and the beloved disciple is one in which the light of God's new day dawning for them invites us closer to its light as well. This story is for all people and all times.

Across these days of celebration of Easter, there will be many gospel stories of disciples meeting and being met by the Risen Lord. And with them more stories of the dawning of Resurrection faith and belief in them, more stories of people who dare to call to others “come and see”. Stories of disciples running to spread the good news of God's love for all in Christ Jesus. Running towards people in love, God's love.

We are all invited to run in our own ways to share the light of Easter dawn and the promise of God's new day in his beloved Son. Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

+Kay

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Editor: Jan Down  
Tel: 0407 614 661  
Email: [editor@gippsanglican.org.au](mailto:editor@gippsanglican.org.au)  
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#### Advertising Rates

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

### CROAJINGOLONG COOPERATING PARISH EASTERN REGION

St John, Cann River  
St Peter, Mallacoota  
Genoa  
Vacant

The parish of Croajingolong is a vast region of East Gippsland which attracts many tourists. Pray for the small local communities of the region and for those in the worshipping communities of Malacoota, Cann River and Genoa. Pray that the Holy Spirit will lead clergy to offer themselves for ministry to care for and lead the people of the parish, and

for faithful lay leaders in this time of searching for ordained ministry in the area. Pray for God's continued healing grace for the Rev'd Roger Jackman. Give thanks for the ministry of the parish to visitors and those seeking refreshment and fellowship.

### DROUIN WESTERN REGION

Christ Church, Drouin  
St James, Jindivick  
Rector: The Rev'd Dr Dean Spalding

Jindivick is a small but dedicated and welcoming church, blessed with beautiful surroundings. In the last decade the township of Drouin has increased significantly and is currently experiencing a baby-boom. The congregation of Christ Church doesn't fully reflect these demographic changes, but our goal is to become more welcoming to all ages. SCAMPS

(Story, Craft and Music for Pre-Schoolers) was successfully introduced last year and continues to flourish. This month, we enthusiastically trialled MESSY CHURCH, for all-ages but we need more volunteers to make it viable. We also have plans for an after-school kid's club and movie nights for youth and adults.

### HEYFIELD EASTERN REGION

St James, Heyfield  
St Matthew, Tinamba  
The Rev'd Lyndon Phillips (two week days per week)

The Heyfield churches have been without a resident priest for nearly two years. However, the Rev'd Lyndon Phillips, Priest-in-Charge at Rosedale, has recently been appointed to work two days a week in the Heyfield parish. These being week days, she rosters visiting priests

to cover three Sundays per month, while lay readers at Heyfield, Debbie and David Chambers, take a service of Morning Prayer on the third Sunday. On the fifth Sunday, the Anglicans join in with the Uniting Church. Lyndon takes a service at Laurina Lodge, provides home communion and is available for pastoral support. She is also looking at starting an after school program. The parish continues to seek creative ways of partnering for ministry. Many are concerned about jobs and the future of the communities in this area.

### Prayer

Gracious God, we bring before you the needs of these parishes: Croajingolong, Drouin and Heyfield. 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.



Jan Down  
with Sarah Gover

The Rev'd Manasseh Gahimi will be consecrated as Assistant Bishop in the diocese of Gahini, Rwanda, on May 28 this year.

The vote at the Gahini Synod and later in the Rwandan House of Bishops was unanimous.

The Dioceses of Gippsland and Gahini have had a cooperative partnership since 2002. Manasseh Gahima has been a leading participant in this, having twice spent time in Gippsland, and having got to know many Gippsland visitors in Gahini.

Manasseh said that he is humbled by the support, excited, nervous – and now in search of purple clergy shirts!

Manasseh's wife Rose is excited and very happy about the appointment, as are their eight children.

Gippsland Anglicans are asked to pray for Manasseh, Rose and the children, as Manasseh prepares to take on this new role.

In other Gahini news, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, recently spent a week visiting the primates of Burundi, Congo, Rwanda and Kenya.

While in Gahini, the Archbishop visited the East African Revival Heritage Centre and declared the site a Regional Revival Heritage Centre (see: [archbishopofcanterbury.org](http://archbishopofcanterbury.org) 27/2/17). Archbishop Welby was also in Gahini for the inauguration of the new cathedral, due to be completed in May (see: [newtimes.co.rw](http://newtimes.co.rw) 16 and 7/3/2017).

# Manasseh Gahimi appointed Assistant Bishop, Gahini



*Archdeacon Daniel of Kabarore parish, the Rev'd Manasseh Gahimi and the Rev'd Brenda Burney, during a visit to Rwanda last year. This photo was taken in the Kabarore parish church, a link parish for Churchill/Boolarra/Yinnar.*

*The Rev'd Brenda Burney was presenting the archdeacon with gifts from her parish, including the cross in the photo, which was made by two of Brenda's parishioners.*

## Changing rules for clergy

Coming up at Synod 2017

Clergy who live in their own homes within their parishes may soon have their living arrangements made legal, if proposed changes to the *Parish Administration Act* are passed at the next Gippsland Synod, to be held in Bairnsdale, May 19–21.

There are different view points on this question. Some argue that a rector should live in the rectory, which is likely to be situated close to the church and therefore more accessible to parishioners and people in need in the community.

On the other hand, that accessibility can be seen as a problem, with clergy families needing to have more privacy. Clergy can also find that unless they own their own home, they may not have sufficient

superannuation, or a house to live in on retirement.

### Open retirement age

Another Bill to be brought to Synod would amend the *Appointment Act* 1994 to abolish the clergy retirement age of 70 years. This issue was debated at Synod last year, and a motion passed to make this amendment. One argument for the change was that it may assist the diocese in filling vacant parishes, especially east of Bairnsdale, if older clergy nearing retirement age who are willing to work part time were not required to retire at 70.

Of the 30 parishes in the diocese, five are currently vacant, three of them in the Eastern Region.

## Bishop Kay visits Croajingolong



*Left: St John's, Cann River.*

*Above: Morning tea at St Peter's, Mallacoota.*

Bishop Kay Goldsworthy recently attended services and met with people at St John's, Cann River and St Peter's, Mallacoota, in the parish of Croajingolong.  
(Also see Parish to Parish page 2)





Photo: Bev Sutherland

The Rev'd Jo White with Peter Jenkins and his son David, who came across to the Blessing of the Fleet from Robertson's Beach, known by locals as Robbie's Beach.

