Commemoration of Bishop Mesac Thomas' arrival in Goulburn wraps up year of celebration  

By Wayne Brighton  
The crowd of over 100 marchers was ebullient on the walk to St Saviour’s Cathedral on Sunday April 6, retracing the footsteps of the first Bishop of Goulburn, Mesac Thomas, through the streets of the city.  
With parish banners fluttering and some members in period costume, it was a fitting climax to the diocese’s 150th anniversary celebrations.  
The celebration service of evensong according to the Book of Common Prayer (1662) recreated the worship that had been accustomed by the faithful during the first 93 years of the diocese.  
The Old Testament reading was poignant, a reminder that God’s mission involves struggle. The congregation heard how Pharaoh not only refused the request for freedom but made working conditions immeasurably more difficult by requiring the Israelites to collect their own straw when making the god-king’s palaces.  
The New Testament reading recalled Paul’s unlikely status as an Apostle, the thorns that afflicted his ministry and his determination to boast only in the grace of Jesus Christ.  
The service was then lead in prayer for the Queen’s majesty, the Royal Family, the clergy and the people by Archdeacon Elizabeth Dyke.  
Bishop Stuart drew the service to its high point, preaching that as God’s people we are always dependent on God’s grace. Bishop Stuart recounted how his predecessor may have lacked the material resources of money and sufficient clergy remained firmly engaged in God’s mission to Goulburn and beyond.  
As bishop, Mesac had his share of thorns too from law suits, congregational divisions, closed minds and hard hearts that refused to embrace his vision for evangelism.  
Mesac knew, as the Lord said to Paul, “My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness” (2 Cor 12:9, KJV). Such weakness still remains in the church, as Bishop Stuart reflected on the recent bishops’ conference and the revelations emerging from the royal commission into institutional responses to sexual abuse.  
He said it was such weakness that encourage us to rediscover grace, the undeserved and unmerited kindness of God expressed in “God’s outstretched, nail-pierced hands welcoming all who seek his love and forgiveness”.  
This is what has sustained the saints of every age, including Mesac, for while he was a flawed person, his preaching was filled with the notion that God’s grace is sufficient for us in the face of adversity and seeming insurmountable odds.  
“With Mesac, I dream of and serve with a diocese where the love of Jesus transforms people and communities,” said Bishop Stuart. “It is a place where grace is grasped and embraced and where weakness continues to be the crucible for the outpouring of God’s strength and God’s purposes to God’s glory.”
Dark clouds for jobless young people

For young people in our region, jobs are increasingly hard to find. Over 11 percent of youngCanberrans are unemployed and the Canberra employment market is far tighter for entry level jobs than comparable capital cities. This is why Anglicare is so concerned that our Youth Connections program has been earmarked to be cut by the Federal Government. Youth Connections keeps young people engaged in school. As our Youth educational support coordinator Shyanne Watson told the ABC’s 7.30 Report earlier this month, without the funding in the ACT, the future prospects of between 300 and 350 young Canberrans are at risk.

As Shyanne explains, young workers are equipped to assist these young people re-engage in education, complementing the teaching skills of the educators. This youth worker support is key because these young people have a range of complex experiences that stop them from going to mainstream schools including child care, homelessness and food insecurity.

Federal MP for Fraser (ACT) Andrew Leigh recently spoke about the potential defunding of our Youth Connections program. Following is the text of his speech to Parliament:

“With the Australian Religious Freedom Act, the Federal Government has said that economic growth is the answer to increasing job opportunities for young people. A key plank in their plan is to reduce Federal Government spending. They argue that smaller government leads to reduced taxes which, in turn, boosts jobs growth. Some conservatives go even further, arguing that smaller government results in better outcomes for organisations like Anglicare and the people who rely on charities for support. As conservative think tank the Centre of Independent Studies put it: “shrinking the size of government will also stimulate the charitable sector, foster personal responsibility, and reinforce the community ties that once bound our society together.” I am fairly sceptical about such claims, particularly if it’s a smokescreen for harsh and deep budget cuts this year. As a recent OECD paper on the “Politics of austerity” noted: “as many European countries are finding today, [budget] cuts only deepen short-term economic woes”, which means more people out of work.”

In response, the Federal Government says it is working on a more grounded employment policy from 2015, and will ensure that Job Services Australia effectively addresses the needs of young Australians seeking work. But more could be done to speak into the lives of individual young people struggling to seek work in a tightening job market. Keeping them engaged in meaningful education and training, which increases their employability, is very important if they are going to thrive as adults.

In the lead up to the May budget, Anglicare is urging the Federal Government to do two things. Firstly, continue to fund Youth Connections—a program whose successes are well evidenced. In January 2014, nearly 670 of the 835 young people who participated in the Youth Connections program in 2012 were found still to be engaged in education or employment 18 months later. More than 300 of these young people were engaged in either part time or full time employment including traineeships and apprenticeships.

Secondly, Anglicare calls on the Federal Government to ensure sufficient funding to employment brokerage services so they can provide the level of support that matches the level of need. For high needs groups, such as at-risk young people, this would be a wrap-around service that deals with issues such literacy, homelessness and child care that are barriers to finding and maintaining employment.

Jeremy Halcrow
CEO, Anglicare NSW South.

Anglican News
A newspaper for the Canberra and Goulburn Anglican Diocesan community

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Anglican News

Missional Paradigms Conference in Goulburn

Bishop Stuart Robinson will be hosting a one-day Missional Paradigms conference at St Saviour’s Cathedral in Goulburn on Wednesday May 7, through the Diocesan Centre for Lay Ministry and Mission. Guest speakers Paul Griffiths and Dr Martin Robinson will cover topics including:

- Questions people ask about life and religion
- Spirituals journeys - how people come to faith
- Equipping your lay people for mission
- Living between the paradigms (why mission is both difficult and still possible)

Key issues for missional leaders

Martin Robinson is Principal and Chief Executive of the UK-based Springdale College: Together in Mission, and has written several books on the broad theme of mission, including Faith of the Unbeliever and Invading Secular Space.

Paul Griffiths is an evangelist and Director of Ugly Duckling Company, a group dedicated to developing unique and differentiated approaches to evangelism in contemporary culture. He is also a member of the Archbishops’ College of Evangelists.


Cost: $45.00 adults; $35.00 pensioners and students.

This includes morning and afternoon tea. Please make your own lunch arrangements.

Venue: St Saviour’s Cathedral Goulburn, Corner Bourke and Church Streets, Goulburn

Time: 9.30am-4.30pm.

Date: Wednesday May 7, 2014.

