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Apprenticed for mission

□ Bishop's Cathedral Convention explores discipleship

By Lewis Hitchick

Keynote speaker at the Bishop's Cathedral Convention on Saturday May 16, Dr Alison Morgan, issued a strong challenge to the 450-strong gathering, to take seriously the role they have been called to as disciples.

The UK-based Dr Morgan, who has developed a discipleship program entitled *Rooted in Jesus* for use in African countries, presented three sessions at the one-day convention.

However, the gathering had kicked off the previous evening when Bishop Stuart Robinson introduced Associate Professor Stuart Piggin, who presented the inaugural Bishop Barlow Lecture.

Dr Piggin is Director of the Centre for the History of Christian Thought at Macquarie University. His address considered five examples of revival in rural Australian contexts over the past 50 years (see report on page 5).

In welcoming the large crowd to St Saviour's Cathedral on Saturday morning, Bishop Stuart also welcomed the Bishop of Riverina, Rob Gillion, Bishop of Bathurst Ian Palmer and the Primate, Archbishop Philip Freier.

Speaking on the theme, *Apprenticed for Mission*, Dr Morgan compared discipleship to an apprenticeship, where through on-the-job training the apprentice learns to become like the teacher.

"Jesus didn't teach his disciples in a classroom, he taught them in an



DISCIPLESHIP: Keynote speaker at the Bishop's Convention, Dr Alison Morgan, stressed the need for all Christians to see themselves as disciples - and to understand what the role of a disciple is.

apprenticeship style," she said in her first session, *Called as disciples of Jesus*. "It's about making disciples, not just being disciples."

However, she stressed that this was not an individual process, but a community one: "You cannot be a disciple alone ... discipleship is about relationship."

She pointed out that while the first three Gospels refer to disciples, the word is not used in the writings of John, Paul, James or Peter. However, they do use the word *ecclesia* - which we translate as 'church', and which she described as a collective noun referring

to "the called out".

"The plural of *disciple* is *church*," she said, referring to the title of her most recent book which explores this concept in detail.

Quoting former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, she said that church was not a collection of individuals meeting once a week, but was "what happens when people encounter the Risen Jesus and commit themselves to sustaining and deepening that encounter in their encounter with each other".

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Bishop's Cathedral Convention:

Apprenticed for Mission

(from page 1)

Dr Morgan said, "Jesus starts by saying to us, 'Come' - but he ends by saying 'Go' - sending us out with a purpose: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit ..."

However, she cautioned that disciples "also need to embrace the possibility of pain". "Jesus said, 'Whoever does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me'."

"Many church members have problems because they have not yet decided to follow Jesus," she suggested, and illustrated this with a story of a woman she encountered at a parish mission planning meeting.

When presented with an outline of the workload that would be associated with the mission, this woman had said: "We *are* only volunteers, you know."

Dr Morgan said she had responded, "The problem is, Jesus is not looking for volunteers; he's looking for disciples."

She concluded her first session with a question: "Do you see yourselves as volunteers, or disciples?"

Living in God's story

□ Disciples need to distinguish between the world's story and God's story

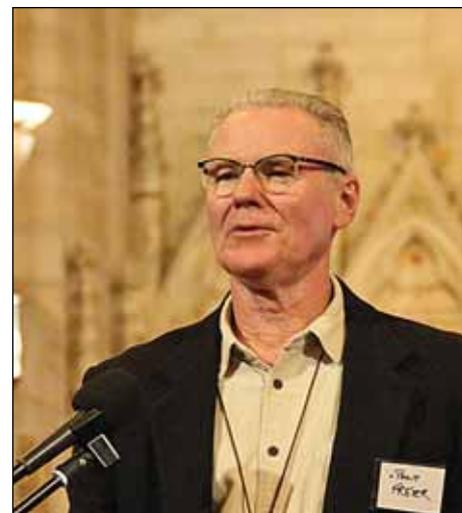
In her second session at the Convention, 'Living in God's story', Dr Morgan suggested that "we live in a world that is like a television story", and we each try to find our own part in that story in an attempt to make sense of life.

