



Hold On!

Spirit '12 Conference

□ Batemans Bay's annual Holy Spirit weekend sizzles!

by Lewis Hitchick

While the theme of *Hold On* for this year's Holy Spirit Conference at Batemans Bay applied to the various aspects of the Christian faith covered by the speakers, it could equally have meant 'Hold on to your seat' as the power of the Holy Spirit swept through the two-day gathering.

The conference built significantly on the success of the last two years, attracting more than 200 people to a weekend of encouragement, inspiration and teaching.

For the first time this year's event drew entirely on 'local' speakers and workshop leaders, in that all were currently in ministry within the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn.

Also for the first time this year, the conference was held at St Peter's Anglican College at Broulee - which turned out to be an excellent venue. Conference host Bishop Ian Lambert said the college and staff had been amazingly supportive and helpful in the preparation and running of the event.

After some stirring and uplifting singing led by the Batemans Bay music team, Bishop Stewart Robinson opened the conference on Friday evening, May 11, and then handed over to Canon Gill Varcoe who gave the first address of the weekend on the theme of *Hold On to the Cross*.



HIGHLIGHT: (above) Worship and singing was a highlight of Spirit '12, with Canberra singer Katie de Veau (foreground) joining the talented Batemans Bay music team.

INSPIRING: (right) Bishop Ian Lambert delivered a very inspiring address on 'Holding On to the Supernatural' on the Saturday evening of the conference.

Gill Varcoe, who has recently begun an intentional interim ministry in the parish of Braidwood, redefined her topic by pointing out that

Christians really hold onto Jesus and his finished work on the cross.

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Commitment to making disciples

Beloved in Christ, Bishop Graham Cray (UK) – theologian, evangelist, author and strategist will be addressing the June Diocesan Clergy Conference on the subject of ‘making disciples’ as this issue of Anglican News goes to press.

We warmly welcome Bishop Graham and will be reporting his insights in *Anglican News*. It is a timely visit that will adorn our pre-existing commitment to making disciples for Christ.

Let me illustrate what I mean: In this past month I was blessed to share in the most recent Cursillo ‘Clausura’ at Borambola. What a delight to hear testimonies from people who are walking close with Jesus.

These disciples will enter their ‘fourth day’ in the knowledge that God has called them to be agents of transformation and renewal across our diocese. Then came my visit to Temora. Their

‘mainly music’ program is attracting young parents and their children from across the district.

I am also in conversation with Alpha Australia with a view to producing ‘Anglican 150’ Alpha courses especially for our diocese.

Most of these people are unchurched. All of them are experiencing the hospitality and love of the local community of faith and some are attending church or basic Christianity programmes. Even the mayor commented (at a ‘Deb’ ball) on the positive effect the church is having in the town.

And last week I visited St

Johns Canberra. The impact of Alpha courses, marriage preparation programs, children’s ministry and care for the marginalised is nothing short of spectacular! Disciples for Christ are being made and the Kingdom is advancing. Hallelujah.

Perhaps I should add that the vibe from the recent ‘Spirit 12’ conference is also very positive indeed. Several hundred people attended the weekend of teaching, training and fellowship. Such initiatives are to be applauded and celebrated.

I want to give you advance notice of some of my personal ‘150’ plans for 2013 (and following). In Lent ‘13 (‘14, ‘15) I intend to do a ‘walk with the cross’ across much of rural/regional Canberra and Goulburn Diocese. Each walk will begin with prayer and conclude with evangelistic activities and services.

In addition, I am hoping that we can participate in

a whole of diocese Bible distribution program wherein we all prayerfully identify three people (in our sphere of influence) and offer to give them an ‘Anglican 150’ New Testament.

This could lead to up to 20,000 Bibles being given away. I am also in conversation with Alpha Australia with a view to producing ‘Anglican 150’ Alpha courses especially for our diocese.

Finally, Canon Scott Cowdell has completed a five-year CSU appointment based at St Mark’s that has involved both teaching and research, and now moves to a research-only CSU appointment under the auspices of PACT, initially for six months.

I thank him for his ten-year ministry at St Mark’s (initially while rector of Manuka) as teacher and sometime editor of *St Mark’s Review* and wish him well in a new phase entirely devoted to study and writing.



**Bishop
Stuart
Robinson**

Scott remains based in George Browning House on the Barton Campus, but is now best contacted on his direct number: 6272 6207”.

Warmly,

Anglican News

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Queen’s Diamond Jubilee observation

The Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia, Archbishop Phillip Aspinall, has distributed details of Queen’ Eliabeth II’s Diamond Jubilee celebrations and the Prayer which has been prepared by the Chapter of St Paul’s Cathedral London.

Archbishop Aspinall said that a Jubilee Thanksgiving Service

will be held in St Paul’s Cathedral in London on Tuesday June 5, to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Queen’s coronation, and it was envisaged that some Australian churches would also be commemorating the occasion.

He has commended the following prayer, for use in such celebrations:

God of time and eternity, whose Son reigns as servant, not master;

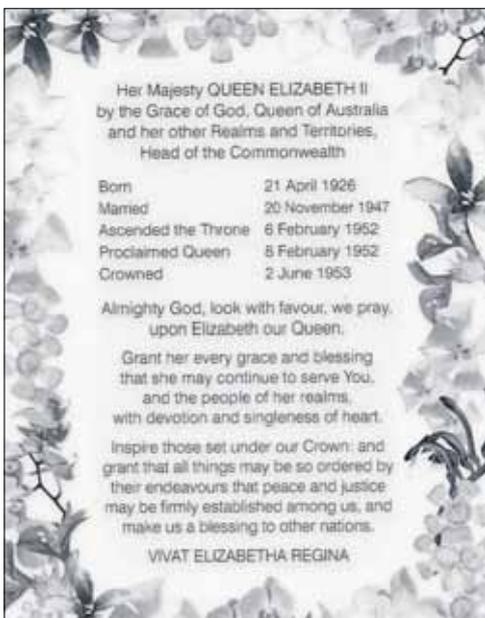
we give you thanks and praise that you have blessed this Nation, the Realms and Territories wit ELIZABETH, our beloved and glorious Queen.

In this year of Jubilee, grant her your gifts of love and joy and peace as she continues in faithful obedience to you, her Lord and God, and in devoted service to her lands and peoples, and those of the Commonwealth, now and all the days of her life;

through Jesus Christ or Lord,
Amen.

Clergy moves and appointments

- ◆ **The Reverend Kevin Farrelly** has been appointed part time Assistant Priest at Turvey Park.
- ◆ **The Reverend Ian Forsyth** is Intentional Interim Priest at Junee Parish.
- ◆ **The Reverend Jane Foulcher** has been granted an Authority to Officiate.
- ◆ **The Reverend Geoffrey McAuliffe** has been granted an Authority to Officiate.



PRAYER CARD: A Goulburn parishioner has created a prayer card, bordered by colourful Australian wildflowers, to mark the Queen’s 60th anniversary. She is encouraging parishes to distribute and use the card not only this year, but into the future. The card is available from the printer, Hypercet of Goulburn, phone (02) 4822 2970.

Spirit 12 Conference

(continued
from page 1)

"We are given the capacity through the finished work of Christ to be what God had meant us to be - to live free," she said.

However, she also offered a word of caution against spiritual oppression.

"Satan has the power to make us afraid and tell us lies," she said, before reminding her audience that Jesus had dealt with the forces of evil on the cross.

"When Jesus cried out, 'It is finished!' that was a shout of triumph - not a sigh of resignation," she said.

She concluded her talk, as did all subsequent speakers, by inviting anyone who wanted to 'do business with God' to come forward for prayer ministry - an invitation that kept the prayer ministry team busy for some time.

Hold On to the Truth

Gary Mulquinney, parish priest in Kambah, ACT, presented the first address on Saturday morning entitled *Hold On to the Truth*.

He pointed out that there was a difference between doctrinal truth and relational truth, and "relational truth is the truth of the Bible".

"It's not knowledge about God that is important, it's knowledge of God," he said.

Drawing on the Old Testament story of a Nehemiah, he claimed that truth in our lives is grounded in our position, our location -- where we are in life. Nehemiah was able to do a tremendous work because he used the position that God had put him in. Similarly, Gary Mulquinney said, God has put us all in a particular position, and it was up to us to use the place he has put us in.

"Place is our influence point," he said. "If we don't know our place how can we use it? Do you know your place? Are you using your spiritual gifting in that place? Place is the platform, it's the high tower the diver dives from into the pool, it's the place of influence, and there's a whole curriculum of learning in the Spirit about getting to that place."

He suggested asking God to "show you your place, lead you to your place, help you to influence from your place, defend your place, fight for your place, use that place as much as you can in the great work of Jesus".

Hold On to Prayer

Paul Wallis, intentional interim minister at the parish of Kaleen-Girralang, was the

third speaker at the conference, speaking on the topic: *Hold On to Prayer*. In particular, he spoke about contemplative prayer -- although he was quick to point out that "contemplative prayer" did not mean "prayer for the advanced Christian".

Rather he stressed that prayer simply meant 'to ASK' - asking from a place of need, of desperation and of total dependence on God.

"The very word, in English, reflects this; it's a word that means to beg, to appeal, to humbly request, to plead, to implore - to ask God for things," he explained.

However, he added that the word 'prayer' in the New Testament also sometimes simply means 'to speak' - so prayer sometimes is simply speaking to God.

"We tend to think of God as omniscient - not needing to be told anything - but that is not how people in the Bible prayed," he said. "In the Bible, people TELL the Lord things as if He didn't already know ... and the Lord responds."

Paul Wallis' third word on prayer was 'APPROACH'. Citing Jesus' teaching of what we now call the Lord's Prayer, he showed that Jesus had said to his Disciples: "When you approach Him, say ..."

He then explained that the Lord's Prayer gave guidelines as to how we are to approach God.

Hold On to Destiny

Charnwood priest Trish Stuart-Smith addressed the conference on the topic, *Hold On to Destiny*.

She pointed out that Scripture frequently describes the destiny of the church in terms of the image of a bride: "It offers the image of closeness, of the two becoming one," she said.

Stressing the importance of hanging on to this destiny, she warned against the temptation to "hang onto where you have been".

"Don't look back," she said. "If Catherine Middleton or Princess Mary of Denmark had hung onto their old identities, they could not be a princess as they are today. They each walked up the aisle, already a princess in their own mind - they were prepared."

Trish Stuart-Smith pointed out that in Mary's case, she even had to renounce her Australian citizenship to belong fully to the nation of the man she was marrying.

"Their 'yes' was a 'yes' to leaving behind the old and living the new, even in the preparation period. Our 'yes'



HERE I AM TO WORSHIP: (above) The final Eucharist on Sunday morning provided an uplifting experience of praise and worship.



CONTEMPLATIVE: (left) Paul Wallis brought a very practical approach to the topic of contemplative prayer.

to Jesus is just that - letting go of all the old, and holding on to the new, fully, enthusiastically and completely."

After a very enjoyable dinner at the nearby Tomakin Sports Club, Bishop Ian Lambert wrapped up the Saturday program with a very powerful presentation on *Holding On to the Supernatural*.

The July issue of *Anglican News* will include a more detailed coverage of this inspiring and challenging address (in this writer's humble

opinion, the high point of the weekend).

Interspersed through the program were a series of interviews with a wide range of people, all of whom spoke confidently of the intervention of a powerful and loving God in their lives. Testimonies included miraculous healings, amazing changes of direction in life and stories of God's generous provision and protection for his people.

