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The Gippsland Anglican

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For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder,
and his name will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,

PRINCE OF PEACE *Isaiah 9: 6*



This Peace Collage was created for *TGA* by Gippsland artist, Julie Mielke, who commented
“One of the most important messages for everyone at this time is to pray for peace.”

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Dear Friends, it's tempting to begin this column by drawing attention to the fact that as December 2015 dawns we have seen another round of escalating violence across the world. The sad fact is that this is the way in which any column written during the past year or more could begin. Wars, terror, hatred and violence abound.

Last month I was listening to the news on the car radio of the attacks in Paris. The news radio station is often on in the car, so expecting a full coverage was reasonable.

By day three I had to turn it off. Not because I had lost interest in the suffering, or of the response of world leaders, or because I had ceased to pray. I turned off because it felt as though continual listening to the same reports, the same speculations, and the same information was an invitation to become a kind of voyeur, trading somehow on the pain and suffering of other people.

It's easy to become part of telling, sharing, perhaps eventually wallowing in stories which tell bad news. But Christians are people of good news, the good news of God's Word made flesh.



Advent, Christmas and New Year

That doesn't mean that we pretend all is well in the world. That doesn't mean that we should neglect the pain and suffering of our own lives either: not the loneliness, the fear, the pain and the grief which visits us all at different times.

It doesn't mean that we should pretend we don't see the violence so prevalent – and far closer to home – of women and children in our own towns or churches or family who

know first-hand about abuse and violence. Nor does it mean that we should neglect the pain and suffering of our own lives either: not the loneliness, the fear, the pain and the grief which visits us all at different times.

Advent gives space for taking out hard questions again and asking how it is that those of us who follow Jesus, from cradle to Cross, are able to tell his story of love in the face of every situation. Advent lets the big questions get aired – justice, judgement, expectancy

and faith in action: the big questions of forgiveness and mercy; the big questions about who gets a seat at God's table of love, all set against the background of real life lived now. They are hard questions, difficult questions, and they come just in time for Christmas to throw the full light of our attention on the grace of God's loving, giving self, born in a grubby little place called Bethlehem.

As we come to the cradle and God's daring love this December we do so in the shadow of the Cross, where hard questions abound: the ones about war and terror; the ones about who gets let in to Australia as a refugee; the ones about why it is that worldwide one in three women will suffer abuse in her lifetime; the ones about loneliness and fear, about family and grief, about pain and suffering.

Advent and Christmas: time for sweeping away the cobwebs; time for realising that God's breathtaking grace does mean us, each and every one of us; and that following means not becoming less human but daring to be as human as we can.

+Kay

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An Advent Ecumenical Conversation

Saturday 19th December 2015 11:00 am – 3:00 pm

Bishop Kay Goldsworthy, Anglican Bishop of Gippsland and Bishop Pat O'Regan, Catholic Bishop of Sale, discuss Pope Francis' Encyclical on ecology and climate change –

Laudato Si

A light lunch will be served

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New ministry begins

The Rev'd Chris McAleer was inducted as Rector of the Episcopal District of Nar Nar Goon and Cardinia Lakes on Friday 6 November at St John's Nar Nar Goon.

Prior to the Induction, Chris and his wife Karen served afternoon tea at the house in Bonnevillle Parade, and a short service was held, as this Diocesan-owned house will be the base for the new Cornerstone Anglican Community in Cardinia Lakes. After prayers and a song, Bp Kay Goldsworthy officially blessed the house and the new ministry.

An enjoyable dinner in the Nar Nar Goon Hotel was then followed by the Induction at nearby St John's, attended by about 60 people, both clergy and lay, from across the Diocese. Councillor David Young from Cardinia

Lakes Shire welcomed Chris and Karen on behalf of the local community, while Church Warden Steve Douglas welcomed them on behalf of the church community.

The Rev'd Canon Graeme MacRobb has been locum at St John's since the late Rev'd Ken Peters became terminally ill in March this year.

Bp Kay preached at the Induction on the importance of local churches engaging with the culture of their communities.

Chris will be part-time (0.5) in his position, with about one day a week at Nar Nar Goon and the rest of his time in Cardinia Lakes, where he plans to build the church through a series of home group meetings.

See more photos on the Cornerstone Anglican Community Church Facebook page.



Bishop Kay and the Rev'd Chris McAleer at the house blessing



The Rev'd Sue Jacka, Archdeacon Philip Muston, the Rev'd Chris McAleer, the Rev'd Canon Graeme MacRobb, Bp Kay Goldsworthy at St John's, Nar Nar Goon

Photos: Ross Jacka



Editor, Muriel Porter with the Diocesan Chancellor, Rowena Armstrong AO, QC

Launch of A man called JOHNNY MAC

The official launch of *A Man Called Johnny Mac* at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale was well attended on Thursday 22 October.

The book of selected writings by the late Bp John McIntyre, 11th Bishop of Gippsland, was edited by Muriel Porter, a prominent Melbourne Anglican, a writer and friend of Bp John. Published by Morning Star, the book includes sermons, Synod addresses and articles written for *The Gippsland Anglican*.

As well as an Introduction by Muriel Porter, the book has a Foreword

by Bp John's successor, Bp Kay Goldsworthy, and reflections by Bp John's daughter Jessica and his long-time friend and colleague, Philip Muston.

Speakers at the launch included Muriel Porter; Bp Kay Goldsworthy; publisher, Hugh McGinlay; Archdeacon Philip Muston; and Bp John's son Paul.

Celebratory drinks and book signing followed the launch.

