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Matt Brain's consecration



PRAYER: Bishop Stuart Robinson invited Matt Brain's family to stand with the newly-consecrated bishop at the conclusion of the service in St Saviour's Cathedral, while he prayed for them all. From left are Matt's wife Rachel, daughter Karis and sons James, Nathan, Levi, and Thomas.

Dr Matt Brain's consecration as a Bishop in the Church of God, in a service at St Saviour's Cathedral, Goulburn, on Saturday June 13, makes him the youngest bishop in the Anglican Church of Australia .

Dr Brain came to the Diocese of

Canberra and Goulburn in 2010 to take up an appointment as Director of Synergy Youth and Children's Ministry.

He had previously served as Diocesan Youth Minister and Minister in Charge of the parish of Kalbarri, in the Diocese of North West Australia.

Since coming to this diocese he has also lectured in Ministry and Outreach at St Mark's National Theological Centre in Canberra, and has served as an Archdeacon since 2012.

(Also see page 3, Mission focus for new Bishop)

An ethical investment alternative



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Pressure, patience and prayer

One of the most recognizable bass lines in pop music belongs to Queen's song *Under Pressure* (1982).

It gets used time and time again as the force behind many a tune. It is very simple but very catchy, which I guess is why people use it so much. I also find that as soon as I hear it the line, *Pressure pushing down on me*, begins to play in my mind. Maybe that is because I play the bass ... maybe it is because like many of us my experience of life is so often marked by pressure.

We face many sources of pressure in our modern life. Some pressures are common throughout society (like the stress in relationships Queen sings about); some come to us in particular as those who seek to follow Jesus. The Apostle James touches on this in the 5th chapter of his letter when he warns those to whom he was writing to be just with their use of wealth.

It seems that some of the Christian community scattered across the Roman Empire were being self-indulgent with their wealth, hoarding it or spending it on themselves rather than paying their workers what was due.

I wonder if this connects with a stress that we can feel as we live in a society that has slipped the moorings of a generally accepted Christian worldview and spirals off in many different directions. That is, we can be tempted to take our cause into our own hands, a bit like the rich folk in James' day taking their enjoyment of life and luxury into theirs.

I know that I am often frustrated by what looks like slow movement in our communities and want to speed things up a bit! I get anxious because God does not seem to be moving to my agenda.

James' direction to the first churches

was that they need to ease up. In other words the Christian life is one marked by patience because we cannot control God. I hope that we are unlike the first recipients of this letter in that we deal justly with those who do work for us (it makes for an interesting reflection on where we source our coffee, chocolate and clothing from).

Yet, if I am correct about the other sources of stress, while we may still struggle with church communities that are under pressure from declining finance or decreased attendance, the call is not to grasp our fate in our own hands but to be patient and wait on God.

James identifies two outcomes of impatience which are a good warning to us. The first is grumbling about each other (v9). We are each an extraordinary gift of God one to other. When we grumble about our fellow disciples we not only bring them down, but we deny one of God's great graces! The second is the temptation to stretch the boundaries of good speech and living all in the name of results (I think this is what v12 is about). In a pragmatic world where results drive everything, we must stand out as different - what we say and do does matter because it reflects on God!

Good advice without an action plan is cold comfort, so it is great that James also provides us with an antidote to stress. Indeed it is the means by which we can walk into the future God has laid out for us: that is, through prayer. The final verses of chapter 5 lay out for us a number of examples of when we should pray and where prayer has 'worked'. The action plan that James gives us is not inactivity, but neither is it frenzied action.

It is not a life shouldering the burden of independence, neither is it simple effective

Bishop

Matt

Brain



teamwork that is the prime call. James simply seems to be saying – "Ask God".

Friends, as we discover what it means to be followers of Jesus - the Church together, what is your first impulse when you run up against frustration or pressure? May it be the desire to throw yourself on God's enabling hand. Can I ask that this may be your first impulse when you think of me too!

+ Matt

Anglican News

A newsletter for the Canberra and Goulburn Anglican community

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Clergy moves and appointments

◆ **The Venerable Dr Matthew Brain** has been consecrated a Bishop in the Church of God and will serve as Assistant Bishop Ministry Training and Development Portfolio.

The Reverend Paul Cohen has been elected Area Dean for Belconnen by his peers in the Belconnen Deanery.

The Venerable Dr Brian Douglas has been collated as Archdeacon for South Canberra.

The Reverend Canon Emeritus Simon Wooldridge has been licensed as Honorary Anglican Chaplain to ACT Corrective Services.

Mission focus for new Bishop

□ **Bishop Matt Brain will work on mission and ministry development in a changing culture**

By Lewis Hitchick

Following his consecration as a bishop on Saturday June 13, Dr Matt Brain assumes responsibility for the Ministry Training and Development portfolio in the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn.

Bishop Stuart Robinson said that this portfolio not only helps new people enter Anglican ministry but also has oversight of clergy professional development.

