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Ambassadors for Christ



AUTHORITY: Bishop Stuart hands each of the newly-ordained deacons a copy of the new Testament, urging them to “take authority to exercise the office and ministry of a deacon in the Church of God, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit”.

Eight new deacons ordained

Archdeacon Matt Brain has told the eight deacons ordained in St Saviour’s Cathedral last month that they are called to be “ambassadors for Christ”.

Preaching at the ordination service on Saturday, February 28, Archdeacon Brain explained that an ambassador comes with “all the weight of a sovereign nation behind them”.

“In Jesus’s day, the ambassador came with all

the weight of Caesar behind him”, Dr Brain said. “So going into this role ... we have confidence ... because you indeed have the weight, the authority of God behind you. Yet may that be of such a peculiar humility that the

confidence you take will give others confidence in Christ.”

The Cathedral hosted a large congregation for the service, in which Andrew Robinson, Craig Roberts, David Rajasekaram, Graham Morrison, Hazel Davies, Judy

Douglas, Natalie Milliken and Peter Manok Kuot were ordained as deacons.

All except one have been assigned to parish ministry appointments within the diocese, with Andrew **(Continued on page 2)**

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THE BISHOP'S COLUMN

Equipping lay ministry for the future of the diocese

Beloved in Christ,
Warmest greetings this
Passiontide!

You will be aware of my walk with the cross throughout the Wagga Wagga, Snowy and Queanbeyan regions of our diocese.

It has been a joy to engage with people in small communities and larger centres and invite them to join with me in celebrating Jesus' saving death and victorious resurrection.

I have become quite convinced that the great hope for our diocese is not simply to be found in the calibre of our clergy and paid leaders (essential as that is), nor is it in property and resource development programs that will generate income for ministry and offset the coming impost associated with 'redress' programs (for people who have been abused and mistreated in our communities of faith).

Our hope lies in equipped, Spirit-filled lay people who

shine for Christ (through exemplary lives and deeds) and who speak of their hope in Christ in the face of rural decline, global 'I.S.' anxiety and a raft of vexing moral questions ranging from climate change to foetal terminations.

My commitment (among others) – for the next five years (and for as long as our Lord sees fit to keep me in this role) – is to promote and resource the activities of our Centre for Lay Ministry and Mission – in particular, the Cathedral Conventions that the Centre organises and oversees.

The Archbishop of Canterbury – in his most recent address to his General Synod – enjoined the Church of England to acquaint themselves with the writing and ministry of Dr Alison Morgan – especially her forthcoming book on living as and making disciples for our Lord Jesus.

In God's great grace, Alison is, as you know, our Bishop's Cathedral Convention

speaker in May.

I'm asking all our churches to promote this event and to send delegates. At least ten from each community of faith ... and some of our smaller rural churches have already done just that!

Our hope lies in equipped, Spirit-filled lay people who shine for Christ ... and who speak of their hope in Christ

I sense an urgency in all this. As we move through Lent into Passiontide we are inextricably drawn to Jesus' promises to not only rise from the grave – but to return from his Father's side and bring all things to their fulfilment. Time is short, and the opportunities for being agents of transformation

– disciples – abound. The Convention will, please God, assist us in discerning how best we might use our resources and time to this end.

As stated in other contexts, I do wish to acknowledge the outstanding work that my colleague and our dear sister in Christ, Bishop Genieve Blackwell, has done in her time as a Priest, Archdeacon and Bishop in our diocese. My aforementioned 'walk' in Wagga connected me with a community who will feel +Genieve's loss keenly.

She has been a wonderful pastor and friend. We bid +Genieve farewell and thank God for her life-giving ministry. For a season, our Vicar-General, Bishop Trevor Edwards will keep a weather eye on the region and I'll update you on developments as they come to hand.

On behalf of my wife Jane – and the Episcopal team – +Trevor and Ruth, +Stephen and Jennifer, +Genieve and



**Bishop
Stuart
Robinson**

John and Dean Phillip and Sue, I pray that Easter will be a time of sober reflection and joyful celebration.

For Jesus,
+Stuart.

Anglican News

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

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New Deacons: Ambassadors for Christ

(from page 1)

Robinson taking on a role serving the Anglican Church in Melanesia.

The other appointments are:

- The Reverend Hazel Davies - Deacon Assistant based at Holt Parish;
- The Reverend Judy Douglas - Deacon Part time Evangelist-in-Charge & Team Leader, Holt;
- The Reverend Peter Manyok Kuot - Deacon Assistant, Dinka Congregation, O'Connor;
- The Reverend Natalie Milliken - Deacon Assistant, Berridale and Snowy Mountains;
- The Reverend Graham Morrison - Deacon Assistant,

Berridale Snowy Mountains;

- The Reverend David Arjuna Rajasekaram - Deacon Assistant, Gungahlin;
- The Reverend Craig Roberts - Deacon Assistant, Queanbeyan.

At the conclusion of the service representatives of the Dinka community from the parish of O'Connor broke into a lively performance of traditional dance and music in the cathedral, before following the procession out through the main doors to continue their celebrations outside.

The Dinka congregation attended the service in large numbers to support Peter Manyok Kuot.



RHYTHM: O'Connor parish's Dinka congregation brought out the drums to provide rhythm for some traditional singing and dancing to celebrate the ordination of Peter Manyok Kuot.

Clergy moves and appointments

- ◆ **The Reverend Canon Mark Cooper** has been appointed Rector of Mayfield in the Diocese of Newcastle. His Induction will be held on Monday 6 July 2015 at 7.00pm. Mark and his family will be greatly missed.
- ◆ **The Reverend Joy Harris** has been selected as the Area Dean for The Coast by her peers and we congratulate her on her selection. We thank the **Reverend Carol Wagner** for her wonderful contribution in that role for the past year.
- ◆ **The Reverend Kevin Stone** has been appointed an Honorary Canon in Residence at St Saviour's Cathedral, Goulburn in addition to his part time role as Pastoral Care Coordinator to older people at St John's Canberra.
- ◆ **The Reverend Canon Gill Varcoe** has been appointed

Bishop's Chaplain Charismatic expressions of ministry, New ministry orientation, Healing ministries and ministry-at-large Southern Tablelands Minister Team.

- ◆ **Mrs Heather Walsh** has been appointed Director of School Operations and Business Development in Anglican Diocesan Services.
- ◆ **Mrs Celia Irving** will serve as Director of Safe Communities in Anglican Diocesan Services and **Mr Peter Barnett** will serve as Director, Professional Standards.
- ◆ **The Reverend Canon (Hon NWA) Brian Roberts** has been re-elected Area Dean for the Queanbeyan, Monaro and Alpine Region.

Gill Varcoe takes on new ministry role

□ Encouraging and developing pioneer ministries

By Lewis Hitchcock

Bishop Stuart has licensed Canon Gill Varcoe as Bishop's Chaplain for charismatic expressions of ministry and new ministry orientation and integration programs, and healing ministries and ministry-at-large, Southern Tablelands Archdeaconry [Exploratory Ministries] Minister Team.

Canon Varcoe will be available to conduct missions, especially focusing on healing, wholeness and transformation of communities and individuals through the power of the risen Christ.

She has pointed out that her position does not include payment of a stipend.

Gill Varcoe said it has become clear over recent years that she was being called to "something less geographically located".

"It would have suited to do this four or five years ago, but there wasn't a community from which to operate," she told *Anglican News*. "This ministry needs a community base."