See also a letter by the Rev'd David Head on page 11.



Publisher, Hugh McGinlay with Muriel Porter

Photos: Christine Morris

New Rector for Drouin

The Rev'd Dean Spalding has accepted an appointment as Rector of the parish of Drouin. Dean, his wife Kate and their three children will be moving from Perth. Dean currently holds a role in the theological education and formation program in Perth and their move to Gippsland will be a return to their home state of Victoria.



Announcing art exhibition: "Sense of Place"

An art exhibition will again be a major component of the Creative Spirit Festival at St Philip's, Cowes, 6-8 May, 2016. Held at the Parish Hall, the theme for the weekend and art exhibition is Sense of Place.

Artists of any medium or genre are invited to submit works for sale which explore and represent the theme. The local Boon Wurrung Language includes words which designate various relations with place: "weelam-dha" means that sense of coming home, returning to country, where we belong. (Translation by Aunty Fay Stewart-Muir, VACL) The theme encourages us all to

think about place: in the land, a special space, in the heart or the mind, personally or as community, the whole of creation.

The Festival is jointly organised and run by St Philip's Anglican and St John's Uniting Churches, Cowes. The program in 2016 will include a recital by Celtic harpist, Cath Connelly. A range of events will encourage us to reflect and share how "place" is part of our sense of the spiritual in the everyday world.

Entry forms and further details are available on the Parish website: anglicanparishbassphillipisland.com/

Restoration work

Lyn Gilbert – Korumburra

St. Paul's Korumburra is surrounded in scaffolding at the moment because the brickwork needs some refurbishment, with the replacement of approximately 200 bricks. The brickwork will then be coated in a membrane which will seal and protect it.

The work is needed because the brickwork has aged and been

damaged by water. Prior to this work, drainage at the side of the church was upgraded to stop water going under the building. On completion the church should be in good repair for many years to come.

Services are currently being held in the hall. The church will be open again at Christmas.



Restoration work at St Paul's Korumburra

Photo: Andy Wilson



Tim Gibson, Diocesan Archivist, with his display of A-frame memorabilia

Photo: Jan Down

A-frame celebrates 50 years, looks forward to future fruitfulness

Jan Down

The Venerable Allan Huggins set the framework for a day of great celebration at The Abbey, Raymond Island on Saturday 14 November, when he said that first and foremost "we are a diocese, not a collection of parishes". He recounted how the A-frame became a gathering place for youth of the diocese in the 1970s and 80s, and a place for the training of youth leaders. He said that the building "represents our fun, learning, commitment to each other, and strong relationships".

Many others in the room endorsed these sentiments, as the speeches continued. Archdeacon Edie Ashley welcomed guests and introduced the speakers, including Margaret Beckett who had been cook at The Abbey for many Young Anglican Fellowship camps in the early days; the Rev'd Brenda Burney and her husband Rod, who had first come to the island when they were 16 and 18 years old; the Hon Robert Fordham from The Abbey Chapter; Michael Sadler, who had donated many hours to the preparation of a complex planning application for the future development of The Abbey; and Archdeacon Ted Gibson, who responded to the various contributions with his own insights and remembrances.

Ted Gibson reminded guests that The Abbey was originally named Pratt Hall, and was given in memory of four women in the Pratt family from Traralgon. He suggested there was a need for more philanthropy today.

Ted also remembered how Maffra parish, under the Rev'd Jim Connelly, 25 years ago, generously donated its no longer needed Bundalaguah church building, now the chapel of St Barnabas. It was transported to the island in sections.

Robert Fordham said that the A-frame "exudes spirituality" and described it as a "fresh expression of the witness of Christians in Gippsland"; a place "for prayer, rest and study, in relationship with the environment". He paid tribute to Michael Sadler's work in gaining a planning permit which will meet current and future needs for more accommodation and facilities. So far \$120,000 has been raised, and 2016 would be a critical year for fundraising.

Tim Gibson, diocesan archivist, had prepared a comprehensive display of memorabilia along one wall of the hall, while on the opposite wall were the architect's drawings for the proposed redevelopment; past and future each represented. Between the two, the living present was seen in the tables filled with guests, who enjoyed a sumptuous afternoon tea, prepared by David and Deb Chambers.

Ted Gibson proposed a toast to the A-frame honouring all the memories and life it has nurtured; Robert Fordham proposed a toast affirming the vision for its future; and at the conclusion, Bp Kay gave a blessing.

Thelma Edebohls recognised

Thelma Edebohls, aged 94 years, was given a certificate of appreciation on Sunday 11 October at which Bishop Kay was the Preacher and Celebrant. The certificate is in recognition of her ministry as St James' choirmaster (over 60 years) and organist for almost 40 years. Bishop Kay also offered a special prayer

of thanksgiving and a blessing.

Thelma began her ministry in the Parish of Trafalgar at the age of 14 years until she married and moved to Traralgon 10 years later. Today, while Thelma is unable to play the organ on Sundays, she still offers her special ministry during our Wednesday Services.

The Reverend Canon Jeff Richardson, Rector, reading the certificate to the congregation, Thelma Edebohls (centre), Jenny Scriven and Bishop Kay Goldsworthy



LED lights for Cathedral

Christine Morris – Sale

Several years ago “Friends of the cathedral” gave us the money for 40 LED lights for the hall. Earlier, the Cathedral paid for 20 lights, and recently with two generous donations, the rest have been, or soon will be changed. Lights in the cathedral are also being changed over to LED.