The role will be an extension of his previous responsibilities as Director of Parish Support, Chaplaincy and Mission where, since 2013, he has worked closely with parishes to help leaders develop their capacity for ministry.

“Dr Brain will play a key role in helping our diocese continue to identify new missional leaders and support those already in ministry to engage with a changing culture,” said Bishop Stuart.

A physiotherapist by background, Dr Brain trained for ministry in Perth and was ordained in 2003. After



HANDS-ON: More than a dozen bishops gather around Matt Brain to lay hands on him as he kneels before Archbishop Glenn Davies to be consecrated as a Bishop in the Church of God.

serving as a priest in the Diocese of North-West Australia for seven years, he moved to the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn to become Director of Synergy Youth and Children’s Ministry.

He is a lecturer at St Mark’s National Theological College and plays a leadership role with the International Association for the Study of Youth Ministry, which aims to foster the study and development of youth ministry as a recognised profession.

Privilege

The new bishop’s father, Bishop Peter Brain (Bishop of Armidale Diocese from 2000-2012) had the rare privilege of preaching at his son’s consecration service.

Referring to the Gospel reading, Peter Brain quoted John 12: 21 where a group of Greeks came to Philip saying, ‘Sir, we would see Jesus’.

“It is so vital to have Jesus before our eyes,” he said, particularly for bishops and pastors with an oversight role where much that they see might be overwhelming (too much to deal with),

underwhelming (too few resources for the task) or discouraging.

Turning to the Epistle reading (2 Corinthians 4: 1-7) Peter Brain pointed out that Paul was a “seasoned campaigner” when he wrote this letter, who “despite his remarkable strength and durability, was prone to discouragement”.

“Twice in this chapter he writes, ‘so that we do not lose heart’.”

He said Paul also stressed that “it is not about us”, when he wrote ‘for we do not proclaim ourselves’.

“What a relief for us – and for those we minister to!” he said. “It is about God, who is merciful and who has given us the clear word of truth that is ours to share openly.”

Addressing his son specifically, Peter Brain said: “Matt, whatever oversight you are called to, never lose sight of your call to trust Jesus as Lord. 2 Corinthians 4:18 (*So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal*) is counter-cultural for the world - but not for you. Keep the Risen Christ in your sight.”



PREACHER: Former Bishop of Armidale Diocese, Peter Brain, was very pleased to be invited to preach at his son’s consecration.

Doing what Jesus did:

□ The June issue of *Anglican News* featured a report on the first two sessions presented by Dr Alison Morgan at the Bishop's Cathedral Convention on May 16. This month we outline her final presentation.

By Lewis Hitchick

In her first sessions, Dr Morgan offered a definition of Discipleship as 'a form of apprenticeship undertaken in community', and listed five characteristics of the first followers of Jesus, as recorded in the New Testament:

1. A change of direction;
2. Learning on the go;
3. Growing in community;
4. Embracing pain; and
5. Depending on the Holy Spirit.

In the second session she looked at the context in which we are now called to follow Jesus: a secular society in which most people no longer see any of these things as either important or relevant.

In her final session Alison Morgan returned to the fifth characteristic of the life of a disciple of Jesus: dependence on the Holy Spirit.

"Perhaps you've been thinking, as I'm sure the first disciples of Jesus must have thought, 'That's all very well, but how on earth do you think I'm actually going to live like that, and do those things, when I'm just ordinary me? I'm not that clever, not that popular, not that confident. I'm busy, my health isn't too good, it's all I can do to keep my head above water in a complicated world.'

"Now if you've had any of those thoughts, I have some good news for you – you're not being asked to do any of these things in your own strength, and you're not being asked to do them on your own."

She explained that Jesus had told his disciples: 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments, and I will ask the Father and he will send an Advocate to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot perceive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you and he will be in you.'

"There's the key," she said. "The



ESSENTIAL TOOLS: *Dr Alison Morgan maintains that without the gifts of the Holy Spirit the church cannot fulfil the Great Commission.*

Holy Spirit will be with you, but more importantly he will be within you. You're not being asked to make a massive effort to be something that you're not; you're being asked to let go, and let Jesus work in you through the presence of his Holy Spirit."

She said Jesus had been so insistent in what he said about the Holy Spirit that he instructed his disciples to do nothing until the Holy Spirit came to them (Acts 1) – which happened on the day of Pentecost.



"Now, it turned out that this was not just for the twelve, it was for all those who committed themselves to following Jesus," Dr Morgan pointed out. "Peter said to the crowd, 'Repent and be

baptised, every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.'

"3000 people did do just that, and the church was born. "

She said that throughout the Book of Acts, the Spirit is constantly present and active not just among the twelve apostles and St Paul but through many others too.

"But the Holy Spirit doesn't always get the attention we might expect," she said. "For several centuries – at least where I have come from – the church has managed without direct dependence on the Holy Spirit, paying lip service to him in the liturgy, but otherwise giving him little space to move among us."

