



A NEWSPAPER FOR THE CANBERRA & GOULBURN DIOCESAN COMMUNITY

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Mission: the core of Christian faith



STIRRING: The singing in St Saviour's Cathedral was a highlight of the convention, featuring a selection of 'old favourites' rendered with a modern feel.

□ Cathedral Convention challenges and equips lay people to be proactive in mission in their own communities

More than 430 people took part in the Bishop's Cathedral Convention at St Saviour's Cathedral in Goulburn on Friday and Saturday, January 17-18.

Every Diocese in NSW was represented, and some came from interstate. There were also representatives from the Uniting and Presbyterian Churches. From within the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn, both rural and city parishes were well represented.

Keynote speaker Dr John Dickson was obviously a strong drawcard, and his three addresses brought home the privilege that all Christians – lay and ordained – have for mission in the world.

Praise and singing were

integral parts of the convention, enthusiastically led by a music team comprised of Jonny Robinson, Dan Op de Veigh, Joy Hague and Nicola Hay.

Archbishop of Sydney and Metropolitan of NSW Glenn Davies set the focus squarely on lay involvement in mission in his Friday evening sermon, based on 1 Peter 2:9-12, when he encouraged his listeners to think of their identity not in terms of their social situation, but in terms of their relationship with Christ – with "an eternal perspective on who you are".

"Once you get that perspective, then you'll know how to live in this world," he said.

He explained that in the letter to the Philippians, Paul had urged the Christians there

to "shine like lights in the world".

"The Greek word for 'shine' comes from the word we derive 'phosphorus' or 'phosphorescent' from – Paul is saying, 'Be phosphorescent Christians – let the glory of God shine from you'.

"Not everyone is an evangelist in the church, but a phosphorescent Christian has a light to shine ... so that when people see your light they will see a difference."

Dr John Dickson, introduced by Bishop Stuart as "an author, a pastor, a leader, a husband and a father", is also the Founding Director of the Sydney-based Centre for Public Christianity, a media and research organisation promoting



CORE BUSINESS: Keynote speaker Dr John Dickson showed that mission comes from the very core of the Christian faith.

the public understanding of the Christian faith.

In his opening remarks, he said that while he had "a commitment to reaching those who think there are reasons not to follow Christ", there were times when he had doubted this calling.

"Sometimes I have

wondered whether this whole idea of preaching the gospel, of seeking to bring people into the family of God, is the stuff of fundamentalism."

(continued on page 3)

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An ethical investment alternative



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THE BISHOP'S COLUMN

Clergy moves & appointments

- ◆ **The Reverend Elizabeth Dyke** has been appointed Rector of Queanbeyan and District Anglican Church and will be inducted into the Parish on 19 February 2014, 7.30pm. She also will be collated inaugural Archdeacon of the new Archdeaconry of Queanbeyan, Monaro and Alpine Region which comprises the Parishes of Queanbeyan, Cooma, Southern Monaro and Berridale/Snowy, as part of the Ordination Service at St Saviour's Cathedral Goulburn on 22 February 2014 at 11.00am.
- ◆ **The Reverend Denise Channon** retires as Part Time Priest-In-Charge of Southern Monaro in March 2014.
- ◆ **The Reverend Owen Davies** has concluded his ministry in Berridale Snowy Mountains and will return to Canberra for a new assignment.
- ◆ **The Reverend Wayne Brighton** having completed his doctoral studies returns Part Time to the Bishop's Office as Media, Communications and Research Officer.
- ◆ **The Reverend Dr Sarah Macneil** has resigned from her position as Part Time Senior Associate Priest at Holy Covenant Jamieson and will be consecrated as Bishop of Grafton on Saturday March 1.
- ◆ **The Reverend Dr Sarah Bachelard** will be appointed Senior Associate Priest, Part Time, at Holy Covenant Jamieson, effective from 9 February 2014.
- ◆ **The Reverend Anne Dudzinski** will be appointed Honorary Associate Priest, Part Time, at Holy Covenant Jamieson, effective from 9 February 2014.
- ◆ **The Reverend Sally-Anne Hart** has completed her ministry at West Goulburn and is now working Part Time with Archdeacon John Barnes in the Parish of Taralga.
- ◆ **The Reverend Gail Stevenson** has completed her term as Honorary Deacon at St Saviour's Cathedral Goulburn and is serving as Honorary Deacon at West Goulburn.
- ◆ **The Reverend Harley Lockley** has retired from ministry in the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn.
- ◆ **The Reverend Carol Wagner** has been appointed Area Dean for The Coast for a period of one year from 1 January 2014 to 1 January 2015.
- ◆ **Mrs Dorothy Dashwood** retired from her position in the Diocesan Office as Executive Officer to the Registrar/General Manager at the end of January 2014.

Joy of Convention tempered by terror in South Sudan

Beloved in Christ,
Warmest greetings!

The year is of course well under way and ministries are once again in full swing. As I begin this my sixth year as Diocesan I do want to thank you for your prayers, encouragement and partnership in the gospel.

As reported in this edition of *Anglican News*, our Bishops Cathedral Convention was a wonderfully heartening exercise attended by many hundreds more than I had expected. Praise God! Those who helped in the organisation excelled themselves (as evidenced by the feedback) and you can read reports of the event on the diocesan website and on pages 1 and 3 of this issue of *Anglican News*.

The joy of the Convention is tempered by the unspeakable acts of violence and terror that have taken place in South Sudan. Our Anglican Dinka Communities are being 're-traumatised' as events tragically unfold and as news of friends and relatives (missing or dead) come to light. ABM has launched an appeal http://www.abmission.org/_appeals/ (see article on page 8) and my open letter to our Prime Minister is reprinted below. Your prayers are needed and valued.

You are all invited to our next Deacons

Ordination, February 22nd at 11.00am in our Cathedral. The preacher is the Reverend Patrick Cole whose son Jonathan is among the Ordinands. In this service I will also be Collating the Venerable Elizabeth Dyke (the new rector of Queanbeyan and District). I have appointed Elizabeth as Archdeacon, Queanbeyan, Monaro and Alpine region. This is a new role (in a new Archdeaconry) and Elizabeth comes to us having already served as an Archdeacon in the Diocese of Adelaide.

And on the subject of big events...I invite all readers to share in a formal and final gathering that will mark 150 years since Bishop Mesac Thomas was installed as the first bishop of the Diocese of Goulburn, 8 April 1864. Our celebrations will take place on Sunday 6 April 2014, 2pm in our See City, Goulburn. The principal focus will be a service of thanksgiving, based on BCP Evensong, at 2.30pm in the Cathedral. This will be preceded by a procession of clergy and lay people from all parishes and parish organisations, carrying banners and the like, to the Cathedral.

We will gather at 2.00pm outside 'Mandelson's', on the corner of Clinton and Sloane Streets, to retrace Bishop Thomas' 1864 journey. The service will be followed by



Bishop
Stuart
Robinson

afternoon tea in St Saviour's Hall where there will be displays of historical material relating to the early years of the diocese. See the ad on page 9 of *Anglican News*. In due course I will write a pastoral letter outlining developments in (the sale of) residential aged care facilities, progress with the Jamison apartment project, my walking with the cross and our upcoming Alpha initiative.

For Jesus,

Anglican News

A newspaper for the
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Anglican Diocesan
community

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The Hon. Tony Abbott, MP
Prime Minister
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Dear Prime Minister,

My very warmest greetings!

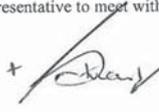
This past weekend I met with a group of South Sudanese (Dinka) people who comprise one of the burgeoning congregations in our Anglican Church in O'Connor, ACT. It was an instructive and sobering conversation; many (if not most) have lost family and friends in the most recent conflagration in Southern Sudan.

