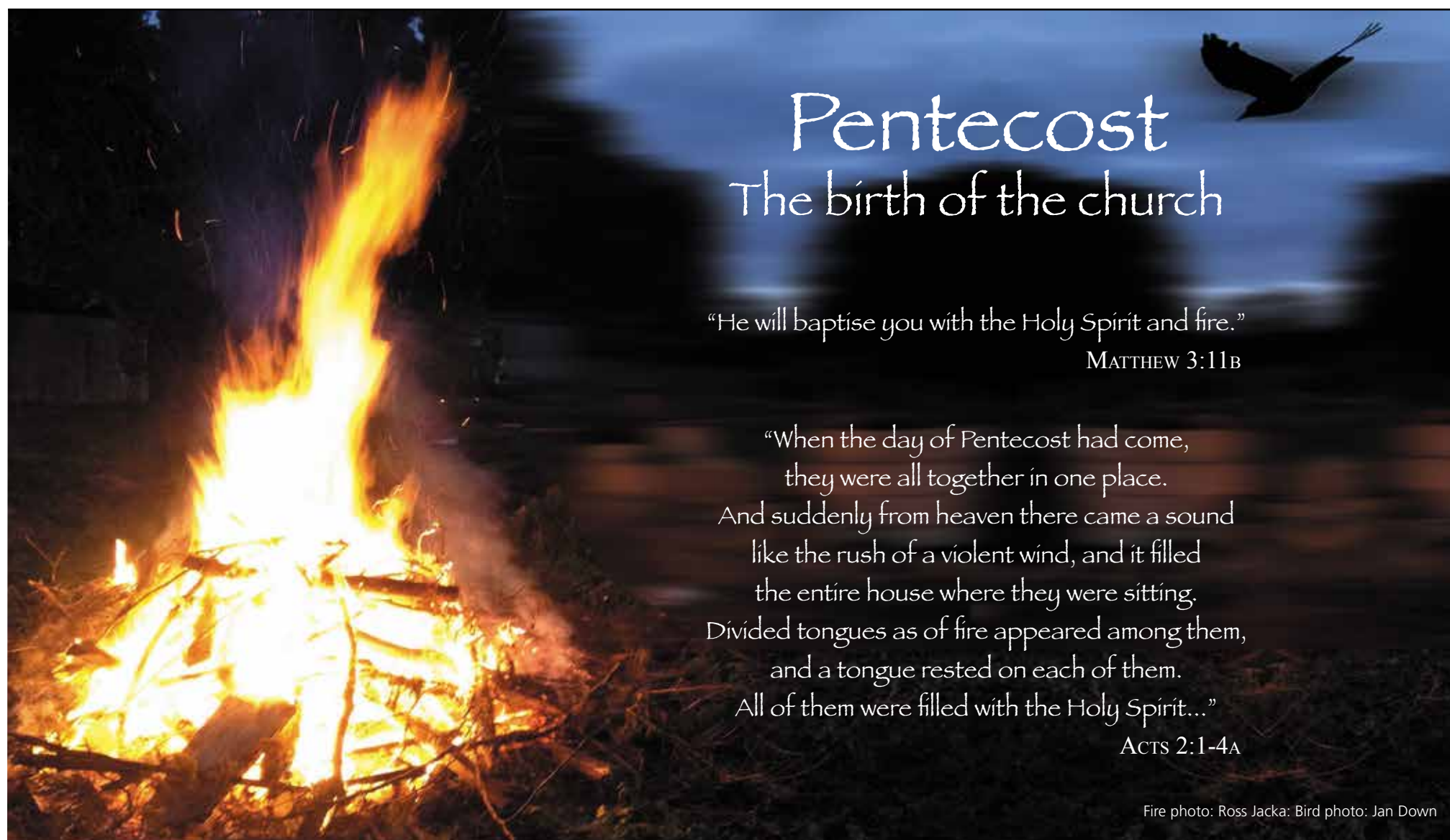


# The Gippsland Anglican

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## Pentecost The birth of the church

"He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

MATTHEW 3:11B

"When the day of Pentecost had come,  
they were all together in one place.  
And suddenly from heaven there came a sound  
like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled  
the entire house where they were sitting.  
Divided tongues as of fire appeared among them,  
and a tongue rested on each of them.  
All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit..."

ACTS 2:1-4A

Fire photo: Ross Jacka: Bird photo: Jan Down

## Gippsland Grammar enRiched



Gippsland Grammar's new chaplain, the Rev'd Rich Lanham, working with Bairnsdale Campus students Lagan Joshi and Elsie Pearce, years 3 and 4 respectively

Lisa Baker  
Jan Down

The Rev'd Rich Lanham has been appointed as Gippsland Grammar's new chaplain.

Gippsland Grammar Principal, David Baker, said "We are thrilled to have Rich joining our community – his energy and passion for the personal and spiritual development of our students align with our direction as a School. In particular Rich will be a driving influence of our service learning program."

With more than 20 years' experience as a youth worker, community builder and pastor, Rich is excited about his new role.

"What hits me the most about the Gippsland Grammar community is its amazing 'culture', if you like, of giving young people permission to try their best, do their best and be the best they can be," Rich said.

"My personal mission is to help create environments and vehicles which support and enable young people to thrive, reach their God-given potential and to

know the love of Jesus. Every young person wants to know they are loved, valued and have purpose, and I aim to ensure they do".

Rich takes over from the Rev'd Jon Taylor, who left the school after six years at the end of Term 1 to be Vicar of Hamlyn Heights in Geelong and to be closer to his family.

Rich lives in Sale with his wife Julie and has three sons, Jack, Jacob and Elijah. He moved to Sale nearly five years ago to work as assistant minister at St Paul's Cathedral and was ordained a priest in 2014.

He has also had a role with the Gippsland Anglican Diocese as the Diocesan Youth Officer, and continues as Missional Priest of the 123 Project located in Cunninghame Street, Sale, which will offer young people a place to socialise, grow spiritually, and develop vocational skills.

Rich's experience includes working within dioceses, churches, communities and schools, supporting young people and their families both in NSW and Victoria.

