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The Gippsland Anglican

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Seeking safety in Australia

A Refugee Week event in Bairnsdale raises awareness

Wendy Nickson

An interesting and enlightening Refugee Week event was held in Bairnsdale on 20 June. Keynote speakers were Farhat Firdous, originally from Karachi, Pakistan, and currently Multi-cultural Strategic Engagement Coordinator with Latrobe Community Health Service; and Ignacio Rodriguez, Multicultural Project Coordinator.

Both came to Australia as migrants. Farhat left her homeland in the face of prejudice and violence, while Ignacio migrated from Spain. They spoke of difficulties in gaining recognition of their qualifications and with language, experiences also common to refugees. They told of their journeys as newcomers to Australia and their current work.



Photo: Wendy Nickson

The Alley Cat Singers performing at the EGASS Refugee Week event in Bairnsdale

Chris Power of East Gippsland Asylum Seeker Support Group explained its aims and activities. Jeni Irwin explained how her love of fabric, including remnants and discarded pieces, has

led her to give them new life and value, as she makes them into colourful patchwork shopping bags. She sees this as an analogy to rescuing the displaced

people seeking safety in Australia. Proceeds from the bags are directed to support people in settling into their new lives here.

Michael Fox read two heart-rending and beautifully written passages from Behrouz Boochani's literary prize winning book *No Friend But the Mountains*. This author is still languishing on Manus Island. Michael urged people to write letters which must be read (rather than emails which are not) to Government both at local and national level regarding the injustices to asylum seekers.

Finally the audience was treated to a wonderful performance by The Alley Cats choir, a very talented Bairnsdale-based group who sing a cappella in harmony. A finger food meal was provided and much enjoyed.

East Gippsland Asylum Seeker Support Group

The East Gippsland Asylum Seeker Support Group (EGASS) is a group of people from East Gippsland who share and promote a common vision of compassion and hospitality for those forced to flee and seek protection.

They meet on the second Tuesday of the month in February, April, June, August, October and December, 7.30pm at St John's Anglican Hall in Francis Street Bairnsdale.

The group has three foci: education – raising community awareness; letter writing to politicians; and practical support for asylum seekers, with personal items and supermarket vouchers. (See: ruralaustraliansforrefugees.org.au)

For further information phone 0418 148 657.



Photo: Wendy Nickson

Michael Fox, Paynesville parishioner and EGASS member speaking at the Bairnsdale event

NAIDOC Week 2019



Photo: Cathrine Muston

David Murray takes part in an activity during the NAIDOC service at St John's Lake Tyers (See page 3)

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Journeying to “inner” space

When, some months ago, we booked the children in for a NASA run “Space Camp” in Mississippi as part of a recent visit to our US-based family, we hadn’t realized how close the dates were to the 50th anniversary of the moon landing.

Wide-eyed, children and parents alike explored rocket fuselage from Apollo missions, watched footage of JFK setting the earth-bound nation a celestial target, caught whispers of even greater ambitions, and experienced the gravity-defying thrills offered by various simulators.

Writing this on the day of that jubilee I am piecing together an almost-four-year-old’s memory as scratchy as the black and white footage which united hundreds of millions of people in July 1969.

Space. Is it the “final frontier”, as the makers of *Star Trek* have fashioned it, a *terra nullius* to be colonized, with all of the recapitulation of our equivocal imperial legacy that entails? Does it offer refuge for humanity should earth become uninhabitable – a theme rehearsed in “sci-fi” literature and cinema?

Theologically, space is significant in several respects. It is associated with the work of creation though which God is made known – both in the sense of the cosmos revealing God and having its existence in God. As such, Christians view space not so much as a container or receptacle to be filled up by inert things than as the medium which holds the “quiddity”, the sheer “is-ness” of matter and the possibility of history, in which events happen and life itself comes to be.

Perhaps, then, we can think of the vastness of space not only in geometric terms, but also in existential terms: as “lived space”; something we experience writ small from the meaning we associate with particular places or spaces in our own personal and communal stories, such that our “inner space” is shaped by “outer space”.

In a similar way former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, applies this idea of theologically “freighted” space to the Church, which he describes as “a kind of space cleared by God through Jesus in which people may become what God made them to be”.

In the same address at a UK theological college he concluded from this “that what we have to do about the Church is not first to organize it as a society but to inhabit it as a climate or a landscape. It is a place where we can see properly – God, God’s creation, [and] ourselves... in restored relation to God. It is a place we are invited to enter, the place occupied by Christ, who is himself the climate and atmosphere of a renewed universe.” (*The Christian Priest Today*, Ripon College, Cuddesdon, 2004)

Imagining the Church as a “space” – specifically a space of freedom and of transformation – Australian theologian Stephen Ogden draws on the work of twentieth-century French philosopher Michel Foucault in his recent work, *The Church, Authority, and Foucault*. In contrast to the notion of “utopia” (literally, no place) Foucault coins the term “heterotopia”: an “other” place, or a “counter-space” that is peculiar or distinctive.

Like Williams, Ogden sees the Church’s vocation as heterotopic: to be a particular counter-space which is characterized by openness, in which boundaries are



Bishop Richard Treloar

thresholds rather than borders. Such was the calling out – the “ek-klesia” – of early Christian assemblies (“ecclesia”), adapting an Athenian model of civic practice to proclaim and embody the vision of an alternative future to that offered by the empire, namely the Kingdom of God.

As we look up at the stunning night skies over Gippsland and watch the moon wax and wane, we do well to ponder the mystery of it all, including the God-given human reason which enabled human beings to set foot on its heterotopic landscape 50 years ago.

Whilst such a journey is literally beyond most of us, we are invited by baptism into no less a mystery: called out to that distinctive counter-space cleared by God through Jesus where we can see clearly so as to become what God made us to be.

+RM

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Prayer Diary: around the parishes

“That we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith...” (ROMANS 1:12)

OMEQ EASTERN REGION

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

Omeo is a tiny, pretty, drive-through town for other places, on the Great Alpine Road, sometimes bringing in trade from tourists passing through. Set between mountains, it has extremes of hot and cold weather. The Rev’d Thelma Langshaw, Honorary Priest-in-Charge at Omeo, is now into her 12th year in the parish. Please pray for good connections between the school and the church and encouragement for the church congregation.

ORBOST EASTERN REGION

St James, Orbost
Locum: The Rev’d Bevil Lunson

Our Trash & Treasure shops are still open 5½ days a week and we are amazed at the amount of material contributed. The number of clients using our Food Pantry has increased, especially during the colder months. Fortnightly lunches are still being provided together with daily snacks and a place just to sit and chat. Local farmers and Foodbank Victoria are providing us with vegetables, giving our clients additional healthy food choices. St James still has its loyal group of

members who gather every Sunday for services. We may be few but we are kept very busy. Our temporary organist retired last year but we have been able to access our music on disc. A new organist would still be very welcome. St James’ is a happy, vibrant, fun place to be.

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.

Wuman njinde – welcome

Carolyn Raymond
Morwell

Morwell is one of the towns in Gippsland with a substantial population of Aboriginal people. So there are many celebrations planned here for NAIDOC Week, including a flag-raising ceremony on Monday 8 July.

We are so fortunate here at St Mary's to have the Rev'd Kathy Dalton, the Aboriginal Priest for West Gippsland, as a member of our congregation. We were pleased that she could take the service to be part of those celebrations for NAIDOC Week.

