

ANGLICAN NEWS

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LAY CONVENTION



Mike and Sally Breen share their vision of discipleship **page 3**

MEET THE NEW DEACONS



A record number of deacons were ordained in February **page 4**

RETHINKING THE BIBLE



Is the Bible a good book or one poorly read? **page 8**

FINDING HOME



Go behind the headlines with an art exhibition by refugees **page 9**

Discern God's will in a busy world

The Revd Dr Andrew Cameron encouraged newly ordained deacons at the largest ordination of deacons in a decade



On a glorious day at St Saviour's Cathedral in Goulburn, the Diocese welcomed 17 new deacons on Saturday 28 February 2016.

The Director of St Mark's National Theological Centre, The Revd Dr Andrew Cameron, encouraged the new ordinands to seek God's will as they enter a busy and affluent world.

'Jesus chose as his mission statement the passage about speaking good news, binding up hearts, releasing captives, proclaiming God's favour. Famously, he slams the book shut (as it were) just prior to the line about proclaiming God's vengeance. We know he believed in that. But it is as if to say: 'I'm not here for that. I'm here, right now, for all the other,' said Dr Cameron.

This mission is one shared by all Christians and given particular focus by those entering the diaconate.

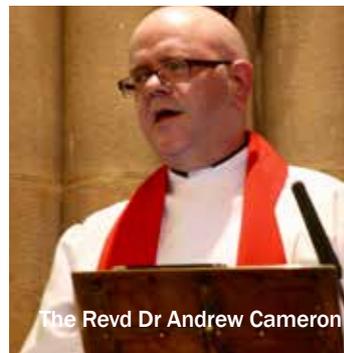
'You are the boundary-riders of our church, now serving release and healing and forgiveness to those oppressed and captives who could be under judgment, were it not for Christ's gifts to them,' he added.

He cautioned that such is the responsibility that it can be easily distorted by our own predilections to

ignore our own needs, drift into perfectionism, want to rescue others or to make theology just a set of empty ideas. Ordained people can lose themselves, lose hope and even lose touch with Christ because of their approach to ministry.

The doing words that describe ministry are many and he proceeded to list: teaching, exhorting, generosity, diligent leading, compassion, cheerfulness, holding fast, loving, honouring, ardent zeal, serving, rejoicing, patience, suffering, persevering, praying. If these are all we hear, he said, ministry becomes all about our own activity.

At present, ministry in the church is challenging because our resources are slim, Dr Cameron observed. Our vision can be shaped by the modern workplace, which he said could be, 'characterised by exploitative and competitive and bureaucratized work places, all dedicated to limitless growth. As I watch the workplaces we inhabit, in every sector including churches, I've become deeply conscious that they resemble new forms of oppression, and captivity, and imprisonment,' he added. 'Modern Australians are oppressed and enslaved by the spiritual stories we all share that our worth



I pray that all your ministry of Christ's grace to the world will arise from Christ's ministry to you, speaking kindly to you, healing you, releasing you, forgiving you.

consists in productivity, no matter the cost. That our shame consists in underperforming. That our excellence consists in efficiency, and growth, and in personal and professional development. That our integrity matters less than the proper observance of burgeoning compliance laws.'

The risk is that deacons, when confronted by few resources and large demands, will fall prey once again to this story of servitude.

Dr Cameron urged the new ordinands 'to become someone who through the cacophony of tasks assailing us, discerns God: to find the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God. In other words, to discern less activity and more of what matters.'

'The ministry of this diaconal service is to honour you simply for what you are, rather than to demand of you what you are not. I see us being surprised here with news, that, despite whatever narratives of productivity and worth and shame and growth might plague us, someone came to serve. To speak kindly to the oppressed. To bind and heal broken hearts. To release captives. To uncondemn the condemned and shame-filled. I hope you delight in representing to others what he does, but only once you have received and are receiving what he always does for you.'

'I pray that all your ministry of Christ's grace to the world will arise from Christ's ministry to you, speaking kindly to you, healing you, releasing you, forgiving you,' he said.



BISHOP STUART ROBINSON WRITES

The wonder of Easter



Editorial

BY WAYNE BRIGHTON

Welcome to Anglican News for 2016!

It is exciting to deliver the first edition in a magazine-styled format. It is even more exciting to realise that magazines, much like children, need to grow and change.

In future editions we look forward to bringing you the stories that matter - stories about what Christ is doing in and through you! We'll be featuring stories about chaplains and lay people in ministry. There will be stories about issues of public concern and exciting developments happening in the parish next door. There will also be stories to encourage, provoke and stir.

Of course, a magazine is only as vibrant as its readers and contributors. Many of the best stories will come from what you are doing in your workplace, family or parish. Sadly, most of these stories slip by, untold and unnoticed, as if they were of no interest to anyone else. But these are the stories that need to be told. Sharing them can do wonders for the church for there is nothing quite like seeing God at work to help us all grow in confidence, love, hope and faith. So I your contributions, stories and photos would be most welcome.

I look forward to sharing such stories with you and the diocese during the year to come.

AnglicanNews is a magazine for the Anglican community in Canberra and Goulburn.

Editor: The Venerable Dr Wayne Brighton

Address: GPO Box 1981, Canberra, ACT 2601

Phone: 0407 408 333

Email: wayne.brighton@anglicands.org.au

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Dear beloved in Christ,

It's often said that people are creatures of habit. We get in the groove, fall into a rut or get back on the horse. Our world is filled with self-help gurus, life coaches, therapists and support groups all promising us perfection by dealing with those things that stand in the way of our happiness.

Many of us make new year's resolutions to change our life for the better. We resolve to eat less, exercise more, buy less junk or give up smoking. Most habits take more than 20 days to stick. Many of our good intentions find themselves kerb-side along with the wilted Christmas tree in early January.

