

The Gippsland Anglican

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David Perryman ordained Deacon

Jan Down

David James Robert Perryman was ordained Deacon by the Rt Rev'd Kay Goldsworthy on Saturday, 25 June at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale.

Currently living in the parish of Wonthaggi / Inverloch, David has recently been appointed as Youth Group Support Worker, with a group of about 30 young people. He also serves as Deacon Assistant in the parish. When he finishes his studies at the end of this year, David will be waiting for a curacy.

The preacher at the ordination service was the Rev'd Geoff Pittaway, Area Dean of the Southern Region. He spoke about servanthood: "The ordination of David Perryman to the diaconate is a reminder that such an occasion is more than just an appointment to an 'office'. It is the recognition by the Church that a person has the ability and grace to be able to serve others – and thus serve the Lord – more fully in the life of the Church".

He added that every Christian is called to love and serve others; "those ordained to the various orders in the Church are always servants (deacons)".



The Rev'd David Perryman and his wife Emma, after the service of ordination

Preaching on the healing of Naaman the Syrian (2 KINGS 5), Geoff pointed out the significant role of Naaman's servants. He said that while Naaman was eventually healed through his tardy obedience to Elisha the prophet's command, "It is the faithful assertion of the servant

girl to Naaman's wife, and the wise and courageous servants of Naaman, that brought about this healthy end for Naaman".

David said he has had a sense of God's call for most of his life, even remembering pretending to be a priest when he went to visit his

grandmother at the age of five, and holding services for his stuffed toys. "I admit this with zero shame!" David added.

He first approached Bp John McIntyre, the then Bishop of Gippsland, when he was still in his late teens. Bp John encouraged him to continue on the path to ordination, and he enrolled in a Bachelor of Theology at Trinity College in 2010.

David said he and his wife Emma are very grateful to Bp Kay Goldsworthy for her support, guidance and encouragement as he has worked towards ordination. He also expressed his thanks to his wife, family, friends, supervisors and parishioners of Wonthaggi / Inverloch, and Korumburra / Poowong for their help in his formation. David's mother, the Rev'd Anne Perryman, is Assistant Priest in the Wonthaggi / Inverloch parish where his father Lance is a warden and the treasurer.

David has been studying part-time while also working at KFC, a job which he says has given him many skills that will be valuable in ministry. He has worked at KFC for eleven years.

David and Emma have a 16 month old son, and another child due in August.

Celebrating Songlines NAIDOC Week 2016



NAIDOC Week art workshops

The culture, history and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples were celebrated in communities and churches all over the country during NAIDOC Week, 3-10 July.

In Gippsland a church service was held at St John's, Lake Tyer's Trust on the afternoon of Sunday 3 July and art workshops at the Morwell and Leongatha Anglicare offices.

At St Mary's Anglican Church in Morwell the Aboriginal flag was draped over the altar and Aboriginal works of art were displayed around the church. The Rev'd David Head preached on the first Sunday of the week and the Rev'd Kathy Dalton on the second Sunday. Members of the Aboriginal community also created the Morwell NAIDOC Week Banner in the church hall.

See also: NAIDOC art workshops at Anglicare offices (page 3) and Edie Ashley's reflection (page 10)

For more news and information, see naidoc.org.au



Madge Hood and the Rev'd Phyllis Andy at the Lake Tyers NAIDOC service

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In training

1965 was a good year. Mostly. It was the year I learnt my first Bible verse by heart: John 3:16. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that whosoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

My mother took me to the cinema for the first time. We saw *The Sound of Music*. An evening session. Australian girls were being encouraged to aim high following the Olympic success in Tokyo the year before of Betty Cuthbert who won gold in the 400 metres, and Dawn Fraser who won gold in the 100 metres, swimming freestyle. I liked swimming and being part of a team.

It was out of character for me to be unkind to other kids. But one afternoon, on the way out of the school gate, I was persuaded to pick up a little stone and join a very popular girl in taunting another student. I don't remember any words but I do remember throwing the stone. Aim and arm came together. It would have been a great throw if it was the softball pitch. But it wasn't. I remember it hitting him. I remember him crying. I remember my guilt and misery. Maybe I could have been a

budding javelin thrower or perhaps a great softball player. But even if there had been the potential of an Olympic career in that throw, that selfish and hurtful action did not belong together with the bold and sacrificial preparation of elite Olympic athletes, people who play hard but should always play fair.

2016 is another good year. Mostly. The scriptures continue to open the heart of God's love for the world. "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come that you may have life, and have it abundantly" (John 10:10). I enjoy not only the cinema, but also live theatre and music. The Olympic Games are under way again and, while Australia's top picks are in the swimming squad and athletics, they are also across almost every discipline and in every arena.

Our household, like many across Gippsland, will become host to a few avid spectators who will suddenly and inexplicably know more than most about every sport that's watched. We will hope and pray that people play hard and play fair. We will give thanks for the Paralympics and wonder at the grit and determination of those amazing athletes. We will pray



Bishop Kay Goldsworthy

that all will be well and that every participant and spectator in Rio will be safe.

I am also reminded that God's Spirit of love moves people not to be sedentary spectators of other people's wins and losses, but to be active participants. Participants in a movement in which God's justice is both the goal and the prize. Christianity isn't a spectator sport where ordinary believers watch the experts, the celebrities and the brilliant few. Being a follower of Jesus means being part of an incredible movement, a whole community of disciples following Jesus, living, announcing and advocating together for the abundant life promised in him for all.

Our teamwork is important. Against the backdrop of the incredible statue on the summit of Mt Corcovado of Christ the Redeemer with arms outstretched is the city of Rio de Janeiro reportedly alive with corruption and a city of incredible poverty. Many of the athletes and their supporters in Rio will know first-hand what it's like to have lived as children in poverty and in fear. The wider backdrop of these Olympics and the athletes who will compete is the poverty and unrest in the places from which so many will have come.

The backdrop of the millions of children worldwide who have been trafficked, sold into forced labour. Millions of children who have been displaced because of war and the actions of terrorists.

Closer to home the stories of adults whose lives have been completely affected by their treatment as children at the hands of clergy and other church leaders continue to bring shame. Recent images of the treatment of young, mostly Aboriginal people in a Northern Territory detention centre have brought outrage. Such children, whatever their dreams, simply don't have the opportunity to play elite sport.

So, as a Christian, as I watch and cheer and offer my own commentary on the Olympics and Paralympics in Rio this month, I remember the bigger backdrop against which these athletes compete. The challenges we all face to see others not just as someone against whom we might compete, and beat, but through the eyes of our common humanity as persons whose lives are precious to God. I will hope that my actions will bring freedom for children somewhere close by or far away, so that one day they will be free to grow as God's love has shaped them. To dream dreams.

For my own regime of spiritual training I will hear again the words of the writer of the letter to the Hebrews, who invites us to "lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith" (Hebrews 12:1-2). I invite you all to train too, so that, as we run the race set before us, we can reach new goals for kindness, new heights for grace lived out, new team triumphs in offering Jesus' love to other people, new records for showing the hope that he gives to everyone.

+Kay

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Ecumenical services for Refugee Week, East Gippsland

Michael Fox and
Eleanor Paterson

Our local East Gippsland Asylum Seeker Support Group (EGASS) kept our second Refugee Week, 19–25 June, with two Powerpoint presentations at an ecumenical service at St Brendan’s, Lakes Entrance and at St Peter’s, Paynesville. Both were presented by Chris Power and Jo De Boer.