Kathy had brought to the service some special artefacts that are very significant to

her family to decorate the church. She also had a large map of Australia showing the approximately 500 different tribal groups spread across every part of Australia.

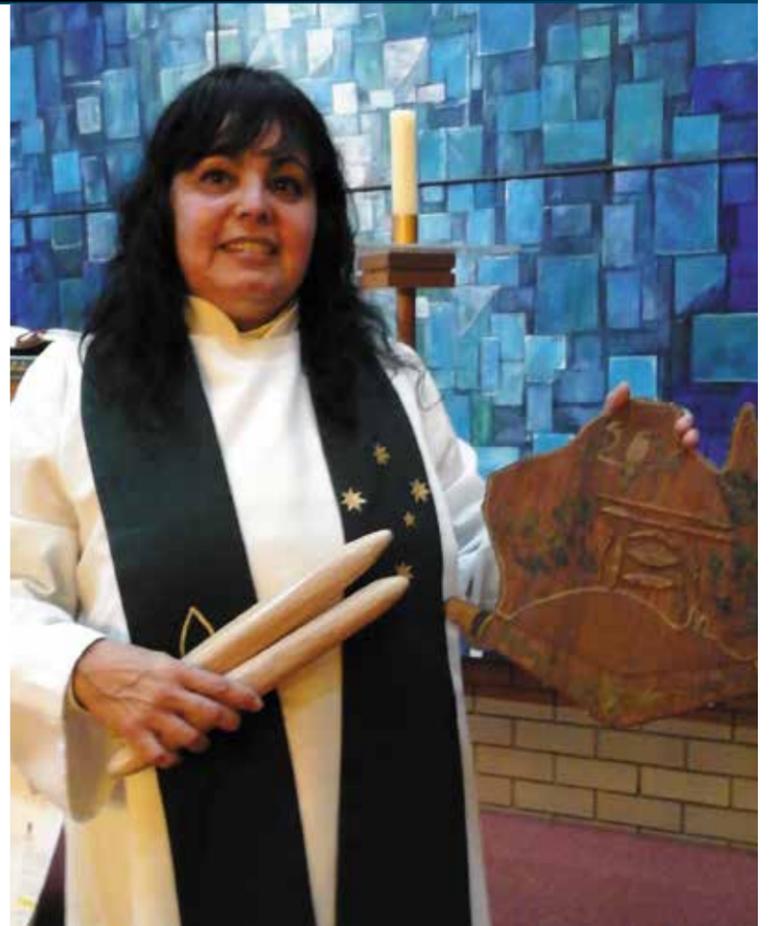
The Rev'd Bruce Charles, our Locum Priest, had included an introduction to the confession and prayers which expressed our grief and responsibility for the violence and discrimination suffered by the Aboriginal people. The prayers looked at our shared history and our hopes for the future. May we consciously seek understanding and commit ourselves to greater reconciliation.

Kathy, in her sermon, spoke of history since European discovery. She spoke of the 60,000 years of Aboriginal

settlement and culture in this land, verified with the discovery of Mungo Man and Mungo Lady.

She also shared some of her family history. Her grandfather was born in the Mission at Coranderrk and later moved to Lake Tyers Trust. She showed us a left handed boomerang her grandfather had made.

Kathy also demonstrated the clap sticks which she uses in the services she takes with her Aboriginal people. She showed us the beautiful coolamon she uses when she takes funerals and baptisms, and a wooden map of Australia her grandfather had made. We were pleased to have been able to celebrate NAIDOC week in such a meaningful way.



The Rev'd Kathy Dalton at the NAIDOC Week service at St Mary's Morwell

Spelling it out: Voice, Treaty, Truth

A NAIDOC Week Service at Lake Tyers Trust

Sixty people from across Gippsland attended a service at St John's, Lake Tyers (Trust) on Sunday July 7, to mark the start of this year's NAIDOC week. Beautiful sunshine bathed the peninsula in brightness and winter warmth this year for the occasion.

The Rev'd Aunty Phyllis Andy led the service, and gave a reflection on this year's NAIDOC theme of "Voice, Treaty and Truth", referring to biblical passages in Genesis 11 and 1 Corinthians 14.

The afternoon began with a Welcome to Country by Gunai-Kurnai elder Grattan Mullet, followed by an Earth, Wind and Fire ceremony led by elder Nicky Moffat, who played the didgeridoo. The lighting of the Pascal Candle followed, led by Archdeacon Edie Ashley and June Treadwell.

Songs were accompanied by guitarists Madge and Philip, and at one point

the congregation joined in an activity of making large coloured letters spread down the aisle to underline the words of the NAIDOC theme.

Prayers were led by Anglicare's Parish Partnership Development Officer, Cathrine Muston, and the Blessing by the Rev'd Philip Muston, after the traditional singing of *Bind Us Together*.



View from the church door at Lake Tyers

The Lake Tyers Trust Community put on an afternoon tea at the Community Hall after the service.



NAIDOC Week themes spelled out down the aisle at St John's Lake Tyers



Tracy Moffat and the Rev'd Phyllis Andy

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The Rev'd Philip Muston welcomes people to the Combined Churches Fellowship Dinner

Forty at Combined Churches Dinner

Wendy Nickson
Lakes Entrance

Our friendly little town of Lakes Entrance has for many years enjoyed good communication with the other Christian churches, holding a Combined Service in the evening when a 5th Sunday occurs in a month, which is four times a year. Each church (Anglican, Baptist, Catholic and Uniting) has taken turns to hold a service followed by fellowship over food and cuppas.

Sunday 30 June was our turn and it was decided we would hold a more relaxed and informal event. Soup, savouries and sweets were

organized, with people sitting around a large table or in small groups. Happily, the 40 folk from the different churches mixed well. The Rev'd Philip Muston delivered a prayer of welcome and thanks, and read from Luke 8: 12-17, the story of the feeding of the five thousand, which instructs us in hospitality.

We did not quite have the five thousand (or the bread and fish), but home-made soup, savouries and sweets were enjoyed in a relaxed atmosphere. Conversations and connections flowed; old friendships were renewed in good fellowship. It is a blessing for all of us to be in a town with such cooperation between churches.

Finding the authentic self: Abbey retreat

Sue Fordham

The Abbey retreat on the theme of pilgrimage was conducted by the Rev'd Ken Parker on the last weekend in June.

It was pilgrimage, not in the secular or commercial sense of pilgrimage – “doing” the Camino, for example – but pilgrimage in the daily and local sense of finding the inner self in the ordinary. Or to put it another way, exploring the self in a way that makes the ordinary, extraordinary.

The group began with the task of identifying places of the heart, places that draw us individually in a special or sacred way, places that open up the inner self as distinct from the public self, the self we allow others to see.

In the second session we looked at the writings of Sebastian Smee, art critic and author of the *Quarterly Essay*, “Net Loss: the Inner Life in the Digital Age” (issue 72, 2018) and Sydney Carter of *Lord of the Dance* fame. Both writers in their own way celebrate the inner life lit by the divine spark.

On Saturday we enjoyed praying with the work of

textile artist Ann Greenwood and the poetry of T S Eliot.

Personal journeys and sacred places were explored, aided by a selection of writers including Antoine de Saint Exupery, Rose Macauley, and John Shaw Neilson as

well as the English sculptor, Eric Gill.