Workshops and Seminars

Saturday afternoon also featured a choice six of

workshops or seminars, offering a practical introduction to a range of topics: *Healing and deliverance* (Rev'd Ross and Julie Gear); *Youth networking* (Glenn Seddon and Anita Harris); *Vital rural prayer teams* (Rev'd Owen & Hazel Davies); *Gift of tongues and words of knowledge* (Jacqui Clarke, Kay Apps and Annette Cole); *Introducing contemporary worship* (Jill Lambert and Simon Cooper); and *Saving souls inside and outside the church* (Rev'd David and Sharon Ruthven).

Owen Davies commissioned as Police Chaplain

Reverend Owen Davies of the Anglican and Uniting Church in Jindabyne and the Snowy Mountains was invested as an Honorary NSW Police Chaplain on Sunday 15th April.

Deputy Local Area Commander Shane Box invested Chaplain Davies at the Alpine Uniting Church ceremony with Senior State Chaplain David Hilliard who spoke to the congregation. Canon Hilliard described the challenges our Police face highlighting the support officers may need after incidents they encounter on duty.

"Police Officers need to know that there is someone who will listen to them and give them advice when they need it," he said.

Detective Inspector Box congratulated Chaplain Davies on his appointment to support the Police at the southern end of the Monaro command saying, "You will always be made very welcome at any of the Police Stations in our region."

Chaplain Davies responded, "Thank you church for supporting me so that my specialist training and experience may support the police and members of the public during their time of great need. Your prayers and generosity are



LOCKED IN: Jindabyne Police Constable Kurt 'welcomes' Owen Davies to his new role as Police Chaplain to the Jindabyne-Snowy Mountains area.

a great blessing." Chaplain Davies was presented with his a Police badge, hard hat, reflective vest and ceremonial stole for Police ceremonies.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Local ethicist quoted by Canterbury

Dear Sir,

I believe it worthy of note in our diocesan newspaper that Canberra-Goulburn priest, theologian and ethicist, Sarah Bachelard, was cited by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, in a recent address to world church leaders.

In his lecture, titled 'Human Rights and Religious Faith,' delivered at the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Centre in Geneva on 28 February 2012, Dr Williams quoted Dr Bachelard on several occasions.

A transcript of Dr Williams's lecture can be accessed from the ABC Religion and Ethics web page (<http://www.abc.net.au/religion/articles/2012/02/29/3442363.htm>). Dr Williams was referring to an article titled 'Rights as Industry' written by Sarah Bachelard and published in the journal *Res Publica*, which spoke of the vital interdependence of the language of rights with the language of love.

As communities worldwide grapple with a broad range of significant ethical issues, it is heartening to know that we in this diocese have respected voices that are making a contribution to the conversation.

Meagan Morrison
All Saints Ainslie, ACT

Heed the message of Jeremiah

Dear Sir,

Jeremiah was not someone from whom the people of Judah expected to hear God's message, and what he said was uncomfortable. They chose not to hear it; they paid the price.

God made another unexpected choice—Cyrus king of Persia—to bring his people out of exile. God uses whoever and whatever he chooses—that's part of what it means to say that God is in control. If some who warn about climate change are not Christians of an acceptable hue, that doesn't mean that their warnings can safely be ignored!

God has warned us in many different ways. He warns us in the Bible to act justly and not to over-reach.

He warns us in history, in the disappearance of local civilizations when they demanded more of the land than it could provide.

He provides further warnings through nature. For example, when volcanoes erupt, we see their effects around

the world for even a couple of years, though they are single events in single place.

If a single volcanic eruption can have such large effects, should we imagine that the severe and increasing atmospheric pollution now affecting almost the entire globe will have none? We should also see God's warnings in the experience of those who see 'ten-year-floods' now occurring almost monthly or whose land is even now disappearing into the sea, and through the findings of those, many of them Christians, whose professional activities uncover many major causes for concern.

Few of us actively "believe" in trashing God's earth, but few are not implicated. Every time we drive unnecessarily, or use metal or petrochemical products (such as foil or plastic) as throwaways, or use water like an unlimited resource, or purchase goods (food and non-food) solely on the basis of price or desire, without regard to where or how they have been produced, we play our part. God help me, I am at least as guilty as anyone else!

The people of Nineveh chose to heed what Jonah said, though he was an outsider; some now prefer to ignore uncomfortable warnings from unaccepted quarters. We can call it Global Warming, or Climate Change, or God's judgement; the difference is largely semantic. We can repent now, while perhaps there is still time, and learn to live more simply and more justly—or we can repent before the judgment seat of God.

Yours sincerely,
Janelle Caiger,
Stirling ACT

Climate is more than a doctrinal issue

Dear Sir,

I commend Chris Kelly for his measured and respectful letter but he, like both the Liberal and the Labor parties, is making a serious error.

Abbott treats Climate Change as a political issue and dismisses it because it is what his constituency wants to hear.

When Rudd reneged on his commitment he also demonstrated that he thought that it was a political issue that could be managed in the normal way.

Chris Kelly, in calling for liberty about non-essentials, seems to be treating it as a doctrinal issue on which it is all right to agree to differ. It's not.

It's a life and death issue.

It's a justice issue. It's a moral issue. It matters and it matters now. If the science is correct, then the world will change forever within the next 50 years, bringing misery and death to large numbers. The poor, who the Bible calls us to especially care for, will suffer most.

It has already started as Tim Costello has said. People are starving because crops which have been grown for generations will no longer grow. It's a justice and ethical issue.

Chris (and probably I) will be long dead by the time the effects really hit. We will have helped cause them but we will not suffer the consequences. One is reminded of King Hezekiah who was told of troubles to come but who wasn't worried because it would all happen after he was dead.

How can we blithely sit back? How can we, with any sort of conscience, do nothing? How can we be that selfish? How dare we say we are loving our neighbour if we do nothing? I care about my children and possible grandchildren. I don't want them cursing me for a selfish fool. And suppose the science is wrong? By acting, we will have moved to a new economy which will create many jobs. The next generation will be better off. By acting, we have far less to lose than if we don't act.

When I was at university I was taught that as you moved up the greasy pole you met less certainty. A professor would give you more "if buts" on a subject than a lecturer because they knew more of the complexity involved.

What is so scary about the science of Climate Change is that the reverse applies. As you go up the chain you meet more certainty on the basic conclusions, not less. It's the reverse of what normally happens. Be afraid. They're very sure.

Keith Binns
Goulburn

PS And I look forward, Paul Guard, to being ruled by a young girl in a badly fitting koala suit who asks me for money.

Memories of Colin Burgess

Dear Sir,

It was a pleasure to read the article on Colin Burgess by Robert Willson (*Anglican News*, May 2012). Robert failed to mention that a eucalypt was named after Colin.

Letters ...

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

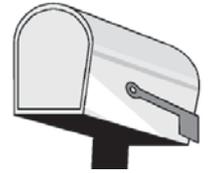
Letters of 250 words or less will be given preference.

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:

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This species, a green-leaved mallee ash, is *Eucalyptus burgessiana* which occurs in the Blue Mountains and was probably brought to the attention of the Sydney botanists by Colin.

The species is treated in the Field Guide to Eucalypts,

Volume 1, by Brooker & Kleinig, where it is described, illustrated and the distribution outlined.

Yours faithfully
Ian Brooker,
Canberra.

Riverina Christian Convention

This year's Riverina Christian Convention will be held at the Wagga Wagga Christian Centre in Koorinal Road, Wagga Wagga, on June 29-30.

Starting at 7pm on the Friday evening, the program continues from 9am to 4.30pm on the Saturday.

Children's programs will cater for 2-5 year old pre schoolers and also for pre primary and primary children (aged 6-12).

The Convention web site: <http://www.riverinachristianconvention.com.au> shows details of the event, and also offers online registration.

Early registration (until June 22) will cost \$30 for the full program, and registration at the door will cost \$40. The fee includes lunch as well as morning and afternoon tea.

The Riverina Christian Convention is interdenominational, seeking to serve all the churches of the Riverina Region, but having the convention in Wagga means we are also placed to serve the western area of the Canberra Goulburn region.

This year's program has two excellent Anglican speakers.

Mike Raiter is an Associate Minister at St James Old

Cathedral in Melbourne and Director for the Centre of Biblical Preaching based there and also a former CMS missionary.

The other speaker, David Smith, is part of the ministry team at Holy Trinity in Adelaide, and has a reputation as a Bible teacher.

The convention also promotes mission and ministry both locally and globally.

The local mission and ministry organisations which will be represented this year include:

- Fighting Words (Army Chaplaincy),
- Kairos (Prison Chaplaincy),
- KYB (Know Your Bible – a ministry by women for women founded here in Australia but which now has a wide international ministry).

Global missions will be represented by:

- CMS (with Dr Peter Keith former CMS missionary in Tanzania),
- The Barnabas Fund (caring for persecuted Christians, especially in the Middle East),
- The Bible Society
- SIM (Serving in Mission)

For more information, contact Elisabeth Holland either by email or phone 02 6926 3247.

Holiday Kids' Club

□ Holbrook and Wanniasa's effective partnership in the Gospel from the parish

I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel. (Philippians 1:4-5)

The parish partnership between Holbrook and St Matthew's Wanniasa was a mutual blessing in April as 14 team members from St Matt's spent a week at Holbrook running a holiday Kids Club.

The idea developed from both directions, with Holbrook keen to reach out to children and their families with the gospel of Jesus, and youth from St Matt's keen to go on a short-term mission to share Christ in a church without

the same level of 'youth-power'. As James Coats (Holbrook) and Dave Abraham (Wanniasa) put plans together, the 14 members, ten of whom were teenagers, prepared all kinds of props to put on an Egyptian Adventure for the children.

Throughout the week, children looked at the story of Joseph from the Bible. This was done using drama, videos, songs, craft, cooking, small groups and games. The teaching also focussed on four key words—sin, perseverance, 'set free' and mercy—and these themes were examined in terms of the life of Jesus and what it means for us to follow him.

The team members and children shared lots of fun and laughter together, and it was a wonderful context in which to

share about how great God is and the love he has for us in Jesus. Numbers of children attending grew throughout the week from 16 on Monday to 27 on Friday.

As well as ongoing preparations, each afternoon the team was kept busy with a series of 'backyard blitzes' for parishioners who needed help, a visit to the local nursing home to assist James with a service there and helping at the church op-shop.

The team was billeted by parishioners and enjoyed spending time with them and learning about life and church in rural Australia. Team meals together were also enjoyed such as an outdoor pizza oven night and a paddock bonfire and BBQ.

This was a new farm experience for many of the team who enjoyed collecting logs and feeding one-month-old Dozer the bull. After the meal with its beautiful backdrop of lightning in the distance, the night ended very abruptly and excitedly with two cars, one flat battery, 26 people, a very inadequate tree and 15 mm of rain in ten minutes. Needless to say, it was a lot of fun and adventure!

The week ended with a bush dance on Friday night, sponsored by St Matt's and run by St Matt's parishioners Gordon and Liz Fyfe and their band. For the 80 or so who participated, the night was great fun with plenty of foot stomping and dancing as well as a presentation showing how the Kids Club had gone.

The dance finished at 8.30 and the band then packed up and drove home to Canberra that same night. A sizeable number of kids from the holiday club and their parents came along, helping build connections between the local church people and those in the community.