## Blessing of the Fleet

Port Albert (Yarram parish)

### Jan Down

The wind was blowing hard as the Rev'd Jo White, with billowing robes, walked up and down the jetties at Port Albert, dipping her sprig of Norfolk Island Pine into a silver-coloured bucket carried by Sue O'Laughlan and liberally swishing water over each boat in blessing.

"Rev Jo" is well-known to the fishing men and women at Port Albert and she stopped for a chat with each of them along the way.

A short service was held on the foreshore first, with music provided by Ken White. Jo spoke on the two

Bible readings, which were connected by their location by the Sea of Galilee where, as Jo said, Jesus spent much of his time.

The first reading was the



Photo: Jan Down

Sue O'Laughlan with bucket, the Rev'd Jo White chatting with a fisherman on the jetty at Port Albert

calling of two fishermen, James and John. Jo noted that when Jesus called them to follow him, "They didn't wait around for permission from their father. They just seemed to know what Jesus wanted from them, that it was important and life-changing stuff; so they left what they were doing to go with Jesus. That must have taken guts, but then fishermen and women are pretty gutsy people".

Following the service, the Morwell Caledonian Pipe Band played and the Yarram Lions Club provided a barbeque lunch. The church was grateful for a small grant from the Wellington Shire Council (which provided power and equipment for the service) and the sponsorship of many local businesses and clubs.

After the boat blessings from the jetties, Jo was taken out on the water by the local Coast Guard.

The Blessing of the Fleet is an annual event at Port Albert, and is one of the ways the parish of Yarram is making meaningful links with the local community.

## More than a shed

Wendy Nickson  
Lakes Entrance

To answer an increasing problem with storage of donated furniture and larger items to the NicholasJohn Op Shop at St Nicholas, Lakes Entrance, a triple garage shed was built alongside the Op Shop in December 2015. Several months later, a generous verandah was added so items could be displayed under shelter. Before this, items had been stored off-site in a rented storage area, inconvenient for customers and volunteers, as well as an ongoing expense.

This extension to the Op Shop has met with great success, and contributes some 30% of the combined income of the two. Moreover, the operation has extended the important mission of the Op Shop as an outreach of the church by developing quite naturally into a sort of "Men's Shed" supporting both volunteers and customers.

The Shop and Shed are open five and a half days a week, during which times, a small group of men is to be found serving, loading or sitting and relaxing at the Shed, having a cuppa, finding company and the satisfaction of doing a task together. Men often miss this

aspect of their lives when they retire – having someone to talk to, "solving the problems of the world" with fellow workers. Members of the public quite naturally stroll up and the volunteers provide a willing ear if they want to talk, creating an informal social gathering point.

Op Shop Coordinator Ian Bucknall reports that they have no shortage of volunteers and with furniture and other bulky items having to be collected or delivered, it is often all hands to the task.

The open display of furniture in proximity to the Shop draws people over, as well as encouraging the public to donate goods, which has increased markedly since the public can see it is a worthwhile and well run operation.

The whole Op Shop/Shed operation meets its commission to donate a certain percentage of net profits to suitable causes local to the area. This is done by application in writing to the Parish Council.

If there are churches in the Diocese who are thinking of extending their Op Shops in this way, we encourage them to do so as it has been a very worthwhile experience at Lakes Entrance.



### 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](http://www.gippsanglican.org.au) and search 'bequests'.



L-R Laurie Taggart, Alfie Holmes and Ian Bucknall taking a break in the Shed at St NicholasJohn Op Shop



# Journey towards the cross

Marion Dewar  
Leongatha

The Leongatha 8:00 am congregation made a *Journey with Christ Towards the Cross* during March and April. A special liturgy, presented in booklet format, was prepared for each Sunday of Lent, Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.

A large wooden cross was placed in the sanctuary and draped with a cloth the colour of the day. Symbols representing aspects from the Gospel reading were displayed at the foot of the chancel steps – (1) a loaf of bread, (2) a world globe and grass covered earth, (3) a water well, (4) mud made from sand, (5) a stone, (Palm Sunday) tree boughs in the form of a cross and a palm frond, and (Easter Sunday) lilies.

Beside the symbols, on a second pedestal, candles were placed (encircled by a crown of thorns) – a purple candle for each Sunday of Lent (one candle was added each week), a red one for Palm Sunday and a white one for Easter Sunday. The candles were lit by the server each week, after the opening hymn and litany.

*We are People on a Journey* (Greg DeMey), a four-verse hymn, was sung each week after the first section of the liturgy. Hymns were generally from *Together in Song*. Many seasonal well known hymns were sung, as well as *Morning Glory Starlit Sky* (174) and *In Water We Grow* (49).



Lilies as a symbol of resurrection, for Easter Day

Other hymns included *Here is Love Vast as the Ocean*, *The Glory of these Forty Days* and *Rise O Church and Lift Your Voices*.

The liturgy was based on *The Holy Communion Second Order* with seasonal variations (from a variety of sources) including invitation to confession, preface (some from *Ambrosian Eucharistic Prefaces*), prayer after Communion and introduction to the blessing. The opening litany focused on the symbols with a 'lengthening prayer' – increasing in length as lines were added each week as each new symbol was introduced. Thematic prayers, meditations

and quotes (scriptural or theological) preceded the Collect. The litany, prayers, meditations and intercessions included antiphonal and responsorial sections, thus engaging both leader and congregation throughout each service.

Reflecting in this special way – by hearing the readings read and expounded; by seeing the cross, the symbols and the candles; by responding in prayer, word and song; and by joining together in the liturgies – has assisted members of the Leongatha 8:00 am congregation to make again their *Journey with Christ Towards the Cross*.



Bishop Jeffrey Driver at St John's Bairnsdale

## Learning about the Lord's Prayer

Ursula Plunkett  
Bairnsdale

St John's parish was privileged to have Bishop Jeffrey Driver, former Archbishop of Adelaide, to work part time with us, while our Rector, the Rev'd Tony Wicking, was on leave to catch up with his families in Japan and America.

Bishop Jeffrey was Bishop of Gippsland before moving to Adelaide and has retired to Bairnsdale with his wife Lindy. As to be expected they are both very busy in their retirement.

Bishop Jeffrey, during March, was preaching about and explaining the real meaning of the Lord's Prayer. It has given us a deeper understanding of the most important and loved prayer in the Bible.

During Lent St John's Bible study groups are following a study, *Spare a Minute*, written by Bishop John Ford of the Murray. It has certainly encouraged lively discussions.

As always our retired clergy are willing to help out where needed during Rector Tony's absence. Preparations are well under way for the 150th Anniversary in April.