Who should come: Lay people, church staff.
Anglicare’s team at Calwell ECC

A prospective parent, Teegan Jeffs, sent the following heartfelt letter to Rebecca Burgess, Director of Anglicare’s Calwell Early Childhood Centre last month:

“I spent an hour in the nursery room with Mel, Joanne and another very lovely assistant,” Teegan wrote.

“In that hour I saw all three staff members interact with all the little ones in a very loving, caring and parental manner, which was beautiful to see in a day care. [I] have been to several centres over the past two months and have yet to observe such care towards the children … I really feel the need to let you know how absolutely wonderful I think your centre and staff are … thank you so very, very much for providing a professional, clean, safe, educational, kind and loving day care.”

Anglicare’s Calwell Early Childhood Centre is developing a reputation for ‘thinking outside the square’ to enhance its quality and innovative educational practices. On a recent visit I was particularly impressed by the colourful, interactive and engaging classrooms displays.

The community-based long day care centre has redesigned its playground and classrooms to incorporate items donated by The Green Shed, a facility contracted by the ACT Government to offer the public an alternative to depositing their unwanted items to landfill.

Calwell ECC Centre’s Director, Rebecca Burgess and Assistant Director, Melissa Johnston visited The Green Shed and found a timber boat, stainless steel industrial kitchen, baskets, furniture, and toys to bring back to the Centre.

The items have been transformed into play areas promoting exploration, discovery and challenge with an understanding for the natural world. One of the highlights of the project has been the reaction from the children who are keen to role play as fishermen and pirates on the boat and use the sink as a mud kitchen.

“We were overwhelmed with the amount of good quality items people were recycling,” Rebecca Burgess said. “We were looking around for a boat for so long and we were amazed when we found one.”

Supporting disadvantaged families and working closely with care and protection, the Centre is licensed for 67 children daily including 58 permanent places and nine occasional care and emergency places. The opportunity to link sustainability education into the Early Years curriculum has instilled values about caring for the environment, and understanding the principals of ecological development with the young children.

We want to encourage other Anglicare services to consider using The Green Shed. The Mitchell Resource Centre and Mugga Lane facility employ almost 40 staff members including more than half from disadvantaged backgrounds.

David Robinson elected 12th Bishop of Rockhampton Diocese

David Robinson will be consecrated as Bishop of Rockhampton at 7pm on Tuesday 2 September in St Paul’s Cathedral, Rockhampton.

Coincidentally, he is also the twelfth priest who has served in this diocese, to be elected as a Bishop since 2000 (see the March issue of Anglican News).

David Robinson is currently the Ministry Formation Coordinator at St Mark’s National Theological Centre in Canberra and manager of the Centre’s registered training organisation. He has played a critical role developing and delivering training for clergy in over seven dioceses in Queensland, Victoria, New South Wales and Western Australia.

“I am surprised, delighted and honoured by my election,” said David Robinson.

“Rockhampton is such a wonderful and diverse diocese, capturing everything from outback towns to coastal towns for people wanting a sea change.”

He moved to Canberra in 1991 to study at St Mark’s National Theological Centre, and was ordained in 1994.

He has served in the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn in a variety of settings. He is married to Jan and has two adult children and six grandchildren. He enjoys walking, photography and travel.

David Robinson was born in the UK and emigrated to Adelaide in 1970 where he worked with the South Australian government.

David Robinson will be heading north shortly, following David’s election as Bishop of Rockhampton.

MOVING NORTH: Jan and David Robinson will be heading north shortly, following David’s election as Bishop of Rockhampton.

Helping prisoners to become better parents

Anglicare is helping jailed Aboriginal parents improve and enhance their family skills at Goulburn Correctional Centre.

It’s the first time the Positive Parenting Program has run outside the normal outreach structure as part of the recently established Winhangarra Gibarra Project.

“I don’t think they (the inmates) realised they could work on their parenting skills in jail,” said Tony Reay, Anglicare Family Services Co-ordinator.

“It resulted in more contact visits and teleconference calls between fathers and kids.”

The twelve-week project has run three times since June last year in partnership with other service providers including TAFE NSW and Corrective Services NSW. Around 30 minimum security inmates have benefited from the program.

The men were taught skills to develop a better relationship with their children.

EXPLORATION: Thoughtful use of discarded materials such as this old boat has helped provide play areas that encourage exploration, discovery and challenge for the children at Calwell Early Childhood Centre.
Anti-slavery action

Dear Sir,

I was surprised and delighted to learn of Andrew “Twiggy” Forrest’s formation of an anti-slavery network. He began the work after an encounter with a twelve year old girl who had been trafficked. Read the full story at http://www.smh.com.au/national/andrew-forrests-dream-to-stop-all-slavery-20140317-34y2g.html or http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/twiggy-forrest-joins-religious-leaders-to-fight-slavery/5327386.

This is interesting on so many levels. This is an act of social justice, of trying to work politically and at a structural level to stop structural evil, as Wilberforce did when he freed the slaves in the British Empire. Christians in the last 100 years have moved away from acts of social justice, preferring acts of compassion, despite the fact that social justice is such a strong theme in the Bible.

Forrest’s daughter had volunteered in an orphanage in Nepal and Forrest, a Christian, met the girl there. Rather than opening more orphanages to deal with the problem after the abuse Forrest has chosen a social justice path, working with companies and governments with whom he has influence to see that they do not deal with slaves. That of itself is unusual.

Rather than falling for the “all Muslims are evil” line so often peddled he has sought to work with all faiths to achieve a common goal. The initial group is Pope Francis, The Archbishop of Canterbury and “The Grand Imam of al-Azhar, Ahmed al-Tayyeb, one of the highest scholarly authorities in Sunni Islam”, who is from Egypt. This is an example that many in the church could learn from.

He has asked the church leaders to participate because, as he said: “the holy texts, no matter which one you turn to, has ambiguity in it around slavery. ... That, we knew, was being used as justification by slavers all over the world.”

The Bible does not condemn slavery, rather, it regulates it. “So Paul told slaves to obey their master. So, to free the slaves, you have to go beyond naïve proof texting and selective literalism to a more mature hermeneutic.”

You can quote proof texts for as long as you like but at the end of the day you won’t have freed the slaves or helped stop slavery happening. You have to look at overall biblical principles. This is interesting because the same principle applies for the issues of women in leadership and homosexuality.

Yours sincerely
Keith Binns
Goulburn

Prayers for Monarchy

Dear Sir,

Rev. Robert Willson (letters March, 2014) risks getting the Anglican Church improperly embroiled in a contested political issue. He advocates the reintroduction into the Anglican Liturgy of the prayers that used to be routinely offered for the Queen as sovereign and for other members of the Royal family. It would be wrong for the Church to be seen as taking sides with the monarchists in the continuing debate on Australia becoming a republic. It is true that this issue has become relatively quiet lately, but certainly it is not dead.