ARCHEOLOGY: Holbrook youngsters dive into the task with enthusiasm as they uncover significant ancient artefacts during an 'archeological dig' activity.

The week was a wonderful success. The participating children and their parents absolutely loved it and were stunned by the servant-hearted nature of the St Matt's youth.

One parent commented, "I've never seen such good teenagers before. My child doesn't have any role models like that in life at all. I hope that when she grows up she will be like them."

Not only was it a blessing to Holbrook, it was also a blessing to the St Matt's youth who came.

Dave Abraham commented,

"We are left praying with knowledge and passion for Holbrook, especially that the contacts and relationships formed during the week will be ongoing, and that God will work in the lives of the children and their families and that they will trust him."

He said his team was praying that God would transform Holbrook Anglican to a church with many young people who could learn from the wisdom and love of those already there, and in turn be a great blessing to them.



Major 150th birthday activities announced

Bishop Stuart Robinson has announced the twin centerpieces of his plans for the Diocese's 150th birthday: giving-away 20,000 Bibles and an evangelistic pilgrimage on foot throughout the Diocese.

"I am hoping that we can participate in a whole-of-diocese Bible distribution program wherein we all prayerfully identify three people in our sphere of influence and offer to give them an 'Anglican 150' New Testament," he said. "This could lead to up to 20,000 Bibles being given away."

During Lent 2013 Bishop Robinson intends to do a 'walk with the cross' through much the rural parts of the Diocese. Each walk will begin with prayer and conclude with evangelistic activities and services.

Bishop Robinson is also negotiating with Alpha Australia to produce 'Anglican 150' Alpha courses especially for the Diocese's birthday.

Fireworks at Cathedral

A fireworks display from the top of St Saviours Cathedral bell tower will be the climax of the major 150th birthday event in Goulburn. The anniversary is significant for both the Anglican Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn and the City of Goulburn.

An Ecumenical Service will be held at St Saviour's Cathedral on March 14, 2013 at 9am. This will be followed by a Civic Reception on the lawn with the official cutting of the cake and letter patient to be on display.

Starting at 3pm, will be a family fun afternoon with food and market stalls on the grassed area between the Cathedral and the Goulburn Council Chambers. The day will culminate with the fireworks display.

Website launch

Meanwhile, the "Anglican 150" website which aims to promote the missional and other church events around the celebrations has been launched.

Jeremy Halcrow, who is overseeing communications for the Diocese's anniversary year, is encouraging churches to post details of their own plans as soon as possible.

"It is important we share our celebrations," he said. "By posting details of your activities you will help encourage other churches to be involved and connect with their communities."

Postscript:

Ten days after the mission concluded, one of the children who had attended each day, Fraser Wearn, was tragically killed in a farming accident. Fraser was nine years old, an only child, and dearly loved within the community.

His death was an utter shock, not only to everyone within Holbrook, but also to the team from St Matthew's who had been with him so recently. Ten of them were able to attend his funeral, taken by Rev'd Kevin Farrelly, with a total attendance of around 600.

Team members who had been in Fraser's small group during the mission shared how he had expressed a genuine faith in God during that time, and were comforted to know that he was now in the loving care of his heavenly Father. We thank God for Fraser's life and continue to pray for his parents Bill and Joy, and other family members and friends, as they grieve his death.

WEBSITE NOW LAUNCHED
www.anglican150.org.au

Help us celebrate the Diocese's 150th birthday

- > Latest news
- > Calendar of events
- > Find out how to be involved

ANGLICAN 150
A season of celebration

Retreat to the Red Centre

by Philippa Wicks

We came from Canberra, Toowoomba, Sydney and Braidwood.

We came with little or no experience of the great Red Centre of Australia, but we wanted to know more.

A small disparate group of pilgrims, we came with a yearning for prayer, or a hunger to know the land, or a question about how – or if – God might be alive in the desert. We came with full hearts, questions and desires.

In glorious April weather we arrived at Campfire in the Heart, near Alice Springs, in the striking Macdonnell Ranges. And we were met with such warmth and gentle hospitality by our retreat centre hosts, Sue and David Woods*, that it was very soon clear: God's Spirit is alive and well in Alice Springs, and in the vast country beyond.

Each day began gently, with Morning Prayer. We focussed daily on a particular theme, inspired by the natural elements, the land and the Spirit.

Each morning we loaded up into the trusty Kombi van and drove to a different place of remote beauty a short distance from town.

On the 'Earth' day we arrived at the dry bed of the majestic Todd River, and dispersed quietly to explore.

Some of us walked, finding tracks in and out of the river bed; others sat and marvelled at the landscape of ancient gums, of grasses and bird life. I chased the shade, sheltering near bushes, listening to the breeze and the bird-calls, tracing the wanderings of lizards and ants through the sand.

On the 'water' day we found ourselves at Simpson's Gap,



TRANQUILLITY: The tranquillity of Simpson's Gap, with its water-hole full following good summer rains, offered nourishment to mind and spirit.

awe-struck at this rupture in the mighty Macdonnells. To our delight, in the heat, there was water: after two years of good rain, the waterhole was in places knee-deep, and rich with grasses, insects, and birds.

We pondered the place in silence, some of us trying to sketch its beauty, others drinking it in or sitting in prayer. What was it about this water that so nourished our minds and spirits, as well as cooled our bodies? Some of us tried to express these thoughts as we shared the morning billy tea prepared by David.

For others, the questions remained a mystery to ponder gratefully.

Throughout our stay at Campfire we were nourished, body and spirit. Sue Woods, gracious custodian of Campfire

with husband David, prepared fresh, varied meals for us, often with vegetables from their garden. Some meals we shared in silence, others with lively conversation and much laughter.

Our prayer and meditation sessions offered a refreshing depth. We were blessed with retreat leaders Reverends Susanna Pain and Nikolai Blaskow. They chose readings from Scripture, from literature, and contemporary thinkers, to stimulate us to new experience of ourselves in relation to God, to each other, and to the remarkable desert land.

As the days unrolled, our appetite for prayer and for silence blossomed. I - and, I sensed, others too - felt like desert seeds after rain. On our last precious afternoon, we went to Undoolya Hill, where after a long silence Susanna celebrated

a simple Eucharist.

On this remote hilltop, site of an important dreaming story, dense bushland surrounded us, richly coloured and somehow deeply stirring. Like others in the group, I felt a great sense of privilege in that place, and for the week that had been. We had been led not so much to look at the land, but to look into it, and in it see ourselves. We left rested and nourished, wondering at the depth and beauty of what we had shared.

**Readers may know of Sue and David Woods from their years in Goulburn, NSW, as founders of the community of St Joseph's House of Prayer.*

Postscript: Jeannette McHugh hopes to have an Anam Cara retreat at Campfire in the Heart some time in 2014.



INSPIRING: Hosts Sue and David Woods ferried the retreatants to some remote but inspiring places in their reliable Kombi.

Book for Business Life breakfast

Paul Baxter, Advisor to the PNG Independent Public Business Corporation, will be the guest speaker at a breakfast meeting on Thursday May 31, hosted by Business Alpha and Business Life.

The breakfast will be held in the conference room of the Anglican Diocesan Registry office, Level 9, 221 London Circuit, Canberra's Civic Centre

Paul Baxter, a former Associate Commissioner of the PNG Independent Consumer and Competition Commission and former Partner of PwC Economic Studies and Strategies Unit, will speak on how his business career and his life have unfolded.

In recent years, Paul was the 'public face' of the ACT's electricity and water pricing regulator, having been the inaugural Commissioner of that agency from which he retired in mid-2011 after nearly 16 years of service.

This role in the ACT also overlapped with his nearly 25 years as a partner of PwC, 16 years as a member of the Independent Audit Group of the Murray Darling Basin Commission, five years as the Associate Commissioner of the PNG Independent Consumer and Competition Commission, a period as an Associate Commissioner of the ACCC, Chair of the Water Accounting

Standards Development Committee, and Chair of Anglicare Canberra/Goulburn.

The gathering commences at 7:15 am for 07:30 am start. Access can be gained via the foyer and assistance will be provided to enable you to take the lift to Level 9. A light breakfast will be available from 07:30 am.

The formal part of the session will conclude around 08:30 am with Paul being available a little after to meet with guests.

Please e-mail your booking to Raphael.wood@live.com.au or call 0410 517 251 to book your seat. Please RSVP as soon as you can before 25th May.



AIDF NOW ONLINE

See www.aidf.com.au

City youth go bush - with Soul!

by Alison Pearce

After many faithful years of praying and planning, and with the support of The Bush Church Aid Society of Australia (BCA), Soul Survivor NSW sent over 500 youth and young adults from city churches to serve and minister with rural churches in country towns as part of the week-long Soul in the Bush mission.

On April 16, the groups travelled hundreds of kilometres to seven bases: Batemans Bay, Yass, Bathurst, Forbes, Gilgandra, Gloucester and Tamworth. BCA's Glenn Seddon and Helena Painting acted as 'Bush Host' in Batemans Bay and Yass, respectively.

In their bases, the youth were fed spiritually and physically before going out in teams of twelve to serve through various projects in nearby towns. Some of the projects included gardening, painting, running Kids' Clubs, ripping up carpet, running a backyard blitz and holding outreach and justice events in the community.

One of the projects was held in a church in Bedgerebong, a township approximately 30km west of Forbes with a population of less than 100. The team, made up of local youth from Forbes and a group from Balgowlah, were able to put on a Kids' Club and do some much-needed maintenance around the church.

David Barrie, Associate Minister at All Saints Anglican Church Balgowlah, supervised this project and witnessed how valuable the experience was for his group of youth.

"I think it gave them perspective. They might take their church for granted – just

having so many peers around them and having such a strong church – and so it was an eye-opener for them to see what it is like when a church only has five elderly members.

There is no minister at the church. Arnold Constable was the church member who acted as our foreman. He'd been in Bedgerebong all his life and he was very excited to have us there. Arnold asked us to sign the visitor's book and told us to drop in and say 'hello' every time we returned. He was very appreciative of the work we did because he was doing all the maintenance himself and there was just too much to do."

The week of hard work and service stretched most of the youth and many teams didn't see the fruit of their labour. However they persevered in serving in the name of Jesus and knew He would continue working throughout the community, long after they returned to their home towns.

It wasn't all heavy labour though, and each base enjoyed a 'Fun Bush Meeting' on the Thursday morning, where they were able to enjoy their country surroundings.

The teams in Forbes visited 'The Dish' (the Parkes radio telescope) and had an enjoyable morning playing Frisbee while the Gilgandra teams gathered in a local field to blow up a black stump!

On the weekend, 520 people gathered in Bathurst to celebrate the week, attend seminars and share their experiences from the



SEMINAR: National Director of BCA, Dr Mark Short, offers some challenges to the young people on the Soul in the Bush mission during the final two-day gathering at All Saints' College in Bathurst. Photo: Alison Pearce/BCA

different bases and projects. Something that resonated through each shared story was just how humbling it was to serve small communities, how encouraging it was to serve alongside members of the community, how many youths grew in confidence in their faith and especially in sharing their testimony and how they found God's heart for rural communities.

During the seminar led by BCA National Director, Dr Mark Short, on rural leadership, it became apparent just how much some of the 'city kids' had learned about rural communities. Some of them had come with the view that rural life and city life were completely different

but after talking to the rural locals, they had discovered they shared a lot more in common than they at first realised.