She said she had already been doing some parts of her job description for some years: she has been serving in the Bishop's Chaplaincy role and new ministry orientation for five years, and has been encouraging charismatic expressions of ministry for several years.

"The new bit added to those is the Southern Tablelands Minister Team role – this is an exploratory ministry which will come under that umbrella in the diocese. It's about pioneering new models of ministry, especially for remote areas, not just going along to fill in because there's no-one to take a service. It's focussed on providing ministry, but also discipling people in local areas."

Gill said while this might seem to be a new model for this region, it is actually old model, not very different to what was happening when diocese was established: "There's an element of circuit riding."

Bishop Stuart wants people across the diocese to know that, "far from retiring, Canon Varcoe will be available for healing and wholeness missions and ministry across the diocese and will continue, inter alia, the vital work of liaising (on my behalf) with leaders (within) and organisations (without) on matters 'charismatic' and 'renewal' including conversations around developing and adapting the 'New Wine' teaching and conference program for NSW and ACT".

The approach is consistent with the vision of Archdeacon John Barnes, in providing ministry for an archdeaconry with limited resources. The emphasis is not just on maintenance, but rather on enabling and equipping disciples.

Gill Varcoe acknowledged that this approach involves changing a mindset that has been established over several generations.

"We've had a limiting model of ministry which has said that we pay the priest to do the work of ministry, and we have a list of expectations – but it means the baptismal calling of the majority of the people of God is being overlooked.

"I think there's been collusion between clergy and laity for generations around that. It has suited both parties."

She described her role as "equipping the saints for the work of ministry".

"Part of this calling involves seeing God do what God does – healing the sick, bringing wholeness to people, transforming lives and communities. It's actually how the church has grown historically in its phases of 'burst' growth."

She said that the church has to be pioneering, and not just trying to maintain the present structures although this is something of a personal challenge for her.

"My whole ministry has been in the old model – there's a sense of walking away from something that has sustained me and kept me secure for 25 years. However, I'm not abandoning it

altogether, though."

Tradition and change came together for her in an experience during the SOMA mission to the Solomon Islands with Bishop Ian Lambert last year.

"I happened to be the preacher at the rally on the final night and what God gave me to say to these people, who are from the Anglo-Catholic end of the Anglican spectrum, was around the inner invisible grace that goes with the outward visible sign in the sacraments, and the invitation was: do you want more of this inner grace?"

She said this approach was "about taking back what the 'priesthood of all believers' means in our context".

"We all have ministry responsibilities: if God's called us to do something, we'd better be doing it – and if God hasn't called us, we'd better not be doing it!"

Gill said she is happy to go into any parish in the diocese (or beyond) on invitation, to encourage the disciples and equip them for ministry, and also to run missions

For further information on her ministry, Gill can be contacted on 0400 757 991 or givarcoe@bigpond.com



ENCOURAGER: Gill Varcoe says encouraging disciples will be a large part of her new ministry role.

ABM launches emergency appeal for Vanuatu following Cyclone Pam

From ABM

ABM has launched an Emergency Appeal following Cyclone Pam which hit Vanuatu on March 14, cutting communications and leaving communities across the islands with no infrastructure.

A State of Emergency has been declared following the cyclone which left 24 people confirmed dead when it hit the 65 islands with a total population of 267,000.

The death toll is expected to rise significantly once communication is re-established with areas outside Port Villa, the capital city.

ABM's staff member responsible for our programs in Vanuatu, who was on a monitoring visit to the country, was unable to leave Northern Vanuatu last week as the rains meant that planes could not land on the sodden grass runway.

Bishop Nathan Tome, currently Bishop of Guadalcanal who was formerly the Bishop of Banks and Torres, the northern most diocese of the Anglican Church of Melanesia



DESTRUCTION: Cyclone Pam, rated as one of the most powerful cyclones ever recorded, has caused massive destruction and loss of life in Vanuatu. (Photo: BBC)

(ACOM) in Vanuatu, spoke with ABM on a scheduled visit to its Sydney offices.

"I spoke with my wife last week; she was concerned as the winds are quite strong, the seas are high and the rain heavy. I have not been able to speak with her or anyone else from ACOM all week-end," he said.

Please pray for the cyclone victims, ABM staff and all who are helping in the relief effort.

ABM is seeking to

raise \$100,000 to provide emergency relief for those displaced. ACOM is currently assessing their most immediate requirements and we will respond accordingly.

To keep up-to date or to donate to ABM's Vanuatu Cyclone Emergency Appeal please call on 1300 302 663, email info@abm.asn.au or visit www.abmission.org/vanuatu-emergency

What is a Minster?

The first Minsters were founded in the early days of British Christianity as centres of mission, worship, prayer and teaching. They were the hubs for extensive missionary activity, and a resource built upon monastic communities. In more recent times, the minster idea has been adopted by missional communities working regionally to plant new communities of faith, and to bring growth and renewal especially to isolated places.

Progress report: Parish opens doors to refugees

In December 2014, Anglicare featured a story about Selva and his family who fled Sri Lanka and moved to Narooma to start a new life. The family suffered a lot of trauma; especially the father Selva, who experienced extreme horror from the Sri Lankan war.

While Selva and his family were welcomed into the community; especially by Narooma Anglican Parish, Selva waited four long years to receive a Visa and could not work to provide for his family during this time.

As such, the family made the difficult decision to relocate to Canberra and this was made possible with the support of Narooma Anglican Parish. The church provided Selva's family with a car and funds for school uniforms for his children.

Three months on and Selva has just received the news that he has been granted a one year Humanitarian Visa; entitling

him to work. While he is a professional fisherman, Selva also has skills in painting and decorating and is currently seeking work in this field.

"Selva was so delighted to hear about his Visa that he contacted me straight away to share his exciting news" said Ian Couatts, Parish Partnership Coordinator at Anglicare.

"He is full of so much joy that he can provide for his family."

Selva and his wife Juliat have expressed their gratitude to Narooma Anglican Parish and Gungahlin Anglican Church who have supported and encouraged the family and Anglicare is excited to see the ongoing impact these parishes have made in their lives.

GRATEFUL: (right) Selva and his family are extremely grateful for the support they have received from Narooma and Gungahlin parishes.



Goulburn's F5 congregation challenges poverty stereotypes

Over the duration of Lent, Anglicare has been running the *Share the Benefit* (STB) course to raise awareness about the struggle that job seekers face and encourage people to experience the restrictions endured by those who live in poverty.

Coordinator of the initiative, Rev'd Ian Couatts says one of the main aims is to allow people and churches taking part to discover what it really means, for a brief time, to walk in another person's shoes.

"We hope and pray that this will be a transformative experience and journey for the participants," he said.

Jane Robinson (see box below) is one of several worshippers at the Fellowship at 5 Church at Goulburn Cathedral who is part-way through the course and has already been challenged by the harsh reality facing the 500,000 Australians living on the Newstart Allowance.

Jane's story of *Sharing the Benefit*

I am a retired primary school teacher and taught children with special needs for many years. When the opportunity to participate in STB arose, I immediately put my hand up to get involved.

I know what it's like to try and feed four children every week, but I couldn't imagine how hard that would be receiving Newstart payments.

I have been incredibly challenged by the weekly bible study group and my eyes were opened once I found out how little those on Newstart are given each week. I just cannot believe that a couple without children receives only \$5 less a week than a couple with three or more children*. That's so scary!

While I am yet to live on the allowance for one week as part of the Newstart challenge, I have already been thinking about the difficulties that I will face. It's so different from everyday life where I can

just enjoy those little things like going out for coffee with my friends.

