



Ordination: a two-way process

Four priests ordained in St Saviour's Cathedral
by Lewis Hitchcock

Few would find a connection between breast feeding and ordination, but that was the comparison Archdeacon Genieve Blackwell made in her sermon at the ordination service in St Saviour's Cathedral on Saturday November 26.

Given that two of the four ordinands had young babies, the comparison was perhaps relevant for them at least.

Genieve pointed out that breast feeding was "a two-way affair", with both mother and baby learning the process together. She said she was kidding herself if she thought she was the one in charge, when feeding her own babies.

Similarly, she said that ordination was a two-way affair.

"Judy, Steve, Ken and Chris are here to make very serious promises - committing themselves before God and before us to live out their vocation as priests," she said. "We, the church, are agreeing they are suitable and promising to support them. More than that, we and they are recognising it is God who has called them, brought them to this point."

Drawing on the Gospel reading for the service (John 1: 35-42), she explained that when Andrew, Simon and the other unnamed disciple first encountered Jesus, they thought they were looking for the Messiah.

"What they didn't realize was that the Messiah was looking for them," she said. "And, excited as they were, they really



ORDAINED: Dean Phillip Saunders, Chris Golding, Stephen Conway, Bishop Stuart Robinson, Archdeacon Ann Ranse, Judith Heggart, Ken Rampling, Bishop Trevor Edwards and Archdeacon Genieve Blackwell outside the Cathedral after the four new priests were ordained.

had no idea what this was going to involve."

In choosing to follow Jesus, the three were taking the first steps of genuine discipleship.

"And maybe that's the point at which Ken, Chris, Judy and Steve identify with the characters in this story.

"You followed Jesus, not knowing that it would lead you to this day.

"You are again today committing yourselves to follow Jesus, not knowing what it will fully mean for you to live out your vocation as priests in the church of God."

Jesus gave Simon a new name as a declaration of what Peter would become. His name up to this time has been Simon son of John.

'But,' Jesus says, 'you will

be called Cephas,' which is translated Peter - a word meaning 'rock'.

Genieve Blackwell suggested the change of name was perhaps "to reflect a change in character, or maybe, as in Matt 16, 'The Rock' on which Jesus will build his church'.

She noted that at the end of the Gospel, when Peter received the definite summons 'Follow

me', we hear something of what will happen to Peter.

"But here in John 1, the focus is much less on what this name change means for Peter, than on the Jesus who knows people thoroughly and not only 'sees into' them but so calls them that he makes them what he calls them to be," she explained.

(continued on page 2)

also in this issue:

When church gets messy ... page 3



Fire damages Ginninderra church ... page 8



A life with no regrets ... page 6

An ethical investment alternative



ANGLICAN INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT FUND

Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn

Tel: 6247 3744 • Freecall 1800 232 400 (ex ACT Directory) • Email: aidf@aidf.com.au • Web: www.aidf.com.au

The Fund is designed for investors wishing to support the Church and its work. The Fund is not prudentially supervised by APRA and contributions to the Fund do not benefit from the depositor protection provisions of the Banking Act.

earn up to
5.5%*
at call

*interest paid
6 monthly

ANGLICAN INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT FUND

Ordination: a two-way process *(continued from page 1)*

"Jesus is looking for followers, and when he finds them, that gives them a new vocation - a two way affair."

She reminded the four ordinands that in the exhortation and examination that was about to follow, there would be many things they would be urged to do and many things they would promise to do.

"Things you only have a hint of now of what it will fully mean - what it means for you to truly follow Jesus.

"Whatever your plans, whatever your hopes and desires, and I'm sure you have many at this point - remember it is only by God's grace you will fulfil those promises."

She encouraged them to "be excited" about these hopes and desires.

"Your plans, your skills, your seeking God's will is important. But it is God, far more than you realise now, it is God who will enable you, God who will make you into the priest God has called you to be."

Introducing the new priests

(The ordinands have provided the following information.)

Judith Isobel Farquharson Heggart

Judy was born and raised in country NSW, in a large and diverse Christian family. She now lives in Yass, with husband John who commutes daily to Canberra for work with the Dept of Defence.

Their 1850's home in Yass, 'Kerrowgair', is very much a house of ministry with neighbourhood groups, home church, weddings, charity functions and retreat days.

Judy was ordained to the

Diaconate in 2007, and is currently licensed to St Clement's at Yass as a Deacon. The move to priestly ministry was a natural transition for Judy as she is deeply involved in the Yass community with particular commitment to pioneer ministry.

Judy finds great joy in her and John's family, especially their grandchildren. Her interests include gardening and reading. Judy and John look forward in anticipation to whatever God may have in store for them.

Stephen Edward Conway

Stephen has lived in Canberra for most of his life and was fortunate to grow up in a Christian family who always encouraged him to know and love Jesus.

Integral to his faith was an emphasis on service and leadership within the church family.

However, serious ill health has also plagued him and his family, and though there have been many dark days with doubts and questions, there have also been blessings and insights that have deepened and enlivened his faith.

It was on a church 'mission' to Dubbo that Stephen met his now wife, Rebekah, and they have since been blessed with two children, daughter Imogen who is two years old, and son Theodore who is three months old.

Stephen initially trained as a Primary School Teacher, completing his Bachelor's degree at the Australian Catholic University and taught at Covenant College.

In 2008 Stephen felt called to build on his lay ministry experience, and began to study at St Marks. While completing his Bachelor of

Theology and Diploma of Anglican Orders, he trained at both St Mathew's Wanniasa and St George's Pearce.

Since 2009 Stephen and Rebekah have lived with the Celebration Community in Queanbeyan, the only avowed religious community in the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn.

The family are novices within the Community, and hope to become full (life) members in the coming years. Stephen is excited to be ordained to the Celebration Community, which works principally with the marginalised people of Queanbeyan and Goulburn, focusing on the homeless, drug addicted and mentally ill.

The Community had also been made responsible for the Karabar Episcopal Outreach, which seeks to raise the Christ-consciousness of a particular marginalised area of Queanbeyan, comprising large numbers of Indigenous families, the generationally poor, the welfare dependent, and individuals and their families who are or who have been incarcerated.

He enjoys spending time with his family and friends, sleeping in whenever possible, reading the financials and the paper, movies, cooking, golf, squash, cricket and bodysurfing.

Christopher Golding

Christopher Golding is passionate about sharing God's love in Christ Jesus.

Born in 1980s Brisbane, Chris's theological formation commenced at an early age through worship at St John's Cathedral.

As God's voice spoke to him through liturgy and song as a chorister, Chris felt a strong sense of call, and a deep

sense of belonging in divine worship.

After a formative time working in retail, hospitality and then as a night-shift taxi driver in Brisbane, Chris discerned God's urging to express seriously the sense of call and belonging felt since Sunday school.

Chris moved to Canberra and studied at St Mark's from 2007. While studying, the formation continued elsewhere in four parish placements, and in ministry as a school chaplain and later as verger at St Paul's, Manuka.

Meeting a Christ-centred and musically gifted Julia in 2008, the couple wed in early 2010. Chris attributes a spiritually grounded growth in his life to his beloved spouse.

Ordained to the diaconate in February 2011, Chris commenced ordained ministry as the deacon assistant of the Young District Anglican Ministry, the parish in which he will continue as the priest assistant after ordination.

God's life-long work of formation continues in Chris through his new role as father to Phoebe Elizabeth; born on St Anne's day, 26 July 2011.

Kenneth Wayne Rampling

Ken grew up in Sydney and is the eldest of 4 children. His working life has included periods as a primary school teacher, a country ambulance officer, a business information consultant and an office manager.

While raised in the catholic church as a child Ken moved away from church and God after leaving home.

Following a significant personal crisis Ken returned to church which through the love and patience of many, resulted in a recommitment of his

life to Christ as his personal saviour.

Ken and Lynette met and married as members of an independent charismatic church in Canberra called Vision Christian Fellowship.

They have a blended family of three adult children (2 boys and a girl), one son-in-law and two granddaughters.

Lynette is a scientist working with the CSIRO and was raised in a Christian home in Canberra and has always known Jesus.

Currently Ken is the curate at Saint Peters Weston, assisting the senior minister Reverend Jason Page.

Anglican News

The newspaper of the Anglican Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn

Editor: Lewis Hitchcock
Address: PO Box 23
Bathurst
NSW 2795

Phone: (02) 6331 1722
0427 373 446

Email:
anglican.news
@bathurstanglican.org.au

Advertising:
enquiries to the editor

Deadlines:
Editorial & advertising
12th of the month prior to
publication.

Anglican News is printed by
Capital Fine Print, Fyshwick,
ACT. Post Print Publication
No. 299436/00093

Diocesan Offices

Central Operations:
Diocesan Registry
Level 9
221 London Circuit
Canberra City, ACT 2612

Postal Address:
GPO Box 1981
Canberra
ACT 2601

Phone: (02) 6232 3600
Fax: (02) 6232 3650

Anglican News is a member
of the Australian Religious
Press Association.



Anglican Health Network in Australia

from Rev'd Paul Holley, AHN Coordinator

The General Synod Standing Committee of the Anglican Church of Australia recently resolved to explore the feasibility of establishing an Anglican Health Network within the province. Dr Alan Crouch, a population health specialist with extensive experience throughout Asia-Pacific, Africa, the Americas and Europe will be leading this initiative on behalf of the Standing Committee.

Based in Cairns, Northern Queensland, Dr Crouch currently oversees public health outreach programmes for the state government in the remote Cape York and Torres Strait Island communities.

The focus of this exploration will be two-fold: to consider, first, how an Australian Anglican Health Network might address health ministry needs in Australia and its immediate neighbourhood and, secondly, how such a network might align with the structure

and aims of the communion-wide Anglican Health Network (AHN).

This potential growth in AHN will be supplemented by additional capacity to meet its objectives throughout the network. The Coordinating Board recently recruited Revd Sarah Hayes from Birmingham, UK. Revd Hayes brings her experience as a lawyer specialising in church based community programmes, and in particular her work in developing innovative financing mechanisms for faith

based social welfare projects.

In the New Year, a member of staff from St. Luke's Episcopal Health System Houston will offer dedicated support for some of the medical related activities of the network. A volunteer intern based in Switzerland will focus on data gathering and communications.

For further information on the programmes operated by AHN, check out the following weblink: <http://www.anglican-health.org>

Getting messy in church

□ Several parishes in the Diocese of Canberra-Goulburn are exploring Messy Church as a point of connection with families. Recently **Lucy Moore**, who developed Messy Church in the UK, visited Australia to encourage the concept:

It was a huge privilege to travel from the UK this winter and meet Christians in Melbourne, Adelaide and Sydney from all over Australia eager to hear about Messy Church.

I came at the kind invitation of the Uniting Church who always make their events open to people of all denominations, so I met many Anglicans as well as UCA members, Salvation Army officers, Lutherans and others at the three conferences I spoke at.