She pointed out that throughout history, every culture has told its own story in an attempt to "define the values, priorities and assumptions that shape the lives of those who live within that story".

"But then the Bible, too, tells a story, with rather different assumptions, values and priorities - and we'd like to find our part in that story too."

She said that one of the biggest problems that disciples of Jesus face, is that the world's story and the Bible's story are not the same.

The world's story, she claimed, is told by the media, in regular news bulletins - to the extent that social philosopher Allain de Botton suggests that "the news has become our bible".



GREETINGS: Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia, Archbishop Philip Frier, brought greetings and encouragement from the national church.

However, this 'bible' is constantly interrupted by commercial breaks, "which broadcast, rather subtly, the same rather particular set of values which underpins the news stories - the values of consumerism".

"The religion of western society is best described, one theologian suggests, is 'theo-capitalism'."

Citing the ease with which we can post comment on online news reports, or tell our own stories through social media sites, Alison Morgan said that we "live in a world characterised by an unprecedented explosion of connectivity".

Kathleen Richardson, an academic whose research focusses on the use of social media, has said: "Experience - a thought, a feeling, an image - is steadily being reduced to data that can be posted online."

In this way, according to Kathleen Richardson, "real life becomes mere material for the creation of a digital performance".

However, Dr Morgan said her experience in African societies had shown her a very different cultural story, and this was in part what had caused her to "look so hard at our own western story".

(continued next page)



ENTHUSIASM: Dan Op de Veigh, Jonny Robinson and Nicola Hay gave a strong lead to some very enthusiastic singing, drawing on a selection of well-known hymns and songs of praise.

Bishop's Cathedral Convention:

Living in God's story (from page 2)



STRONG INTEREST: An attendance of around 450 meant that there were few empty seats in St Saviour's Cathedral. As well as the Primate, the Bishops of Riverina and Bathurst attended the convention.

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She highlighted three problems which the western story creates:

1. A crisis of purpose.

She quoted journalist Clifford Longley, who wrote: 'Having constructed a society of unprecedented sophistication, convenience and prosperity, nobody can remember what it was supposed to be for. Just enjoying it doesn't seem to be enough. Indeed, enjoyment as an end in itself quickly turns to ashes in the mouth. Not only is it boringly bland, it is even more boringly purposeless. There is more to human life than comfort, entertainment and the avoidance of suffering.'

"Our story provides no coherent answer to the question, What is life all about?" she said.

2. A crisis of spirituality.

Dr Morgan pointed out that in Australia there are more churches than schools, but she had been told that church attendance has declined by 48% in the last 10 years. The main reason people give for not attending, is that "church is not relevant to my life". She said that statistical

research showed that people do still ask spiritual questions, but "they're no longer looking to find answers to them in church".

3. A crisis in happiness.

"For many people, daily life fails to deliver satisfaction," she claimed. "People are realising that what they thought would make them happy, doesn't." She said that our whole governance was based on the assumption that economic growth was the answer to everything, that happiness was directly linked to prosperity.

"But countless surveys show that money, beyond a minimal level, has no bearing whatsoever on well-being," she said. "Indeed, it seems that far from being a solution, money is in fact part of the problem."

Alison Morgan said we should not be seduced into the values of the society we live in – it is not our story.

This, she said, is the Bible story – "the story of the people of God; it's your story".

She said that Jesus had invited the ordinary men and women he met to step out of the familiar story they'd grown up in, to change the direction of their

lives and take an active part in the story of God.

"As we read the Gospels, we find a constant tension between the cultural story and the Kingdom story," she observed.

"But in his letter to the Philippians, Paul comes up with a new way of explaining the tension we experience as we try to live as Kingdom communities within the narrative of our culture. He reminds them that as followers of Jesus we may live here on Earth, but our true citizenship is in Heaven."

She said that it was possibly Peter who provided the most helpful description of the difference between the two stories or two kingdoms: 'Now that we have been reconciled to God, we live here as aliens and exiles.'