However, over the last century or so, there has been a great revival in the ministry of the Holy Spirit within the church.

Alison Morgan said that the that Charismatic movement initially led this revival through the creation of a worldwide Pentecostal network of churches,
(continued next page)

Bishop's Convention (part 2)

(from previous page)

and subsequently this was followed by the rediscovery of the work and gifts of the Holy Spirit within the traditional denominations – “of which ours is one”.

However, she said there had been some problems. “When something is new, it’s easy to get it a bit out of perspective - and that’s put many of us off.”

She pointed out that there was “a whole spectrum of views about the work of the Holy Spirit”, ranging from those who believe that the Holy Spirit was given to the early church and is not active today, through to those who claim that if only we had the faith we would see all of our prayers answered instantly and powerfully.

She defined the first of these perspectives as ‘cessationism’, and the second as ‘triumphalism’.

“The Anglican Church, I’m happy to say, sits somewhere in the middle of this spectrum. We generally hold the view that the Kingdom of God is both ‘now’ and ‘not yet’: we trust God to answer our prayers, but we are living in a flawed world which one day will have to be recreated in order for God to dwell fully among us.”

She said that a few years ago a colleague had suggested that she write something on the gifts of the Spirit.

“I wasn’t really keen – I thought, ‘lots of people have written about that, and why do we need something else?’”

But on checking, she found that in fact “not much had been written about the gifts of the Spirit for 35 years or so”.

Most of the books on the topic seemed to date from the rediscovery of the gifts of the Spirit in the ‘70s and ‘80s, and referred to 1 Corinthians chapter 12 (which lists nine gifts with which the Spirit equips the church for ministry: wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, working miracles, prophecy, discernment, the ability to speak in tongues, and to interpret tongues).

She found that most of the books had two main aims: to try and define each of the gifts that Paul lists; and to help people work out how to get them.

“Once I began to think about it, two



WELCOME: Bishop Stuart Robinson was pleased to welcome more than 450 people to this year’s Cathedral Convention.

things occurred to me,” she said. “Maybe the reason that many churches are not as interested in the gifts of the Spirit as they might be, is because of this rather narrow focus on 1 Corinthians chapter 12: should we really be lavishing all this attention on one single chapter? Is there a bigger picture?”

What is clear is that if we don’t receive and exercise the gifts of the Spirit, it simply is not possible for us to continue to exercise the ministry of Jesus.

So she decided to re-read the Gospels – and the more she read, the more it seemed to her that there was nothing special or unique about 1 Corinthians 12: it was simply a description of the ministry of Jesus.

“We should be reading it not as a stand-alone text, but as a commentary on the Gospels,” she decided.

She also reflected that we live in a

world that is increasingly open to the spiritual dimension of life, so now is a time to think afresh about what is available to us through the Holy Spirit.

“If we don’t open ourselves up to everything he has for us, we will have nothing to offer to spiritually hungry people and they will look elsewhere,” she observed.

The result was her book entitled ‘Doing what Jesus did’.

Dr Morgan told how Jesus had begun his public ministry in the Synagogue in Nazareth by reading from the scroll, the opening verses of Isaiah 61: ‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free and proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.’

He then began to do these things: in Matthew 9, ‘Jesus went through all the towns and villages teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the Kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.’

Gradually he began to get his disciples to do this too – Matthew 10 tells how he gave the twelve disciples ‘authority to drive out evil spirits and heal every disease and sickness’.

Then as Jesus prepared to leave his disciples for the last time, he gave them this charge: ‘All authority on Heaven and Earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ...’

“That’s quite clear, isn’t it? Asked Dr Morgan. “They are teaching new disciples what? Teaching theology? No. Teaching ethics? No. Just teaching to obey. What are they to obey? ‘Everything I have commanded you.’ What had he commanded them? ‘Proclaim the good news for the Kingdom of Heaven is come near. Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.’

She said it was clear that this was not meant to be a temporary ‘assistant’ role; it was a life-long commission. The Holy

(continued next page)

Bishop Trevor at Bungendore parish dinner

❑ **Guests urged to live lives that reflect Christian values**

By Karen King*

Each year for the last four years the Bungendore Anglican Church has hosted a dinner at one of the local cafes.

Each year we have been blessed to have a Bishop as our guest speaker, and have listened to dinner talks that have provided us with a range of messages that empower us to live a life honouring our Saviour. Many thanks to the Bishops who have been our guests and supported our Parish.

Each year a number of those attending the dinner have been those in our community that are exploring their faith and not yet regular Sunday service attendees. Some are sponsored to come through the generosity of others. Each year we also hold a quiz – whether it be gentle brain teasers left on the tables, or questions from the quiz master between courses. Each year there have been chocolate prizes for correct answers. A tradition is forming ...