Many of the city groups are now committed to remaining in contact with the rural churches they partnered with, and are keen to return to serve in the coming years.

In the final meeting, Soul Survivor NSW Director, Matt Gelding, expressed the thanks and appreciation of the whole Soul in the Bush team for the support of BCA to help make the event possible.

Alison Pearce serves as BCA Media and Communications Officer.



IMPACT: Teams of young people made an impact on the communities they visited as they shared the Gospel message of love through practical service.

Serving Jesus by serving others

Yass experiences Soul in the Bush by Helena Painting

Yass Youth Group hosted the Yass base for the Soul in the Bush mission in April, one of seven bases around NSW with the teams from all the bases then gathering in Bathurst for the final celebration weekend (*Anglican News*, May).

Yass hosted 70 young people from several different youth groups and they joined with about 20 youth from Yass from Monday April 16 to Friday April 20.

It was a time of new friendships, fun, worship, teaching, eating, chilling, and of course hard work on a number of local projects in the community. The young people were inspired and encouraged to love and serve the Lord by loving and serving the community and participated in the projects with passion, energy and a servant heart.

The projects for Yass were: painting the picket fence at the cricket oval in Bookham (3800 pickets!); planting 150 trees at Bowning and doing maintenance on the little church there; planting two garden beds from scratch at the Yass High School; doing volunteer work at the Gunning Health Centre; and outreach at the skate park in Yass

For one whole day a group of 20 went to Burra to join with

James Wood and Burra Youth to work on a number of projects.

The week would not have happened without the support and help from local organisations and the Yass churches. Chris and Peter Rose and team did a magnificent job overseeing the food – there were a lot of mouths to feed for five days!

Local busses were provided for transporting team members to projects, for which we are very grateful. The accommodation was at the Yass High School and we also thank the caravan park for providing shower facilities. Ryan and Zoe from Freeform Dance in Yass gave their time at the skate park with dance, music and graffiti art and of course there are numerous others who helped in many ways.

It was wonderful to see the young people engaging with all parts of the conference, decisions for Christ were made as well as people making commitments to go further and deeper in their faith.

It is our prayer that we, as leaders, can help the young people process the SIBB week and what it meant to them and to help them in their journey with God.

Helena Painting serves as Youth Leader in the parish of Yass.

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

Exploring spirituality through the arts

Artist-in-Residence at Holy Covenant, Jamison by Katherine Rainger

What does it mean to find our centre?

What does it mean to explore the edge?

These were some of the questions Dr Rod Pattenden asked during his time as Artist-in-Residence from May 3-6. Rod is an artist, art historian and educational facilitator interested in the connection between spirituality and the arts.

Chair of the Blake Prize for Religious Art, he has written and lectured widely on the arts and creativity in Australia and overseas.

Rod is a minister in the Uniting Church and served at Paddington Uniting Church

in Sydney for 10 years. He is currently a Chaplain at Macquarie University.

In the first workshop Rod explored visual meditation with participants used simple drawing and paper cut techniques.

The results were stunning and when installed in Holy Covenant were very effective. Workshops on Friday and Saturday involved storytelling, movement and the challenge of "performing our lives", where participants learnt simple expressive skills to enable feeling more assertive, alive and with something to offer others on the stage of life.

Rod's lectures were works of art in themselves. On Thursday he presented *Spirituality and Contemporary Art*, taking us through the history of the Blake prize from its inception to its recent entrants. As people of

faith living in contemporary Australia we need to find ways of converging our religious beliefs with the world as we experience it so that false distinctions between the ways we live inside and outside the Church do not become the norm.

Art can be a medium for this as artists attempt to represent the transcendent and the reality of the world as we know it – with all the joy, diversity and suffering we witness and encounter. This was made clear in the work of Blake Prize winners Shirley Purdie and George Gittoes. Shirley Purdie is from the Warmun community in North West Australia. Her work, *Stations of the Cross*, depicts the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Her history as a descendent of victims of the massacre at Mistake Creek in the 1930s gives an additional depth to this story of Christ's suffering as the innocent victim and the power of the resurrection which vindicates those who suffer violence.

The work of George Gittoes, a war artist, is another example of the way art can take us to the brink of the human experience and ask us if our faith can 'stomach' what we find.

Gittoes' work from his time in Rwanda is very harrowing, yet to look away is to look away from an aspect of our humanity.

In viewing this art we suffer along with those who suffer and we call ourselves and each other to account. It also means embracing God who promises us that nothing can separate us from the love of God who is in Christ reconciling the world.

Rod's lecture on Friday evening *Re-imagining the Local*



ENGAGEMENT: Dr Rod Pattenden (below) challenged workshop participants to explore the engagement of art and faith, with particular reference to entries in the Blake Prize.

Church challenged us to view the arts as a central instrument for communicating our deepest longings and engaging with those around us. Rod spoke about the arts as having a priestly role, a role in being a tool of discernment and a prophetic role.

Like a priest, the arts can function to remind us of who we are, to ground us in our common and individual stories and remind us of our connections with each other and with God. The work of John Coburn, where Eucharistic and other Christian symbolism is incorporated with the Australian landscape, is a good example.

At the three Sunday services Rod preached on John 15:1-8 where Jesus spoke about abiding in him as a branch remains connected to a vine, and Acts 8:26-40 where Peter shares the Good News of Jesus Christ with the Ethiopian Eunuch.

At the 6pm youth service Rod used these readings to talk about the need to be in the centre, at home, and grounded



in the comfort of faith whilst also being ready to encounter God at the edge as Philip did.

Visit <http://www.blakeprize.com.au/education/the-blake-education-kit> to engage with some fantastic education materials on the issues and themes surrounding works entered over the past 60 years.

**Katherine Rainger serves as Youth Worker in the parish of Holy Covenant, Jamison.*

Monster Book Fair on again at Braidwood

from the parish

It's on again over the June long weekend!

If you happen to be driving to the coast or just wanting a pleasant day trip, call in at Braidwood to check out the Monster Book Fair.

Organised by the Anglican Parish of Braidwood, the book fair will be running from Friday 8 to Sunday 10 June - from 9am to 4pm - and Monday 11 June from 9am to 2pm

The fair will be housed in the National Theatre in the main street (just opposite the Braidwood Bakery).

Between now and the long weekend, the parish is also appealing for books, magazines,

CDs and DVDs in great condition and in need of a good home.

Donations of these items can be dropped off at the National Theatre on Thursday 7 or Friday 8 June. However, organisers have pointed out that they do not accept encyclopaedia's, academic textbooks and journals, videos, cassettes or records.

If you're interested in volunteering to help with setting up or staffing the book fair, please contact either Fran Rankin on 4842 1919 or Kit Tischler on 4847 1143

We look forward to welcoming you to what has become one of the best books fairs in the Southern Tablelands.

Curtin welcomes a new shepherd

Guy Matthews inducted as rector of Good Shepherd from the parish

A big crowd gathered at the Good Shepherd church in Curtin on the 9th February to welcome their new rector, Rev'd Guy Mathew, his wife Sita, and children Alice, Tom and Henry (Sam is currently overseas on a gap year)

Archdeacon Ian Palmer lead the service, standing in for the Area Dean Rev'd Jason Page who was unfortunately unwell. Bishop Stuart gave the sermon.

Many people came from St Matthews, Wanniasa (Guy's last appointment) as well as family and friends from throughout the district and also from Sydney; members of local congregations and past and present clergy were

well represented.

Four traditional hymns chosen by Guy were sung with resounding fervour!

In thanking the welcoming

speakers Guy said he was looking forward to working with the existing team at the Good Shepherd. Sita also spoke and Alice read one of the readings.



WELCOME: Guy Matthews, Sita Matthews and Bishop Stuart Robinson after Guy's induction at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Curtin.

BCA Mission Night

What is God doing in Australia?
Come and hear from guest speaker

Revd Andy Goodacre
(Launceston University)

Saturday 30th June,
7pm



Andy Goodacre



St. Paul's Manuka Hall

Cnr Canberra Avenue and Captain Cook Crescent
Griffith, ACT

Supper is provided

Contact: Vika Ta'ofi
(02) 9262 5017

vika@bushchurchaid.com.au

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOLS

Kenyan school thanks CGGS students

from the school

A school in rural Kenya has named itself the Canberra Sunshine Academy as a 'thank you' to Canberra Girls' Grammar School (CGGS) students for their support.

At a presentation on Monday morning, April 30 CGGS Junior School students were shown how their donation of items - including school shoes, uniforms, pencils, textbooks and sporting equipment - had been put to good use.

The aid project has been organised through the Canberra-based Global School Partners program which links schools in Australia with schools in Africa to create "an environment of mutual support and learning".

Global School Partners Director Simon Carroll said that the lack of running water for washing and cooking resulted in many students at the formerly named Mwangaza Academy, in the southwest rural Kisii District, experiencing stomach illnesses.

"Canberra Girls' Grammar generously raised nearly \$1000 and Mwangaza Academy received guttering and a 5000 litre water tank, thanks to the girls' efforts," Mr Carroll said.

"In January this year I visited the village and witnessed the

joy on the faces of the children as they received the donated goods and I saw the water tank in operation.

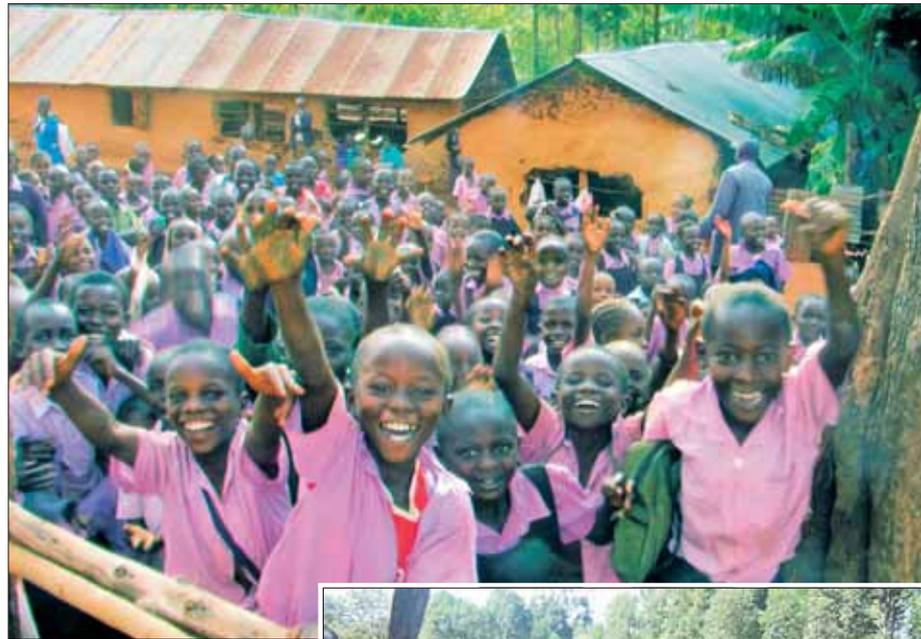
"Mwangaza Academy has been fortunate to have access to a new block of land that it can use permanently, just a few hundred meters from the existing site it was renting. Work has commenced on new classrooms and just a couple of weeks ago on April 11, the new school site was officially opened and named in appreciation of the partnership with Canberra Girls' Grammar as the Canberra Sunshine Academy," he said.

The newly named Canberra Sunshine Academy has 335 students aged between 6 and 14 years.