We also held a barbecue to promote community awareness and to raise funds, outside K-Mart in Bairnsdale. Our monies go towards supporting asylum seekers in the community who are not permitted to work. Inspired by Sister Brigid Arthur who works in Melbourne’s detention centres, we’ve regularly written to our politicians, Federal and State, stressing

the inhumanity of off-shore detention and its crippling costs. We’ve sent food parcels and household goods to the Dandenong Asylum Seeker Support Centre. Besides which we had a brilliant art exhibition (in September last year) of Pat Waters’ rendering of the wreck of the refugee boat on Christmas Island and a wall depicting those nameless detainees on Manus Island. We have written over 60 individual letters to those asylum seekers on Manus whose names we now know, courtesy of Julian Burnside. Our monies also go to support the work of the Brigadine Asylum Seekers Project. Our group is linked to RAR (Rural Australians for Refugees) a nation-wide organisation, which has helped us to improve the way we write to our politicians,



Chris Power, (left) and Jo De Boer (right), on Refugee Sunday at Paynesville

and advocate for the change of the current bipartisan policies of offshore detention. Those held on Manus and Nauru are in limbo and traumatised and have lost hope, but ultimately remain Australia’s responsibility. In our nation we are

witnessing indifferent, if not hostile and inhumane attitudes towards asylum seekers, forgetting they are human beings just like us. As we show respect to our neighbours, let’s show the same respect to those who seek safety on our shores.

VCCEM Training Day

A training day for Victorian Council of Churches Emergency Ministries volunteers, held on Saturday 18 June at St. Peter’s Leongatha, was attended by 26 people, most of whom were new volunteers, coming from places such as Cowes, Wonthaggi, Drouin South, Mirboo North, Mirboo, Leongatha, Woolamai, Inverloch, Korumburra and Mardan South. Many people will be aware of the VCCEM and its role in times of crisis and emergency in Victoria. The motto for VCCEM is: “Compassion in times of crisis”. At VCCEM headquarters in Melbourne there are only 2.8 full time staff members, but it operates with an astonishing 1800 volunteers across the state who make themselves available to deliver Personal Support and Psychological First Aid (PFA) to people who are affected during fire events, storms, floods, and many other crises. All volunteers are trained by the VCCEM staff in order that they can be properly ready to assist people to recover following an emergency. Though volunteers hope never to be called to help people recover from an

emergency, it is nonetheless true that they will be called upon somewhere across the state, and many volunteers are willing to travel some distance to support affected communities. Volunteers complete a pre-training workbook before spending a full day face to face with a trainer. Accreditation includes the completion of a Police Check and Working With Children Check before receiving an ID badge and appropriate branded clothing. All volunteers are required to attend refresher training every two years whether or not they have been deployed. Such training days are important, not only to prepare volunteers, but also to create a greater “pool” from which to draw volunteers when needed, as not everybody can be available at any given time. If anyone wants to know more about VCCEM or attend a training day, please contact the Rev’d Geoff Pittaway (Regional Co-ordinator, Gippsland Inner) and you will be connected with the appropriate area co-ordinator. Contact details: mob: 0411 639 363 or email: cyprus77@tpg.com.au/.



VCCEM visitors to Morwell in 2014

NAIDOC Week art workshops

Janine Kelly
Executive Assistant
Anglicare

Anglicare Victoria staff participated in Aboriginal art workshops during NAIDOC Week at the Morwell and Leongatha offices, creating tiles from Aboriginal art work and having interesting conversations around its meaning and significance. The workshops were facilitated by the Anglicare Victoria Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Committee in Gippsland and

led by Anglicare’s Aboriginal workers from the Home Interaction Program for Parents & Youngsters (HIPPY). This year NAIDOC Week high-lighted the deep importance of Songlines to the people. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people the Dreamtime describes a time when the earth, people and animals were created by ancestral spiritual beings who created the rivers, lakes, plants, land formations and living creatures. Dreaming tracks are

sometimes called “Songlines” which record the travels of these ancestral spirits who “sang” the land into life. These Songlines are recorded in traditional songs, stories, dance and art. They carry significant spiritual and cultural connection to knowledge, customs, ceremony and lore of many Aboriginal nations and Torres Strait Islander language groups. (Information on Songlines sourced from naidoc.org.au)



Some of the artwork produced during the workshops

From Sacred to Secular – Italian Art Short Course launches Abbey Program 2016

A Short Course, looking at the transition in Italian art (1300–1600) was presented by June Treadwell at The Abbey over the weekend 8 and 9 July.

Participants who gathered for drinks and savouries at 5:30 pm on the Friday evening appreciated the opportunity to meet others on the course before enjoying the evening meal together.

Then it was then off to the first session!

June first gave the background to the period, looking at the changes politically and socially that led to the Renaissance and the transition in Italian art from the sacred to the secular.

An enthused group left on the Friday night ready to study in more detail the following day and to appreciate the people who led the world into new artistic expression.

The course looked at the paintings of Giotto and Duccio, Donatello and Botticelli. In conclusion we explored the work of Titian, Raphael, Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo, who together represent the high point of Renaissance art.

June Treadwell has an amazing knowledge of this period and was able to present the short course in a manner that was engaging, and enjoyable – and that left us all wanting to visit Florence and Venice just as soon as possible!



Two artists sharing tales during a break



The new cathedral in Gahini

New cathedral takes shape in Gahini

Sarah Gover

When Bishop Alexis arrived for Bishop Kay Goldsworthy's installation in 2015 he brought with him a brochure outlining a plan to build a new Cathedral in Gahini at an estimated cost of US\$1,000,000.

At the time, I questioned the wisdom of another "building plan". But being there, hearing the full story, seeing the cathedral being built and the growth and development in the Diocese it all made a lot more sense. The Gahini Diocese is very grateful for the donation of US \$3000 from the Gippsland Synod this year. They are still short of money however and donations are welcome!

On June 23 this year I found myself in Gahini at the opening of a special Gahini Synod to approve a bank loan of approximately US\$250,000. Across the road the new cathedral is about three quarters built. The sides are up and beams are being installed for the roof. It is a magnificent structure.

At the special Synod Bishop Alexis talked about where the vision for the new Cathedral came from and why it was important. The

Rwandan President Paul Kigami and a minister from Uganda had been attending a funeral in Gahini. The present Cathedral was full, with people standing outside. By cathedral standards the building is very humble. The concrete floor has worn through to the dirt underneath in many places. The president looked out around the village and quoted Haggai: "Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your panelled houses, while this house remains a ruin?"

Bishop Alexis and the Diocesan archdeacons spent time in prayer and realised that this was actually a message from God and that they needed to work together to build a new Cathedral. The Rwandan president gave over \$100,000 to start the fund. The rest has come in small amounts from around the Diocese, around the country and internationally.

The Diocese is growing. The Cathedral is too small. The communities are developing. People's lifestyles are improving; that is why they need a new Cathedral.

In February the Archbishop of Canterbury is going to Gahini to open the Cathedral and everyone is welcome to attend the celebration.

Sarah Gover was the Community Development Officer with Anglicare Victoria in Gippsland for seven years, ending in 2015.

Holy Chaos Conference

Sarah Gover

In 1936 the East African revival brought about the formation of teams that took a message of God's love to the interior of Rwanda and Uganda, then to the world.