### World Day of Prayer – the Philippines

Marie Stripp led the prayers at the World Day of Prayer at Bairnsdale. Different denominations were represented and took part in reading about the life and hardship the women of the Philippines endured. The minister of the Presbyterian Church read the lesson and afternoon tea was enjoyed after the service.

## Pancakes at the Rectory

Glenda Amos  
Yarram

The Rev'd Jo White and Ken invited parish members to join them on Shrove Tuesday for a pleasant evening of feasting at the Rectory, in preparation for a Holy Lent.

"Rev Jo" welcomed everyone and gave some background information on the history of the celebration of Shrove Tuesday. After a feast of savoury pancakes everyone adjourned to the back garden where last year's palm crosses were burnt for this year's imposition of ashes the next day.



A pancake feast at the rectory in Yarram

Then it was back inside for dessert pancakes with yummy fruit and topping. Pancakes and fillings were provided by the cooks of the parish, so in the true spirit of Fat Tuesday, it was a real feast.

Ash Wednesday services were held in the morning and

evening at Holy Trinity.

Two Lenten study groups are meeting each week to follow the study *Up from the Waters*. This study focusses on "Reflecting and Sharing a Living Gospel in 2017", with readings, music, discussion and prayer.



### Be a part of supporting the Aboriginal Ministry Fund

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

Be a part of achieving these aims.

Contact the Diocese of Gippsland  
453 Raymond Street, Sale, Victoria  
PO Box 928, Sale, 3853  
Telephone 03 5144 2044  
Fax 03 5144 7183  
Email registrar@gippsanglican.org.au





East Gippsland Symphonia performing in the church garden at Paynesville

## Paynesville Music Festival comes to St Peter's

Sue Fordham

It's become a "family" thing now for the East Gippsland Symphonia to perform at St Peter's during the festival weekend.

We know what to expect but each year that expectation is surpassed by the Symphonia's professional, silky smooth performances and perhaps, by our being better organised

around such a large orchestra fitting into the church sanctuary.

The Symphonia generously provided the music for our service of Eucharist on February 26, then later resettled in the church garden to perform the Paul Simon favourites followed by a change of style with jazz and blues brackets.

The weather was autumnally warm and still as music lovers foot tapped and drank coffee while bathing in the great music.

## Shrove Tuesday pancakes with school students

Traralgon

Shrove Tuesday at St James Traralgon was a wonderful occasion as forty three students from St Paul's Grammar's junior school prepared and cooked pancakes, (under the watchful eye of Canon Jeff

Richardson and their teachers) and also provided instrumental and choral music to entertain members of the parish and local community. Before the students returned to school they sang the Lord's Prayer.



Mia and Cooper cutting up fruit



The Diocese of Rockhampton in Central Queensland, Australia, offers exciting opportunities for ministry. We are embarking on a Mission Action Plan seeking to train and resource people for mission and ministry and are looking for expressions of interest from women and men who are confident in their faith, gifted in managing change and excited by the challenge of serving God.

We have opportunities in the following towns:

- Winton – priest
- Moranbah – priest
- Emerald – priest
- Theodore and Moura – part time leader
- Rockhampton – children's / youth minister and a church planter.

For more information go to: [www.anglicanchurchcq.org.au](http://www.anglicanchurchcq.org.au) or contact David Robinson (Bishop of Rockhampton) [bishop@anglicanchurchcq.org.au](mailto:bishop@anglicanchurchcq.org.au) or tel: +61 7 4922 6755.

## Special guest at St Luke's Ellinbank

Chris Waddell  
Warragul

On Sunday March 5, at our contemporary 5:00 pm service, our special guest speaker was George Oling. George is originally from South Sudan, having come to Australia in 2005 after spending sixteen years in refugee camps in Uganda and Kenya.

George escaped from the persecution of Islamist soldiers from the Northern Government who were determined to kill everyone in George's village. He was about ten or eleven years old. Since his parents could neither read nor write, George does not know his actual date of birth. His father returned to join freedom fighters and was subsequently killed in action.

George managed to attend primary school in Uganda, and was then encouraged to go to Kenya where he attended high school.

He was able to come to Australia in 2005. He returned to Uganda to say goodbye to his mother, and met his



Iamunu Medina, wife of George Odoch Oling and his family with Chris Waddell at Ellinbank

future wife Medina. They have five children and now live in Warragul.

George is studying to be a pastor while Medina is studying nursing and plans to become a midwife to help women giving birth in difficult circumstances in South Sudan.

George returns regularly to South Sudan to work on community projects including planting food crops. He has recently returned from a trip to plant a village church and to work on construction of a

new school. When finished, the school will cater for 800 children. George is looking for funding to help roof the school for the coming wet season.

George and Medina are inspired by their faith to help the people in the village, especially wanting to help the children to be able to read and write. They believe the future of their country relies on the young people to lead the way.

If anyone would like to help George's school project, please email: [cwaddell@dcsl.net.au/](mailto:cwaddell@dcsl.net.au/).

## WW1 Role of Honour moves to St Matthew's Tinamba –

Pam Roberts – Heyfield

St Matthews Soldiers Memorial Church Tinamba will hold a special service of commemoration on 23 April 2017.

At the outbreak of World War 1 in 1914, known as "The Great War," a number of Tinamba residents answered the call. They enlisted to join fellow Australians on the battlefields of Europe and the Middle East.

At the conclusion of the war, fought from 1914 – 1918, a Roll of Honour was mounted in the Tinamba Public Hall. The Roll of Honour includes the names of all volunteers in recognition of their faithful service to their country, and to honour those who fell, paying the supreme sacrifice.

They include:

A. Allardyce, Lieu  
G. Balmond  
E. Bates  
J. S. Boland\*  
J. B. Boland  
F. Brown\*  
A. Elkins  
A. Gillies  
J. Holme  
T. Kingscott (MM)  
J. Lowe  
A. Jessep Lieu  
G. Johnson, Cpl  
R. McPherson  
R. Murphy  
G. Nixon  
T. Osborn  
A. Richardson  
A. J. Richardson\*  
W. J. Richardson  
Sister L. Riggall\*  
E. Rowley\*  
B. Stone\*  
J. T. Williamson (MM)  
T. Wilson  
L. Woolan, L.Cpl \*

Tinamba Public Hall, having been sold last year (2016) and now privately owned, meant an appropriate home had to be found for the Roll of Honour.

The community resolved that the ideal position would be at St Matthew's Soldiers Memorial Church, Tinamba.

A special dedication ceremony for The Roll of Honour will be held at the Anzac Day Commemoration Service on Sunday April 23 at 9:30 am. Bishop Kay Goldsworthy will officiate.