CGGS students have also received letters of thanks from their pen pals in Mwangaza. CGGS Head of Junior School Heather Ablett said the Canberra girls had learnt much from the partnership.

"This has opened their eyes to the realities of life as a child in a poverty-stricken third world country. It has been very moving for a number of our students.

"We look forward to sending further supplies to Canberra Sunshine Academy later this year," Mrs Ablett said.



ENTHUSIASM: (above) Pupils at Mwangaza Academy show their enthusiastic appreciation of the generous support given by Canberra Girls' Grammar School.

RESOURCES: (right) The children gather to watch as boxes of resources donated by CGGS are unpacked.



Former Raiders skipper to address leadership conference at CGS

from the school

With current students to become leaders of the next generation, they will need the courage to lead, along with the aspiration to make a difference.

Former Captain of the Canberra Raiders, Alan Tongue, knows something about courage and leadership, and will speak with students from Canberra Grammar School (CGS) and other local ACT schools at the first annual CGS Student Leadership conference.

Senior students from ACT schools will have the opportunity to listen to speakers and their experiences with leadership, and include Alan Tongue, Dr Matt Brain, Director of Synergy Youth with the Anglican Diocese, and Rebecca Cuzzillo, Oaktree Foundation representative and passionate advocate of social justice, human rights and ending global poverty.

"As leaders of the next generation, students will inherit a world of constant and dramatic change, shaped by the combined forces of unprecedented globalisation, climate change and rapid technological advancement" said the Head of CGS, Dr Justin Garrick. "It is vital they are supported in the development of skills to assist them to aspire to make a difference in whatever fields of endeavour they choose to enter".

Schools attending the conference are Canberra



LIFE AFTER LEAGUE: Former Canberra Raiders Captain Alan Tongue will share his thoughts on leadership at a the inaugural CGS Student Leadership Conference

Grammar School, Canberra Girls' Grammar School, Daramalan College, Burgmann Anglican School, Radford College, Trinity Christian School, St Clare's College, St Edmund's College, Narrabundah College, Ginninderra College, Brindabella Christian College, St Peter's Anglican College and Marist College.

The conference will commence at 1.30pm, concluding at 8.30pm in the Performing Arts Centre at Canberra Grammar School, 40 Monaro Crescent, Red Hill.



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COLUMNS

ECUMENISM:

World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel

by John Nevile

The June issue of *Anglican News* hits the streets, or at least the churches, in the World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel.

Prayers for peace in Palestine and Israel, the true biblical peace for nations which includes far more than the absence of violence, is something every church member can participate in regardless of their views about the rights and wrongs of the causes of conflict between the two nations.

The Palestine Israel Ecumenical Forum of the World Council of Churches has designated May 28- June 3, 2012, as the week for peace in Palestine and Israel this year. The Forum invites "member churches, faith-based communities, and civil society organisations to join together in 2012 for a week of advocacy and action in support of an end to the illegal occupation of Palestine and a just peace for all in Palestine and Israel".

It also urges all churches and Christians to pray for peace drawing on prayers prepared by the Christian Churches in Jerusalem.

The peaceful vision of one land, two peoples was shattered more than 44 years ago by the occupation of East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza. All people of good will can hope for Palestinians and Israelis to share a just peace. For many this can result in action as well as prayer.

One of these is learning about conditions that do not create peace, especially those related to displacement, and sharing that knowledge with others. Another is advocating with political leaders for policies that promote peace with justice.

The Anglican Church of Australia, and hence all Australian Anglican dioceses, is included among the membership of the World Council of Churches. It is particularly appropriate for Anglicans to support this initiative even if only through prayer.

Many leaders in our Church have been prominent

in advocating policies for justice in Palestine and Israel. This has long been a passion with George Browning, the previous Bishop of Canberra and Goulburn. Other leaders who have publicly supported such policies include our Primate Archbishop Phillip Aspinall, a former primate Archbishop Peter Carnley and the current Archbishop of Perth Roger Herft.

Jerusalem Churches have suggested prayers that could be used during the World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel and indeed throughout all the year. Each is patterned on one of the psalms. The following are based on psalms 19 and 46:

God of faith, hope and love: Creator of the universe, "heavens declare your glory and the skies proclaim the work of your hands." We believe in you as a good and just God for all. Keep us steadfast and patient with our Muslim and Jewish brothers and sisters.

Thank you for your holy Word which is a source of life for all human beings and we pray it will not be used as a cover for injustice and oppression. God of peace, accept our prayers, for the sake of our suffering and risen Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

God of faith, hope and love: "Surely you are our help, the One who sustains us." In the absence of hope you still give us hope and make us not give in to evil.

Help us continue with hope in a creative, non-violent, peaceful resistance, and keep those in authority in the ways of justice and of peace, "so righteousness will shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun."

We commit ourselves to you who created every human being in your own image. God of peace, accept our prayers, for the sake of our suffering and risen Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

It is time for a just peace in Palestine and Israel. It is time for all Christians to pray for this and for some to do much more. It is time for a healing of wounded souls.

Historybytes

by Robert Willson

Memories recorded on celuloid

□ The Ordination of a Deacon: Young 1954

The picture (right) has been reprinted from one of the oldest colour slides in my collection.

It was taken by the late Mamie Harris at the Ordination of Brian Ellerman as a deacon in 1954, nearly 60 years ago.

As Frank Woodwell commented to me, it is the Young Rural Deanery of 1954.

I am grateful to Archdeacon Frank Woodwell and Canon Peter Davies and Canon Peter Bertram who helped me to identify the line of clergy.

The lineup from left to right is probably as follows:

Stephen Holmes, Bert Smith, David Orange (?) behind him, Black (with Gordon Armstrong (?) behind him), Bill



Boylde with chaplain's scarf, Brian Ellerman, Gordon Arthur, Bp Burgmann, Tom Pickburn, Arnold Harris, Monty Nell, Frank Woodwell, Edgar Rolf.

Brian Ellerman served as an honorary deacon and later priest

in the Parish of Young for many years.

There must be many similar old photographs around the diocese. How about making sure that they are identified while memories last?

A Letter from Gaol

Hi Mum,

I wondered how long that ratty old computer you inherited from Uncle Festus would last. So, no more emails or Skype for a while, at least.

I'm feeling much better this week, thanks. My sugars are still way too high, though. I've seen the neurologist and the gastroenterologist in the past couple of weeks and tomorrow the GP will wrap it all up, I hope, and I can flit off to clergy conference with a cleanish bill of health.

Luckily ACT Corrections have been very generous about the time I've had off, attending to appointments, tests and so on. My boss, the Manager of Inmate Services, reckons that Corrections pays for the delivery of a service, rather than an accounting of time spent. And because of the generosity, dedication and competency of the Chaplaincy Team, few people notice when I'm not at work!

It is an issue that has been with me for many years now. How much is enough? Since my ordination there has never been a time when there was nothing more to do. At no stage have I thought, or anyone said, "sit down, put your feet up, well done, good and faithful servant, take your ease, there is nothing left needs doing." It has always been a question of what to leave undone. And as you well know, we clergy are a pretty sick group whose identity and our sense of self-worth is tied up with the roles we play and the 'results' we get.

Sixty two years old, ordained for thirty four years and I'm still asking questions about balance. Where is balance to be found? What is the place of self care? Was Bill Scott rewarded for dying at the Altar in St John's, Boorowa those years ago?

Ah ha! The answer is right in front of me as I type. On a little card attached to the wall is this:

This is what the Lord Asks of you:
only this.
To act justly,
To love tenderly,
And to walk humbly with Your God. (Micah 6:8)

Only this ... Only this ...

Let me finish off, Mum, with something else that is on my office wall and which is very dear to me. You'll be appalled, but you know it's just 'me'. It says this:

"I CAN PLEASE ONLY ONE PERSON PER DAY ...
TODAY IS NOT YOUR DAY!
TOMORROW IS NOT LOOKING GOOD EITHER"

Love you heaps,
Pray for me,
Simon W



SIMON Wooldridge serves as Chaplain at the ACT's Andrew Maconochie Correctional Centre.

MISSION NEWS

Partnership through pilgrimage

by Elizabeth Baker,
Vicki Luker and Meagan Morrison

In August 2012, the ABM Modawa Pilgrimage will visit Dogura, in Milne Bay Province, Papua New Guinea, the first mission station of the Anglican Church in Papua New Guinea.

We are calling for pilgrims from the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn to join us in this very special journey.

Why pilgrimage?

An ABM Pilgrimage is a unique opportunity to undertake a journey of reflection and discovery. Journeying alongside Anglicans in another culture, one can open him or herself to learning more about our faith, our culture, the church and the role of mission in situations of poverty and injustice.

Brad Chapman, the pilgrimage leader said, "As pilgrims we seek to understand the causes of poverty and to build relationships of solidarity based upon mutual respect."

Such pilgrimage strengthens the partnership ABM has with the Church in Papua New Guinea. Given the remote location of Dogura, many of the services that are available are provided by the church.

To travel to Dogura the pilgrims will cross the Owen Stanley Ranges by road and then follow the rugged Northern PNG coastline by dinghy. The Cathedral of St Peter and St Paul sits atop the Dogura plateau as one of the most remote cathedrals in the world.

The average income along the North Coast of Milne Bay Province is less than \$1 per day. People contend with a lack of communications, transportation, education and health services.

The pilgrimage experience is an inspirational encounter with Anglican Brothers and Sisters, stretching the understanding of mission and introducing new dimensions of faith. Pilgrimage enables us to step outside of our culture and our everyday environment. We are free to encounter God in new ways and to engage with the historic and contemporary narrative of the Anglican Church in Papua New Guinea as members of the worldwide Anglican family.

How does pilgrimage build Partnership opportunity?

ABM's partnerships are built on a deep relationship that we share with Anglicans around the world. Pilgrimage enables Australians to honour this

relationship and to encounter God in action within a different context.

The idea of pilgrimage is not to enter someone else's community with pre-packaged solutions to the problems they face. Rather it is about humbly stepping out, trusting that God will guide us and present us with a richer understanding of the world where we live and the purpose of mission. Pilgrimage encourages links of solidarity with the people we meet in PNG.

Through these links we are able to listen as well as to celebrate the wider relationship we share and the work of ABM in Partnership with the Anglican Church of PNG. Pilgrimage is a unique opportunity to stop and listen to God as well as to be inspired by the PNG Anglican Church.

The Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn has a generous history of supporting mission and development in our sister churches, through pilgrimage, prayer and material support, as exemplified in our relationship with the Diocese of Ysabel, the Solomon Islands.

This pilgrimage is another way to expand our relationships across the Pacific islands for individuals, parishes and the Diocese as a whole.

Highlights

(From 2011 Pilgrim, Vicki Luker, St Phillips O'Connor.)

Last year I was one of seven Modawa pilgrims. Every pilgrim makes a different journey, even when they travel together. For me Modawa was inwardly life-changing, but I still find the experience difficult to put into words.

What, in essence, is pilgrimage? I heard one answer the day before we made our dinghy trip to Dogura. We were all attending the 10am Mass at the Church of Ascension in Alotau, the capital of Milne Bay Province. The building was airy and open-sided, the benches full of men, women and children, and outside the odd rooster crowed.

In his sermon, Father John Dubabagi reminded us that God sometimes speaks in a soft, small voice – very soft, very small. Because our lives are noisy, we may find it hard to hear Him. So we must move closer. Perhaps pilgrimage is that: a moving away from the noise of life to listen closer to the voice of God.