Mr Willson’s letter in the March issue is at least his second foray into the Anglican News’ Letters pages on the republic issue, and he is of course entitled to his views. As for the prayers, there is nothing to stop him, and any others who wish to do so, from offering their own quiet prayers for the Queen as our sovereign: they could do so in quiet moments during Services and/or any other times they like.

But why should those of us a republicans persuasion (some half of the community) have those words inflicted on us as a usual part of Services? I, for one, would be deeply offended and upset if I were to be put in the position during regular Services of choosing whether or not to say “Amen” to those offensive words which acknowledge the monarch of a foreign country as Australia’s Head of State.

This is surely not a church issue. Mr Willson’s efforts. I was surprised and offended and upset if I were to be put in the position during regular Services of choosing whether or not to say “Amen” to those offensive words which acknowledge the monarch of a foreign country as Australia’s Head of State. I, for one, would be deeply offended and upset if I were to be put in the position during regular Services of choosing whether or not to say “Amen” to those offensive words which acknowledge the monarch of a foreign country as Australia’s Head of State. I, for one, would be deeply offended and upset if I were to be put in the position during regular Services of choosing whether or not to say “Amen” to those offensive words which acknowledge the monarch of a foreign country as Australia’s Head of State. I, for one, would be deeply offended and upset if I were to be put in the position during regular Services of choosing whether or not to say “Amen” to those offensive words which acknowledge the monarch of a foreign country as Australia’s Head of State. I, for one, would be deeply offended and upset if I were to be put in the position during regular Services of choosing whether or not to say “Amen” to those offensive words which acknowledge the monarch of a foreign country as Australia’s Head of State. I, for one, would be deeply offended and upset if I were to be put in the position during regular Services of choosing whether or not to say “Amen” to those offensive words which acknowledge the monarch of a foreign country as Australia’s Head of State.

Yours sincerely
Bruce, A.C.T.

Clergy training

Dear Sir,

In the last issue of Anglican News the Bishop asked us to pray for Dr Andrew Cameron and his family as he concludes his work at Moore College and comes to be Director of St Marks in Canberra.

We should also pray for the whole issue and direction of clergy training in this diocese. In recent St Mark’s has welcomed many ordination candidates from other Australian dioceses.

Men and women going into parish ministry face challenges unknown to earlier generations, and they need our prayers.

Rev’d Robert Willson
Deakin

Letters ...
Camping weekend a resounding success

Inaugural event well supported

Numbers exceeded expectations at the inaugural Diocesan Camping Weekend held at the Riverglade Caravan Park in Tumut on the last weekend in February.

Blessed with beautiful weather and in an idyllic setting under towering trees on the banks of the Tumut River, 58 campers and cabin-ers from around the Diocese enjoyed fellowship, rest and the chance to learn more of the opportunities for service around Australia provided by the BCA (Bush Church Aid) Nomad program.

Coordinators of the BCA Nomad scheme Doug and Frances Orr spoke of the mutual benefit which flows when nomads offer their skills and willingness to serve God’s people in remote parishes: a chance to get alongside the locals, learn of the special places to see, and, at the same time, use their expertise to carry out vital property repairs, run craft courses or assist with administration work, amongst many other things!

An extra blessing on Sunday was the opportunity to gather for worship with the Anglican Church family in Tumut.

The outing was voted a resounding success, and planning is underway for our next Diocesan gathering in 2015. To register your interest and receive information please contact John Jenner on 0428 680930 or email jenner@mac.com

PROMOTION: As well as providing a great opportunity for friendship and fellowship, the inaugural Diocesan Camping Weekend helped promote the work of BCA Nomads.

Planting the seeds of hope

By Katherine Rainger*

The essence of what makes the Good Samaritan “good” is that he is indiscriminate with his care. He sees a human being in need and he acts to help in whatever way he can regardless of the personal cost.

Moira Kelly AO strikes me as a contemporary Good Samaritan. Moira has dedicated her life to helping children in war-torn countries receive medical care and life-saving surgery. Her love for her neighbour has stretched to Kolkata, Iraq, Bosnia, Nigeria, Namibia, East Timor, Papua New Guinea and many other places.

Moira is a woman of deep faith, hope and love. She is the foster mother of Emmanuel and Ahmed who she met in an orphanage in Baghdad. You may also remember Moira as the guardian of Krishna and Trishna, conjoined twins from Bangladesh. Moira organised the 32 hour operation to separate them at Melbourne’s Royal Children’s Hospital.

Moira was in Canberra recently to launch her newest initiative, “Global Gardens of Peace” at Parliament House. This project will establish gardens in places where beauty, rest and refuge are hard to come by. The inaugural garden is planned for Gaza. In 2004 Moira and her humanitarian organisation, The Children First Foundation, were on a medical rescue mission in Gaza where they identified many Palestinian children in need of medical treatment and rehabilitation.

Moira and her colleagues also heard story after story of daily despair, poverty and suffering. Moira writes, “In the midst of this bleak picture, the children were still being children. They could be seen on the war-torn streets playing with rubble from bombed buildings with makeshift toys made from broken bits of metal and rubbish.”

She noticed that the only place with trees and grass was a cemetery maintained by the British War Commission. It was the only green space Moira encountered in what is one of the most densely populated places on earth. Moira thought, “If you can do this for the dead, why can’t you do this for the living?”

And so the seed was planted. The seed was watered in a meeting with the late Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation, who in a meeting with Moira asked her what could be done for the children. She replied, “Find me some land and I will get the Australian people to come build them a safe garden.”

This seed grew further in 2007 when Moira was given the title to 20 000 sqm of land for the Global Garden of Peace. Moira was stunned when this occurred and responded, “I don’t even have land in Australia, how could I have a title of land in Gaza?”

The project had to be put on hold as Moira was in the middle of caring for Trishna and Krishna who required acute care after their operation. Finally, in 2012 the board was established and the project got underway. The final stage now is for the funds to be raised (“please God!” as Moira said) and for construction to begin.

The plans look amazing and include places to play, to exercise, to have family gatherings and to enjoy the beauty of the natural environment (something we in Australia take for granted). They are the result of collaboration with a team from Gaza and Australia. Consultations with the Royal Botanic Gardens in Melbourne and the Botanic Gardens in Jerusalem have also been significant.

As one of the speakers at the launch articulated, we may wish for significant changes in Israeli control of Gaza and the West Bank but in the meantime we can help the children. Moira spoke of the way humanitarian work breaks down barriers and she described the Israeli support she had encountered for the project.