At the end of the day we went walking, identifying the burdens we carried, the offerings we made and the learnings we picked up en route.

The closing Eucharist, a Eucharist with as few words as possible, modelled the concept of Eucharist as pilgrimage. It is true to say that no participant went home unchanged.



The Rev'd Ken Parker leads the Pilgrimage Retreat

Fashions for the family Op Shop Fashion Show at Avon

Gail Wagner

The Parish of Avon is holding its Op Shop Fashion Show on Saturday 31st August, 2:00 pm at the Parish Hall in Stratford.

Find fashions for the whole family from our Stratford Anglican Op Shop with models from our team of volunteers. All clothing will be available for sale after the show including designer labels.

Cost: \$15 (children free) includes High Afternoon Tea and refreshments on arrival. Tickets available at the door. For further information and bookings, contact: Bev Harrap 0400 045 646 or Denise Vranek 0417 100 047.

Paynesville celebrates the life of its patron

Sue Fordham

St Peter by the Lake celebrated its patronal festival with guest preacher, the Rev'd Ken Parker, at its Sunday morning Eucharist and followed with a parish lunch.

Fr Ken spoke of the importance of having saints in our life and badging our churches with these saints. Saints, he said, enlarged our lives, gave us a bigger understanding and experience of Christian witness and helped us to see ourselves as part of a vast, historical and familial tradition.

He began his sermon by preparing the congregation for the interactive experience that was to follow. He started by singing us a song about



The Rev'd Ken Parker, Archdeacon Edie Ashley, June Treadwell and Robert Fordham with the new clergy board

Peter, then went among the congregation distributing eggs to some of the women. (Cage-free certainly.)

“Who has been here longest?” he asked.

After feedback that revealed some very long-standing links, he observed that those people at least must have heard a lot of sermons about Peter.

“Well what I am about to say

is a bit like teaching your grandmother how to suck eggs.”

Laughter greeted this as it explained the purpose of the eggs.

The conversation that followed was about St Peter, certainly, but it canvassed many lesser known saints as well, to give the congregation a sense of its place among the pantheon of saints, the great cloud of witnesses.

During the service, a clergy board was dedicated. It was organized by parish lay reader and historian, June Treadwell.

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Aboriginal health care in remote areas

Denise Vranek
Avon

On the second Sunday of NAIDOC week, over morning tea at Holy Trinity, Avon Parish was treated to a remarkable presentation by Moira Tulloch.

Moira, a Registered Nurse and Midwife, is a Clinical Nurse Manager, with Western Australia Country Health.

She spoke of her experiences in Management and Maternal Care of women at Warman Clinic, Kalumbura Mission, Kununurra Hospital and now at Broome Hospital.

How totally removed and unaware we are of the Aboriginal population in remote areas.



Avon Parish celebrates NAIDOC Week

Moira spoke with great sensitivity of profound and confronting health and social issues in the Aboriginal population over this vast area extending from Broome

to Katherine and far into the desert.

She spoke of well-funded care by the government and other health agencies; of the tremendous work

done by Remote Areas Nurses, the Aboriginal Health Workers, the police and others.

Moira spoke about how education can achieve great

things, giving examples of getting children into programs, for example through Wesley College, which then enables them to get into the workforce.

Russian Orthodoxy, iconography and the search for God

On 20 – 21 September Historian June Treadwell will conduct a workshop on the development of Russian Orthodoxy and iconography against the background of Tsar Peter the Great and later Tsar Nicholas II.

Their influence on an emerging modern Russia and the Christian Church will be a focus of the day. For further information and bookings please contact Anna at The Abbey on 5156 6580 or info@theabbey.org.au

Doing the maths for Mission

Alison Goetz
Bairnsdale

On our Patronal Festival – the feast of the birth of St John the Baptist on 23 June – our congregation gathered after church to share a meal. Over lunch, Mrs Lindy Driver, our recently appointed Mission Secretary, spoke to us about Mission.

She started with some numbers: one parish, 35 people (conservatively). \$2.50 each a week equals \$350 a month, \$4,200 a year. 20 parishes? A staggering \$84,000 a year. Food for thought.

While the life of the wife of a bishop is not an easy one, there are also many blessings. One of the blessings afforded Lindy

while her husband Jeff was Bishop of Gippsland, and later Archbishop of Adelaide, was trips to Africa. Over 15 years, those trips included visits to six countries and her involvement in six mission-based organizations or activities in those countries.

The stories that Lindy shared with us of those visits, the people she met and the work undertaken, were in turns moving, confronting, frightening, joyful and extraordinary. And each tale was punctuated with the challenge “food for thought”. I’m sure I was not the only one present who was inspired, despite wet cheeks and damp tissues.

As have luminaries past and present, Lindy has a dream.

A dream that we as a congregation can lead the way and show how a parish can make a difference through Mission. And so she challenged each and every one of us: give up just one coffee or a treat every week and donate those funds to our, and our church’s calling to “go do mission”.

Perhaps your “Mission” could stand a challenge too? Lindy is willing to travel to other parishes in the region to share her passion and her dream of mission-giving in this Diocese reaching that \$84,000 effortlessly each and every year. If you are interested, you can contact Lindy through the Parish of Bairnsdale phone: 5152 3133 or email: stjohns.b@bigpond.com

Psalm to the land

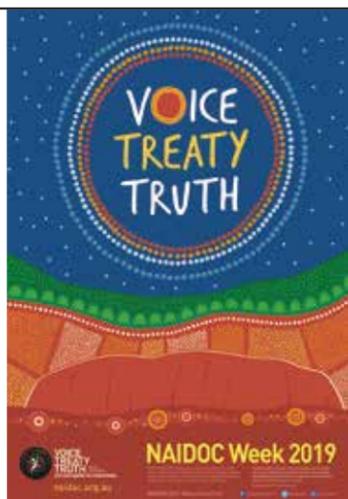
Alex Griffiths
Sale

I came to this country as a one year old. Having neither means nor inclination to consider an alternative, this is where I’ve stayed. Like most of us, I’m here because I’m here because I’m here because I’m here.

I’ve always known this land was stolen from its first inhabitants, that the society of which I’m part is founded on a legacy of genocide and murder, of the physical extinction of a culture and the legal extinction of its humanity.

I didn’t take part in this annihilation, nor have I condoned it. Any apology on my part would be meaningless, however much I might regret these events.

BUT... everything I have, my home, my work, my life, has been made possible by these acts having been committed. Like every non-indigenous Australian, I have benefited enormously from the proceeds of these crimes.



2019 National NAIDOC Week poster

And my soul is very uneasy.