The teams would meet on the Gahini hill, were prayed for and sent out. The Gahini Hill has come to be known not just as a hill for Gahini but for all people. Before they left they would go up to the top of the hill and put their thumb prints on a small wall near the Gahini Hospital and say "no turning back."

80 years later and over 4000 people from Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania, Congo,

Kenya, South Korea and four Gippslanders (the Rev'd Brenda Burney, Rod Burney, the Rev'd Katie Peken and I) gathered for four days on the same hill. For over 10 years people have come every June to celebrate the revival.

The Conference theme was Revelation 2 v 4-5:

"Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place."

This was the cornerstone of most of the preaching.

Each day those gathered were challenged to think about how they used to pray, and praise, and tell others about Jesus and how they had changed.

With enthusiastic, illustrative preaching by Ugandan Bishop Nathan Ahimbisibwe, those gathered were encouraged to repent, to pray, and to go.

The preaching and praying was interspersed with colourful choir performances. Twenty choirs came prepared with a new song, written for the conference in the spirit of the theme.

Although every participant pays to attend the

conference, the US \$2.50 per person does not fully cover the cost. With an expectation that God will provide, the Diocesan staff go around the subsistence farmers and collect the donated excess.

Each day the conference participants would leave

the meetings and spread out through the surrounding villages, staying in schools and homes, as in 1936. This time however, there is an expectation that they will return in twelve months with the stories of spreading the message of revival.



Bishop Alexis prays for the people at the Holy Chaos Conference

Drug rehabilitation centre proposed for East Gippsland

Jan Down

One of the young men had come off ice, the other off alcohol. They were speaking at a meeting of "Broken Homes" in Bairnsdale, a support group for families with a member affected by drug addiction. Peter and Margaret Down attended the meeting late last year, and it made the couple aware just how much drug addiction affects whole families, and what need there was in the local community for a rehabilitation facility.

Since then they have been

working hard to make it happen. Mrs Down said "We really feel that God has led us into this". After months of background work, on Monday 27 June they held a public forum at St John's Bairnsdale, attended by 80 people, to discuss the proposal to build the Hope Restart and Education Centre.

Discussion was facilitated by Councillor Peter Neal, while speakers included two people from Odyssey house – the CEO, Stefan Gruenert and Tim Flora, as well as Dr Stuart Levy from Federation University.

Mr Down explained at the forum that the aim of the project

is to provide a rehabilitation program as well as vocational training for those affected by addiction, so that when residents finish the program, they are ready to work and re-join the community. Federation University has expressed interest in running courses for residents.

A board is being formed to run the project, and the hope is that the residential facility will be purpose-built, along the lines of Odyssey House facilities in Melbourne. The Hope Restart and Education Centre East Gippsland is now an incorporated body.



Peter and Margaret Down

Mr Gruenert said that Odyssey House welcomes the idea, and is keen to assist, whether in helping to set things up, or partnering to run the program. Odyssey House in Melbourne has been operating for 35 years, so there is a wealth of experience to be drawn upon. The Downs have visited the residence in Lower Plenty and were very impressed with the way it is run.

Various options are now being considered for sources of funding and a location to set up the centre.

Mr and Mrs Down have been members of St John's Anglican Church in Bairnsdale for the

past 35 years, and have lived in Bairnsdale since 1974. They said both their church and Bishop Kay Goldsworthy are supportive of their new venture, and they have spoken to local ministers of other denominations, who have also welcomed it. So far, they have not met with any opposition. "Everyone says there is a need for something like this in our area", Mrs Down said.

She also commented that they have learned there is only a small window of time to provide help immediately after a person expresses a willingness to enter rehabilitation. Anything can happen while someone is on a waiting list for a place.



Some of the ladies from Dalkeith presenting blankets to Jane Anderson for Anglicare Victoria
L-R: Liz Magee, Vanessa Marshall, Betty McLean, Sue MacCubbin and Merrill Johnston

Knit and Natter, Crochet and Chatter

Janine Kelly, Executive Assistant, Anglicare

In September 2015 the "Knit and Natter, Crochet and Chatter" group was formed after a presentation was given by Sarah Gover, former Anglicare Community Development Officer, to the Dalkeith Heights Retirement Village in Traralgon regarding the work being achieved through the Diocese's and Anglicare's Parish Partnerships.

Merrill Johnston, a resident at the village, said that she and many others were very moved and inspired by the work that Anglicare Victoria does. This inspiring group of ladies knit and crochet blankets, jumpers, scarves, hats and baby clothes, just to name a few, for families in need.

The group have visited the Anglicare Victoria Church Street office in Morwell several times to deliver their donated goods. After one such visit, not long after the ladies left the office half of the knitted goods went to a young family experiencing family violence. They had left their family home with only the clothes they were wearing.

On 11 March this year the Regional Director, Jane Anderson, also visited the group where she gave a talk on Anglicare Victoria and the services that Gippsland provides. The group then provided Anglicare with an amazing assortment of beautifully knitted and crochet goods for families in need.

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Exciting new initiative at Ellinbank

Warragul

Photo: Graeme MacRobb



Guest speaker at the new Ellinbank service, Hennie Lanting, "Hope for Life" Liaison Officer with the Salvation Army

Sunday 3 July saw a new initiative launched successfully at St. Luke's Ellinbank. This took the form of a new monthly evening service starting at 5.00 pm and normally lasting one hour. The service introduces a more contemporary pattern of worship than the traditional morning services and includes a guest speaker with a strong emphasis on reaching out with loving help to those around us whose lives are difficult.

It has been designed, not to answer the question "What can the Church do to help people who need love and care?" but rather to challenge members of the congregation to ask themselves "What can we do and be in our local community when people around us are going through a hard time?"

There was good attendance at the first of the new services and those present afterwards expressed an enthusiasm to encourage other friends and neighbours to attend future evening services. As well as regular worshippers from Ellinbank there were also

visitors from Warragul and Trafalgar.

The guest speaker at this first service was Hennie Lanting, Hope for Life Liaison Officer working with the Salvation Army's suicide prevention initiative. Hennie shared with those present her own story of her growing awareness of this massive hidden crisis and the deplorable fact that very few welfare workers (and even fewer clergy and youth workers) have any training to help people considering suicide as a solution to their depression or relationship problems.

The next speaker, at 5:00 pm on Sunday 7 August, will be Erik Weikman who heads up a ministry in Casey Shire called CHIPS (Christians Helping In Primary Schools). Erik and his team are particularly interested in helping children going through trauma and grief or family problems.

A few years back Erik was chosen as Casey Shire's Citizen of the Year, acknowledging his special contribution in assisting troubled children

and their families. Erik's team also works overseas, mainly in Pacific countries helping locals set up after-school children's activities and counselling services for troubled children. Several years back Erik brought a team from CHIPS for a special fun-filled family service at St. Luke's which drew a large and appreciative congregation.

The two cooperating congregations at St. Luke's extend a warm invitation to all who would like to join them each month. Come early and share with others in tea or coffee prior to the service. Please note that on all other weeks the service time at St Luke's remains at 11:15 am.

This article first appeared in the Warragul Parish News

130th Gippsland GFS Anniversary Stratford

Members, past and present from Stratford and surrounds met for the celebration of the 130th Gippsland GFS Anniversary, on Saturday the 25 May.

Local memorabilia, unfurled banners and many shared stories highlighted the significant ministry GFS has held. Local leaders over many years were very much to the forefront of celebrations across the diocese with participation in rallies, sports days, Raymond Island camps and leader development activities.