There's a huge energy behind Messy Church in Australia and great interest in getting started with it, and my job was really to explain what it is and to give permission to people to simply get going with it if they feel it's a useful way for their church to reach more families with the good news of Jesus.

At the Sydney conference, entitled Messy Ministry, we shared the theory and practice of Messy Church, hosting a genuine Messy Church to 'taste and see' (literally, as the Sausage Sizzle

that was part of it was very well received) and giving a Messy Masterclass.

Not only could we explore the themes of creativity, celebration, messy discipleship and hospitality through Bible stories, workshops and talks, but two Messy Churches who are running in the Sydney area came and talked about their own experience of running it on Australian soil, so by the end of the week, we were well steeped in Mess.

Messy may seem an odd, even inappropriate epithet to attach to church, but the name says something about the way God works with people who are on the messy edges of church and of society, whose lives may well be in a mess, and about the way we can meet him in the mess of our family lives rather than waiting to become perfect.

We do indeed get very messy in the process, having fun with paint, glue, icing sugar and all sorts of stuff of the earth, as well as the mess engendered when people eat together around tables: a creative, joyful mess of fellowship. The queries we've had about the name are not from people outside the church but from a few - a very few - inside it - and Messy Church is designed for those not already in an inherited model of church but for those who don't yet know Christ and might otherwise never become part of a church community.

Messy Church began in my own church near Portsmouth on the south coast of England in 2004 as an attempt to be church for families in a way they would



enjoy. We were frustrated by the model of running children-only groups or holiday clubs which sent enthusiastic children back to families where the other members of the family had no interest in the local church other than as a purveyor of cheap childcare.

So we decided to try something that would appeal to the whole family, adults as well as children and that would give families an opportunity to grow in faith together rather than in isolation from each other. We spent quite some time asking families in our community what they would like to come to at church if we did something specifically for families; we prayed a lot and checked out the gifts we felt God had given our church in particular.

It became obvious very quickly that the sort of families who might come were a long way away from being in a position to join in the 'inherited' church services on a Sunday, so we decided that our new group would need to be church for them, not a way of leading them surreptitiously into Sunday church, but a church in itself which would do its best to be a Christian community with Christ at the centre, sharing worship, learning and fellowship.

Not, I hasten to add, that we thought things out that clearly right at the start: we just wanted to do something that families would come to, enjoy and have the opportunity to meet God. And in April 2004 we held our first Messy Church. Seven years later, to my huge surprise, I find myself on the other side of the world, sharing the idea with Christians who see it as a useful idea for them too. God does indeed work in mysterious ways.

The shape of Messy Church is something like this. It might happen once a month on a day and at a time that suits families and team in a particular neighbourhood. Ours is on a Thursday at 3.30,

others are other days of the week or at weekends. There is usually a warm welcome and relaxed 'blobby' time to get a drink and a snack and chill with the team and with the other families before the activity time starts. This runs for about an hour and may have up to ten Bible-themed crafts, activities, competitions, games and experiments set up with a team member or two at each one to explain it and its link to the theme of the day, and to grow relationships with old and young who come to try things out.

Families are free to do as much or as little as they like. At the end of this time, everyone takes part in a very short (about 15 minutes) act of more explicit worship: usually story, song and prayer, then enjoy a hot meal together around tables before some brief good-byes and everyone leaves.

The values behind Messy Church are, however, far more important than the shape which may and should change from church to church as each church responds to the needs of the families in their areas. The values of creativity, celebration, hospitality, being all-age and being Christ-centred are the elements at the heart of Messy Church: its DNA if you like.

These are an attempt to reflect a God who delights in creation and recreation, who invites his people to celebrate who he is and their own place in his story; a God who welcomes us to his

feast and invites us to invite others unreservedly.

It tries to be a community where everyone of any age, learning preference, gender, background, experience or belief is at home - adults as well as children, children as much as adults. And it may be a great place for families to learn to play together and eat together, but it's more than anything a place where they can meet Christ in the stories of the Bible, in the songs, prayers and activities and in the lives and conversations of the Christians they meet there.

Families enjoy it because it's a chance to be together and do creative things that don't get precious homes messy. They're in church but nobody's asking them to keep their children quiet or to join in with rituals which appear alien. They are participating rather than having their religion done to them; they can join in at whatever level they like or simply observe. They are experiencing the generosity and goodwill of Christian community perhaps for the first time.

And it's fun: getting hands into paint, sand or water ... making something out of junk ... experimenting with different materials ... learning new skills ... expanding horizons ... enjoying the life-changing stories of the Bible ... exploring what it means to be a family: these are steps towards the 'life in all its fullness' that Jesus came to bring.



LAY CANON: In recognition of her work in developing the messy Church concept, Lucy Moore was last year installed as an Honorary Lay Canon in Portsmouth Cathedral, England.

Messy Church Resources from BRF (Bible Reading Fellowship)

www.messychurch.org.uk

Messy Church
Messy Church 2
Messy Church the DVD
Messy Crafts
Messy Cooks

Messy Readings
Messy Sports Fun (Nov 2011)
Starting your Messy Church
(Jan 2012)

Available in Australia through MediaCom www.mediacom.org.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Climate change

Dear Sir,

I must record my substantial disagreement with correspondence from Sid Reynolds on climate change in the December issue of *3D Review*, particularly with respect to his assessment of the contribution to the debate of Cardinal George Pell.

Christian leaders who wish to contribute to this debate in a responsible manner, should ensure that they can bring to bear an in-depth understanding of scripture, the Christian tradition of theological reflection and a good understanding of the relevant science. The recent contribution of Cardinal Pell to the debate does not measure up. His failure to engage seriously with basic textbooks on the physical principles involved and reviews of the peer reviewed scientific literature is particularly incomprehensible. As a result the lecture contains a substantial number of errors with respect to the science involved.

What is perhaps more surprising for a senior leader in the Catholic Church is that he does not refer to recent publications on this issue by the Pontifical Academy of the Sciences, nor to any statements by the current Pope.

For anyone interested in substantial theological reflection on the issue of climate change I can highly recommend the work of Professor Michael Northcott, Professor of Ethics at the University of Edinburgh. In *A Moral Climate: The ethics of global warming* he provides a rich and detailed discussion that draws on scripture, theology, the stories of communities experiencing the effects of climate change and the relevant scientific literature.

Doug Hynd
Stirling, ACT

Dear Sir,

Mr Sid Reynolds, in a letter which refers to George Orwell's *Animal Farm*, demonstrates a use of language which would do Orwell proud.

So far as his letter reveals, phrases such as "higher Christian perspective", "balanced Christian understanding", "strong and wise leadership" simply mean expressing a certain particular point of view.

What sort of "Christian perspective" seeks "balance" between true and false understanding of the facts?

He cites approvingly a lecture by George Pell.

George Pell, we should remember, took delight in the snow storms in the UK and Europe in December 2010 (which caused huge disruption

and expense, and, reportedly, deaths), seemingly hoping they would deceive people into thinking the world is no longer warming (read exactly what he wrote at http://www.sydney-catholic.org/people/archbishop/stc/2011/201112_1700.shtml)

The scientific content of his lecture has been criticised at, eg, <http://www.abc.net.au/religion/articles/2011/11/11/3362551.htm> and <http://www.abc.net.au/religion/articles/2011/11/16/3367852.htm>.

The criticisms include being highly selective in the lines of evidence he refers to, and misunderstanding of the fundamentals of climate science and scientific method.

Pell's broader theme seems to be that because there is uncertainty in the science (which will always be true in the sense that progressively more detailed and accurate information will be obtained in future), and taking action will incur costs, we should do nothing.

He doesn't mention the obvious point that doing nothing may lead to costs which may be greater.

So it's rational to make policy on the best information available, rather than to do nothing solely because the science will be more certain in future.

The reason for preferring to do nothing is unclear.

Since no-one ever seems to have argued that the science points clearly towards doing nothing, the only possible reason I can see, would be that he prefers the possibility of avoidable costs to fall on people in other countries (poorer ones) and/or future generations than on us, here and now.

If this were any sort of "Christian perspective" then I wouldn't be a Christian.

Jeremy Dawson
Kambah, ACT.

Dear Sir

In claiming that the IPCC is "answerable to no-one" Sid Reynolds is simply wrong.

Their data is subject to more peer review than any results in the history of science. Can you please ask him to present his evidence for his claim that the IPCC data is "politicised" (whatever he means by that).

Unless, of course, he means that the scientists have been talking to the politicians from New Zealand who are watching people canoe where there used to be 300 metre thick ice or the politicians from Nepal who are waiting for the moraines of new glacial lakes to break, inundating inhabited areas with a flood that will make the latest

Queensland effort look like a light shower or even, perhaps, the politicians from Tuvalu who are watching their country disappear entirely.

Keith Binns
Goulburn

Understandings of Advent

Dear Sir,

Scott Cowdell's Advent meditation (*3D Review* Dec '11) appears to leave us without Advent! Admittedly Jesus' apocalyptic predictions do present a difficulty. Mark 13:26 "And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory ...

³⁰ Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place."

Clearly, Jesus did not return in that generation nor since. However, what if Jesus' prophecy is a fulfilment of Daniel 7:13-14 in his Ascension, which completes the Resurrection? That generation then indeed lived to see the Son of Man taken in a cloud into heaven (Acts 1:6-11).

Furthermore, Jesus' prophecies about his future coming in glory actually do apply to his Return as well, for as Jesus ascended into the cloud the angels say, Acts 1:11 "Men of Galilee ... why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." Jesus Ascension into heaven is the precursor for his Return from heaven.

From other Biblical prophecies, I expect the Lord's Parousia will not only be astronomical but cosmic, as the whole Creation is transformed into a New Heaven and a New Earth involving our own resurrection from the dead. Now that's an Advent! Maranatha, come Lord Jesus!

Jason Page
Weston, ACT.

Short sermons

Dear Sir,

It has been said that the length of a sermon should be like a woman's skirt: short enough to arouse interest but long enough to cover the essentials.

Mary Samara-Wickrama
Weston, ACT

Letters ...

Anglican News readers are invited to respond to articles and raise new issues of concern through the 'Letters' column.

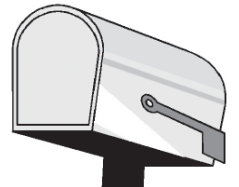
Letters of 250 words or less will be given preference.

Long letters may be edited for reasons of clarity or space. Name, address and a contact phone number (for verification) must be supplied. Letters will not normally be published without the author's name.

Letters may be sent to:

The Editor
ANGLICAN NEWS
PO Box 23
BATHURST
NSW 2795

E-mail letters to:
anglican.news@bathurstanglican.org.au



NZ Bishop says 'thanks'

The Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Christchurch in New Zealand has written to Bishop Stuart Robinson to express the appreciation of her diocese for a donation sent from St Saviour's Cathedral in Goulburn.

"Your funds and prayers will be so welcome in the reconstruction of our Diocese," said

Bishop Victoria Matthews.