As Christians, we are often filled with the best intentions only to find that our capacity to fulfil them lags behind. This is why Lent is good news.

Lent is the period of 40 days preceding Good Friday and Easter. It is an opportunity to remember the life and ministry of Jesus as he moved towards the cross through death to new life.

Lent is also a time when many Christians do spiritual things that will improve their life and relationship with God.

Some will engage in practices of abstinence. They give up things like sugar, chocolate, junk food or Facebook. I applaud such efforts as they usually make us healthier, wealthier and wiser. Fasting in this way helps us to appreciate the small things in life.

On Good Friday, Jesus died so that God's grace can be woven through every fibre of our hearts, minds and souls.

Even better is starting a new habit. Things like praying on the way to work or picking up the kids, to reading the Bible regularly or going back to church are great things too. Sometimes it needs a new habit to push out an old one. But we could go deeper still.

Jesus came to seek and save the lost, to bring good news to the

poor, liberty to those enslaved, sight to those who were lost in idolatry and to proclaim God's grace (Luke 4.16-21). The challenge for us is, do we want to be found? Do we want to be set free from our sins? Do we really want to see what's real and accept that we need grace too?

The great thing about Lent is that Good Friday is coming. The biggest problem we face in life is often ourselves, our appetites and misdirected desires. Lent should remind us that God's grace and not our own self-sacrifice wins the day. On Good Friday, Jesus died so that God's grace can be woven through every fibre of our hearts, minds and souls.

The best thing about Lent is that Easter is coming. The resurrection of Jesus makes grace a reality irrespective of what power, influence or wealth. Those who know they're slaves and those who won't see the chains. The wonder of Easter is that grace changes everything.



Discipleship works

by Wayne Brighton

'Jesus begins his ministry by making a declaration or manifesto against the powers that held people in captivity when he announced the good news that the Kingdom of God is near,' said Mike Breen, the keynote speaker at this year's Lay Ministry Convention scheduled for 6-7 May.

Mike and Sally Breen are UK-born church planters who live in the US and have encouraged the formation of the global 3DM movement. 'The Kingdom is foundation to what Jesus came to reveal, as every Gospel shows,' said Mike.

The concept of God's Kingdom is central to Mike and Sally's ministry but it is something they find that is hard to grasp by modern people.

'We think about kingdoms in terms of territory shown on maps. For Jesus, the Kingdom is all about identity because God the King has drawn near to set us free from any kind of captivity,' he explained. 'Listening to Jesus helps us because he has a word to share, a work to do and

a way in which it is done. This is the complete picture of discipleship. We get stuck when we focus only on one or two of those elements,' he added. 'After all, Jesus says that the wise disciple is the person who hears his words and puts them into practice.'

How we are to put discipleship to work figures prominently in conversations about the church globally. Mike suggests that the church in the western world is in poor repair because too many congregations give all their attention on listening only. Therefore Mike and Sally encourage people to be disciples who listen to Jesus and put it into practice by joining him in his mission.

According to Mike, discipleship means answering the questions: What is God saying to me? and what am I going to do about it? 'Figuring out our answers means that we need to get the necessary information, find the model of imitation and then go out and try some innovation of our own,' said Mike.

The 3DM movement seeks to recapture this New Testament vision for discipleship. If dis-

cipleship isn't simply a matter of knowledge but rather one of practice then as Sally explained, 'it's not a matter of theological information or going to college. The practical nature of discipleship makes it accessible to everybody wherever or however they live. This gives it the potential to change our community and the larger world we live in,' she added.

Central to Mike and Sally's ministry is the story of the early church found in the book of Acts. In the New Testament, Christians met at the temple and in households or extended networks of between 15 to 35 people. Today we might think of these as small groups.

'Most people today are good at going to worship and doing the Temple stuff,' said Mike. 'We're never really taught how to do the household stuff or being God's community in the world. We need to rediscover how to be communities or households engaged in God's mission.'

Mike and Sally's solution is to rebalance church life. The organised and the organic need to function together. The challenge is to develop low maintenance groups engaged in mission.

These groups might take on a project for a season like working with children, the homeless or whoever they had a heart for and who needed some experience of God's new life.

Mike explained the church becomes healthy when it engages, 'up towards God, in towards fellow believers and out towards the world. We set ourselves up for failure when we try to do anything less.'

This vision grew while Mike and Sally served at St Thomas' in Sheffield. 'We wanted lay people to take on their call and get involved in missional work. In a city where only 2% of people went to church, we could have stayed in the building listening to the Word but we couldn't reach the city that way. It was amazing to see what would work despite my doubts. The group that won so many people to Christ was for hikers who spend Sundays in the hills. We used huddles to help leaders work on their spiritual formation and grow to be effective as they work out being a disciple in the world today.'

Mike and Sally Breen are keynote speakers at the Lay Ministry Convention to be held in Goulburn from 6-7 May 2016.

Meet our new deacons

On Saturday 28 February 2016, the diocese welcomed 17 new deacons in one of the largest ordination services of the past decade at St Saviour's Cathedral, Goulburn. They will serve communities across the breadth of the diocese including chaplaincy and a variety of new initiatives. Welcome to ministry!



Stephen Boxwell

Steve came to the Lord in his late teens. He says he became a Christian 14 times! Steve is married to Anna and is the father of Florence. He grew up in the country and then taught in Canberra before attending theological college and working as a lay stipendiary worker for the past three years with Lanyon Valley Anglican Church. He is excited to see how the Lord uses him in the years ahead.



Karlene Ferguson

Karly grew up in Comboyne, NSW. Her life-long love of horses saw her work at a successful racing stable in Warwick Farm. Married to Bruce, Karly is a nurse and part of the far south coast palliative care team. Karly sees community nursing as her calling by God and being a deacon provides new opportunities to bring God's restoring, reconciling and redemptive healing to others.



