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The Gippsland Anglican

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EASTER 2016

CHRIST IS RISEN!

HE IS RISEN INDEED

Sunrise over Lake Guthridge, Sale, by Christine Morris

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The gospel stories we read from Palm Sunday through the fifty days of Easter seem to echo the refrain of those in the crowds, from the song of "Hosanna!" to the shouts of "Crucify!" to that little group who first encountered the reality of resurrection and the empty tomb.

Different people who were part of the story of those days still speak to those of us who are reading and listening to it 21 centuries later. Every story includes a bystander. The dictionary defines a bystander as "one present but not taking part in a situation or event; a chance spectator". I've noticed a few.

There is the man who provides for the last supper because he is told that the master has need of a room to meet with his friends. There is Simon of Cyrene, who found himself on that fateful Friday carrying Jesus' cross. There is the woman who pointed a finger at Peter, outing him as one of Jesus' friends. In John's gospel, on Easter morning, Mary sees Jesus in the garden and thinks *he* is a bystander who might have seen where Jesus' body had been taken.

Some of the people who shouted for Jesus' death were



Bishop Kay Goldsworthy

No longer bystanders

powerful, the kind of people who wanted to build big walls and separate people from each other. Power and truth face to face. Some of the people in the crowd on that Friday began as bystanders. Watching, not intervening, looking after themselves. Many of us know what that's like. Still others stood close and wept. Helpless but present. We know what that's like, too.

So many people who begin as bystanders turn out to be an intimate part of God's story of salvation. People don't stay bystanders for long. Jesus' resurrection changes everything. This story moves people today from being merely bystanders to believers. People whose faith spurs them to action. Not a bystander any more.

There are tragedies on the world stage which make us want to turn our faces away and weep. And there are the issues closer to home which shock us and shake us to the core.

The story of love in the life and death and resurrection of Jesus

asks us not to be bystanders in the face of these tragedies, but to be drawn more and more into living lives which show God's love. Easter draws us to action, to be active participants in life. Not less human, and somehow a bit more pious and precious, but rather more human. More like Jesus; more the person Jesus calls us to be.

And we dare to believe that, in the good grace of God's love, people flourish when we step up and take our part in the resurrection story. Welcome, forgiveness, a future not lived in the shadow of shame, but in the full light of God's love. This is the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. This is the story we have to tell.

Jesus welcomed people who were different from him, people who believed in God and people who didn't. When Jesus spoke with people he looked into them and saw the heart, soul and dignity of each one. He changed how people viewed themselves and the world.

God didn't build walls. Rather in Jesus Christ God broke down the walls that divide people, walls like hate and fear, walls like indifference and exploitation, walls that keep one group strong and another weak.

Jesus, crucified and risen, invites all of us not to deny who we are, but to dare to become more truly the people God made us to be. Christ is risen!

+Kay

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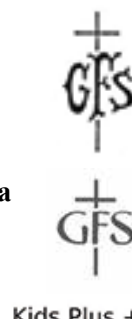
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In their shoes

Jessica Hackett walked from Melbourne to Canberra to deliver a petition on asylum seekers to Russell Broadbent MP – seeking Australian hospitality along the way. Many Gippsland people are also asking for a change of policy.

Jan Down

Why would a young woman, in her first year of teaching no less, decide to walk from Melbourne to Canberra to present a petition calling for change to asylum seeker policy?

Jessica Hackett, a secondary school teacher at Killester College in Springvale, says she has been passionate about the issue for a long time, but “nothing seems to be making a dent. We care – so many of us – what happens to our fellow brothers and sisters. But as a nation, we are locking people away”. She said “I was fed up with all the negativity around the issue, so I wanted to do something positive and give people hope”.

This led her to the idea of the walk to hand over her Welcome Petition to Gippsland MP, Russell Broadbent, while also drawing attention to the hospitality of the Australian people. She found the response as she walked was overwhelming, especially in rural areas. “Local communities just know how to welcome people in and how to organise their own communities. I got fed so well!” As she arrived in each town, Jessica was always asked the same two questions: “What can I get to you to eat?” and “Have you got any washing?”

Before the walk, Jessica and Sister Brigid of the Brigatine Asylum Seekers Project (the group that auspiced Jessica’s walk) visited asylum seekers in the Broadmeadows Detention Centre. Jess heard some terrible stories and was later glad of the opportunity the long hours of walking gave her to process these tales of suffering. She reflected that while she was trekking in really good walking shoes, some of the asylum seekers had walked huge distances with no shoes at all.

Gippsland and Grandmothers groups

It’s not only the young pushing for change. On 16 March, two hundred grandmothers took the “Freedom Ride to Canberra”. In a convoy of buses (decorated in purple) and cars, the Grandmothers Against the Detention of Refugee Children travelled to Parliament House to call on the government to free all asylum seeker children and their families from detention.

Two of the grandmothers on a bus to Canberra were members of the Phillip Island Rural Australians for Refugees, one of the four groups around Gippsland that support and advocate for asylum seekers. Margaret Hancock, a member of the Phillip Island group and also a parishioner at St Phillip’s, Cowes, feels very strongly about the

issue: “I think the Australian attitude is so deplorable.” She is impressed with one politician. “We are so lucky to have Russell Broadbent in Parliament. The way he has stood up on this issue has been remarkable. It must have taken a lot of courage. He’s gone against his own party and against the Labor party”.

The Phillip Island RAR group collects food and household goods for asylum seekers which are then taken up to the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre in Footscray. The drop-off point is St Phillip’s, and people in the general community donate as well as church people. The RAR group membership includes Uniting Church, Anglican, Roman Catholic and non-religious people. They have been meeting for about twelve years.