She also pointed out that since the major earthquake almost 12 months ago, a series of smaller 'quakes and aftershocks has continued to damage buildings and disrupt normal life.

Bishop Matthews' letter is published in full below:



Diocese of Christchurch

29th November 2011

Rt Reverend Stuart Robinson
Bishop of Canberra and Goulburn
Dear Bishop Robinson

Re: Generous Gift from Cathedral Church of St. Saviour

I apologise most profoundly and sincerely for not having acknowledged your generosity before now. Thank you to you and your Diocese for the wonderful gift which we can put to valuable use. I am sure you are aware of the continual destruction of our buildings - at present twenty-four of our churches are currently unusable and many of our congregations are in temporary accommodation like school halls and sharing the use of churches. The community is pulling together and supporting each as they are able. Unfortunately there are some churches that are beyond repair and demolition is likely to be the eventual outcome. Your support of this Diocese and particularly of these churches is most gratefully received.

We ourselves are operating from very cramped quarters within a church hall and this partly explains why we have taken this length of time to say thank you. We have also been overwhelmed with the amount of extra work the earthquakes have caused and unfortunately, we have had the deconsecration of several churches besides our beloved Cathedral.

Your funds and prayers will be so welcome in the reconstruction of our Diocese and I would ask you pass my gratitude on to your Dean and Cathedral Chapter.

Yours in Christ

The Rt Rev Victoria Matthews
Bishop of Christchurch.



Gospel Heritage Day

- Saturday 20th April, 2013
- Special thanksgiving service in St Saviour's Cathedral, Goulburn
- Heritage trains operating to Goulburn from Canberra, Wagga Wagga, Junee, Cootamundra, Yass. Special connections from Sydney, Newcastle, Gosford, Lithgow, Bathurst, Orange and the South Coast

- Steam train from Canberra and return
- 3801 Steam train from Sydney; Rail Motors from Canberra; Rail Motors from Wagga Wagga, Junee, Cootamundra, Yass
- Special train from Newcastle and Gosford
- Connections from Lithgow, Bathurst and Orange
- More details are available on the CFT website. Bookings are open now but it is expected that space will be limited so parishes are urged to make enquiries now with CFT.



Historic rail tours for 150th anniversary celebrations

□ **Christian Fellowship Tours offers a chance to link with our past**

from Bishop Stuart Robinson

Throughout our vast diocese there have been many faithful people gathering together in small rural churches and larger city parishes to join in worship, to baptize their children, participate in Holy Communion, marry and gather to give thanks for those loved ones who have gone to be with their Lord.

The diverse nature of our Diocese is also reflected in the diverse

cultural heritage of our people.

Farming communities, construction workers and engineers, truck drivers and mechanics who kept the trucks on the road, railway workers who drive the trains and the many people connected with the railways, nurses, teachers, police, military service personnel, academics and ministers of the gospel.

The year 2013 is a significant year in our history, and you will be invited to participate in a range of celebrations and activities at your own parish level, and at a Diocesan level.

I am excited to bring you advance notice of some very special and, I believe, unique gatherings.

They achieve many of my personal aims, and the aims of our Diocesan team for bringing us together as a family, offering thanks to God for His wonderful blessings bestowed over the years, and a chance to reach out to members of our community. Profits these ventures will be used in funding the ministry of our Regional Assistant-Bishops.

Many years ago, the forerunner of Christian Fellowship Tours and its CEO, John Cronshaw, supported me through all my seminary training when I drove their coaches on Outback tours to promote the work of the Bush Church Aid Society.

To this end, I am delighted to be associated with John and Christian Fellowship tours 30 years on!

The Gospel Heritage Day rail tours are just some of the tour options being offered by Christian Fellowship Tours in conjunction with the Anglican 150 celebrations next year, marking the sesqui-centenary of the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn. Information brochures are being distributed across the diocese and beyond over the coming weeks.

St George's welcomes Bishop Stephen and Jennifer Pickard

Bishop Stephen Pickard has expressed his pleasure in returning to parish ministry after his years in the academic world.

"It's good to be back in Canberra and ministering among the people, preaching each week and getting to know the people and their lives and journeys with God," he told *Anglican News*.

Bishop Stephen was commissioned by Bishop Stuart Robinson as Intentional Locum in the parish of St George's, Pearce, last November. His appointment is for a two-year period.

Most members of the parish turned out for the joyful occasion, as well as quite a few friends and well-wishers from further afield.

The Sudanese congregation of St George's contributed some wonderful singing in Dinka and English and at the end of the service the congregation danced out to their drums then shared a meal together.

In his sermon at the commissioning, Archdeacon of Queanbeyan and Southern Canberra Ian Palmer focussed on the question, "Who am I?" He pointed out that

individuals and groups often face this question when they find themselves in times of significant change.

"That state of questioning – when we are no longer what we have been and not at all sure of who we are or might become has been helpfully described as a liminal state," Ian Palmer claimed.

"It's that time when on a journey we have left the security of home but not arrived at our destination; it becomes a pilgrimage when we make the resolution that we will not arrive unchanged."

He said that the Bible – and indeed life – taught that groups of people, even nations, could experience that time of liminality; indeed that they must ask the question "Who am I?"

"Classically that is what the Old Testament story of the journey of the People of Israel from slavery in Egypt to the Promised Land is about," he explained. "In that period from the Passover to crossing the river Jordan the people of Israel came to define what it meant to be the people of God in a remarkable way. The fact that the most extended reflection on

that period was done in exile – another time of liminality – makes it all the more powerful."

Ian Palmer added that at the other end of the Bible, the church was viewed as living in the in-between times: "We are post the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, but we have not yet realised who or what we shall become".

"Today, in this church, Bishop Stephen and St George's are, through past circumstances and under the guidance of our Bishop, deliberately entering this stage of being 'Interim'," he continued.

"It is a blessed but precarious state. Blessed because when we enter it willingly like Mary, we know that the power of the Holy Spirit is bringing something to birth that is good, of God and for the blessing of others; it is precarious because we do not really know the consequences of what is happening."

He pointed out that the congregation of St George's was blessed "because you are entering this state of liminality in a conscious way".

After briefly reviewing the recent history of the parish, he assured the congregation, "My



INTENTIONAL: Bishop Stephen Pickard with his wife Jennifer. He has begun a two-year appointment as Intentional Locum at St George's, Pearce.

friends, God is working here – do not doubt it!"

Archdeacon Ian concluded his sermon by re-phrasing his original question. "Who are you at St George's? Who will you become?" he asked. "I do not know. You are entering an intentional interim place, a liminal state, a threshold experience; if you like, a pregnancy. We claim

the promise of Scripture that in the person of Jesus, God has come down to us.

"The Lord is here, his Spirit is with us! Please be assured that the power of the Holy Spirit has overshadowed you; and together, under God you can explore the vision of, 'Who are we and who and what is God calling us to be?'"

A life with no regrets

□ A young Canberra journalist's battle with cancer inspired hundreds

Peter Veness, an AAP journalist in Canberra, has died at the age of 27, after a three-and-a-half year battle against a rare form of brain cancer.

For the last two years, Peter has also served as Chair of the parish council at St John's Anglican Church, Canberra.

He had studied journalism at Charles Sturt University, Bathurst, and worked at the *Western Advocate* in Bathurst before taking up the appointment with AAP in 2006.

He had earned a reputation for his energy, tenacity and integrity both in his work and his church life.

Doctors had given him only months to live when he was first diagnosed with a brain tumour in 2009, but Peter was not one to accept such a prognosis without a fight.

Following his diagnosis, he wrote an article about his condition and his attitude towards it (*see next page*), in which he resolved to 'live a life of no regrets. Don't die wondering'.

Shortly afterwards he married his Bec Keene, who he had come to know and love during their high school years in Gilgandra.

He is survived by his wife Bec, whom he married in 2009, parents David and Cheryl Veness, family, and many friends.

Peter's funeral at St John's on Thursday January 19 saw an estimated 350 to 400

people (including most of the Canberra Press Gallery) gather to pay their respects to a talented journalist, a loyal friend and an inspiring role model.

Peter's father David Veness spoke briefly about Peter's contribution to humanity and his commitment to his faith:

"Pete always believed there was good in everyone, and he acted accordingly. During his illness both Pete and Bec found time to hold out a helping hand to many people, and this makes us especially proud. There are many stories that will remain untold about Pete and Bec's help to other people in need, due to the personal nature of those stories."

David Veness briefly outlined an instance in Bathurst where Peter's intervention and dogged persistence had broken through the bureaucratic red tape to make life much easier for a young boy coping with long-term illness.

He also spoke of Peter's faith throughout his struggle.

"At no time through this terrible journey did I or (my wife) Cheryl see his commitment to his Lord waver - in fact, I think it strengthened. Pete's witness to his Lord during his illness, even in recent times, was nothing short of amazing."

One of Peter's best friends, Warwick Newell spoke of the many qualities that had made him so unique, and so loved by his friends.

"For one, he had an unmatched and sometimes explosive sense of humour - he never met a line he didn't want to cross.

"He was also warm,

passionate, compassionate, loving, fun loving, respectful, thirsty for knowledge, endlessly enthusiastic for life, and he was a fighter.

"Whenever he hit hard times, his qualities still shone through brightly. What a great measure of a man, that his principles were steadfast through the good times and bad."

Warwick also spoke of Peter's "legendary love of music" in all its forms.

"If you asked him what he was listening to lately, his reply might be the heaviest of heavy metal, or a whale song."

Fellow journalist Adam Gartrell reflected on Peter's contribution to journalism, saying that he had spent "ten years studying and practising journalism alongside Pete Veness, and I spent most of that time entirely envious of his talents".

He said Peter had embodied so many of the best things of their craft.

"He was interested in everything. He wanted to know about the inner workings of the Senate and the CIA, and the Australian Cricket Team. The history of the Bible, and of Afghanistan, and of punk music. There was nothing he didn't want to know more about."

Margaret Campbell, Associate Priest at St John's, told the funeral congregation that Peter had not just been a breath of fresh air that had blown into the rather traditional faith community of St John's a few years ago - "he was a whirlwind!"

"He challenged us all in our faith, he asked us hard



SYMBOLS: At the beginning of the funeral service in St John's Church, friends and family members placed symbols of Peter's life on the casket. These included the hat he was recognised by in the halls of Parliament House where he worked in the Parliamentary Press Gallery; a cross symbolising the importance his Christian faith held for him; and the well-worn Bible his wife Bec had given him on his graduation.

questions about God's love and healing and eternal life, and he boldly praised God in the middle of all his struggles."

She referred to the article Peter had written about his illness in 2009, in which he had said 'I pray at night asking my God the seeming simplest of questions: Will you save me?

I haven't heard back yet.' "I can tell you," Margaret

Campbell said, "that before he died, Pete did hear back. Pete knew that through God's love he was saved. He was upheld, he was sure of the promise of eternal life, and was still able to give God glory to his last days.