The Victorian GFS centenary, Gippsland's own

Centenary and other events were hosted with gusto, by leaders from Stratford, Briagalong, Maffra and Traralgon at the time, so it was fitting that this 130th was also located centrally here at Holy Trinity Stratford.

We thank the parish and current locum, the Reverend Lyn Williams (also a former GFS member in Melbourne) for their hospitality. Amongst our visitors we welcomed back past leaders May and Lorraine Jenkins (now Chambers), Nola Adams of Briagalong and Maffra leader Gail Mowat with daughter Louise, and Louise Banner, past Maffra member.



Stratford's Banner, designed and made by the girls under the leadership of May Jenkins and Lorraine Chambers (nee Jenkins) both pictured alongside Nola Adams

Sue Jacka's Refugee Rations Challenge

The Rev'd Sue Jacka, Rector of Trafalgar parish, took on the Refugee Rations Challenge of living for a week on the same rations as those a Syrian refugee living in a refugee camp in Jordan survives on in a typical week: a small amount of rice, flour, lentils, kidney beans, sardines, oil and chick peas.

The Challenge is organised by Act for Peace, the same organisation that runs the Christmas Bowl appeal.

Sue would like to thank all who supported her. She raised \$2,609 for Act for Peace, \$190 of which came from the Synod dinner in May. Other donations came from the wider diocese as well as her parish, friends and family.

The challenge as a whole raised 2,030,246 which is enough to feed 7,277 refugees on the Syrian border with Jordan for a year.

St Mary's Trafalgar also had a special liturgy for the Sunday services during Refugee Week.



The Rev'd Sue Jacka with her week's rations to show people at the Synod dinner in May

Abuok Majuk appointed Australian GFS National Junior Delegate

Gippsland GFS Kidsplus+ are delighted as we congratulate 17 year old Abuok Majuk of Moe on her recent appointment as the Australian GFS National Junior Delegate to World Council.

Abuok's involvement with GFS began eight years ago when she joined the Moe Junior group. Her enthusiasm and participation in the wider GFS family has been significant. She has attended most of the annual Diocesan Kidsplus+ Camps, celebrated with Melbourne, Ballarat and Bendigo in their centenary function, attended State council gatherings in Ballarat and Gippsland, mid-term national conferences in Melbourne and recently Adelaide, as well as being a participant in the Tasmanian National Council last year.

The experiences have provided new friendships across Australia, and gained her much respect as she has sought opportunities for faith development and to serve others.



Abuok Majuk

Abuok moved to Australia from Egypt, at the age of eight, along with many from the South Sudanese community. As National Junior delegate Abuok will represent our young people at National Executive meetings, and will have reporting and hospitality responsibilities, particularly at the 2017 World Council meeting hosted by Australia in July and the Australian Council in January 2018.

Simple involvement in parish groups can bring extraordinary opportunities through such networks. We wish Abuok well through this three year appointment.

Days for Girls

**Alice Weatherall
Newborough**

The Diocesan Mothers Union June Join In was held at St Aidan's Newborough on Wednesday 8th June, after the 10.00am communion service conducted by the Rev'd Thelma Langshaw from the Christ Church Omeo.

Thelma Langshaw

Thelma is the Diocesan Mothers Union Chaplain, and has been for many years. She retired and when asked to return as MU Chaplain was more than happy to oblige. She is a most interesting, inspirational, motivational and dedicated pastor.

Thelma hailed from Korong Vale and her father was in charge of that ministry for many years. She remembers going to church as a child, at 7.00 am, 10.00 am (Sunday School), to the Salvation Army in the afternoon followed by either, or both, the 5.00 pm and 7.00 pm services, so her vocation was of no surprise.

Thelma is a pianist as well as having played the euphonium and has composed and arranged several pieces of music. She has a vast area to cover in her ministry of Omeo and does a lot of driving, particularly over the Great Alpine Road, which she remembers vividly as a track many years ago.

Days for Girls

After a lovely lunch, hosted by Newborough MU, we had the privilege of listening to the guest speaker, Anne Hardy, the

Coordinator from the Latrobe Valley Chapter of Days For Girls.

Anne has spent time speaking to the young girls living in extreme poverty in the remote areas of Kenya. She spoke of the degradation of young girls in Kenya and how hard it is for them to stay at school. Many drop out and they fall behind in their schooling purely because of the lack of personal hygiene products.

Days for Girls is a grassroots charity that has a network of teams and chapters around the world. They make and raise funds to provide sanitary hygiene kits. They then distribute these or partner with other groups and organisations that are going to areas of need.

They help girls gain access to quality, sustainable feminine hygiene products, vital health knowledge, and income generating opportunities.

On Anne's trip to Kenya she and others took over 360 hygiene kits and it was still not enough. The next trip planned



The Rev'd Thelma Langshaw

will have about 12 people with over 500 kits.

All of this is possible thanks to a global alliance of 550+ chapters and teams, companies, governments, NGOs, and passionate people just like you.

So far they have reached 200,000+ girls in 100 nations. We can help them reach the rest.

The vision for Days For Girls is that every girl and woman in the world has ready and feasible access to quality sustainable hygiene supplies and health education by 2022. If you are interested to learn more, to do some sewing, or provide dark or colourful flannelette fabric, or help in any way please contact: Anne Hardy on 0467 473 731 or email: anne3840@gmail.com

Further information, sewing patterns and instructions are available at www.daysforgirls.org



Helen Davis and daughter, Anne Hardy, from Days for Girls

English choir welcomes Gippsland visitor



Photo: Marion Dewar

After Evensong – Choir of Holy Trinity Parish Church Berwick-Upon-Tweed

The Choir of the Parish Church of the Holy Trinity and St Mary's Berwick-Upon-Tweed welcomed a visitor from Victoria, Australia on Sunday 17 July.

Marion Dewar, Royal School of Church Music Victoria Treasurer and Membership Secretary, arrived early to Choral Evensong and was invited by the Vicar, the Rev'd Dennis Handley, to visit the choir during pre-service rehearsal.

Marion was welcomed by the choirmaster, organist and choir members who encouraged her to join them for the remainder of the rehearsal and the service. Robes and books were quickly assembled and a place in the alto line arranged. The Anthem, "How goodly are thy tents" (Ouseley), was from *Anthems For Choirs - Book 1*.

Mothers Union offers retreat for a family

Mothers Union / St Barnabas Retreat Program allows deserving families to experience quality time with a host family and other recipients, for a catered 3 nights / 4 days break, on peaceful Raymond Island. MU pays the cost of accommodation and meals for the three days for participants sponsored by their parishes. Parishes can also contribute to the cost of travel to further enable participants to enjoy their time away of refreshment, encouragement and love in this beautiful setting. Transport can be arranged from the railway station at Bairnsdale. Our host family is there for the support of families. The feedback letters we have had from previous participants have

been appreciative, enthusiastic and encouraging.

It is suggested that only one family from a parish attend at one time. Names are put to our MU Chaplain, the Rev'd Thelma Langshaw, Christ Church Omeo: 5159 1240 or mobile: 0428 458 367) or email: gburston@skymesh.com.au for consideration.

Dates for 2016 are Tuesday 27 to Friday 30 September, so please consider people who could benefit from this experience and provide their names to Thelma as soon as possible.

MU members fundraise to provide funding for the family retreats each year; however individual and parish donations are always appreciated.