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Who do people say that I am?" This is a question which Mark's gospel records Jesus asking his disciples as they stood together in a kind of pagan heartland, in Caesarea Philippi.

It raised another question: in this setting, in this place, will his disciples see him clearly enough? Jesus seems to be asking his disciples if they understand yet who and what is among them. Perhaps they will give some kind of warm, family-focussed answer, telling of Joseph and Mary his wife who live in nearby Nazareth. Maybe they will focus on wider family and region, or on Jesus the teacher.

Everyone had an answer, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, others a prophet." "Yes, but who do you say that I am?" Ah! Here now we can remember Peter calling out the answer: "You are the Christ."

Questions still get asked of those of us who are followers of Jesus. Some of the questions are about Jesus. Who is he to you? Why do you spend time studying his words and actions? Other questions



Bishop Kay Goldsworthy

## Who are you?

are about ourselves – Jesus' followers. Do our words and actions measure up, when compared with the way Jesus told his followers to speak and act? Some recent incidents have really stood out for me, showing both who Jesus is, and

who his followers can be.

One is the revelation that the man who had been believed to be the father of Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, was not in fact his biological father. Papers in England ran front page headlines. Anglican

news services around the Communion also highlighted the story. It's not every day that an Archbishop of Canterbury is asked about who they think they are because of a DNA test. Archbishop Welby said, "I know that I find who I am in Jesus Christ, not in genetics, and my identity in him never changes... It is a testimony to the grace and power of Christ to liberate and redeem us, grace and power which is offered to every human being."

Another is the story of the visit of Pope Francis, the Patriarch of Constantinople and the Archbishop of Athens to a detention centre for refugees on the Greek island of Lesbos. These church leaders showed the watching world who they are in Christ. When Pope Francis returned to Rome there were an extra twelve people with him, all of them Syrian refugees from two families who will be cared for by the Vatican. The Pope said, "Before they are numbers, refugees are first and foremost human beings." And in this action he showed others who he is in the grace of Christ.

I hope that, over the coming months, Australian political leaders and would-be leaders will show us clearly who they are and what they stand for. I will remember Pope Francis' words that before we are numbers we are human beings. I will remember Archbishop Justin's words that "It is a testimony to the grace and power of Christ to liberate and redeem us, grace and power which is offered to every human being". And I will look for signs of that grace in the policies of would-be leaders.

We will all be praying that the Holy Spirit will open us to the breath and power of God. The Spirit moves in and between us, so that when we are faced with difficult and complex issues, our first and best response will show clearly the love of Jesus.

Peace,

*+Kay*

## Diocesan Community Development Officer

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# Double the joy for Von Dubbeld

Tony Wicking

On Friday 4 March, Von Dubbeld graduated from Eastern College (formerly Tabor College Victoria) with a Bachelor of Theology. She was amongst a number of students who graduated from different faculties of the college. Rosemary May and I attended this celebration along with Von's family.

Graduation is no mean feat and needs to be celebrated. In Von's case it is more so. She has been working towards this for over 15 years. A truly remarkable effort given that during this time she raised a family and worked part time. This is a wonderful lesson in following the call of God and also in perseverance.

The surprise of the night, for us all, was when she was awarded the faculty prize for her work with "In Touch". This prize is given each year to the student who best applies their learning as well as showing the ideals of the college. This is a public endorsement of this new ministry which has been initiated here as we seek to find ways of making worship appropriate and



The In Touch team: Rosemary May, Von Dubbeld and the Rev'd Tony Wicking

relevant for people with "diffabilities". The college has been very supportive to her about this initiative.

We congratulate Von for her work as well as acknowledging Mick and the children in their support of her as she juggled her commitments and time away from home.

The Rev'd Tony Wicking is rector of Bairnsdale.



Von Dubbeld with her awards



The Rev'd Colin Oakley

## Long-awaited appointment for Westernport

Jan Down

After being vacant for over three years, the parish of Westernport has a new priest. The Rev'd Colin Oakley has been appointed as Priest in Charge of Westernport and Minister of the Word for the Uniting Church congregations of Koo Wee Rup and Lang Lang.

Prior to this, Colin has been curate at St Luke's, Carrum Downs and St John's, Frankston North. Colin and his wife Anthea, who is a primary school teacher, have two children. They have lived in Carrum Downs for 19 years.

Colin has a background in traditional solid plastering, the family trade. He came to faith in Christ later in life and felt called to ordained ministry in 2006, since which time he has been working towards that calling. He trained for the priesthood at Ridley College in Melbourne.

Colin will be inducted on 4 May at St John's Anglican Church, Lang Lang at 7.30 pm. The 99 year old rectory at Lang Lang has been extensively refurbished.

Colin said he is looking forward to moving to Lang Lang and "meeting and growing with new people in the church and the wider community".



The 99 year old rectory at Lang Lang has been refurbished



*A Tree for Peace at the community centre in Paynesville*

## Paynesville's Tree for Peace

**Sue Fordham**

That first Easter began with the long journey to Jerusalem and so it began for St Peter's Paynesville again this year, where the services of Holy Week are seen as one continuous story told over a succession of days.

On Palm Sunday the congregation walked in procession with prayerful singing, to the inaugural Tree for Peace at the community centre.

The peace tree, the brainchild of Archdeacon Edie Ashley, was given space at the community centre provided that it was open to all, so people of all faiths and no faith were invited to take part.

The idea was to hang the tree with art works that depicted peace in any of its forms.

The Men's Shed made the tree from a large multi-forked branch set firmly in a tub, while local people, including the schools and art and craft groups were invited to contribute art pieces: paintings, verse, sculpture, photographs, textile art, pottery – the only limitation being size, so that the tree would not be over burdened.

There were many favourable comments by locals who tended to see it as a great initiative. This was the inaugural peace tree and we hope to make it an annual event.

Maundy Thursday was celebrated with the ritual foot or hand washing and the stripping of the church of all ornamentation

to focus the mind on the austerity of Good Friday to follow.

On Good Friday there was the usual re-enactment of the crucifixion in the lengthy Gospel reading, the veneration of the cross accompanied by a two voice rendition of Hymn 334 (TIS): "At the cross her vigil keeping" and then prayers for the world and the church.