Another answer was expressed in a prayer shared by a fellow pilgrim on our last day together. It thanked God for creating us 'for a lifelong journey to you'.

My Modawa pilgrimage didn't stop on my return. I still work with the experience. In



ROUGHING IT: Pilgrims crossing the mouth of the river after attending a village eucharist. Photo courtesy ABM/Brad Chapman.

some ways it was easier to be over there than to follow up and follow through back home. Dogura was not physically luxurious (we had no electricity or running water) and some things were confronting. But this pilgrim felt deep joy.

I treasure many memories. One is of our early morning climb up Mt Pasipasi behind Dogura. On its peak stands the remnant of a cross. Some of our local companions seemed just to glide uphill on bare feet or thongs. For us pilgrims in our

Kathmandu gear it was more of a struggle! I really wondered whether I would make it.

From the top, though, the spectacle took away what little breath I had left. The ranges, plateau, plain, plantations, small rooftops, wide bay and islands! Our gentle guide Ninian Burorosi, a former Anglican youth leader, can speak for me. This was his home and he'd climbed that mountain before. But involuntarily he gasped, 'Ah, how beautiful God made the world!'

Want to be a pilgrim?

Places are still available for the August 2012 Modawa Pilgrimage. For information see ABM's website www.abmission.org/involved/pilgrimage or contact pilgrimage leaders Brad Chapman, ABM (bac@abm.asn.au), or Meagan Morrison (megsmogs@hotmail.com).

Meagan is a parishioner at All Saints Ainslie who taught at Holy Name School Dogura, 2002-2003, and recently returned from two-and-a-half years working with Anglicare PNG.

Outback Fund needs support

Chair of the national Home Mission Fund Committee, Bishop John Parkes, has written to all Australian Anglican bishops to highlight the declining support for the Fund, which supports ministries in the Dioceses of Northern Territory, NW Australia, North Queensland, Riverina and Willochra.

"All the dioceses involved had to accept that there are insufficient finances for their needs and have curtailed ministries accordingly," Bishop Parkes stated. "As an indication of need, you might like to know that in 2011 we had applications for funding amounting to \$240,000. Nevertheless, the Anglican Outback Fund is still struggling to meet the budgeted amount of less than half of that sum in 2012."

He presented figures showing that while the Fund distributed \$179,000 in 2009, this had dropped to \$143,000

in 2011 and year's budget planned for a distribution of only \$101,000.

"At the 2010 General Synod, the dioceses affirmed their support for the Anglican Outback Fund, but unfortunately only some have been able to meet their commitments and the Fund is increasingly reliant on giving by parishes and individuals," Bishop Parkes pointed out.

Expressing gratitude to those dioceses which had been able to continue their support for mission in outback Australia, he also said that he hoped that "generous giving might still be forthcoming".

"We look forward to a time



when budgets will Anglican Outback and as part of their mission commitment and would encourage you to assess your diocese's contribution to the Fund," he wrote.

He asked the bishops to distribute a brochure promoting the missional work of the Outback Fund, and offering information on ways of giving support.

"We appreciate any support you have given in the past, and understand the constraints under which we all work in relation to money at the present. However, the ministry being undertaken in rural and remote Australia is necessary and important for the future of the whole Church. Thank you for the support you can give this year," Bishop Parkes concluded.

ANGLICARE

Gathering Place for Brindabella

□ Appeal launched to complete Brindabella Gardens home

A key project for Brindabella Gardens Hostel and Nursing Home, which has been on the drawing board for many years, is now just months from being realised.

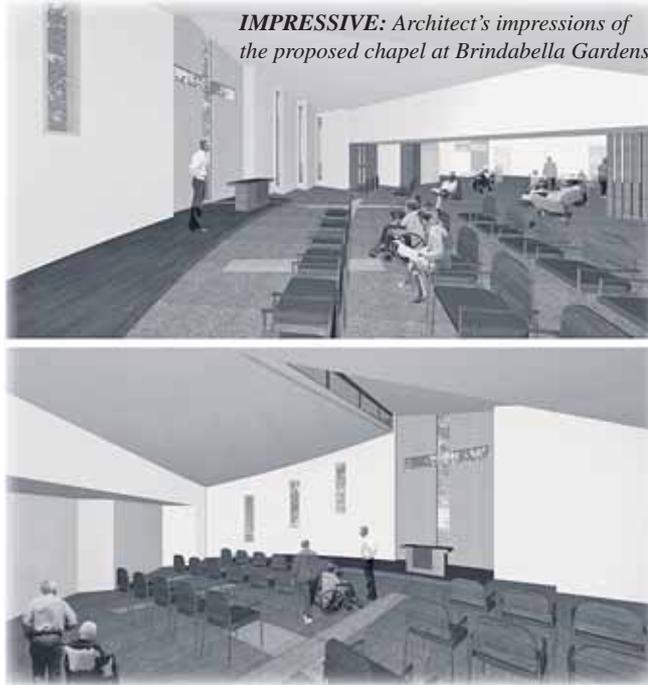
Brindabella Gardens was built in the 1980s. As time has passed and the needs of residents in nursing home care have significantly increased, the lack of an on-site worship centre has become more pronounced.

To be known as the 'Gathering Place', the development will provide a multi-purpose room designed for use by all residents of Brindabella Gardens and their families and friends. It will also resolve current access problems for people with mobility limitations created by the present layout of the existing building. In addition, the redevelopment will be a worship centre, where residents, their families and staff can have a place of peace and serenity.

"Ultimately we are dependent upon the generosity of the wider community in order to fund the proposed development," said Mr Paul Baxter, who is chair of the Fundraising Committee for the project. "With the support of Major General Michael Jeffery and Bishop Stuart Robinson, an appeal has been launched. In the coming months we will be talking to more business people and hosting a public launch to hopefully generate the remaining income."

Mr Baxter explained that the name "Gathering Place" has special meanings for Christians. Matthew 18:20 reads "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

"While the majority of residents come from a Christian



IMPRESSIVE: Architect's impressions of the proposed chapel at Brindabella Gardens.

background and Brindabella Gardens is a division of Anglicare, it is open to people of all races and creeds. The worship centre, whilst based on Anglican tradition will be open to all," he said.

The Gathering Place is also designed to be a place of enjoyment. Community groups offer to entertain the residents of Brindabella Gardens. Presently, the lack of adequate space dictates who can attend. By creating the extra space through the construction of a new dedicated open area with folding doors, the Brindabella Room as it exists at present will greatly increase in size, allowing for large gatherings.

Brindabella Gardens Residential has always been a community facility. It was originally built with donations from people from all walks of life contributing what they can. Thus far, nearly half of the cost of

the Gathering Place extension has been generated through annual fetes, gifts large and small from benefactors and a generous bequest.

If you would like to know more or would like to make a contribution, please ring Trevor Capps, Anglicare's Manager Fundraising and Events on 62457104.

Anglicare: slow response with tax reform unfair on renters

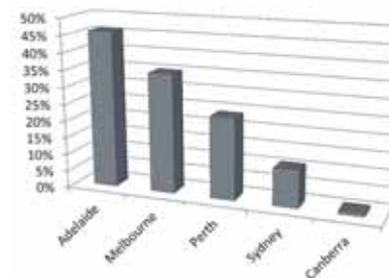
In response to the chronic rental affordability crisis in the Canberra, Anglicare Chief Executive the Rev'd Peter Sandeman is calling on all political parties to commit to urgent action ahead of the Territory elections in October.

Anglicare's Chief Executive wants the major parties to make an election commitment to remove land tax from rental properties valued under \$387,000 during their next term.

"This would bring the ACT into line with neighbouring NSW and ease pressure on low income families in the private rental market," he said.

The severity of the crisis in the ACT was particularly highlighted in this year's Anglicare snapshot which for the first time looked at families relying on minimum wage jobs.

"Canberra is not a little more expensive for renters. It is a lot more expensive," said Mr Sandeman.



SHORTAGE: Percentage of properties affordable for couples on the minimum wage with two children.

Perth is the capital with the next tightest private rental market. But even there about a quarter of properties were affordable for a couple with two children with two minimum wage incomes.

In Melbourne, Anglicare found 5693 affordable properties for this family type - 37 percent of the total market. In comparison Canberra has just 1 percent of properties affordable for a family living on two minimum wage incomes

— that was just 17 properties.

Likewise, Canberra is the only major urban centre in Australia that is unable to supply any affordable housing for sole-parent families on a minimum wage income.

"The ACT currently affordable housing many minimum wage workers, as well as a host of families on Government benefits," said Mr Sandeman. "These families can't wait decades for a solution.

Canberrans need faster action on rental affordability. This is a fundamental issue for both economic prosperity of the ACT and our region as well as social inclusion of all Canberrans."

Mr Sandeman criticized the Quinlan Tax Review for failing to make clear recommendations to make the tax system fairer.

"The current land tax arrangements are not fair. The tax burden is falling on the lowest paid workers in private rental who can least afford it," he said.

Woden Christian Bookshop

Canberra's independent Christian bookshop stocks a remarkable range of books and music, gifts, jewellery and cards, pretty well across the spectrum—there's sure to be something of interest to you. (We also stock wafers and candles.) For winter birthdays and anniversaries, church supplies or just for distractions from the long winter nights, contact:

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Region hit hard by rental affordability crisis

The regions covered by the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn have some of the worst levels of rental affordability in Australia according to Anglicare's private rental affordability snapshot.

For a number of years Canberra has been shown to be the blackest of blackspots for rental affordability for low income earners. Now that dark cloud hangs equally heavily over Yass, Queanbeyan, Goulburn and much of the Southern Highlands.

"Our research shows that the affordability of the private rental market in NSW towns around Canberra has been deeply compromised by the shortage of appropriate properties in Canberra," says Anglicare spokesperson Jeremy Halcrow. "Canberra does have a supply of affordable share accommodation, but there was not one modestly priced two bedroom unit in the ACT advertised on the survey weekend."

Most disturbingly there actually proved to be fewer affordable properties in the Yass Valley and Queanbeyan combined than Canberra itself.

Anglicare's National Rental Affordability Snapshot examined about 50,000 properties across every State and Territory on the weekend of April 14. The snapshot assessed

CRISIS: Wagga's Daily Advertiser has highlighted the rental affordability crisis facing low-income earners in that city.



housing affordability for a range of household groups on Government benefits as well as the minimum wage. The snapshot defined an affordable rental as one which took up less than 30 percent of the household's income. The 30 percent benchmark is widely used as an indicator of "housing stress" among low income households.

"We could find just three properties in Queanbeyan-Karambah that were affordable and appropriate for a family four relying on the minimum wage and family tax benefits. There were no properties for single adults or single parents with children with minimum wage jobs," said Mr Halcrow.

Of all the regions surveyed only the mining boom towns such as those in north Western Australia performed so badly in the snapshot.

"Two years ago Queanbeyan was supplying Canberra's affordable housing stock. That is no longer the case," Mr Halcrow said.



DISHEARTENED: The search for suitable rental accommodation on the South Coast has left Andrew Wilson and his son Dylan 'very disheartened'. Photo: Pam Frost, Bay Post.

Wagga: Struggle for singles

Fiona Ballinger is actively looking for a new house but, with only casual employment as a cleaner, it is a huge struggle to find somewhere affordable.

"I don't think people realise how hard it is," she said.