We are very appreciative of the generous donations, as well as Anthony Hahn’s assistance in putting them all up. The new Cathedral lights as well as some in the hall were given as a memorial gift. I love the idea that a person’s memory is “shining down on us” – literally – through this thoughtful gift. Not only are we saving money, energy and the environment, but the lights are also brighter, and less ‘yellow’ in the cathedral. Much better for taking photos!

Cathedral organist, Anthony Hahn, changing light bulbs in St Paul’s Cathedral, Sale
Photo: Christine Morris



“I have loved my job”

Sarah Gover reflects on her seven years in Gippsland

As I prepare to leave the role of Parish Partnerships Community Development Officer for Anglicare Victoria in Gippsland and the Diocese of Gippsland, I have been doing some reflection.

I have loved my job because it has allowed me to be me. At times I have even felt a bit fraudulent, getting paid for just being me. I have really appreciated the diversity and creativity that the job has allowed me to use.

Over the last seven years I have learnt how to work in partnership with others. I realised that if I worked with others I didn’t need to be perfect. I could bring my skills and gifts, and then find others who had skills and gifts where I had weaknesses. I also learnt that mistakes aren’t fatal. I remember saying to Bishop John after about eight months in the role that “I was having a good day as I’d only made five mistakes so far!” I have appreciated that the people of Gippsland are very forgiving and understanding – not just at the start of my job, but throughout the last seven years, as I continued to learn, and grow.

The privilege of being able to work with our link Diocese in Gahini in Rwanda has been a personal highlight. I spent some time working in Kenya over 25 years ago, and left with the intention I would return to Africa. It took me longer than I was expecting and I am very grateful that this role allowed me to fulfil that long-held desire.

There have been many highlights



Sarah Gover

over the years. A few weeks ago I helped to facilitate a mental health training day for over 350 teenagers. It was a project that has been slowly simmering away for a number of years and it was great to see it actually happen.

Another project that simmered for a while was the “Being a Dad” parenting program. We have now been able to run the program 13 times, with over 130 graduates and have received some great feedback from participants who are now in the community trying to put into practice what they learnt.

I have loved supporting and visiting the *mainly music* programs that are now operating throughout the Diocese. Sometimes all that was needed to get a project started was a few connections, and a little bit of creativity. The Mothers Union NAIDOC week challenge to supply books and dolls has been a very inspiring project that I have loved to be a part of.

Sometimes I would make a few connections and watch a project emerge, amazed at the outcomes and possibilities. The year nine homeless experiences and school homelessness tours are projects that keep evolving and growing and continue to challenge and change mindsets, hopefully making our communities better places.

I have loved my job and I thank God for seven great years of memories.

See also page 8

St Paul’s Building Fund launched

Sale

St Paul’s Cathedral Chapter has launched a building fund for Delbridge Hall, which was opened in 2007 by Bp John McIntyre.

Parishes and organisations from across the diocese benefit from this excellent facility. However, it has come at a cost to the parishioners of Sale as they struggle to pay off the loan for this building, as well as provide ongoing ministry in Sale.

The new hall was one of six new or refurbished buildings in St Paul’s Precinct completed after many years of planning and vision by the then Dean Brian Turner. The old Delbridge Hall and two houses were sold to help fund the new hall. Annie Pain Hall was transformed into the new Dean’s Residence, the old deanery was renovated and extended, and two new units were built; the latter three now rented out. Once the loan

has been fully repaid in the next ten years, this rent will significantly support St Paul’s ongoing ministry.

Donations of any size are welcome and can be made to the Building Trust Fund via:

- St Paul’s Cathedral PO Box 691 Sale 3850, with cheques made out to “Anglican Diocese of Gippsland”
- Anglican Diocese Registry Office, 453 Raymond Street, Sale
- Internet transfer BSB 013 795 Acc no: 4979 35951 Ref: 3153781 (Must include Reference number)

For any St Paul’s Building Fund (SPBF) confidential enquiries, or for notification of bank donations that need a response please contact Lay Canon Christine Morris on 5144 4979, spbf@aussiebroadband.com.au or PO Box 691 Sale 3853. Donations are not tax deductible.



Delbridge Hall, beside St Paul’s Cathedral, Sale 2015

Photo: Christine Morris

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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

St. Thomas', Bunyip Annual Flower Show

Heather Clarke

Our Annual Flower Show was again a great success, despite the inclement weather.

We received lots of exhibits in all entry classes and were well supported by craft and market stalls, BBQ and delicious afternoon teas.

It was a most enjoyable community event which raised money to be used towards re-stumping the church hall.



Some members of the organising committee, L-R: Margaret Collier, Dorothy Clarke, Beryl Gorry, Maureen Matthews, Jennny, Pam Schembri and Val Saunders

Above: One of the prize winning entries

Lost ones remembered

Wendy Nickson – Lakes Entrance

At the Biggest Morning Tea at Lakes Entrance the support group for breast cancer victims and relatives wrote messages to their lost loved ones. These notes were blessed at a

short service and then placed in the memorial garden in front of St Nicholas. They were burned and the ashes buried. The ceremony seems much appreciated by the group.



Sandra McMaster assisting the Rev'd Canon Barb Logan in burying the notes from the Memorial Tree.

Vale Neville Beaty

20/8/1939 – 6/10/2015

"I have fought the good fight,
I have finished my course,
I have kept the faith."

2 Timothy:4:7

Peter Down

Margaret and I have known both Neville and Lynne since 1988, when Cursillo came to Gippsland, and our friendship has grown closer and stronger since then.

The fact that we missed his earlier life is disappointing; however I can see that he wouldn't have been any different back then.