Faithful to tradition, the congregation celebrated the coming of the Easter light at the Abbey. At dusk, the new fire was lit by Jim Rennick, blessed by Bishop Kay and from the fire the 2016 Paschal candle was lit, blessed and taken into the darkening church.

The Bishop preached on the Gospel reading, commenting on how often we are like the bystanders at the tomb, sometimes amazed, sometimes in denial, sometimes fearful, sometimes enthused, before lapsing back into life's routines. We recognise ourselves in all these, she said, but still strive to be changed and draw closer to God's saving love in Jesus.

The renewal of the Baptismal vows was followed by the Eucharist and completed by a Celtic Benediction, and by this time, the chapel of St Barnabas was aflame with candle light against the back drop of a lake lapped in darkness.

Following the service, dinner was served in the A Frame, the celebration pausing until the following morning's great Easter Eucharist, studded with music and prayer and thanksgiving.

## Explosion of joy!

**Carolyn Raymond – Morwell**

The journey of Holy Week, which we travel from Palm Sunday, to Maundy Thursday; Good Friday through to Easter Saturday is profoundly moving: Jesus giving his life for us on the cross. These services are a deeply spiritual experience, culminating in the joyful celebration of our Lord's resurrection on Easter Day.

Our Easter celebration was indeed an explosion of joy. The Lord has risen, he is risen indeed – Alleluia! We were blessed and felt very privileged to have Bishop Kay with us for both the 8:00 am and 10:00 am services on Easter Day. Her presence with us was affirming for all of us, of our belonging to the church family of our Anglican Diocese. Her sermon spoke to our humanity, as we seek to live our lives as followers of Jesus and in the light of God's love. We still had the palm branches decorating the church, a reminder of the journey of Holy Week.

The tradition of the early church was that new members of the church would spend Lent in preparation and

would receive baptism on Easter Day. In this tradition many of the congregation stood and reaffirmed their baptismal vows.

Andrew Hawken publicly stood with the Rev David Head to renew his baptismal vows. Bishop Kay formally received George Francis and Kevin Francis into the Anglican church. Surandjaja Dharmadasa and Kevin Francis brought their twin sons Aiyaan and Aarya Dharmadasa-Francis forward for baptism. It seemed so right for the twins, loved members of our church's family, to be baptised on Easter Day.

Bishop Kay also handed out the certificates to the six young people who had been received into communion two weeks before. Many family and friends of those making their vows came to the service to celebrate with their loved ones.

There was a special morning tea to follow with Easter eggs.

Jesus is risen, Alleluia! What a service of joy and celebration!



*Zipporah Dalton with the Rev'd Kathy Dalton and other family members, celebrating as she was welcomed to Holy Communion*



*Aiyaan and Aarya Dharmadasa-Francis and their family, god parents and friends, after the service*



*Photo by Naomi McDonald*

### Pam Schmack – Lay Canon Emeritus

Pam Schmack was presented with her Lay Canon Emeritus certificate in St Paul's Cathedral, Sale, on Easter Day.

*L-R: The Rev'd Ken Parker, Pam Schmack and her husband Karl*

David Williams (right) is Director of Training and Development for CMS Australia.

Following talks he gave at CMS summer conferences around the country, he considers two widely differing responses to refugees.

The refugee crisis in Syria and other parts of the Muslim world continues to capture our attention. According to the UNHCR, more than 20 million people are refugees worldwide – nearly the entire population of Australia.

In the West there are two quite different narratives running in response. To use terminology from Miroslav Volf, a Croatian theologian, they are the narratives of exclusion and embrace.

“... the narratives of exclusion and embrace ...”

We hear the narrative of exclusion from the lips of Donald Trump. His statements about exclusion have moved from the extraordinary to the bizarre. Build a wall between Mexico and the United States. Send all the Muslims home. Trump’s comments are certainly extreme. But the sentiment behind them is not uncommon.

Jerry Falwell is the head of Liberty University, a Christian University in the United States. He recently encouraged his students to get a permit to carry concealed guns. He said: “I just want to take this opportunity to encourage all of you to get your permit. We offer

a free course. And let’s teach them a lesson if they ever show up here.” This is the narrative of exclusion.

The narrative of embrace, on the other hand, seeks to offer a welcome. In Germany, ordinary people went to the railway station to welcome refugees. Here’s a newspaper account from last September:

*On Saturday night at Munich’s main station, dozens of Germans lined up behind police barriers to clap, cheer and distribute sweets to welcome refugees to their new home. “We just wanted them to know that the torture is over,” said Hedy, a grandmother handing out slabs of chocolate amid welcoming cheers.*



## Exclusion and Embrace

*“I have children and a five-year-old grandchild and when I think what they have been through, these children, it leaves me on the ground.”*

Of course Governments have the right and the responsibility to protect their citizens and to determine their border policies. But we are not Government. Our calling is to “love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us” (Luke 6:27). Our hearts must embrace, not exclude.

The image of exclusion certainly includes out-right hatred and hostility. However, Volf suggests that just as bad as hatred is indifference. He writes: *the havoc wreaked by indifference may be even greater than that brought about by*

*felt, lived, practised hatred ... the mass destruction of Jews in World War Two was accompanied not by the uproar of emotions but the dead silence of unconcern.<sup>1</sup>*

This, I think, is our greater risk. The risk of indifference. It’s too far away, too complicated. So I don’t care.

“... just as bad as hatred is indifference ...”

The opposite of exclusion is embrace. We open our arms to hug those we love, encircling them with our embrace. Volf uses the image of Christ crucified:

*At the heart of the cross is Christ’s stance of not letting the other remain an enemy and of creating space for the offender to come in. As an expression of the will to embrace the enemy, the cross is no doubt a scandal in a world suffused with hostility. We instinctively reach for a sword, but the cross offers us outstretched arms and a naked body with a pierced side.<sup>2</sup>*

What might it look like for us to repent of our indifference and welcome with outstretched arms? How might we work to reshape our nation’s narrative about the refugee crisis towards embrace rather than exclusion?