Throughout my STB experience, I have noticed that society does not cater for those living on low incomes and that our society is such a social society! It's less about going to each other's houses for dinner and more about going out to dinner, drinks and coffee. I feel that people in our society, especially young people, must be so cut off because they can't socialise like many others.

I think that there is no safety net for those living on Newstart. Once everything in the cupboard is gone, there is nothing left! We should be thinking about this more.

* This Newstart allowance has been calculated based on what would reasonably be left over for food. See www.anglicare.com.au



BRAINSTORMING: 'Share the Benefit' participants from the Goulburn Fellowship at 5 Church, Jean and Geoff Middleton and Jane Lyons, show the results of a brief brainstorming session listing defining moments in history. Creating the list was one of the tasks in the 'Share the Benefit' Lenten course.

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

Narnia Gates opened at Murrumburrah Harden

From the parish

Member for Burrinjuck and NSW Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson MLA, was a special guest of the Narnia Kid's Club organisers in the Murrumburrah Harden Parish on 23 February.

She came to officially open the special fencing developed to safely enclose part of the grounds of the Parish Hall for the Anglicare Parish partnership Narnia Kids Club and for future children's activities in the parish.

The concept of the Kid's Club came when Pam Jamieson, the leader of the team read about the Narnia theme used at Camp Pelican some years ago. Together with then Priest in Charge, the Rev'd Beth Dimmick, she began looking into what would be needed to be able to create a Kid's Club with this emphasis.

With the guidance of Harden Shire Council staff the Parish Hall was inspected and a plan for safe fencing put in place. The cost of the required pool fencing was beyond parish resources so Pam and Beth sought advice from Anglicare as to possible grants. With Kaye Pritchard's assistance a grant application was forwarded to the NSW Government. This application was successful and funding of \$9 300 was presented to the parish.

Pam and Beth were both keen to get the club underway and so permission was sought from the principal of Murrumburrah Public School to use facilities in the school to enable the club to begin. The school offered wonderful hospitality while the Parish Hall grounds were prepared.

Voluntary leaders were sought to join Pam and Beth, and Barb Granger from the Anglican

congregation and Aileen Alcorn and Dorothy Powell from the local Uniting Church soon joined the leader's team.

All leaders undertook Safe Ministries training, obtained their Working with Children qualifications and undertook special training for the Kid's Club.

Ready to start in the 2015 program, with the fencing completed, Pam invited Katrina Hodgkinson to officiate at the official opening. Katrina was delighted to be invited and accepted straight away.

Also present for the opening were Kaye Pritchard, Anglicare Manager, Retail and Community Engagement; Harden Shire Mayor, John Horton; Mrs Clare Crawford, Principal of Murrumburrah Public School together with her school captains and SRC members; the Rev'd Les Barley Locum of the parish; Dorothy Smith, chair of Parish Council, and Carol Ford the parish Anglicare rep. As well, a number of parishioners attended, along with media representatives.

As she undertook the official opening, Ms Hodgkinson expressed her delight at being able to cut the ribbon on the gate and officially open the grounds for use. She said that she thoroughly enjoyed meeting local people, and particularly congratulated the school children who impressed her greatly in the way they conversed with her.

Ms Hodgkinson also congratulated Pam Jamieson on the vision she had to take an idea from one situation and re-develop it as a local program.

Once the ribbon was cut Les Barley offered prayer for all those who would enter the gates to become part of the Kid's Club and future children's activities.



GATEWAY TO NARNIA: Rev Les Barley, locum; Katrina Hodgkinson MLA; Kaye Pritchard, Anglicare; Mrs Pam Jamieson, Narnia Kid's Club leader.

Multi-faith chapel for Riverina Juvenile Justice Centre

On Shrove Tuesday, March 17, the Multi-faith Chapel at Wagga's Riverina Juvenile Justice Centre was formally opened and blessed by Bishop Genieve Blackwell, Regional Bishop in the Diocese of Canberra-Goulburn.

Shrove Tuesday marks the day before the start of lent, a time for thoughtful reflection and drawing near to God in the lead up to Easter.

Dignitaries were welcomed by Centre manager Narelle Fitzgerald who gave insights into the aboriginal symbols and artwork used in the Chapel windows. Leonie Bender, the Western Regional Director read a passage from the first letter of John, which was followed by a short homily by Bishop Genieve emphasising the centrality of relationship in the passage, and how central God is to right relationship.

Centre Chaplain Tim Narraway spoke briefly about why this particular day was chosen for the occasion and some of the traditions associated with it. Forty days is symbolic of a period of significant change.

Shrove Tuesday is associated with preparation for Lent, when the things which distract us from pursuing God are done away with. He then read an adaptation of a traditional Jewish blessing before opening the doors of the new Chapel.

The blessing read: *May the doors of this chapel be wide enough to receive all who hunger for love, all who are lonely for friendship. May it welcome all who have cares to unburden, thanks to express, hopes to nurture. May its doors be narrow enough to shut out our pettiness and pride, envy and enmity. May its entrance be no stumbling block to straying feet. May it never admit complacency, selfishness and harshness. May it be, for all who enter, a doorway to a richer and more meaningful life. May the one who creates*



COLOURFUL: The stained glass windows of the chapel depict wildlife of the Riverina region.

harmony on high bring peace to us all, and to all peoples. And let us say: AMEN

Rev Graeme Liersch, who was instrumental in establishing the Chapel then brought a Christian blessing as did Sister Frances Flemming, head chaplain for Juvenile Justice New South Wales and Sisters from the Sisters of Charity, who regularly visit the centre.

Margaret Glasson read an appropriate passage of Buddhist scripture, *the Four Immeasurables*;

It read: *May all living beings have happiness and the causes of happiness. May all living beings be free from suffering and the causes of suffering. May all living beings never be separated from the happiness that know no suffering. May all living beings abide in equanimity, free from anger and attachment that holds some close and others distant.*

The service was followed by refreshments in the dining room.

It is the hope that the Chapel will provide a place for quiet reflection and healing for detainees and those who work in the centre.



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Bishop's Cathedral Convention:

□ Apprenticed for Mission: understanding what discipleship means

Alison Morgan, keynote speaker at the Cathedral Convention in Goulburn on May 15-16, has said that she hopes the convention helps people realise that discipleship is "a whole load bigger than they'd thought it was".

"It's not just about going to church every Sunday, faithfully and regularly – it's actually bigger than that. It's a choice to be made by every single one of us, not just for the clergy," she told Anglican News recently. "Being a disciple of Jesus is a lifestyle, and that's challenging to everybody,

every single one of us, from the bishop down to the newest Christian."

Alison Morgan is thinker and writer for ReSource, an independent Anglican charity based in Wells, Somerset, UK. ReSource seeks to serve the church by teaching, training, and encouraging people to renew their lives and their church through the power of the Holy Spirit, so that God's message of life-changing love reaches out to others.

Alison works widely in the UK in teaching and training, and she is also the editor and director of ReSource's

discipleship programme for Africa, *Rooted in Jesus*, which is now in use in 15 countries.

In three sessions at the Cathedral Convention she will be speaking on the theme, Apprenticed for Mission, encouraging people to discover their identity as disciples and play their part in God's mission.

She said that over the years she has "learned a lot about what it means to be a disciple by reading Scripture, by being part of a church, and a lot by working in Africa".

She is the editor of a discipleship program called *Rooted in Jesus*, which was developed for use in Africa. She said the program "looks at what it is to be a disciple of Jesus

in a different cultural context from ours".