Alison and Brian Champness

Ali is married to Brian and she is passionate about the importance of childrens and families ministry. She has been involved training leaders and helping churches develop strategies to reach and disciple children and families. With Brian, Ali launched *New Wine Kids Australia* after being involved with the movement in the UK. Brian and Ali share the role of Directors of Families and Children's Ministry through the F5 congregation in Goulburn. They are involved in local schools with scripture teaching, breakfast club and reading programs and they are also Field Staff with Bush Church Aid (BCA). Ali and Brian have three grown up children who are all married and living in Newcastle.



Anthony Frost

A Novacastrian, Anthony has served in a range of contexts, and has been greatly inspired by the creativity, energy and spiritual gifts of those he has worked with. Most recently he was the Mission Facilitator at St Alban's Woden. He is a teacher and

a professed member of the Third Order of the Society of St Francis and an associate of the Order of St Luke. He is passionate about creativity, reconciliation and creation care. Anthony is married to Kym and they are starting a new chapter of life on the Sapphire Coast.



Yvonne Gunning

Yvonne trained as a high school teacher and was actively involved in Christian leadership roles in her local church, beach mission and Christian camps. As a Church Army officer, she served for the past 23 years in various Anglican churches including Yagoona, Menai, Baulkham Hills and Figtree and with Anglican Youthworks, Sydney. She has a passion for sharing the gospel with young and old and equipping others to do the same. She has been the assistant minister and Aboriginal liaison at the Anglican Parish of Bega and chaplain at Sapphire Coast Anglican College. Yvonne is married to Jeff and will lead the parish of Gundagai.



Wayne Landford

Wayne's journey into ministry began in his early 20s after a year in Oodnadatta, where the nearest Christian community was over 200kms away. Wayne has worked in the Australian Army, with Telstra and Defence. Married to Fiona, they are currently foster carers for 7 children. He is looking forward to working closely with both the Church and wider community as the minister at All Saints Marulan and will be active throughout the Goulburn and Southern Tablelands as Curate to the region's Archdeacon.



Tracey Matthews

Tracey came to faith as a young adult in Melbourne. While she's always had a passion for local ministry, her training in finance and accountancy let her to work with Anglicare Victoria and Anglicare Australia. In 2007 she became the Diocesan Registrar. A posting to New Delhi with her husband Russell gave her the opportunity to study. A long-time member of Holy Covenant Jamieson, Tracey has a passion for preparing missional leaders for church in a changing world. She will serve a curacy at St Simon's Kaleen-Giralang.

The deacon is a visible sign of what the Church is called to be. They are leaders engaged in Christ's mission who strengthen the church and build bridges with an unbelieving world.



LtoR: Christopher Lewis, David Schweinsberg and Kelvin Harris with Bishop Ian Lambert

Kelvin Harris

Born in Darwin, Kelvin has served with the Royal Australian Navy since 1986 as a submariner and more recently on the ANZAC frigates. A life long Christian, Kelvin has been preparing for Navy Chaplaincy since 2010. Kelvin is looking forward to serving God in what he knows will be a challenging and very enriching life for him and his family as they share Christ's gospel message of love with others on this new journey. Kelvin is married with four step-children.

Christopher Lewis

Christopher is a member of the Royal Australian Navy and is preparing to become an Australian Defence Force Chaplain. He is a graduate of St Mark's National Theological Centre and is presently the curate at All Saints Anglican Church, Ainslie. Christopher is married to Rebecca and they have three children. Christopher enjoys reading, braving Canberra winters to watch the Canberra Raiders and spending time with family.

David Schweinsberg

David was born and raised on Sydney's north shore. A Christian from an early age, David felt a calling towards service in the Australian Defence Force (ADF). David is an Australian Army Officer and will become a chaplain. David and his wife Ashleigh have one young daughter. In 2014, David returned to Canberra where he completed a placement at Christ Church Hawker. David will complete his curacy at St Peter's Weston Creek.



Marilyn Waind

Marilyn grew up in a clergy family in the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn, before moving to Sydney to train as a nurse. She has had a life-long career as a nurse and midwife, and currently still works within that field as an educator. She has three adult children, and four grandsons, who are growing up faster than she can keep up with them! Marilyn has lived in Queanbeyan since 2002, and is a member of the Queanbeyan and District Anglican Church; after ordination she will continue in her ministry in that Parish.



Katherine Rainger

Katherine grew up in Goulburn and studied teaching in Wollongong. As a teacher, she has worked in Canberra and then in the remote community of Kalkaringi, Northern Territory as a guest of the Gurindgi people. Katherine has served at Holy Covenant, Jamison as a Youth and Children worker since 2010. Katherine is passionate about making connections between faith, Scripture and experience in a global village. She is also undertaking at PhD through Charles Sturt University.



Ruth Walton

Ruth grew up in Birmingham in the UK. After graduating from university, she married Lee and they had four children together. The family emigrated to Australia in 2000 and while it was hard saying goodbye, the sense of God's call was tangible. Ruth grew up in a supportive church which encouraged her involvement in ministry from an early age. Since moving to Burra in 2007 Ruth has been part of a team that is developing a new church community in Googong. Ruth is passionate to see others connect with the living God and to see His kingdom established here and now.

Deacons are called to be heralds of Christ's Kingdom who proclaim the Gospel and reach into the forgotten corners of the world so that the love of God may be made visible.



Deborah Mazlin

Debbie grew up in Woodford, a country town north of Brisbane. Introduced to God at a young age by her grandmother, Debbie has always felt His presence in her life. Debbie enjoyed a 20 year military career and then moved into vocational training where she has enjoyed supporting, guiding and teaching others. Married to Warren, she has two daughters and enjoys reading and watching movies. Debbie will serve as an Assistant Chaplain at The Canberra Hospital and in her parish at All Souls' Chapman.