She concluded with Peter's own words, which she suggested would be his advice to all: "Live a life of no regrets. Don't die wondering."

Anam Cara community launches in ACT

□ Gippsland-based contemplative community offers support for inner journey of faith

'Anam Cara' is the Celtic name for 'soul friend'.

A soul friend walks with you, accepts you as you are, and helps you to deepen your relationship with God. The Anam Cara Community exists to offer prayer and support for the inner journey into God.

Bishop Stuart has warmly welcomed the establishment of a 'meeting place' of the Anam Cara

Community in the Canberra and Goulburn Diocese with the Rev'd Joannette McHugh as the 'Gatherer'.

At present a small group meets on the third Sunday of each month from 2-4pm.

On Saturday 25th February we are holding our first Quiet Day in the Diocese.

About the Community

The Anam Cara Community is a Christian Community, rooted in the historic faith.

We recognise and celebrate the many and varied expressions of the Christian tradition within the Anglican communion, and in our sister

churches. We also recognise and celebrate the wisdom of other religious traditions, and seek to understand and learn from their experiences.

We acknowledge the importance of the traditions and wisdom of Australian Indigenous spirituality, particularly the understanding of the link between spirit and earth.

The Community is a contemplative community committed to the understanding that God calls us to make an inner journey the end of which, ultimately, is union with God.

We celebrate the ways of prayer, prayerful reading of scripture, worship, spiritual direction/soul care, reflection

and silence. While we value the contemporary, we also value the historical wisdom from the past.

The Community is a community of the word. Jesus is communicated to us through the texts of the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures, in which we seek truth, wisdom, nourishment, correction and guidance.

The Community is committed to equality, peace and justice. We believe that response to God's call to the inner journey is a call to make peace and work for justice.

The Community is a community of renewal and reformation. We hear God's call

to make all things new, and to continually examine our expression of faith to determine what supports, and what hinders our growth in God, and our service to the world.

The Community is an open community. We are open to all and undertake to work cooperatively, respectfully and transparently with parishes and other ministries around us.

The Anam Cara Community is a dispersed community. Whilst we do not live together, or even close to one another, we acknowledge that we are sisters and brothers, and fellow pilgrims.

(continued next page)

I am 25 years old, and I have cancer

□ Shortly after he was diagnosed with cancer in 2009, Peter Veness wrote the following article for *Anglican News*. It gives an insight into his character, and how his Christian faith influenced his attitude towards the challenge he was facing:

I am 25 and I have cancer.

First it was in my brain and now it's spread to my spine.

I had brain surgery to remove the tumour from my head, which had been missed six months earlier; eight tumours then appeared on my spine.

The cancer, so I am told, will eventually get me.

It is hard to comprehend but here is what I went and did.

Rushed back to the Church, married my girl, prayed, read the Word and prayed.

Sometimes I am angry, other times sad but this I know.

Desperately; with hunger, determination and struggle, I am living a life of no regrets.

My counsellor - a specialised cancer patient counsellor who must deal with the most harrowing stories every day - encouraged my life of no regrets. She has had to harshly remind me the likely outcome of all of this is death.

Live a life of no regrets. Don't die wondering.

Here is what I cling to: God is in control, God heals and most importantly God forgives.

I say it is most important because it is. There is plenty to forgive and it's in the forgiveness that I wake each morning, that I slide my shoes on and go to work.

In many ways it's the forgiveness that helps get me up and running each day.

I have never studied theology; I have been scared to take the offer from God for scores of reasons. His calling seemingly led me only down one corridor, the job I have seemed to put the world at my feet. In short, I didn't trust Him.

Now I have no option.

It's in James' talk of the Prayer of Faith that I trust, it's in the beauty of the prologue to John's gospel that I find refuge and wrest and it is in Jesus' death and resurrection that I find an ultimate answer to my future.

Every Sunday I take a

songbook from faithful attendants, a pew sheet and the liturgy and I desperately pray it. What I love is the centering on Holy Communion. Of late it has made me cry, the idea that a real person really did go through that for me, sure he did it for everyone, but he also did it very individually for me. It is utterly astonishing and surely crushes and redeems me every Sunday anew.

And surely my prayers are being heard, God is acting.

Dealing with an extremely rare and aggressive form of brain cancer, God has seen fit to give me nine months now in which the eight tumours on my spine have not grown, have not moved and have not done anything. No tumour has reappeared in my brain, nine months after seven-and-a-half hours of surgery removed the primary cancer.

In all of this God has given me more understanding than a 25-year-old should have. I'm not bulletproof and death comes for all of us. While the process of dying fills me with dread, death itself is not to be feared.

"Cast all your anxiety on Him because he cares for you" - 1 Peter 5:7

(Reprinted from the February 2010 issue of *Anglican News*)



AGAINST THE ODDS: Peter and Bec Veness were married in September 2009, shortly after doctors had given him a life expectancy of just months. It was a prognosis they both refused to accept.

Anam Cara community *(continued from previous page)*

History

In June 2007, the Anglican Diocese of Gippsland's Bishop in Council endorsed a proposal to establish a new community within the Diocese of Gippsland.

The Anam Cara Community brings together existing ministries in a new form for the Diocese and yet, it is also something that has been practiced for centuries throughout the church. Today the community has associates within the Diocese of Gippsland, throughout the rest of Australia, and scattered across the world.

Associates

Individuals who wish to become members of the Community are known as Associates. Associates commit to regular prayer, bible reading, worship, and to walking in the steps of Jesus as they are called. Associates may be from any Christian community, or from none. The

Community's leadership structures exist to serve the associates, and others who may choose to access resources provided by the community.

(Please see our website for quiet days/workshops, meeting places, library etc.)

Organisation

A central leadership, which is made up of a small executive and the gatherers of the dispersed meeting places, provides oversight for the annual calendar of retreats and workshops, on-going peer support and professional development. An annual service of thanksgiving and commissioning is held.

Newsletter

The Community's newsletter, *Waterholes*, is published at regular intervals.

The Community website, www.anamcara-gippsland.org is a resource for all associates and those interested in the inner journey. All

printed material produced by the community is available at the website, together with regular news, notice of events and resources. Hard copies of published material is sent to people without internet access.

Soul Care (Spiritual Direction)

The community is supported by a number of soul carers/spiritual directors, who have been trained, and whose call to this ministry has been discerned. In 2012 this ministry will continue to be developed.

More information?

Please visit our website: www.anamcara-gippsland.org

or contact our Soul Carer, Rev'd Anne Turner: anne@anamcaragippsland.org or (03) 5144 1914.

Or in Canberra contact Rev'd Jeannette McHugh at jeannette.l.mchugh@gmail.com or 02 6161 9093.

The Wilderness Journey with the Anam Cara Community

A Quiet Day at the beginning of the Lenten season to contemplate the authentic place of the wilderness, the desert, in our spiritual lives.

When: Saturday, February 25th, 9.30am for 10.00am start until 4 pm.

Where: at The Gathering Place, Bancroft St. Dickson.

Cost: A donation of \$8 would be appreciated to cover costs.

Morning and afternoon tea provided, BYO lunch.

The day will be facilitated by Revd. Anne Turner, Soul Carer of the Anam Cara Community, assisted by Rev'd Jeannette McHugh, Gatherer of the ACT community.

To register please contact Jeannette on 6161 9093 or jeannette.l.mchugh@gmail.com



NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

Fire damages Ginninderra church

Part of the building that houses St Paul's Anglican Church, Ginninderra (in the north-western Canberra suburb of Spence), was damaged by fire in the early hours of Thursday December 29.

St Paul's Church is one of several tenants in the Mount Rogers Community Centre in Spence. The building is a former primary school, and is owned and maintained by the ACT Government.

The cause of the fire had not been established as Anglican News went to press, but it started outside the building in a bin used for cardboard recycling.

Parish priest Doug Newman said that the damage bill to St Paul's was expected to be relatively small, with the ACT Government insurance paying for all building. He expected that the repair work would probably be completed by mid-February.

The room that was damaged by the fire is normally used as a store room by the local Operation Christmas Child (OCC) group, which meets regularly during the year to sew articles of clothing for distribution to developing countries.

Frozen food stored for the Food Pantry scheme operating from the church was also lost when power was cut.

Doug Newman said that losses to OCC Sewing were restricted to a couple of cartons of sewing.

"The OCC Sewing team at St Paul's includes people from a number of North Canberra Churches and denominations," he added.

The group will commence sewing for 2012 on the first Friday in March. For more information about sewing for OCC please contact St Paul's on 02 6258 1722.



LIMITED DAMAGE: Damage from the fire at St Paul's was limited to one room, despite early concerns that it had spread inside the building. Several boxes of children's soft toys and some clothing made by the Operation Christmas Child sewing group were damaged and had to be discarded.

Paschal Candle workshop

Come and create a personalised Paschal Candle for your parish this Easter, at a Paschal Candle painting workshop to be held in Tuggeranong in mid-March.

This new initiative will introduce participants to a range of symbols to choose from, which might best represent the local parish story this Easter.

Participants will receive guidance in replicating and painting the symbol onto the candle, which itself can be a rewarding time of reflection and prayer for the Lenten season. All levels of experience are welcome to participate.

The Paschal Candle painting workshop will be held on March 10, starting at 10am and finishing at approximately 4pm. It will be held at the St Mary in the Valley parish centre, corner of Were and Webber Crescent, Calwell.

Registration will cost \$50, which will include the cost of candles, painting materials and lunch.

Please register your interest by February 24, 2012. Contact Susan Hanna, St Mary in the Valley Ph: (02) 6291 7752.



'Out of ashes, new things will grow'

□ A reflection on the effect of the fire on the church community of St Paul's

By Doug Newman*

I had envisaged a quiet week – just a sermon to write and a few hymns to choose and I could have an easy week.

The family baptism service for Sunday was all prepared in advance. The several weeks leading to Christmas had been very busy – but then they are in every parish – but after Boxing Day all Canberra leaves for the coast!

A 1.00am phone call on Thursday 29 December from the police to tell me that St Paul's was on fire was definitely not in any of my plans. I arrived on the scene about ten minutes later to see that the fire was out.

From the outside it looked terrible and it was not possible to go to check it out – but I did sneak a look in the worship area and saw that it was intact and not damaged.

I went home but I did not sleep well. 'What ifs' and worst cases whirled through my brain. It was hard to pray and see any good come out of this.

Thursday was spent in the company of the police as they guarded the site, whilst the ACT Government owners of our building organised emergency response to make the building safe.

We regained access that afternoon and I was relieved to find that the damage was localised to a storage area used for our Operation Christmas Child (OCC) activities and that damage

outside this area was negligible.

The electricity had been cut so we lost about 50 kilos of frozen food – but the fridges and freezers needed a good end of year clean out anyway. The fire destroyed the outside wall of the building and the garbage and recycling bins.

Also lost were soft toys, wrapping paper, tennis balls and some clothes made by the OCC Sewing Group that had been stored ready for our Christmas boxes this year.