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DIocese of GIPPSLAND

Under the auspices of the Safe Church Training Agreement
of the National Council of Churches in Australia

Safe Church Awareness Workshops 2016

will be held at

St Paul's Anglican Church, Korumburra

Saturday 20 August 2016 9:30 am to 4:00 pm
and

St Paul's Anglican Church, Warragul

Saturday 22 October 2016 9:30 am to 4:00 pm

To register please email: your name, parish,
position in parish, contact email and phone to:
registryoffice@gippsanglican.org.au

Cost: \$30 (Invoiced after the event) BYO lunch

Enquiries to Brian Norris or Sue Court on (03) 5144 2044

Sustainable food production for those in need

Year 10 Food By Design students from St Paul's Anglican Grammar School recently had the opportunity to put into practice the Sustainable Food Production concepts they have been learning about by preparing meals for FareShare, a non-profit based organisation located in Abbotsford.

FareShare run a "Schools in the Kitchen Experience" program that provides students

with the opportunity to use rescued and donated food to prepare meals for over 300 Victorian charities who distribute meals to those in need.

Food relief in Warragul receive meals regularly from FareShare to distribute within our local community.

The students worked as a part of a team to help prepare 2000 meals for people in need whilst gaining an understanding of sustainable food production.



St Paul's Year 10 students and staff helping out at FareShare (Left-hand side from front to back) Ella Armour, Alana Rippon, Maureen Mathews, St Paul's staff member. (Right-hand side from back to front) a FareShare staff member, Maddison Carbon and Renae Walker

International Summer Science Camp an unforgettable experience

Gippsland Grammar's Solomon Jones has just returned from Germany where he attended the XLAB International Summer Science Camp.

The Year 12 student was one of three Australians invited to attend the three-week camp.

Solomon described his trip as an unforgettable experience.

"It was hands-on laboratory work in high quality facilities with professionals in my elected areas of laser physics, physics of flying and analytical chemistry", the school captain explained.

"I was able to make connections with highly motivated, like-minded people from all over the world – Singapore, South Korea, Hungary, Poland, Turkey, New Zealand, Ukraine and Spain. I was also able to build networks with many professionals with scientific

occupations and involvement in research-based fields.

"My time at XLAB flew by and I cannot wait to see what the future holds for my global scientific friends."

Based in Goettingen, Germany, well known for its university, the international camp was attended by just 30 other students from throughout the world.

Solomon is a conscientious student who was earlier in the year presented with a Premier's Award for achieving the highest VCE VET Furnishing score in the state of Victoria last year. When he completes his VCE he hopes to study electronic engineering with a focus on renewable energy.

Solomon is the son of Sue and Peter. He also has a passion for tae-kwon-do, clay target shooting and playing the saxophone.



Gippsland Grammar student Solomon Jones attended the International Summer Camp in Goettingen, Germany

Gippsland Grammar 1960s Reunion, planned for October

Gippsland Grammar is planning a 1960s decade reunion on Saturday 15 October at the Garnsey Campus in Sale. Originally planned as a 50th reunion for the class of 1966, the event will now be open to all those who attended Gippsland Grammar School or St Anne's, in the 1960s.

The school's Development Officer, Meredith Lynch, is seeking assistance from those who may be able to help locate Old Scholars who, over the years, have lost touch with the school.

"It's important for us to maintain the connections with our Old Scholars and a reunion event is a great way of achieving this", said Mrs Lynch.

"I would like to hear from Old Scholars who have changed their address or may know where others are now residing", she said.

If you would like to re-connect with the school or require further details about the reunion, please contact the Development Office at Gippsland Grammar on (03) 5143 6315 or email: Meredith.lynn@gippslandgs.vic.edu.au



The 1966 St Anne's Debutante Ball



A LASTING GIFT: A bequest to the Anglican Diocese of Gippsland or your parish

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

We offer a way of helping you to carry out your wishes. Your gift, through your bequest, will be very much appreciated. You may wish to support the Diocese of Gippsland as a whole, or your own parish, or for a particular purpose.

Making your bequest in your Will is a simple procedure, although in preparing or amending your Will you should always consult a solicitor. The Registrar of the Diocese of Gippsland has information to assist you in making a bequest, including the form of words you and your solicitor might want to use.

Telephone Brian Norris on 03 5144 2044, or go to www.gippsanglican.org.au and search 'bequests'.

For young disciples

Developing the habit of thankfulness

Rich Lanham

Over the last couple of weeks I’ve been thinking about the attitude of thankfulness.

It’s an interesting issue to consider, as we live in a culture that constantly reminds us of what we need more of or don’t have. Marketing and product advertising particularly, tap into our sense of dissatisfaction. We are often told that the old version or model of what we have just won’t cut it anymore, or that we will feel more fulfilled if we have the latest gadget or tool. Not to mention the classic problem of “what’s in fashion” and “keeping up with the Joneses”.

Wishing we had more or better things can often keep us from appreciating the things we already have. This is as true of relationships as it is of objects. Committing to a relationship or community group can be tricky because you may fear that there is something better around the corner and if you commit today you will miss out on something better tomorrow. This is a hard way to live but it seems pretty normal in today’s society.

God’s plan for us is not to live in fear or longing for what we don’t have, but to be grateful for what we have and trust that he will provide what we need. Thankfulness and gratitude are empowering and energising attitudes. The Greek philosopher Epicurus writes “Do not spoil what you have by desiring what you have not”.

The Apostle Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 “Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful



The Rev'd Rich Lanham

in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus”.

Jesus says in Luke 12:32-34:

“So don’t be afraid, little flock. For it gives your Father great happiness to give you the Kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to those in need. This will store up treasure for you in heaven! And the purses of heaven never get old or develop holes. Your treasure will be safe; no thief can steal it and no moth can destroy it. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.”

Not sure you think an attitude of thankfulness can make a difference? Then challenge yourself to a week of forming a habit of gratitude.

First thing in the morning, thank God for three things in your life.

Throughout the day, consider and verbalise gratitude for the positive or kind actions of others.

Before you go to sleep, pray and thank God for three challenges you are experiencing.

Try it for a week, and if you notice a difference keep going; it’s said that it takes twenty-one days to form a habit, such as the habit of being thankful to God for all you have and all you are.

God bless you heaps.

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



Bp Kay Goldsworthy ordains the Rev'd David Perryman at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale on 25 June, 2016

Are you being called to ordination?

Graham Knott

“It is exciting that you think God might be calling you to be ordained” are among the first words I say to a person speaking with me about the possibility.

This is because it is a special privilege and responsibility for all baptised Christians to attempt to discern their vocation in shaping the kingdom of God. Consistent daily discipleship of following in the footsteps of Jesus Christ and being shaped into his character is a call to a disciplined, growing and developing life.

For most people it seems that the call to ordination begins to bubble up unexpectedly as they pursue Jesus faithfully. There may be a growing compulsion that simply won’t go away. There may be unexpected encouragement from family and friends who suggest that the person would make a great priest.

Many try to resist such an urge but find that it has a tenacity of its own and won’t disappear. Occasionally people have an individual experience of God in a dream or a vision. Most, however will say something like, “I haven’t had a Damascus Road experience”. Calling becomes a growing conviction that, however hard to articulate, this is something which needs to be explored. I believe this sense is best expressed in words often sung at ordinations and inductions – “Here I am, Lord, is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.”