The East Gippsland Asylum Seekers Support Group is now also affiliated with Rural Australians for Refugees. Group members Eleanor Patterson and Michael Fox are also parishioners at the Anglican church at Paynesville. Eleanor says there are various denominations represented in the group, as well as others from the local community. Some members were planning to join the Walk for Justice for Refugees in Melbourne on Palm Sunday.

The other two asylum seeker support groups in



Jessica on the road

Gippsland are the Latrobe Valley Asylum Seeker Support Group (Traralgon) and the South Gippsland RAR group at Wonthaggi.

17,000 signatures

After training for a year by walking 17 km to or from school each day, and walking in the Dandenongs on weekends, Jessica Hackett set out from Melbourne on 16 January this year. Five weeks and about 800 km later, on 23 February, she arrived on the lawns of Parliament House in Canberra, to be met by the Hon Russell Broadbent, the Federal Minister for Macmillan and the Hon Anna Burke, Jessica’s local Labor MP, as well as a supporting crowd of people who came to see her hand over the Welcome Petition with its 17,000 signatures.

Russell Broadbent later presented the petition in Parliament. The Hon Peter Dutton, Minister for Immigration, and Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull then had 90 days in which to respond.

The petition called on the government to: “increase the number of refugees; abolish closed detention centres and resettle the people in Australia; establish reception centres in Australia; process people in a timely and humane manner; and treat them as you would want to be treated.”

Jessica is realistic about the possible impact of her effort at the political level. She says it’s “just another drop in the ocean”. But she has read all the petitions from the last five years, and points out that they are there, on the record, documenting that thousands of Australian people care. And she remains optimistic, expressing her faith in the goodness within people and saying “All the drops add up”.

At the community level there has already been an impact. Jessica said “It’s brought people together in the local communities and given

them hope. It’s inspired a lot of people to do something as well”. She has pointed out to people “I’m just a normal, ordinary teacher – if I can do this, what can you do?”

Parish resources offered

At Synod last year Sarah Gover, the then Anglicare Coordinator for Community Development and Parish Liaison, put forward a motion requesting that Bishop-in-Council establish a working group to write and distribute to parishes a discussion paper on asylum seekers which would provide information and resources. The motion was passed and a working party established, consisting of the Rev’d Sue Jacka, Michael Fox, Sarah Gover (who has now moved interstate) and the Rev’d Jim Connelly.

The group has been working on a brochure which lists many helpful resources for parishes. They are particularly promoting the Southern Queensland Diocese’s study guide: *Asylum Seekers and Refugees: scriptural, theological and ethical approaches*, available at: anglicanchurchsq.org.au/.

Contact people for Gippsland groups:

1. **Latrobe Valley Asylum Seeker Support Group** (Traralgon) David Langmore: dlangmore@westnet.com.au
2. **South Gippsland Rural Australians for Refugees (SGRAR) (Wonthaggi)** Felicia Di Stefano: sgrar07@gmail.com
3. **Phillip Island Rural Australians for Refugees (Cowes)** Graham Sim: joansim@waterfront.net.au
4. **East Gippsland Asylum Seeker Support (EGASS) (Bairnsdale)** Christine Power: chrispower46@yahoo.com



Jessica Hackett with the Hon Russell Broadbent in Canberra



The Rev'd Emeritus Prof Brendan Byrne SJ and the Rev'd Dr Dean Spalding

Dean Spalding awarded PhD

– Asylum seeker policy a motivating factor for thesis

Jan Down

The Rev'd Dr Dean Spalding, Rector of Drouin, was awarded his PhD at a graduation ceremony at Trinity College on Friday 18 March.

The Title of Dr Spalding's thesis was "Escorting Paul and the Other Emissaries of Jesus in Acts: The Significance of the Motif of Escort, Seen through the Lens of a Late First- (Early Second-) Century Mediterranean Cultural Script for Hospitality Conventions". Dr Spalding's Supervisor for his doctoral studies was the Rev'd Emeritus Professor Brendan Byrne SJ.

The thesis focuses on the motif of "escort", a subset of hospitality which has, as the abstract explains, so far escaped scholarly attention. "In the Book of Acts, Paul, an emissary of Jesus, is often the subject of escorted arrival and escorted departure."

Dr Spalding explained where the idea for his thesis came from:

"In the final year of my undergraduate theological studies, our lecturer for 'Luke-Acts', Brendan Byrne SJ, made a memorable comment about the failure of James and the elders (in contrast to 'the brethren'), to

'go out and meet' Paul on his arrival in Jerusalem, as told in Acts 21. His exact words were, 'It was as if they didn't go out to the airport to meet Paul'. Dr Byrne's studied anachronism lodged in my mind.

"Ever since, I have wanted to know what Luke's depiction of this 'failure to meet' signified. Thus began a particular interest in the way that characters in Luke's Gospel and Acts 'welcome guests' by 'coming out to meet' them and escorting their arrivals and departures."

Another aspect of Dr Spalding's motivation derives from his family history, and his reflection on Australia's attitude to asylum seekers. He said "As a fifth generation Australian I am aware that several of my ancestors: one associated with the Belfiore martyrs who came from Mantova to the Victorian goldfields; an Old Order Lutheran from Prussia who came to SA; and several Irish folk escaping poverty, all around the 1850s, essentially came seeking asylum or at least a better life here, and found it.

"The motivation to study hospitality was partly the observation that Australia has not been as hospitable in these past twenty years as it once was".



L-R Heather Scott (leader), June Knott (speaker) and Marion Dewar (organist) stand beside the World Day of Prayer display table

Prayers for Cuba

World Day of Prayer 2016 – Leongatha

White Butterfly jasmine flowers decorated St Peter's Anglican Church for the annual ecumenical World Day of Prayer service in Leongatha on the first Friday morning of March.