Our times together both in Neville's involvement in Cursillo, Bishop-in-Council, Synod and Rwanda work, made me think of N.B.N.

N.B.N. stands for No Bull Neville. What you saw is what you got. A genuine, thoughtful, caring man who told you exactly what he thought in a gentle but firm way.

He was a strength to work with in all phases of his life. In Cursillo his genuine faith influenced many people as he showed his deep spiritual side. He was a quiet leader who took people with him as he walked his own journey.

Rwanda was a new challenge for both Lynne and Neville. They rose to that challenge because the completion of the Seeds of Peace building was in their hearts.

Neville's practical, down to earth approach, and the affinity he had with the people of Gahini made for a successful outcome, and subsequently the accommodation centre, now known as Gippsland House, was completed and fit for habitation.

As a builder I saw the difficulties that existed when Neville and I visited the project to assess the possibility of the Diocese of Gippsland finishing it. We had some long talks about what had to be done, but the thing most vividly in my mind was Neville's great relief at getting a good cup of coffee at the airport on our way home.

Our association continued till his passing, and all that time he did not change. He was a good and valued friend, and no matter how long between meetings he was always the same.

Neville was well loved and respected by all who knew him and will be sadly missed.

Geoff Pittaway also writes:

I first met Neville Beaty at the interview Liz and I had for the Parish of Mirboo North. He seemed an enigmatic sort of bloke, asking quick fire questions as he



Neville Beaty at a church camp about two years ago – photo taken by the Rev'd Geoff Pittaway

thought of them to see what sort of a Rector they were going to get.

He had the ability to cut across the red tape and get to the nub of a practical problem, usually ending by saying, "I'll do it myself", rather than wait to go through channels or get someone who would cost the Parish money. Much of what happened did happen because of Neville's practical abilities.

Apart from his practical skills, over the years I found a deeper side to Neville's faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. Whenever there was an issue that required a faithful response Neville was quick to give it. Often, just to "stir the pot", he would give the opposite of what he thought, until we realised that he was pulling our legs!

Liz would see him quietly drive into the carpark, casting an eye around just to see if anything was amiss. If something needed fixing he would do it, and, if not, he'd drive off again.

Neville became something of an institution in the Parish, and now that he is no longer with us there seems to be a big hole where he used to be.

He was also instrumental and active in projects within the Diocese, and further afield, with his wife Lynne, he helped to complete the Seeds of Peace project in Gahini in Rwanda. He made many lasting friendships there and they, like us, are saddened by his passing.

The Rev'd Geoff Pittaway
is Rector of Mirboo North.

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Blessings in the Spaces: Retreat at The Abbey

Sue Fordham

The signs could not have been more inauspicious. Friday afternoon was cold and rainy. The Raymond Island ferry had broken down. The caterer had to bring food in by boat. Those attending the retreat had to leave their cars in Paynesville and negotiate cases on the water taxi then from the Raymond Island Jetty, by bus to the Abbey.

What a daunting start to Bishop Kay's first open retreat in the diocese. But then, by late afternoon, the sun had come out. And that sign became the metaphor for the weekend which followed as the 26 retreatants settled in for the first session in the Chapel of St Barnabas.

Using a modern icon depicting the visitation – Mary and Elizabeth entwined in each other's arms – side-lit and set against a backdrop of dwindling light from the sun setting over the lake, Bishop Kay read from Luke 1: 39-56.

Our attention was drawn to the spaces between and around the two women and we were invited to consider the nature of space: their space and our spaces; the empty spaces and the bridged spaces; the painful spaces and the hopeful ones.

By the end of the first session the sun had set, the light was gone and those of us who could not be accommodated at the Abbey, left by bus to negotiate the water taxi home to bed.

The following morning the ferry was back in service, and we were met with a hearty cooked breakfast before diving into the second session.

Again, the icon, the reading, then Bishop Kay read from *The Diary of Anne Frank* where after her long and traumatic confinement, Anne observes: "I have found that there is always some beauty left ...in nature...in sunshine ..."

Bishop Kay suggested that Anne, like many sufferers, could offset the painful spaces with ones that were pregnant with opportunity, with unspoken longing, with peace and blessedness.

During this session, as if on cue, a pod of dolphins was seen cavorting in the lake,

which served as a backdrop to the icon. It was simply magical.

Bishop Kay spoke of the proclamatory nature of Elizabeth's greeting: "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb". Blessedness defined the space between the two kinswomen and within them.

Then she went on to look at the blessings given by Jesus, offered into the space inhabited by the poor, the meek, the grieving; ones who know about "lack".

The second session finished with a prayer that God might fill the spaces we think empty within us with His love and blessing.

The time for reflection that followed saw participants meditating on spaces and blessings in their own lives. Interestingly, a group of Lakes Entrance parishioners chose to make music in the chapel and they were joined by others drawn by its beauty.

The third session returned to the concept of blessedness and proclamation and the possibility that gaps might be filled with God's love, that we might be a blessing to the world.

Bishop Kay also mentioned the music in the chapel and suggested that music was its own proclamation and that just as the civil rights movement had its own songs; just as those opposed to the Berlin wall had their songs of protest; just as the wall dividing Israel and the West Bank has given rise to songs of dissent; we need to reflect on the songs that define our lives.

"How does God call us to be part of the song of peace, liberation and justice?" The final question was left hanging. It was a question that each of us has to answer individually.

The daily offices were said with accompanying music by Nick Nagy (guitar) and Val Jones (piano) from the parish of Lakes Entrance and Karena King (woodwind) from the Cathedral. The retreat finished with a Eucharist celebrated by Bishop Kay. The preacher was the Rev'd Vanessa Herrick from Wimborne Minster in the diocese of Salisbury U.K.