All are welcome to attend this important service, especially the families of these gallant men and women.

For further information phone Nell Hewat: 5145 1465

\* paid supreme sacrifice



# A webpage for St Mary's Morwell

[www.anglicanstmarys.com](http://www.anglicanstmarys.com)

**Pam Remington-Lane  
Morwell**

A webpage can connect people and a parish. Access to the mission, contacts, and sermons provides information and is a powerful way to profile a local church. Many people move around, from interstate and overseas: a church webpage may form the gateway to church membership.

The Rev'd David Head, rector at St Mary's in Morwell, had experienced the impact of church web presence in a previous parish in Hampton. New parishioners had told him how they had visited Holy Trinity after first checking the webpage.

As a (just) retired teacher-librarian who has always liked to meddle in ICT, I was keen to work with David to develop such a resource for St Mary's. We both acknowledged that while a webpage can be established, regular content and maintenance are essential to avoid becoming lost in space. As a retired person, I felt able to commit to this role.

## How we did it

Together, we compiled a list of regional and other parish websites. A close review of these gave us ideas for structure and content. Some sites had recordings of sermons, as well as text. I contacted several of the web masters, who were helpful and supportive – thanks to Lindsay McKay and Chris McAleer.

They made it sound simple to record and upload sound. (More of this later). I received advice and recommendations for software providers.



We discovered that no diocesan guidelines are currently available for making a parish website, or Facebook presence. Perhaps there is an opportunity for people who are interested in ICT and social media to co-operate and network..

**Design:** I was soon immersed in the amazing design features of the software. We could have a video background of swimming jelly fish, or a moving train! Upon reflection about the projected audience, and purpose, a less stimulating approach was taken.

**Content includes:** mission; contacts; artwork; events, calendar, and news; clergy information; sermons; and general resource links.

## Photos

The existing photos of St Mary's were underwhelming. My husband Pat and I decided to take some new pictures. How hard could this be?

On our first excursion, we realised the church faced west, so morning was out, to avoid gloomy shadowing. Eventually, Pat achieved an excellent shot, which is now displayed on Google maps and the website.

As St Mary's true beauty is on the inside, we wanted a great picture of the Arthur Boyd mural "The Ascending Christ". Again, we thought, how hard

can it be? The challenge was to photograph such a large feature, while maintaining perspective, and avoiding tilt, where the picture seems to lean forwards. The problem of "lean" was finally resolved with Photoshop. Other beautiful artwork in the church, with descriptions and information written by David, can be seen on the webpage.

## Sermons

Inspired by other parish websites, written sermons have been uploaded to the site, as pdfs. Having been reassured that recording was easy, "Just plug it into the sound system", I had purchased a recording device. A number of visits and attempts to record having failed, we at last succumbed to the path most resisted: reading the manual of the sound system. Once the recorder was plugged into "in" instead of "out", and the mute button was turned "off" instead of "on", the inaugural audio recording was attained.

The hope is that audio sermons can be listened to by people who are absent owing to illness, or on vacation, or by those searching for a church.

## Challenges

Search engine optimisation (SEO) refers to maximising visitors to a website, by ensuring it rates high on results pages on Google. Although I had completed the processes for this to occur on the software, results are slow to come, with church goes unable to search for the website, so far. A conversation with the Rev'd David Perryman has led to the webpage being registered on Google maps, Yellow Pages and Truelocal. This may help make the site more "findable". Thanks, David!

As the goal is to connect parishioners, and bring new people to the church, a website for St Mary's is a start, with plans for Facebook and Instagram being considered.

In the same spirit, a chance exists for current church social media practitioners to network to share best practice, and develop guidelines in the use of these powerful communication tools.

**Note:** There are safe ministry guidelines about web pages and social media posts, which the diocese of Gippsland has adopted. Find under Resources at [gippsanglican.org.au](http://gippsanglican.org.au)



(L to R) Candidates: Allan Huggins, Bill Michie, Ted Vincent; Bishop David Garnsey; Chaplain, Canon Gordon Lovegrove

## Allan Huggins' fiftieth anniversary of ordination

### Jan Down

Archdeacon Allan Huggins recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

He was ordained by Bishop David Garnsey at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale, in 1967, and has spent most of his life in Gippsland, ministering in the parishes of Leongatha, Neerim South, Orbost, Sale (as Education Officer), Traralgon, Sale (as Dean of the Cathedral) and Drouin.

Allan also spent ten years in the Canberra / Goulburn diocese, with part of that time as the diocesan Archdeacon. In this latter role he developed an exchange program whereby a parish priest in the diocese could change places with a priest in Northamptonshire, in England. Allan himself very much enjoyed his time in the little village of Bozeat.

A vivid memory for Allan is the Sunday morning at church in Maffra when, as a teenager, he came to a "deep, inner conviction", very sudden and striking, that he was going to become a priest. The rector was preaching on the call to ordination, and Allan says "Something just clicked" with him. "I could feel it right in my very being that that was what I was going to do for my career."

The experience was so strong that, being a teenager, he felt embarrassed, thinking people must be looking at him, which of course they

weren't. He did not tell either his parents or the rector until several years later, but kept this strong sense of calling to himself. This inner conviction has meant that he has never had a crisis of faith, or doubted his call to ministry.

After finishing school, Allan realised he needed a wider experience of life and of different expressions of Anglicanism before entering the ministry, so trained to be a teacher and taught mainly in rural schools, which he loved doing. While at teacher's college in Burwood he became heavily involved in the Bennetwood Anglican church, and it was here he met Jan, his wife to be.

A teaching placement at Tallyho Boys' Village for wards of the state gave him experience of a different sector of the community, which has been invaluable in ministry.

Allan trained for ordination at Perry Hall in Melbourne, the only theological college at the time that catered for married students. As a parish priest, he enjoyed the pastoral work, "being with people at times of joy or pain", and also the administration side of the work.

Allan and Jan are currently living in Yarragon and enjoy worshipping at St Mark's.

Allan, Bill Michie and Ted Vincent were ordained together in 1967. To mark their 50th anniversary, they recently attended the mid-week service at St George's, Malvern, where Bill Michie is now an honorary priest.



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# Building bricks of children's ministry

**St. Mary's, Mirboo North**  
**Geoff Pittaway**

**S**t. Mary's is a small parish, and as a consequence its ministry to children is also small – at present.

For many years we persisted with a dwindling Sunday School, but soon took a risk to change our focus on ministry to children at "Café Church". It was not an altogether new idea at Mirboo North, but the current model is built on what we call "The Five Pillars of Café Church": PRAISE (worshipping God in song with contemporary music, video); PRAYER (often corporate, all ages, unstructured, down to earth); STORY (a Bible reading and theme for the day, plus explanation suitable to all ages); CRAFT/ACTIVITY (making things, acting out story, games, quizzes, etc); FOOD (hospitality to each other).