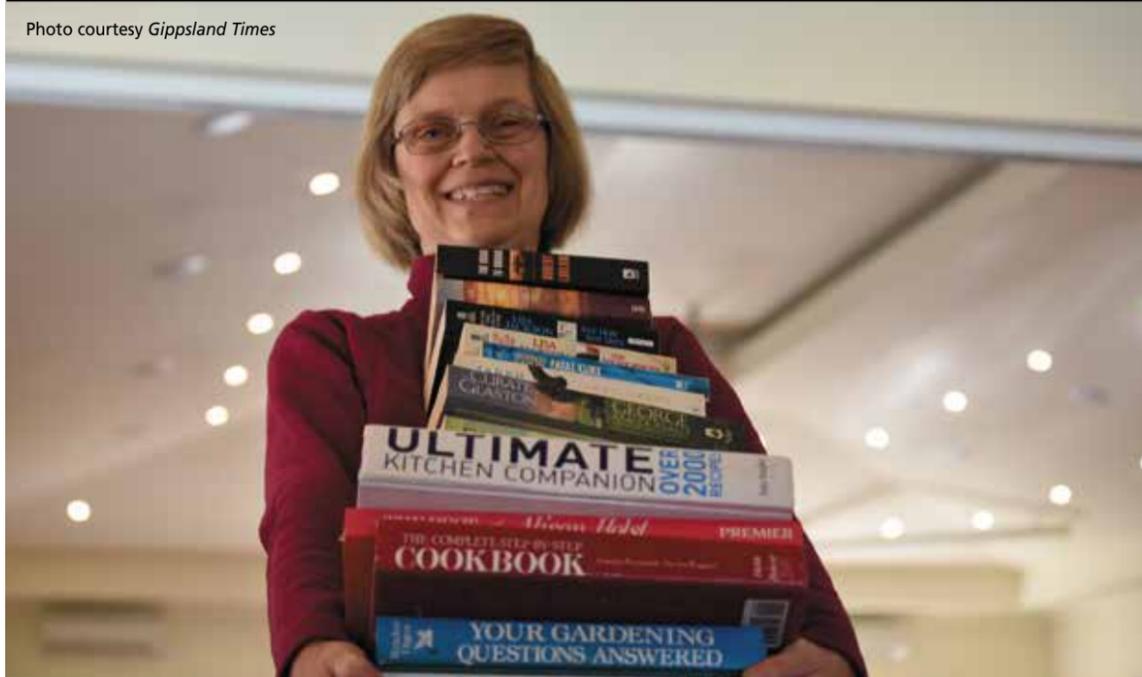
I fear a reckoning, as I don’t know what it might bring. But I do trust in the good will of First Nations people. Time and again, they have reached out in good faith and with an unfathomable grace. My soul is in anguish. And I do fear a reckoning, but I want one with all my heart.

See next month’s TGA for a response from the Rev’d Phyllis Andy, Aboriginal Priest for East Gippsland.



Lindy Driver, Peggie Arthur, warden, and the Rev’d Brenda Burney

Photo courtesy Gippsland Times



Christine Morris at the Giant Book Sale held at Delbridge Hall, Sale

We are the body of Christ

Christine Morris Sale

Recently several mothers who have brought their children to *mainly music* have recognized me as their RI/RE teacher; one even posted about this on Facebook when seeing my book fair photo (I have not changed a bit since the 90s she commented!)

I am known as the bread/doughnut lady when delivering leftover bread and recently doughnuts, and “Christine from [mainly] music”, as screamed by an excited three-year-old on seeing me in a shop.

But having run a book fair for several years, now I am now also recognized for this – especially with my photo splashed over half the front

page of the local newspaper! (See *The Gippsland Times*, Friday 11 July)

How often are we recognized and given a label in public? The many hours of teaching about God to children at school may have taught them more about God than giving families multiple loaves (and dinosaur doughnuts instead of fish!) or selling them books have. But long term? Maybe they all equate to the same thing?

I am the body of Christ feeding children’s souls, love of music, hungry stomachs and love of books. I am part of a church which cares for people, and tries to share that love in practical ways – even just carrying books (or a challenging child) to their car.

Maybe one day they may

come to know God’s love directly, but until then, at least God has demonstrated his love for them, via me and my teams.

What are you or your church known for? What are you recognized for doing/being? Never feel that just because you are not mentioning God, it means you are not being God’s witness. So be encouraged.

The Giant Book Sale made nearly \$9,000 between the cake stall (\$514), the raffle (\$300) and book sales (\$8,100). It also made a lot of book lovers very happy. And as a bonus, the mum I helped by carrying her challenging child to the car returned the next day to the book fair. We ended up having a long chat I and invited her to *mainly music*. God is at work.

Music night raises funds for prison ministry

Cathrine Muston



Nowa Nowa Men’s Choir performing at St Nicholas, Lakes Entrance

Lakes Entrance parishioners, David and Shirley Murray, wanted to support Anglicare’s Get out for Good program in Gippsland, so they organized country and gospel singer Jenny J and the Nowa Nowa Men’s Choir to put on a concert at St Nicholas on Friday 12 July.

Jenny J sang plenty of memories from the likes of Dolly Parton and Patsy Cline with the backing of local duo Gibbs and Taylor on guitar and drums. Nowa Nowa Men’s Choir provided plenty of entertainment with songs such as *Poor Ned* and *Sloop John B*. The church was full as everyone laughed and sang along. \$660.50 was raised for Anglican Criminal Justice Ministries.

Winter retreat: “Into the cave”

Dean Susanna Pain

It is winter at Raymond Island, and a small group of us are experiencing an “Into the Cave Retreat”. We have been meditating rugged up, being in silence, walking, creating.

The mornings began early with meditation, followed by a nourishing brekky prepared by David and Deb Chambers. After morning prayers and my reflection, we spent the morning in silence, ending with Holy Communion before lunch.

At 4:00 pm we shared creative expressions of our experiences, including poetry, collage and movement.

Lazarus, Elijah, the disciples

on the road to Emmaus, and the good Samaritan were our companions on the journey. We saw dolphins, an echidna, rosellas, a koala walking across the oval, and lots of lazing grazing kangaroos. We saw magnificent sunsets and sunrises, and wonderful cloud shapes. One person went to Buchan Caves. One was struck by seeing a lighthouse. We went deep within and without.

There was more meditation at 5:30 pm, then a delicious dinner, followed by a bedtime story and Compline. We opened up, we grew in our relationship with God and each other. We formed community. What a precious gift of time away in the cave.



At the winter retreat: Gabbie Minchin, Liz Sheat, John Turner, Leo Wimmer, David and Deb Chambers (chefs extraordinaire), Glenys Wimmer, David Miller, Meryl Turner, Rose La Vie

New baby!

Trafalgar’s Lay Youth Minister, Josh Hasan and his wife Jenny have welcomed their first-born child, Samuel Raymond,

who was born on June 26, weighing 2960 g or 6 lb 8 oz in the old measure.

Congratulations to Josh and Jenny!



Jenny and Josh Hasan with baby Samuel Raymond

Elizabeth Smith leads Clergy Conference

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

Clergy Conference was held at The Abbey from 17–20 June this year. It marked a first for Bishop Richard. It was also the first for Tracey Lauersen, Judith Lake and Philip Kissick.

Our main program was led by the Rev'd Dr Elizabeth Smith and focused on liturgy in all its richness and usefulness for us in leading worship and also in ministering to our communities. A member of the Liturgy Commission of General Synod and now Mission Priest at the Parish of the Goldfields (Kalgoorlie), Elizabeth brought her wealth of experience to equip us to offer liturgies which are attentive to our local and cultural contexts and faithful to our Anglican tradition.

Bible studies were led by Anne Elvey who is a Roman Catholic lay person, poet and Biblical scholar. She helped us explore the Bible from a more ecological perspective and to see the *Magnificat* with new eyes.