I recognize that such matters are highly complex and that diplomatic and other means are being brought to bear by other African nations and the International Community. That said, the immediate and pressing concerns of those to whom I spoke - and for whom I now advocate - are six fold (and I list them - in abridged form - for your careful consideration and action, where appropriate):

- First, their considered view is that political detainees within South Sudan should be released as soon as is immediately practicable.
- Second, immediate intervention and basic needs assistance is required by South Sudanese people who have fled to refugee camps in Uganda and Kenya. (Others, as you are aware, are trapped in areas of high conflict within South Sudan).
- Third, the Dinka with whom I met emphasise that their principal priority is peace, reconciliation and stability in South Sudan.
- Fourth, this current crisis needs to be addressed by the United Nations, the UN Security Council, IGAD (Intergovernmental Authority on Development) and other organizations to stop more deaths, suffering, displacement and human rights abuse.
- Fifth (and related to '2' above) humanitarian aid is urgently needed in South Sudan and affected areas.
- Sixth, the community respectfully request the Australian government to prioritise the processing of South Sudanese Humanitarian Visas. Refugees waiting for processing are in Kenya and Uganda refugee camps.

I would be very pleased to speak further on the above, Prime Minister, or arrange a mutually convenient time for you yourself - or your representative to meet with members of our Canberra Dinka family.

Warmly and appreciatively,



+Stuart Robinson, Bishop
21 January 2014

Mission: a natural response

□ Convention speaker encourages 'promoting Christ in an ordinary way'

By Lewis Hitchick

Keynote speaker at the Cathedral Convention, Dr John Dickson, presented three sessions during the day.

His first address, entitled *Living for the Praise of the One: the why and how of mission*, focused on "the beauty and logic of this mission of reaching the world with the news of Jesus' life, teaching, death, resurrection and return".

"What is the fundamental driver of this mission?" he asked rhetorically. "The root of mission is, I believe, the core doctrine of Christianity ... The key driver of mission is the root doctrine of the whole of Scripture: that there is just one God over heaven and earth.

Drawing on Scripture and historical writings, John Dickson showed that mission had been an integral part of God's purpose through Old Testament times as well as the Christian era.

"Psalm 96 is for me the most obvious, missiological, gospel-promoting text of the Old Testament," he declared, pointing out that it invited the Jewish people to "declare God's glory among the nations". He said that the Roman historian Josephus had recorded that the Jewish colony in Antioch was "constantly attracting, through their religious ceremonies, multitudes of Greeks".

John Dickson went on to say that public worship was a form of mission, and told of a Sydney television news producer who had come to faith as a result of attending a baptism service.

"Don't underestimate the

power of the ordinary church service, because the things we say in our confessions and creeds and psalms and Bible readings and preaching ... are a declaration of the praises of God that from ancient Israel to the modern church are an invitation to the outsider to come and worship."

John Dickson's second presentation was on *The Beautiful Life: the power of good deeds to advance the good news*.

He pointed out that in recent decades there had been a significant shift in the wider community's perception of Christians and the church generally.

Whereas the church used to be criticised for being overly moral and judgmental, in the current era of scepticism it is seen as "bigoted, immoral and a pernicious force".

While he said that there was a place for apologetics and debate, the best answer to this challenge was in the way Christians live their lives.

"Our deeds are a powerful promotion of the glory of God," he asserted. "I am not making this up - I got it from Jesus, who in Matthew Chapter 5 said, 'you are the light of the world ... let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven'."

He said a life of 'humility, compassion, love of neighbour, love of enemy' had the power to bring people to the knowledge of God and to transform the world.

The early Christian communities demonstrated these attributes, and despite regular persecution they had a powerful impact on the Roman Empire, where churches developed major welfare projects to care for the poor.

John Dickson said a similar pattern can be a powerful



PRAISE: (above) Musicians Nicola Hay, Joy Hague, Jonny Robinson and Dan Op de Veigh provided strong leadership in the praise and worship times at the start of each session.

PHOSPHORESCENT: (right) Archbishop Glenn Davies spoke of 'phosphorescent Christians' as he urged his listeners to 'shine like lights in the world'.



witness in families, where personal conduct profoundly influences how people hear and respond to Christ.

"Good deeds, good news are one in the work of the Gospel," summarised Dr Dickson.

His final session, *Mission's Best-Kept Secret: promoting Christ in the ordinary way*, showed that sharing the Gospel does not have to involve high-pressure evangelism.

He said that when he became a Christian, he would share the message with everyone - it was his natural response.

"In those days I had no idea you could be a coy Christian - no idea I was actually meant to be embarrassed about being a Christian. That's something I only learned after hanging out with Christians a little bit."

However, after his church had put him through a three-month course in evangelism, "this joyful, natural promoter of Jesus Christ had become a nervous, unnerving Bible-basher" - he had become convinced that he had to steer conversations in a particular

way to allow him to follow the procedures he had been taught.

He said he subsequently had to un-learn some of this approach, to revert to a more natural way of relating to people.

"Perhaps the best-kept secret of New Testament teaching on mission is that God sees the whole of life of the Christian as a promotion of the Gospel."

He offered three New Testament fundamentals of advancing the gospel.

The first was **prayer**: there are more references to exhorting congregations to advance the Gospel through prayer than any other Gospel-promoting activity.

"I believe the most basic mission activity in the Bible is prayer," he said. "We are not all experts at speaking to others about the Lord, but we can all be experts at speaking to the Lord."

His second fundamental, and the next most-urged activity in the New Testament to promote the Gospel, was **financial contribution** to the Gospel.

Mission: the core of Christian faith

(from page 1)

He acknowledged the challenges of mission in a pluralistic society where "everyone has their own truth", or in the face of the rising skepticism of the new atheists.

"Many of us are becoming shy about the faith ... we don't want our friends to ask us a question we don't have the answer to."

He then went on to show that mission comes from the very core of the Christian faith: the belief that there is one God, creator of heaven and earth and Lord over all things.

While South-eastern Australia was sweltering through a heat wave on the weekend of the convention, the cathedral remained relatively cool throughout the day. Organisers ensured that there were adequate

supplies of fresh water available throughout the day, and the cathedral hall and the shady trees in the grounds offered some shelter from the heat during the breaks between sessions.

Overall, the convention ran very smoothly and despite a full program, there seemed to be adequate time during the breaks to enjoy a 'cuppa' or the mid-day meal and to catch up with old friends or make new ones.



REHYDRATION STATION: Convention organisers ensured there was plenty of drinking water available to help people cope with the heat wave conditions.

Order of St Luke's Bishop Owen Dowling Memorial Healing Seminar and Service

□ Roman Catholic Bishop speaks of a 'church always in need of reform'

by John Gibson

The third annual memorial healing seminar and service was held for the first time at a Roman Catholic church, the venue being St Brigid's Church, Dickson, ACT last November; emphasising the ecumenical nature of The Order of St Luke.

The keynote address was given by Bishop Pat Power who was the fifth Auxiliary Bishop of Canberra and Goulburn and well known across the churches and community for his passion and advocacy for marginalised people in society.

Bishop Pat was a personal friend and colleague of Bishop Owen Dowling, and it was a great pleasure to have him with us.

Our Christian Churches in Need of Healing was the

topic chosen by Bishop Pat and as always he tells it as it is, and never shirks the difficult questions. Speaking from his own faith community which he knows intimately he touched on areas relevant to all our denominations.

One of the little phrases that has had a powerful impact particularly since the Second Vatican Council is the Latin phrase, *Ecclesia semper reformanda* - the church always in need of reform.