Being present on that afternoon in Parliament House was extremely inspiring. I was representing Bishop Philip Huggins from the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne who had met with Moira and her team in Melbourne where Moira was based and was unable to be at the launch. Moira echoed her hero Mother Teresa when she said, “all works of kindness are works of peace.”

After my pilgrimage to Jerusalem I was left feeling that separation and discrimination is deeply entrenched in the Holy Land. My prayer is that kindness, along with justice, will lead to peace. As Moira says, “all you need is a sense that there is no such thing as ‘no’ and everything is possible.”

To learn more about Global Gardens of Peace visit www.globalgardensofpeace.com

*Katherine Rainger serves as Youth and Children Worker at Holy Covenant, Jamison.
All Saints College breaks new ground

Ainslie’s student accommodation project launched

By Wayne Brighton

On Thursday 13 March 2014, All Saints College was formally launched by Bishop Stuart Robinson and an agreement signed between Ms Betsy Dickson, Chairperson of Parish Council and Professor Ingrid Moses, Chairperson of the All Saints College Council.

When complete, All Saints College will provide 26 self-contained rooms for students, each with their own bathroom and cooking facilities. The College is funded by parish through the Anglican Investment Development Fund along with funding from the Federal and Territory government’s National Rental Affordability Scheme.

The college is an initiative of the parish of All Saints, Ainslie, which its rector Fr Michael Faragher, describes as “an adventure in stewardship”.

The parish is no stranger to adventure. It took some vision to bring the original mortuary building from Rookwood and erect it stone by stone when Ainslie was on Canberra’s northern extremity in the 1950s. Ainslie is now on the edge of CBD, surrounded by high-density housing.

David Holmesby, parish warden and the College’s secretary, said that the parish had canvassed a variety of models.

“We looked at childcare, aged care and offices for not-for-profit agencies,” Fr Michael explained, adding that the idea of student accommodation proved strongest for several reasons.

“As a parish, we’re regularly contacted by Anglican families whose children are coming to study in Canberra and are looking for accommodation, after all we’re nearby the Australian National University and the Australian Catholic University. Also St Mark’s National Theological College has no accommodation for theological students.

“A small college in a leafy suburb next to a church is likely to appeal those looking to belong to a community. With a grand piano and a beautiful organ available, it’s likely to appeal to music students as well as those from St Mark’s looking for that added pastoral dimension.

“We’ve looked at it from a missional perspective too,’ said Mr Holmesby, ‘as the college will be open to anybody.’ The missional part is really about us, we’re doing this because we’re called by Christ to offer hospitality,” said Fr Michael who is keen to see the College become a part of parish life.

“The parish has been splendid. Some of the most extraordinary reactions have been by the older members of the congregation who are delighted to see the parish moving ahead. Having 26 young people living on site is going to be a brilliant adventure. Although it will change the precinct, to a person they have been supportive and enthusiastic about it all.”

“The parish is called to be the face, hands and feet of Jesus, and as such to reveal God’s love, compassion, mercy and justice. It is when we work together that this is best able to be done, and our work with Anglicare has allowed us to reach out to many people, and reveal that face to them, especially those in need,” Fr Michael said.

The Anglican Church’s long history of community service originated in 1957 with the Bungarimbil Boys’ Home located in Tumbarumba.

“Seeing the expansion of our services to assist vulnerable individuals, families and communities in the Wagga region has been thrilling,” Mr Addison said.

One of Anglicare’s longest serving employees, Managerial Assistant Carol Stevens says she feels proud to “work with so many passionate, caring and dedicated people and have also been able to meet and talk with the wonderful foster carers we have.”

Since the early days, Anglicare has continued to grow and develop. A variety of new programs have commenced, including work with Australian National University. Also St Mark’s National Theological College and the Australian Catholic University. As congregations like us that are asset rich but cash poor,” said Fr Michael. “We hope that this might give folks a bit of impetus to think about what they could do to build the Kingdom. We tend to think of church real estate as being about church halls but there are all sorts of opportunities out there.”

Tenth Birthday party for Anglicare Wagga base

Anglicare Wagga and the Anglican Parish of Wagga have celebrated a ten year partnership co-vacating at St John’s Church.

Bishop Genieve Blackwell, Father Michael Armstrong, Anglicare General Manager Brad Addison, Managerial Assistant Carol Stevens and Parish Treasurer James Hamilton prepare to cut the cake. All except Michael Armstrong were present at the establishment of the partnership ten years ago.
Cobargo parish celebrates 125th anniversary

From the parish

Over 90 joyful parishioners, families, friends and well-wishers gathered at Christ Church Cobargo on Sunday 30th March to celebrate 125 years as a Parish in the Diocese of Canberra-Goulbourn.

Rev’d Joy Harris conducted a thanksgiving service, accompanied by Archdeacon Matthew Brain who gave a most thought-provoking message inviting all present to think of the journey of previous generations and the marks of faith they have left for us to follow.

His challenge was for us to think of what we will be leaving behind from our walk. Prior to this, Archdeacon Matt assisted by Rev. Joy entertained us with a children’s talk. Dressed as Captain Amazing Man complete in red cape and mask, a Super Hero who ran out of pace to save the world-unlike Jesus who is always there for everyone at the end.

Amongst the well-wishers was Archdeacon Anne Rance whose father, Rev. Frederick Dau had been rector in the Parish during the early 1940’s. Anne was actually born in Cobargo, and her mother Audrey began Mother’s Union in the parish at Bermagui in 1941.

Also present was Rev’d Gail Tabor, a past rector and one of the first female priests to be ordained in the Diocese; the Rev’d David Oliphant and his wife Angela. David has cared for our parish in recent years.

An unexpected surprise on the day was a painting of Cobargo Church by, and presented by, the Rev’d Stephen Rigby, who also recently cared for us as a locum priest.

During the celebratory cutting of the cake, it was discovered that Rev’d Joy and Max were celebrating 28 years of marriage!

An informal lunch followed in the Church, where many memories were shared.

During the celebratory cutting of the cake, it was discovered that Fiona Kotvois, who has so meticulously been researching and compiling the Parish history, was celebrating a birthday, as well as Max Harris, husband of Joy Harris!

More congratulations followed when it was discovered that Rev’d Joy and Max were celebrating 28 years of marriage!

Many thanks to all who attended, and all who helped to organise what was a great day of thanksgiving for the memories of all who were pioneers in this Parish, and for the more recent memories.