Café Church operates on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays of the month at 10:30 am after the 8:30 am Communion Service.

This is not an easy ministry as families can be "hit and miss" for a variety of reasons, and it requires the leadership to be committed and well prepared for anything! On a good day we will have an attendance of 30 people, about one third of whom are children.

We have also run, for a couple of years now, Monday Movies for Teens. It was hoped that we would be able to generate an off-shoot ministry from these evenings but as yet that hasn't eventuated. Nonetheless, it was very successful with teens for the great part of the year (especially in Terms 2 and 3), and there are several who have asked when, or if, it will recommence.

The community at large has also responded favourably to this ministry to its teens. One of our Bible Study groups has offered to sponsor the evenings (about \$35 per week for movie hire, sausages and bread, ice creams, cordial) which is a big boost to the movie nights. Up to now we have had a grant to cover the costs. So it looks like it will

recommence for Terms 2 and 3 this year! We continue to explore how we can be relevant to children and teens in Mirboo North.

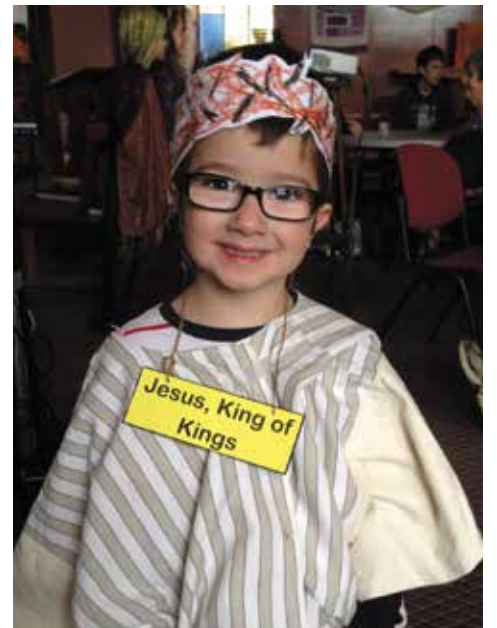
In Term 4 of 2016 we piloted a small but enthusiastic group called "Brick Club", a generic name for groups operating to support parents and families with children on the autism spectrum. Brick Club recommenced in Term 1, and though – again – it is hard for families to be consistent in attendance (their choice of course), the response from the adults attending, mainly mums and nannas, has been grateful and encouraging.

We received a grant from Anglicare late last year to purchase Lego, record books, games, and storage facilities which we are putting to good use. Some of the children have difficulty socialising – to be expected – but surprisingly, during these warmer days, they have all enjoyed being outside playing together, mostly without incident. It gives the adults time to catch up, talk, chill out, and let go while helpers from the parish keep an eye on the children, including siblings.

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



*Brick Club fun at St Mary's, Mirboo North*



*Café Church, Mirboo North*

## Six things a child needs from her (Christian) parents

Dear Mum and Dad, How are you? I'm fine, thanks.

**James Oakley**

Well, enough small talk. You know I get to write a birthday wish list each year (even though you won't get me everything – jetskis ARE getting cheaper, you know!) Well, I wanted to write a heaven wish list – you know, what I want you to do to help me know who Jesus is, and to trust him so I can go to heaven. I know you think the children's minister is awesome, and that he will do the job just fine, but I want YOU to help me more than ANYTHING!! Well, here goes.

1. Show me what love means. I hear it ALL the time – "God so loved the world ...", love this... , love that... blah blah blah. What does that even mean? Kids at school talk about love, and it just doesn't make sense.

You're always trying to get me to like you – is that because you love me? Do you love me when I'm in time-out? What about when you're explaining what I did wrong? (But you do know that WASN'T me, it was my brother!) And when I yelled at you that I hate you – did you love me then?

How will I know what God's love is? From seeing your love?

2. You should say you're sorry. I'm not dumb, you know. I've known ever since I was six (which is, like,



FOREVER!) that you get things wrong too. So please don't pretend you're perfect. Tell me when you're wrong, and say sorry. It will help me to say sorry too. And I love you and respect you more when you're open with me. That would be cool.

And that time you yelled at me, and then said sorry to me AND to God was, like, WOW! I could see that you meant it. You showed me how to say sorry to God too.

3. Tell me stories. I LOVE it when you tell me stories. I love made-up stories, but I love the true ones even better. I love hearing about you when you were little (well, mostly when you got in trouble. Those stories are FUNNY!) I love when you say how you met. I love stories from the Bible, and I REALLY love hearing about Jesus. Stories are how I find out who you are, how the world works, who Jesus is, how I fit in.

4. You have to take me seriously. I know I ask a LOT of questions but I really like it when you take my questions seriously. I know they sometimes seem silly – like "Did Jesus go to Macca's?". And I know that I sometimes say things that are hard – like "sometimes it's hard to know if God's real." But it's really great when you don't laugh and don't make me feel like I'm being silly. I'm glad I can ask and say things and you still love me.

5. I need you to show me how to follow Jesus. I'm always watching. I'm not dumb – I see how you spend your time. I can work out what matters to you. Let me see you following Jesus – reading the Bible, praying, helping people.

6. Help me to see who I really am. I want to know the truth about the world and about me. I know I'm not an angel or a princess, but I'm not hopeless either. I'm all these things at different times. Please help me learn how it all fits together.

I think that's about it, Mum and Dad. Good luck.

From your favourite daughter. XXX  
P.S. I'm sure a jetski will help me get to heaven faster. Please Please Please!!

*James Oakley is a Children's 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, April 2014. It is reprinted with permission.*

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# Thrive or survive

Rich Lanham

As I travel around Gippsland, though it's the beginning of autumn, the realities of an Australian summer are still very present. Dry ground, brown grass and leaves.