We are all in need of reform. Bishop Pat set the scene, by illustrating the insights that came from that Council centred around the call of the whole people of God, with powerful pointers to the primary place of scripture, the dignity of the human person, the primacy of conscience and relationships with the ecumenical movement, interfaith relations, non-believers and with the world.

It is not a question of the

church having all the answers, but the mutuality that is very much part of what we experience in all our different relationships.

Clearly there is a great deal of healing in all that and it is really backing away from any sense of superiority or arrogance that might have been part of an earlier approach. We can see in the latest events that the church has faced that there is no room for any of that in the life of the church.

Bishop Pat then moved on to talk about a number of areas in which he believed the church and the churches are in need of healing. These were:

- ♦ Sexual and other forms of abuse within the life of the church.
- ♦ The credibility of the church.
- ♦ To be relevant.
- ♦ The whole question of division among the churches.
- ♦ Divisions within the churches themselves.

- ♦ Our failure in dialogue and keeping the doors open.
- ♦ Loss of direction at times.

"People often feel that no one is listening to their concerns. Groups calling for reform are regularly dismissed as trouble-makers, with little love for the Church when in fact their hearts are breaking for the Church which they see as drifting further away from the message of Jesus."

Bishop Pat then outlined eight hopes which apply to all the churches. They are:

- ♦ A more human church.
- ♦ a humbler church.
- ♦ A less clerical church.
- ♦ A more inclusive church and therefore more truly catholic.
- ♦ A more open church.
- ♦ A church which finds unity in diversity.
- ♦ A church which discovers its whole tradition (not just the tradition of the last 100 or last 400 years).
- ♦ A church which truly reflects

the person and values of Jesus.

It was a wonderful day with a good number of folk present from the various denominations and many were blessed by the keynote address and the healing service.

If you would like a full copy of the address by Bishop Pat please contact me (details below).

OSL Canberra Chapter resumes its monthly meetings in February. We meet every second Tuesday of the month from 2pm to 3.15 pm at St Luke's Anglican Church, Newdegate Street, Deakin ACT. All are welcome.

Fr John Gibson is Chaplain of OSL Canberra Chapter. Contact details: johngibson@grapevine.com.au or phone 0451 681 118 or PO Box 3417 Manuka ACT 2603.

Exploring Missional Wisdom at Cathedral

Bishop Stuart Robinson is sponsoring a one-day seminar entitled 'Exploring Missional Wisdom' at St Saviour's Cathedral on Monday February 10.

The seminar will feature Rev'd Dr Elanie Heath and Rev'd Dr Larry Duggins, co-founders of the Missional Wisdom foundation, who will draw on their inspiring stories of forming a network of monastic communities, missional house churches, and the Academy of Missional Wisdom in Dallas, Texas.

They will describe the ways these kinds of communities can reorient the established church to its God-given missional vocation, and outline the biblical and theological foundations of this form of ministry.

The speakers will also offer an opportunity to become a part of the first cohort of the Australian Academy for Missional Wisdom which will prepare women and men, both laity and clergy, to start and lead missional and new monastic communities in diverse settings.

Rev'd Dr Elaine A Heath and Rev'd Dr Larry Duggins are the authors of *Missional. Monastic. Mainline*. (A Guide to Starting Missional Micro Communities in Historical Mainline Traditions). Dr Duggins is also the author of *Simple Harmony*, and Dr Heath is the author of many books and articles including: *The Mystic Way of Evangelism*, *Longing for Spring: Anew Vision for Wesleyan Community*, *We Were the Least of These: Reading the Bible with Survivors of Sexual Abuse*, and more.

A book table featuring these and other titles will be available.

Four deacons to be ordained

Four candidates will be ordained as Deacons at the Ordination Service on Saturday 22 February 2014, 11.00am, St Saviour's Cathedral, Goulburn:

They are Mr Jonathan Cole, Ms Tracey Jacob, Mr Peter Malone and Mr Dave McLennan.

An unusual feature of the service is that the preacher, The Rev'd Patrick Cole, rector of Hawker parish, whose son Jonathan is one of the candidates.

Letters to the Editor

Convention feedback

Dear Bishop Stuart,

Just a brief note to thank you for promoting such a great cathedral convention last Saturday. Judy and I really appreciated John Dickson's talks, your involvement and the hospitality of your people especially the final 'take-home' food packs for those who travelled some distance. It was greatly appreciated.

Also I'd like to mention how efficient, pleasant and helpful your staff members were when I phoned up to register last week. The excellent staff tone is a reflection off your leadership.

Thanks again.
Yours sincerely
John Emmett
Sylvania, NSW.

Dear Bishop Stuart,
The Bishop's Convention

was an inspiring and Spirit-filled time. Thank you for organising it and inviting us to join you. I think about 24 people from Bathurst Diocese attended and were greatly encouraged by it – even a teenager was!

I continue to pray that the Lord will pour blessing upon the whole church in NSW.

Letters ...

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

Letters of 250 words or less will be given preference.

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

Letters may be sent to:

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



With my thanks and prayers for you and Jane,
(Bishop) Ian Palmer,
Bathurst

Thank you for making it happen.
Peace,
Mark Beresford
Jamison.

Dear Bishop Stuart,
Just a short note to let you know how much I (and many others who I spoke to over the weekend) enjoyed the Bishop's conference. It was immensely encouraging to see you side-by-side with our metropolitan, to hear John speak so clearly on mission, and to worship with good music and good friends.

Dear Bishop Stuart,
Just wanted to congratulate you on a great convention and to thank you for organising such an event. John Dickson's talks were really inspiring and challenging.
God Bless,
Adam Wright.

New priests 'sent to proclaim Christ'

Five ordained to priesthood in Goulburn Cathedral

Bishop Trevor Edwards drew on the four rhetorical questions posed by the Apostle Paul in Romans 10:14-15 to challenge the five priests ordained in St Saviour's Cathedral, Goulburn, last Saturday (November 30).

St Paul asked, 'How then can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent?'

Bishop Trevor said that in our culture, the level of knowledge about Jesus was "abysmally small, often based on distant childhood recollections".

He told the five

ordination candidates – Sue Hanna, Sandie Kaine, Adam Mannion, Lou Oakes and Graham Schultz – they were "being sent to proclaim Christ".

"In the words of our Ordinal, 'As the Lord's messenger, proclaim the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, seek the lost, announce God's justice, warn and correct those in error' – you are sent to proclaim!"

Before ordaining the five new priests, Bishop Stuart Robinson collated David Ruthven as Archdeacon for the Coastal region of the diocese.

He also licenced Archdeacons John Barnes, Matthew Brain and Caroline Campbell for new areas of ministry: John Barnes as Archdeacon for Goulburn and the Southern Tablelands; Matt Brain as Archdeacon for Chaplaincy, Youth, Student and Children's Ministry;



CONGRATULATIONS: New priests Graham Schultz, Lou Oakes, Adam Mannion, Sandie Kaine and Susan Hanna hold the symbols of priestly ministry as they face the congregation to receive a congratulatory round of applause.

and Caroline Campbell as Archdeacon to and head of the Household of Deacons.

During the same service the Reverend Margaret Campbell was installed as Canon of St Saviour's Cathedral.

New Priests

All five new priests will continue their ministry in their current appointments.

The Reverend Susan Hanna has been licenced as Assistant Priest, Wagga Wagga Parish, where she coordinates the fresh expression project, *Space@St Lukes*, and serves as chaplain to the two pre-schools in the parish.