It is the people who make history. Fiona is still collecting photos and recording stories, so if you have something to share please contact Fiona, 64936080, or Fiona. kotvois @bigpond.com

150 years of witness in North Goulburn

Sesquicentenary celebrations at St Nick’s

From the parish

This year, St Nicholas’ Anglican Church North Goulburn is celebrating 150 years of witness in Goulburn and surrounds since it became a separate parish from the Cathedral in 1864.

The celebrations were launched with a bush dance and barbecue on Saturday 15 February. The hall was decorated with borrowed bales of straw after the dance was moved inside due to the very welcome rain.

The dancing started with a polka and ended with Strip the Willow.

The young people particularly enjoyed the Chicken Dance and the Hokey Pokey but some of the more adventurous ones also joined in the other dances. With a lot of help from our caller and our demonstration couple, even the least nimble footed were able to complete the sets and provide entertainment to those who preferred to watch. Those who took part seemed to thoroughly enjoy the evening, and we should all be more expert next time.

During a break from dancing, a small group presented a melodramatic interpretation of the holdup of our first rector, Canon Richard Leigh, by bushrangers. Canon Leigh was a good horseman and had several encounters with bushrangers. When returning from a wedding, he was held up on Governor’s Hill, probably by the Clarke brothers.

Further celebrations

We are planning more events for the year. On Saturday 24 May from 11am to 4pm, there will be an open day in the church hall with displays of memorabilia, entertainment and Devonshire teas.

In the evening, Bishop Stuart Robinson will be the guest speaker at a dinner in the Great Hall at Trinity Catholic College. On Sunday 25 May there will be a church service followed by morning tea.

We would like to hear from anyone who is interested in attending. Contact Rev Ross Hathway ph 48214976, info@stnicholasgoulburn.org, or write to 17 Kinghorne St, Goulburn 2580

TOE TAPPING: The St Nick’s Music Group recruited a few extra members to provide some toe-tapping music for bush dance to celebrate the 150th anniversary.

Church Planting: Archdeacon Matt Brain, Cobargo priest Joy Harris and Margaret Goddard planting a lemon tree in grounds of Christ Church Cobargo to mark the 125th anniversary of the church.

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

CALOUNDRA, Sunshine Coast, beachside units, from $300/week.
Phone 0427 990 161.
Memories of Queen’s first visit

In the March issue of Anglican News the Rev’d Robert Wilson spoke of the excitement created by the visit of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip in 1954. The visit held special significance to the diocese with the Royal couple staying in the National Capital for five days.

After visiting Wagga Wagga in the morning of Saturday 13 February, the Royal couple flew on to Canberra. An excited crowd in Civic Centre watched the aeroplane carrying the royal visitors fly low overhead. A short time later the visitors arrived to a joyful and tumultuous welcome by the huge assembly.

Next morning the Royal couple attended the service of Morning Prayer at St John’s Church, Canberra. The service was “not a part of the official Sunday programme of the Royal Tour, but simply the ordinary Sunday activity of a Queen, who has shown herself both in her speeches and in her personal living to be a sincere Christian.” (Firm Still You Stand, A H Body).

The church could only accommodate the comparatively small local congregation. However seating for a thousand people was provided in the church grounds, in particular for groups from parishes throughout the diocese.

It was estimated that about 4,000 people gathered around the church for the service.

Meaningful ministry in the Bungendore community

A country church explores ways to make more significant connections

From the parish

Meaningful ministry is essential for any living Christian community – ministry that forms part of our individual and collective walk with God, and ministry that reaches out to our wider community.

Without meaning, our ministry does not grow, our congregations remain stagnant, and the wider community does not notice Christ’s followers huddled in one corner of their local community each Sunday. God’s grace calls us to express His love, to live His promise and to act to spread the good news.

Recently, Bungendore Anglican Church has been exploring various ways to expand our ministry to both the regular parishioners and to the wider community.

God’s hand has been busy guiding us, directing us and blessing our efforts to show His unconditional love and to fulfil His works.

We have established a monthly Kids’ Family Church (KFC) service for young families not necessarily familiar with, or relating to, the more ‘traditional’ practices of a Sunday service.

This has complemented our Scripture in Schools ministry, and has allowed families to explore what we are about, with many families now regularly returning to each KFC service.

A jumping castle purchased by the parish, together with morning teas and stories, craft and other activities focused on the worship theme, have encouraged many to see that church is ‘meaningful’.

Elaborate morning teas and brunches provide times for establishing community and serve as an expression of the parish’s unconditional love for the wider community.

Youth and Family ministry

In 2013, a Pelican Trust grant permitted the part-time employment of a Family Youth Worker, who now leads the Kids’ Family Services. In addition, our Family Youth Worker has instigated a new youth group for teenagers, which is slowly growing in number and in the faith of those regularly attending.

The Bungendore Anglican Church stall at Bungendore’s annual late night shopping event a few weeks prior to Christmas included a free jumping castle, a magician with a message, helium balloons, a bookstall and information brochures and people to chat with.

Visitors at the local pub, made our church community become a bit more evident and relevant within the wider community – some meaning to our ministry.

The wider Bungendore community is starting to see that communing with God can be contemporary and relevant – God is indeed at work.

In addition to meaningful ministry extending beyond the church doors, regular study groups and times of fellowship complement the Sunday worship time. These assist in building and strengthening the body of Christ, and provide opportunities for parishioners to grow in their Christian journey, and focus on the meaning of their ministry.

The wider Bungendore community is starting to see that communing with God can be contemporary and relevant – God is indeed at work.

Alpha course

In 2014, an Alpha course will be added to our ministry opportunities. Not only will this provide opportunities for parishioners to explore the nuts and bolts of their faith, but allow those from the wider community who may have noticed activity and love emanating from the doors of our old stone buildings to come and see what is driving this.

Our mission is to maintain meaningful ministry – ministry that grows, does not stagnate and where Christ’s family is noticed by the local community. Please join us on our journey – details located at www.bungendoreanglican.org.au and on the Bungendore Anglican Facebook page.
Incoming St Mark’s Director aware of ‘people’s anxiety’

By Graham Downie

Dr Andrew Cameron will begin as Director of Canberra’s St Mark’s National Theological Centre on July 1, conscious his appointment is controversial.

He will come to Canberra from Sydney where he is senior lecturer in Christian Thought at Moore Theological College.

“I understand people’s anxiety,” he said in a lengthy interview. “There is a history between these two dioceses. I guess in a sense there is a part of me that wants to really thank people for their bravery in giving me a go.”

He said it was difficult for people to take a chance on someone who is new to them.

“I want to respect that: I don’t actually believe in exacerbating those tensions. I want to try to do my bit to assist healing them.”