With the ACT Property Group's excellent support we were capable of full operations by New Year's morning and Jodie Heather Weaver was duly baptised with over a hundred attending. Our Food Pantry commenced 2012 operations as planned on 6 January.

When we suffer trauma to our treasured places it has the capacity to cause us to lose perspective. It is not what happens to the outside of us that matters as much as what it causes, or we let it cause, to happen to the inside of us.

How does it change our relationships with each other, how does it change our relations with our community and our attitude to those responsible?

Does it encourage us to pray for those amongst who we live? Does it encourage us to give thanks for each



*Rev'd Doug Newman serves as rector of the parish of Ginninderra.

child baptised into a family of faith? Why do we hold so tightly to things but find it hard at Christmas to love difficult members of our families?

St Paul's congregation and Food Pantry Community like many other parishes has members dealing with serious challenges and life-threatening illness. On Christmas Day St Paul's was blessed to have a woman from the

pantry join us with all her children and some of her grand-children; a last family Christmas all together.

A police officer I spent Thursday with will come back and drop-in some clothes her toddler has grown out of and just this week Liz came with her two daughters who brought some of their pre-loved soft toys and some stationery to replace those lost in the fire.

We had never met Liz before.

In many ways God has made himself known in the midst of our inconvenient time and has extended us in our relationships, one with another and together with the community around us.

That which was meant for evil and to distract us has been turned to good by reflecting on it from a bigger perspective.

Psalm 107 has helped us in this reflection.

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

CGS scores outstanding HSC results

Canberra Grammar School congratulates Year 12 Class of 2011 on HSC success

Canberra Grammar School is celebrating outstanding success in this year's Higher School Certificate (HSC), having been positioned in the Top 100 performing schools for the second consecutive year.

One hundred and forty-six Year 12 students sat the exams and actual results are significantly stronger than assessment based predictions. 43% have earned a place on the Distinguished Achievers' List for attaining more than 90% in at least one of their subjects.

Nine students have attained an ATAR of 98 or more and the student cohort gained 169 places on the NSW Higher School Certificate Honour Roll.

Joseph Cavanagh is one such outstanding student who achieved 5th position in Geography. Andrew Barnett performed well across a number of subjects including attaining 6th position in Physics. Both achieved an ATAR above 98.

Four students will receive the Premier's Award for Excellence for attaining 90% or more in at least 10 of their units.

One of these students, Ciaran Edwards-McKeown, who is a boarder at the School, is also a talented Baseball player winning a 2nd Grade Premiership and representing

the ACT in the National School-boys Championships.

Ciaran is also a talented musician and is Captain of Music at the School.

Six students attained impressive results in the Top Achievers' List for placing in the highest ranks of their subjects. Rohan Curtotti, who achieved first place in Latin, is described as "a terrific young man with the world at his feet".

Adrian Trowell achieved 11th place in Ancient History from a cohort of over 12,000 students and was also a House Captain and heavily involved in Rugby and Rowing at the School.

Eighty-six percent of CGS students studying Ancient History achieved marks of 80% or more, a result only achieved by 37% of students across NSW; every CGS student studying Ancient History achieved a mark above the state average.

The outstanding results also extend to Music, Drama and Design and Technology with:

- **Angus Mackie** selected for the OnSTAGE Exhibition at the Seymour Theatre Centre in Sydney 4 February 2012 in the Set Design category;
- **Lachlan Shelley and Ciaran Edwards-McKeown** being nominated for inclusion in ENCORE, a selection of performances and compositions from Higher School Certificate Music students. ENCORE will be held in the Concert Hall of the Sydney Opera House on 26 March 2012;



ACHIEVEMENT: Canberra Grammar students Dylan Simpson, Adrian Trowell, Ian Lawford and Daniel Bennett were part of the HSC Class of 2011 which scored outstanding results across a wide range of subjects.

• and **Ashley Jenkins** nominated for inclusion in DesignTECH, the annual exhibition of outstanding Major Design Projects developed by HSC Design and Technology students. The exhibition will be at the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney 18 February – 13 May 2012 and will tour regional centres following this.

Mrs Kerri Rock, Director of Academic Studies at CGS, said that these results were a reflection of the school's renewed commitment toward teacher-student collaboration, ensuring

that every student could reach their true potential.

"We have raised the bar substantially and both our teachers and our students have done an extraordinary job in reaching these expectations," she added.

"The School has outperformed many of its comparable HSC schools in Sydney which according to Dr Justin Garrick,

Head of the School, confirms the School's and the boys' commitment to academic excellence, all the more so given the breadth of their commitment, not just to their academic success but to their sense of community and sporting, musical and artistic life. They are a great year group and we are very proud of their achievements".



ANNIVERSARY: At the 10.00 am Eucharist at St John's, Canberra, on December 21 the Reverends Bob James, David Hill and Bob Lindbeck celebrated 40 years of ordained ministry. The trio had been ordained as Deacons at St John's in 1971. A special morning tea in the Robertson Room followed the anniversary celebration.



JOHN BANCE & SON
FUNERAL HOME



Your Local Funeral Director
Phone: 02 6925 4444

John Bance & Son Funeral Home is a family owned and operated business which shows dignity, service and care when it matters most.

12 Ashmont Avenue
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650
Email: admin@johnbance.com.au
Website: www.johnbance.com.au

Accredited members of Australian Funeral Directors Association



CMS Summer School: a blessing to the nations

by Joshua Castle*

CMS Summer School 2012 was once again an incredible time of fellowship and encouragement in the beautiful Blue Mountains.

Singing praises to God amongst more than 2500 adults from churches around NSW and ACT gives a wonderful glimpse of God's Church here in Australia. One perhaps more joyful thing than this glimpse was to see the way God is working in the world to bring people from all nations to himself.

CMS has a long history of sending out of well equipped, long term gospel workers to take Christ's offer of salvation to the Gospel poor. Missionaries illustrated this clearly in the missionary sessions, showing God working powerfully to bring the lost to himself. Karen Darda, serving in Japan, shared some of the fruits of 20 years of ministry – stories of life-changing Gospel conversations and the overwhelming joy that she feels when she opens God's life-changing word for the first time with the citizens of Japan. Her challenge for the 18–25 year old *Gen.Mission* group was clear. 'Consider seriously God's call to his people. You can give everything up for the Gospel, because Jesus gave it all for you.'

A particular opportunity for NSW and ACT evangelicals

Guest speaker, Lindsay Brown (former International Director of IFES), presented us with an open door for ministry opportunities as **Rowan Kemp**, leader of the EU Staff Team, Sydney University wrote:

At CMS Summer School we heard of explicit invitations to the Australian evangelical



PRAISE: More than a thousand tongues combined to sing praises to their Saviour at CMS Summer School 2012.

community from Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Tanzania (to cite but three examples) to send gospel workers. Moreover, according to Lindsay Brown, Sydney evangelicals are particularly placed to meet some of the pressing current gospel needs around the globe. We have open doors for ministry—but will we pray and work to send people through?

As part of his list of the top Ten challenges facing the global evangelical church (for the full list, view the article online) Lindsay Brown highlighted the great need for training and teaching in many parts of the world.

Setting the scene, Lindsay outlined the incredible growth in God's global church in the last 20 years. The evangelical church in Nepal, as one example, grew from 30,000 in 1989 to 900,000 by 2009.

The challenge presented by this amazing growth is to disciple large numbers of new believers and establish them in the Christian faith. Such discipleship is essential if we are to fulfill the Lord Jesus' commission in Matthew 28 to 'teach them to obey everything that I have commanded you'. Only solid Biblical discipleship will avoid a Christian faith that fails to progress beyond the superficial or nominal.

Lindsay Brown's point was that this is where are particularly equipped to serve the wider global church. Having been blessed with high levels of Biblical teaching and training in our churches, we are beauti-

fully placed to bless our brothers and sisters in less resourced places where God's church is rapidly expanding.

Is this a door through which we are prepared to walk? Will we pray, as a community of resource-rich Sydney evangelicals, for the Lord to raise up significant numbers of workers to meet this substantial need? Will we actively seek to encourage and send appropriately humble, mature, servant-hearted people to serve in the global harvest?

Read the full article at sydneyanglicans.net/news/stories/open-doors-will-we-walk-through

Comments from the crowd:

"We walked away, challenged to glorify Jesus throughout the coming year ahead. What a great way to commence the year."

Ross and Leanne Maltman

"Thank you for a fantastic Summer School this year. My husband and I greatly enjoyed the talks and our children loved the kid's program. Thank you for all the time, effort and prayer that went into the whole week. Praying that God would continue to be glorified and many brought to salvation in God through Christ in your life changing work."

Jo Bidwell

*Joshua Castle serves as Communications Coordinator for CMS NSW and ACT.

Historybytes by Robert Willson

Bare ruined choirs in the bush

Shakespeare wrote of "bare ruined choirs, where late the sweet birds sang..."

This line is found in his Sonnet 73. No doubt he was thinking of the ruins of the great monastic houses of Britain which had been destroyed by King Henry VIII not long before Shakespeare's birth.

In the Australian bush we may find lots of ruined churches but I do not know of any monastic ruins. Voices are hushed as we explore such ruins and try to imagine them once crowded with worshippers and with the voice of the priest proclaiming the Gospel.

Many years ago when I was Rector of Berridale Parish we took a day off and drove down to the coast to Twofold Bay to visit the ruins of Boyd Town.

Boyd Town is a crumbling monument to what was once an ambitious financial gamble. The "neat Gothic church, the spire of which is visible twenty miles at sea", as an early visitor described it, was built in the early 1840's, along with the other buildings of the village. Today much of it is a ghost town.

Workmen and materials on a lavish scale were imported from Sydney, and no expense was spared. But the church was never consecrated and no congregation ever gathered to sing *The church's one foundation* or anything else. The only sound ever heard was the wind in the trees and the bush birds. Today the old red brick church is a roofless ruin with gum trees growing in the sanctuary.

This picturesque ghost town is the monument to a Scottish adventurer named Benjamin Boyd. Boyd was born in 1801 at Penninghame, Wigtown, Scotland, one of a very large family. Ben Boyd was tall and handsome and had a fluent tongue and immense financial ambitions.

In London he founded a bank and a wool company and arrived in Sydney in his famous yacht the *Wanderer* in 1842. He used his capital to finance vast pastoral schemes on the Monaro and in the Riverina.

Boyd was accompanied on his voyage to Australia in 1842 by his friend Oswald Brierly, later Sir Oswald Brierly the marine artist.

Boyd appointed Brierly as his agent and overseer on his



holdings, which totaled a third of a million acres within a few years. Brierly must have travelled all through the Monaro to places like Bombala, Berridale and Cooma. He was also a magistrate at Twofold Bay. He painted some remarkable pictures of whaling operations in the area.

Boyd dreamed of building a model township at Twofold Bay as a base for his whaling operations and as a port for his pastoral enterprises. The Church building was part of that grand dream. I wondered who the architect for the Church might have been.