This year our guest speaker Bishop Trevor, who provided a light hearted but thought provoking dinner talk. He reminded us that we all have a responsibility to look for opportunities in our daily lives to serve others.

Opportunities present themselves regularly for anybody and everybody to show love in relationships within and beyond our community. We were challenged not to leave these



SERVING: Bishop Trevor (inset) told the Bungendore dinner guests they have a responsibility to look for opportunities in daily life, to serve others.

opportunities for somebody else, as doing so invariably resulted in nobody taking them on board. We need to show unconditional love to all those around us.

Bishop Trevor encouraged all to live a life that reflected our beliefs and values so that this would shine in our community. We need eyes to see the doors that are open before us, and walk through them and embrace new opportunities. People were filled with thoughts and inspiration as to how they may be able to enrich the lives of others through making a difference.

In the Bungendore region the Anglican and Catholic Parishes do a lot together and the Annual Anglican Dinner is no exception. As we are a

small community, the two parishes combine forces for a number of ecumenical services, sharing study groups and providing pastoral care such as preparing Christmas hampers for those in need.

Dinner events provide a great opportunity to relax together as two parishes, and learn more about each other – including our competitive streaks. Last year the Catholics were strong competition in the quiz and went home with more Freddos than the rest of us. Despite great efforts to retain their title, this year's quiz was a more even match – but who is keeping score?

**Karen King serves as Secretary of Bungendore Anglican Church.*

Doing what Jesus did: Bishop's Convention (from page 5)

Spirit would enable Jesus' followers, as Jesus had put it, to do the works that he had done.

“And so it was – the Book of Acts tells the story of how they, too, could minister in power: healing the sick, discerning the presence of evil and releasing those affected by it, working miracles, hearing the voice of God, playing their part in his purposes. They discovered in fact that they had been given a whole load of spiritual resources for use in ministry for others.

“Does that apply today? Well I don't see any cancellation of that anywhere in

Scripture.”

Dr Morgan said her research led her to re-read the Gospels, to see if the gifts listed in 1 Cor. 12 related to the ministry of Jesus.

She found 80 instances in each of Luke's and John's Gospel of the use of a gift or the gifts of the Spirit as described by Paul, and a further 66 examples in the Book of Acts.

“All the gifts mentioned by Paul in his letter to the Corinthians are clearly recognisable in the Gospels, and in the Acts of the Apostles, though not always in the clear-cut way that Paul's letter might

suggest.

“What is clear is that if we don't receive and exercise the gifts of the Spirit it simply is not possible for us to continue to exercise the ministry of Jesus.

“We need to put the gifts of the Spirit in context: take the spotlight off them, look at the bigger picture and then re-integrate them into the Gospel story as a whole.”

Dr Alison Morgan is a thinker, researcher and writer for ReSource, an independent Anglican charity in Wells, Somerset, UK.

Training for lay disciples

□ The Diocesan Centre for Lay Ministry & Mission

The Diocesan Centre for Lay Ministry and Mission is offering a new course aimed at helping Christians working in paid employment, or in voluntary activity.

The one-day course, entitled Working Disciples – Being Christian Everyday, is based on material from *ReSource*, the agency in the English Diocese of Bath and Wells where Dr Alison Morgan is based.

Dr Morgan inspired both laity and clergy throughout the diocese when she spoke at last month's Bishop's Cathedral Convention in Goulburn on May 16, and the Diocesan Clergy Conference during the following week.

She also addressed the Clergy Spouse' Conference on the weekend of May 23-24.

Dr Morgan's clear message was that all disciples of Jesus – lay or ordained – have been called into ministry (see report on pages 4-5, and also in last month's *Anglican News*).

The Centre for Lay Ministry & Mission, which operates under the mission statement *Equipping the people of God to share in the mission of God to radically transform communities*, is offering the four-session course in Goulburn (July 18) and Canberra (August 15).

The four sessions are:

- ♦ Exploring faith and work
- ♦ How can the church support Christians at work?
- ♦ Faith/work/life (and leisure) balance?
- ♦ Faith in the workplace

Other courses on offer over the coming months include:



EQUIPPING: Archdeacon John Barnes, his wife Louise and Crookwell parishioner Margaret Wheelwright have prepared a variety of courses to equip lay disciples.

Listening - the aim of this half-day course is to enable members of the church to improve their listening skills and to enhance their ministry to each other and to others beyond the church.

While developing listening skills, the course does not seek to develop skills in counselling and neither does it develop the specialist listening skills required in situations of loss.

Visiting Sick & Bereaved - this half-day course is designed for parishioners visiting as part of their ministry team in their parish. Please note this course does not provide skills in counselling the sick or

bereaved, neither does it seek to develop a ministry of healing.

Reading in Church – a half-day course to provide confidence and a basic skill in reading in church. This course is not just for newcomers but is also great as a refresher.