The Rev'd Tracey Lauersen and the Rev'd David Perryman led an informative session on Safe Ministry and the Rev'd Brian Norris filled us in for his last time on Diocesan matters while introducing our new Registrar, Richard Connelly.

Times of worship, fellowship and beautiful meals provided by David and Deb Chambers were highlights of our time together with the Rev'd Graeme Peters leading music for the last time at a Gippsland Clergy Conference.

We all returned refreshed and better equipped to minister and bring God's blessing to our communities.



Top L–R: Bishop Richard Treloar and Archdeacon Graham Knott; the Rev'd Tracy Lauersen and Archdeacon Sue Jacka; Bottom L–R: The Rev'd Judith Lake and the Rev'd Dr Elizabeth Smith; the Rev'd Graeme Peters and the Rev'd David Perryman

Winteruption in Loch

**Annie Brown
Korumburra-Poowong**

On a frosty, winter's day people from the Loch community and the combined churches of Loch, Poowong, Nyora and Korumburra came together for a Winter Celebration service. This was one of the Loch Winteruption events in June and July. We sang winter carols and heard readings from Isaiah and Luke telling the story of Jesus' coming as a light in the darkness.

The service held on Sunday, at the Loch Catholic

Church, was attended by approximately thirty people from the Anglican, Catholic and Uniting Churches, sharing the message of the greatest story told; Jesus came to show us the way. He is the light of the world, a light no darkness can extinguish. Members from these churches lit candles showing how together we can bring the message of light and warmth to our community.

One carol we sang was *Good King Wenceslas*. It tells the story of the King of Bohemia in the 10th

century going on a journey and braving harsh winter weather to give alms to a poor peasant. These words in the song – "Therefore, Christian folk, be sure / Wealth or rank possessing / Ye who now will bless the poor / Shall yourselves find blessing" – brought to mind the poor and needy in our country and a donation from contributions given will go to Mission Australia, who have been helping the homeless and disadvantaged people of Australia for 160 years.

We found out about the origin of the carol, *The Holly and the Ivy*, learning that the holly plant has carried a Christian symbolism since medieval times. Other winter

carols sung, accompanied by Howard on the organ, were: *In the Bleak Midwinter* and *See Amid the Winter's Snow*. The more modern carol *Mary's Boy Child* was accompanied by guitars played by Fran and Peter.

The afternoon was a celebration of community and fellowship, sharing in the message that God is our Saviour who cares for us; a

God who made our gladness greater and increased our joy by sending to dwell among us the Wonderful Counsellor, the Prince of Peace. He was born of Mary, proclaimed to the shepherds, and acknowledged to the ends of the earth – God's unconquered Sun of Righteousness, destroying our darkness and establishing us in freedom.



Carol singing at the combined churches Winter Celebration service at the Loch Catholic Church

Leongatha Daffodil Festival

The 2019 Leongatha Daffodil Festival will be held from Thursday 29 August – Sunday 1 September, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm each day at St Peter's Leongatha.

Entry is free and refreshments will be available.

Displays will include "Flowers in Praise" (floral arrangements from the Churches in Leongatha and beyond) and "Tea Towel-inspired Collections", with tea towels and the collection inspired by each one.

A tea towel is a symbol of service. Christians are disciples or followers who serve others in the name of Jesus. For example, a tea towel display might be the royal tea towel and a display of royal memorabilia; or the tea cup tea towel with tea cups; Australian tea towel with souvenirs of Australia; library tea towel and a book display; or Scottish tea towel and a display of items of Scottish origin.

All welcome!



Just a *little* sin

Colin Oakley

In modern society the concept of sin has become the unknown or a taboo word. How we teach about that seems to be in conflict with loving. Jesus' parables are teaching stories par excellence and occasionally the opportunity to use them comes about in unexpected ways.

One day I was talking with my grandson about doing little naughty deeds. Others at school had been annoying him and this led him to now contemplating taking out his frustrations on his brother. He thought little wrongs were not important.

At that moment I was making dinner and he asked, as he normally does, for a chocolate biscuit. The opportunity for several lessons opened. "I

have something here, that's covered in chocolate, AND has sprinkles over it – you like sprinkles." He's eyes brightened, he leaned forward, and he looked eagerly around where I was working for the treat. "What is?" he asked.

"It's somewhere around here. It's chocolate-covered dog poo."

"Argh, yuck, I don't want that!"

I replied, "Why not?"

"IT'S DOG POO!" he predictably said.

Me: "But it's chocolate with sprinkles on it."

Grandson: "But it's DOG POO!"

It was time to change tack. "So, if I were to make a sponge cake, with lots of whipped cream in the middle... and with sprinkles on the top" – his eyes brightened again – "and I put ¼ of a teaspoon of dog poo in

it," (insert here a wary look) "would you eat it then?"

He paused, looked down reflectively, and said, "Maybe."

"BUT IT'S DOG POO!" I replied.

He said, "I really like sponge cake... and sprinkles".

Me: "BUT IT'S DOG POO!"

Grandson: "Hmm, maybe not."

There was a moment there, when he was thinking of accepting the poo-filled sponge cake, because he liked the sponge cake so much. The nature of sin was laid bare. Accepting a little sin into our lives can be easy when we see the chocolate and the sprinkles, and accept a little poo.

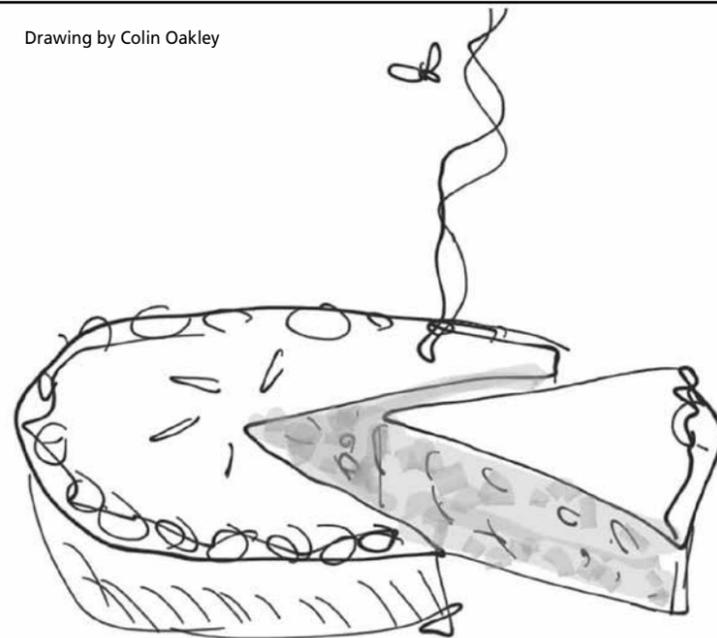
The lesson went approximately like this. When we choose to do little things that are wrong, it tends to change our hearts a little so that later on, bigger wrongs get easier. We can tolerate a little poo, but don't see how it's changing us. It corrupts our hearts and the way we think. We are called to try to do the right thing; apologize when we fail, and try not to get caught up with others' problems.

The lesson hit the mark and for a little while sibilicide was not on the menu.

I was thinking of the parable of the leaven, leavening the whole batch (Mark 8:15). Our grandson isn't a Pharisee, but a little revenge can contaminate. He has only been to church a few times, but he is asking questions, so we try to answer in ways he can understand.