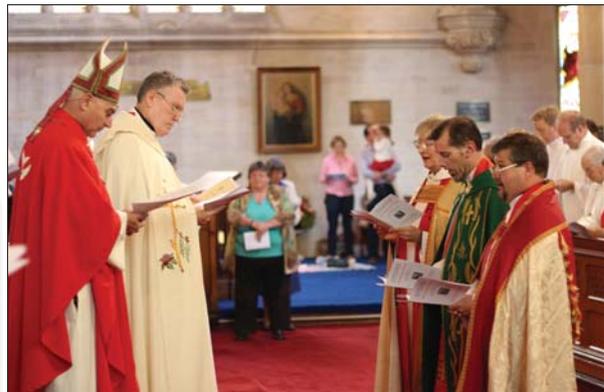
The Reverend Sandie Kaine is continuing as Assistant Chaplain at The Canberra Hospital.

The Reverend Adam Mannion will be Assistant Priest, Hawker Parish, where he has served as a deacon since February and as a lay minister before then.

The Reverend Lou Oakes has been licenced as

Assistant Priest, Sapphire Coast, where she has been developing a fresh expression of church at St Luke's, Wolumla.

The Reverend Graham Schultz will be Assistant Priest at St Paul's, Turvey Park, where he has served as a deacon since February this year.



LICENCED: Bishop Stuart, assisted by Dean Phillip Saunders, licences Archdeacons Caroline Campbell, Matt Brain and John Barnes for their new regional and oversight ministries.

Canon Theologian releases new book on theology of René Girard

Rt Rev Professor Stephen Pickard launched the latest book by the Diocesan Canon Theologian, Dr Scott Cowdell, on Wednesday 18 December at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture (ACCC).

The evening was hosted by Rev'd Professor James Haire AC, Director of the Public and Contextual Theology Research Centre of Charles Sturt University, where Canon Scott has been based since mid-2007 as an associate research professor.

Bishop Stephen, who is the new Executive Director of the ACCC, had high praise for Canon Scott's seventh book, *René Girard and Secular*

Modernity: Christ, Culture and Crisis (University of Notre Dame Press).

It is the first in a trilogy planned on Girard's groundbreaking account of desire, violence, religion and culture. The current book has been described by international reviewers as "a stunning analysis" of Girard's work, and Canon Scott has been called "one of the most interesting theological voices of his generation".

Bishop Stephen said that "Scott had offered penetrating insights into the nature of modern secularism, violence and rivalry in institutions and between people. In doing so he

had also shown a path forward for Christian discipleship and the practice of the gospel of hope. His work broke new ground and the Diocese could be justly proud having such a fine scholar priest in their midst".

All Saints' Parish, Ainslie, has received a grant from the Thiel Foundation in San Francisco to support Canon Scott as he completes the second book, entitled *Non-Violent Theology: René Girard and the Drama of Salvation*. Canon Scott, who is an associate priest, in the parish, will be "Theologian in Residence" at Ainslie for the 18 months that it will take to complete the book.



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NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

VMTC healing schools planned for 2014

Healing and wholeness scheduled at Woodbury in May and November

by Merri Bacon

Woodbury Homestead near Sutton was the venue for the third Victorious Ministries through Christ healing school to be held at the homestead since it was dedicated for Healing and Wholeness by Bishop Stuart in 2012.

The School held in mid October last year was once again at capacity with 25 participants, some staying in the renovated rooms, others bringing their caravans or being hosted by parishioners in Sutton Village and in Canberra.

The team for the school was led by ACT Director Peter Cartright and Ray Kesby Director from Ridgecrest in Central Western NSW, with local and visiting team members coming from Canberra, Harden, Dubbo and Kiama.

Others attended the school from Canberra, Cootamundra, Shellharbour and Bega, from

a range of denominations across both mainstream and charismatic churches.

The four day school provided time for teaching, worship, an individual prayer ministry appointment and fellowship in the beautiful setting of Woodbury Homestead. The ministry times were covered in prayer and additional visitors received prayer ministry throughout the school.

Victorious Ministries Through Christ is one of a number of healing ministries available in the Diocese alongside ministries such as Cleansing Streams, the Order of St Luke, Spirit Conferences and The Bishop's Healing service.

It is an interdenominational ministry which was founded in the United States in the 1970's by the wife of an Episcopalian Minister as a ministry of healing to members of the clergy. Since then it has grown into a world wide ministry.

Australia has been reaching out to our nearby neighbours conducting a number of schools each year sowing the ministry into Papua New

Guinea, Fiji, The Solomon Islands and recently Indonesia. Your prayers for this ministry would be greatly appreciated that the Holy Spirit may continue to provide freedom and joy to those needing freedom.

The Canberra team has been excited to see the working of the Holy Spirit over the last three schools and to see the rejuvenation of the schools since its move to Woodbury in October 2012 after a number of years break.

The growth in fellowship and community was particularly felt in October and gives the team much anticipation for schools in 2014 and for the growth of this ministry.

Two schools are planned for the Canberra region in 2014, 14-18 May and 5-9 November.

For those who attended the Toronto Airport (ILSOM) Conference in Canberra last year or some of the other healing options offered in the Diocese, you may like to consider exploring VMTC and offering yourself for this interdenominational



HEALING SCHOOL: Participants at the 2013 October VMTC School held at Woodbury Homestead in Sutton. The school attracted 25 participants from within and beyond the diocese, representing a range of different Christian denominations.

ministry.

If you are interested in learning more about this healing ministry or attending a school, please give Peter and Chris Cartright a call on 6230 3202 or visit www.vmtc.org.au with details of the schools

planned for 2014. Appointments can be made for individual prayer ministry outside of a school if this is preferred. You can also hear Peter Cartright and Jane Campbell on One Way FM on Sunday mornings around 7am.

Celebrations in Goulburn to conclude Anglican 150

Diocesan Gathering to commemorate 150th anniversary of Bishop Mesac Thomas' arrival on April 6

By Jill Hodgson

Sunday afternoon 6 April 2014 will be the time to celebrate 150 years since the installation of Right Reverend Dr Mesac Thomas as the first bishop of our diocese.

The December meeting of the Cathedral Chapter decided that a committee should be formed to organise details for a Diocesan event to mark both the installation of Bishop Thomas and the end of the 150th anniversary year.

The committee comprises three representatives from the diocesan Historical Society, the Bishop's representative Canon Gill Varcoe, Cathedral representative Canon Mark Cooper, and Friends of the Cathedral president Diana Body, with power to co-opt.

The committee held their first meeting on 7 January and immediately moved in to

top gear with very productive planning, with the program and publicity major items of discussion.

The historical displays in St Saviour's hall are being coordinated by Geoff Burkhardt, the Anglican Historical Society's 'Preservation of Records' officer. Geoff and his helpers will be setting up the displays before 2pm on the day for that afternoon only. The display will focus on the beginnings of the diocese and the churches in existence at the time of Bishop Thomas's installation on 8 April 1864.

Canon Mark Cooper will be preparing the liturgy for the service of Evensong BCP, using readings and hymns from the 1864 service as appropriate. He will also be consulting bell ringers, singers and musicians to 'build' a memorable service

of celebration and thanksgiving.

The service will be preceded by a procession, led by our Diocesan, Bishop Stuart, from Mandelson's of Goulburn to the Cathedral. In 1864 Bishop Mesac Thomas was meant to travel in procession to St Saviour's church, but heavy rain caused those plans to be abandoned. 150 years later we hope to fulfil the plans for a procession!

The committee hopes that all churches in the diocese and all organisations that have a banner will be represented in the procession which will leave Mandelson's at 2.00pm. If walking four blocks is challenging for some, please feel free to join the procession at the Cathedral.