"This has helped me think about our assumptions, and what is actually there in the Bible: what did Jesus actually intend, and what have we

filtered out, and what have we kept?"

The cross-cultural experience of working in Africa helped her take a fresh look at Scripture and discipleship as understood by the Anglican Church of the Western world.

She explained that the *Rooted in Jesus* discipleship program had begun with a request from the Diocesan Missioner from the Diocese of



DISCIPLESHIP: Dr Alison Morgan believes the church needs active lay disciples who can go out and make more disciples.

Mount Kilimanjaro.

"The Lord had been speaking to him from Matthew 28: 18-20 ('Go and make disciples...'), and he was saying, 'That's all very well, Lord, but what do you mean?' and the Lord was saying, 'Well, you're making converts at the moment!'"

"He was the regional director of the *Jesus Film* program, so he was visiting village after village showing the *Jesus Film* and making an evangelistic appeal and seeing loads of people give their lives to Christ – but then

he'd go away again. So God said, 'That's why I want you to make disciples.'"

The Missioner had come to England, seeking appropriate materials. Alison Morgan was working in Leicester, which was then a linked diocese with Mount Kilimanjaro, and helped with an extensive search - which showed that there were no resources suitable for an African context.

"So after talking with him we put together a program of which I became the editor, and now the Director," Alison said.

"That was the first time I sat down and looked at it systematically – what it means to be a disciple." Since then she had brought the concepts back into an English culture, "looking much more seriously at Scripture and whether that changed or took away or whatever".

Her research strengthened her conviction that making disciples was the responsibility of all Christians, lay and

ordained.

"Linking Matthew 28: 18-20 with 2 Timothy 2:2 (which is the second part of our 'Rooted in Jesus' series) is about teaching these things to people who will then pass them on to others. It seems to me that is part of being a disciple."

She acknowledged that this understanding of discipleship could be quite challenging to those who had grown up in a traditional Anglican context, and in some cases there can be resistance to such a challenge even in the face of many years of steady decline.

However, Alison Morgan said the Church of England seems to turning that decline around.

"Half the dioceses in England are consistently growing," she said. We've got 43 dioceses and while I haven't seen the latest figures, over the previous two-year period 22 of those grew. I think the decline here has bottomed out, and I think that's partly due to the Fresh Expressions movement we have here which is about planting churches among unchurched communities of people, and which is heavily dependent on lay ownership and lay leadership.

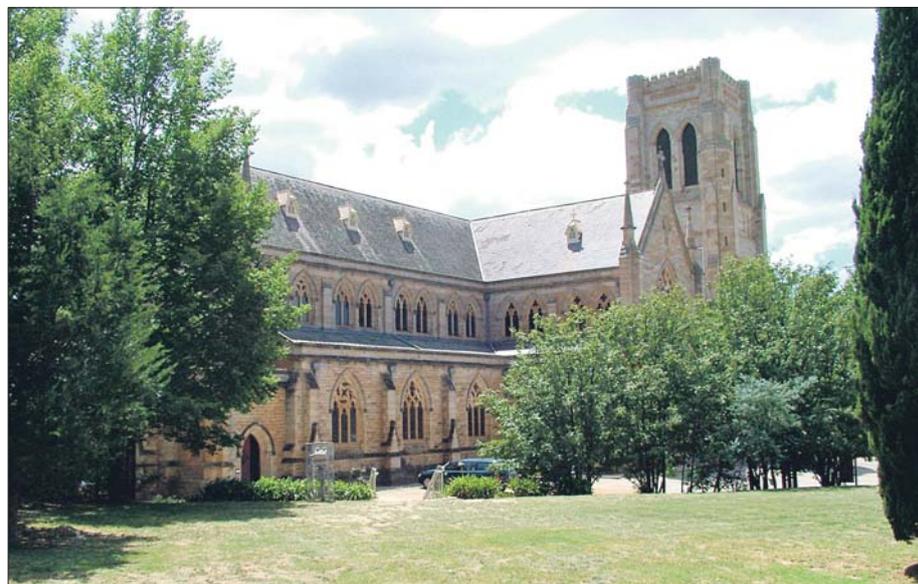
"I don't know about you, but here we're having to move a primarily pastoral system - where the vicar looks after everybody, teaches everybody – to a model which is a lot more dynamic, where more is expected of lay people."

As well as speaking at the Cathedral Convention on Saturday May 16, Alison Morgan will also be the principal speaker at the diocesan Clergy Conference the following week, and on the weekend on May 23-24 she will address the annual Clergy Spouses' Conference.

To register for the Convention:

Download a registration form from the Diocesan website <http://www.anglicancg.org.au/>

or register online at www.trybooking.com/GLID (booking fee applies)



VENUE: Goulburn's St Saviour's Cathedral offers an ideal setting for the convention with a beautiful Blackett-designed building set in spacious grounds, with plenty of parking space and a variety of accommodation options available in the city.

Bishop Stuart Robinson has said that the greatest need of the church at the present time is to be equipping disciples of Christ to make disciples of Christ.

"Alison Morgan has the experience, tools, resources and communication skills and the passion to assist us in this. I am asking each ministry unit to send no less than ten parishioners to this Convention.

"Such a response will, please God, be a precursor to a step-change in our Diocese. In my view, this is the key diocesan event for 2015," he said.

CATHEDRAL CONVENTION

St Saviour's Cathedral, May 15-16



MUSICIANS: The music group who led the singing last year - Nicola Hay, Joy Hague, Jonny Robinson and Dan Op de Veigh - are scheduled for the same role again this time.

PRAISE AND WORSHIP: (above) Powerful singing was a feature of the Bishop's Cathedral Convention last year, with participants obviously enjoying the opportunity to 'make a joyful noise to the Lord'.

Inaugural Bishop Barlow Lecture

Bishop Christopher Barlow (1858-1915) was the third bishop of Canberra and Goulburn (1902-1915).

Born in Dublin, he loved and served in many towns across far north and western Queensland as a missionary priest and later as bishop.

This lecture in his name, being presented by Associate Professor Stuart Piggin on the Friday evening of the Cathedral Convention, recalls his love for the bush and the opportunities for engagement that exist today.

Speaker for the occasion will be Associate Professor Stuart Piggin, Director of the Centre for the History of Christian Thought and Experience at Macquarie University. He has taught church history at the Universities of London, Wollongong and Sydney.

A former Master of Robert Menzies College, Macquarie University, and the founding Director of the Macquarie Christian Studies Institute, he is also Chairman of the Australian Christian Heritage Foundation. His academic interests include the nature of spiritual experience and religious revival and the history of evangelicalism and missions.

His books include *Spirit, Word and World: Evangelical Christianity in Australia 1788-2013* which is now in its third edition. Stuart is married to Rosemary, has two daughters, and three grandchildren, and was, until last year's grand final, a fanatical supporter of the Sydney Swans.

About Alison Morgan

Alison Morgan is a thinker and writer with ReSource, an independent Anglican charity based in Wells, Somerset, UK. ReSource's vision is to help build a church which is diverse, local, renewed in the Spirit and effective in mission. ReSource works with local churches of all types and traditions, with deaneries, dioceses and other denominational groupings. The ReSource team was commissioned by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, in 2004, and its patron is Dr John Sentamu, Archbishop of York.

Alison works widely in the UK in teaching and training, and she is also the editor and director of ReSource's discipleship programme for Africa. Rooted in Jesus, now in use in 15 countries. Alison and Roger have three grown up children, and live in Wells, Somerset.