If this is you the next stage is to speak with your parish priest. Learn what vocation means for them and how that shaped their life’s journey. The step after that is to contact either Bishop Kay or me. Following these initial explorations you may enter a year of discernment to investigate prayerfully and reflectively, while doing some background reading, whether ordination is possibly the shape for your vocation. During this time increasing experience in practical ministry in a local congregation is important.

Towards the end of this year Bishop Kay will decide whether or not you should attend selection panels where you will be

able to share your experiences and explain your hope and vision for the future. However it may also be concluded by all involved that a different path is God’s way. A strengthened awareness of lay vocation may result in a clarified commitment to a particular ministry or work.

For those working towards ordination a period of education and formation follows. This means that it is a number of years between a person first making an approach and their kneeling before the bishop in the cathedral for that never forgotten moment when, through the laying on of hands in ordination, they begin to be entrusted with the care of God’s people.

In my view there is no greater privilege or responsibility in all the world than this. The following extract by Hybels expresses why I love being a parish priest:

There is nothing like the local church when it’s working right. Its beauty is indescribable. Its power is breathtaking. Its potential is unlimited. It comforts the grieving and heals the broken in the context of community. It provides resources for those in need and opens its arms to the forgotten, the down-trodden, the disillusioned.

There is no better purpose to dedicate your life to than shaping such a community. There are also opportunities for similar ministries in, for example, school, hospital and prison chaplaincies.

When David Perryman was ordained I felt a tinge of sadness that there were no others kneeling alongside him. You may be part of the way that God would shape the church in the future. Please consider the matter prayerfully. Time spent in investigating the call of God is never wasted. Perhaps, in a few years’ time, you will be kneeling in the cathedral, humbled yet excited as the future unfolds.

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

ABC Radio National’s Religion Programs

- Frequencies: Bairnsdale - 106.3 FM (3ABC RN)
 Melbourne - 621 AM (3RN)
- Religion and Ethics Report**
Wednesday 5:30 pm – repeated: Thursday 5:30 am
www.abc.net.au/radionational/program/religionandethicsreport
- Encounter**
Saturday 5:00 pm – repeated: Wednesday 1:00 pm
www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/encounter
- The Spirit of Things**
Sunday 6:00 pm – repeated: Tuesday 1:00 pm
www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/spiritofthings
- Rhythm Divine**
Sunday 6:00 am – repeated: Monday 1:00 am (music program)
www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/rhythmdivine

The risen Christ has touched the earth

Edie Ashley

*I am not sure that –
when the plumb line is lowered,
that our world will be judged favourably by its
ballot box of slogans;
or when earth reports on human's Christlike
care,
that a message of faithfulness will be told.*

*Can God's Spirit bear the strain?
Does Christ, the risen Christ, hold life –
eternal and sufficient, for a world of homeless
people's longing?
a world of fearful people striking out at self
and other?
a struggling, dying earth that keeps on living
and giving while it holds breath to be?*

*This I know –
God is present, Spirit too and Christ,
the risen Christ, has touched the earth
with the power of love, the depth of humility,
the eye of compassion and the word of mercy.
In Christ there is a new creation and
In the midst of all conjecture and concern
Hope is held secure.*

*Furthermore, for me and for you
From time to time
the ordinary moment becomes extraordinary,
as hope is woken from its slumber
and our moment shared is charged with
the wonder of God – the sacred in our midst.*

I write of two such moments over the last few weeks.

The NAIDOC service, held at St John's Church at Lake Tyers Trust on Sunday afternoon 3 July 2016 commenced outside the church, with a warm welcome from the Rev'd Phyllis Andy, followed by a welcome to country by Nicky Moffat and an invitation to "touch the earth"... to put our hands in the soil, to dip our hands in the water and to feel the cleansing of the fire lit by Robert Andy. Nicky then led us into the church to the sound of the didgeridoo and sang to us, the songs of the land.

Once we were inside and comfortably seated, Nicky read the sentence from scripture for the day and Laura read the creation story from Genesis Chapter 1. Following the reading of the "Christian Dreamtime Story", Robert Andy told us of the "Aboriginal Dreamtime Story" of creation – the story of Borun, a Pelican and Tuk, the Musk Duck. We sat together with both creation stories, reflecting on the richness of sacred story, of culture and tradition, the gift one is to the other, and the presence of God in our midst. It was a rich and special time.

The Rev'd Canon Barb Logan, and Madge Hood prayed for us, for the



Touching the earth and the water – NAIDOC service at St John's, Lake Tyers Trust, Sunday 3 July

celebrations of NAIDOC week, for the community at Lake Tyers, for Phyllis Andy and Kathy Dalton, and for our nation. We concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

Phyllis Andy and June Treadwell together lit the Paschal Candle – the candle of resurrection – while Madge Hood read the Thanksgiving that was written by Lenore Parker. And we all held hands and sang "Bind us together Lord, Bind us together". Phyllis and I said the Blessing together.

The week following the NAIDOC service was wet and windy, very wet and very windy! It is times like this that one knows that we really are at the mercy of the elements. I watched as the water in the Lake (Lake Victoria and the McMillan Straits here at Paynesville) rose higher and higher, just touching the jetties that are usually well clear. The ferry was blowing about... and I gave thanks for

dry warm inside places!

Last Friday, after the rain had cleared and the wind had subsided and the water was still too high for the ferry to run, we were planting trees, and smaller understory plants along the lake shore. There, before our eyes, in the "wet areas" that had been dry for months, where the trees who like "wet feet" were struggling with the dry sand and pebbles, the water table had risen and the trees were drinking again!

God is present, Spirit too.
Christ, the risen Christ,
has touched the earth.

It's time to celebrate – Alleluia!

*Archdeacon Edie Ashley is
Archdeacon of the Eastern Region
and Priest in Charge at St Peter's
by the Lake, Paynesville, with The
Abbey Church of St Barnabas,
Raymond Island.*

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EDITORIAL

Recognise and act

The Gippsland Anglican diocese, via a motion at Synod this year, urged the Federal Government "to work with Aboriginal communities to ensure the recognition, without delay, in the Australian Constitution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as Australia's First People to be presented to and agreed by the Australian people at referendum".

Archdeacon Philip Muston argued at Synod that for this referendum to be successful we need a groundswell in the community similar to that which led to the 1967 referendum. But how do we grow that groundswell?

We might start by being better informed, and more willing to engage. According to the Foreword in the Pocket Edition of Australia's Constitution (2010)* only 50% of Australians know that we have a written Constitution, and many know more about America's Constitution than their own.