The service of Evensong should commence about 2.30pm (or later if the procession is delayed).

Afternoon tea in the Mary Thomas room, and outside weather permitting, will follow. As Sunday 6 April 2014 is

Mothering Sunday there will also be Simnel cake which is very appropriate as the Cathedral is the 'mother church' of the diocese. Those attending are asked to bring something to

share for afternoon tea, while tea and coffee will be provided.

Put the date on your calendars now and make sure your banners are ready to travel!

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Earnestly seek the greater gifts

Living Waters Conference attracts record numbers

By Lewis Hitchcock

Batemans Bay Anglican Church's annual one-day Living Waters Conference in late November attracted about 140 people to hear guest speaker Ken Fish deliver a series of addresses on the nature and work of the Holy Spirit.

Parish priest Colin Walters said this was an increase of almost 100% on last year's attendance.

With the Church of the Ascension almost filled to capacity, the praise and worship led by the church's music group could be heard on the waterfront a couple of hundred metres away.

Ken Fish had also been the principal speaker at the successful Spirit '13 Conference hosted by the Batemans Bay church when he had spoken prophetically of the revival he believes is already beginning in many parts of Australia.

Originally from the Los Angeles area, he has a degree in History and Philosophy of Religion from Princeton University. Ken Fish worked for John Wimber at Vineyard Ministries International for several years in the early days of the Vineyard Movement.

He now operates Kingdom Fire Ministries, spending much of his time travelling as a conference speaker.

At the Living Waters Conference he began on the Friday evening (November 22) by addressing the question,

'Who is the Holy Spirit?'

He followed this on Saturday morning with talks entitled 'What happens when the Spirit comes?' and 'What are the gifts of the Spirit?'

Ken Fish re-stated his confidence in the prophetic message he had shared at the Spirit '13 Conference, that 2014 would see a surge of revival in this country, and he urged church leaders and members to prepare for this revival.

He traced the work of the Holy Spirit in the growth of the early church, listing various signs of the Spirit's presence including a sense of awe at the power and presence of God, and a boldness in preaching and speaking about Jesus.

"For the most part, the church of today is no longer bold," he said, adding that God was not going to win the lost without boldness in the church.

Gift of prophecy

In speaking about the gifts of the Spirit, Ken Fish drew on chapters 12-14 of the first letter to the Corinthians to list some of the gifts. In particular, he addressed the gift of prophecy, which "speaks to men for edification, exhortation and consolation" (v.3), which he described as the three major functions of the gift of prophecy.

"Paul says we should earnestly desire all the spiritual gifts, and especially chiefly that we should prophesy so that the church may be edified".

He stressed that prophesy

should be honoured: "When the gift of prophesy is in play, and is highly prized and sought after and honoured, there is an exponential increase in the power of God," he asserted.

Quoting 1 Thessalonians 5:19-12, he warned against quenching the Spirit by "despising" prophetic utterances.

"How do we most commonly 'despise' prophetic utterance? By not listening to it!" he said. "If you start treating the word of God with contempt – if you start despising it – then God will just shut up. God doesn't like to talk when people are not listening any more than you do."

He said he had learned that there was great catalytic power in the gift of prophecy that "somehow triggers and ignites things all through the church of God".

He dismissed any suggestion that there was a hierarchy of gifts.

He pointed out that while Paul had referred to 'first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles ...' in 1 Corinthians 12:28, Ken Fish asserted that this did not imply that some gifts had priority over others, "because all that's going to do is breed ambition and strife".

"What God is saying is, you're all members of the body – you're all on an equal footing here."

In the final session of the day, Ken Fish conducted a brief workshop in which he encouraged everyone present to



GIFTS: Guest speaker Ken Fish echoed St Paul in urging people to 'earnestly seek the gifts of the Spirit'.

seek the gift of prophesy.

While the church was almost full for the conference, the event flowed smoothly with plenty of food available at lunchtime and tea breaks, and time for conversation and fellowship between sessions.

Spirit '14

Preparations are already under way for the Spirit 14 Conference, scheduled for April 25-27 at St Peter's Anglican College, Broulee. Guest speaker will be Kate Jutsum, Regional Director of Bethel Sozo Ministries for Australia and New Zealand.

Originally from the UK, she was involved in Sozo there, also spending time at Bethel Church in Redding, California, with the Sozo team.

She now heads up a growing team of Sozo leaders, trains Sozo and Shabar, and supports teams in churches across Australia and New Zealand, as well as teaching and preaching outside of the Sozo world.

Kate is a medical doctor, having practised in emergency medicine until she entered full-time ministry in 2011.



PRAISE: The music team from Batemans Bay's Church of the Ascension gave strong leadership to the praise sessions during the Living waters Conference.



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NEWS

South Sudan conflict: emergency appeal

□ **ABM launches appeal for funds to support those displaced by conflict**

From ABM

As the situation worsens in South Sudan, with tens of thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs) needing emergency relief aid, ABM has launched the South Sudan Conflict Emergency Appeal in support of its partner, the Episcopal Church of South Sudan and Sudan (ECSSS).

Violence has been escalating and has resulted in many people fleeing from their homes, impacting significantly on other states and surrounding countries. People are dying from hunger and disease.

There have been over 1,000 deaths with an estimated 194,000 IDPs, many seeking refuge in UN camps and also in church compounds.

The Most Rev'd Dr Daniel Deng Bul Yak, Archbishop of the ECSSS wrote to the Archbishop of Canterbury appealing for assistance in the church's response to internally displaced and injured persons and to advocate for successful peace talks in Addis Ababa.

Christopher Brooks, ABM's Fundraising Manager said ABM responded to the call by establishing an Emergency Appeal.

"ABM has been supporting the Relief and Development arm of the Episcopal Church - Sudan Development Relief and



CRISIS: People from Bor fleeing to Aweiral to escape the fighting. The crisis in South Sudan has caused over a thousand deaths and displaced almost 200,000 people within the country. (photo: SUDRA).

Advocacy (SUDRA) - to respond to several resource and conflict caused emergencies over the past two years, since the country voted to be independent of Sudan in January 2011," he said.

"It is essential that we continue this partnership and support in this time of great need. There have been plenty of causes to give to recently with the disaster in the Philippines and Christmas but the people of South Sudan need our support in this time of crisis so we aim to raise \$50,000 to assist the church to meet urgent needs of displaced and injured people, particularly in Bor Town and nearby areas."

The SUDRA Coordinator, the Archbishop and other church staff are leading the response and have travelled to Bor and Aweiral areas,

where much of the fighting continues to take place, to assess the situation.

The church has an infrastructure capable of responding to these emergencies and an excellent network to ensure that emergency food and medical supplies get to where they are most needed - a network that complements large agencies and the UN response.

The crisis has stemmed from fighting in the capital, Juba that broke out in late 2013 between soldiers loyal to both sides after President Salva Kiir accused the ex-vice President, Riek Machar of attempting a coup, which he denies. The politicians are from different communities which has caused the violence to take on ethnic undertones.

Unfortunately, peace talks in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia have been delayed once again due to further disagreements. The South Sudanese rebels and government negotiators are expected to meet to try to negotiate a ceasefire.

Please donate to this Emergency Appeal and help the people of South Sudan. Give online at www.abmission.org/southsudan or phone 1300 302 663.

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Historybytes by Robert Willson

A piece of ephemera

The word "ephemera" refers to something that is transitory or short-lived. It comes from the Greek meaning 'lasting only a day'. Often it is a scrap of paper, a notice or a shopping list or a handbill, that is read today and then discarded.