The service began with the Bible being placed on the display table and a candle-lighting ceremony.

Displays of Cuban flags, maracas, coffee, sugar, bread and fruit indicated the liturgy had been prepared by the women of Cuba with special prayers for education and health services.

Monetary offerings will support the Bible Society in Cuba Project called "Building Healthy Relationships",

focusing on reducing family violence.

We learnt that Cuba is a country made up of 4,195 islands, cays and islets and has a population of 11 million people. While education in Cuba is free from pre-school to university, many people in Cuba cannot afford food, medicine or transport.

St Peter's Ladies' Guild and Mothers' Union members hosted the event with the assistance of the Catholic and Uniting Churches. Next year the host church will be the Seventh Day Adventist Church. Morning tea concluded the event and featured Cuban lime biscuits and Polverones (cinnamon sugar biscuits).

Young people admitted to communion



The Rev'd David Head, Danielle and Annalise Strini, Ryan Turi, Tom and James McDonald at the study group. (Zipporah Dalton was absent)

Carolyn Raymond – Morwell

The Anglican church has a rich tradition of celebration and commemoration. Mothering Sunday, the middle Sunday of Lent, is a tradition begun in Victorian times. This was the Sunday when the large number of people who were employed in domestic service were allowed to travel home to their families and worship in their own parishes. It is a day to celebrate families and the encircling arms of our Mother church.

During our service at St Mary's, as well as celebrating Mothering Sunday, the Rev'd David Head gave members of the congregation the opportunity to renew their marriage vows.

Part of the tradition of Mothering Sunday is the distribution of Simnel cake. Jan Dalglish made our delicious Simnel cake and everyone took a piece home with them.

This was also the last Sunday of the study group for six young people of our congregation. They met for six weeks with David and the Rev'd Kathy Dalton to prepare for their admission to Communion. When I briefly joined the group they were discussing the sharing of food at important family celebrations. Sharing the Eucharist is the holy meal for the Christian family.

On the following Sunday, the fourth Sunday in Lent, these six young people were formally admitted to Communion. Many of their friends and their families came to celebrate with them. The congregation broke into spontaneous applause as each young person received a book to commemorate this day.

We all welcomed with joy, Danielle, Annalise, Tom, James, Ryan and Zipporah into full communion.

South Gippsland Anglicans converge on Leongatha

Marion Dewar

Over 40 members from Anglican parishes in South Gippsland met for a Regional Conference in Leongatha on Saturday 5 March.

The Deanery Conference was the brainchild of the Rev'd Jenny Ramage (Korumburra). Rural Dean Geoff Pittaway put the idea to a Regional deanery meeting and representatives from all parishes were enthusiastic about the thought of members of all the parishes meeting together for food, fellowship and education.

Five workshops followed by plenary sessions filled the day, concluding with the Saturday evening liturgy. The presenters included the Rev'd Geoff Pittaway (Mirboo North), the Rev'd Graeme Peters (Inverloch/Wonthaggi), the Rev'd Jo White (Yarram) and Les and Sandy Ridge (Bass/Phillip Island). The workshop titles included Creating Community; Creating Sacred Space; Music without Musos; and Contemporary Liturgy and Worship. St Peter's Ladies' Guild was responsible for the catering and provided their services free of charge.

The Rev'd Graeme Peters introduced the Community Dinner concept that is in full swing in Wonthaggi on a Monday evening. Members of the church family prepare and serve an evening meal to anyone from the community who would like to come (and come they do!) – a meal with a message.

Les and Sandy Ridge presented Music without Musos to show that singing was possible with the assistance of other media. Les showed a Powerpoint presentation with technical information and helpful hints. It included sensible steps for playing CDs as well as going out on a limb to create CDs.

The Rev'd Geoff Pittaway outlined some of the ideas used at Mirboo North at one of the Sunday morning services, based on team-prepared and team-delivered contemporary worship with children and youth as a focus.

The Rev'd Jo White presented a workshop on creating sacred space and methods of prayer including using the prayer book, meditation, and prayer beads. Jo prepared a prayer table that included a cross, a Bible, a candle and water.

During the lunch and afternoon tea breaks animated discussion could be heard as people shared their reactions to the previous sessions. These comments showed the day was well received with some finding the fellowship enjoyable, others excited by the thought of trying some of the activities in their own parish, some gaining insights into a subject; while the general consensus was that it was a Saturday well spent in encouraging each other to continue the Christian walk with enthusiasm.



The Rev'd Geoff Pittaway presents "Doing the Church or Doing the Kingdom"



Participants in the Creating Sacred Space Workshop led by the Rev'd Jo White

Fish Creek fun

David Allsop - Corner Inlet

I walked into the Fish Creek Church the other day to see what was happening with *mainly music* and before I could say twinkle twinkle little star, I was attacked! Heading towards me was a streamer on a stick and attached to the stick was a tiny girl (about 4 years old I think). But wherever I went, dodging and swerving, the streamer, the stick and the little girl followed. Attached to the girl was a great big smile. What else could I do but burst into a giggle myself?



Streamers and smiles at Fish Creek mainly music

Palm Sunday donkey carried!



This year at Sale the donkey in the Palm Sunday procession was carried by Samuel King, aged eight. Leading the procession was Annette Hollonds.

The Salvation Army joined in for a combined service at St Paul's Cathedral, led by the Rev'd Ken Parker, who is currently the locum priest at the Cathedral.

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Rene Wakelam turns 90



Congratulations to Rene Wakelam who celebrated her 90th birthday with the church at Bunyip.