What is it to side with the world and not God's word for us? We all struggle with this. There is an unexpected bonus

Drawing by Colin Oakley



A slightly whiffy sponge cake

to this story. I used to get many requests for chocolate or lollies just before dinner. I had only a few times to refer to something with chocolate and sprinkles, for them to now give up on wheedling for that "smackerel of something" (Winnie the Pooh).

How are we with sin and can we talk about it to others? The poo story is not new for those in kids' ministry, but it's also fun for adults.

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

2019 Leongatha Daffodil Festival

St Peter's Anglican Church

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Displays and Refreshments

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Friday 30 August 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Saturday 31 August 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Sunday 1 September 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Church Services

Sunday 1 September at 8:00 am and 10:00 am

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Lego Masters Life

Daniel Lowe

sense if we are all made in the image of God!

Firstly, there is the desire to create. The Bible opens with the words, "In the beginning God created..." It should come as no surprise to us that humans, made in God's image, have an insatiable urge to create. Give a person of any age a large supply of LEGO and it won't be long before they are building something with it.

Which brings me to the next aspect of humanity that underpins the show. Nobody is alone. Everyone has someone to work with. All contestants work in pairs and even the host, Hamish Blake, teams up with the judge ("Brickman" Ryan McNaught) to provide commentary. Why does this



Daniel Lowe

make sense? Because God is a relational God and we, made in His image, are relational people.

I think one thing I enjoyed is that aside from some gentle teasing from Hamish, it did not indulge in the usual Reality TV fodder of abuse, deception and dysfunction in the relationships between contestants.

Of course, the show is

competitive, so there must be some sort of judging criteria. Which brings me to the final aspect of humanity reflected in the show. As well as technical skill, one of the things that is talked about is the ability to tell a story. An amazing construction is incomplete if it doesn't hint at something bigger than itself.

In the same way we, as God's created beings, find meaning and purpose in a story that is bigger than us. In the first episode of LEGO MASTERS the teams, having built some impressive buildings, had to transform their creations to look like they were under attack.

This, for me, was a poignant representation of the world I see around me. A perfect creation, damaged and broken, and yet somehow being redeemed by the work of the creator. We are painfully aware that all

is not as it should be in the world. The damage and hurt we witness and experience are not part of the intended plan. But when we start to see the bigger picture, the story of God's redeeming plan for our broken world, then we also find cause for hope.

So I am encouraged by the reminder that we are wonderfully creative people, made in the image of a creative God. We are designed to be in relationship with one another and with God and to delight in the created world. And in the midst of brokenness, God invites us to be a part of His story, the story of the redemption and renewing of the damaged world we live in. So what does God want you to build today?

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

Anglicare Fare

The Natty special

Cathrine Muston, Anglicare Development Officer

Café 123 has many things to recommend it: the food, the warm welcome and community. But if you haven't tried the best toastie in Gippsland, make sure on your next visit you ask for a "Natty Special". The key to a "Natty Special" – named after Natalee Johnson – is the thick homemade bread that is toasted so it is crunchy and filled with oozy, gooey cheese, ham and tomato. Perfect with a pot of tea or a cappuccino.

Nat was one of the first volunteers at Café 123, and is now employed for eight hours per week as she builds her skills in hospitality and works out what she wants from life. Natalee, who had been in foster care since she was nine years old and attended Sale Specialist School, was 16 when she met Café 123 founders and managers Rich and Julie Lanham through their youth work with the Anglican Diocese of Gippsland.

At the time she was finding school difficult and was anxious about the prospect of work. Initially Julie invited



Natalee Johnson at work at Café 123

Nat to help out with catering and volunteering with the playgroup at church, hoping that this would give her a sense of purpose and build her confidence. This led to Nat being one of the first volunteers at Café 123 and as her confidence has grown she has taken a more independent role in the café.

Nat says that having a job means having something to get up for in the morning. She likes the routine of taking orders, making coffee and keeping the café clean and tidy. In particular she likes the "littlies" who come along with their parents and

for whom the café provides space to play while their parents have a cuppa and a catch up.

Initially Nat wasn't sure that she could manage the work, but under the guidance of Julie and with encouragement from others she is proud of the way in which she can now prepare coffees and take orders.

Eventually, Nat is hoping to work more with children as she enjoys being around them and playing with them but in the meantime, she is making sure that visitors to Café 123 are welcomed and that their toasties are gooey inside and crunchy outside.



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God leads churches to connect

Chris McAleer

England had always seemed a bit too far, but as our daughter was moving to London on a working holiday, we decided to scout the place out for her. Unlike those few who are exhilarated at the thought of flying long distances, we tend to avoid them, so had a short stay at Hong Kong.

Karen and I met Ian Millar, the Youth Director at St Andrew's, Kowloon, who was about to receive a hundred students from a nearby school. Within a short history of the church building and its cultural relevance, Ian presented the essentials of faith and the church's purpose as loving Jesus, teaching the Bible and sharing the Gospel.

The church is growing rapidly as they seek to connect with others while they live by faith in a hostile world. We found this theme of "connecting with others" repeated at many places throughout the course of our trip.

We decided to visit Holy Trinity, Brompton, the home of Alpha, among many things, as it was the church our daughter had chosen as her place of worship. We dropped in on the Saturday and were shown around the conversion of their crypts into café, library and meeting areas, and their modernised worship area.

The next morning we heard a passionate sermon on the importance of connecting with others and helping them connect with Jesus, by Steve Burston, the minister at their church-plant of St John's, Crawley, who'd swapped with Nicky Gumbel for the morning. We'd later connect with St John's on the last night of our time in the UK and be amazed at their ministry in that place!

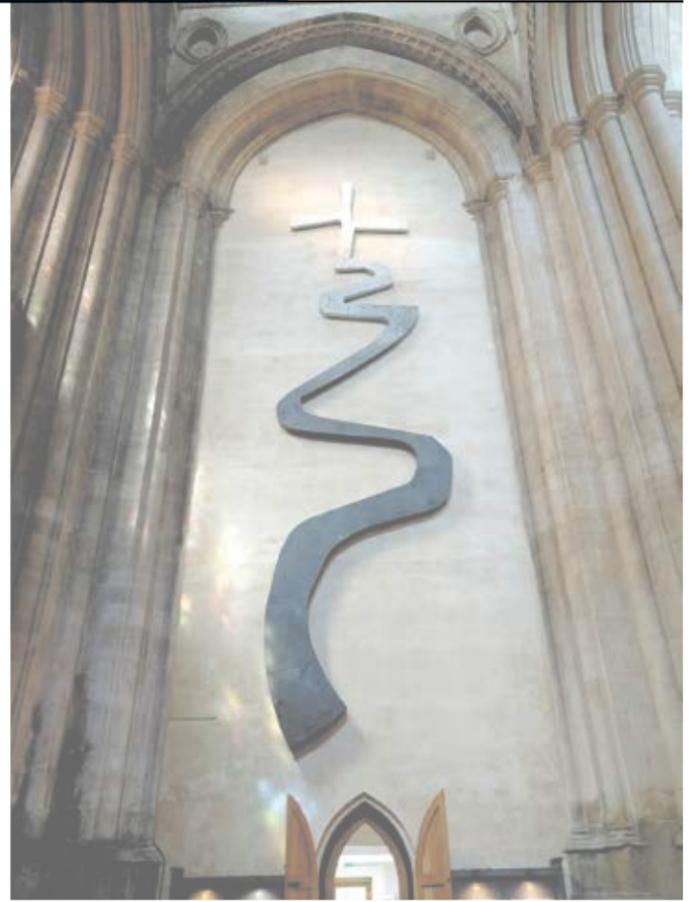
Salisbury Cathedral was an inspiration, as they reach out to half a million visitors each year. We met one of their 50+ chaplains, the inspiring Bill Smith who, every hour, would respectfully interrupt the visitors' perambulations to remind them that this is also a place where they can meet with God before sharing the hourly prayers, then warmly mingling with the visitors as the Lord led him.