Dr Cameron insisted he would assist women training for the priesthood.

“I have made it very clear that I think the role of the director is to assist every woman who comes, and to help them in whatever ministry God has in store for them. I know that this is the polity of the diocese. I have no interest in questioning it or changing it. It seems to me that this is a matter which has long been settled and it is very important for me to respect that. It has been important for me to try to assist women in my own context here (Moore College) as I have been able and I just want to continue to do that.”

Asked, “Are you comfortable with, or indeed do you support women as priests and bishops?” he replied, “I have made it really clear that if a woman was to be a bishop over me I would respect that and I would work with her. I will be respecting any women in orders. I will be going to their churches and listening to them teach and preach and learning all I can from them about how things are done in Canberra and Goulburn.”

Question: “Have you changed your mind about whether it is right for women to be priests and bishops?”

“I find it really hard to sum up my 20 years of thinking on this. It has gone through a lot of stages. Rather than to delve into all of the intricacies of all of that theological debate I really just want to assure people that I will be working with women and not questioning any of the arrangements in the diocese at all.”

Dr Cameron said he really hoped he could have an influence to redress the decline in church attendances.

“We have to keep considering what it is about our message that isn’t connecting with modern Australians… I think we need to keep encouraging clergy to be able to find ways of reconnecting with the community.”

Often, at the most elementary level, people just had not had the nature of a Christian service explained to them. Explaining why Christians did what they did was easier than many people believed.

“Sometimes it is appropriate to explain what we do so it is a little bit more accessible to people. At a deeper level I think we are inviting people to reconsider how they live their lives and think about faith. So there is always going to be something which is new to them when they come to church or else there would be no point coming.”

He is completely in favour of the connection between St Mark’s and Charles Sturt University. He said the great thing about a university was that it enabled freedom of inquiry.

“It enables a safe place for people to test their thoughts and to read out of their comfort zone and to debate with others who are not like them. It is a place where we get to break down our prejudices and our tribalism and it is where we get to rediscover things. I am a fan of that way of doing theology.”

Jamieson Apartments complex taking shape

NEW DIRECTOR:
Dr Andrew Cameron

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The upgrade of 43 Constitution Avenue in Reid will bring a central component of Walter Burley Griffin’s vision for Canberra to life.

The 2¾-kilometre stretch connecting London Circuit in the city to Northcott Drive in Russell will be transformed into a leafy, mixed-use corridor, and the Jamieson Apartments will be the avenue’s first residential development.

The site, beside the historic St John the Baptist Church, graveyard and Schoolhouse Museum, was previously occupied by Jamieson House, the former headquarters of the Anglican Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn.

The old building was run down and in need of refurbishment, so the diocese decided to relocate its headquarters and use the site to develop the residential complex.

“We engaged Cox Architecture,” diocesan development representative Phil Davies said. “They were familiar with the block. They had developed the masterplan of the whole precinct.”

Part of the brief was for a high-quality, sustainable building.

Hindmarsh began construction on the nine-storey building in mid-2013, and it will have the highest energy-efficiency rating in a residential building in Canberra, with an average rating of eight. The architects had to ensure the building would fit in with its surroundings, including the church built in 1845, long before Canberra was founded.

Architect Robert Morton, of Cox Architecture, said Walter Burley Griffin envisioned Constitution Avenue as a mixed-use boulevard, and the Jamieson Apartments needed to set the benchmark.

“We see this building as a precedent,” Robert Morton said. “One of the principal characteristics was the integration of the building with the site.

“The building had to respond to the precinct and the church. We’re using lots of sandstone. The sandstone responds not only to St John’s itself, but also to the war memorial. It’s being done in a modern, contemporary form.”

Natural materials have been used inside and out, including timber and stone finishes. The kitchens are fitted with high-quality fixtures, such as stone benchtops and stainless-steel appliances.

The development is surrounded by Reid and Campbell to the north, the lake to the south, and the city to the west, ensuring spectacular views. On the ninth floor, a shared viewing deck will take in the expansive panorama across the lake.

There are 89 apartments in the complex, and 47 have been sold.

Independent Property Group City principal Wayne Harriden said all four units on the penthouse level had been sold and a mix of studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom apartments remained.

“They’re aimed at live-in owners and most of the buyers have been local residents of Reid, Ainslie and Campbell. Many are looking to downsize,” Mr Harriden said.

Construction will be complete at the end of the year, and an onsite display unit will be available for viewing in early May.

The studio apartments are 44 square metres ($380,000+), the one-bedroom apartments are 56 to 66 square metres ($435,000+) and the two-bedroom apartments are 80 to 100 square metres ($570,000+).

Phone Independent Property Group Civic, 6209 7001, or see thejamiesonapartments.com.au
1. You’re not parenting

The final exams. The end of school. The gateway to Uni, TAFE, work, success, fame, stardom.

This. Is. It.

The final year of school is possibly our most hyped up, stress-inducing, joyless, infuriating rite of passage we dutifully put ourselves and our youth through.

How can we look after those who are facing down these exams?

How can we parent well during this year?

As a Director of Youthsworks HSC Study Conferences, of course I think you should register your teen for one of these camps! But what else can you do?

I want to suggest some things to help you navigate a wise and Godly path through your child’s final year of school: here are three to start with!

1. You’re not parenting alone

You and your teenager need backup and, ideally, in the church, you have it. You need a few people who you can talk to about parenting (not necessarily fellow parents or the same age as you); people who will listen, encourage you from the Bible, and commit to praying for you and your children. If you only had this kind of support when your children were babies, or if kind of support when your children. If you only had this to praying for you and your

While Year 12 can bring a lot of stress, it’s also a great time to encourage students to be trusting in God when life gets challenging.

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2. Your child is not alone

Your son or daughter needs the support of someone who isn’t their peer and who isn’t their parent. A friend who has seen a couple of teens through the HSC recently said to me, “having significant others outside parental is pretty much crucial.” One of the greatest joys of being part of a healthy church community is the opportunity for intergenerational friendships and support.

Can you think of someone, perhaps in their 20’s or 30’s, who might be able to invest some time your teen’s life? This could be a youth leader, a single or married person. Ideally, it should be someone (or a couple) who loves Jesus, who will listen, encourage and fears of parenting by yourselves. You don’t have to feel like your success as parents will be determined by how well your child does at the end of school. What a privilege that we have one another and the Lord Jesus.

Have a look at Hebrews 4:14-16, and consider Jesus, who is able to empathise with our weaknesses, and through whom we can approach God the Father with boldness, finding mercy and grace.