Retreatants singing: Nick Nagy, Michael Fox, Sue Fordham, Ian Little – looking for God in the spaces
Photo: Archdeacon Edie Ashley



L-R: Helen Bayes, Jacqueline White, Kathryn Bartlett (Server), Graeme Nicholls (Liturgical Assistant) and Bishop Kay

St Luke's Day Moe Baptism and Confirmation

Mary Nicholls

The Moe Parish was delighted to have Bishop Kay's visit coincide with St Luke's Patronal Festival.

The traditional solemn Eucharistic service also welcomed the baptism of Helen Bayes followed by her confirmation alongside fellow parishioner Jacqueline White.

Both these young people had been brought along through early participation in the parish GFS programs and associated fellowship groups, illustrating the Bishop's message and exhortation to reach out

in our local communities. The serving team members, Paul Byl, Kathryn Bartlett and "boat boy" Noah Nicholls, were other illustrations of this as are all members of the GFS Kidplus+ Ministry.

Our service concluded with several of our young Sunday school members offering worship through song. They were accompanied by violin played by the Rev'd Bruce Charles. A celebratory luncheon was held in St Luke's Hall following the service.



Singing with gusto at Holy Trinity, Yarram

Photo: Glenda Amos

The BIG HYMN SING

Glenda Amos – Yarram

The BIG HYMN SING at Holy Trinity Anglican church on a recent Sunday afternoon was just that – well known hymns, fabulous music and great singing.

David Hartmaier was MC for the afternoon, introducing each hymn with some interesting background on the origins and composition of the words and music. We were treated

to superb accompaniment by Warren Peart at the keyboard. An enthusiastic audience was thrilled with the surprise arrival of David Hastie, piper from the Morwell Caledonian Pipe band, who accompanied the hymn *Amazing Grace*. Those present certainly exercised their vocal chords and enjoyed afternoon tea at the conclusion of a pleasant Sunday afternoon.



"Twinions" Amanda and Sophie Fontaine holding their unicycles at the annual "Around the Bay – Ride for a Child"

Twinions cycle for children in need

Year 11 St Paul's Anglican Grammar students, Amanda and Sophie Fontaine, recently took part in the annual "Around the Bay – Ride for a Child" around Melbourne's Port Phillip Bay.

The event is organised by Bicycle Network and has grown to become Australia's biggest bike ride.

Dressed as Minions and identified as "Team Twinions", they completed a 50km ride on unicycles.

The girls believe their costumes made a few people smile and Amanda said "We had a wonderful day and the weather was perfect – which helped a lot".

This was the twins' sixth year in Around the Bay and they are aiming to raise \$1000 for the Smith Family to go towards disadvantaged Australian children. They are able to collect sponsorship up until Christmas.

Awards for James and Simeon Gover

Gippsland Grammar student James Gover, Year 12, received a 2015 Australian Geography Prize in front of 75,000 other senior students in the country.

He came first in the state and equal second in Australia in the senior level of the competition.

The Australian Geography Competition is designed to assess student geographical knowledge and skills.

Year 8 student Simeon Gover achieved an extraordinary result in the Australian Mathematics Competition. Simeon's result was ranked in the 100 percentile rank, which is a remarkable achievement.

Simeon won the Prudential Prize for achieving the highest number of consecutive correct answers. Of the 30 questions in the test, he answered 27 correctly. This is the second year in a row he has won this prize.



James Gover



Simeon Gover



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Children in the Philippines.
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Serving others shows Christ's love

Rich Lanham

Mark 10:43-45

"But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Wow – the year is almost over. It's gone so quickly. Christmas is almost upon us: that time of year when things have this crazy way of winding down while getting really busy at the same time.

The decorations are out in the shop windows, the ads are starting to promote that perfect gift for everyone, and we begin to contemplate the classic question of "What's it all about?"

Jesus desires his people to be different in a world that needs hope and new direction. He knows the pressure of human nature. As followers of Jesus we are called to be people who model his way of living and loving. One of the great ways that we can do this is by serving.

The Christmas season is a great time to look for ways of serving others in your community. Find out if there is a

"People need to see the story of Jesus lived out in us as we give ourselves as servants and show love with our actions."

community Christmas meal you can help with. Is there a group which is delivering presents to children who don't get any? What's happening at your local aged care facility for people who have no family? What is the hospital doing for Christmas? Serving others is a wonderful way of showing Christ's love.

At Christmas time people need to hear the story of Jesus' birth and his gift to us as our Saviour. They also need to see the story of Jesus lived out in us as we give ourselves as servants and show love with our actions.

This Christmas as you wonder what it's all about, remind yourself that it's all about Jesus and his "Good News". Give yourself to being a servant as Jesus is. Love others with your words and actions. Challenge yourself to be more preoccupied with what you will do for others in Jesus' name this Christmas than what you will receive. Desire most that Jesus' love will be seen in your life.

Have a blessed Christmas.

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

2016 Kidsplus+ Camp Book in NOW!

March 4-6 2016 will see many of our regular Gippsland Kidsplus+ Campers at Forest Lodge Farm at Yarram for the Annual Diocesan Camp. Anyone aged 6 to 18 years is welcome to join us for a weekend of friendship, fun, games, sports and challenges. Kayaking, a giant high Swing, archery, haystack races, craft and faith discussions are all on offer. Application forms have been forwarded to all parishes, so please enquire or download a form from the Gippsland Kidsplus+ Web page or phone 5127 2929.