Leading Intercessions – a half-day course to enable members of the congregations to be more confident in leading intercessions. It is particularly useful for those new to leading, although those with more experience will also find it helpful. A small amount of pre-course reading is required.

Leading Worship – a full day course, which expects that participants will be experienced in leading some aspects of the service eg. intercessions and reading.

This course will enable participants to lead God's people in Praise, Prayer and Proclamation and Morning and Evening Prayer. A small amount of pre-course reading is required.

Morning and afternoon teas are provided at these courses, but participants are asked to please bring their own lunch. Please note that minimum numbers of applicants are required for courses to be run.

For application forms or further information please contact Margaret Wheelwright, PO Box 1025, Goulburn NSW 2580; Telephone: 0425 231477 or email: laycentre@anglicancg.org.au

Courses: July - October

WAGGA WAGGA

Community of the Redeemer, Cnr Tobruk St & Blackmore Ave, Ashmont

Saturday 11th July:

- ♦ [Leading Worship](#) – full day
- Registrations close 29th June

GOULBURN

Christ Church, 128 Addison St

Saturday 18th July:

- ♦ [Working Disciples](#) – full day
- Registrations close 6th July

CANBERRA:

St John's Reid, Constitution Avenue

Saturday 15th August:

- ♦ [Working Disciples](#) – full day
- Registrations close 3rd August

SOUTH TUGGERANONG

St Mary-in-the-Valley
Cnr Webber Cr & Were St, Calwell

Saturday 19th September:

- ♦ [Leading Worship](#) – full day
- Registrations close 7th September

Saturday 24th October:

- ♦ [Listening & Visiting Sick & Bereaved](#) – full day
- Registrations close 5th October

NEWS FROM THE WIDER CHURCH

Newcastle Bishop apologises to abuse victims

The Anglican Bishop of Newcastle, Greg Thompson, has made a public apology to victims and survivors of abuse within the Diocese of Newcastle.

He has also expressed regret for a culture that allowed the abuse to happen and silence people when they came forward.

“I have taken these actions with the support of the NSW Police and with the full knowledge of the Royal Commission,” Bishop Greg said. “I am encouraging victims and survivors of abuse to come forward as well as those who had knowledge or suspicions of abuse.”

The Diocese of Newcastle has put together a special website (newcastleanglicanhealthyfuture.com) with details of the

Bishop’s statement and an easy place for people to find out how to access the NSW Police, the Royal Commission and the Diocesan Director of Professional Standards.

“It is my desire for a healing of the culture of the Diocese so that our primary concern is the wellbeing of victims and survivors of abuse, along with a deep commitment to the safety of all people involved with the church,” the Bishop said. “I affirm the significant steps that have been made in the past, but I see the need for this important step in Diocesan life.”

He added that he was supported in this work by Assistant Bishop Peter Stuart and the diocesan leadership, and invited anyone wanting further information to contact Bishop Peter or himself.



ENCOURAGING: Bishop Greg Thompson has encouraged abuse victims to come forward (photo: Newcastle Herald)..

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For more information and to apply by 9am 24 July go to www.cms.org.au/jobs



ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

National Council of Churches welcomes Papal encyclical

Pope Francis' highly anticipated environmental encyclical, *Laudato si'* or *Praise be to you: on the care of our common home*, was released today and has been received with great joy and support by the National Council of Churches in Australia.

This encyclical calls on every person living on this planet to care for creation, our common home, and take collective action as we face global environmental degradation.

The most significant statement on ecology from the Holy See, the encyclical draws upon Greek Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew's teaching 'to replace consumption with sacrifice, greed with generosity, wastefulness with a spirit of sharing, an asceticism which "entails learning to give, and not simply to give up. It is a way of loving, of moving gradually away from what I want to what God's world needs. It is liberation from fear, greed and compulsion."' (Paragraph 9)

In *Laudato si'* Pope Francis reminds us that we have an ethical responsibility to actively respond to the challenges of climate change, sustainable development and environmental degradation. He shows us that all of creation is connected, and that a respect for environmental ecology is a condition of, and conditioned by, respect for

human ecology. As Christians, we must implement a collective response based on a culture of learning, solidarity, dialogue and action.

General Secretary of the National Council of Churches in Australia, Sr Elizabeth Delaney sgs, said, "Pope Francis has expressed our relationship to the environment in new ways that urge us to respond – with our whole being. He speaks with love for all people – may we respond in love."

Convenor of the NCCA Eco Mission Project, Jacqui Remond is excited and inspired by *Laudato si'*. Jacqui sees this encyclical as an "opportunity for collective action and systemic change, that is fundamental to the ecological vision Pope Francis offers for our Australian community and humanity globally".

At this crucial time, the National Council of Churches invites the Christian Community and wider Australian Community to journey with us, and take action to address the challenges and opportunities explored in *Laudato si'*.