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3. We’re all in this together

Something happens when a student enters their final year of school: adults stop talking to them about anything but their final year of school. Ask any 17-year-old which three questions every adult asks them and they will tell you:

1. “How is the HSC going?”
2. “What subjects are you doing?”
3. “What do want to do next year?”

We can do better! How are our youth going to believe in us when we talk about this school year isn’t the defining moment of their life, if it’s the only thing we ask them about all year? Can you think of some other things to talk about? How about the sermon you just heard at church? Or that blog link they just posted? Or the footy game from last night? Or what they learnt at the youth camp they just went on?

Get to know what is going on in their life and what they are passionate about, other than the addition of surds or the second act of King Lear. In your conversations, figure out how you can encourage them to keep trusting Jesus in day to day life, or, if they’re not a Christian, to actually start trusting in Jesus.

When Year 12 can bring a lot of stress, it’s also a great time to encourage students to be trusting in God when life gets challenging. Learning to do that will be even more helpful later in life than getting a good result in their exams!

Anna Boxwell studied at Moore College and currently lives in Canberra where she is part of Lanyon Valley Anglican Church. She has directed five Youthsworks HSC Study Conferences, and will be leading another one in July.


Part 2 offers further guidance with the topics: Guard against idolatry; Set the tone at home; and Doing one thing at a time.

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Synergy contacts

Synergy Youth: www.synergy.org.au

Synergy Youth Director: Andrew Edwards - Andrew@synergy.org.au

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

Synergy Youth

Ministry to young people is an interesting process. On the surface it seems to require a grasp of the current: technology, music, arts, and a bucket load of energy. Yes you do need portions of the above because that’s often the environment young people inhabit, but it’s not the core of the matter.

At its core, ministry to young people is about time taken, quiet spaces, deep conversations and a sense of belonging. Ministry to young people is all about relationship, in fact it’s all about YOU.

No matter your age, your stage in life, where you live, what you do for a living, youth ministry begins with YOU. You can make a lasting difference in a young person’s life simply by caring. Do you believe that God wants to use you to minister to the next generation?

Youth, music is different, they dress funny and seem to be surgically attached to their mobile devices – but just like you and I, young people crave an emotional connection and sense of belonging. Young people want to know that someone cares about them for who they are, without an agenda.

No one likes it when they’re approached by someone with an agenda (just look at our attitude towards telemarketers), however when we know that someone is genuinely interested in our lives; who we are and how we’re travelling, it opens up a world of possibilities!

Think back to when you were a young person (or a young Christian), can you remember those older in the faith that built a relationship with you? Can you see them, hear them, those faithful men and women who made it a priority to get to know you, encourage you and help you grow in your faith? It’s time to follow their example and pass on what we have learnt to the next generation.

How can YOU practically minister to young people?

1. Say hello! Sounds simple, but it’s often the hardest thing to do! Never underestimate the power of a hello, an introduction and a smile.

2. Be consistent. Building relationships takes time. Make a point to seek them out, say hello and have a short conversation. As time passes you both become familiar and friendships form. You’ll be surprised at how those bonds form with a simple hello and short conversation.

3. Share life with them.

Your life experience will be a blessing to young people. Yes young people want to blaze their own trail but they are also looking for advice. They need to know that they’re supported, being cheered on and that help is there when they need to pick up the pieces. As your relationship grows so do the opportunities to offer advice, practical assistance and most importantly of all, to share your faith.

4. Lead by example. It doesn’t need to be formal, simply lead and witness by example, never miss an opportunity to encourage them, pray for them, nurture them and just be there for them.

5. Pray. Prayer is the most powerful resource we have – a direct line to our Almighty God who loves and cares for this young person. Pray for your young people, ask them how best to pray for them, let them know that you have been praying and encourage them to see God at work in their lives.

Our young people and children need YOU now more than ever. In a world that is constantly clamouring for their attention, feeding them every message under the sun, they need men and women of faith to help nurture and grow their faith, so they in turn can nurture and grow the generations that follow.

Who can you say hello to today?

For more information on how you can support Synergy, please contact Andrew Edwards at andrew@synergy.org.au or through the Diocesan Office.
ABM launches Emergency Appeal for Solomon Islands

From ABM
ABM has launched the Solomon Islands Flood Response and is seeking urgent support to raise $20,000 to provide emergency relief to the many displaced families and individuals. On April 3 flash flooding hit the Solomon Islands causing major destruction. After many days, the water has barely subsided and the trail of damage and destruction is widespread. There have been 19 confirmed deaths and an estimated 52,000 people affected across the Solomon Islands, around half of which are children. (According to OCHA - UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.)

George Kiriau, former General Secretary of the Anglican Church of Melanesia, gave an account of the situation. “I live in Honiara for most of my life and I have never seen such heavy rain. Today, the weather improved with the sun starting to show though there was some dark clouds still hovering. It was announced that a tropical cyclone developing to the south of the country. As a result of the heavy rain, there was heavy flooding along the rivers in the capital especially along Mataniko River.

He reported that several Anglican villages, Koav Village and the Lord Howe settlement were affected amongst others, and that the old Mataniko Bridge was washed away. Mr Kiriau said, “The village’s church, St John Baptist Church, had only its roof showing in the river.”

Evacuation centres have been set up by multi-agency teams across the islands for the thousands displaced. There is an urgent need for basic supplies such as water, clothing, blankets, mosquito nets and cooking utensils.

In situations such as these where large areas are flooded, there is concern that contaminated water supplies will lead to increased risks of infection and outbreaks of waterborne and vector-borne diseases. Forecasters are also warning that the storm in the South Pacific islands could develop into a tropical cyclone.

Donate online at www.abmission.org or phone 1300 302663. Please remember all these where large areas are flooded.

An evangelist and former actor, who is currently the rector of a central London church, has been elected as the Bishop of Riverina.

63 year old Alan Robert (Rob) Gillion is Rector of Holy Trinity, Sloane Square, and St Saviour, Upper Chelsea, in the Diocese of London.

He is a member of the Archbishops’ (of Canterbury and York) College of Evangelists and a contributor and advisor to the BBC for religious broadcasts, taking part in radio programmes such as Pause for Thought.

The new bishop-elect trained as an actor at the University of London and worked as an actor and theatre director for twelve years before training for ordained ministry. Prior to ordination he studied at the Theological College of Salisbury and Wells. Bishop-elect Gillion was ordained in 1983 in the Diocese of Norwich and has served also in the Dioceses of Southwark and Hong Kong before returning to London in 1999. He is married to Janine who he met when they were both drama students. They have two sons, one of whom lives in Melbourne.