Timothy Narraway

Timothy was born in Pretoria, South Africa and he has worked as a safari guide and in various ministry positions across a range of ecumenical ministries and denominational contexts. While living in Wagga Wagga, Tim worked as a chaplain at the Riverrina Juvenile Justice Centre while also serving at Ashmont Community of the Redeemer. He now lives in Batemans Bay and is working as a curate at the Church of the Ascension. He is married to Ammi and they have two children.



Emma Street

Emma grew up in Hampshire, UK, and has been involved at Christ Church Hawker. Although working as an accountant, she is committed to serving people at the margins of our society, particularly through the Zonta Club of Canberra Breakfast, Prisoners Aid and in prison chaplaincy. Answering the call to pioneering ministry, Emma is part of the Business Life Network which aims to support and equip Christians for marketplace ministry. Married to Shaun, she has four children and recently joined the parish of St James, Holt.

Spiritually, deacons are called to listen to God and their community. Their contribution helps local churches to flourish.



Sabbath ethics for change

by Terry Craig

With a glass half-full of hope after the Paris Climate conference, Bishop George Browning unwrapped the Sabbath as the foundational source of moral discernment at a meeting of Christians for an Ethical Society.

He described the Sabbath as ‘essentially about the relationality

of the whole created order,’ and called on people of faith to be in the vanguard of prosecution and action.

‘The glass half-full version is that the Parish conference and final communique have significantly changed the psychology of the climate debate,’ he told a

packed Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture in Canberra. ‘The majority of the world is now, hopefully, on the same page; the only question is how passionately, and by whom, will change be prosecuted?’

Bishop George said he had been fascinated by the primeval narratives of Genesis 1-11, since he became a lecturer in Old Testament in 1973. His work in relation to the environmental challenge has culminated in the publication of *Sabbath and the Common Good: Prospects for a New Humanity*.

‘Sabbath is essentially about the relationality of the whole created order, how that blessing is to be experienced, how sacredness is to be understood. Sabbath is the fundamental biblical ethic. If you like, Sabbath is about how life is to be celebrated,’ he explained.

‘Sabbath presents a counter position to the ubiquitous, exploitative, working of the market, the dominant feature of 21st century economics. The market has replaced ‘values’ or morals with monetary value as the standard by which life and wellbeing is judged.’

According to Bishop George, the Sabbath ethic can and should

be the foundational source of moral discernment for humanity as together we face the environmental crisis. Sabbath was the cornerstone of Jesus’ ministry (ref. Luke 4.16-30).

Bishop George said that Sabbath should encourage humanity to accept limits on population growth and our consumption habits, after all the New Testament community shared all things in common. By grasping this ethic, space for other species and climatic stability can be made.

The evening was hosted by the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture and his book was launched by the Executive Director of the ANU Climate Change Institute, Dr Will Steffens, and the Executive Director of ACC&C, the Right Rev’d Dr Stephen Pickard.

Sabbath and the Common Good: Prospects for a New Humanity is based on Bishop George’s doctoral thesis. Published by Echo Books for \$24.95.



Bishop George Browning addressing the Christians for an Ethical Society meeting in Canberra.



Members of the Soul Survivor team with Anglicare's The Revd Dr Ian Couotts and Hannah McQuiggin.

Youth making a difference

by Hannah McQuiggin

On Friday, February 25, seven youth groups from across Canberra gathered together for a combined night, known as '#ComboNyt', of fellowship and worship in faith and action.

As part of the act of worship, everyone was encouraged to bring in a toiletry item to donate to Anglicare's Emergency Relief partner, St John's Care. Over 200 items were donated on the night which will assist some of the most vulnerable in the ACT and surrounds.

'During our time of worship, the kids came up the front donating toothbrushes, toothpaste and other items that they'd brought along to the night,' said Deb Stanley, Director of Ministry for Soul Survivor ACT and Regions (Soul Survivor).

"It was heart-warming to see their generosity and willingness to help others."

The '#ComboNyt' was organised by Soul Survivor, a movement encouraging youth and young adults to live out the heart of worship in word, spirit and action. This year Soul Survivor is hosting its youth camp *More than a Song* in Canberra from April 13 and Anglicare is a partner of the four-day event.

'We're really excited to partner with Soul Survivor this year and see the enthusiasm of the young people to express God's love in action,' said The Revd Dr Ian Couotts, General Manager, Mission & Community Development at Anglicare.

'Together we will be able to make a difference in the lives of some of the vulnerable people in our community.'

If you are interested in finding out more about *More than a Song* or would like to register for the camp, please visit www.soulsurvivoract.org.



Finding the good eggs this Easter

STOP THE TRAFFIK has released its Good Egg Guide giving consumers guidance on how they can purchase certified Easter chocolate.

Consumers are increasingly preferring to purchase chocolate certified through Fairtrade, Rainforest Alliance or UTZ labeled products. The certification label communicates that steps have been taken to prevent and disrupt abuse of children.

In Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa, children and young people are

This is about taking steps to end the abuse of children and communicating to consumers that this is happening through the use of certification logos. This is not just a commercial matter.'

Fuzz Kitto says, 'Since Aldi and Haigh's have certified their entire Easter range many are preferring to purchase from them. Coles is now certifying all but one of their private label products. Our activists tell us they will prefer to shop in these stores this Easter.'

STOP THE TRAFFIK is asking



still trafficked and forced to harvest cocoa in order to supply our much-loved Easter chocolate.