Like most other university towns in regional NSW, Wagga particularly struggles to supply accommodation for singles. Anglicare's national snapshot showed there was no affordable housing singles on Newstart, Youth Allowance and Austudy in the city.

Likewise the report found that only 4% of rental properties in Wagga were suitable for households relying on a single minimum wage, using the benchmark that rent should only take up less than 30% of household income.

"I went to Housing NSW but since I wasn't disabled

and didn't have young children they couldn't offer me any kind of immediate assistance, which has been the case everywhere I've gone," Ms Ballinger said.

South Coast:

Families in tents

Labourer Andrew Wilson wants his 14-year-old son Dylan to have something other than an annex behind a curtain to call a room of his own.

Dylan's mother is deceased and the pair's ongoing search for a rental property has left Mr Wilson "very disheartened" and Dylan "greatly upset".

"He has no privacy," Mr Wilson said. "We have a caravan that is exposed. He does not have his own room, he only has a curtain to cover up while he gets changed."

Andrew and Dylan shower in the caravan park toilets.

The rental affordability crisis is particularly bleak on the NSW

South Coast with sole parents particularly at risk of rental stress. Anglicare's local General manager Carol Meindl reports a growing number of people "just in the past few months living in tents and in their cars".

"I am not talking about the surfer camping out on the headland, I am talking about families."

After their rental home of three years was sold last year, Andrew and Dylan Wilson moved their old caravan from the backyard to North Head Camping Ground, Moruya.

It was a roof over their head, but over summer their food went off with no refrigeration, adding to food bills.

Mr Wilson has been working as a casual labourer for several months at the tip and last week landed a job as a full-time labourer on another site.

He says his lack of rental references have gone against him.

(Additional reporting Bay Post.)

AFFORDABLE HOUSING CANBERRA & QUEANBEYAN				
Household type	Payment Type	Total Weekly Income	Number of affordable properties	
			Canberra	Queanbeyan Southern Tablelands
Couple, two children (one aged less than 5, one aged less than 10)	Newstart Allowance (both adults)	\$651.25	0	2
Single, two children (one aged less than 5, one aged less than 10)	Parenting Payment Single	\$558.09	0	0
Couple, no children	Age Pension	\$569.50	0	11
Single, one child (aged less than 5)	Parenting Payment Single	\$476.57	0	0
Single	Age Pension	\$377.75	0	5
Single aged over 21	Disability Support Pension	\$377.75	11	5
Single	Newstart Allowance	\$244.85	0	0
Single aged over 18	Youth Allowance	\$201.35	0	0
Single in share house	Youth Allowance	\$201.35	0	0
Couple, two children (one aged less than 5, one aged less than 10)	Minimum Wage + FTB A	\$1,285.8	17	3
Single, two children (one aged less than 5, one aged less than 10)	Minimum Wage + FTB A & B	\$823.93	0	4
Single	Minimum Wage	\$589.30	106 (all share houses)	8



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NSW South Coast & Snowy: Carol Meindl

NSW Southern Tablelands: Simon Bennett

Quality & Improvement: Paul Cristofani

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A serious man

by Nikolai Blaskow*

The title of our reflection in this the second of a trilogy of articles dedicated to highlighting the crucial nature of our work amongst our youth through *Synergy Youth*, is that of a film by the Coen Brothers.

I have shown it to a Year 11 HSC Studies class and am now trialling it with seven Year 10 RaVE (*Religious and Values Education*) classes. Loosely (very loosely) based around the story of Job, this Jewish cultural critique of 50s Judaism has a lot, by implication, to teach us about how our own Christian faith is perceived by those outside its ambit. The critique runs something like this:

- You take yourselves far too seriously- indeed, you come across as a humourless, joyless lot
- You burden our faith with unnecessary complexity and obscurity that leaves the simple man/woman in the street, and the simple person in the pew, reeling
- Under the heavy garment of the trappings of your religion are concealed the human struggles, foibles and hypocrisies of which you as followers seem blissfully unaware
- You are imprisoned in the ghettos of a tightly structured, ritualised, self-serving, self-satisfied, at times ridiculously superstitious faith
- In the end, what's the point of it all if it doesn't connect with ordinary people?

It is a stinging critique which makes us (me) flinch - not lessened by the powerful ending when the young boy who has just accomplished his *bar mitzvah*, goes to see the Chief Rabbi.

We are ushered with the boy into a huge office (replete with artefacts, botanical and biological specimens, and a gruesome art work depicting Abraham's attempted sacrifice of Isaac) where the Rabbi sits waiting.

He appears god-like, transcendent. The boy sits for what seems like an eternity as the large mahogany wall clock ticks away, waiting for the Word of revelation. And finally they, the words, come: *When truth is found to be all lies, and hope withers ...* (long pause, noisy clearing of the sinuses) ... *then what?* (another pause).

But instead of providing a catechetical answer to that overwhelming epistemological and metaphysical question, he builds a strong relationship with the boy by naming most of the members of *The Aeroplane* rock band, the boy's favourite, and

returning to him the transistor radio which had been confiscated a few weeks before.

With the child's eyes shining with gratitude and love, the Rabbi encourages him to *be a good boy* - a moment that does more to connect the boy with his religion and his community, than ever the *bar mitzvah* service had done, where the officiating rabbi, whom the boy mistrusts, had never made such an attempt (the same rabbi who told the boy's father that he didn't need to care about *goys* - *gentiles* - because they don't matter: *who cares?*).

The film is about *receiving with simplicity everything that happens* to us and about making genuine, loving connections with others rather than sprouting our ideology. It's quite shocking to realise how quickly and easily we lull ourselves into a false sense of security about how we are coming across to a watching world, and how terribly out of touch we are.

And nothing is so well designed as a class room full of vital, talkative and 'irreverent' Year 9 RaVE students, who are either going into the 'jungle' of adolescence, are in it, coming out of it, or are on a brief excursion from it, to jolt us into a sense of reality: gangly, gawky, they nevertheless constitute uncompromisingly honest critics to whom we must listen with the closest attention - *deep listening* in fact. And, by a miraculous sweep of Nature's wand, those students re-emerge in Years 10, 11 and 12, urbane, suave and sophisticated, under whose scrutinising eye very little is missed.

Yet for all that, paradoxically, *because* we don't really listen, we tend to overestimate our young peoples' understanding of, and their emotional capacity to deal with, the very complex world we live in.

Next article we will look at some of the questions raised by students in Year 10. But here, even more tellingly, are some answers regarding **the values framework which they bring to a table of discussion** - there is much, much more, but too wide ranging for our present purpose:

- My personal framework, because it's the only one I fully understand and believe in;
- I usually try to avoid thinking too much about them because they (questions of meaning and God) are something depressing and make me feel insignificant because I don't have enough evidence to conclude either way;
- These are questions that interest me most and actually scare

me a little, because I don't have the answers;

- I don't know: nothing makes sense;
- I leave (the question) to do something else - I think about it and if it's too hard I leave it;
- For (some) questions I might have to wait until I'm dead;
- Sometimes I feel lost;
- I'd rather question answers, than have answers to questions

So, in many ways, as *A Serious Man* suggests, it is indeed the *simple* things, the *connections* that are made that make all the difference. When the nuns confiscated my toy car in Year 3 at Boarding School, promising to return it at the end of the year, but ending up selling it in the lucky dip, it proved to be a tipping point that drove me into atheism - yes, even at age 8 - it's possible: ask Philip Adams, he became one at 7, my father and grandfather at 6.

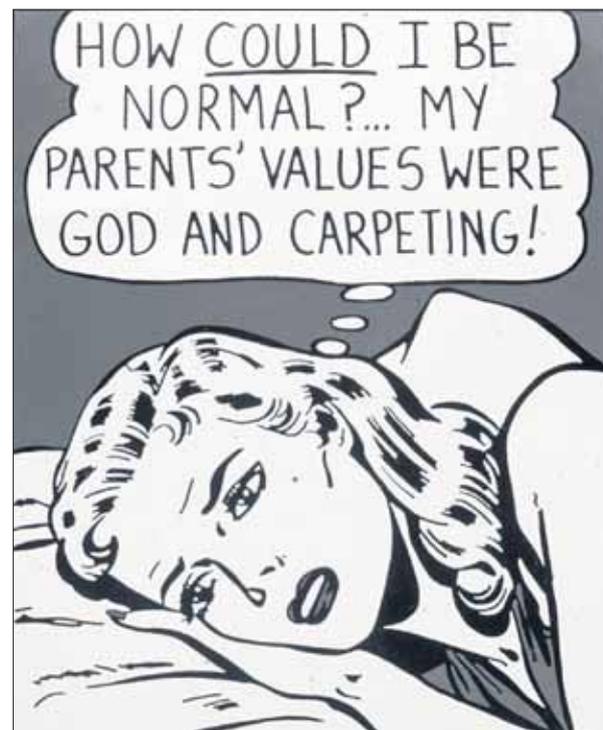
And it wasn't my well intentioned University friend's long theological rant that got through to me eleven years later - just that still small voice of God inside, the God who knew all about my quest for *truth* which had started at Christmas 1959 when I saw my step uncles fighting over the inheritance - it was he who made the connection with a simple question: *Nikolai, what are you going to do with what you know?*

Until the risen Jesus spoke *Mary's name*, she thought he was the gardener. I fear that *méconnaissance* ('misrecognition') will be the fate of our youth unless we become facilitators creating the space for God to make the connection, rather than snake oil sales people flogging our potted and sometimes dodgy notions of what it means to 'evangelise'.

Of course, we must provide a framework of understanding and skills that will pave the way for God to make the connection - that will be the very exciting focus of our next conversation.

Meantime, here's something to ponder regarding how we relate to others, including our young people:

"I was suddenly overwhelmed with the realisation that I loved all those people... It was like waking from a dream of separateness... There are no strangers! Then it was as if I suddenly saw the secret beauty of their hearts... the person that each one is in God's eyes. If only they could all see themselves as they really are. If only we could see each other that way all the time... There is no way of telling people that they are all



walking around shining like the sun." (*Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander*, Thomas Merton, *Turnbridge Wells: Burns & Oates, 1995*) pp.156-157.

* **Nikolai Blaskow** has been Assistant Chaplain at Canberra Boys' Grammar School, where he has also taught RaVE

(*Religious and Values Education*) to Years 7-10, HSC Religious Studies in Year 11 and is about to take up his appointment as Assistant Chaplain and teacher of RaVE at Radford College for the remainder of 2012. He also serves on the Board of *Synergy Youth*.

'Threads' link Prayer Book to everyday life

The 350th anniversary of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer (BCP) has inspired a group of Canberra students to arrange an exhibition illustrating the significance of the Prayer Book in everyday life over the centuries.

Helen Bennett, Lara Montebello and Mary Michalas are enrolled in Canberra Institute of Technology's Certificate IV in Museum Practice course, and they chose to curate the 'Threads of Life' exhibition as a practical component of their studies.

Opening at St Mark's National Theological Centre in Barton, ACT, on Monday evening May 30, the two-week exhibition includes some very rare documents from the Rare Books collection held by St Mark's. Among these are a facsimile of the original 1662 edition of the Book of Common Prayer, and another copy which is now thought to be an actual 1662 version.

This book, which was understood to have been printed in 1669, was identified recently by Dr John Harris who believes it can be recognised as part of

the original print run.

Helen Bennet said the purpose of the exhibition was to show how the Prayer Book has been an integral part of life throughout its history.