She has written three books:

The Word on the Wind (Monarch 2004), which addresses the question of the relevance of the Gospel message in a society where church attendance has been in steady decline

In this book she identifies four clear reasons to be confident.

The Wild Gospel (Monarch 2011) is a prophetic challenge to the Western church. The Christian faith is always subversive to the dominant world view. Jesus overturned every assumption which stopped people experiencing the living reality of God - the heart of truth. Sadly, the Western world has reduced "truth" to the merely rational, and then discarded it as inadequate. In Africa, and other parts of the world where God's truth has never been straitjacketed in this way, the church is characterised by a joy now absent in the West.

The Plural of Disciple is Church (to be published shortly). Archbishop Justin Welby referred to this book in his address to the recent General Synod of the Church of England, when he made a strong call for a renewed emphasis on evangelism, which he defined as 'the making of new disciples'.



INAUGURAL SPEAKER: Professor Stuart Piggin.

HISTORY

Forward in Faith Part 3: 2013 to the Bicentenary 2063

By Bill Wright

The election of Kenneth Clements as Bishop of Canberra and Goulburn in 1961 was a significant turning point in the diocese. Celebration of the centenary of the Diocese in 1963 not only included services of thanksgiving but also provided an opportunity to look towards the future.

The Rev Cecil Warren was appointed to implement a plan, **Forward in Faith** the purpose of which was to strengthen existing programs and to plan ahead. It was directed towards the advancement of the educational and spiritual life of the diocese, youth ministry, and support of missions.

Cecil Warren was elected Bishop of the diocese in 1972. Cecil Warren worked tirelessly in implementing numbers of programs, both before and after his election as diocesan bishop.

The initiatives begun in **Forward in Faith** have largely carried through to the present day, the bishops who followed Cecil Warren keen to invigorate the worshipping and spiritual life of congregations. Special priority was given to education, to stewardship of resources, and in grasping opportunities and facing challenges when they occurred.

In turn, conscientious clergy earnestly went about their work, aided by eager, hard-working church members. Changes included new roles being opened to allow greater participation by dedicated lay women and lay men. Each parish and community had its dependable and regular worshippers.

Donald Horne in *The Lucky Country*, in 1964 observed that Australian Christian churches, representing more than 80% of the population, were in decline. 35% identified themselves as being Anglican. Fifty years later 61% identify as Christian, 17% as Anglican (See *Census*

Comparison, below).

What happened? What do we make of it?

Recently a couple who have been and still are regular worshippers, were telling a friend about the achievements of their grandchildren. Their youngest grandchild had recently completed secondary school and was contemplating the future. Like their children, all the grandchildren had been educated in Christian schools and had been involved in church along the way.

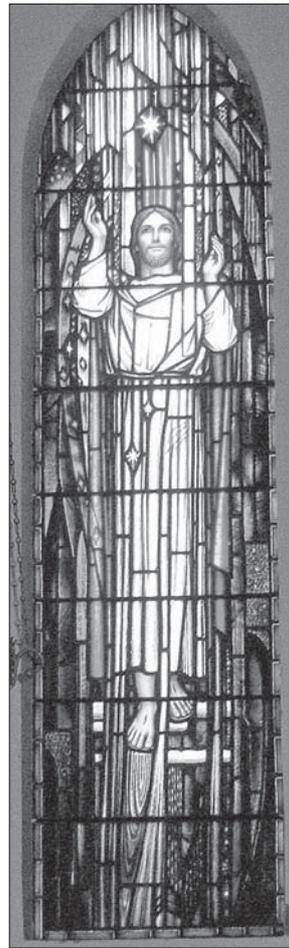
However none of the children or grandchildren now attend church regularly, or show interest beyond social or family occasions. Asked if they could explain possible reasons, the grandparents indicated that, while their younger family members showed respect for the church, they considered it to be out of date and out of touch.

This is uncomfortable to hear, but it is not an uncommon view among suggested reasons for the decline in the proportion of Christians in the community, the general dwindling in numbers of active worshippers and the lessening of Christian influence.

Changes in population, community attitudes and expectations have been challenging but under the various levels of leadership much progress has been achieved. Falling numbers in membership have thwarted some of the progress made and hindered implementation of new plans.

Anglicans have a high percentage of nominal, non-active members, people of goodwill, but who only occasionally or rarely have contact with the church. This makes it all the harder for those in leadership to be effective.

With few exceptions, the situation in the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn, in regard to present day membership and attitudes, is



THE RISEN CHRIST (detail): Mervyn Napier Waller, (1972). St Aidan's Church, Berrigan NSW, (Diocese of Riverina). Photo by Bill Wright.

much the same as in Anglican and other Christian churches across Australia.

Openness and new ideas are needed to understand why and how younger age groups, and sheepish or lapsed church members, find the church and Christian practice as being out of date and out of touch. There is little to be gained from reforming and reviving those things which are out dated and out of touch. "No one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and wineskins will be ruined. No, he pours new wine into new wineskins." (Mark 2.22 NIV).

The task is to hear, appreciate and understand the ideas, needs and hopes of the present generation, and also of

Historybytes by Robert Willson



ORDINATION: This photo was taken 50 years ago at the ordination at All Saints' Church, Ainslie, on 24th January 1965 (Eve of Conversion of Paul the Apostle). Back row from left: Stan Col Colfax, Michael Barbara, Wal Hancock, Dalba Primmer; front row from left: Keith Stephens, Trevor Middleton, Don Turnbull, Bill Ross.

those who have disappeared from membership. Change is hard to accept and achieve in the church, but is needed to reverse the decline, and to pave a positive way towards the future.

This responsibility lies with today's church members and leaders, both clergy and lay people. Original and visionary ways are needed to embrace the missing younger age groups, and to encourage those who have strayed from the flock to return.

In a moment of exasperation at one synod Bishop Clements exclaimed, "We are a weak church!" If that is true today, some will also recall his, the Bishop's, frequent parting words, "Be of good cheer." The fifty years of **Forward in Faith** is an era of many trials and challenges, changes and opportunities, progress and success in the

church. We are thankful to God for the blessings we experience in the life, worship and care enjoyed in the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn.

Our future is unknown and uncertain; the world is unstable and people are restless. We trust God. In less than 50 years our diocesan bicentenary will come around. Until then, our pilgrimage is **Forward in Hope**.

"Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come." (Isaac Watts).

Forward in Hope . . . to the Bicentenary, 2063

A CENSUS COMPARISON

1961 2011

Anglican	3,638,940 (34.9%)	3,679,181 (17.1%)
Roman Catholic	2,619,984 (29.4%)	5,439,268 (25.3%)
Other Christian	3,015,419 (24%)	4,032,223 (18.9%)
Total Christian	9,274,343 (88.3%)	13,150,672 (61.3%)
Total Australia	10,508,200	21,507,719

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NEWS

Seminar links meditation with social responsibility

□ The Heart of Creation: Australian Christian Meditation Community National Conference and Clergy Retreat

By **Antonia Lehn**

This first weekend in December 2014 saw more than 300 meditators converge on the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture in Barton.

The attraction? The second visit to Canberra by the spiritual guide and Director of the World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM) in London, Fr Laurence Freeman OSB.

Catholic Archbishop Christopher Chrowse opened proceedings, drawing attention to the simplicity and beauty of meditation, and that the silences are filled with God and that Jesus will teach us to go deeper and deeper every day.

The Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture was a very fitting venue for this occasion, as Anglican Bishop Dr George Browning told his audience at his opening address on the Saturday. He explained that the site was one of the six designated cathedral sites when Canberra was founded.