Raelene Carroll, Bunyip

Blessing of the shed

Wendy Nickson - Lakes Entrance

Sunday 6 March saw the official Opening and Blessing of the Shed which is an extension of the NicholasJohn Op Shop, St Nicholas Church, Lakes Entrance. Archdeacon Ted Gibson and the Rev'd Canon Barb Logan led a short service to give thanks for the people who organised the building of the shed, and for the support we receive from the general public.



Centre: Ian Bucknall, who organised the building of the shed, Archdeacon Ted Gibson and the Rev'd Canon Barb Logan

St Valentine Celebration at Port Albert

St Valentine's day at St John's church in Port Albert was the setting for the renewal of Wedding Vows for five couples on February 14 this year.

The church was decorated with golden balloons as one couple – Thelma and Barry Hicks – were celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

The little church was full for the occasion as family and friends of each couple watched the service unfold. The theme of the service of course was Love, so the hymn "O Perfect Love" began the service and Glenda Amos read from 1 Corinthians Chapter 13.

The Rev'd Jo White then invited Char and Andrew Sanderson; Thelma and Barry Hicks; Ceci and Kevin Broughton; John and June Taylor; and Tricia and Alex Moon to move to the entrance of the church. Local trumpet player Saul Stainer and organist Ken White played the Wedding March as the

couples entered the church.

Jo led these couples in the Reaffirmation of their Wedding vows, but also invited any other couples in the congregation to join with them in this special part of the service. Saul also accompanied Ken on the organ for the final hymn "Love Divine".

A sumptuous afternoon tea was held in the church yard provided by the Friends of St John's and a wedding cake made by Fable Café in Yarram was cut by each couple. What a lovely opportunity to affirm the power of love on the Feast of St Valentine.



Barry and Thelma Hicks cut their Golden Wedding Anniversary cake



One end of the tug-of-war team: Jackson, Cohen, Amalie, Koby, Austin, Adew, Nyadet, Abuok and Andrew

Kidplus+ Camp Report 2016

Forest Lodge Farm at Jack River, near Yarram, provided excellent facilities for our 2016 Kidsplus+ Gippsland Camp. Under the theme of "Happiness is...", 38 participants enjoyed adventure challenges with high swing, flying fox, archery, ropes courses and cubby building.

The community acknowledged the many Acts of Random Kindness (ARK) with appropriate water droplet stress balls provided by one of our generous sponsor, Gippsland Water. The droplets to us also represented our thirst and quest for happiness.

Discussion and activity in age groups challenged thoughts on such a quest with

the challenge to seek Christ's help in providing for our sense of identity / self-worth, the need to be loved and our sense of belonging.

The lectionary reading of the Prodigal Son was a fitting culmination at worship on Sunday. Each camper provided a decorated patch which has been incorporated into an impressive quilt summarising the thoughts.

Our GFS Kidsplus+ network acknowledges with great appreciation the sponsorship received from organisations and Gippsland businesses. South East Water supported us with a financial subsidy for some of our participants; Gippsland Water provided

Sample bags, souvenirs and educational material; Federation Training, Arlec, and Smiles Dental Services were also generous with sample bag materials. Once again the Melbourne Executive of CEBS (The Anglican Boy's Society) provided small grant funding towards our bus hire, travel, and the specialist activity supervision – a total of \$1500! Such generosity enabled our diocesan Kidsplus+network to offer value-packed opportunities for young people across the diocese.

Looking Back, Moving Forward

That's our aim as Gippsland GFS continues to celebrate its 130 years of Ministry. The Official celebration will be held on Saturday 30 April. Past, present and enquiring friends, kids and youth groups all welcome. Spread the word, but please RSVP with approximate numbers to assist with the BBQ lunch and afternoon tea catering. Already expected guests include our Bishop Kay, our current Australian GFS Chairperson, Gail Orchard from Newcastle, the World GFS Secretary Tanya Brown from Sydney and other local, Victorian and interstate friends. Please refer to the advertisement on page 2.

Music Festival Comes to St Peter's



The East Gippsland Symphonia playing in the Quiet Garden at St Peter's by the Lake, Paynesville

Sue Fordham
Paynesville

The last week in February is always the date for the Paynesville Music Festival.

Bands perform in the local restaurants; the pub; from a barge on the McMillan Strait to massed audiences on the foreshore; and on Sunday, in St Peter's church and Quiet Garden.

This year was no exception. For the third year in a row, the East Gippsland Symphonia filled the sanctuary in front of the altar and made music for the 9:30 am Eucharist. The hymns had a really soaring quality and brought out the best in St Peter's congregational singing.

As usual, it was a very special experience and the Symphonia has asked to come to St Peter's again next year.

Following the service, the band played for an hour in the

Quiet Garden to an audience in excess of 60 people. The repertoire included the whole range of musical expression to complement the sacred music we had been treated to in the church.

The many strangers who came to enjoy the music were delighted by the hospitality of the St Peter's people who served a complimentary morning tea. In a world where nothing comes for free, this generosity did not go unremarked.

Jon Taylor moves to Geelong

Philip Muston

The Rev Jon Taylor has moved to take up a parish appointment in Geelong after 6 years as Chaplain to Gippsland Grammar.

Mr Taylor, 59, will become Vicar of the parish of Hamlyn Heights in Geelong's north-western suburbs.

The move marks a return to Geelong for Jon, his wife Karen and their three children. Before ordination he worked as Chaplain to St John's Lutheran Primary School in Geelong.

One aspect of the move that he looks forward to is being nearer Victoria's surf coast. Jon has been a keen, lifelong surfer, and in the last holidays travelled north to surf off the islands of Indonesia.

"Gippsland has been where my children have grown up," he said. "Charlie, 17, Ellie, 15 and Anna, 11 have spent such formative years in Sale." Karen worked as a nurse in Sale and made many friends.