The NCCA Eco Mission Project

The NCCA Eco Mission Project was formed by the NCCA to build a network amongst the Churches to explore the spiritual, ethical and social questions



CARE: Pope Francis' encyclical calls on all people to care for creation.

posed by the ecological crises we face as a nation and as a global community. Through education, dialogue and advocacy, the NCCA Eco Mission Project supports the understanding that our planet is fragile and beautiful. As an expression of our faith, we are called to join together to care for our common home.

Jumping at Sydney People's Climate Walk

St David's Red Hill worshipper, Gillian King, jumped at the opportunity to join Yeb Saño as he led the 'People's Pilgrimage' in Sydney on 12 June.

Yeb and Gillian, who is also a member of the of the Diocese's Public Issues Commission, were joined by other members of Australian Religious Response to Climate Change, Catholic Earthcare and Greenpeace as they walked across Sydney Harbour Bridge to the Sydney Opera House and then on to St Mary's Cathedral.

Yeb Saño, former Philippines Climate Change Commissioner and Chief Climate Negotiator, launched

the People's Pilgrimage on 7 June in Vanuatu.

The People's Pilgrimage has been created by OurVoices, the interfaith climate change campaign (www.ourvoices.net), in partnership with numerous faith and spiritual groups to mobilise their goodwill, prayers and actions.

Everyday people will be walking on each continent to demonstrate their deep concern about climate change issues - taking journeys of any length, whether a few steps, a few miles, or across continents.

This unprecedented uprising by the world's spiritual communities calls

upon world leaders to adopt a strong climate change agreement. Pilgrims will state their demands to the world's governments in time for the opening on 30 November of the 21st Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21).

They are in good company, with the Archbishop of Canterbury launching the Lambeth Declaration 2015 on Climate Change by UK spiritual leaders on 16 June, 360 mainly American rabbis issuing A Rabbinical Letter on Climate Change on 17 June and Pope Francis releasing his encyclical *Laudato Sii* on 18 June (local times).

Magna Carta, 800 years on

❑ Celebrating the 800th Anniversary of a foundation of democracy

By Robert Willson

On Sunday afternoon, June 14th, the eve of the 800th anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta in 1215, I represented Bishop Stuart Robinson and the Diocese at a ceremony to mark this occasion.

The service was held at Magna Carta Place near Old Parliament House. It is a reminder that Australia proudly possesses a copy of the 1297 version which is part of the law of England, and with essential elements incorporated into Australian law.

The ceremony was held in the presence of the 28th Australian Prime Minister, the Hon Tony Abbott. It was a glorious sunny afternoon and the air was filled with the music of the Band of the Royal Military College and we saw the Australian Federation Guard. When the Prime Minister rose to make a very brief speech he began simply: "Well, it doesn't get any better than this!"

The presence of the Band and the Guard reminded us all of the role played by the Australian Defence Forces in protecting the rule of law in this nation. The anniversary was hosted by the Magna Carta Committee of Australia.

How we came to possess a precious copy of Magna Carta makes a story in itself. Somehow a copy had come to be in the possession of The King's School, Bruton, Somerset.

The School offered the copy for sale in 1952 because they needed the money. Sir Harold White, Parliamentary Librarian, was keen to obtain it and with the support of then Prime Minister Robert Menzies, Australia paid twelve thousand five hundred pounds to purchase it.

Menzies had to endure bitter criticism for wasting public money on what some called a "scrap of old paper". As Tony Abbott put it, it was "Bob Menzies' Blue Poles moment", but today that document is worth perhaps 20 million dollars. It is priceless.

I am fascinated that recent research has uncovered close links between the charter and the medieval church. The sealing ceremony in 1215 was hosted by Stephen Langton, Archbishop of Canterbury. It used to be said that copies were sent out by the officials of the



king to every county but historical research has shown that in fact it was the bishops who circulated the document. Cathedrals such as Lincoln and Salisbury still have copies in their archives. King John bitterly resented this limitation on his absolute power and tore up his copy, but he was dead the next year.

What the Magna Carta said in essence was that no one, not even the king, was above the law. Everyone had the right to a fair trial by peers and had the right not to be arbitrarily imprisoned or deprived of property. These are rights and freedoms that we take for granted as hallmarks of our democratic system of government. The rule that even the king is not above the law was forgotten by King Charles I and it cost him his life in 1649.

When I met the Prime Minister he said how good it was that the Church was represented at the ceremony. As far as I know I was the only church representative. Perhaps the fact that Magna Carta survived was due to the Bishops of the Church of England 800 years ago.



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Challenges of travel in the Anglican Church of PNG

❑ PNG Archbishop speaks about the difficulties of providing access to clergy training and professional development

By Elizabeth Baker

ABM hosted a number of visitors from the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea throughout the first half of 2015.

Many of them spoke about the challenges of accessing remote areas to deliver training, ministry and community development programs.

Archbishop Clyde Igara told of some of the challenges of his ministry in Papua New Guinea, in particular he highlighted the need to travel to other diocese to visit clergy but also to gather clergy together for training and professional development.