<sup>1</sup> *Exclusion and Embrace*, Miroslav Volf, page 77.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, page 126.

*This article was originally published in CMS Victoria Branch Matters, April 2016, Vol 10 No 3, and is reproduced with the kind permission of CMS.*

## All nations at Allansfield - Phillip Island



*A plaque in the Quiet Garden at Allansfield, a centre for healing and retreat run by the Order of St Luke the Physician*

**Trudy Sharman**

This plaque, recently installed in the Quiet Garden space at Allansfield retreat centre on Phillip Island, is very meaningful to an Iraqi refugee family who regularly are guests here.

It reads:

*“Jesus said, “Come to me...”*

(MATT 11:28,29)

*And God said, “My presence will go with you and I will give you rest”*

(EXODUS 33:14)

When they arrived at our acre “field” garden, the first place to explore was the outdoor chapel with its cross and plaque. “Faye” was the first of her Christian Iraqi family to come to Australia firstly escaping over the Iraqi border with her husband and children. Faye and the family spent five years in a Syrian refugee camp before coming to Australia. Her experiences in the refugee camp required further endurance with very little food; a half kilometre walk to the closest toilet amenities; always wading through mud in the camp; and at night-time millions of scorpions in and around bedding.

Upon arrival in Australia Faye had to learn the English language and adapt to our Australian way of life. However, her Christian faith upheld her in the midst of challenges, which for some of us would be too overwhelming. It is through Faye’s perseverance that most of her extended family are now also in Australia.

We have been greatly blessed to host Faye and her family at Allansfield. Upon arrival on Friday evenings Faye’s usual greeting is “You are coming to share a meal tonight, Yes!” and we are feted to simple middle Eastern fare – delicious!

Saturday evening and Sunday mornings they are off to Mass at

St. Phillip’s Anglican Church, Cowes – Faye often laden with goodies and casseroles to share, accompanied by her optimistic bubbly, generous, joyful personality.

Another group who spiritually bless us here by their visits are Oscar and Mary and family with their group – all native Zimbabweans who have made Australia “home”. Oscar and his family came to Australia due to work limitations in Zimbabwe – Oscar continues here as an automobile mechanic and Mary is studying in the medical field. They are both members of the leadership team in their Melbourne church and once a month come here with their Zimbabwean friends.

During their weekend retreats Allansfield is saturated with their melodious African harmonies as they spend the weekend in praise, prayer, Bible reading and teaching, interspersed with their wonderful humour. We have learned they love to sit out in the garden around a fire and share in fellowship – part of their home culture.

They always leave very early Sunday mornings to attend their worship services back in Melbourne.

A joyful, graceful, positive people, they are a wonderful asset to our nation.

# The Girls' Friendly Society – East Gippsland

As part of our celebrations of 130 years of ministry through the world-wide Anglican ministry of the Girls' Friendly Society, our current GFS Kidsplus+ ministry network is hoping to connect with anyone who is or has been involved in the past.

During the year we are hoping to gather on the fourth Saturday of each month in one of the deanery regions with an appropriate activity, looking back in celebration but also looking forward as to how we can serve local communities.

We would like to be in East Gippsland in May. Anyone interested in such an opportunity please contact Mary Nicholls 51272929 or Carol Johnstone 51748445 or email: gippskidsplus@people.net.au

## Historical reflection

Between the years of 1885 to 1893 East Gippsland hosted GFS branches in Sale, Bairnsdale, Stratford, Maffra, Omeo with Bruthen, Yarram and Orbost, beginning in the early 1900s. A'Beckett Park played a huge role in GFS ministry, with girls camps being held there regularly from the early 1900s onward.

A letter provided by June Soutter, formerly of Omeo and Bairnsdale, speaks of the participation of Gippslanders in the Annual GFS Debutante Ball held at the Malvern Town Hall in 1948. Do any readers have similar recollections? We would love to hear them.

A newspaper extract from Monday 13 September 1948 reads as follows:

"Flags of many nations, expressing the international scope of the Girls' Friendly Society, decorated the stage of the Malvern Town Hall last night for the Annual GFS Ball. The flag of GFS itself hung from the balcony. After being presented to Lady Angliss, the 21 Debutantes danced the *Dashing White Sergeant*, a reel favoured by Princess Margaret Rose. With their individual frocks of white marquise over taffetas, the debutantes wore GFS badges and blue mittens, and carried blue and white posies. More than 500 guests were present. The official party included the acting president of GFS (Mrs C.H. Edmondson) and Archdeacon and Mrs R H B Williams."



Ecumenical walk on Good Friday at Trafalgar

Photo: Ross Jacka

## Good Friday walk renewed

Deirdre Crawley  
Trafalgar

Good Friday in Trafalgar saw a rekindling of an ecumenical walk. It was decided to offer this time of reflection and community to the local congregations after our own Good Friday services.

Led by a simple wooden cross, members of our congregations from the Catholic, Uniting, Wesleyan Methodist and Anglican Churches gathered in the park with song and prayer before commencing our walk simulating the fourteen Stations of the Cross.

We then walked around the tennis courts before returning to St Mary's, then progressed to St Andrews (UC), Scout hall, the RSL and various other local gathering places, before crossing the railway line and concluding at St John's Catholic Church. The walk was well supported with about 50 people of all ages. It was a meaningful time as our reflections and songs were chosen to acknowledge each station with prayer.

The young people were impressed by how heavy this small cross became and soon shared the experience with others.

It was a spiritual occasion as we simulated Christ's agony on that day, and powerful in bringing our ecumenical community of faith together.

Despite it being a heavily overcast day, the rain held off, and it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the aged members of our congregations. Many walked with sticks or wheelie walkers, but still walked tall and strong, to finish the distance.

Afterwards, many commented on how meaningful it was and encouraged the idea of offering this opportunity again next year, after our Good Friday services.