Students at Gippsland Grammar appreciated Mr Taylor's example in friendship as well as in his teaching role. He was a chaplain who could "get alongside" young people in conversation.

One senior teacher said Jon had worked hard over the years behind the scenes to help Gippsland Grammar understand what it meant to be an Anglican school.

Among other things he will be remembered for the contemporary music he introduced to Chapel Worship at the school: songs like "My Lighthouse" and "All the People said Amen" have become firm favourites among the student body.

Jon, ordained in 2010, said the Gippsland clergy group had been a very significant influence upon him in his ministry formation.

"The Growth in Ministry group, with the annual Clergy Conferences and Retreats provided an important sense of collegiality for me and I will be forever grateful for that, and to Bishops John and Kay and other senior clergy for their leadership and guidance", he said.

The Rev'd Philip Muston is Rector at Warragul and Archdeacon of the Western Region



Bikers' Breakfast

Chris McAleer - Nar Nar Goon

Early on Saturday 5 March, motorcyclists from as far away as Werribee descended on St John's Church, Nar Nar Goon for the first Bikers' Breakfast. An excellent time was had by the 40+ who braved the drizzly weather, which never dampened the enthusiasm

of those who attended

It was a great witness of unity in Christ as members of CMA Victoria, God's Squad, Pilgrims, Connect Riders, Hills Riders, Ambassadors and lone riders shared hot food and warm fellowship with each other and the local community of faith.

Parked around the church and on the street, the bikes were a colourful testimony that people of faith also ride motorcycles.

We'll have to have another! Thanks to everyone for helping to make it a memorable event.

The Rev'd Chris McAleer is Rector of the Episcopal District of Nar Nar Goon and Cardinia Lakes

Mothers Union Certificate presented on Lady Day



At St Paul's Cathedral, Sale, on Lady Day, 15 March, a Certificate of Affiliation with the world-wide Mothers Union was presented to Lay Canon, Christine Morris. Christine accepted the framed certificate on behalf of the Cathedral Chapter. The certificate will be displayed in the cathedral. Pictured are (L-R) Jan Misiurka, Jenny MacRobb, Christine Morris and the Rev'd Thelma Langshaw.



The Rev'd Jon Taylor is farewelled



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Bishop Kay Goldsworthy addresses junior school students at the recent Easter Service, Bairnsdale Campus

Easter Fellowship with Bishop Kay

Jon Taylor

Junior Schools (St Anne's, Sale and Bairnsdale)

Easter is celebrated at the Junior Schools of Gippsland Grammar by both Campuses joining together for a combined Easter Fellowship. This year the two campuses will meet at the Bairnsdale Campus on the morning of the last day of term, Thursday March 24. Each school will have students involved through conducting interviews, leading prayers

and sharing musical items. Our special Easter Guest, Bishop Kay Goldsworthy will reflect on the Easter theme. The service will conclude with the Junior Schools singing a favourite Fellowship song "10 000 Reasons". These special combined Fellowships are held twice a year and are wonderful occasions of celebration for the Junior Schools.

Garnsey Campus (Secondary students)

The senior students (Years 7-12) have been moving steadily towards Easter since the Ash Wednesday Chapel services on Wednesday February 10. Many students waited in the foyer at the end of this service to receive ashes on their foreheads to commence the Lenten season.

The focus of the Wednesday Chapel services this term has been to look at the life of Jesus and see how his life connects with our own. Each Wednesday has had a particular Lenten/Easter theme: Loneliness (Jesus in the desert); Betrayal (Judas); Denial (Peter); Abandonment (the Cross); and Resurrection (the risen Lord).

The themes have been challenging and engaging because they are grounded in our human experience. As we come to the Easter break it is my prayer that the students find that this recent journey through Lent goes with them into this current Easter season but also stays with them and helps them reflect on the many Easters yet to come in their lives.

The Rev'd Jon Taylor was Chaplain at Gippsland Grammar school until 24 March. He has been appointed as Priest-in-Charge at St Alban's Anglican Church, Hamlyn Heights in Geelong.



Chaplain Deana Board with St Paul's students learning about the meaning of Easter this year

A Creative Easter at St Paul's Anglican Grammar

Daniel Lowe

With Easter falling in and around the school holidays each year there is always a bit of creativity required when it comes to celebrating Easter at school. Over the years we have enjoyed puppets, rock bands, actors, artists, storytellers, student panels and inspiring guest speakers, all bringing the gospel message of hope.

This year our Traralgon campus will continue its recent pattern of holding a joint Easter service where Junior and Secondary students can get together and celebrate this important event in our calendar. It has been good to have the Rev'd Canon Jeff Richardson from the Traralgon Anglican church with us on these occasions. He has even turned up in his

full regalia and explained to the students the significance of each item.

We've held a lively and interactive Easter service first thing in the morning which has been followed by an Easter egg hunt organised by our parents group, Friends of St Paul's. All children, whether in Year 10 or in 3 year old kinder, have enthusiastically searched for the eggs in the school grounds whilst hoping to find the few elusive "golden eggs"!

The service, followed by the Easter egg hunt, means a positive end to the school term by combining fun, worship and our important connection to the Anglican Church.

At our Warragul campus,

our service this year will feature a foot-washing as prefects model Christ's servant heart by washing the feet of some younger students; a candle lighting and reflection on sacrifice; plus the transformation of a plain wooden cross as students cover it with messages of hope written on coloured paper. Three of our senior students will present short reflections on the themes of service, sacrifice and hope.

Our prayer is that these events represent not just the joy of a term ending but also a deeper and more profound celebration of the message of the Gospel.

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



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Good News – God gives us a way to know him

Rich Lanham

I have been thinking lately about the way God loves us and desires for us to be whole.