We know that Brierly designed the elegant Tower close to the church. It was used as a lighthouse and a lookout tower for sighting whales. He may have designed the Church as well.

But towards the end of the 1840's Ben Boyd was in financial trouble. He had overreached himself and was caught in the financial depression and drought in that period and driven bankrupt. Without his personal drive and his money Boyd Town fell into ruins. Oswald Brierly left his employment and joined the Owen Stanley expedition to New Guinea, later serving in the Crimean War. He ended up being marine artist to Queen Victoria.

Boyd tried to retrieve his fortunes on the Californian diggings but failed and was apparently killed on the Island of Guadalcanal in 1851. Those who explore the "bare ruined choir" he left behind him at Twofold Bay may reflect that Jesus warned us about counting the cost of our enterprises.

But in the end the Church, the Body of Christ, is people not buildings.

Historbytes is a column open to members of the Diocese. How about writing 500 words and adding an image on some aspect of the history of your parish? Send it to the Editor.



GROWTH: Lindsay Brown told the conference recent growth in the global church had created many openings for evangelical teachers.

Canberra Mission Focus

If you couldn't make it to CMS Summer School 2012, it's not too late as the Canberra Mission Focus, a shorter version of CMS Summer School, is on 17–18 February at St John's, Reid, ACT. For more info go to www.cms.org.au/CMF.

Support needed for demanding ministries

Support from dioceses for the Outback Fund of the Anglican Church of Australia was considerably lower in 2011 than the previous year.

However, the National Home Mission Fund Committee is really grateful for the support of parishes and individuals across the country who have heard of the need in remote and rural areas and have responded compassionately.

In December, \$112,500 was allocated by the Fund for 2012 ministries in the Diocese of Northern Territory, North Queensland, Riverina, Willochra and North West Australia. This is down from \$166,000 in 2010 and \$144,000 in 2011. So in 2012, each of these dioceses will have to curtail planned ministries because of lack of funding.

The Committee, chaired by Bishop John Parkes, will meet in April to try to find new strategies for funding these ministries in remote parts of our country.

One of these ministries is the Gawler Ranges Patrol in South Australia. The people there experience isolation from the amenities of bigger towns, confinement with a small number of people in isolated stations, difficulty with health and education services, and the problems of family disputes and

workplace issues which can seem worse in remote places.

There are no churches in this vast area and no resident clergy. In recent years, since the withdrawal of UCA patrols, the Gawler Ranges Patrol Ministry has been conducted by the Anglican Church, and some Anglican families have been happy to reconnect to the Church.

Archdeacon Brian Jeffries of Ceduna has been the patrol padre, but in 2011 the Rev'd Steve and Lyn Davis from Streaky Bay have been involved too. No one travels alone for safety reasons.

Four times a year their congregations release them from regular parish ministry. A four wheel drive vehicle is hired (can you guess just how much the hire cost and petrol add up to?) Camping gear is readied, though sometimes they stay in shearers' quarters.

Steve packs his puppet which begins interesting conversations with the children, and they set off across rugged tracks to visit the far-flung workers in this vast territory. It certainly sounds exciting but it can be demanding physically, spiritually and emotionally.

The clergy keep in touch with pastoral care, and sometimes baptisms and funerals are



BUSH SERVICE: Archdeacon Brian Jeffries conducting a bush service at Wirulla in the Gawler Ranges, South Australia. While the local communities contribute towards the cost, ministry in the outback regions still requires extra support from the wider church through the Outback Fund.

held in the coastal towns. Over the years very good pastoral relationships have been built up. The Diocese of Willochra and the parishes of the patrol padres contribute to this ministry but it still needs other support. It would be a tragedy if this ministry to be weakened for the sake of \$5000.

This story is repeated with

indigenous ministry in the East and West Kimberleys and Outback Support ministries in the Northern Territory, and there's been a general tightening of belts for all the applicant dioceses.

If you or your congregation would like to support valuable

gospel ministries in remote parts of our land, then please send your contributions to The Anglican Outback Fund, c/- The Anglican Centre, 209 Flinders Lane, MELBOURNE VIC 3000.

55th anniversary of ordination

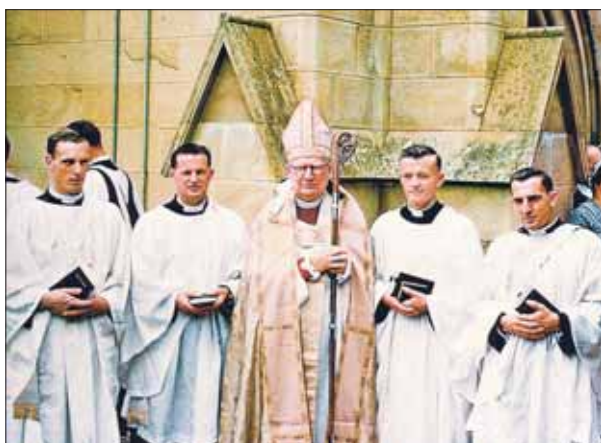
Two long-serving diocesan priests will attain a significant anniversary on February 2.

Bill Pryce of Cootamundra and Bill Wright of Gundagai were ordained as deacons at the Church of St John the Baptists, Canberra, on the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, February 2, 1957.

Also ordained deacons were George Mullins and Len Brassington. All four had studied in preparation for ordination at St John's College, Morpeth.

The ordination was performed by the Bishop of Canberra and Goulburn, Ernest Burgmann, and the preacher was The Reverend Harold Hunter.

Bill Pryce and Bill Wright have served almost their entire years of ministry within the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn. Len Brassington served in several parishes before moving



RETROSPECTIVE: Bill Wright, George Mullins, Bishop Burgmann, Bill Pryce and Len Brassington on the day the four were ordained as deacons in St John's, Canberra, in 1957.

to work as a chaplain in the area of health and welfare in Melbourne, while George Mullins has served mainly in Melbourne apart from several years in the

USA. Len Brassington died in 2006.

Bill Pryce is a great grandson of pioneer priest The Rev'd Edward Gifford Pryce.

Centre for Ageing and Pastoral Studies

6th National Conference

September 26 to 28, 2012

University House Canberra



*Ageing and Spirituality:
Linking the Generations*

The conference aims to examine the themes of:

- Preparing for positive and healthy ageing
- Baby Boomer ageing: Exploring the myth and addressing the reality
- Palliative care and older people
- The lived experience of dementia and mental illness

Keynote speakers include:

Rev. Prof. John Swinton, University of Aberdeen
Prof. Simon Biggs, University of Melbourne

Submission of abstracts close 23rd March 2012

Early registrations close 4th July 2012

Registrations close 14th September 2012

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.centreforageing.org.au/>
or call (02) 6272 6205

NEWS

Lisa Thomas takes on new role in MCF

□ National Staff Worker for the Military Christian Fellowship

Beginning on 30th January 2012, Lisa Thomas will officially join the Military Christian Fellowship (MCF) team as the National Staff Worker.

MCF is a non-denominational, registered charity that operates within the Australian Defence Force (ADF). It was formed in Sydney in 1959 as the Australian Officers' Christian Union and is now inclusive of all military personnel, past and present, regardless of rank.

MCF is funded by tax-deductible donations from its members and from the public.

MCF promotes Christian faith in the ADF by being an instrument through which others in the ADF are led to Christ. It develops Christians in the ADF, especially when deployed. It actively supports ADF Chaplains and manages MCF legally, effectively and efficiently.

At the end of October 2011, Lisa began familiarising herself with MCF by conducting a handover with the current MCF Staff Worker and attending a number of meetings with the MCF Executive and leaders of other Defence Christian Military Ministries who are working together to build the kingdom of God in the ADF.

Lisa was able to meet with many MCF members and other ministry representatives that support the ADF. Upcoming events for MCF include the

National Day of Prayer for Defence on 24 Mar 12, the Defence Christians Dinner on 31 Aug and the MCF Seminar on 1 Sep 12. Additionally, MCF is sponsoring the Association of MCFs SW Pacific Conference in Brisbane from 1-4 Oct 12.

The *Crossfire* magazine reports on MCF events and ministries. Two regular events have been the Defence Christians Dinner and the MCF Seminar. These are well supported and attended. Reports on these events as well as activities planned for 2012 can be read online at: <http://www.mcf-a.org.au/images/crossfire/crossfire22.pdf> or ordered free at the MCF Office email mcf.office@defence.gov.au

Lisa previously worked with military personnel in 1979 as a purchasing officer of air force aircraft parts in Melbourne. In 1980, she was moved to Canberra by the Department of Defence to train as a computer operator at Russell Offices, on rotating shifts with military and civilian personnel.

Lisa's communities of faith have been through her Roman Catholic primary and secondary schooling, then the Anglican congregations of Wanniasa, Lanyon Valley and South Tuggeranong. In 2011 she completed the Bachelor of Theology with Charles Sturt University and the Diploma of Anglican Orders with St Mark's National Theological Centre.

Lisa has said that she is excited to be working with committed Christians who desire the benefits of faith to be discovered or encouraged



APPOINTMENT: Lisa Thomas starts her new role in February as National Staff Worker for the Military Christian Fellowship, helping promote the Christian faith in the Australian Defence Forces.

within all ranks of military and Defence personnel.

"Jesus exemplified these benefits," she said. "He proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind, and let the oppressed go free (Luke 4:18)."

She added that the Defence Minister's July update to Parliament revealed that the ADF, on behalf of the Australian people, was bringing that message of hope to the people of Afghanistan:

The ADF has trained Afghan

personnel to deal with the threat of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and unexploded ordnance in Uruzgan Province. Australia provides institutional trainers to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). Australia is the lead nation responsible for the Afghan National Army (ANA) Artillery School in Kabul, providing 20 ADF personnel to mentor their Afghan counterparts. This school is a key ISAF initiative, and is the first military school in Afghanistan to develop and run a literacy program.

Removal of over 20 key insurgent leaders from the battlefield has disrupted the flow of money and supply routes that insurgent leaders command.

This in turn undermines the insurgent network and prevents the harm the insurgents intend for our soldiers, ISAF partners and the local Afghan population.

The improved security situation resulting from these operations has permitted the Afghan police to establish a stronger presence in remote areas of Uruzgan province, and for the Mentoring Task Force to perform their task of training the Afghan National Army 4th Brigade under a reduced threat from insurgent interference.

This security improvement has also allowed the civilian-led Provincial Reconstruction Team to increase its efforts to build the Afghan Government's capacity to deliver basic services and provide economic opportunities to its people. It has also allowed the Provincial Reconstruction Team to extend its reach into areas of Uruzgan not contemplated in 2010.

Lisa acknowledged that the Triune God is moving within the Australian Defence Force. Christian virtues of courage, integrity, good leadership and stewardship, to name a few are desired attributes within the ADF. She said she felt privileged to be a part of MCF and their mission of equipping and growing ADF personnel for their God given purpose.