Since the resignation of Bishop Doug Stevens in December 2012, the Diocese of Riverina has been administered by Archdeacon Ed Byford.

The new bishop was elected at a special synod on April 4, and will be consecrated and enthroned as Bishop of Riverina on Friday 15th August 2014 at Saint Alban’s Cathedral, Griffith.

London priest elected Bishop of Riverina

DEVASTATION: The force of the water is evident in this photo of a house at Koav Valley, which was dislodged by floodwaters.

Walk of the Cross 2014

(Continued from page 12)

The following weekend brought light showers as the Bishop, with about 30 supporters including a group of intercessors from Sydney and beyond, walked through Yass to a park where he again spoke of the completed work of Jesus on the cross, and again invited people to accept Jesus’ invitation to life with Him.

Then it was on to the scattered rural parish of Binda, where parish priest Rick Lewis had arranged visits to the schools in Binda and Bigga. Incredibly, Police and SES stopped the traffic in the main streets of each community while the Cross Walk team many dispalyed the road from the church to the school.

Many in the community accepted the invitation posted on the school notice boards, to join the activities.

April 12 found the Cross Walk team walking down the main street of Taralga to Goodhew Park, where local priest Sallyanne Hart had arranged a community event that led into a simple open-air service.

“I preached on Christ’s death and resurrection and invited people to turn to Christ,” Bishop Stuart said, “and a number indicated that they had done so.”

A few days later it was Crookwell’s turn, with a crowd of about 80 people following the cross to the Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Anglican and Uniting Churches (stopping to pray, and gathering more walkers at each point) before proceeding up the main street to the park for an open-air service. Again, Bishop Stuart gave an evangelistic sermon, invited people to give their lives to Jesus and handed out copies of the New Testament.

The walk reached its conclusion in Goulburn on Good Friday where Bishop Stuart met with a keen and happy band of walkers on the ‘Cathedral Common’ at 10.45am and made their way, taking turns in carrying the cross, to Belmont Park via Auburn Street.

Here a substantial group from across Goulburn and Canberra churches, supplemented by people passing by, gathered for a simple service. Robyn and Paul Baxter organised the singing and the Bishop preached a simple Easter message on the theme, It is finished.

“People who wanted prayer or who had committed their lives to Christ ‘came forward’ at the end,” Bishop Stuart said. “We also gave away 150th anniversary New Testaments. It was a wonderful way to draw our diocesan 150th celebrations to a close. God be praised!”

He has also expressed his deep appreciation to Canon Gill Varcoe and all who helped plan and implement the Walk of the Cross this year, and particularly to those who have supported the venture in prayer.
Walk of the Cross 2014

Bishop’s pilgrimage through the northwest of the diocese carries the cross and its message of life

“It has been a remarkable six weeks,” said Bishop Stuart. “I believe eternally significant Kingdom gains have been made as a result of the 2014, ‘Cross-Walk’.”

The Bishop recorded the comments on his blog on the Diocesan website after his Lenten trek from the northwestern extremity of the diocese, through at least a dozen communities to reach St Saviour’s Cathedral in Goulburn on Good Friday.

Bishop Stuart made the commitment last year to undertake a Walk of the Cross from a parish on the fringe of the diocese to the Cathedral, each year for three years as part of the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Diocese.

This year’s walk began in Temora on Wednesday, February 26, where the itinerary included a civic reception, a dinner, ecumenical worship, visits to the Rural Museum and the Aviation Museum and a walk with the cross through the main street including visits to shops and prayers for shop owners.

At every opportunity the team walking with the cross handed out copies of the commemorative 150th anniversary edition of the New Testament.

In Junee eight days later the schedule engaged with the two local Primary Schools and the Junee Correctional Centre before a barbecue at the church followed by a worship service and an evangelistic address by the Bishop.

He spent the weekend (March 9-10) in Cootamundra where a group of about 90 people met him at the outskirts of the town to join the walk through the main street to the park in what the Bishop described as “a very, very powerful witness to a packed town of Saturday shoppers”.

“Parishioners commented on how the activity served as a fillip for their ministry to the community,” Bishop Stuart said, “and I must say, I too have been abundantly blessed by ministering this way!”

Again, his address to the crowd after lunch included an invitation to people to come forward and give their lives to Christ, and again the team handed out Bibles.

A visit to a nursing home was followed by dinner at the parish hall, and another evangelistic sermon which encouraged a number of people to turn to Christ.

The walk continued in Gunning on Saturday March 22 where an enthusiastic group of supporters took turns in carrying the cross as they walked the length of the main street and around to St Edmund’s Church for a service followed by a meal.

Once again, a challenging sermon led into an invitation for people to come forward.

“The response was deeply moving,” commented Bishop Stuart.

In Harden-Murrumbah the following weekend the Bishop arrived aboard a fire engine, complete with siren and flashing lights, to a range of family-oriented activities in Newson Park: face painting, gum-boot throwing, tug-o-war, treasure hunts, parachute games, a sausage sizzle and a splendid ‘150th’ cake to cut and enjoy.

After being received by the Mayor, Chris Manchester, Bishop Stuart proceeded to the nursing home and a hostel, where he and his team of local supporters visited individual residents and shared in a ‘reminiscing service’.

Again, the day ended with a dinner followed by an evangelistic address, with quite a few more Bibles being handed out.

(continued on page 11)

ANNIVERSARY CAKE: After arriving in Harden on a fire engine, Bishop Stuart joined a gathering at Newson Park for a sausage sizzle followed by some energetic games, and the cutting of a 150th anniversary cake. Parish priest Beth Dinnick and Zac Sommer lent a hand to cut the cake.

INVITATION: Bright sunshine greeted the crowd that gathered in Goulburn’s Belmore Park when the Walk of the Cross arrived on Good Friday. As he did in each community along the way, Bishop Stuart delivered an evangelistic address and invited people who had committed their lives to Christ, to come forward for prayer.

TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES: A BRIEF STORY

After the call to come forward to receive Christ on Good Friday in Goulburn a ten year old boy, ‘Jack’ did just that. Jane Robinson immediately went with him back to his mother (to get her permission to contact him); the mother was just as excited as we were.

Bishop Stuart phoned the family the next day and the mother told him that ‘Jack’ had taken one New Testament for himself and two more for his friends. He was visiting these friends to tell them his story and give them each a New Testament.

“Did I mention he’s just ten!” commented the Bishop.

CARE: The ‘Walk’ through Temora included a visit and worship service at a local nursing home, as well as a tour of the Temora Aviation Museum - including the opportunity for Bishop Stuart to sit in the cockpit of a World War II Spitfire fighter (and the Editor of AN could only look at the photo in envy!)