Dr Browning was instrumental in changing the site from an Anglican to the present-day ecumenical site. "It is like an agora site where the place is defined by activity," he said. The site

also includes a bible garden and a labyrinth.

Fr Laurence emphasized the importance of poverty of spirit in meditation practice. He impressed on the gathering that meditation was the key to discovering the heart of creation in our own hearts.

He stressed that meditation is universal and unifying and, quoting Meister Eckhart, that "silence opens up the path". Meditation releases an energy of love, kindness and tolerance.

He went on to explain the links between meditation and social responsibility and that the cure for spiritual poverty is poverty of spirit. As Christians we also have a social responsibility towards our environment and a spiritual shift in consciousness is required of humanity before healing of our planet can commence.

The weekend included a number of meditation sessions, introducing the practice to newcomers, and deepening the experience for practicing meditators.

Fr Laurence has been likened to a modern-day St Paul, as he travels the world spreading the word on meditation and taking a leading role in inter-faith dialogue. Notwithstanding

his impressive scholarship – he has authored more than a dozen books – he delivers his lectures with a great deal of wit and warmth.

In true ecumenical style, the weekend conference was closed by the Rev'd Ivan Roberts, then Uniting Church Canberra Region Presbytery Chair who thanked Fr Laurence and the local Christian Meditation community and acknowledged Fr Laurence's global influence.

Ivan Roberts emphasized the spiritual experience of meditation and that we should constantly be reminded of how to worship in wonder as our minds cannot understand the mystery of God, so we go deeply within ourselves.

Monday saw a special clergy retreat, with more than 80 clergy and religious affiliates attending. Retired Catholic Bishop Pat Power opened the retreat morning by reminding those present that Aboriginal people had been practicing meditation for 40,000 years.

He also stressed that there is no conflict between the secular and the spiritual and that the meditation movement brings everybody together. "Churches blame the secular world for decline, but we



SPIRITUAL SHIFT: Director of the World Community for Christian Meditation, Fr Laurence Freeman, said Christians have a social responsibility towards the environment, but humanity needs a spiritual shift in consciousness before healing of the planet can begin.

should look at, and within ourselves, and our own practices".

The theme of the retreat, "The Ministry of Meditation" was explored by Fr Laurence with interspersing scripture readings and parables.

Attendees were also given opportunities for sharing their own practices and those of their communities. Fr Laurence explained how teaching and practice of meditation are inter-dependent and a ministry for both the clergy themselves and to

benefit others – to help them live more fully and deepen their faith.

The Rev'd Sarah Bachelard gave the closing thanks and emphasized that it was important to engage people on the deeper journey that meditation provides, which can also enhance the capacity of the church to speak into the wider world.

For further information on Christian Meditation see <http://www.wccm.org/> <http://www.christianmeditationaustralia.org/>

Goulburn singer-songwriter's material now online

□ Keith Binns offers a range of songs for kids as well as adults investigating Christian faith

Goulburn-based singer and song writer Keith Binns has launched a web site to provide easy access to his musical resources.

Keith Binns is a Licensed Lay Minister who works as a chaplain in the areas of Disability and Mental Health, assisting the Rev'd Ruth Dudley and Canon Mark Cooper.

He has had an unusual career, training initially as a high school teacher in English and History but leaving that to do ten years of professional music theatre which included a year on the West End, a Royal Variety Performance, several years in the Extra Chorus of Opera Australia in Sydney and a pre-school Show that he still performs.

He was a house-husband long before it was fashionable and was the main care giver of his and his wife's two boys.

Keith has always had an interest in Social Justice as it is one of the key themes of the Bible. You may have read his many letters on social justice issues in the *Anglican News*.

Probably his most famous song is entitled *God is better than football*, which was featured in the Academy Award winning film *Harvey Crumpet*. His many other songs cover issues

including grief, depression, global warming, gay marriage and republicanism.

The web site is comprised of three sections: *Keith Binns for Children*; *All our times*; and *Keith Binns: other stuff*.

The children's page lists three songs: *God is Better Than Football*; *God Doesn't Like It*; and *When We Went Out To The Zoo*.

All Our times features 16 original songs, which Keith describes as "music primarily designed for adults investigating Christian faith as it is actually lived rather than the way some people would like it to be lived".

The third page is, as the name implies, a collection of "other stuff" that doesn't fit into the first two categories.

Songs can be sampled online, and purchased either individually or as digital albums. The price includes high-quality download in MP3, FLAC and more; paying supporters also get unlimited streaming via the free the Bandcamp app.

Check out the website at <https://keithbinns.bandcamp.com>.



KEITH BINNS: His songs for both children and adults come from a Christian perspective - with a difference.

ORDINATION

Introducing the new Deacons

On Saturday February 28, eight deacons were ordained in St Saviour's Cathedral. Here is a brief introduction:

Andrew Robinson

Andrew Robinson grew up in the Blue Mountains and has known the love of Jesus his whole life. Raised in a committed Christian family and part of a vibrant youth ministry in the parish of Springwood, he was spurred into Christian service at an Inter-School Christian Fellowship leadership conference in high school.

A sense of God's call to ministry persisted, percolating during his undergraduate years studying Arts and Media at the University of Sydney, followed by a brief stint working with Anglican Media Sydney.

Challenged by Jesus' deep concern for the poor, and wanting to further explore vocational Christian service, he began a ministry apprenticeship working with university students and homeless youth in inner-city Johannesburg, South Africa.

After two fruitful but challenging years, he returned to Australia with a hunger to study theology. He completed his Bachelor of Divinity at Moore Theological College in Sydney. While at college he worked as a catechist at St Barnabas' Broadway and St John's Bishopsthorpe, Glebe.

In 2011, he married Felicity, a committed Christian with a deep passion for justice and the pursuit of God. They moved to Canberra at the end of 2012, where Felicity took up a position with AusAID (now Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) and Andrew began to serve as a Lay Assistant Minister at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Curtin, and as Associate Chaplain at Canberra Grammar School.

He undertook studies in the Advanced Diploma of Christian Ministry and Theology at St Mark's National Theological Centre.

At Curtin, under Rev'd Guy Matthews, he was closely involved in serving and leading the new contemporary afternoon congregation, and at Grammar developed a love for ministry in Schools, religious education and liturgical worship working with Fr Chris Welsh.

Andrew loves pop music and Sufjan Stevens, cycling the Cotter-Uriarra loop, the night sky, frosty mornings, languages, graphic and urban design, poems by T. S. Eliot and Gerard Manley Hopkins, books by Tim Winton, Dave Eggers and Margaret Atwood.

In 2015, Felicity and Andrew move to Honiara, Solomon Islands where Felicity will be working with Oxfam on a program tackling family violence, and Andrew will serve in the Anglican Church of Melanesia.

Craig Roberts

I am training to become a priest and serve out my ministry, at this time, as a Defence Force chaplain in the Australian Army.

My wife Julie-Ann (Julie) and I first met when we were studying our Business degrees at Griffith University on the Gold Coast but we did not form a relationship until many years later. We have three daughters, Lilly-Ann (10), Danni-Ella (7)

and Willow-Grace (4).

During our married life, my wife and I have been posted to Townsville, Toowoomba, Singleton, back to Townsville then Canberra and I have been deployed on peace keeping missions in the Solomon Islands and Timor. We have enjoyed worshipping in a wide spectrum of the Anglican Church of Australia during this time.

There is never a time that I can remember when I did not know that God existed, but it was not until my early twenties that I actually became a Christian. When I was six years old I fell off a horse and was in a coma for a week. The accident resulted in total amnesia, a number of broken bones and facial disfigurement which was only corrected in my twenties.