“The clergy tell me in their feedback that they miss that a lot. They miss training or refresher courses and workshops greatly,” he said.

ABM is working with the Church in PNG to support this need through the Archdeacon Training program in Popondota Diocese which has ten Archdeacons who have been selected to be trained for a month to better carry out their duties to assist the Diocese in providing pastoral care to each priest within its Deanery.

The project aims to allow clergy to do their pastoral work more effectively so that parishioners will respond positively in their Christian faith and ultimately build the faith of the Anglican Church in PNG.

Travel to remote areas is also a challenge in other programs such as the Building Local Skills project in which local people build their skills and improve their agriculture and community infrastructure and education.



FACING THE CHALLENGES: Archbishop of Papua New Guinea, Clyde Igara.



RUGGED: The rugged terrain of PNG means that many areas can only be accessed by walking.

Jeffrey Kaka, one of the Program coordinators in PNG said, “Up in the highlands of Papua New Guinea that’s where most of our adult literacy activities are implemented, apart from walking, you can only fly into some of the areas where the schools are implemented.

“So you either fly or you walk for a few days. So that is some of the challenges of working in the program; geographical remoteness of some of the locations where activities are being implemented, so you have to be pretty fit,” he said.

In PNG only 59% of females are literate and ABM is a supporter of Anglicare PNG’s work which strengthens literacy rates through classes.

Find out more about ABM’s work in PNG and support these projects at www.abmission.org.

The Anglican Board of Mission (ABM) is the national mission agency of the Anglican Church of Australia. For over 160 years ABM has been assisting people all over the world to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, provide health and education services, improve agricultural practices and strengthen the Church.

The Ordeals of Father James Benson

By Robert Willson

The stark newspaper headlines told the story of a family tragedy in 1928. **“FIVE DROWNED. CAR’S PLUNGE INTO CLYDE RIVER. CLERGYMAN’S TERRIBLE ORDEAL”**

The priest was Father James Benson who had been rector of the Parish of Bodalla for four years. The family were returning from a camping expedition.

They left Nowra at 6pm and travelled through the night. The family were asleep in the back. They reached the northern side of the Clyde River about 2am.

The car, driven by Father Benson, overran the landing stage and plunged into deep and swiftly flowing water.

Father Benson managed to wrench open the door on the driving side. He grasped his wife’s arm and attempted to drag her from the car.

But the force of the current rolled the car over and he lost his grip. He rose to the surface for air and then dived again and again but in vain. Those drowned were Mrs Bertha Benson, Mary aged nine years, Margaret aged seven, James aged four and Barnabas aged 15 months.

Red Lights

The Rector later explained to the police what had happened. He said that on the journey down the coast he had seen many red lights placed along the road by the Main Roads Board for the guidance of motorists.

Nearing the punt on the Clyde River he saw a similar light and thought it was merely another signal, similar to those he had passed, so he only slowed down. The next moment the car plunged into the river. The red light turned out to be that of the approaching punt.

It was some time before all the bodies were recovered from the river. I remember searching the local cemetery years ago and I found the row of five graves and a great wooden cross to mark the resting places of the victims of a terrible tragedy.

There is a memorial tablet in All Saints, Bodalla. The public outcry that followed this accident led to greatly improved safety measures on the Clyde.



TRAGEDY: *James Benson’s life was marred by a succession of tragedies, but he remained faithful to his calling.*

Community of the Ascension, Goulburn

James Benson was born 1887 at Leeds in Yorkshire. Arriving in Australia he joined the Brotherhood of the Good Shepherd, Dubbo. He studied at St John’s College, Armidale, and was ordained priest in 1916 in the Diocese of Bathurst.

The following year he married Bertha Weston of Gilgandra. He served in various parishes and for a time in the New Guinea Mission. After the Clyde River tragedy which took all his family, he joined the Community of the Ascension in Goulburn and made his profession in the Community.

He remained there until 1937 when he returned to serve in the Diocese of New Guinea.

His priestly work there was to be the scene of the second great ordeal of his

life. Early in 1942 the Imperial Japanese forces invaded the area. Father Benson was priest in charge at Gona. He and Sister May Hayman, a nurse from St John’s Canberra, and Mavis Parkinson, a teacher from Ipswich, together with others, tried to evade the advancing Japanese forces.

They were betrayed by Papuans eager to please the Japanese. The two women were bayoneted to death. Others were beheaded on a nearby beach and their bodies thrown into the water.

Captivity

But Father Benson was taken into captivity by the Japanese. His spectacles were smashed and he could see little. He records that he continued to say his Daily Office from memory, his duty as a priest.

He was seriously ill but was placed with a number of Roman Catholic prisoners and eventually recovered. However it was widely reported that, along with the other Anglican missionaries, he was dead and the truth was not known for some time.