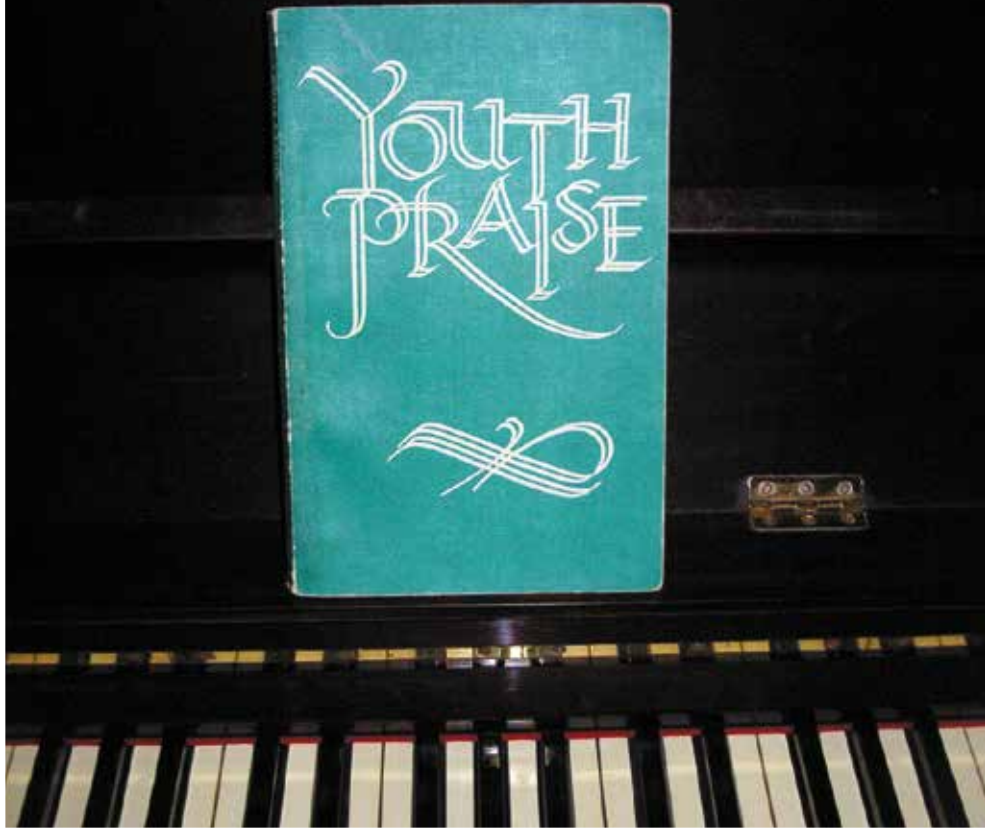
The report of the Expert Panel on Constitutional Recognition of Indigenous Australians (2012) found that many Australians are "increasingly aware that... the Constitution is incomplete. It remains silent in relation to the prior and continuing existence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. An essential part of the national story is missing".

There are really two issues to be addressed, though they are strongly linked: one is about acknowledging the peoples and the full history of this land; the other is about the action that flows from that – action that addresses the wrongs of the past and their continuing effects in the present.

How we achieve both is up for debate. These are seriously complex and sensitive issues, but we should not let that stop us from being engaged. We need to listen to the diverse views of different indigenous people. We need to learn and pray and talk together. It would be better to make mistakes and have to apologise and start again, than to say it's all too hard and do nothing.

* A Pocket Edition of Australia's Constitution is available from the Parliamentary Education Office for \$2 (peo.gov.au). See also recognise.org.au for more information.

What were you singing fifty years ago?



Fay Magee

March this year marked fifty years since the publication of a collection of 150 songs, titled *Youth Praise*. By the look of my copy, I probably purchased it for \$1.20 in 1968. It was the largest collection of such material I had located at that time and it contained a significant number of newly composed songs alongside some older favourites which my cohort would have known from well-worn “chorus books”.

This collection was part of the beginnings of a new “movement” which had kicked off in the 1950s. Some readers might remember the advent of “coffee shop” ministry in the 60s and 70s, of outreach based around live music. *Youth Praise* then marked a transition of newer or youth-oriented songs moving into regular worship contexts with all of us folk-types playing acoustic guitars.

This repertoire was a significant part of evangelistic activities, of attracting young people to services. Of course this was not the first time this had been tried! Although scenarios like this seem at the time to be all-encompassing and highly significant, it is always interesting, with hindsight to wonder what really went on and what we can learn.

There had been an emerging new group of hymn-writers from early in the 1950s which included such names as Brian Wren, Patrick Appleford and Erik Routley. The 20th Century Church Light Music Group was founded by Geoffrey Beaumont in the mid-50s and caused quite a stir! *One Hundred Hymns for Today* appeared in 1969 as a supplement to *Hymns Ancient and Modern*. As well as new hymn texts and tunes, other songs such as “Were you there when they crucified my Lord” were included.

It is interesting to explore the world as it was in which all this happened: the social, political, theological and ecclesial conditions which brought huge changes at many levels. It is significant to note that it was the generation preceding the “baby boomers” which had first responded – as ever, we seem to reap the benefits!

So what songs have survived from those heady days? Certainly some of the outstanding “modern” songs have come from that era: “Tell out, my soul”, “Living Lord”, a new tune for “At the name of Jesus”. Sydney Carter’s “Lord of the Dance” (1963) put new words to an old Shaker tune. And of course, history doesn’t happen “in a straight line”: influences come and go, music influences some changes, other changes influence the music.

Probably one of the most significant factors which became more obvious in those decades was the way in which music became a commodity and our relationship to it that of the consumer. The market relied on this and also on the various sub-groups which could be exploited such as “teenagers”! In the time since, this has become a multi-layered relationship across an almost limitless amount of musical “product” and probably increasingly influential on the way we think about music.

For those of us who are older, we may remember some of these songs and/or the life we lived around them. Hopefully, we bring the best with us and pass it on; ways of expressing faith that make sense and which also challenge our thinking.

Fay Magee is a musician, music educator and community music catalyst. She has a strong interest in congregational singing, particularly the music of the past fifty years which she has witnessed first hand.

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

I write in response to last month’s letter by Gordon Dowthwaite at Leongatha about heeding God’s Word. May grace and peace be with my fellow brother in Christ. In this very contentious issue of the definition of marriage it is easy to get caught up and forget that we are all on the same team in the end.

I will state right from the start that I am not an expert on the matter. To be honest, none of us really are, yet we all struggle to find God’s will. I took a vow a few weeks back which committed me to a life of further study, and I look forward to carrying out this vow, especially on this subject. There are no doubt people who will disagree with my response, but I look forward to the ongoing discussion.

Where I disagree with Gordon’s letter is the way those of us on the “pro” same-sex marriage side appear to be painted. He claimed that whilst the side arguing at Synod for a traditional view cited biblical passages, the other side argued for a new definition based on a desire to act lovingly and pastorally. I would personally argue that both sides should be seeking to act lovingly and pastorally, otherwise we’d be better spending our time re-reading the Gospels.

The crux of the concern for me is the claim that those of us who find ourselves arguing for same-sex marriage don’t take the Bible seriously. Or that we haven’t really sought out the Bible’s answer on the issue. I take that to be incorrect, on many varying fronts which I don’t have the space to dive into. Do we hold the Scriptures in an important position in our lives? Yes. Do we agree on what is “contrary to Scripture?” No. Obviously not, otherwise we wouldn’t be having this long discussion.

All biblical passages come down to interpretation, and our praying and seeking God’s will for the right way forward. The argument about these passages is therefore based on hermeneutics – the way biblical texts are interpreted. It is hard therefore to argue about a position being contrary to the Bible, when the passages themselves are open to interpretation.

In arguing that a position is contrary to Scripture, I would urge extreme caution. Many Christians in the past and present claim and have claimed that certain views are contrary to Scripture, some of which claims we have retracted from, over time and on reflection. The church has mis-stepped before and will do so again.

This particular issue for me is no different. There is no straight reading of Scripture; each passage has different cultural and sociological contexts with different inspired authors and different points of theology. Our views will always be divided, but we are all seeking God’s will.

Some will argue that we should be seeking God’s interpretation to the text, not ours; however we will all bring our own experiences and thoughts to the text, even if we don’t acknowledge them.

Arguments over the interpretation of biblical passages are seldom productive. Both sides will present cases biblically. Which case is ultimately considered contrary to Scripture is down to an individual’s interpretation.