It's clear from reading the Bible that God intended us to be connected to himself and also to each other. God created us to live in union with him and to follow the plan he had for his creation. The story of Adam and Eve describes the love, care and provision that God gave us in the beginning; and also our human desire to do whatever we want, when we want, even when we know the consequences are not good.

God gives us the opportunity to once again be in relationship with him, by having faith in what Jesus has done for us. Jesus willingly died on the cross to pay the price of our sin. Jesus took upon himself the cost of our sin and our rejection of God, and died. But God raised him from death to show that nothing has to keep us from being with God if we don't want it to.

We are called to "repent and believe the Good News". This is what Jesus

tells us in Mark 1:15. To "repent" is to have a new mind or a change of mind; to stop seeking to have whatever you want whenever you want it, regardless of the consequences to people or the planet.

"The Good news" is that God has given us a way, through faith in Jesus, to know him and experience his love in spite of our turning away from him. The amazing thing in all this is the possibility of the flow-on benefit for everyone in our community. As we realise God's love for us and decide to return to him by faith in Jesus, our lives change because our priorities change.

We begin to value what God cares about and start to follow Jesus' example, and to love like Jesus does. It's our role as followers of Jesus to love people and build them up and particularly to tell them about what Jesus has done for us. Our lives are one of the greatest tools God can use to show his love to people. So I encourage you to live a life that reflects God's love for his creation.

The Rev'd Rich Lanham is Diocesan Youth Officer and Missional Priest of the 123 Project.

CREATIVE SPIRIT FESTIVAL 2016 – Sense of Place, 6-8 May

The development of the Creative Spirit Festival over the past few years has occurred through conversations and organisation with members of both St Philip's congregation and St John's Uniting Church in Cowes.

The initial concept emerged from St Philip's Art Exhibition, held over the past ten years. The idea was to provide a context for the Art Show, reflecting on spirituality and the arts, how our experience of the arts can contribute to our understanding and experience of spirituality.

Over the past four years, the program has included events such as reflecting on particular artworks linked to the prophets; songs and poetry; a classical guitar recital; hymn festivals; walking the labyrinth on the Saturday which is World

Labyrinth Day. A combined service has been held at St John's Uniting Church on Sunday with significant contributions from our late Bishop John McIntyre (2013) and our current Bishop Kay Goldsworthy (2015).

This year's festival is being planned with the theme, *Sense of Place*. Artists are invited to submit works in any visual medium which relate to this theme.

Other events will encourage exploration of what "place" can mean for our understanding of God and our life in community. There will be some input regarding Celtic spirituality with Celtic harpist Cath Connelly.

More details and entry form for the Art Show are available on the Parish website: <http://anglicanparishbassphillipisland.com/>



Fiona Thomas, Jane Anderson, Sarah Morris, the Rev'd David Head and Michelle Pepi

Parishes connect with Anglicare Victoria

Anglicare Victoria has a rich and diverse relationship with the Diocese of Gippsland. Through combined efforts, the parishes and Anglicare Victoria have supported the community through a number of projects and appeals, such as the Winter Appeal and the Bishop's Appeal.

There is the grants program which assists the development of community groups like *mainly music*, and the "Being a Dad" program for inmates of Fulham Correctional Centre, designed to improve parenting skills. The Diocesan Mothers Union Groups worked with the Anglicare administrative staff to provide indigenous resources at reception, such as Gunai Kurnai story books and Aboriginal dolls.

On 25 November 2015 Anglicare Victoria Staff had the chance to meet the Rev'd David Head of St Mary's Anglican Church Morwell. At the staff monthly networking breakfast David introduced himself, spoke about his life and how he came to be the Rector at the Morwell Parish. He welcomed staff to seek his support at any time.

David also attended the following breakfast that was held on 27 January when we marked Australia Day, celebrating the diversity of our culture. David joined the yarning circle for a chat with staff. These breakfasts have been a great opportunity for staff to get to know and further strengthen their relationship with David.

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Registrations close 22 May.
For more details, visit: www.micahaustralia.org/voicesforjustice.

Resurrection calls the church back to life

Dean Spalding

One thing that we learn from Luke's amazing resurrection narratives (Luke 24:1-12, 13-35, 36-53) is that, somehow, the resurrected Jesus calls the church back into a living community and empowers it.

Luke has a distinct preference for "showing" his audience ideas, rather than just "telling" them. And so, in typical Lukan fashion, the resurrection narratives begin by painting a portrait of the fractured state of the community of disciples (24:1-12). When the women among the disciples are the first

to testify to the resurrection of Jesus, the male disciples will not believe them. According to some manuscripts, immediately after this unflattering depiction of a church divided by gender, Peter runs off to the tomb alone, but seeing nothing but the linen cloths, goes home, rather than rejoining the community.

The Emmaus Road narrative (24:13-35) also commences with a portrait of a disintegrating community. The two disciples who are headed out of town seem determined to leave the community. They articulate their disillusionment to the stranger who joins their journey.

Unknown to the two disciples – but disclosed to the narrative's audience – the stranger is Jesus himself. The reader has the privilege of observing the transforming effect that Jesus has, as he brings hope, encouragement, joy and re-integration to the fledgling community. This restoration culminates in the hospitality of the meal, which is very evocative of the Lord's Supper.

As Jesus' identity is made clear to the disciples, they reform as a community. They stop running away and re-group. They witness, firstly to one another, in preparation for taking the good news of the resurrection to the ends of the earth.

The two Emmaus disciples seek to rejoin the eleven and their companions who make it clear that Simon Peter too has been restored to the group in the light of his (off-stage) encounter with the risen Jesus. The reconstitution of the community is finalised as they are all re-grouped and, finally, joined by Jesus in the third resurrection episode (24:36-49).