GFS Kidsplus+ "Kidsconnect" day at Sale 2007: Annette Clark, Gale Mowat, Braydon, Deirdre Crawley, Brandon, Amber Hinds (from Moe, Sale, Maffra, Traralgon and Moe respectively)

## Interactive Easter story



The Last Supper was part of the interactive Easter story at Wonthaggi

Jane Peters  
Wonthaggi

As well as our traditional Easter services this year we wanted to have the opportunity to present the Easter story to children and their families in a hands-on interactive way.

We invited people from our *mainly music* group and the Community Meal. Early on Thursday evening a group

of parishioners and visitors, of all ages, gathered to listen, feel and interact with the biblical accounts from Palm Sunday to the resurrection.

Waving palm branches, sharing bread and red juice, and making gardens on plates were all part of the experience. Crosses were folded, bodies were bandaged and the tomb sealed as we followed the story though. After the ground shook (well, a sheet of lycra really), the

stone over the grave rolled away and an angel said "He is not here, he is risen." We all rejoiced with high fives.

Some thought we could finish off with fish on the beach but in the end we settled for hot cross buns in the hall instead. The children all went home with the things they had made throughout the evening and a "High Five! Jesus is alive!" hand puppet. Everyone had clearly heard the Easter story.



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## Traralgon on track

Since Advent 2015 the people of St James' Traralgon have been praying for a Spirit-led revival in Traralgon. This parish activity concludes on Pentecost Sunday with a special celebratory service of praise and thanksgiving as God answers our prayers for revival.

Like many churches in the diocese, we will be decorating St James with lots of balloons, symbols of fire, banners and of course people wearing red! There will be a special morning tea and hopefully a birthday cake to top off the occasion as we also celebrate the birth of the church some 2,000 years ago.

We have been running an Alpha Course since 13 April, led by the Reverend Janet Wallis, with over thirty people attending. Canon Jeff and his helpers have been providing the meals which, along with the Alpha course, are served in St James' church (which has three large TV monitors). Apart for a small

charge for each meal (except for the introductory dinner) the entire cost of the course, including resources, has been met by Parish funds, which are significantly supplemented by our opportunity shop.

On Saturday 7 May at 7:30 am we are restarting our Men's Breakfast Ministry, which will be monthly at this stage. This will be a buffet style hot and cold breakfast. Our first speaker will be Associate Professor Anthony Sasse, a renowned practitioner of respiratory and sleep medicine whose clinics are situated in Traralgon and Tyres. Tony and his family were members of St James, but needed to move to Melbourne (whilst retaining the practice in Traralgon) and now worship at St Hilary's Kew. Tony's passion, apart from keeping people breathing, is history. He has read extensively on many areas of human history so, as always, he will connect some aspect of his talk to the events of the past.

## Harvest Festival at Holy Trinity

Glenda Amos  
Yarram

The Harvest Festival on 17 April at Holy Trinity celebrated the abundance of produce we have received from our gardens, despite the dry weather so far this year. This year's festival was a joint celebration between the Community Garden and church members. The church was decorated with fruit, vegetables, and gardening materials.

The service led by the Rev'd Jo White focused on caring for our world and using the resources we have to help everyone. Examples of produce were presented by members of the congregation and placed on the altar for the blessing. A shared BBQ was enjoyed by everyone in the church hall.

The produce stall, set up in a market stall barrow made by the Yarram Men's Shed, contained an array of goods for swapping, buying and selling. The Yarram Secondary College VCAL students also provided some produce for sale from their own vegie garden.



*The Rev Jo White blesses the offerings at the altar*

## Warragul Expo



*Warragul's Expo, show-casing parish groups and activities, was a great success. Above: Debbie Blanchard with daughter Roshini, and Sheryn Cutler advertising the work of 'mainly music'*



*Helen Lowe and Michael Sterling with the accoutrements of church music program*



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

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

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

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

Telephone Brian Norris on 03 5144 2044, or go to [www.gippsanglican.org.au](http://www.gippsanglican.org.au) and search 'bequests'.



*St Paul's Year 7 students having their feet washed by the Year 12 Prefects at the Warragul Easter service*

## Hope – Easter Reflection

This speech was written and delivered by year 12 student Rochelle Rajasingham during the recent St Paul's Grammar School Easter Service, Warragul campus.

*"In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead"*  
(1 PETER 1:3)

**H**ope is a gift. In our darkest times, it can be our only source of light. Although it is intangible, it often serves as a driving force, maintaining our optimism, and perhaps reveals a sense of purpose.

I'm sure everyone here is powered by hope to accomplish a dream, whether it's exploring the unknown or fulfilling a prosperous future.

But as we celebrate Easter, we are reminded of the Christian hope which was initiated by the Easter story. It's different to the hope we encounter in this world. It is not based on our circumstances and prospects; it comes through the resurrection of Christ. This is hope for new life, hope to start fresh.

A well-known symbol of Easter is the egg. As a young child, I would enjoy painting egg shells to decorate empty kitchen shelves. They were no masterpieces but their colours and creative designs would give the kitchen a whole new look.

Reflecting on this now, I can draw a parallel to the hope presented through the Easter story. The egg symbolises creation; the breaking of the hard shell enables new life to emerge. In a similar way, Jesus' rock-hewn tomb broke open when he rose on the third day. Just as the egg signifies hope for life in nature, Jesus' death and resurrection symbolises hope for humans to start renewed.

We were supposed to be on that cross, because in reality we have all rebelled against God in some way. God could have said, "It is not wise to punish my Son because of your wickedness". There would be no service, no sacrifice, and ultimately, no hope for humans.

But instead, he said, "This must be done", and Jesus took our punishment. It was the only way to restore our relationship with God and start afresh.

And now, we too can cherish the Christian hope of beginning a new life in him, where our sins are forgiven. Jesus shed real blood on that cross so that we might have real life and be made right with God.

As stated in Hebrews 6:19, "We have this hope as an anchor". His death and resurrection is complete, so our hope is guaranteed.

The Easter story continues today. And using the hope that Christ made accessible to us, we can endure the worst experiences in life, to attain our dreams. There is not a set place, time or event that is needed, because through Christ, we can start again anytime.

The joy of Easter could not be attained without the resurrection of Christ.

## Old scholars launch appeal

A group of Gippsland Grammar old scholars has launched an appeal to raise money for a student to attend Gippsland Grammar, which has campuses in Sale and Bairnsdale.