For now our views will be divided on the issue, but this fine, our church allows for diversity whilst remaining in fellowship. I thank Gordon for voicing his views, I look forward to our ongoing discussions and thank God for the wisdom that both views bring to the table. I pray that our debate around this significant issue remains constructive and conducted in the gentleness Paul speaks of. I pray for patience as we sit with it together, uncomfortable as it may be, as the one body of Christ.

The Rev’d David Perryman, Wonthaggi

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At the café, people share skills and tools to mend whatever is broken – electrical goods, clothing, furniture, toys and so on. Volunteers help mend things and also teach others.

Martine Postma organised the first Repair Café in Amsterdam in 2009, and following its success, set up the not-for-profit Repair Café Foundation in 2011. Now there are over 1000 Repair Cafés around the world, including Australia.

To find out more, including how to start a Repair Café, visit: repaircafe.org/. The Foundation provides a manual and help with promoting your café. Perhaps you could get one going at your church?



Mark Woods

Mark Woods

Lawyer, Traralgon

Jan Down

Mark Woods is a great fan of Jesus’ teaching in Matthew 25, where the king welcomes those on his right hand: “For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you cared for me, I was in prison and you visited me”. When the king is asked “When was it that we saw you hungry...?” he answers “Just as you did it for one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

This is a guiding principle for Mark’s work in family and criminal law, and for life in general. He says “If we apply that sort of preaching to what we do with those who are less fortunate than us, we won’t go far wrong”.

Clients can be difficult to deal with. He has been verbally abused and physically attacked. “They don’t always appreciate the help offered”.

Mark is not keen on prisons. While he agrees there have to be consequences for breaking the law, he sees rehabilitation as essential, arguing that “cages perpetuate injustice” and are far more costly in terms of both lives and money. He explains that for 80% of offenders there is a background of homelessness, or substance abuse, or mental illness, or they

are victims of violence. All of these things “can be fixed” Mark says. It costs \$660 million per year to keep prisoners in jail in Victoria, and 60% reoffend. For those on Community Correction Orders, the figure is less than 20%.

Mark first became aware of social classes and disadvantage when, having won a scholarship, he began travelling by train from his home in Glenroy to Essendon Grammar School to start his secondary school education. He was amazed at the attitude of other passengers to him in his cap and uniform: he was harassed, called a “toff” and worse, and had his cap thrown out the window. Yet he saw that these people were the ones most likely to get into trouble with the police. They were often “manhandled off the trains”.

When asked how he first became interested in the law, Mark’s first word is “Mum”, but he then backtracks to talk about his schooling. Both were clearly important influences. His parents and grandparents were strong Methodists. He began to become more aware of some of the injustices in society when his mother, along with a couple of fellow parishioners, started the Broadmeadows Methodist Mission, which provided food parcels and relief for the poor.

The Headmaster at Essendon Grammar School, the Rev’d Burt Stephens, was an enlightened educator, Mark believes, who introduced

innovative and stimulating curricula. Instead of giving the junior classes separate lessons in Geography and History, they were taught General Studies, which provided a context for the places and events they were learning about.

Forty-five years later, Mark still remembers these inspiring lessons, discussing such things as Indigenous issues or the causes of problems in the Middle East. As he reached the senior years, the school guided Mark towards the law as a career, and it seemed a natural fit with his skills and interests.

In his first year, studying criminal law and torts (the law of civil wrongs) he learned about a famous case, often called “The Snail in the Ginger Beer”, which created the concept of negligence. During the court case, Lord Atkin quoted the words of Jesus “You must love your neighbour”, which he said in law included taking reasonable care to avoid injuring one’s neighbour. For Mark, hearing these words was further confirmation that he was on the right path in his choice of career.

Mark has now been director of the firm, Tyler, Tipping and Woods, and its predecessor, since 1982. Most mornings he spends at court, while his afternoons consist of interviewing people, giving advice, taking instructions from clients, and deciding within the firm who looks after which cases. Typical examples are seeing someone who has been charged with robbery, or assisting in a family dispute over custody arrangements for Christmas holidays.

Mark enjoys the variety in his work, and the personal contact – he might see twenty people in one day. He also finds great satisfaction in what he does: “If I do it right, their lives can be changed for the better”.

He sometimes finds his time in court “extremely satisfying”, but it can also be frustrating and annoying, mainly because there are never sufficient resources provided by the government. For example, while the government wants the courts to be “tech savvy”, the necessary technology is not provided that would allow a doctor to appear in court via Skype, rather than having to travel great distances. He says the courts lack the resources they need for agencies to diagnose the underlying causes of people’s criminality.

Mark spends time on boards and committees “attempting to make the law a little bit fairer and

Diocesan calendar

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

August

- 4 7:30 pm Induction of the Rev’d Janet Wallis as Priest in Charge at St John’s Maffra
- 13 12 noon The Abbey Feast, with Jeff Richardson, chef extraordinaire: four course meal with wine. Inquiries: 5156 6580
- 14 2:00 pm “A Pleasant Sunday Afternoon” at Christ Church, Drouin, with the Baw Baw Singers and afternoon tea; entry with gold coin donation
- 18 Bishop in Council meeting
- 25–27 10:00 am – 4:00 pm daily: Daffodil Festival, St Peter’s Anglican Church, Leongatha. See display of “Flowers in Praise with Diamonds”. Enjoy refreshments (morning and afternoon teas and light lunches) prepared and served by St Peter’s Ladies’ Guild. For more information phone: 0409 165 227
- 26–28 Weekend Time Out at The Abbey, Raymond Island: a quiet weekend, with companions on the journey. Commencing 5:00 pm Friday, concluding after lunch Sunday. Details 5156 6580

September

- 3 11:00 am Installation of the Rev’d Susanna Pain as Dean of St Paul’s Cathedral, Sale
- 17 9:30 am – 3.30 pm Anam Cara Quiet Day with Bp Kay Goldsworthy at St Paul’s Cathedral, Sale
- 23 Weekend Working Bee at The Abbey, Raymond Island, painting Illawarra. Commences 5:00 pm Friday, concludes after lunch Sunday.

October

- 2 3:00 pm on the oval at The Abbey, Raymond Island: Blessing of the animals and pets
- 14 5:00 pm Friday – after lunch on Sunday at The Abbey, Raymond Island: A visual introduction to the Camino de Santiago walk, with the Rev’d John Baldock and team.
- 27 Bishop in Council meeting

a little bit more accessible”. He is on the board of the National Pro Bono Resource Centre. He has served as President of the Law Institute of Victoria, as Director of the Law Council of Australia, and is currently Chair of its Access to Justice Committee. He regularly speaks at legal conferences in Australia and overseas.

Music, literature and history are all important interests, and Mark plays the organ at his home church of St David’s in Toongabbie three times a month, as well as at St John’s Glengarry and sometimes at St James’, Traralgon. He is a member of the Traralgon Parish Council and a Synod representative. At times he has

been asked to assist with legal issues in both the Gippsland and Melbourne dioceses, and he in turn has harnessed support for clients from church agencies, such as Anglicare.

There is a connection for Mark with the parish opportunity shop, as he acts for victims of family violence and the op shop packs emergency kits for them, with bathroom essentials and clothes. He says “People would never expect this kind of help”, and it is a wonderful way to support them.

Mark is married to Kim, a science teacher, and they have three adult children. When he retires, he would like to learn to play the button accordion.