But something else catches my eye: large patches of green grass or sprouting crops. In fact, over the years, when rainfall has been unusually low, I have seen what looked to be thriving farmland when I was expecting dry



Rich Lanham

## The travails of a country pastor

Colin Oakley

Illustration: Colin Oakley

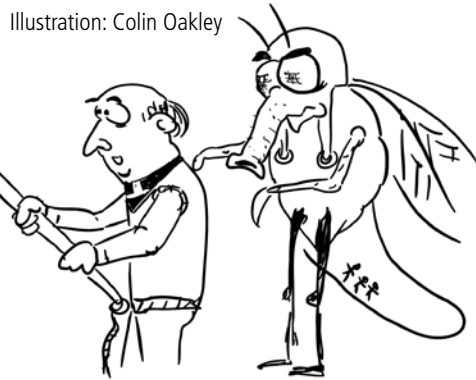
One of the problems facing the lonely travels of a country circuit minister is the reliability of transport. A step up from the loyal horse or donkey, came the car. Eminently more comfortable, with less odour, considerably faster and less argumentative. BUT, with the increased technology come dangers of another kind.

At the far end of the parish, on Ash Wednesday no less, and between services, the electric hand-brake had jammed on. There was naught left but to borrow a horse, sorry, a car, and race for the other service. Then later to return, let's say 7:30 pm, and for the "roadside assist" to decide to take the call, once I was with the car, and offer to send someone. But not for about another hour and a half. 9:00 pm, joy.

All this moves this saga into the realm of darkness – not the spiritual kind, but the lack of photon type. No sunlight; night-time; a time of evil blood-sucking monsters.

With all this, the car had had open doors to allow for the talented assisting person to locate the fault. THIS was time enough to let "Alex", (an opportunistic mosquito) to enter clandestinely into the above mentioned vehicle. Several attacks ensued in the dark, on the trip home, where the sound of a WWII airstrike went from one ear to the other. It wasn't long before my ears rang with the sound of blood pulsing – no, throbbing, because of my own slapping. They glowed red with blood which seemed to make the above Alex even more excited.

My assault was moved to a new front, with the heater on high. Mosquitos desiccate easily, so tough luck Alex. The air strike died down, though it also meant ten minutes of desiccating the pastor. (Next time you look at a bag of



pasta, remember these are the remains of ministers from flood/ mosquito ridden areas and the effects of the human v mozzie war). The heat seemed to do the job and all the memories of this savage encounter dimmed overnight. Notch up one mosquito. HA!

In the morning, I entered the favoured chariot, and there sitting on the front windscreen...was Alex.

It may have been the fact that he was the size of a cat requiring a licence for airspace, or the slight lifting of his proboscis in a sneer that saw my temper flare. Alex became thinner than a diet could ever make his frame. Happily, there was no red smear to indicate that my frantic self-flagellation of the previous night had been unsuccessful. Viva, the people of the light.

Later that day when my GPS decided to swoon and I took a wrong turn deep in suburbia, I thought maybe I had been a tad hard on Alex. Maybe there had been a middle way that was not so flattening for him. It wasn't long before I was offering a litre of blood if he would resurrect and become my personal, non-registered, stealth drone to guide me through this debacle. He declined. Vindictive so-and-so.

There is a lesson in here somewhere. Maybe not to be too hasty in defending one's patch, or blood. After all a Christian should be willing to lose for the love and benefit of another. OR, just maybe, I should keep the car door shut.

*The Rev'd Colin Oakley is Priest in Charge, Westernport*

brown country. A beautiful hue of green as far as you can see.

When I first saw this phenomenon, I was confused because I was hearing so much about drought and the terrible effects it has on farming communities. I couldn't understand why people were saying things were so bad when the paddocks looked so good. I soon came to understand the term "green drought".

A green drought is the result of rainfall that provides enough water to allow a crop to sprout, but the lack of follow up rain prevents it from growing. Its lush green can mislead us into thinking that things are better than they really are. What we can't see is that life is simply surviving and not thriving.

In John, chapter 4, we read a story about an encounter Jesus has with a Samaritan woman. Jesus asks her for a drink of water. Immediately she tells Jesus that, because he is a Jew, he should not be talking to her (Jews and Samaritans did not associate with each other). In fact, in the eyes of Jesus' culture, he should not have been anywhere near her. A woman alone, a Samaritan, and on top of this, it appears that she may also have been outcast even from her own community.

But Jesus, as usual, cuts across all of the cultural barriers and social rules and reaches out to the person with a desire to show them love and give them hope. He tells the woman, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that

I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life".

By the end of the conversation she is convinced that Jesus is the Messiah and runs off to her village to tell others about what she has experienced and received.

Like many of us, the Samaritan woman was surviving. Her joy and excitement about what Jesus said to her is evidence that she had a new hope for the future. We too can sometimes find ourselves simply surviving. Living a routine that is manageable, as we feel drained or overwhelmed by life. This is just like a green drought. It looks okay on the surface, but hides the reality of the lack of real sustenance.

Is it time for you to have another look at where you get your sustenance from; your strength, purpose and hope?

Jesus says that there is no barrier to being loved by him. There is nothing that can make us ineligible to receive what he has for us. Jesus says he can give us "living water"; that those who drink of it will never be thirsty again.

I pray that we can all consider and accept the offer Jesus gives us, not simply to survive, but to thrive. Get to know Jesus, be loved by him, let that love change your heart and renew your being.

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

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# Love beyond logic

Katie Peken

Over the past few days, several Christian Facebook friends have shared a post written by a woman whose husband died from cancer last month. Her point is a fervent message to churches: during the gruelling months of his illness, her husband didn't need slick worship services with catchy sermon series or really cool lighting, he didn't need café church or trendily dressed pastors; he needed Jesus.

As she faces a lonely future, bringing up two young children alone, she doesn't look for comfort and strength to the latest church growth techniques; she looks to Jesus.

I've been bowled over by the multitude of ways Gippsland churches help people in need; they are creative, committed and tireless workers. But a helping hand isn't the best thing we can offer. What makes churches stand out from the many aid organisations in our communities is that we have the good news of Jesus Christ.

This Easter, let's remember what gathers us each Sunday – not the best coffee, most entertaining speaker, coolest music and effects in town; but because we belong to the Lord Jesus, God-in-the-flesh who lived shoulder to shoulder with us so that we could see what human life and relationships are meant to look like; and so he would be fully qualified to die for us in our place – our representative, one of us.

Let's remember that the best thing we can offer to our families, friends and neighbours isn't a meal, or

playgroup, a pamper-pack, or a lift to the hospital. The best we can offer is the One who motivates us to love people in these ways – the God who first loved us.

Easter is the proof that the Creator of the universe loves us beyond any logic. We have each of us – once, twice, a thousand times – refused to obey him as our God; we are traitors to our King, setting up our own independent nations where we pick and choose our laws. We deserve to die for our treachery; but God loves us so illogically, so unfathomably, that he chose to be executed in our place.