The Lukan resurrection narratives fill me with appreciation for how the resurrected Jesus calls the church back into community. The church holds together only in the power of the resurrection. If there were no resurrection the church would disintegrate as it was doing in the face of the death of Jesus. The church is called for a purpose and Jesus' final words to the disciples make that purpose clear – "and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations". Jesus' resurrection still has the power to call us into a living missional community today.

Luke doesn't portray the church community as a utopia. He lets his reader see that it can be fractured; its members can fail to trust and believe one another. We can be divided unnecessarily along lines such as gender, age, cultural, social and economic differences. Sometimes faithful prophetic witness is ignored. Disciples experience disillusionment and run away. Some retreat to their homes. Some aim to leave the community and forget.

Encountering the risen Lord – living in the light of the resurrection – has the power to heal the ruptures and restore the integrity of the church. Easter's proclamation of resurrection has the power to call us out of regret, betrayal, disillusionment, disintegration, disunity, conflict and apathy. When the church seems irreparably fractured, when mistrust of the witness of others seems to hold sway, when certain sectors of the church are marginalised or subjugated – then, as a contemporary hymn from the Iona community proclaims, Christ's love can "call us back to life again".

*The Rev'd Dr Dean Spalding
is Rector of Drouin.*



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EDITORIAL

A family out of place

Three tiny balls of fluff on stick legs are earnestly pecking away at the grass on the nature strip. Mother and father duck are close by, alternately eating and keeping watch.

Nothing unusual in this, except for the location. This short street is bordered on both sides by car sales yards – not a likely home for ducks! So where did they come from?

They are not far from a T intersection. Across the wide main road is a park and a duck pond. But how did this family make it across such a busy road? These tiny hatchlings certainly did not fly. Perhaps they were chased onto the road by a teasing child – or even a fox. How many of the creatures did not make it safely to the other side?

This is a family out of place. Like many families around the world, they need sanctuary.

SBS reported on 13 March that hundreds of people have participated in training sessions around Australia to assist asylum seekers looking for "sanctuary" in churches. The report said "Around 115 churches including Uniting, Anglican and Salvation Army have pledged to open their doors to asylum seekers, including children, facing deportation to Nauru".

Seeking asylum from persecution in other countries is legal: Australia is a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention which sets out the rights of asylum seekers. Locking people up in off-shore detention centres has also recently been deemed to be legal by the High Court, after the practice was challenged, but that doesn't make it moral, as many have pointed out.

Whether or not offering sanctuary in churches is a good idea, Christians have a responsibility to grapple with the questions, and to assist in the best way we can so that people who have escaped terrible situations can find a new place to call home.

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

Autism Awareness Workshops at Bairnsdale postponed

The Autism Awareness Month workshops due to be held on 30 April have been postponed. They will be run at a later date to be advised.



Retiring Police Chaplain Russell Macqueen VPSM reflects

After almost 29 years as a Police Chaplain, Russell Macqueen decided that it was time to step down due to other commitments.

He was asked by TGA to write a brief reflection of his time as a Police Chaplain. He writes:

Approached by ITIM (Inter Church Trade and Industry Mission) when I went to Orbost in 1987, the journey with Police Chaplaincy began. The territory was from Bairnsdale to Mallacoota, Bairnsdale to Omeo and from Orbost up to Bonang, Bendoc. Bendoc was visited in conjunction with Tubbut (via Bonang) for Religious Education teaching in the Primary School. My car was my office and it was quite lonely at times but I was always welcome on my visits to the police.

When I went to Yarram, I covered the area from Sale to Corner Inlet.

In 1996, the Reverend Jim Pilmer (newly appointed Senior Police Chaplain for Victoria Police) approached me to say that Vic Police wanted a new chaplaincy structure and he was employed to get it going. He was trying to enlist about 30 chaplains across the State. I was to cover the same Stations on a three hour/week contract but 24/7 on call. It was usually more than the three hours, rarely less.

In 1997 I moved to Maffra and fortunately, I was asked to continue as a contracted chaplain to the six stations of the Sale/Maffra cluster plus Yarram and then Loch Sport "on call".

I was updated regularly by the Inspector and Senior Sergeant as to the pastoral work required. Most of the time it was a case of visiting, listening, and keeping one's ear open to what was happening. Following up after fatalities and other traumatic events, or the sick or injured and other police matters was important.

So was being there at the critical times such as fatalities, fires or floods as well as being available for the happy times such as weddings and baptisms. Then there were the occasions of spiritual support or questioning, but these were always instigated by the Officer.

This work has been a big part of my life. Most of these officers have seen some pretty rough things. They have a particular culture that I have been privileged to be a part of, but I never interfered. Some have embraced me warmly. Some still keep their distance and many would never enter a church by choice. It has been such an honour to mix with them and all chaplains are treated so well by Vic Police senior management, from the Chief Commissioner down.

Chaplains are interdenominational, on call 24/7, visit stations, homes, hospitals, face to face to offer "low key" support and to refer on if necessary. The work of chaplaincy is totally confidential without any fear of reports or records.

I have developed a tremendous respect for these men and women. Police are generally tough, but just one fatality, one event too many and the toughness can snap. Chaplains walk beside them, listen to what they are going through, and keep their eyes and ears open to where they are needed. I have been privileged to listen to police, walk with them, attend the good and the bad with them and I will certainly miss the work. However, I have already been asked to keep dropping in to several of the stations.



Russell Macqueen

CORRESPONDENCE

I was interested in the priorities implied in the headline attached to the page one story (*The Gippsland Anglican*, vol. 113, No. 1 February 2016) about a meeting between the Bishop of Gippsland (Kay Goldsworthy) and the Roman Catholic Bishop of Sale (Patrick O'Regan). The headline read: Our common home – two bishops talk climate, ecology and faith.