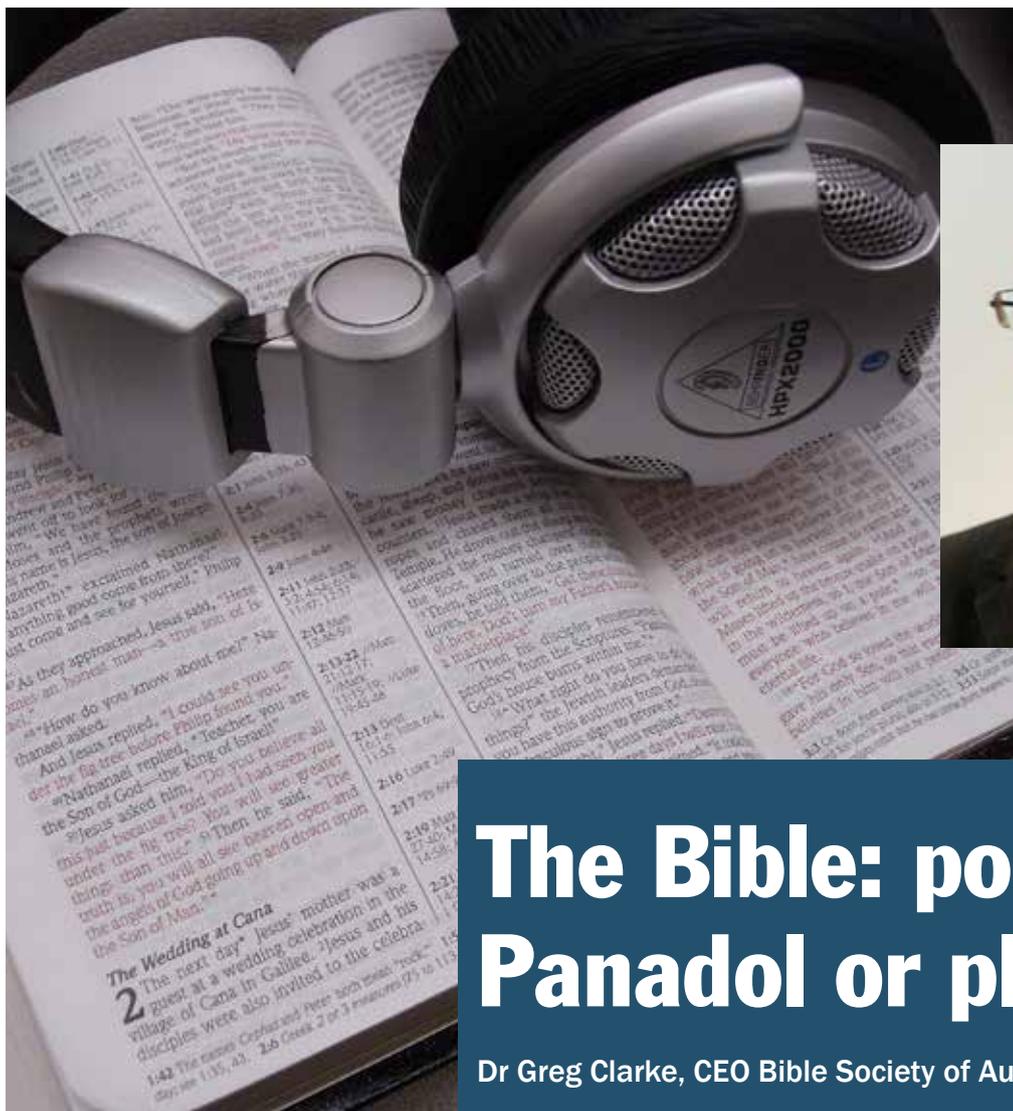
Notable in their absences from the list this year are Woolworths (private label products) and Cadbury who have ceased making their certified Easter products available to the Australian public for Easter 2016. In a 'commercial' decision, the supply has been pulled.

In the meantime, STOP THE TRAFFIK activists throughout Australia struggle to find certified products to purchase. STOP THE TRAFFIK director Fuzz Kitto says, 'I think Cadbury and Woolworths have totally missed the point. Children as young as eight are being trafficked to harvest the cocoa for our chocolate.

the Wesfarmers and Woolworths groups to release a timetabled plan to achieve 100% of the Easter products they stock being certified and labeled by 2020. This ask is in line with the industry promises. Through the initiative, the chocolate industry is taking responsibility for eliminating human trafficking and the worst forms of child labour in its supply chain by 2020.

Nick Weatherill, Executive Director of STOP THE TRAFFIK believes "anyone deriving profit, revenue or pleasure from chocolate should be contributing to a more sustainable supply of its raw materials."

To download the Good Egg Guide please go to <http://bit.ly/1QeY4gV>



The Bible: poison, Panadol or placebo?

Dr Greg Clarke, CEO Bible Society of Australia

Is the Bible good for society? Is it a cure for society's ills or is it the cause of such ills? Or is it just a placebo? Dr Greg Clarke, CEO of the Bible Society of Australia, explored these questions during his 2016 commencement lecture at St Mark's National Theological Centre last month.

Dr Clarke argued that the Bible needs to be a part of our intellectual and moral life, not just in churches but society generally.

'It's difficult to find many areas in Australian life where the Bible has demonstrably poisoned it,' argued Dr Clarke. 'Where you do find it, it is terrible,' he added. Some verses from the Bible have been misused grossly to allow for the perpetuation of domestic violence, the justification of slavery, mistreatment of indigenous people and the defence of nationalistic exceptionalism. Such practices are gross stains on

the church, said Dr Clarke, often involving the misapplication of Old Testament laws into different contexts today.

By contrast, Dr Clarke contended that it is clear that the Bible's stories and images have brought immeasurable good into society. Our architecture, artwork, music, and literature are filled with biblical allusions. More deeply, the British cultural tradition of charity towards strangers is deeply embedded in Scripture. Much of our welfare system and the many agencies that constitute it have profound Christian roots.