But sometimes a piece of ephemera may be retained, perhaps tucked in the pages of a book and kept. With the passing of many years it becomes very significant. I have done a great deal of book collecting and twice I have found a baptismal certificate used as a bookmark and forgotten. Once in a Victorian country town we were camping. I went for a walk while my wife prepared lunch. In a rather sad looking junk shop I purchased an old book. Later I found inside it a baptismal certificate for someone named Thompson who had been baptised in the local church long ago.

A Voice from the Past

Wondering if the family still lived in that town I mailed it to the local Rector. Months later I received a letter from another town stating that he had found the Thompson family. The chap had been lost in air operations over Europe in WWII but his family were deeply moved to get his baptism card back after all those years. It was like a voice from the past.

Another piece of ephemera is before me as I write. It is a card headed Parish of Orange, Confirmation 1869.

It was addressed to Jane Irvine, aged 22 years. Jane was my Great Grandmother. It stated that she had been examined and approved by the Rector Henry A Langley. She was to be at the Church (Holy Trinity, Orange) on 26th inst (Sept 1869) at 2.30 precisely. This was her entry card for her Confirmation.

Bishop Barker

A little research put this piece of ephemera into context. The local newspaper recorded that the Bishop, Bishop Barker and his wife Jane, arrived in Orange the day before by coach. The railway had not yet reached Orange, but they were met some distance out and escorted by a number of mounted riders into town and taken to the 'parsonage'. One can imagine the scene.

Bishop Barker was more than six feet five inches tall and was known (behind his back) as the "High Churchman", a comment on his height as well as his very low church views. This was probably his last visit to Orange from Sydney and the following year, 1870, the Diocese of Bathurst was separated from Sydney.

Jane Irvine, my ancestor, was really North of Ireland Presbyterian but accepted the Ministry of the Church of England around her home in Toogong, as the only one available at that time. She married John Taylor at Molong in 1874 and gave to her family a very strong Protestant tradition of Scripture and prayer as a central part of her devotional life.

When she died my Aunt Margaret Taylor saved this little card and kept it all her life. Before she died she passed it on to me and I cherish this tiny piece of ephemera.

The priest who had prepared Jane for Confirmation was Henry A Langley who was later to be consecrated first Bishop of Bendigo, Victoria.

Do you have any similar reminders of Church life and witness long ago? Why not research them and send a story to *Anglican News*.

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NEWS FROM THE WIDER CHURCH

Ecumenism a priority for new Roman Catholic Archbishop

□ Seeking to establish close relations with Anglican Church

By Graham Downie

Recently appointed Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn, Christopher Prowse, traces his decision to train for the priesthood to his travel to and from school which included walking through a cemetery.

He walked through that cemetery twice a day for 10 years.

"After 10 years you get to know the people who live there."

He recognised many of the people in that cemetery were younger than he was then.

"So it made me realise life is very short and death a certainty."

Aviation and architecture were possible career paths and he retains an interest in both.

"But they didn't give me fire in the belly. Thanks be to God I recognised at an early age if I was going to do anything I did not want to be bored."

Somewhat shy as a child, and though he attended Mass every Sunday, he did not know a priest personally. But the theology that a priest brings God to people really appealed to him.

"When I spoke to my friends in the cemetery about it I thought they said, you can do anything you like but just

remember one day you are going to be down here with us."

The idea of preparing people for eternal life certainly gave him fire in the belly and planted the seed for his vocation.

Archbishop Prowse is the chair of the Australian Bishops Commission for Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue and co-chairs the Australian Anglican and Roman Catholic Dialogue. The latter has about six Catholics and six Anglicans who meet about twice yearly and is working on a document on the concept of holiness in Australian life.

He says that after the second Vatican Council there was a hope, even perception, that organic union between Anglicans and Catholics was a possibility in the foreseeable future.

"Clearly that is not going to happen – I think particularly with the ordination in the Anglican Church of women as priests and bishops – this has been really very difficult for us."

Given the Catholic church's understanding of scripture and its 2000 year tradition, he does not see female priests in the Catholic Church as a possibility.

"Others disagree clearly and some very vigorously but we have to be true to our Biblical and theological tradition and I can't see how that would happen."

Nevertheless, much more can be done, particularly in the



STRONGLY ECUMENICAL: Archbishop Prowse brings a strong ecumenical commitment to his new role as Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn. He currently chairs the Australian Bishops' Commission for Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue, and is a co-chair of the Australian Anglican and Roman Catholic Dialogue.

Catholic Church, on introducing the gift of women to ministry. He notes that on the local level, in many cases women are prominent. The issue on the local level is how to get men more involved in the Church.

At the time of speaking he had not met the Anglican Bishop of Canberra and Goulburn, Stuart Robinson, and was looking forward to doing so. Archbishop Prowse's first priority was to establish a good relationship with the Anglican Church so the doing of things could flow from that. It was the

will of Jesus that all should be one, so it was not acceptable to peripherise ecumenism.

"It must be something very central. But how that is played out and how that is expressed depends on the local level."

Archbishop Prowse was the Bishop of Sale for about four years when shocked to be informed he had been selected as the Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn. Though very happy as Bishop of Sale, he says, "I am a servant and I see the will of God in all this."

He begins most days with

an hour's meditation and prayer, and says for many there is a certain superficiality and reluctance to go deep within because of the busyness and noisiness of today's society.

"That is poison for a religious vocation because God whispers."

He says God's mother tongue is silence and to learn the language of silence people have to be quiet and to be comfortable with silence.

"I do see myself as a bit of a contemplative in a very active world today."



NSW Ecumenical Council Inc

The NSW Ecumenical Council is seeking to employ a **General Secretary**.

The Council consists of 15 member Churches in NSW. Its mission is to enable the member churches to grow in the understanding and fulfilment of their common calling to unity and mission.

The position is f/t or p/t. If the General Secretary position is p/t, a p/t office administrator will also be appointed. The office is in the CBD of Sydney. Commencement date is by negotiation.

Download the position description and selection criteria at www.nswec.org.au. For information contact Wies Schuiringa, 0439024397. Applications close on 14 March, interviews on 28 March. Applications to kmoroney@ncca.org.au tagline: application General Secretary.

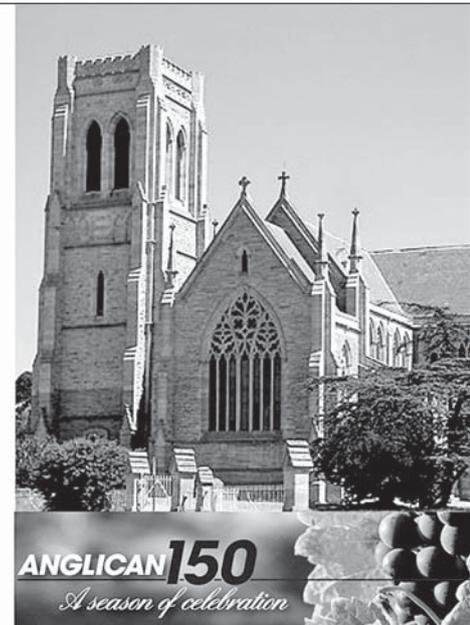
Celebration Service of 150th Anniversary

Commemorating the arrival of Mesac Thomas the diocese's first bishop

Sunday 6 April 2014
1.45pm

Procession to Cathedral for Evensong leaves Mandelson's of Goulburn, 160 Sloane St, at 2pm

Concludes with a bring and share afternoon tea



RESEARCH

How do current scientific theories on the universe mesh with Christian faith?

Anglicans participate strongly in science survey

Part 1 of a two-part series by Dr Peter Stork and Sue Wilson

Canberra ACU researchers, Dr Peter Stork (Theology) and Sue Wilson (Science Education), conducted an online survey during 2012 in which all Christian denominations were invited to participate.