If indeed, at this episcopal discourse, the Christian faith did come third (when ranked against climate and ecology), I suppose it could be said that the two bishops were simply exemplifying the ethos of the mainstream churches in the West.

When I discussed this with another former Anglican, however, I was reproved for the interpretation I'd placed on the headline. Her defence of the two bishops was that, possibly, they simply couldn't find much to say under the third head. Another acquaintance of mine had a different suggestion. Perhaps Faith was the given (I almost said "Christian") name of the receptionist at an Anglican Church illegal immigrant welcome centre?

Paul Nicholls, Lower Templestowe

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– Tips and inspiration for churches and households



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For more on this topic: buynothingnew.com.au and open.abc.net.au/explore/89732 or try Juliet Schor's book: *Plenitude*.

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Brian Teese

Carpenter, Maffra

Jan Down

Sometimes through force of circumstances people find themselves having to work in a job they are not suited to and don't enjoy. That is far from the case with Brian Teese! There is a note of thankfulness in his voice when he says "I've been built to do the things I do". Now aged in his late 50s, he is glad to be still physically fit and able.

Brian worked as a bricklayer and stone mason for many years, but in the 1990s felt the need for a change. He had always had an interest in timber and carpentry, and had picked up skills over the years, so this is the direction he took.

His love of older buildings has led Brian to work on the restoration of period houses, churches and any other old buildings in need of repair. He has worked on The Abbey Chapel of St Barnabas on Raymond Island, St Paul's Cathedral in Sale and St John's Church in Maffra, amongst others.

One house he has restored is the original manse of the Uniting Church (formerly Presbyterian) in Maffra, now privately owned. This grand old weatherboard has bull-nosed verandahs with tessellated tiles on the verandah floor and tuck pointed chimneys. In the first place, Brian was called in to do some repairs to the tuck

pointing. This then led to him taking on the restoration of the whole house, a project he found very satisfying.

Brian likes to use old materials where he can, partly because he wants to recycle them, and partly because this is a way to "keep the history alive".

He finds the restoration work gives him a lot of variety, which is a welcome change after the single focus of bricklaying. He says there is "an ever-widening circle of things to do and skills to learn", which keeps work interesting. "I am fortunate to have a group of other tradesmen

I can call on – I work with a lovely group of people".

When faith is fully integrated in a person's life, it can be harder to identify how it informs the way they

live and work. Brian says "It's part of your fabric. You carry it into your business". There are times when he has a sense of being directed in some of the things he builds. He is quick to qualify this: "Not every day's a good day. You make mistakes". But sometimes he says it is as if his hands "don't even need to be told what to do".

Then there is Brian's ministry of listening, especially during "smokos" on a work site. He often finds himself picking up on cues from people who need a listening ear. "On any given day someone might happen along who has a story to tell

and a need to be listened to, or is simply in for a chat and the gift we give to each other is to be available and to connect."

Brian is appreciated at St John's Anglican Church, Maffra, for his help with maintenance work. If there is a squeaky chair, leaking tap or loose tile, Brian is the go-to person. He has also become involved in other ways, especially after the encouragement of the Rev'd Graham Knott. Last year he led the Lenten studies, and he has also been assisting with the chalice during communion.

Lynette and Brian have a large family of six boys, but tragically lost one of them very suddenly six years ago, to an undiagnosed brain tumour. Christian was thirteen years old at the time. Brian says that although it has been a very sad and difficult time for the family, rather than blaming God for their loss, "We have felt God with us all the way".

Apart from his restoration work, Brian has many other interests. He keeps bees and horses and loves riding. "When you ride, it's a bit like flying. It's a lovely release". He is currently working on quieting a rescue horse.

The bees hold great fascination and carry a connection to Christian, as Brian attended a beekeeping course with Christian the year before he died.

Brian is also involved in three theatre groups, though mainly with the Maffra Dramatic Society. He is currently directing a play – a comedy called *Cash on Delivery* – to be performed at the Stratford Courthouse Theatre in June.



Diocesan calendar

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

April

- 21 9:30 am Diocesan staff meeting followed by 1:30 pm Bishop-in-Council
- 22 10:30 am Anglicare Parish Partnerships Steering Committee meeting
- 24 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm Victorian Council of Churches Emergency Ministries (VCCCEM) Information Evening St. Paul's Anglican Hall, cnr Queen & Bridge Sts Korumburra.
Learn why it is important to have teams of volunteers ready to deliver Personal Support and Psychological First Aid (PSA) during times of crisis. No charge.
Enquiries: The Rev'd Geoff Pittaway 0411 639 363
- 30 10:30 am GFS Victorian State Council Meeting at The Summit, Trafalgar East;
12 noon 130th year GFS Celebration BBQ Lunch followed by memorabilia displays, afternoon tea, children's and youth activity afternoon (flying fox, games and kayaking water fun). Details page 2.

May

- 6 – 8 "Sense of Place" Creative Spirit Festival, Phillip Island, jointly organised and run by St Philip's Anglican and St John's Uniting Churches, Cowes.
- 13 – 15 First Session of the 38th Synod at Sale

June

- 18 9:00 am – 5.00 pm VCCCEM Training Day at St. Peter's Anglican Church, Leongatha.
Cost: \$80 workers, \$40 concession or refresher. There is some pre-training book work that must be completed in order to do the training.
RSVP: The Rev'd Geoff Pittaway 0411 639 363 or Denise Martin 0438 681 451.
Morning / afternoon tea and lunch provided.
Cost includes workbook materials, ID badge, and a VCCCEM Polo. Please advise any food restrictions.



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