'The Bible has played a critical role in the emergence of democracy, education, the restraint of violence in community and human rights, the rise of science and the equality of genders,' contended Dr Clarke.

'Unfortunately, the level of encounter the average Australian

has with the Bible is usually insufficient to notice as its echoes in society grow fainter,' he lamented. For too many, the Bible is simply like Panadol, something taken, 'to ease small pains with modest effects that wear off very quickly.'

We can reposition the Bible in society to encourage an educated response.

In its day, the Bible challenged and changed the ancient world which was overwhelmingly fatalistic so that progress and change were not possible. 'The Christian view of the world is that life doesn't have to be like this.'

The Bible is meant to do far more than ease pain and comfort those in distress. He contended that Scripture should have far more impact on our life together.

'We have an opportunity to re-

position the Bible in society as Christianity becomes something chosen by people rather than a default option at census time. We now have the opportunity to stand on a biblical world view. The Bible actually calls for a considered and educated response. We should be engaging it with a suitable level of ethical, historical and metaphysical enquiry, especially by school students,' he said. 'To be truly educated you must emerge from secondary education having had the opportunity to taste Scripture and determine whether the literature of the Bible is poison or medicine. It's a dangerous thing to encounter the Bible but not to do so may be even worse.'

The historical evidence shows that the Bible really is a good book even though it has been misused by people from time to time.

From February 26 – March 4, the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture (ACC&C) in Canberra hosted the exhibition *Home: Between Here And There*, which explored the experience of asylum seekers forced to leave their homeland and the journey to a new place to call home: Australia.

The exhibition was the outcome of a 10-week skills development program organised by Settlement Services International's (SSI) Arts and Culture program. The artists were from Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan. The exhibition had also been shown in Newcastle and Sydney.

'This is an opportunity for greater connectivity and engagement with the arts on a deeper level,' said the Revd Susanna Pain, the Centre's Associate Director of Liturgy, the Arts and Spiritual Care. The Centre's Director, Bishop Stephen Pickard, similarly described the exhibition as 'having the potential to reset the moral compass in this country.'

Om Dhungel, a board director of SSI and a former refugee from Bhutan, observed that the exhibition is about the artist's journey from their homelands left behind to new places called home. 'Asylum has become such a political issue in our country. We speculate about them, we make policies that affect them; but rarely do we get to hear from them. This exhibition is a chance for people seeking asylum to tell their stories in their own voices,' he said.

Damon, an Iranian artist, was overwhelmed by the reception in Canberra. 'Artists here are appreciated but in many countries they are persecuted and imprisoned.' 'Imagine,' he said, 'being called a criminal for being an artist and that making art is a crime,' as he shared a story about a woman still imprisoned in Tehran for painting.

Anglicare had the opportunity to be part of the exhibition, providing an information sheet for people interested in finding out how they could support Refugees and asylum seekers settling in Aus-

tralia. 'Home can be a physical or psychological space that changes according to our circumstances. It is a sanctuary, a place of belonging,' she added.

'Following the Australian Government's recent announcement that, over the next 18 months or so, Australia will take in 12,000 Syrian refugees to begin new lives in Australia, there is heightened interest in the community and in congregations about how we can best help and welcome these people,' said Shona Batge, a volunteer at Anglicare who cares for asylum seekers and refugees.

'The exhibition was a great opportunity for Anglicare to provide information on practical ways that we as a community can best support and welcome refugees and asylum seekers.'

Anglicare is now also part of a network of concerned community organisations here in Canberra. The group, chaired by Red Cross, is working together to coordinate emergency relief, hous-



ing options and other essentials for 'finally determined' asylum seekers without income.

'Finally determined asylum seekers without income are people whose applications to remain permanently in Australia have been rejected by the government. Asylum seekers in this situation

are no longer eligible for government support services, nor are they allowed to work. This makes it difficult, if not impossible, for them to pay for essentials such as rent, food, or medication,' said Ms Batge.



Mohanad explains his artwork *Look but don't talk*

Calling Australia Home

by Emily Purvis and Hannah McQuiggin



The weather was hot and stormy, which made for great beach days and some interesting games in the rain for the 140+ young people and leaders who attended Camp Pelican this summer. A typical day on camp included: amazing meals, crazy active and relaxing activities alongside thought provoking worship, teaching and small group times. Highlights include an amazing talent/skit night and our yearly Agape dinner – a special time where leaders example Jesus by preparing and serving an amazing dinner to campers.

Ask any camper and they will tell you that Camp Pelican is a place where they feel safe to be themselves. They tell of the acceptance and genuine love they feel on camp from both leaders and fellow campers. We strive to reflect the love of Jesus though the community we create and challenge young people to think deeply about what it means to follow Jesus. Our teaching times are part of this but more importantly it is life lived together that leads to faith being shared, nurtured and deepened.

Please partner with us to continue this vital ministry. On Sat-

urday 5th March over 90 young people and supporters gathered to celebrate and give thanks to God for the past 12 months of Camp Pelican.

It was a great time to catch up with friends, share about camp and learn more about following Jesus. We also celebrated the graduation of Dan Harris who spent the last twelve months participating in the Bishop's Gap Year (BYG) Program.

Dan shared that while at times he found it challenging, this past year has given him a greater understanding of serving God and his faith as he studied and served in numerous ministry areas.

If you're a young person aged 14-25 and would like to know more about God, grow in your faith and gain practical ministry experience, check out our new program Go! at www.synergy.org.au/go.

For more information please contact Andrew on 0437 883 122 or andrew@synergy.org.au.

Clergy Moves

The Reverend Theresa Angert-Quilter has resigned as Chaplain at Goulburn Gaol effective from 21 March 2016.