As with many of the cathedrals we visited, such as St Paul's, London, Glasgow, Liverpool, Dublin, Belfast, York, Ely and Canterbury, there were many reminders to pray for the persecuted church, for justice and for peace in the world.

Perhaps the most amazing church visited was St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall, on Orkney's Main Island. The town of Kirkwall only has 9,000 residents and probably far fewer when construction was started in 1137 AD and yet this magnificent building was

completed in 300 years by former Vikings. There was no exquisite Evensong as at Canterbury, but the warmth and welcome of the volunteers was infectious and with the exception of their tower tours, admission was free!

Finally, the very special St Mary's Church, Holy Island, Lindisfarne, founded by St Aidan in 635 AD, deserves a mention. It has been a place of prayer and pilgrimage for centuries, despite the odd Viking raid, and the peace could be felt. We couldn't stay the night as we had pre-booked accommodation at York, but next time we're that way we'll be resting there for a night or two and definitely having a drink at "Pilgrims Coffee".



Ely Cathedral: Darkness to Light sculpture

Holidays are meant to be restful but ours was also inspirational as we discovered what God is leading His Church to do in sharing the Gospel in the UK.

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

EDITORIAL

There is no excuse for cruelty

When it comes to asylum seekers and refugees, Australia needs bipartisan agreement that there is no excuse for cruelty. All people, regardless of their status, should be treated fairly, humanely, with respect and compassion.

The idea that keeping people detained without hope on Nauru and Manus Island can be justified in terms of deterrence is to say that deterrence is an excuse for cruelty. Hopelessness can lead to depression and suicide. There have already been twelve deaths. How can this treatment possibly be justified?

On 20 July, thousands of people attended the "Six years too long" rallies held around the country to protest the cruel policy of indefinite detention, re-introduced by the Labor Government in 2013. The rallies were organized and supported by 21 groups, including Rural Australians for Refugees.

Rural Australians for Refugees argue against the government policy: "The assertion that offshore detention is essential to defeat the people smugglers, to prevent deaths at sea and to protect our borders is neither honest, humane, nor morally defensible." They say it is our naval blockade to the north, "not the ongoing torture of indefinite detention" that has stopped the boats. (ruralaustraliansforrefugees.org.au)

"They'll take our jobs" is no excuse for cruelty. A refugee is someone who has fled a dangerous situation and they must be rescued. Refugees and migrants are very different categories. Migrants are people choosing to move countries. It is fair that Australia looks carefully at the skills and other benefits they might bring to their new country, and place limits accordingly.

But we must have a different perspective on asylum seekers and refugees, who leave their homes in fear, not by choice. Australia is not being overwhelmed with refugees. We should take our fair share as a country.

The UNHCR 2018 Global Trends Report lists the five countries hosting the largest number of refugees at the end of 2018 as Turkey (3.68 million), Pakistan (1.4m), Uganda (1.17 m), Sudan (1.08m) and Germany (1.07m). Australia's official refugee population was 56,933, making it 45th overall.

The Refugee Council of Australia reports that Australia recognized or resettled 23,002 refugees in 2018, which is 1.39% of the global total. Does this sound fair for a country that is listed in the top 10 wealthiest in the world?

As Paynesville parishioner Michael Fox, speaking at the East Gippsland Asylum Seeker Support Group event in Bairnsdale suggests, we can hand-write our letters of protest to our political representatives (on both sides of politics) to ensure they are read. We might want to ask our Prime Minister, "Who is my neighbour?"

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Age or merit?

Part 2: Opening up opportunity for all

The following is an edited version of Archdeacon Graham Knott's Synod speech in support of a Bill (passed at Synod in May) to allow priests aged between 70 and 75 to continue in full-time ministry, with the approval of the Bishop, the Parish Council, the priest concerned and the Clergy Advisory Appointments Board.

In our Diocesan life we value inclusivity and justice for all. Increasingly, we stand against discrimination in any form whether that be in terms of gender, sexuality, race or any other grounds. We do not readily resort to civil legislation that permits our making such discrimination.

On these grounds alone I believe this Bill is worthy of support, for it is difficult to demonstrate that the age alone of a priest makes them able or not able to be entrusted with the privilege of serving and shaping a congregation.

Other factors are important, including physical, spiritual, personal and emotional capacity, development and growth and this Bill is a forerunner in making development part of our legislative framework.

This Bill requires that priests begin to think seriously about these things no later than 69 and that from that time on take part in a regular process of ministerial review. Regular

ministerial review is a helpful instrument for all deacons and priests and will soon become the way we normally work.

Recommendation 16.5 of the Royal Commission into Institutional Response to Child Sexual Abuse has sharpened (and will continue to sharpen) our resolve to seek to respond to the changing nature of ministry, the new regulatory environment, together with the imperative for life-long formation and development. It is right that we begin to require a formal ministerial review process with those who have usually been ordained the longest. However we welcome these processes for all ages.

There are those who rightly fear that a bill such as this makes it harder for younger priests to move into positions of responsibility. Developing the newly ordained of all ages well is an increasing challenge for us. At the last Provincial Council, Bishop Brad Billings

and our Metropolitan and Primate referred to the reality that "an increasing number of Assistant Curates do not proceed to leadership positions but remain in assistant roles, some for many years."

I recently heard a presentation from the Rev'd Gary O'Brien responsible for discernment and formation in the Diocese of Sydney who endorsed those comments from Melbourne saying that some of their assistants and associates are choosing to remain in those positions as lifelong vocation.

I believe that we need to move from a sausage machine mentality when it comes to thinking about those ordained, and bring together the needs and possibilities in our diocese with what God is developing through each individual. For some that will mean becoming a rector at the age of 30 – for others it will mean working alongside someone much older for much longer, not because they have to, but because they choose to.

This Bill provides for the alternative scenario as well, where a priest can be fully licensed when over the age of 70 to work with a younger rector. It opens rather than closes opportunity for all the ordained.

A diocese cannot afford to keep vacancies open indefinitely and the reality is that young priests are not lining up for the part-time positions we have. The evidence is that young priests want to



Archdeacon Graham Knott

be where education is good for their children; where the church has faith opportunities to offer their children; where there is financial robustness in the parish to provide a secure ministry; and increasingly, where they do not carry the burden of responsible administration that goes with leadership. Far better to lead a congregation in a large city church than be a struggling rector in the country.

The reality is that God tends to provide the right priests in the right place at the right time. Sometimes we get it gloriously wrong but not too often. We have three vacancies down in South Gippsland for any young at heart priests around!

Archdeacon Graham Knott is Archdeacon of the Southern Region and Rector of Leongatha.