This disfigurement made me a target of teasing and bullying through school but I always knew that God was present and had a purpose for me. God brought a number of people into my life at various times to shape my journey and guide my path. In my early twenties I met a Padre (what we call a Defence Chaplain) in the field and I asked the same questions I had always challenged other ministers with. To my surprise and delight he was able to answer these questions and lead me into a relationship with the living God.

During a series of postings which were hard on the family and made no sense from a career perspective, I met a number of people in the Church who guided me into Defence Chaplaincy and in 2012 I was accepted into the In-Service Chaplaincy Scheme to commence studying in 2013.

Having already obtained a Graduate Diploma in Theology from St Mark's National Theological College, I completed a Bachelor of Theology and the Advance Diploma of Christian Ministry and Theology in 2014.

I have always felt called to serve God as an ambassador and I am thankful of the opportunity to serve God as a full time minister both within and apart from Defence.

David Rajasekaram

Born and bred in Canberra, David Rajasekaram (26) has sensed a calling to ministry ever since his parents read him the story of Samuel as a four year-old. This story provided inspiration for being dedicated to God's service.

David grew up in a loving Christian family, with whom he attended St Matthew's Wanniasa until 2009. Here he served in music and youth ministries while benefiting from great Christian fellowship and discipleship. After year 12 he began working as a disability support worker, an experience which challenged him to grow in his understanding of and care for people.

While continuing this work, he began theological studies and ministry training at St Mark's National Theological Centre, obtaining a Bachelor of Theology and the Diploma of Anglican Orders. In 2012 he began a supervised ministry placement at Gungahlin Anglican Church (GAC), where he has had the privilege of serving



SET APART: Bishop Stuart ordains Natalie Milliken with the words, 'Send down your Holy Spirit upon Natalie, whom we set apart by the laying on of hands for the office and work of a deacon in your Church.'

and training in various areas including preaching, pastoral care, outreach and small group leadership.

At GAC, David also met the love of his life, Rachel, who he married in late 2014 and who is a faithful partner in ministry.

Throughout his life David has experienced God's mercy and love through both sadness and joy. He looks forward to continuing to share this wonderful message of God's grace with those around him in the diocese who have nurtured him in the Christian life and faith. David will be continuing on the staff team at GAC in 2015 as a Curate.

David enjoys watching British comedies with his wife, going out to the movies, appreciating the growing restaurant scene of Canberra, attempting the classical piano pieces he used to play, following 'real' (Test) cricket, and drinking unnecessary amounts of both good and bad coffee.

Graham Morrison

I was born into a Christian home in Sydney with regular Bible reading and attendance at my parish church, St Martin's Kensington. There I grew in my faith and enthusiastically pursued youth and Sunday School leadership under Rev'd Keith Grisdale.

I studied at Moore Theological College, University of NSW and University of New England. My first employment was with the Sydney Morning Herald, then a career in teaching and educational administration with the NSW Department of Education, St Andrew's Cathedral School Sydney, Barker College Hornsby and Blue Mountains Grammar School Wentworth Falls.

I married Jan in 1976 (deceased 1998) and we had two children, Jenny and Andrew. In 2007 I married Margaret Heath from Gunnedah and we now have a total of five children and 10 grandchildren.

My lifelong interests include bushwalking, caving, snow skiing, running and travel. I have longstanding involvement with leadership of the International Nepal Fellowship both in

Australia and Nepal, Southern Cross Alpine Lodge and St Catherine's Anglican School Sydney.

The claim of God for possible ordination came early in my life in Sydney, then again after I married Margie. Some five years ago I became aware of a call for work within the Snowy Mountains, a region I know well. Encouraged by Rev'd Owen Davies and Rev'd Lloyd Bennett I commenced more focused ministry as Chaplain for Perisher Resort and lay ministry in the Snowy Mountains Anglican and Uniting Partnership — work that culminated in my application for ordination. My wife, Margie has encouraged me in the steps leading to ordination.

God has called me to work now in the Snowy Mountains together with my other commitments. He is faithful and provides.

Hazel Davies

Hazel was born in the city of Wollongong, the fifth child in a family of seven children who were raised in the Anglican Communion. Hazel first identified a longing to be in relationship with God and a call to serve the church in ministry almost 40 years ago.

During theological studies at Moore College, she met and married Owen whilst serving on the worship team in the chapel. Her studies were delayed and she ministered alongside Owen as they raised a family of four. With the children grown and three grandchildren added to the clan, the call to use her gifts to serve in the permanent diaconate re-emerged and she resumed studies in the Bachelor of Theology and Diploma of Anglican Orders at Saint Mark's Theological College.

Hazel's passion in ministry is communicating the Christian faith through the arts to a troubled world that is searching for truth and peace. Throughout her life and ministry till now she has practised a broad range of creative arts including training as a professional Florist and working in events at the Sydney Opera House. Hazel also

(Continued on page 11)

Remote communities and the right to decide

□ Archdeacon Karen Kime reflects on recent discussions about remote indigenous communities

The recent discussion on the closure of Indigenous remote communities should be a concern to all Australians.

Indeed 'Country' is at the heart of Aboriginal cultures and languages and is also part of the living heritage of all Australians. For Aboriginal people, care of Country has centred on sacred ritual that has occurred over many thousands of years. One's Country is full of sacred icons, similar to the icons that for Christians, hold deeply sacred and spiritual meanings.

In remote communities Aboriginal children grow up not with one language but with many. Aboriginal children are multi-lingual; learning the language of their people; the language of other Indigenous nations and the English language. Most of these children speak four to six languages by the time they are ten.

Language is very much connected to a strong identity. While there were more than 600 spoken languages within this

country, there are just over 100 that continue to be spoken. The closure of these communities will mean that very soon, these ancient languages will no longer exist.

The discussions surrounding the closure of communities is based on issues related to poverty. While some of these communities have high rates of domestic violence, alcohol foetal syndrome and poorer health standards, so do many other non-Indigenous locations. In parish work, I have ministered in rural communities where prostitution, domestic violence and alcohol foetal syndrome are prevalent. I have seen small children in this diocese hunched over a backyard fire in winter, because of a lack of electricity.

However, we do not like to think that these issues exist in Rural Australia – such things only ever happen in Black Australia.

The government's targeting of remote Indigenous communities should cease for other reasons. The history of black/white relations has always been determined by the needs of a growing economy. In the first 100 years of European invasion, constant battles were fought on this continent by Indigenous

Australians in defence of land and its resources.

More Aboriginal people were killed in these battles, than the number of combined deaths of Australians in the first and second world wars.

Again, we do not like to acknowledge such a fact. In the following period, the establishment of reserves and missions were also about the needs of a growing economy.

Certainly, the often forced removal of Aboriginal people off the land meant that generations of Aboriginal children would provide free labour. Many thousands of these children were removed from the land to be trained as domestics, drovers, and labourers for Australia's infrastructure.

In 1993 the Native Title Act was introduced and enabled Aboriginal people to regain access to Country through applying for Crown land.

In the same year, Western Australia sold much of its crown land. Western Australia also has one of the highest incarceration rates of Indigenous people in the world.

Interestingly, it is now the Western Australian government that is supporting the discussions on the closure



KAREN KIME served as Anglicare's Manager of Indigenous Services, Culture and Education during 2012-2013. She is currently on study leave.

of remote communities. This is an interesting development on the back of the downturn in mining across Australia, especially since that state is highly dependent on the mining industry.