Let's remember that Jesus proved God's anger had spent itself fully on him – justice has been fully served – because he rose from death to everlasting life; he promises that we shall have that life too. A healthy church isn't one

with enough money to fix the roof or pay the stipend. A healthy church is a group of Christians who proclaim eternal life to the world. That's the Church Jesus died to create.

Australians face a future of increasing uncertainty – economically, socially, politically. Into this uncertainty Christians have the responsibility of speaking the truth about Jesus, who is the same yesterday, today and forever. We need to remember what Easter is about: Jesus was born, lived among us, resolutely travelled to his own execution, and rose again, all because he loves us, and wants us to live with him forever.

*The Rev'd Katie Peken  
is Assistant Priest at Warragul.*

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### **The Rhythm Divine**

Geoff Wood

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

For more details: [abc.net.au](http://abc.net.au)

Photo: Jan Down



EDITORIAL

## Sunflowers as Easter symbol

There is nothing half-hearted about sunflowers, especially those giants the size of a dinner plate, turning their faces to the sun. There is something about them – their size, their bold colours and sunny faces – that many people find uplifting.

Yet such happiness can be short-lived. Is there any point to fleeting happiness?

Theologian, Shane Clifton, finding himself unhappy and depressed after becoming a quadriplegic, decided to research happiness through history, beginning with Aristotle in the fourth century BC.

He mentions some of his findings in his first book, *Husbands Should Not Break*. Shane discovers three dimensions to happiness: pleasure, gratification (such as found in satisfying work) and meaning. Happiness as pleasure – like the momentary joy of seeing a field of sunflowers in some unexpected place – has limited value. The pursuit of pleasure doesn't offer much as a goal in life; we are quickly bored by what first excited us, and the happy feelings don't last.

However, he does find some point to positive emotions. "Apparently, temporary emotional happiness encourages our creativity and flexibility, increases stamina, motivates perseverance, and enhances our social skills, all of which contributes to our ability to succeed in other areas of life."

Of course the ultimate irony is that chasing after happiness is exactly the wrong way to find it. Unless a seed falls into the ground and dies, it bears no fruit, as Jesus said, and as he demonstrated by giving up his own life on the cross – then rising to new life. And it is in giving up our lives to his service that we find life in abundance – like a field of sunflowers. The "failure" of the cross leads to triumph.

So sunflowers might give us a helpful dose of happiness, but they can also make a wonderful southern hemisphere Easter symbol of resurrection joy, hope and meaning, if planted to bloom around Easter. We can enjoy them as part of God's beautiful creation, first of all. They also make us think of the sun, which reminds us of Jesus, risen from the dead, as the sun rises each morning. And as their faces turn to the sun, so we are reminded to keep our eyes on Jesus, light of the world. Even their seeds, in their amazing spiral patterns, make us wonder at God's creative artistry, as well as being a source of nourishment – like the Word of God.

Whatever our chosen symbols, may we know the joy of Christ risen and living among us this Easter.



# “Mountain Boy”

By Jim Connelly

Self published, 2016 Price: \$12

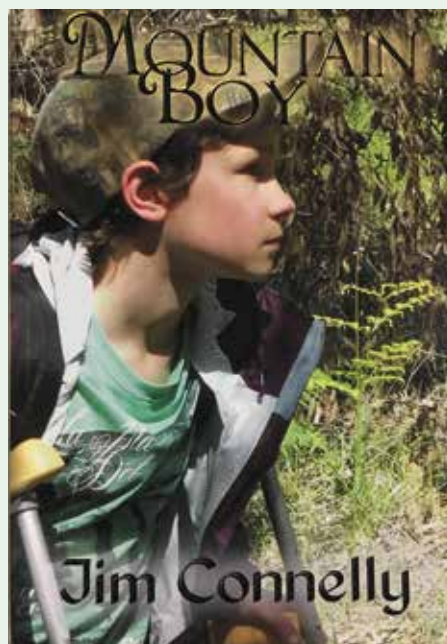
## Reviewed by John Hart

*Mountain Boy* is the fourth novel for young people by local author Jim Connelly. It's set in the Garfield-Mt Cannibal – the mountain of the title – district of West Gippsland, where the author grew up, and to that extent is autobiographical. But whereas Jim remains hale and hearty to this day, his fictional hero, Brock Cammidge – the boy – has been severely disabled from birth with cerebral palsy.

The novel pits boy against mountain in a suspenseful encounter that will have young and old readers alike on the edge of their seats, and bring tears to the eyes of many.

When the book was launched recently, the keynote speaker, Kay Goldsworthy, Anglican Bishop of Gippsland, remarked on its powerful sense of landscape. In responding, the author agreed that his love of landscape had permeated the book.

This sense of landscape is akin to Aboriginal affinity with land, of belonging to the land, which is indeed a powerful motif underlying the novel. Jim, who has climbed Mt Cannibal at least 50 times, stressed that the descriptive detail of Brock's route up the mountain is authentic at every step of the way – just as those who once trod this ground might remember it. And the Voice of the Mountain resounding in Brock's mind, urging him on,



and then finally admonishing him in his exultation, echoes the spiritual significance the landmark undoubtedly once had.

A sense of spirit makes its mark in other ways, too. Brock's alter ego, John Peter, another voice in the mind, is his aptly named source of guidance and encouragement. His dad, Joe, is an absent presence. Estranged from Brock's mother, Helen, following active service in Afghanistan, his contact with Brock has been fitful, but

his nuggets of wisdom are treasured and recalled at critical moments, yet another unseen voice.

Then there is a moment of sixth-sensory perception for Helen, when she unknowingly passes close to her missing son.

*Mountain Boy* can, of course, be read just for what it is – a rattling good adventure yarn – but, as the foregoing suggests, it also has those extra dimensions of meaning, subtlety and insight that will repay readers of all ages. Jim Connelly has clearly put a good deal of himself into the narrative: “They’re sleeping like hogs in a cornfield”, says Brock to himself at one point. “It was one of his father’s expressions” – and perhaps of Jim’s father’s too!

*Copies of Mountain Boy are available through Archdeacon Edie Ashley: edieashely@bigpond.com or the Rev'd Jim Connelly: ajcon@dcsi.net.au*  
*Half the proceeds are given to the John McIntyre Centre Fund at A'Beckett Park.*

## CORRESPONDENCE

### Let's work together in 2017

My wish for 2017 is that we can all work together and make Gippsland the “go to” region of Australia. It is a region so rich in resources but has zero economic growth, so let's turn that around for 2017.