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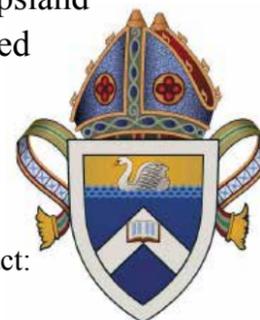
The Church, over the years, has been blessed with the generosity of Anglicans and others in support of its mission. One way you can support this ideal in a relatively easy way, is to make a gift through your will. In the first instance, of course, you will consider carefully the needs of your immediate family and friends before proceeding with a bequest to the church.

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Science and faith as companions

Murray Hannah
Buln Buln



Murray Hannah

I have lived at Buln Buln, north of Warragul, for the past 24 years, with my wife Chris, and our four children, before they grew up and left home. This rural setting is a little unusual for someone in my line of work.

I have worked for 35 years in the sciences as a statistician, first in medicine at Royal Melbourne Hospital, University department of Medicine; but later in agriculture, initially at Horsham, but for most of my career at Ellinbank in West Gippsland, with Agriculture Victoria.

My role has been to provide specialist mathematical and statistical support to research projects. Very little in science is completely certain. In research projects it is important to maximize accuracy and precision, and to quantify the uncertainty. So that's what I do, applying the disciplines of experimental design and statistical analysis.

A recent letter to the editor of *The Age* attacked religion as "poison" and by contrast extolled the virtues of science. The idea, as I'm sure you have heard before, was that science is rational, objective, whereas religion is just fairy-tale made-up nonsense.

Well, religion is a broad category and, okay, lots of it does seem to be made-up nonsense. But perhaps contrary to popular belief, not all religions are the same. Christianity in particular does appeal to facts, facts that are surprisingly well grounded in history. Science too is a broad category, and anyone who has worked in it for a while will know that it is not always as pure as we would like; there is the data, and there is the interpretation of the data.

Far from faith and science being opposites, they are better understood as indispensable companions. Science rests on faith. You can't do science without faith. To believe that there is a reality out there to be discovered requires faith.

That the universe continues in a predictable way, requires faith. We have faith that other scientists have done their work properly – we have faith in the periodic table, for example.

We have faith in our scientific peers when we submit a manuscript that it will be reviewed honestly and the journal will give it due consideration. When we have an idea or a hunch about how nature might work, we formulate a hypothesis, and have faith to set out on a program to test it.

We have enough faith in our idea, that it could be correct and rewarding to pursue, and we have faith in the process of inquiry, that nature is not capricious and we will likely be rewarded with a reliable answer. If faith is belief in the face of uncertainty, then pretty much everything we do has an element of faith to it. Some things are more certain than others. But faith can nonetheless be reasonable.

It works both ways. Science rests on faith, but science also informs faith. Archaeology and dating techniques have been very helpful in understanding Biblical material. Compelling scientific evidence, such as how our universe and world came into being, can assist interpretation. Language and cultural analysis can shed light on what passages actually meant in their original context.

Something that scientists and Christians have had in common is a belief in objective truth. This common vision is no accident when one considers the roots of modern science. The natural philosophers of the scientific revolution, during the 15th and 16th centuries, regarded it as a duty to read God's book of nature, to learn the wisdom of God from the natural world that He made, alongside reading God's other book, the Bible.

To this day Christians in science regard the scientific enterprise as a journey of discovery about God's universe that was brought into being and continues to be sustained by a purposeful, unchanging creator. Science is a very Christian activity, an aspect of stewardship. This is not a story that displaces God; it is a story that has uncovered astonishing wisdom. Countless physical, chemical and biological properties have emerged along the way and the realization that this is a very special universe.

What about miracles? Can a scientist believe in miracles, apart from the "miracles" of the natural world, miracles in the sense of a more than natural event? Well, if they happen a scientist should believe in them; if they don't, a scientist shouldn't. It is not very scientific to say, "miracles can't happen, so they don't". Rather we should ask, "do they happen, and if so what do they tell us?"

I do know someone personally who has experienced a medically witnessed healing. I have heard accounts from first-hand witnesses, and read many accounts of the miraculous, particularly from countries where Christianity is suppressed, such as China and the Middle East.

The central belief of Christianity is the resurrection of the Messiah, the quintessential miracle, for which I am persuaded the evidence is pretty good. So while logically this area should be beyond the conduct of a randomized controlled trial it does seem to be reasonable to believe that miracles do occur.

Diocesan calendar

August

- 9 11:30 for 12 noon service. Anglican Mothers Union Mary Summer Day at St John's Bairnsdale. BYO lunch (soup provided) following service. After lunch speakers: Margaret and Peter Down to give update on the Hope Restart Centre. Details: Merrolyn: 5153 2165 or Pat: 5152 1134
- 24 11:00 am Ordination to the priesthood of the Rev'd Brian Norris, St Paul's Cathedral, Sale.
- 25 2:00 pm Pleasant Sunday Afternoon at Christ Church, Drouin. Entertainment by Baw Baw Singers followed by Afternoon Tea. Gold Coin Donation
- 29 – 1 September
10:00 am to 4:00 pm Leongatha Daffodil Festival. Free entry, refreshments available (See page 7)
- 30–31 5:00 pm Friday to 3:00 pm Saturday: Diocesan Retreat at The Abbey with the Rev'd Dr Jane Foulcher, Senior Lecturer in Theology at St Mark's National Theological Centre. For further information and bookings call 03 5156 6580 or info@theabbey.org.au
- 31 2:00 pm Avon Parish Op Shop Fashion Show in the Parish Hall in Stratford. Cost: \$15 (children free) includes High Afternoon Tea and refreshments on arrival. Tickets at the door. For further information and bookings, contact Bev Harrap: 0400 045 646 or Denise Vranek: 0417 100 047. (See page 4)

September

- 8 2:00 pm Bunyip Lecture by Davina Veenstra of Bunyip Community House on the Green Thumbs Project: working with local schools to grow plants for bushfire-affected properties.
- 13 2:00 pm– 4:30 pm Safe Church Awareness Workshop (Refresher) at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale
- 14 9:30 am – 4:00 pm Safe Church Awareness Workshop (Full) at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale
- 20–21 "Russian Orthodoxy, Iconography and the Search for God": workshop led by historian June Treadwell. Contact: 5156 6580 or info@theabbey.org.au. (See page 5)
- 30 – 3rd October
AMUA St Barnabas Retreat: contact the Rev'd Thelma Langshaw or Archdeacon Edie Ashley for further details

October

- 6 12 noon St Thomas' Bunyip: Blessing of the Animals in honour of St Francis and a BBQ lunch
- 7 Clergy Retreat at Palotti College
- 11 2:00 – 4:00 pm Safe Church Awareness Workshop (Refresher) at Koo Wee Rup Church, 348 Rossiter Road
- 12 9:30 am – 3:00 pm The Fifth Annual Moe Antique and Collectables Fair at Albert Street Primary School Grounds, Moe \$5.00 entry, children free. Stall holders welcome – enquiries: 5127 2929.
- 12 9:30 am – 4:00 pm Safe Church Awareness Workshop (Full) at Koo Wee Rup
- 24 AMUA Gippsland Annual General Meeting, Wonthaggi
- 27 9:30 am Eucharist for All Souls at St Thomas' Bunyip. Flowers of Remembrance: an invitation for people to place flowers in the church in memory of those who have died.