Old Scholars Association president Meredith Johnston, of Sale, said "Our ultimate aim is to cover 100 per cent of fees, uniforms and boarding fees if possible. As old scholars, we are all very grateful for the excellent all-round education

we received at Gippsland Grammar. We would love to be able to give someone who ordinarily couldn't attend the school the same opportunity as we had. So we are seeking donations, which are tax deductible."

Anyone in a position to bequeath money to the fund should phone Gippsland Grammar's Development Officer, Meredith Lynch on 5143 6315.



*Gippsland Grammar old scholars Les Prout, Fiona Mills, Gill Meade, Meredith Johnston launching the "Be Your Potential Scholarship Fund"*



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A friendly morning tea at Mirboo North: Naomi, Graham and Val, Neil

## Community engagement: kingdom focus

Geoff Pittaway

The recent Southern Region Conference held at St. Peter's Leongatha was a great success in that it engaged 40+ members of the congregations in fellowship, sharing of ideas, listening to each other, and encouragement to keep doing the "things" of the Kingdom of God.

Besides attending a variety of workshops and plenary sessions where ideas and thoughts could be extended and utilised, we also had the opportunity to ask the broader question: "Why do we do what we do as Church?"

In particular, when we reflect on the variety of community-related activities that might be done in any given parish by its members either personally or corporately, we must ask ourselves whether or not whatever we do is a good thing to do.

This helps us to distinguish between doing good things for their own sake, or even for others (humanitarianism?), and doing good that God has prepared for us to do (Eph. 2:10) as an expression of love and devotion to God Himself. In other words, doing our community engagement with a Kingdom focus.

I have often asked my parish councillors at times of reflection on what we do, "Is this activity a good thing to be doing?", and then "Why?" Just doing good for its own sake is not the same as doing good for God's sake. It is always a valuable discussion, and can often lead us to evaluate that we should cease doing some things, and commence another.

Interestingly here, we have never stopped doing what we do, but have

endeavoured to change our perspective about why we do it. Whether its MOPS, sponsorship programs, Men's Dinners, meals programs, film nights, community outreach (Rotary, etc), mission support, or any other program – we have always decided that they are good things to do, but have needed to check the underlying purpose for doing them. We are not called simply to be nice, but to bring people into the Kingdom of God.

So, a more recent reflection by our whole parish identified that we need to get a balance between doing good programs, reaching out in spontaneous compassion, and finding deliberate ways to "spruik" the Gospel. It is the latter which is often the hardest to do, and we can easily defend our "doing good" as an expression of doing the Gospel without the words or the teaching or the discipleship. This has

*"...We are not called simply to be nice, but to bring people into the Kingdom of God."*

been a constant struggle in a world where speaking truth is always either relativised or shunned – especially when others are seeking to heighten the volume of their "truth".

Often as not, we forget that the Church is not the same as the Kingdom of

God. We spend a lot of energy – mental, physical and spiritual – trying to "get people to come to Church", rather than getting the people in Church to get out into the community (world) to do and be Kingdom people. It is important to remember that God is in the business of mission, and we are workers in the Kingdom engaged in His Mission. It is His Mission, not ours. Getting "bums on seats" is not the only expression of the growth of the Kingdom; it is much broader than that.

I have met many people in our local community who, for one reason or another, don't attend a church but

identify themselves deliberately and strongly as followers of Jesus. I remember years ago my mother-in-law's involvement in a church group that was tasked with visiting people who used to come to the local church but no longer did, and to ask them why not. Over six months, hundreds of people were invited to share their hurts, disappointments, frustrations and griefs about "church" or "someone in the church" who had offended them, causing them to stop attending. It is probably similar everywhere. During that time, over 100 returned to active worship and fellowship.

When I was in hospital last year, I had cause to say to one of my fellow sufferers that I did not think of myself as "religious" but rather as someone attempting to be a faithful follower of Jesus. The listener said that he had never thought of it that way, and it allowed for a different kind of conversation between this priest and him.

The point is that the Kingdom of God is not bound by the walls of the local or wider Church. God is doing stuff in His world despite us sometimes. God even uses people who are clearly not (yet) on His side, so to speak – a syndrome I like to call the "Cyrus effect". Check out 2 Chronicles 36:22-23 to see how God used Cyrus of Persia in His purpose to save the people of Israel!

Jesus said, "I have other sheep that are not of this pen. I must bring them also."

And James famously expressed it this way (my paraphrase): "Faith without expression in deeds is not enough; and deeds themselves must spring from, and be rooted in, a foundation of faith in God." (James 2:14-19).

We need to ask God always to bless what we do, what others do, and what He does without us, so that His Kingdom will continue to grow in a world that continuously needs to know and experience His love and grace.

*The Rev'd Geoff Pittaway is Rector, St. Mary's, Mirboo North.*

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# Time as vocation

Graham Knott

When the Day of Pentecost had come they were together in one place. And suddenly... Just under forty years ago I was asked to join the reading roster in our very large church. I thought this an exciting privilege until I saw my first ever reading – Acts 2:1-21!

The Sunday before our rector said that I was to be in church the following Saturday to practise. For just under two hours he instructed me as time after time I attempted to catch the drama of Pentecost without stumbling over all those place names. When satisfied, his final words were, “Now go home and pray over every word, asking that the Holy Spirit bring them to life”.

The next day, in front of hundreds, as the words were read the atmosphere was electric. After I sat the rector looked at me and smiled.

Decades later that is still Pentecost for me. That rector gifted me with time, with work offered in worship where only my best is good enough, with the gift of community within the fellowship of God’s people and with the gift of celebration. This shy, stuffy person who spoke with an Oxford accent looked at me in the midst of that large congregation and smiled.

Three years later I was training for ordination, part of a group of eight who had been discerned from the congregation during that period – a remarkable achievement for any rector. For many years I have reflected on what that initial incident released and have realised that that rector had a particular

understanding of time. He was able to give himself to God and to me totally in the present moment such that nothing else mattered.