The Editorial in the March *Gippsland Anglican*, although acknowledging the contribution of Hazelwood power, welcomed the change to renewable energy and a “healthier” era for the Latrobe Valley! Surely this comment lacks sympathy for the hundreds of workers who will lose their jobs as well as farmers and SMEs who need reliable and low cost energy. The editorial appeared to ignore the science but promote the idealism of the noisy “anti's” ! Although I respect their views, their policies appear to be divisive and with the closing of Hazelwood we need to be bringing people together.

In 2016 we celebrated 30 years of Landcare in Victoria, where the leaders of the day put aside their conflicting policies, shook hands and launched Landcare. Today Landcare is an Australian icon and should be a template for a new way forward for our region, our state and our nation.

With our rich resources of farm land, water, coal, gas; surely we can work together to progress economic and environmental outcomes.

Where are the visionaries like Sir John Monash who developed the Gippsland rich brown coal resource and BHP/ExxonMobil that developed Bass Strait oil & gas? Our farm leaders who pushed to build new dams, new irrigation districts including the renowned Macalister Irrigation District?

With a new university in Gippsland we must be able to find or develop technologies that can develop these resources to meet environmental outcomes. By using world's best practice, we can have low energy costs and meet all environment outcomes including carbon sequestration. Gippsland could become a world leader, attract more investment, more tourism and grow exports of clean green food.

Of course there are some difficult issues and as a farmer I am more aware than most! But that is also the challenge! Adopt the Landcare model and find solutions.

I support Gippsland becoming the region going places and the “go to” region in Australia.

Let us welcome sensible development, immigration, and ASEAN partnerships to make our wonderful resource-rich region “the region to be in” and an Australian leader.

Alex Arbuthnot  
Nambrok, Victoria

## EARTH CARE CARD

– Tips and inspiration for churches and households



*Bishops of London, Chelmsford and Salisbury, London's Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Bishop of Southwark*

### # 28 London's churches plant trees for bees

Bees are critically important for the pollination of many crops, but they are dying in large numbers around the world. “A tree planting program for London's churches, supported by the Mayor of London, is aiming to make neighbourhoods greener and more attractive for bees. The Conservation Foundation's **Trees for Sacred Spaces project** is enabling churches...to plant trees that support bees and other pollinators... The project is supported by the diocesan bishops.” (From Anglican Communion News Service, 20/2/17)  
For information on how to help save the bees, see: [sos-bees.org](http://sos-bees.org) and [saveourbees.com.au](http://saveourbees.com.au)

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**Applications close 19th May 2017**



Jan Down

## Geoff Seers

Honey marketer Moe / Newborough



Geoff Seers enjoys working with the bees. He says, "If you treat them right, they don't argue much. If you treat them wrong, they soon let you know". Then he adds that the same could be said about other creatures, including people.

While Geoff has been keeping bees for the past 30 years, in the last 15-20 years he has become very interested in the medicinal properties of honey, and has done some of his own research. He has sent off honey samples to a qualified chemist to be tested. One in particular, from Australian eucalypts, in its purest form was tested as having the highest rating in the world for its antibiotic properties – higher than Manuka honey, which is a commonly used medicinal honey.

One customer, Geoff said, has found his honey very helpful for a son with Crohn's disease; and a concrete worker whose hands were damaged from working with the concrete found the external application of the raw honey helped his skin to heal.

This is what gives Geoff great satisfaction in his work at the moment. He says "I'm enjoying selling this antibiotic honey because of the benefits people seem to be getting from it". He also sells table honey from a variety of sources.

Geoff, who lives in Moe, sells his honey through health food stores and at four markets a month: Longwarry, Traralgon, Pakenham and Yarragon. He has leases through Parks Victoria and the Forestry Commission for the various locations of his 50 – 60 hives. Some are also kept on private farms, and there is sometimes a bartering arrangement with a farmer, who is given honey in return for hosting the bees.

Colony Collapse Disorder, where most of the bees in a colony die, is occurring in America, Europe and Asia, but not, so far, in Australia. Various causes have been suggested, including certain pesticides, infections with various mites, malnutrition, loss of habitat, new bee-keeping practices, or a combination of some of these (from Wikipedia). Bees in America are trucked thousands of miles across the country and then used to

pollinate huge monoculture crops, which means their diet is highly restricted.

Geoff says he is "not a disciple of American apiculture" and notes that Australian bees are now being exported from Sydney to pollinate the almond trees around Los Angeles.

Before becoming a beekeeper, Geoff worked as an electrical engineer with the SEC. He left the SEC in 1970, and worked in various jobs. He was a laboratory technician with the then Gippsland Institute (now part of Monash University), becoming the lab manager and then services engineer. He finished there in 1995 to go into beekeeping, which he has done ever since.

He had been wanting to get into agriculture and saw that beekeeping was something he could do without requiring a lot of capital. He got started by

collecting swarms, and hasn't looked back.

Honey has a very long history in human civilisation, and there are some significant references to honey in the Bible. In the book of Exodus, when God spoke to Moses from the burning bush, he promised to free the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and lead them to "a land flowing with milk and honey"; in other words, a fertile land of abundance. In Psalm 119: 103, the psalmist addresses God saying "How sweet is the taste of your instructions – sweeter even than honey!"

Geoff is a worshipper at St Aidan's Newborough and stands in a long line of people who tend to the bees, knowing them to be part of God's good creation and provision. He says that traditionally in England the village beekeeper was the local vicar. Abbeys and monasteries in the medieval period also kept bees for the wax to make their candles, as well as for the honey.

"...I'm enjoying selling this antibiotic honey because of the benefits people seem to be getting from it..."

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## 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.

### April

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

Holy Week Services at St Paul's Cathedral:

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

### May

- 5 – 7 Creative Spirit Festival, Parish Hall, St Philip's, Cowes, Phillip Island.  
Details: [anglicanparishbassphillipisland.com](http://anglicanparishbassphillipisland.com)
- 28 5:00 pm Affinity Collective Afternoon Concert, St Paul's Cathedral, Sale, followed by meet the artist and refreshments. Music of Beethoven, Dohnányi. Affinity String Trio and guest pianist, Alex Waite. Tickets at Gippsland Music & Sound 5144 7860: \$20 Family \$40 with concessions available.

### June

- 23 1:00–4:00 pm the Crossing Drop-in Centre Drouin, celebrates 25 years in service to God and community with a special afternoon tea, 134a Princes Way Drouin. Contact the Secretary: [thecrossing@exemail.com.au](mailto:thecrossing@exemail.com.au) or phone 5625 2655



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**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](mailto:cherylrussell1@bigpond.com)

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