If you would like to support the MCF please pray for Defence leadership and for protection of ADF members deployed overseas. Additionally, you can resource the work of the MCF through tax deductible donations to BSB 803205 and A/C 20514572.

1. <http://www.defence.gov.au/minister/SmithStatements/pl.cfm?CurrentId=12089>

OBITUARY:

Donald Roger (Don) Warren

Donald Roger Warren, (known as Don Warren) passed away at Healesville Hospital in Victoria on Christmas Eve at 3.15 am. He passed, peacefully after a long battle with cancer. He was 79. His daughter spoke for the family when she said: "We will miss him but we're glad he is no longer suffering in pain."

Many in the diocese will remember Don Warren as the former self-appointed "chief cartoonist" for the Canberra - Goulburn diocesan Synods for many years.

He has been described by family and friends alike as "a wonderful man".

Clare explained, "He would often go to synod in Goulburn

and record his view of events in cartoon form which was much appreciated by others attending the Synod". "Then his cartoons of the Diocesan event would be published in the next synod news for distribution across the diocese," Clare said.

Don was an inspirational art teacher, teaching at Scott's School in Albury, where he designed the griffin logo for St Marks College, and later at Watson High, and at colleges in Canberra during his long and satisfying career.

Art was also his ministry within the churches he attended.

Some in the diocese may remember that the altar frontals at Holy Cross, Hackett were Don's

creative gift to that church, and that he also made the sign on the outside of the church.

Later on, he worshipped at All Saints in Ainslie, where his vicar at the time was the Rev'd John Parkes.

"Bishop John of Wangaratta diocese came to Dad's funeral on the 29th December at Lilydale Memorial Park, Victoria, which was very special."

"I'm sure my father has many spiritual connections in Victoria, New South Wales and the ACT because that was part of who he was" Clare explained.

He is survived by his wife Ruth, and their children Sally, Julian and Clare.

Contributions for Anglican News

Many thanks to those who have contributed articles and photos to this issue of *Anglican News*. Articles from the parishes and ministry units around the diocese help make this newspaper an effective tool to link the various faith communities scattered across the vast area of the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn.

Through sharing our stories, we not only provide encouragement to one another but also add to the store of ideas and resources available for mission and ministry.

Please continue to send material for publication. Articles are best sent either as Word documents attached to an email, or written directly into the body of the email, although typed pages are also welcome. Photos should be sent in JPEG format, attached to an email, and **not** embedded in Word documents. It is best to send photos in original size, without any reduction.

CE pays tribute to departing execs

Three senior staff members resign

by Peter Sandeman

We have all been saddened by the recent resignation of three of Anglicare's longest serving senior staff; Jenelle Tinham, Director of Services, Luke Vardanega Director, People and Culture, and Research Manager Irene Stein.

In a very real sense it is the end of an era.

Jenelle Tinham has been an absolute stalwart of Anglicare, stepping into the breach when services needed support and acting as Chief Executive when Keith was ill and in the long interregnum prior to my appointment.

Jenelle's steady hand and deep experience has helped bring Anglicare through the amalgamation of its predecessor agencies to the strong position afforded by our regions and the effectiveness and quality of our services.

I will greatly miss her dependable presence and wise counsel. Jenelle has decided it's time for her to travel and then look for a new challenge on her return; it could be in human services, it could be anything that gives her joy and whatever it is I'm sure Jenelle will throw herself into it and make her mark.

Luke Vardanega has made People and Culture look effortless with his

grace and humour masking a penetrating intelligence, hard work and a skilled human resources professionalism.

I'm sure we will find just how difficult his work has been and how large the gap his departure will create. I will miss Luke's wisdom and spirituality, his ability to cut through complex situations, to get alongside his colleagues and get us caught up in his enthusiasm.

Luke brought Anglicare to a new land of human resources professionalism, sorting through a wide array of awards and enterprise agreements and implementing training and



STALWART: Jenelle Tinham has been a stalwart of Anglicare, guiding the organisation in the interregnum before the arrival of Peter Sandeman as Chief Executive.

Sandeman set for ordination



CALLING: Anglicare Chief Executive Peter Sandeman says he has long felt a calling to the diaconate.

Anglicare's Chief Executive Peter Sandeman is set to be ordained a deacon at Goulburn Cathedral on February 25.

"I have long felt that I am being calling to the diaconate, which embodies the kind of work we do at Anglicare," Mr Sandeman said. "It's been a long journey for me and I have a strong sense of God's guidance as I look back."

"I believe Bishop Stuart's

decision to allow my ministry candidacy to go forward will further boost the working partnership between Anglicare and the Diocese's parishes. It is a visible symbol of the common mission we share as part of the body of the Church. For that I am deeply grateful to Bishop Stuart."

Mr Sandeman will be ordained along with two other ministry candidates.



RESEARCHER: Professor Irene Stein has helped develop strong partnerships with three universities.

leadership development.

Professor Irene Stein has put Anglicare on the research map, has developed strong partnerships with three universities, has sorted our policy and procedures to the point of accessibility and systematic review and has introduced a new rigour to our strategic planning and advocacy.

Irene leaves us to be close to family in Sydney and I will miss her intellectual capacity, humour and wit.

Irene is a great networker and I'm sure she will be part of our future in some way at some time when we least expect it.

All three of these great contributors have put body and soul into making Anglicare what we are today. They not only go to the next stage in their journey with our blessings and thanks, but will continue to be friends of Anglicare and will keep a fond and knowing eye on our next steps.

ANGLICARE

Strengthening urban, rural and remote communities

Aged Care

Children's Services

Disability Services

Health Care

Youth Services

Supported Housing

Foster Care

www.anglicare.com.au
1800 18 77 68

Chief Executive: Peter Sandeman

Directors:

Services: Jenelle Tinham

Mission & Justice: Rev'd Steve Clarke

Finance & Business Development: Ruth McGorman-Mann

People & Culture: Luke Vardanega

Communications: Jeremy Halcrow

General Managers:

ACT: Jenny Kitchin

Riverina: Brad Addison

NSW South Coast & Snowy: Carol Meindl

NSW Southern Tablelands: Simon Bennett

BLACK STUMP: a youth leader's perspective ...

Blackstump Christian Music, Teaching and Arts Festival

by Katherine Rainger*

Going to Blackstump on the October long weekend in 2011 was a first for me, and what a way to begin - I co-ordinated a group of 15 young people to attend with me!

Blackstump has been going for 30 years and in 2011 it returned to its home at Cataract Scout Park in Appin. It is a fantastic set up with loads of great places to camp.

The program began each morning with talks and Bible studies. At mid-day the bands started playing.

All music tastes were catered for ranging from metal to folk- and everything in between. Cafes and food stalls provided places to hang out whilst planning which venue and which live music act to go to next.

Highlights for me included the 'One World Cafe' set up by TEAR Australia which had yummy fair trade food, great music and interesting discussions. I also was blessed by the team who had set up the



venue 'Sacred Space' which was a prayer room reflecting the theme of home.

I had a wonderful time at Blackstump and so did my youth group. I would really encourage other churches, families, youth groups or young adults to consider going.

A children's program called 'Kids stump' is provided. I was very impressed by the friendly and safe atmosphere during the

entire festival. It is great to support the organisers of Blackstump and local Christian artists.

Claim the date for your 2012 calendars Friday 28th September to Monday 1st October. See you there!

See <http://www.blackstump.org.au/> for more info.

Katherine Rainger serves as part time youth worker at Holy Covenant, Jamison.

... and a teenage perspective

Stump was great, where to begin? We climbed onto a bus, all piled in. Andrew drove, music was playing, Soon we arrive at Appin - where we were staying.

We got to the campsite in the late afternoon, Set up our tents, the music started soon. From there it was a weekend full of fun, Warm and cold, with both rain and sun.

Music was always loud and we liked to dance, On stage for *Drawing North*, what a great chance.

We sang out our hearts, losing our voices, Music, art and teaching, there were so many choices.

One of the highlights was dancing in the TIGERTOWN tribe, A brilliant band with a lovely vibe.

The food was yummy, many options to enjoy, And over the weekend there was a craze for "BOK CHOY".

We aren't sure why, you'll have to ask our Southsider mates, Better book in next year's Black Stump dates. It was such great weekend, new friends were made, Like our buddies from Yass with whom we stayed.

Our own Katie de Veau sang, it was really nice. Next time we hope she will play twice. So all in all it was wonderful weekend, It was a shame when the bus drove around the last bend.

See you there next year ;)

Emily and Sarah Trigge - Holy Covenant Youth Group

Wanted: old lectern

Does your church have a lectern that it has no further use for?

Frank Dunster, a Kaleen parishioner, is seeking an old lectern he can use to house a very large book he has recently acquired.

He is not concerned about the condition of the article:

"It can be damaged, broken, bruised, battered or discarded," he said.

Frank is a member of the Folio Society, and recently received a book on Italian paintings.

"I had expected to receive a normal-sized volume, but I was amazed at its size and

weight," he explained. "It has been suggested that I place it on a lectern and carefully turn a page each day until the end, either of pages or my lifespan."

If there is a parish that can help out, Frank Dunster can be contacted on (02) 6241 7224 or by email: 21nov29@gmail.com

ECUMENISM

From Anglican evangelism to holistic mission

The case of ABM by John Nevile

The Anglican Board of Mission, Australia (ABM) is the direct descendant of the Australasian Board of Missions.

This body was founded in 1850 in response to a plea from the Bishop of New Zealand, Bishop Selwyn, for funds to buy a boat to take the Gospel to the islands of Melanesia.

Today the ABM is a body with world-wide operations and whose mission goes beyond direct evangelism to a holistic vision of serving people in all aspects of their lives, certainly in the spiritual but also in the practical, with an emphasis on helping those oppressed by poverty.

The eventual result of Bishop Selwyn's request was the independent Anglican Church of Melanesia, which continues as a partner of ABM today.

In 1872 the ABM was constituted formally as a Board of the Church. In the 1880s ABM supported missions to the Indigenous people of Australia, and in 1891 ABM sent the first Anglican missionaries to New Guinea. The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea became an independent church in 1976.

Over the 20th century, ABM developed the pattern of activity which operates today, increasingly supporting missions not only in the Pacific but also around the world. Support for the Diocese of Jerusalem began in the first decades of the 20th century and continues today.

Some details about one project and a list of ABM projects in two other countries will give some feel for the type and range of ABM projects in 2012.

In Zambia the Health and Community Development Initiative is aimed at disadvantaged communities throughout the country. Its goal is to empower women and youth through health projects, craft classes, agriculture training and literacy training.

This project also aims to

improve food security at a household level by providing farming inputs to 100 households and offering livestock to vulnerable households.

For a small amount (\$60,000) the benefits are huge. 20,000 women, 750 men, 3,500 teenage girls and boys and 54,000 children will benefit directly from this year's program alone. There are six ABM projects in Myanmar, namely Institutional Strengthening, Water and Sanitation, Food Security and English Language Tuition, Youth Skills and Training and Bibles for Myanmar.