What was particularly interesting for us in this project was the strong Anglican response to the survey.

While most denominations except Catholics participated at higher levels than their 'weight' based on 2011 Census data of Canberra's Christian population, Anglicans made up 42% of the total sample.

We were also interested that a large majority of all respondents (~70%) felt that the churches needed to come to terms with scientific findings for the sake of their mission in the 21st century. Another sizable group (40%) had thought about faith and science issues 'very often' and 'often' and 32% 'sometimes' before taking the survey.

Scientific discoveries since the early decades of the twentieth century have not only changed the way we live, but have greatly transformed our view of the universe. Until the 1920s it was thought to consist entirely of the Milky Way galaxy functioning much like clockwork with wheels within wheels.

Today's standard model in cosmology is hugely more extensive, complex and dynamic. It involves a hot Big Bang 13.7 billion years ago that gave birth to a vast and still expanding universe comprising 100 billion galaxies each with one hundred billion stars. Its present stellar birth rate is 275 million stars per day.

The solar system and planet earth emerged 4.6 billion years ago. As the sun contains 99.9% of the matter in the entire solar system, the planets and our earth were formed from a tiny remnant of 0.1%. Together with equally astonishing discoveries in other disciplines like quantum physics, biology, genetics,

palaeontology, the sciences describe God's creation in new and stunning ways. Because this 'New Universe Story' or NUS for short breaks with all prior conceptions and time frames, it potentially poses serious problems for many Christians.

As educators we wanted to understand in particular their openness and resistance to the new paradigm. To that end we designed and launched in 2012 a cross-denominational on-line survey of all Christian congregations in Canberra. After data gathering and analysis, we published the results last July (see www.intronovo.org).

Most Anglicans agreed that the authority of the Bible is not impeded by inaccuracies in matters of science

Here, on the invitation of Bishop Stuart, we want to share highlights characteristic of the Anglican response, and in the next issue of *Anglican News* we will offer some reflections on possible implications.¹

Sub-groups

Unsurprisingly, the defining issue in this study was the presence of two distinct sub-populations in the sample: those who are open to the findings of modern science (64%) and those who are resistant to them (26%).² We dubbed them the 'O' Group and the 'R' Group respectively. In the segmented sample Anglicans constituted 50% of the 'O' Group and 26% of the 'R' Group.

When asked to give reasons for their openness or resistance, nearly half of the 'O' Group said they were open because science presented 'verifiable evidence' (48%) and that it glorifies God (43%), while the 'R' Group said they were resistant because scientific findings disagreed with the Bible (55%) and that scientific theories could not be trusted (47%).

Judging by their resistance profile, Baptists, Pentecostals, and Presbyterians and

Reformed have greater difficulties in accepting the NUS than Anglicans or Uniting Church members. Also younger Christians, 18-39 year olds, are one and a half times more numerous among the 'R' Group, while 60-80+ year olds are twice as numerous in the 'O' Group as in the 'R' Group.

Most Anglicans agreed that the authority of the Bible is not impeded by inaccuracies in matters of science (81%). Other interesting Anglican responses emerged (in percent of total sample):

- ♦ 79% regarded the combat model of the faith and science debate as obsolete
- ♦ 77% regarded science as God's gift to humanity
- ♦ 76% agreed or strongly agreed that for the sake of mission in the 21st century, the Anglican church must come to terms with the NUS
- ♦ 77% expect their denomination to equip itself for the task, 68% expect teaching/learning opportunities from their church
- ♦ 78% regard this task as important and 56% as urgent
- ♦ 54% had a strong personal or professional interest in science
- ♦ 20% resisted evolution
- ♦ 15% felt that the NUS conflicts with their faith; cosmic time scales and evolution being the main issues; 39% of those who had problems with the NUS felt that this should be addressed through better education.

Sources of information

Christians across the board derive their awareness of the NUS primarily from science-news in the daily media and from TV documentaries, followed closely by school and university courses. The internet features as a primary source more among younger Christians.

Interestingly, we found a positive correlation between openness and high awareness scores; conversely, in the 'R' Group, scores in casual awareness and total unawareness are significantly higher than in the 'O' Group.

Cognizant of the minister's key role in shaping congregational attitudes, we probed this often hidden factor by asking what congregations believed about their ministers'



RESEARCHERS: Australian Catholic University researchers Sue Wilson and Dr Peter Stork have found that the majority of Anglicans in their survey believe that there is no conflict between science and theology - but not all Christians agree.

views on these issues. In both groups two out of five (40%) did not know their minister's views. This percentage could in reality be higher as ministers may be inclined to hide their views for fear their ministry might be compromised if they shared their stance publicly, according to a 2012 study in the USA.³

More positively, in the 'O' Group 26% felt their ministers were unreservedly supportive of cosmic time scales and evolution; an equal number saw them as generally open yet with reservations, while a fraction felt they were sceptical or opposed.

The 'R' Group, by contrast, paints a much more resistant picture of their ministers. Only 5% felt that they were unreservedly supportive of cosmic time scales and evolution; 15% thought they were open but had reservations, while almost half (47%) believed they were either sceptical or opposed.

These views may be compared with the Anglican response: 43% of the total sample regarded their minister as unreservedly open to the NUS, 35% regarded them as generally open but with reservations about cosmic time scales and evolution, 13% saw them as sceptical and/or opposed, while 10% felt they avoided the subject.

Lastly yet importantly, 42% of Anglican respondents felt nervous, anxious, frustrated or otherwise reluctant to participate in conversation about the NUS because they had not yet worked through the faith-related issues.

We find these results most intriguing and worthy of further attention. In the next issue of *Anglican News* we shall explore

some implications. Readers who would like see more details of the published report should go to: www.intronovo.org

Dr Peter Stork is Hon Research Fellow at the Australian Catholic University (School of Theology, Canberra) where he obtained his PhD in 2006 after a career in international consulting for which he qualified in his native Germany in 1958. His research interests include Theology and Culture, Theology and Science and Girardian Studies. <Peter.Stork@acu.edu.au>

Sue Wilson is a lecturer at the Canberra campus of ACU (Faculty of Education). She has taught Science and Mathematics in secondary schools and worked as a Science and Mathematics educator at tertiary level. Sue is the Deputy Hub Cap and Science Coordinator of SiMERR ACT, the Coordinator of the ACTARIES Education for Sustainability project, and the ACT coordinator of the national IRIS project. Her research interests include science education, addressing mathematics anxiety in pre-service teachers and Education for Sustainability. <Sue.Wilson@acu.edu.au>

Notes:

1. The survey was undertaken with the approval of the Human Research Ethics Committee of the Australian Catholic University and enjoyed the support of the Australian Research Theology Foundation.

2. The algorithm used in the segmentation analysis required 'completed surveys', leaving 10% of responses unallocated.

3. <http://biologos.org/blog/a-survey-of-clergy-and-their-views-of-origins>

Toys 'n' Tucker appeal spreads joy of Christmas

Anglicare and the Canberra Community support those in need during festive season

By Hannah McQuiggan

Anglicare have been overwhelmed by the generosity displayed by the Canberra community throughout the 'Toys 'n' Tucker' appeal, which supported those less fortunate at Christmas.

"Toys 'n' Tucker is a way for people in schools, offices and individuals to support clients in the services that Anglicare deliver" said Anglicare's Retail and Community Engagement Manager, Kaye Pritchard. "We were absolutely thrilled by the number of toys, toiletries, celebratory food items and other Christmas goodies which were donated by the Canberra Community".