GFS 1875 – 2016

2016 is the year GFS celebrates 130 years of ministry within our

Gippsland Diocese. This ministry has been diverse, and has adapted to the changing needs of society and parishes. Past members and friends are encouraged, now, to look through their personal archives, as plans are underway for a celebration. Please contact Carol on 5174 8445 or Mary 5127 2929 if you unearth or know of the location of significant artefacts, minute books or photographs suitable for display.

To support our celebrations Gippsland GFS Kidsplus+ will host the GFS State Gathering on Saturday 30 April. Details will be given in the new year but we will be inviting past, current, Kidsplus+ affiliated parishes and interested new participants of all ages to the activity.

ALL AGE COLOURING

Colour to discover a hidden message.



This picture was created by Julie Mielke.

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A Gippsland Carol

Jim Connelly

At the birth of Jesus, the world changed for ever.

Our attempts to express this seem puny in view of the vastness of the event. "Cradled in a stall was he, with sleepy cows and asses" seems hardly adequate. Nor does "When they looked up they saw a star, shining in the east beyond them far". Charles Wesley's "... our God contracted to a span, incomprehensibly made Man" is better, and the poet, Christina Rossetti's, better still: "Love came down at Christmas".

Most of the imagery used to portray the birth of Jesus is local. It concentrates on the physicality and the humble circumstances of the birth of the Christ-child. That is good in itself, but I long for a stronger expression of the cosmic dimension of Christ's bursting upon the world. Nowhere is this better expressed than in the apocryphal book, the Wisdom of Solomon:

While gentle silence enveloped all things, and night in its swift course was now half gone, your all-powerful Word leapt from heaven, from the royal throne, into the midst of the land that was doomed. (Wisdom 18: 14-15; NRSV)

This was the Sentence prescribed for Christmas Day at Midnight in our previous Prayer Book, but was dropped for the present Book (APBA, 1995), presumably because of its pre-Christian origin. This saddens me. We used to say it on the stroke of twelve at our Midnight Service at St John's, Maffra, and the thrill was palpable.

Our Christmas cards still show scenes of snow and holly, and for the most part we sing carols of Northern Hemisphere origin and of the events that took place around Bethlehem. But did not Christ enter *the world*? Where are the signs of that in our Christmas celebrations? Fortunately, we do have some marvellous Australian carols, the best, I think, being those written by John Wheeler and W G James in the 1940s, such as "The North Wind is Tossing the Leaves" or "The Three Drovers":

Across the plains one Christmas night

*Three drovers riding blithe and gay,
Looked up and saw a starry light
More radiant than the Milky Way;
And on their hearts such wonder fell,
They sang with joy. "Noel! Noel!
Noel! Noel! Noel!"*

If the animals could feel strangely called to the stable and if glory was shining all around at Bethlehem, surely our antipodean breezes stirred and the wild things were moved in these lands where now we live. And the hearts of the inhabitants of wild Gippsland missed a beat? May I humbly give you my own offering of "A Gippsland Carol"? It may be sung to "Hymn to Joy".

What is this that moves the heavens?

*Morning breezes make reply;
Coopracambra's peaks are stirring;
Winds of life and love and joy;
Now the bandicoots are pausing,
Sniff the air in wonderment.
All creation hails the morning;
Christ has come into the world.*



Nooramunga Marine and Coastal Park, Gippsland

Photo: Jan Down

*What is this that stirs the waters?
Patterns dance on Tambo's tide;
Rock to rock the message passes,
He who was to come is born.
Birds in chorus break the silence,
Brolgas dance, the bell birds chime.
All creation hails the morning;
Christ has come into the world.*

*What is stirring in this forest?
Ancient branches bending low;
Orchids tremble, tree-ferns quiver
Nature's hidden litany.
Now the waves are calmed in homage
Cease their surge on Woolamai
All creation hails the morning;
Christ has come into the world.*

*Who are these that hail the sunrise?
Speaking to their spirit world?
Softly treading Baw Baw's summit,
People of this timeless land;
Those of every race and culture,
Now conjoined in Spirit's fold.
All creation hails the morning;
Christ has come into the world.*

The Rev'd Canon Jim Connelly is a retired priest living in Warragul. He is also the author of three novels for children.



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

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

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

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

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

EDITORIAL

When we pray for peace

In response to the terrorist attacks in Paris in November, one Australian primary school teacher and her class have planted a Counter-terrorist Plot of French marigolds. The children have also made and hung colourful messages of support from a tree in the garden, asking passers-by to "send up an arrow prayer for our brothers and sisters in France".

Shane Claiborne, a radical Christian activist in the US who was dismayed at his government's reaction to the September 11 attacks, went to Iraq during the war to embody a different message. He says "I went to Iraq because I believe in a God of scandalous grace. I have pledged allegiance to a King who loved evildoers so much he died for them, teaching us that there is something worth dying for but nothing worth killing for" (*The Irresistible Revolution*, 2006).

If our prayers for peace have integrity, they come out of a deep desire for peace that means we are willing to be agents of peace ourselves, or at least we are willing to be made willing. As we pray, we begin to see what we are called to do. We become the hands and feet of the Prince of Peace.



Dean Steve Clarke and his wife, renowned musician Fiona Boyes
Photo: Christine Morris

Farewell to Dean Steve Clarke

Archdeacon Philip Muston

Dean Steve Clarke, who leaves St Paul’s Cathedral, Sale, this month for a new role in the Diocese of Canberra and Goulbourn, is a pastor and preacher of the more adventurous and out-going kind.