"What we're trying to do is show how the Book of Common Prayer actually threads its way through our lives, through generations and also through significant events in our lives - baptisms, confirmations, weddings and so on," she explained.

This is demonstrated through the inclusion of a baptism gown from the 19th century, a wedding dress from the mid-20th century, Christening mugs, embroideries and similar items linking the BCP with the everyday events of life.

Helen Bennett said her team was very grateful for articles which had been loaned for the exhibition, particularly by St Mark's Rare Books, the Embroiderers' Guild, Tobin Brothers and a number of individuals.

Director of St Mark's, Prof. Tom Frame, will formally open the exhibition on Monday May 30, following a 5:30 Evensong Service in the St Mark's Chapel.

Links with Ysabel Diocese reaffirmed

by Ian Palmer*

In April 2008 I was with Bishop Allan Ewing (Assistant Bishop in our Diocese) and Bishop Richard Narranara of Ysabel¹ when they both signed a Memorandum of Understanding drawing our two Dioceses together in partnership.

Since then relationships have grown, not only with Ysabel but with the whole of the Church of Melanesia.

Anglican News has carried articles about this: the visits of students from TRAC; three large containers of goods for schools and the hospital have found their way across to Isabel¹; groups of young people have gone with Mal Macallum or with Bishop Ian Lambert; young people and adults have visited Batemans' Bay; Melanesian clergy have studied at St Mark's; and the list could go on.

Following an invitation from Bishop Richard and Bishop Stuart to conduct a week of teaching and refreshment for priests and to agree and sign the renewed Memorandum of Understanding between the two Dioceses, Bishop Ian Lambert and I returned to Melanesia in April.

It was a joy to be back among these hopeful and happy people. (The Solomons have been known as the "Happy Islands".)

The clergy were eager listeners so Bishop Ian and I found ourselves teaching them on matters basic to an understanding of vocation in ministry: our Identity in Christ, how to be a good leader in our parishes; how to live with Christ at the centre of our life, faith, ministry and mission; we talked about stewardship, gave Bible studies, and after Bishop Ian spoke about the renewal of our lives by the power of the

Holy Spirit we had a time for prayer and anointing.

We were very conscious of and humbled by the work of God among us. Time allowed us to visit their clergy training school at Tasia across the lagoon from the Diocesan centre at Jejevo. Bishop Ian preached at the Sunday Eucharist and I was able to make my second climb up the mountain to the village of Torintino.

A very important reason for our visit was to revise and sign the Memorandum of Understanding between the two Dioceses. This document celebrates the achievement of the partnership since 2008 and provides both direction and indicators for the partnership in the future.

It promotes new parish-to-parish relationships between the dioceses, canvases the possibilities for clergy and lay training between the Dioceses, encourages further teaching programs like the one that Bishop Ian and I embarked upon, asks for opportunities for Diocesan leaders – lay and ordained – to exchange visits to facilitate better relationships.

Some *Anglican News* readers may feel this is all one-way. Not so.

True, it is much easier for Australians to visit Ysabel than the other way round.

Getting visas for our Melanesian friends to come to Australia is a recurring nightmare due mostly to the ever-changing paperwork and hurdles of Australian Immigration procedures.

But for us to visit them is to be rewarded beyond measure. Experiencing the strength of their family ties, the warmth of their worship, their trust in God and their openhearted friendship inspires me to foster these



TEACHING: Bishop Ian Lambert had no trouble conforming to the local dress code as he talked with clergy from the Diocese of Ysabel about issues of parish leadership.

qualities in my life and church fellowship.

The signing ceremony came during a Constitutional Conference for the Western Province of the Government also going on at Jejevo during our visit. So with due ceremony and speeches the MOU was signed in the presence of Premier James Habu and Chief Dennis Caroslulie who along with the Bishop represent the three foundational pillars of the stable communities of the Diocese of Ysabel.

There was much more to our visit; it was a packed ten days but the enthusiasm and

joy of the Christian Melanesian people always moves me. They sing with eagerness, many go to church daily.

We joined in a special service to remember the Seven Melanesian Brothers martyred in 2003 and I found myself preaching at a 6am service on St Mark's Day (the large church was half-full).

I've returned tired and encouraged and with a sense of accomplishing something worthwhile. They want us to return, to do it all again, and in addition to teach those preparing for ministry.

Bishop Ian is taking a dozen

young people there in July, Fr Mal Dunnett will be in Buala again very soon, TRAC will return; we will arrange for Melanesian people to come to our Diocese and the partnership will be strengthened to the glory of God and the benefit of His Church.

1. The spelling Ysabel is for the Diocese which includes many islands and Isabel is the shortened name of the island Santa Isabella. The island was named by the Spanish explorer Mendana when it was discovered in 1568.

**Archdeacon Ian Palmer* serves as the rector of *Queanbeyan* and *Archdeacon of Chaplains*.



AGREEMENT: Bishop Ian Lambert and Bishop Richard Narranara sign the new Memorandum of Understanding, extending the link relationship between the two dioceses.

New manager for Wambiri

Wagga Wagga couple Tony and Vicki Hancock will be moving to the South Coast town of Tathra this month as Tony takes up his appointment as Manager of Wambiri, the Diocesan youth campsite.

The appointment of a new full-time manager marks a significant milestone in the resurrection of Wambiri, which just two years ago had to be closed because it failed to meet Occupational health and Safety standards and appeared to be unviable.

However, an Interim Management Group headed by David Dillon, with funding support from the Diocese, has brought the facility back to life with improvements to the grounds, ablution block and bedrooms.

Tony and Vicki Hancock take over the management from Diocesan Property Manager Michael Stallard who was seconded by the Diocesan Registrar Trevor Ament to oversee the site for the last six months.

The Hancocks bring a very appropriate set of skills to their new role, with Tony having worked in the building and construction industry for over 33 years while Vicki has extensive clerical and



NEW MANAGEMENT: Vicki and Tony Hancock

administrative experience, most recently as Parish Secretary for St John's, Wagga Wagga.

Next month's *Anglican News* will introduce the couple in more detail, along with a feature on Wambiri.



Good News³

Brad Lovegrove explores some tools for sharing the Gospel with young people in a post-Christian world

We are living in a post-Christian world, where very few young people outside the church know even the basic facts about Jesus.

With no Church, Sunday School or Scripture background, we have to begin at square one to explain Jesus to a newcomer at Kids Club or Church.

But how do we do this in a winsome way? How can we 'always be prepared to give an answer, to everyone who asks you, to give the reason for the hope that you have' (1 Peter 3.15)?

A fun new evangelism resource, the 'Kids' EE Cube', promises to be 'a cool tool to simply share Jesus'. Like an evangelistic booklet in 3D, the Kids' EE Cube unfolds in a really intriguing way, to show a gospel presentation on seven panels.

The Cube's instruction sheet contains a 'script' to explain each picture-panel. You begin with two questions: Are you sure you'll be with God in heaven someday? and If God asked you 'why should I let you into my heaven?' what would you say?

Then you unfold the Cube to the seven panels that follow: Heaven and Us (sin), God (loving but just), Jesus, Risen Jesus, Saving Faith, Trust Jesus, and Growth in Jesus.

For example, with the picture of Jesus on panel 3, the script explains that 'Jesus is God. He came from heaven to earth, he lived a perfect life, and he died on the cross ... (show panel 4, picture of Risen Jesus) ...and rose from the dead, to pay the penalty for our sins and to purchase a place in heaven for us (John 3.16 quote).

How do we get this gift of eternal life? By faith...' (show panel 5, Saving Faith; etc) The adults I demonstrated the Cube to were riveted as the story unfolded. What a fascinating way to answer life's greatest question!

You could use the Cube yourself to give a talk at a Scripture class, Kids Club, or Sunday school. But an even better idea is to continue to use it regularly at your group, letting different kids have a go at demonstrating it each week, so they learn to use the Cube to share the good news with their friends. The Kids EE Cube (\$13) and the similar adult product, the EvangeCube (\$10) are available by mail order from Word bookstores, www.word.com.au/ The EvangeCube also



comes in a two-dimensional, folded card version, the eCube Grip Keyring (\$8).

Another way to share the good news with youth or adults using diagrams is the *Two Ways to Live* booklet (also available in a Kid's version). For the digital natives, *Two Ways to Live* is now available as an iPhone app! As well as the booklet's six diagrams, it includes a guided audio version, five different languages (English, Spanish, French, Japanese, and Chinese), and the option to gift the app to someone (you can send them



DIGITAL EVANGELISM: Compact aids that help explain the Christian faith can be easily carried in a pocket.

the app after explaining it, to review at their leisure) all for 99 cents - bargain! Download it at the app store.

Not Church: the rise of the *Nones*

by Brad Lovegrove

The fastest growing religious group in the USA is those with 'no religious affiliation', called *Nones*. Their numbers have more than doubled since 1990, to 16% of the population.

However, many of those who have given up on organised religion have not given up on faith, says Amy Sullivan (Time magazine, March 12). She cites an example of the *Nones*, a Sunday gathering in Baja, called 'Not Church'. Many of its members gave up on traditional religion long ago, but they still function as a congregation, engage in spiritual conversation and prayer, deliver food to the sick, and serve the poor.

A recent Sunday sermon featured unofficial 'chaplain' Erin Dunigan, who said 'Organised religion can be like supermarket tomatoes - flavourless and tough! But you don't just give up tomatoes, or religion - you find a fresh, local version worth cultivating'.

Not Church is an example of

a growing trend - turning away from organised religion, yet seeking ways to build spiritual lives. The past decade has been particularly challenging for organised religion in the USA says Sullivan, with Catholic sex-abuse scandals and polarising political campaigns by religious groups.

This has resulted in a 'participation crash' for church membership. But the hunger for spiritual connection and community hasn't gone away: a 2009 Pew Forum survey asked people whether they believed in God, how often they prayed, and whether they were affiliated with a particular religion. 40% of the unaffiliated people were fairly religious, and many said they were still hoping to find the right religious home.

Similarly, Dunigan says of Not Church members 'for most, they're not rejecting God, they're rejecting organised religion as being rigid and dogmatic'.

The emergent church movement is an effort by young Christian leaders (there's a similar movement among Jews)

to take religion away from musty pews and theological fights, by creating small worship communities that meet in members' homes, just like the New Testament Church.

For mainline denominations, the challenge is how to adapt to this movement, rather than fight it. The Presbyterian Church ordained Dunigan as an 'evangelist', a designation rare among American clergy. In response, some members of Not Church now say, 'If organised religion is willing to try something new, maybe I should give organised religion

another chance'.

How does Australia compare? Does ticking 'No Religion' on the Australian Census also mean disaffection with organised religion, rather than 'no faith'? The *Nones* category in the 2006 Australian census was 18.8% of the population (only 2.8% higher than the US figure of 16%, although our 'not stated' category was also high, at 12%). Strangely enough, the *Nones* result tied with those who ticked 'Anglican', also at 18.8%!

Does the doubling of *Nones*

mean that the US is rapidly catching up to Australia? And is this a long-term trend, or only a temporary blip?

The 2011 Australian census results, due out on June 21st, will probably show our *Nones* category pulling ahead again, due to generational factors: because the *Nones* category is lowest among the over 60 age group, at around 10% (while among under 30's its close to 40%), as the over 60 age group decreases, the overall percentage of *Nones* in the population increases.

Watch this space.

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