The Reverend Nathan Manwaring has been appointed Assistant Minister at Hawker Parish.

The new Deacons' have been licensed as Deacon Assistants to the following placements:

The Reverend Stephen Boxwell – Lanyon Valley

The Reverend Alison Champness – F5, Goulburn

The Reverend Brian Champness – F5, Goulburn

The Reverend Karlene Ferguson – Bodalla

The Reverend Anthony Frost – Sapphire Coast

The Reverend Yvonne Gunning – licensed to Bishop Stuart

The Reverend Kelvin Harris - Manuka

The Reverend Wayne Landford – Goulburn-Southern Tablelands Archdeaconary

The Reverend Christopher Lewis - Ainslie

The Reverend Tracey Matthews – Kaleen-Giralang-Lawson

The Reverend Deborah Mazlin – Chapman/The Canberra Hospital

The Reverend Timothy Narraway – Batemans Bay

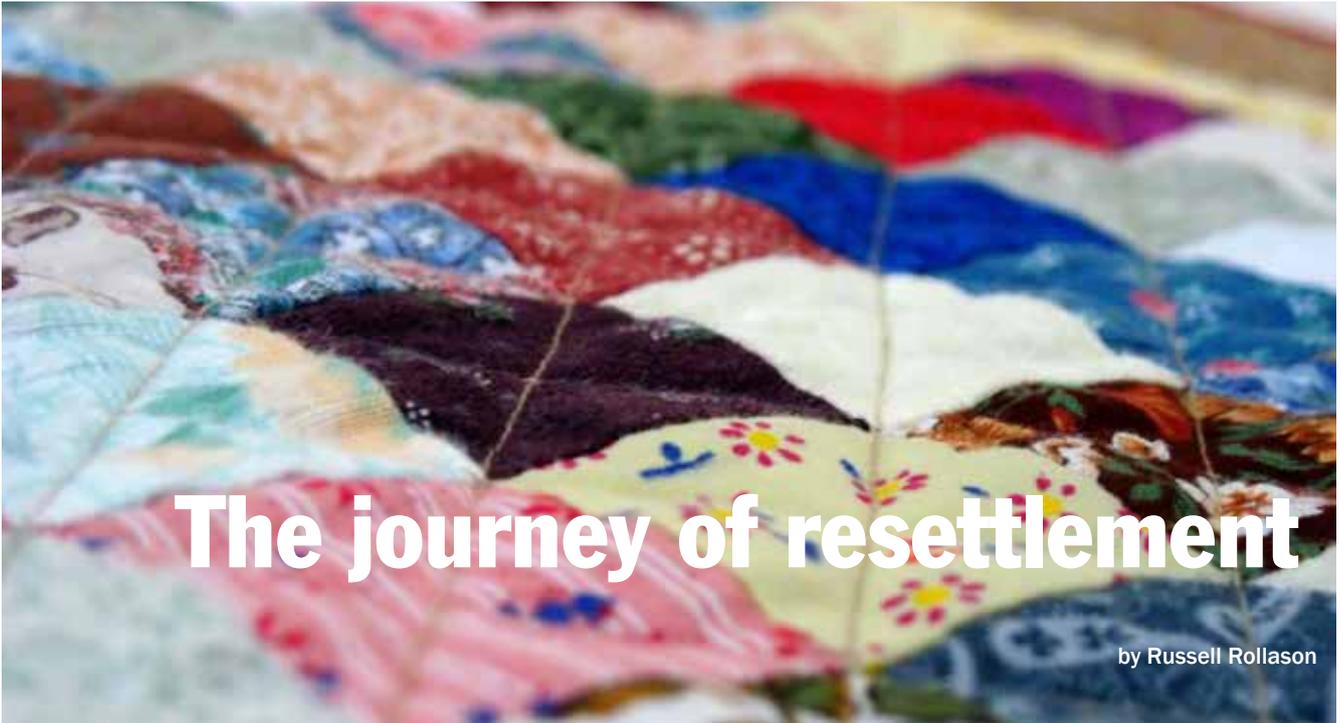
The Reverend Katherine Rainger – Jamison

The Reverend David Schweinsberg - Weston

The Reverend Emma Street – Holt/Business Life

The Reverend Marilyn Waind – Queanbeyan District Anglican Church

The Reverend Ruth Walton – Queanbeyan District Anglican Church



The journey of resettlement

by Russell Rollason

Simple hospitality and help in negotiating the “crazy patchwork” of services available in Canberra were two of the range of practical ways that parishes could help refugees suggested at a Forum held at St Mary’s South Tuggeranong on 1 March. The Refugee Forum was the second in a series planned for centres across Canberra-Goulburn Diocese by the Public Issues Commission.

Hosted by Canon Roberta Hamilton, Rector of St Mary’s-in-the-Valley, more than 50 people gathered to listen to the experiences and insights of Sister Jane Keogh, a Brigidine nun with 14 years experience working with refugees, Dr John Collard, a Cultural Historian and former member of the ACT Multicultural Advisory Committee, former Karen refugee from Burma, Moo K’lue, and others with experience in refugee matters.

‘Many refugees arriving in Canberra have fallen through the cracks of the system,’ explained Sister Jane, ‘and they need friends to fill the gaps; they need people who know how Canberra works to help fill in the gaps.’ Those who come to Australia from detention camps have suffered mis-

treatment at the hands of governments, including the Australian Government, and need help to trust government institutions that they must now approach for help.

Hospitality is very important. In the cultures of the people coming to Australia, giving hospitality is very important to building relations. Being hosted as an Australian is often difficult because you know they have so little, commented several participants. Canon Roberta reflected on the time that a Chilean refugee family she had been helping said ‘No, I cook for you this time!’ ‘Hospitality is an opportunity to share life rather than just things,’ said Canon Roberta. Sister Jane commented that in her work with Iraqis, Afghanis and Pakistanis, ‘I keep jars of nuts and dates. But locals can also help people find the foods they want which is much harder in Canberra than in Sydney or Melbourne.’