I wonder if this is Pentecost – to be so caught up in God and the community of the present moment that the tyranny of time fades. That led into thinking that perhaps the best use of all time is to see it as vocation. Vocation does not fit tight time slots. Vocation has both discipline and flexibility within it.

The Rule of St Benedict, written in the sixth century, pictures a vocational use of time with rhythms of worship, work, reflection and prayer. Benedict describes in his Prologue his vision to “establish a school for the service of the

*“I wonder if this is Pentecost – to be so caught up in God and the community of the present moment that the tyranny of time fades”*

Lord” where such service would lead to “our hearts overflowing with the inexpressible delight of love”. He describes this

in seventy two instruments based on biblical principles and covering areas such as praying, worshipping, sleeping, consuming, working, obedience, silence, humility, morality, discipline and how the community is to conduct itself in mutual accountability.

By way of contrast many contemporary professional codes emphasise controlling actions rather than developing robust and Christ-like character which leads to right behaviour. In a few short pages the current professional code for clergy uses the word, “should” on multiple (55) occasions, offering no clear definition of what that means. The words; “you are not to”



The Rev'd Graham Knott

appear sixteen times without any mention of how I may use time and build a character so filled with God that there is no room for anything else.

Controlling wrong behaviour is vitally important but cannot even begin to picture and build the dazzling alternative community that Jesus Christ envisaged. This call for a deeper understanding does not belong to church alone. Among others, Richard-Bowen, as an engineer, considers ways in which the professional code for engineers could be enriched by the Rule of Benedict ([sce.sagepub.com/content/25/3/277.abstract](http://sce.sagepub.com/content/25/3/277.abstract)). Rowan Williams argued that societies themselves could rediscover a proper sense of time, authority and purpose in a speech: “Benedict and the future of Europe”.

Benedict provides a framework in which I may structure time for the good of all and develop character within the life of the community. Surely this is Pentecost – a sense of order that others may at times call chaotic in which the gift of time becomes the music of eternity through the beauty of God’s vocational presence. In such a community who knows where two hours attentively invested in another person may lead?

*The Rev'd Graham Knott is Archdeacon of the Southern Region and Rector of Leongatha.*

EDITORIAL

## Stop the clock!



Australians used to have a reputation for being generous, laid-back and friendly. Now we seem to be growing more greedy, tighter-fisted and rather grimly self-protective.

A report by the NAB found that Australian individual giving to charity grew by only about 2% in the year to February 2015, compared to growth of 10% in the previous year. (Interestingly, the 65+ age group was the exception to the rule of slower growth.)

At the national level, the government has made huge cuts to foreign aid. But this is so short-sighted. Long-term development programs need long-term funding. These kinds of programs offer people a way out of poverty for good, rather than just providing short-term aid. And they have been working.

A look at the TEAR Australia website will give you many examples – such as women becoming empowered to run their own small businesses and improve the diet and health of their families.

Emergency aid is also important in times of sudden disaster, such as the recent earthquakes in Japan and Ecuador. Australia has traditionally played a big role.

Aid groups have recently run a campaign to “Stop the clock” on a further scheduled \$224 million cut to the Australian government’s aid budget. Advocates from Campaign for Australian Aid, Micah Australia, TEAR Australia and Baptist World Aid recently staged a creative protest action, with giant clocks out the front of Treasurer Scott Morrison’s office. The “Doc” from the *Back to the Future* series then arrived with a message for Mr Morrison: “Great Scott, Stop the Clock!”

It’s TIME our federal government gave the Australian people a better example of generosity and compassion, and increased foreign aid.



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CORRESPONDENCE

I did not attend the discussion held at the Abbey between Bishops Kay Goldsworthy and Patrick O'Regan, in response to Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si*, but I was encouraged by reading the report in the February *TGA*. Accordingly, I was both concerned and puzzled by the response of Paul Nicholls as published in the April *TGA*. His interpretation of the headline as implying a priority which places "faith" as a lesser concern than climate and ecology seems to me not born out by the report which followed. Rather, I interpreted the headline as an accurate summary of a discussion which explored the relationship between faith, climate and ecology.

The further suggestion that mainstream churches in the West are unwilling or unable to speak on matters of faith seems both unduly sweeping and misguided. There certainly is a developing ethos in the churches that issues of climate and ecology prompt, even demand, a faith response, which is to be commended rather than deplored. The gospel is not only a message of good news for individual salvation but a message of healing for all of God's creation. This is well expressed in Scripture by Paul's hopeful vision of healing for all creation (Rom. 8:19-23) and the final vision of Revelation in which the river of life brings healing to all creation (Rev 22:1-5). As one who has had an involvement with healing ministries for many years I am personally thankful to Pope Francis for his encyclical, and to Bishops Kay and Patrick for their thoughtful and challenging responses.

The Rev'd Lloyd George  
Chaplain, OSL Ministries

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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](http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/program/religionandethicsreport)

Encounter

Saturday 5:00 pm – repeated: Wednesday 1:00 pm  
[www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/encounter](http://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](http://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](http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/rhythmdivine)

The Gippsland Anglican

READERSHIP SURVEY

We would love to know your views on *TGA*. Readers may either answer the questions here and post to the Registry, PO Box 928, Sale 3850, or complete the survey on-line at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Y8HMF5S>



The *Gippsland Anglican* (*TGA*) is the monthly newspaper of the Gippsland Anglican Diocese. The aims of *TGA* are:

- to inform readers (both Gippsland Anglicans and members of the general Gippsland community) about the mission and work of the Anglican Church in Gippsland;
- to keep Gippsland Anglicans connected, encouraged and inspired as they live out their faith in Jesus Christ;
- to engage with the wider Gippsland community on issues of broader concern and to promote the values and challenges of the Kingdom of God.

1. *TGA* includes *The Melbourne Anglican* as an insert. This enables *TGA* to concentrate on parish, diocesan and local news, leaving *TMA* to cover Melbourne, national and international material; in-depth theology and ethics; and reviews of books and films.

Do you agree that having the Melbourne paper inserted into *The Gippsland Anglican* is helpful?