In the Philippines there are four projects: Water and Sanitation, Food Security and Agriculture, Climate Change and Evangelism and Christian Education.

ABM's philosophy is based on a belief in holistic mission - that God calls us to serve people in all aspects of their lives, from the spiritual to the practical.

This includes all the evangelistic activities of the church but also provides health and education services, helping people improve food and water resources and assisting in economic development initiatives to reduce poverty.

While most of its partners are autonomous local Anglican churches, some are not. Through Ecumenical Church Partnership programs in Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu, projects of regional councils of churches, and in other ways ABM works with other denominations ABM is an Anglican organisation with an ecumenical outreach.

An interesting Australian example of this is Nungalinga College in Darwin. ABM joins with other donors to fund the College which supports and trains Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander church workers of all denominations and helps build the leaders of tomorrow amongst their communities.

Many ABM projects are tax deductible. More information about ABM and its projects can be found on its website www.abmission.org, by email info@abm.asn.au or by phone 1300 302 663.

Lenten studies focus on climate change

In response to an invitation from Bishop Stuart, a Canberra priest has written a series of Lenten studies exploring the issue of climate change and our Christian response.

Rebecca Newland, Rector of St Phillip's, O'Connor, said this was an issue that had touched her heart and concerned her deeply.

"I told Bishop Stuart that I did not think I had the time (it was just before Christmas!) However, when I began to prepare for the year ahead and came to think about Lent, I couldn't find a book or study that dealt with the issue in the way I felt was useful and necessary," she said. "So I am now writing the studies. The Rev'd Linda Chapman is assisting as a consultant and she will possibly write one of the studies."

She has distributed an outline of the studies to the clergy of the diocese, as well as the first study. The whole study will be available as a simple A5 booklet or electronically in PDF form. The booklet would cost a couple of dollars while the electronic version is free.

Rebecca expects that the complete series will be available by the middle of February.

"I'm offering them just in case anyone is looking for something similar, and like me you may feel called to look more closely at this issue. They are not scholarly or academic works and quite simple in their structure and suggestions," she explained.

Each study is focussed on the gospel set for that Sunday in Lent and considers a pattern, a practise and discipline. There are questions to consider individually and as a group. There will be an introductory chapter

and a glossary at the back explaining some scientific terminology.

"This study takes it as read that anthropogenic climate change is real and a significant threat," she said. "Therefore it is not a study that is conducive to a debate about the science or politics of climate change."

The pressing environmental and humanitarian issues brought about by climate change and the need for a Christ-honouring response is the motivation behind these studies. Lent is an ideal time to consider our place on earth and our relationship with God with its themes of reflection and repentance.

The studies are focussed primarily on our heart's connection to the earth, other creatures, each other and our Lord. Each study begins with considering a destructive pattern that we either engage in communally or individually followed by a suggested spiritual practise, virtue or discipline that we can put in its place.

Although the issue being addressed is potentially bleak and depressing a key part of the reflections is hope and trust in God. Each study uses the Sunday Gospel reading both as an opportunity to engage with the passage more deeply and as a lens to see where the Spirit may be leading each participant.

There is a picture to reflect upon and a number of questions to prompt discussion.

If anyone would like copies please let Rebecca Newland know by the beginning of February, advising what format and how many copies of the booklet are required.

Rebecca can be contacted at St Phillip's Church, on (02) 61617334.



FOR REFLECTION: Each of the five Lenten studies includes a picture for participants to reflect on (this image is from the first study) and a number of questions to encourage discussion. However, the studies are not aimed at encouraging debate about the science or politics of climate change.

Overheard in Primary Scripture Class

(Continued from p. 16)
allowed to eat?

Christian people are allowed to eat any foods, really.

Some Christians choose not to eat red meat on Fridays, to remember Jesus' death on Good Friday. Some have pancakes on 'Pancake Tuesday' because it was a custom to empty the cupboard of flour and sugar before Lent (the 40 days leading up to Easter).

I once saw a t-shirt which read, "Save the Earth – Eat more chocolate!"

What would happen if you didn't wear a Priest's uniform at Church?

Nothing will happen! In fact, I appear in many different ways - because it isn't the clothes that really matter!

What is God's religion?
(This is such a good question!)

a) I don't know. I'm not sure

if God would claim any particular one.

b) God gave us imaginations, creativity and freedom to choose. I'm sure he can deal with all our differences.

God was not created, and cannot be destroyed. Many different religions agree that God is 'light' and 'life' and 'love', so these things cannot be destroyed either. This is good news for ALL people!

Woden Christian Bookshop

The new year brings a whole new crop of significant occasions, and we have Bibles, music, books, pictures and jewellery suitable for someone special—or, of course, for yourself! Come in and browse, or enquire by phone or email; the shop is open 9am–5.30pm on weekdays, 10am–3pm Saturday (closed Sundays and public holidays).

Woden Christian Bookshop

Bus Interchange, Woden ACT 2606
Contact us on 6285 1425 (fax 6281 0849)
or email wcb@cyberone.com.au



Christians for an Ethical Society

Working Group of Churches Together NSW-ACT
Associate Member of ACT Churches' Council Inc

President - Bishop George Browning

www.ces.org.au

Public Forum:

Where lies Happiness? The Christian Understanding of Contentment and Community

The Rev Professor James Haire AM

Executive Director, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture

Friday 8 March 7:30 pm

Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture

Blackall St (corner Kings Ave), Barton, ACT

\$5 donation requested to cover hall costs - Contact Information: Heather McLaren 6291 4537



Kids Club 3: Focus on the Family

by Brad Lovegrove

How much influence do Tween-age kids have on their parents?

Tween influence on parental decisions is growing, with \$30 billion of parental spending in the USA heavily influenced by kids aged 8-12 (*N.Y. Times*, 2005).

Parents may control the purse strings, but kids hold the heart-strings; and their 'pester power' is so great, that 80% of all global brands now deploy a Tween marketing strategy.

What does this mean for ministry? As we've already noted, because kids are kept on a shorter leash than teens, you can make contact and minister to the whole family through the kids groups.

If kids enjoy the group, they may invite friends or siblings, or 'pester' their parents to be allowed to go to other church activities, and drag Mum and Dad along, too.

Remember the story of the 9 year old girl who joined Kids Club, then invited ten other people along to church, including four other family members? (*Anglican News*, Nov).

However, we can also be more intentional in reaching the whole family, by setting aside some leaders to minister to the parents (rather than the kids). Anything that helps these leaders to build relationships with the parents could be considered, such as:

- a 'car-park greeter' role, so parents don't just drop and run, but are engaged in conversation.
- dropping activity material to the home regularly, providing an opportunity to relate to parents (more effective than 'cold call' door-knocking, as your church is known and trusted).
- regular kids' performances (each term?), to which parents are invited (we followed our Christmas Kids Pageant with a 'Carols by Candlelight' and BBQ, to get to know the parents better).
- One parish even ran a 'Christianity Explained' course for parents, while CEBS and GFS were meeting.

This community contact could then be expanded, by offering further ministry (and advertising it in the school):

- Family film nights
- 'Raising Boys' seminars
- 'Parenting Teens' or 'Drug-proofing your Teens' courses

The ideal 'pathway' would be: Primary school contact ⇒ Kids group ⇒ Family ministry ⇒ Family attends Church?

Be creative in thinking up other ways you can reach students and their families. Think of 'pathways' into the church, and how different ministries can be linked to create a pathway (e.g SRE ⇒ Kids Club ⇒ Sunday School ⇒ Kids Pageant ⇒ Carols).

However, don't forget that the same principles can be used to reach any age group in the community.

So, if Kid's groups are so wonderful, how can your parish start one? I'm glad you asked! Synergy has just produced a DVD called *Me Too!* to help you start a Kid's group in your parish. The DVD contains 6x 1.5hr leader's training meetings, a Planning Tool to help you start a new kid's ministry, and a 14 week kid's group Program.

Summary:

Aim: to reach primary students, and their families, more effectively:

- Start a Kids' Club/Sunday School if you don't already have one (using the new '*Me too*' DVD - see adjacent box).
- Promote the group at Primary School, through kids bringing friends, Scripture classes, or School Newsletter.
- Have all leaders Police checked and CSM trained, and advertise this fact.
- Build relationships with parents so they don't just 'drop and run'.
- Visit families at home, and continue to build relationships.

Learn from specialists ... discuss, practice & prepare with friends ... right where you are!



- Have regular kids' performances, to which families are invited (e.g. Christmas and Easter)

Expand community contact, by offering (and advertising) further ministry:

- Use 'Focus on the Family' resources for parenting seminars, etc.
- Develop 'Parenting Boys' seminars, Father-Daughter nights, Mother-Son activities.
- Run 'Parenting Teens' or 'Drug-Proofing your Kids' seminars, for parents of secondary students.

Overheard in Primary Scripture Class

Year Three pupils at Jerabomberra Public School are studying 'Religions of the World' and the following questions were asked of Rev James Wood in his role as GLAD Team (Chaplain) at school.

The answers have therefore tried to be inclusive and educational for all students, and respectful of any religious affiliation. The aim is to leave doors open to encourage further enquiries, and to fan any sparks of faith into flame.

Why do people have different religions/believe in different gods?

Ever since humans have walked the earth they have wondered how the world was made, and is there a God or gods. Humans have expressed their different beliefs about God in different religions. Most religions teach right from wrong,

why it is good to be kind to others, and how we should act ethically in our world. Healthy religions help us do four things: to overcome darkness with light, to confront death with life, to defeat evil and hatred with love, and to transform our pain, rather than transmit it to others.

Why believe in anything?

I think we must believe in somebody/something to make life meaningful. If we believe in somebody we trust them, we develop a deep relationship, we realise that we matter, we take responsibility for our thoughts and words and actions, we feel satisfied, we experience deep peace within, and then - anything is possible!

Why can't people choose their religion?

Most people are born into the religion of their family or country. Some feel they

can't choose their own religion because of their family's cultural traditions; but some do choose a different religion to the one they grew up in.

Did you get to choose what religion you are?

Yes I did. I was in Oxford, England in 1989. It was a dark, rainy and cold night - and I asked God a question and received a definite answer. I have spent the last 22 years trying to work out what it means for my life. Through belief in

God my life has changed many times over - changed in ways I could not have managed on my own!

Why don't some people celebrate Easter or Christmas?

At both these Christian festivals we celebrate the significance of Jesus' life, death and resurrection; things which other religions do not see as a central in their worship of God.

What are Christians not

(Continued on page 15)

Synergy contacts

Synergy Youth: 6232 3613 www.synergy.org.au

Synergy Youth Director: Matt Brain, matt@synergy.org.au

Youth Minister/Bishop's Gap Year

Coordinator: Brad Lovegrove, brad@synergy.org.au

Western Region/Camp Pelican: Lucas King, lucas@synergy.org.au

Synergy Youth Chairperson: Ruth Edwards (contact via 6232 3613)