‘One of the things that people lose on arrival is their identity,’ explained Canon Roberta. ‘Not all who come to Australia are poor and many have qualifications that are not recognised here,’ she said. ‘They lose the sta-

tus and identity they had in the community they have fled. They have often experienced trauma and now have the challenge in finding a job in a new culture they may not understand,’ she said.

Karen refugee Moo K’lue, said help is often needed in taking parents to school to meet teachers at the school where their children now attend. They need someone to help show them around. Sister Jane added that some refugee communities need help to understand the different roles of men and women in Australian society.

Other ways parishes could help include practising conversational English; teaching people to drive as driving a car is so important to getting around in Canberra; being a mentor to show where to go for help and to help people ask officials for advice and information and interpret the jargon of bureaucracy. In the countries refugees come from, it may have been dangerous to question a government official. Many do not have the skills to question an official and need someone to show them how to do it.

Perhaps the most important way that churches can help refug-

es is ‘to refuse to see people as labels and see them as individuals.’ ‘The most powerful way church people can help is to know people by name and to listen to their story,’ said one experienced refugee advocate. Dr Collard reminded the meeting, ‘of the need to understand that Islam is not monolithic’ and that ‘not all refugees coming to Australia [from Islamic countries] are Muslim.’ Many arrivals have fled from intense religious persecution and sectarianism. They greatly value the freedom to have faith or none that Australia offers.

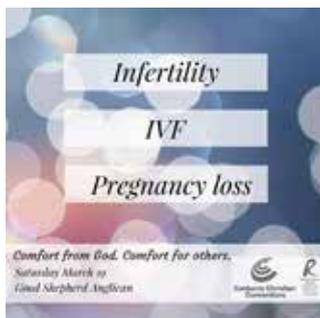
Concern about possible tension between being Christian and offering help to Muslims was laid to rest with the observation that, ‘Muslims have more respect for people with faith than for those who have no faith.’

As Dr Collard reminded the gathering ‘we are all descendants of people who came to Australia looking for a better life.’

The Public Issues Commission will host further Forums in 2016. These events are designed to help people get behind the headlines and to imagine how their parish can make a difference to someone who wants desperately to call Australia home.

Coming up

Conferences



With one in six families experiencing infertility, we will all know people who have or will struggle to have children. Many people around us endure the loss of a baby and yet it is often not talked about. How can we help those who face grief and the puzzling world of medical intervention? Is there any comfort to be found from God? Church of Good Shepherd, Curtin, 19 March from 9.30am - 3pm.



Susanna Pain is leading a spiritual retreat in the expansive and magnificent western desert of Alice Springs. Get in touch with with your spiritual heart through a time of reflection, story telling and art making in our nation's heart.

Susanna is a spiritual director, priest, storyteller with extensive experience in working with creative forms to develop our spiritual lives.

For more information, contact Susanna on 0418 637 469 or email susanna.pain@gmail.com.



Pastor Warwick Marsh is the keynote speaker at Spirit 16. Pastor Warwick and his wife have been in full time ministry since 1990. They have worked as ministers of the Gospel with their musical family all over Australia and in over a dozen nations of the world including China and Africa. Warwick, with his family and other musicians, has produced and recorded seven of their own albums and also produced 5 albums for other artists. Come to enjoy good teaching, worship, prayer, fellowship. St Peter's Anglican School at Broulee, NSW.



Developing a missional community is challenging.

Those involved in supporting or developing pioneer ministry around the Anglican Church nationally will meet in Melbourne on Tuesday 26 April.

This event will explore ways in which our dioceses are supporting and developing fresh expressions of church and church planting.

Come along to think about the opportunities and resolving the challenges. [Online registration is now available through www.trybooking.com/JZMI](http://www.trybooking.com/JZMI).



The 2016 Lay Ministry Convention with Mike and Sally Breen is called, Listening to Jesus. Mike and Sally are world class leaders who will teach and train us to live out the life of the Kingdom of God practically every day. Because the Kingdom is so important to all Christians this convention is open to anyone, whether lay or ordained, who is interested in exercising their call in God's world, the marketplace, family or congregational life more effectively.

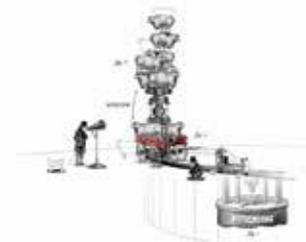
To register online visit www.trybooking.com/JPPU

Books



Mike Breen and the 3DM Team

Many Christians may come to a worship service, join a small group or even tithe, but few have the kind of transformed lives we read about in Scripture. If we made disciples like Jesus made them, we wouldn't have a problem finding leaders or seeing new people come to faith. *Building a Discipling Culture* is the product of 25+ years of hands-on discipleship practice — developed in a post-Christian context, tackling how to make the types of missional disciples Jesus spoke of. A practical guide to help leaders enrich and enhance the spiritual life of their congregations. Now available on Kindle for \$6.99.



Mike Breen and the 3DM Team

Missional Communities have the potential to be a vehicle that allows the church to better live out its mission in the world. But if we embrace and implement MCs merely as a new program, they won't live up to their potential and we'll be on to the next hot topic. They are helpful only if we use them as a vehicle that allows us to point ourselves towards a much deeper issue: how we can learn to live our everyday lives as extended families on mission. Learn how to restore the church's ability to function fruitfully in discipleship and mission the way the early church did, publicly. This isn't a task reserved for church leaders or experts—it's for everyone! So read this book and discover how to make the first step in that direction. Now available on Kindle for \$11.99.