A. Yes                      B. No                      C. Other: please comment

2. *TGA* has some regular features each month. Please tell us how regularly you read the following pages, by marking each of the following with a letter name  
A = Always                      U = Usually                      S = Sometimes                      N = Never
- .... Page 1 - News  
.... Page 2 - From the Bishop  
.... Page 3 - Feature article  
.... Pages 4 – 7 - Around the Parishes (news)  
.... Page 8 - From the schools  
.... Page 9 - Column: For young disciples  
.... Page 10 - Theological reflection  
.... Page 10 - Editorial  
.... Page 11 - Feature article / news  
.... Page 12 - Faith at Work – interview  
.... Page 12 - Diocesan Calendar

Any comment? .....

3. What types of articles / topics do you most appreciate in *TGA*?  
Please rate the following from 1–6  
.... News – from the diocese / parishes  
.... News from the schools  
.... Theological reflections  
.... Editorial  
.... Interviews  
.... Feature articles exploring issues – e.g. mission / refugees / environment /
4. One of the aims of *TGA* is to keep Gippsland Anglicans connected, encouraged and inspired as they live out their faith in Jesus Christ. Does *TGA* encourage and inspire you?  
A. Rarely                      B. Sometimes                      C. Often                      D. Always
5. What would you like to see in *The Gippsland Anglican*, which is not yet included?  
.....
6. Do you have any further comments?  
.....

THANK YOU



L-R Danielle, Bp Kay, Annalise on Easter Day

## Danielle Strini Student

### Jan Down

Everyone has work to do in the world, a vocation from God, whether it be paid or voluntary; a life of activity or a life of prayer; and whether we are old or young. In this Faith at Work series so far, we have heard from people of different ages who work in hospitals, libraries, buildings and cafes, to name a few. This time TGA talks to Danielle Strini, aged 14, whose work is being a year nine student at the Traralgon campus of St Paul's Anglican Grammar School.

Danielle is just back from a school camp at Rawson, where she tried her hand at fly fishing, and had a great time. She says she really enjoys school, not being one to sit back and wait for things to happen. "I try and get as much out of it as I can", she says, and it is not just school this applies to, as she has activities on after school four afternoons of the week – either playing basketball or going to dance classes, where she learns all genres: ballet, tap, jazz, Contemporary and Song and Dance. On weekends there is more dance, and then church on Sunday.

The family, who live in Morwell, consists of mum, Julie, dad, Mark, Danielle, her younger sister Annalise, and Lacey, their German short-haired pointer. Annalise is 18 months younger than Danielle, who says having a sister so close in age is "really fun because you can share stuff".

She also believes it makes things simpler for their mum (and dad) in terms of driving them to their activities.

Danielle and Annalise, who are driven to church by their grandmother, were recently admitted to communion at St Mary's Morwell, which Danielle says was exciting. The girls had been baptised four years ago, so when the new priest in the parish, the Rev David Head, asked if they would like to come along to classes and then be admitted to communion, they were happy to join in.

The six weeks of classes, run by David and the Rev Kathy Dalton, consisted of six young people of varying ages, with Danielle being the oldest. (See the story in TGA April this year.) Danielle found the classes interesting, as they worked through a chapter or two of the book provided, and learned about the meaning of things, such as the priest's robes, and the names of the communion vessels.

As they were going through the classes, it occurred to Danielle that she should start praying each night, which she is doing, and she says she now feels "more welcomed and more connected to God". Being able to take communion now "feels special".

Danielle and Annalise are both servers and Bible readers at St Mary's. They have found the older people in the congregation very supportive and friendly and Danielle enjoys learning people's names and faces.

When she was younger,

Danielle really enjoyed Sunday School because "we had fun activities based on the readings". Now her favourite thing about church is listening to the sermon, because she likes "learning how the Bible can affect you in your daily life". She enjoys hearing the priest reflecting on his own life in relation to the Bible reading.

On the last Saturday of the month there is also a Youth Group at the church, where there are games, a meal, and sometimes a Bible Study. Danielle says "It's really fun, and you get to hang out together."

Another activity Danielle enjoys is cooking. This semester her elective subject at school is Food Tech, where she learns cooking, theory and diet. She finds it interesting learning about a healthy diet and how one thing can be swapped for another to make it healthier. Her example is pizza – she says she could buy a pizza, or she could cook it herself and "make it healthier and fresher".

At home on a Friday night, Danielle normally cooks herself dinner so that she can have the leftovers of her choice after dance on Saturdays. Often she will cook a pasta dish, or it might be chicken and vegetables, or wraps.

In all her activities, whether at school, home, basketball, dance or church, Danielle is using her God-given abilities with enjoyment, enthusiasm and a sense of responsibility. God bless you Danielle.

### Young Christian writer?

\$2500 prize for the best unpublished manuscript by an Australian citizen under 30 years of age. Entries close 31 May  
For more info:  
sparklit.org/awards

## 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.

### 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

21 9:30 / 10:00 am – 3:30 pm Anam Cara Quiet Day at St Mary's Morwell: "Lectio Divina – Reading the Scriptures empowered by God". Come and explore together the ancient practice of Lectio Divina which has proved such a great resource for personal spiritual nurture and growth.

21 2:00 pm Musical Afternoon at Berwick Anglican Church, 55 Peel St, Berwick. This fundraiser was organised by several members of Cornerstone Church, Pakenham East, to raise funds for primary schools in Suva, Fiji through Beacon Media, an organisation that supplies free teaching resources. Event includes orchestral, classical, musical theatre and contemporary ballads, presented by a trio of piano, voice and violin, vocals and guitar, and original compositions for orchestra and piano. Tickets \$10.

22 10:00 am A special service at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale, to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's 90th birthday

### June

18 9:00 am – 5:00 pm VCCEM 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 VCCEM Polo. Please advise any food restrictions.

### July

1 – 2 From 5:00 pm Friday to about 5:00 pm Saturday Short Course: "The Sacred and Secular in Art" – the transition from sacred to the secular in Italian Art 1300-1600 at The Abbey, Raymond Island Presenter: June Treadwell. Inquiries: 5156 6580

3 2:30pm NAIDOC Church Service at St John's Church, Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust

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