After the war James Benson did deputation work for the Australian Board of Missions and told of his ordeal. He died while on furlough in London in September 1955, and his ashes were returned to Holy Cross Gona.

Every year on September 2, the Australian Church commemorates the Martyrs of New Guinea and those, like James Benson, who suffered for their faith but survived.

Few men endured as much as he did. Father Benson told his story in his book *Prisoners Base and Home Again: the story of a missionary POW* (London, Robert Hale, 1957)

Contributions for Anglican News

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

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

Eden's Emergency Relief Centre

❑ Long serving volunteers support Eden's most vulnerable

By Hannah McQuiggan

On June 10, 2015, members of Anglicare's Church and Community Development team had the opportunity to visit Anglicare's Emergency Relief centre in Eden and see firsthand the hard work and dedication of its volunteers.

The Emergency Relief Centre is housed at Sapphire Surprises, an Anglicare Parish Partnership Op Shop. Despite its small size, the Emergency Relief centre supports hundreds of people in Eden and the surrounding areas each year.

For some, life would not be possible without access to the food and support provided at the centre.

"The Emergency Relief centre would cease to exist without the tireless work of our dedicated volunteers" says Revd Ian Coutts, Anglicare's Church and Community Development Manager. "They make such a difference in their community."

Many of the volunteers have assisted at the centre for a number of years; including Manager Flo Young who has been involved in the service for over 12 years.

Despite the time and effort dedicated each and every week to volunteering, Flo and her team all spoke about the satisfaction and fulfilment they gained from assisting some of the most vulnerable people in their community.

"I get much more out of coming



EXPERIENCE: Flo Young, Manager at Sapphire Surprises (second from left), and her team share their experiences of volunteering.

here than I could ever give" says Ms Young.

Along with the volunteers, Anglicare is immensely grateful to the local parishes that support the Emergency Relief centre every week through food and monetary donations.

"We are able to keep the Pantry stocked due to the generosity of the local parishes" says Ms Young. "It's a tangible expression of mission and gives each congregation a sense of

ownership in the work that we do. We're really thankful for their prayers over the gifts that come in each week as part of the giving at communion."

Anglicare is also pleased to announce that additional funding has been received for the Emergency Relief centre from the Department of Social Services, enabling the volunteers at Sapphire Surprises to continue to serve the community for another two years.

No Anglican News next month

As the Editor will be out of the country throughout July and August, some changes in the production schedule of *Anglican News* are necessary.

There will be **no August edition**, and the **September issue** will be **a week later** than usual (deadline Monday September 7, for distribution by the weekend of September 12-13).

The Editor apologises for any inconvenience caused by these changes, and looks forward to an Inbox filled with exciting news from throughout the diocese on his return to work.

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Anglicare's Orange office relocates to expand services

□ Next step in plan to create major service hub for Central West Region By Hannah McQuiggan

With a growing number of residents in the Orange community needing help with family support and emergency relief, Anglicare is expanding its current operation and will be moving to a new and larger office building.

The new office on Byng Street is more than triple the size of the previous location, providing space for the new programs to support families and their children.

Anglicare CEO Jeremy Halcrow says it is the next step in Anglicare's plan to create a major service hub for the Central West region.

"It is important that people in regional communities are given every chance to reach their potential," he said.

A five year Federal Government Department of Social Services funding grant will enable Anglicare to deliver children and parenting initiatives focusing on improving children's development and wellbeing through services such as supported playgroups, parenting skills programs and through school readiness programs.

Community Services Business Manager, Danielle Davis said Anglicare is committed to providing the Orange community with early intervention and prevention services to support families and help ensure their sustained well being and positive involvement in the community.

"Parenting in early childhood can be a time of great stress for parents, especially if they are also struggling with a range of other complex difficulties such as financial stress, health care or mental health issues or family violence," Mrs Davis said.

"Research tells us that by



OPPORTUNITIES: Bishop Ian Palmer, Anglicare CEO Jeremy Halcrow and Community Services Business Manager Danielle Davis discuss the new opportunities available through the opening of the new Orange office.

providing support early on to parents combined with high quality early childhood education options in the first five years, it is the most effective way of increasing opportunity for all within our community."

'It is important that people in regional communities are given every chance to reach their potential'

Anglicare's community services focus in Orange is based on a Sustainable Living Hub model providing support for individuals and families during times of crisis and thereafter giving people

the right personal support and development opportunities to increase their skills in different areas of their life such as finances, parenting, family relationships and educational and work mentoring.

"The extra room in the new building will also allow our food pantry to grow," Mrs Davis said.

"We have noticed an increase in the number of people requiring emergency food assistance due to a number of reasons such as the higher cost of living and recent cooler temperatures which push up electricity and gas bills."

The expansion into community services programs provides very important early intervention and prevention opportunities to complement Anglicare's current delivery of Foster Care and for other Out of Home Care services for children and young people at risk.