Driven by a passion to make the grace and mercy of God known to those outside the walls of the established church as well as those within, the gifted missiologist has taken risks during his two years in Sale.

Invited to write a theological introduction to a 2014 Sale art exhibition by the controversial contemporary photographer Bill Henson, Dean Steve was criticised in the media for involving himself as a senior clergyman in such a project. What wasn’t appreciated was that the invitation had arisen out of discussions about Christian faith with senior members of the Sale arts community – the kind of outreach that a skilled Dean is supposed to undertake within the wider community.

Steve is willing to be associated with controversial people if he can show the love and relevance of Christ to their thinking and lives. He has been able to engage with and communicate the gospel to a wide range of people – including groups often associated with having rejected the church – through conversation regarding their own fields of interest and expertise.

The Dean’s gift brought people from many walks of life into the Cathedral ambit: knockabout rock music legends, restaurateurs, tradies and labourers were all made welcome through Big Steve’s slightly larger than life presence

and personality. Many came into the Cathedral facility for the Art Show held in the Delbridge Hall last year.

His term as Dean of Sale will remain memorable for many. Steve’s abilities as a preacher, speaker, and teacher are widely recognised. The parishioners of St Paul’s have been treated to regular preaching of a rare and powerful kind.

Steve and his wife Fiona have been involved in various projects in the local Sale district community. They played a key part in the campaign to rescue the Bundalaguah Hall, through a series of concerts with high profile artists.

Steve’s arrival in Sale was as colourful as his turn of phrase often proved to be. Who could forget the rock’n’roll cope he wore to his induction, not to mention the two-toned brogues? But we soon learned that behind the fun and spectacle lay a seriousness of vocation and purpose that he would not lightly compromise.

Dean Steve has had his share of ups and downs in an adventurous and wide-ranging life experience. This has resulted in deep pastoral empathy for people in difficulty or grief. He has a gifted pastoral ability to speak words of comfort and faith to people in critical times of life / death.

Steve’s wife Fiona Boyes, a renowned blues singer and guitarist, has been a significant part of his ministry in Sale. Fiona performed at Steve’s induction in 2013 and again at his Diocesan farewell on November 15, and was integral in bringing famous blues and rock performers to perform at venues around Sale during the Clarkes’ time in the town.

CORRESPONDENCE

A Man Called Johnny Mac

On Thursday evening 22 October, I attended, with many from Bishop-In-Council and other clergy and laity of the Diocese and some family members of our late Bishop John McIntyre, the launch of an inspiring book called *A Man called Johnny Mac* – selected writings of Bishop John McIntyre. This volume was edited by Muriel Porter from Melbourne, a well-known Anglican Church Affairs commentator and author and friend of John McIntyre.

It was a meaningful end in many ways to the year and a half of grief at John’s sudden death and the wonderful welcome of his successor Bp Kay Goldsworthy. The book’s editor Muriel gave an excellent address at the book’s launch and a superb reflection was also given by the book’s publisher Hugh McGinlay, and then followed good short addresses by Archdeacon Philip Muston, John’s son Paul and Bp Kay.

I have been reading this book and am very much impressed with the material chosen by Muriel as editor which clearly display Bp John’s great clarity of thinking and often prophetic voice as he challenges his readers and hearers to consider more deeply the issue he is talking about. Bp John called himself an “Anglican Evangelical Christian Human Being” and indeed he was all of these and a strong and sometimes confronting prophetic voice on a number of

social issues many of which impinge profoundly on the way of being a compassionate, inclusive human being in God’s world. He spoke out often to his own public denigration and hurt from those in both religious and political power about important public issues.

He spoke on issues such as an appropriate acceptance of our nation’s history of brutalisation of the original inhabitants of our land and the vital need for our repentance of such a history and of seeking reconciliation with our Aboriginal brothers and sisters.

He spoke of both good patriotism and the dangers of nationalism; of the dangers of power centralisation and abuse particularly in the wealthy and democratic West; of the rights and dire needs of asylum seekers and refugees; of the welcome and inclusion of women and same-sex attracted people into the full life and ministry of the church.

I am surprised that Bishop John, who did so much for our church and nation to challenge and change issues of social justice, never received an honour in the Australian honours system. There again perhaps not, as he did challenge those in influence and power, just like Jesus did, perhaps too uncomfortably for his true greatness to be so recognised.

The Rev’d David Head is Rector of Morwell.

EARTH CARE CARD

– Tips and inspiration for churches and households



#15 Collect used coffee grounds from cafés

Did you know used coffee grounds are good for the garden? They are very high in nitrogen. Put them in the compost or worm farm, or just sprinkle around plants and dig in a little.

Keeping the coffee grounds out of landfill also helps reduce greenhouse gases, so this idea is a win for the climate as well as the soil.

Collecting buckets of coffee grounds regularly from your local café is also a way to connect with people in the community, and get the word out about sustainable living. It might surprise some café proprietors to meet Christians who care about the environment. Maybe your Bible Study/home group could take on the café collection as a project, and even start a community compost?

For lots more information: groundtoground.org

One of Steve’s many gifts is as a host (with wife Fiona) and cook, though the latter term does not do justice to his remarkable culinary abilities. Whether it is a splendid dinner or an exotic breakfast, the meal is served with dashes of characteristic humour and wry observation.

In recent times Fiona’s recording career in the U.S. has begun to take

off, and the couple will doubtless be spending increasing amounts of time in America.