Certainly access to land and its rich resources would be far easier, if the Custodians of sacred Country were no

longer present!

We must reflect on the actions of our predecessors and the present government in determining the fate of these people.

In the 21st century, surely they have the right to determine that for themselves!

Introducing the new Deacons (continued from page 10)

qualified as a recreational therapist working with children with disability and adults suffering from dementia. She has studied creative liturgy with the Fisher Folk and drama and mime with the Covenant Players.

Currently Hazel shares her time between her Commercial Floristry teaching role at CIT; in partnership with Owen at the University of Canberra Outreach; attending to family, and continuing study. Owen and Hazel enjoy the loving support and fellowship of the congregation at Saint James Holt. She is looking forward to being an active member of the Household of Deacons.

As a deacon her dream is to ride the boundaries between the body of the church and the world, using this combined experience to find new and fresh ways to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

Judy Douglas

Judy Douglas (Kocho) grew up in Chifley ACT. She became a Christian on Camp Pelican and was discipled as a young Christian at St Alban's Woden and All Souls' Chapman.

Judy trained and was commissioned with Church Army. Since 1993 she has worked in youth ministry and evangelism. In Sydney, Judy served in the parishes of St Giles' Greenwich and Holy Trinity

Baulkham Hills. In Melbourne, Judy served at St James' Ivanhoe, St Mark's Mill Park and St Mark's Camberwell. Judy also enjoyed working at The Mission to Seafarers while completing her Bachelor of Theology at Ridley College.

Back in Canberra from 2006, Judy was Director of Synergy Youth and team leader of the 'forc' project for young adults.

Judy is married to John, a passionate cyclist and public servant. They have a daughter Ella who is starting high school and a son Miles in year 5.

Judy is a musician and singer. Originally trained in opera she now sings folk and plays guitar. She enjoys nature, visual arts, exercise and Australian made movies, comedy and TV.

Over the last few years she has worked and studied in education at the Australian Electoral Commission, the National Gallery of Australia and the Australian Catholic University.

She is currently serving as Evangelist in Charge at St James' Holt.

Natalie Milliken

Natalie Milliken (nee Hodges) was raised in the Snowy Mountains and studied psychology and teaching at the Riverina C.A.E. in Wagga, where she met her husband, Daniel. Dan was a serviceman (Pathology Technician) with the RAAF.

Dan and Natalie had postings to Richmond and Perth. However, civilian life was more conducive to their growing family so they moved to Dubbo and Moruya for Dan's work.

Natalie returned to studies and applied for a permanent teaching position. They were posted to Goolma PS, Gulgong PS and finally Berridale PS in the Snowy Mountains: back to the beginning. Their children, Caityln, Tegan, Shane and Dean, had the privilege of sharing worship with their grandparents until each eventually left home.

Through this time Natalie was continually being challenged to consider her God-given gifts and opportunities to serve her Heavenly Father, the Creator. Natalie's involvement in both worship and church administration caused three people to ask whether she had considered a calling to the priesthood.

God opened the doors to enable Natalie to test and pursue the calling. God created provision for the necessary supervision and study at St Mark's. These academic experiences and opportunities have created a real hunger to continue to pursue further theological study, to enhance the leading and development of flourishing expressions of the Christian church in rural areas.

Natalie works full-time as a classroom teacher and Lay Minister in the Uniting and Anglican Churches in partnership in the Snowy Mountains. The journey to ordination continues to be challenging but immensely rewarding. Natalie expresses her thanks to her family and the witness of so many Christian brothers and sisters along her journey. May God bless each one richly.

Peter Manyok Kuot

Peter Manyok Kuot is South Sudanese by birth and now an Australian citizen. In South Sudan Peter came to faith as a child and in his teens he began to minister with others at a small church on the banks of the Nile, where he worked as a fisherman.

He was later trained as a lay evangelist in Pator parish. In Kakuma refugee camp he ministered as an evangelist and worked with youth and children. On coming to Australia Peter continued in lay ministry at St George's Pearce and for the last three years has been the lay leader of the South Sudanese congregation at St Philip's O'Connor.

He is married to Achol and has a baby son, Kuot.



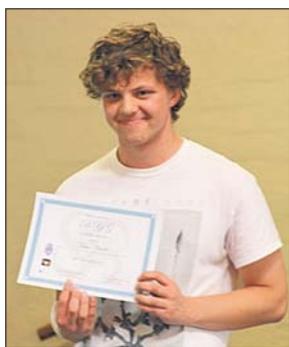
BYG student graduation

❑ Graduates speak enthusiastically about the changes their gap year has brought

On a hot summer night, a large crowd of students, family and supporters celebrated the graduation of students from the Bishop's Gap Year program at St James, Holt.

"The Gap Year program," explained Andrew Edwards, Director of Synergy Youth & Children, "is an opportunity to take a year out to do some amazing things. Young adults have the chance to serve a local parish in ministry, spend time studying God's Word and learn what it means to serve God."

Four students from 2014 graduated and received certificates from Bishop Stuart and Synergy. Three of those students shared about their experience with other



TOBIAS NEVILLE - was able to get more in tune with God and the world.

young adults.

Tobias Neville told the gathering that one of the highlights of his gap year was the SOMA mission to the Seychelles.

"The Bishop's Gap Year was a terrific opportunity for growth and development," said Tobias. "I was able to get more in tune with God and the world. I've read just about all the Bible in a year and the mission trip to the Seychelles was also a big success.

"I've learnt a bit about my own capabilities, what difference I can make in the lives of other people and about God's grace.

I also learnt quite a bit about the different kinds of ministry there are and the different ways you can minister, which was pretty cool."

For Hsa PoDan, the year provided an opportunity to get to know the church community better and work with other people.

"Reading the Bible and



HSA PODAN - gained the confidence to speak to a large crowd.

learning to apply it to my life was a big challenge but God was with me. I wanted to follow Jesus and while I wanted to talk to people I was really scared. But I grew in confidence and even spoke at a women's conference in

front of 500 people! I learnt to do so many things that I didn't think I could so confidence

was really the biggest thing for me."

The Gap Year gave Patrick Brennan an opportunity to join a new church and help out with the their youth groups, and experience he described as "fantastic".

"Learning how to give talks was the biggest thing as I get really nervous and so getting over that was the biggest challenge. I learnt that God's plan always prevails and it was great serving on the Camp Pelican Year 5/6 camp, I met some amazing people and the whole year was awesome."

The evening concluded with the commissioning of Dan Harris, who is looking forward to serving God and the community by using some of the skills he has learned through his gap year.

Dan was presented with a prayer journal, and his family and supporters then prayed with him as he promised "to read God's Word and following Him as Jesus' disciple."

"The Bishop's Gap Year (BYG) is an amazing opportunity for our Diocese"

said Andrew Edwards.

"This is the fourth group of young people to graduate the BYG, with all previous participants still serving in local ministries. We have an amazing opportunity to connect young people with ministry and mission, giving them real opportunities to serve God and others, explore their gifts and seek God for His calling on their life.

"I encourage every parish in our Diocese to pray for, identify and encourage young people to take part in the BYG."



DAN HARRIS - looking forward to serving God and the community.



OPPORTUNITY: Andrew Edwards enthusiastically describes the Bishop's Gap Year as "an opportunity to take a year out and do amazing things". The testimony of the 'Gappies' certainly endorses this statement.



HIGHLIGHTS: Synergy Youth Director Andrew Edwards listens as BYG graduate Patrick Brennan outlines the highlights of his Gap Year.

Synergy contacts

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