Anglicare were also

generously supported by many businesses and schools around Canberra including Medicare Local, CIT staff, many Child Care centres across Canberra, the Canberra Police Department, Orana Steiner School, Curves Weston, National Mailing and Marketing, Anglican Parishes and Canberra Grammar Early Learning Centre; amongst many others.

While many donations were received, there was a dire need for Christmas gifts for teenagers.

"We receive many gifts for young children but teenagers are often overlooked. Donations of gift vouchers for teens were fantastic as it gave them the opportunity to choose something new which they would like. For some, it was the only present they received last year" said Ms Pritchard.

Donations received were distributed through many of the services Anglicare supports



COLLECTION POINT: Anglicare's Joan Keith and friends from the Curtin Parish collect donations for the 'Toys 'n' Tucker appeal outside Coles at Curtin, ACT. The appeal helped provide food items as well as gifts for many needy families in the ACT and nearby communities.

including the youth housing program Our Place in Braddon, the Junction Youth Health Services, Anglicare's young carers and youth education programs, Goulburn Adolescent

Program, Goulburn Emergency Housing, the Queanbeyan Youth Refuge, the Rae Burgess Centre at Yass, as well as St John's Care in Canberra, and St Benedict's at Queanbeyan.

"A huge thank you to everyone involved in the Toys 'n' Tucker program. The gifts helped us to put a smile on the faces of many at Christmas time" said Ms Pritchard.

Nativity 'stars' appear at Ginninderra Gardens

By Eric Frith

A somewhat theologically aware observer of the recent Nativity Play staged at Ginninderra Gardens Aged Care Facility commented: "The readings were Scriptural but the acting was at least apocryphal!"

Chaplain Jill Elliot went out into the highways and byways (metaphorically speaking of course) and compelled staff and volunteers to be the "stars" that would ensure the dramatic spectacle could be staged.

It was wonderful to see Anglicare staff and volunteers engaged in this joyous production.

Christ Church Hawker kindly provided a collection of appropriate robes as well as two articulate readers (namely Reverends Patrick Cole and Adam Mannion).

As they read the passages of Scripture, first the angels and shepherds appeared and added their appropriate flourishes and then Joseph, Mary and the infant Jesus became the central focus.

Many marvelled at the

ability of certain hitherto infamous characters to portray an angelic presence. One protagonist, who previously was better known for his veterinary skills, but now turned Magi, claimed to be wearing genuine camel-riding attire recently procured from a land formerly part of the Babylonian Empire.

While the audience became somewhat confused when the four "wise men" momentarily forgot the direction of east, they were reassured by the genuine adoration these foreign dignitaries offered to the babe in the manger.

As the scenes changed those gathered sang carols beautifully accompanied by Heather Westbury on the piano, complete with skilful improvisation. Afterwards, residents were keen to have their photos taken with some of the angels and foreign dignitaries.

All-in-all it was a unique and joyous experience. We are grateful to the Anglicare staff and volunteers for their memorable display of acting



LIVELY: Anglicare staff and volunteers at Ginninderra Gardens got right into character to enliven the reading of the nativity story, and while some added their own touches to the roles with minor digressions from the original text, the focus remained on the infant Jesus.

talent in bringing joy and meaning at Christmas-time to the Ginninderra Gardens

community.

*Eric Frith is a volunteer who worships at St James,

Holt, and describes himself as 'foreign correspondent and the fourth wise man'.



Introducing Andrew

□ Synergy appoints new Director

By Ruth Edwards

On 3rd March Andrew Edwards will start as the new Director of Synergy Youth and Children's Ministry.

He succeeds Archdeacon Matt Brain, who has occupied the position for the last four years.

Andrew is a true Camberran in every sense – born and raised here and even employed in the public service!

After five years with the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations in its Office of Youth, Andrew moved on to the Department of Social Security where he currently works on the Help Desk to solve problems and give support to needy people.

He is swapping the public service for Kingdom service as director of the diocese's youth and children's ministry.

In the public service Andrew has developed some valuable skills but he always felt he was on hold, waiting for the right time to return to his true passion which is Christian ministry. That time has now come!

Andrew has a vibrant Christian faith. He grew up in an Anglican family and made a mature

commitment to Christ in his teens. He has participated in several different Christian denominations and para-church organisations.

He has more than a decade's experience in youth and pastoral ministry and he feels passionate about helping people discover their purpose and live life to the full. He has worked in his local church in music, youth work and leadership development; he was employed by Scripture Union ACT as coordinator of its high school ministry which included running summer and winter balls and the SU leadership camps; he has been director of Youth Adventure Holidays with a focus on camping for kids with special needs.

In these varied situations Andrew has honed his skills as a Bible teacher and preacher and given leadership to a range of teams. He has formal qualifications in Youth Ministry and Biblical Studies and is completing his final year of a theology degree through St Mark's Theological Faculty of Charles Sturt University.

Andrew is looking forward to using this background to encourage and empower those serving in youth and children's ministries to grow healthy and vibrant disciples of Jesus. He enjoyed visiting Camp Pel in January and commented: "The atmosphere was



SYNERGY DIRECTOR: Samantha, Anabelle, Andrew and Levi Edwards. Andrew brings formal training as well as experience in youth ministry to his new role as Director of Synergy youth and Children's Ministry.

amazing, the community spirit and warmth was truly evident and I felt most at home. I'm really looking forward to being part of these camps in the years to come."

Andrew has a broad interest in life. He is a keen guitarist and drummer and loves to tap out beats with his two young children, Anabelle (5½) and Levi (3½). He

is a keen cricket fan in summer and enjoys rugby league and union in the winter. He enjoys a good board game and likes to have a few DIY projects going to keep him busy. He is married to Samantha.

He is a people-oriented guy who loves to get alongside people and help them make things buzz. Andrew is looking forward

to next month when he starts officially with Synergy. Expect to hear from him soon – or perhaps get in first and contact him at the Synergy office yourself!

Dr Ruth Edwards serves as Chair of Synergy Youth and Children's Ministry.

Synergy contacts

Synergy Youth: www.synergy.org.au

Synergy Youth Director: Andrew Edwards (from March 3)

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

Camp Pelican: Year 5/6 Camp tries out new Manna Park site

By Lucas King

Camp Pelican 2014 was again a huge success due to the hard work and dedication of its Directors and teams. I am still receiving rave reviews about each camp. I am sure that much fruit will result due to another season of ministry to young people.

This year we had new leaders come on board with our teams, which is great to see. However, it is still a big prayer point that we can continue to grow and encourage new leaders, both young and old. Camp is a place where we strive to share the Gospel message and provide an environment where young people can experience a broad scope of the Christian community. This

includes interacting with other young people and also with not so young people.

The Grade 5 and 6 camp was the first to experience the new diocesan camp site at Manna Park. We were delighted with the utmost care and service that manager Salah provided for us.

Along with a pool as a good draw card, it is set within a beautiful bush setting where we can worship God surrounded by inspiration. With Manna Park near Merimbula and Wambiri in Tathra with its fantastic resources, we are hoping to further take advantage of both these sites next camping season.

These camps concluded my role as the camp coordinator

for Synergy youth. It has been a wonderful opportunity to see how God works through many different people and many different ways.

Camp Pelican will forever hold a place in my heart and will be a rich resource to reflect on for my future work with young people and the Church. I would like to thank the Rev Dr Matt Brain, who has mentored and encouraged me all the way. His dedication and tireless work for Camp Pel is something I strive to emulate.

For more information about Synergy camps, including the winter camp, please contact the Synergy office.



FIRST RUN: Campers at the 5/6 camp (above) were the first to enjoy the recently-acquired Manna Park campsite (right).