But Steve’s principal role in the future will be a wide-ranging brief as Chaplain to the Arts with the Australian Centre for Christian Spirituality and Culture in Canberra. This will enable Steve and Fiona to live much closer to family members on the NSW coast.



Sue Fordham enjoying a good read

Photo: June Treadwell

Holiday Reading

Sue Fordham

As Christmas approaches, I will go to my local bookshop to see what is on offer but I won't be too optimistic.

It seems to me that writers under pressure to publish for the lucrative Christmas market usually produce books that are a bit of a disappointment. So what I suggest is that you use your local library or keep an eye on the local markets for some writers that I have thoroughly enjoyed.

The first of these is **Susan Howatch**, a name that I had, for a long time wrongly associated with only B Grade chicklit. (You know, your thinking woman's Barbara Cartland.) How wrong I was.

Susan Howatch has written a series of fabulous books set in England from the 1940s onwards that focus on a couple of clerical families in the Church of England. Taken together, they are a gripping epic that deal with issues of the flesh and spirit across the Anglo Catholic / Evangelical divide. It has artful characterisation and splendid plot development, BUT it is important to read these in sequence. So the one you need to begin with is *Glittering Images*.

The second of these writers is a more recently published author, **C. J. Sansom**, whose books I reviewed some time ago in *TGA*. Set in the reign of Henry VIII, the unlikely detective and

hero is the hunchbacked lawyer, Matthew Shardlake. The history of these novels is impeccably researched and documented and any minor departure from that history acknowledged in the book's endnotes.

The series begins with *Dissolution* and you will find it gripping, graphically realised and steeped in the intrigue of the time.

In 2011 I bought **Geoffrey Blainey's** *A Short History of Christianity* thinking that it might give me a good overview of the church; its origins and development. I was right. Blainey is no theologian but he is a good historian.

While I was not uncritical of his book, I did find it very useful and, just as important, easily readable.

A couple of years ago, Archdeacon Edie Ashley, in a rather amazing coup, was

able to get **Alexander Shaia** to speak at the Abbey. I had bought his book *The Hidden Power of the Gospels* and went along to hear him expound on his theme 'Four Questions, Four Paths, One Journey'. He is impressively credentialed: educator, psychologist, spiritual director, liturgist, writer and founder and director of the Blue Door Retreat in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

His talk was brilliant and so is his book. This is the sort of book that you read, ponder and come back to in a couple of years to rediscover.

It's much like **Kenneth Clark's** *Civilization*, which traces human civilization from its beginnings to the 20th century. This is so dense that revisiting it from time to time is a must. But do it in small bites.

If you enjoy crime fiction these are some of the best writers, but do read in published order because most of them have unfolding backstories. **Gary Disher**, **Peter Temple** and **Geoffrey McGeachin** are three of Australia's standout writers.

P.D. James, **Ruth Rendell**, **Ian Rankin**, **Peter Robinson** and **Robert Wilson** are my British favourites. **Robert Wilson's** Javier Falcon series is quite seriously brilliant.

Finally, no one brings alive the Scandinavian landscape in all its gloom quite like **Henning Mankell**.

Some 2015 publications that you may enjoy are **Joel Dicker's** *The Truth About the Harry Quebert Affair*, a very witty look at the quirkiness of middle America, quite reminiscent of the **Jonathan Franzen** novels. Be prepared to laugh. **Paula Hawkins's** *The Girl on the Train* is wonderful and so too is **Alan Cumming's** *Not My Father's Son*, a touching autobiographical account of growing up with a brutal father. Sounds grim but a must read.

Happy reading.

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Diocesan calendar

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

December

- 5 11:30 am Diocesan Christmas Gathering at Bishops court.
- 13 8:30 am St Mark's Yarragon, and 9:30 am St Mary's Trafalgar: Speaker, David Spitteler from the Asylum Seekers Centre in Dandenong.
- 13 6:00 pm BBQ Tea, 7:00 pm Carol Service at St Matthew's Tinamba, followed by Supper. Collection for Christmas Bowl appeal. For catering purposes please call 5148 3143 if you are coming for tea.
- 19 11:00 am – 3:00 pm An Advent Conversation: Bishop Pat O'Regan, Catholic Bishop of Sale and Bishop Kay Goldsworthy discuss Pope Francis' Encyclical Letter on ecology and climate change RSVP 5156 6580 or info@theabbey.org.au
- 20 2:00 pm Drouin Anglican Church presents the "Night of Miracles", a Christmas Cantata written by John Peterson, sung by the Just Harmony Choir. This event will include carols and community carol singing.

Christmas Services at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale

- 20 8:00 pm Nine Lessons and Carols
- 24 6:00 pm Family Worship with nativity dress-ups provided so all children can participate in the telling of the Christmas story.
- 24 11:00 pm Candle-lit Holy Communion
- 25 9:00 am CHRISTMAS DAY: Holy Communion

January

- 6 Induction of the Rev'd Dean Spalding at Drouin
- 9 8:30 am – 1:00 pm St Nicholas' Fete, Lakes Entrance

Beach Missions

For all Scripture Union beach missions at Cowes, Inverloch, Mallacoota, and around other Victorian seaside towns, see suvic.org.au/missions/program-information/



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The Anglican Diocese of Gippsland does not tolerate abuse, misconduct and harm in its Christian community.

The Diocese is committed to ensuring all people in contact with the Church can participate in a safe and responsible environment. If you may have been harmed by a church worker, or know someone who has, please come forward.

The Director of Professional Standards, Cheryl Russell, is available, and will maintain confidentiality, on telephone 03 5633 1573, on mobile 0407 563313, or email cherylrussell1@bigpond.com