"We have only one life," Dr Morgan said, "and the choice of how we are going to live it must be our own choice, and not the one we let the world make for us."

Next month's edition of Anglican News will include a report on Dr Morgan's final session at the Bishop's Convention, 'Doing what Jesus did'.

FROM THE DEAN

Would church be better without people?

(Well, people not like us)

We all have the temptation to think like this sometimes. Church life can be rough.

However the church does not select members like Rotary, the Golf club or Facebook friends.

We do not select members because they fit in well together, or because we think they have something to offer us. We are not people of like worldly status, interests, political opinions, priorities or financial clout, but disciples of Christ who are baptised into his body, his community. It is Christ who does the selection, actually.

Think how much easier it would be to accept and work with, fellowship with, and worship with people of like mind. It would take little effort, leave feathers unruffled, make for shorter meetings

How much harder it is, and at times it feels almost impossible, to accept, worship and work with a mixture of divergent personalities and convictions.

Have you noticed how we tend to respond to the image of ourselves in others; a bit like seeing our own reflection in another's eyes and saying: "Yes!"

The people we readily like to have around can be quite literally our kind of people. It would like having communion with ourselves?!

That it not what Christ asks of us. It is not how the church is formed. We are asked to see and accept the differences, to embrace the otherness of others--- especially the bits that prickle, bruise or

frighten us. God chooses us, we do not choose God. It is precisely through our bumping into each other that individual Christians and the Christian community grows in grace and maturity.

In fact I am sure that the early church would be very surprised to see the way we have fragmented and individualised our commitment to Christ. Unfortunately in this we are reflecting the way of the western world.

Whereas in the New Testament there is no individual Christian without a Christian community.

Trinity Sunday with its focus on the truth of our God as three in one - the ultimate loving community - reminds us that we are called in Christ to community. Not only this, but God includes redeemed humanity in the circle of his love, and we know this by Christ's loving, obedient self-offering on the cross and his rising from the dead for us. We are called to community that reflects, however imperfectly, the love of God.

But as Dr Alison Morgan told us recently, community yes - but community with a purpose: to make disciples and live out the Christian life where we are placed.

To do all that we are called to do **together**. Not easy, and in fact only possible in the power of the Spirit.

It is the Community of Christ then which carries out the mission of the church in the power of the Spirit and through the ministry of individuals, each taking their proper part, each working together as Christ intended.

Sounds great doesn't it? But

Dean
Phillip
Saunders



what it actually looks like is your local Christian community with you and me, imperfect and sinful though we are, working and living with God's other imperfect disciples just as God intended.

We are the Body of Christ - His Spirit is with us! Amen.

Dean Phillip

Anglican News

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Editor: Lewis Hitchick
Address: PO Box 23
Bathurst, NSW 2795
Phone: (02) 6331 1722
0427 373 446

Email: anglican.news@bathurstanglican.org.au

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Diocesan Offices

Diocesan Registry
Level 4, 221 London Circuit
Canberra City, ACT 2612

Postal Address:
GPO Box 1981
Canberra, ACT 2601
Phone: (02) 6232 3600
Fax: (02) 6232 3650

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Clergy moves and appointments

- ◆ **The Venerable Dr Matthew Brain** will be consecrated as a Bishop in the Church of God on Saturday 13 June at 11.00am at St Saviour's Cathedral Goulburn and he will serve as Assistant Bishop Ministry Training and Development Portfolio.
- ◆ **The Right Reverend Trevor Edwards** will continue as Vicar-General and be the new Regional Bishop responsible for the development of ministry in the Diocese's western and coastal regions.
- ◆ **The Reverend Dr Brian Douglas** will be collated as Archdeacon for South Canberra at the Choral Evensong service at St Paul's Manuka on Sunday 21 June 2015 at 6.00pm-7.30pm.

Tales of revival in rural Australia

□ Inaugural Bishop Barlow Lecture sets high standard

“Precisely because revival is always a sovereign work of God, you can expect it and work for it with confidence.”

So said Dr Stuart Piggin in the inaugural Bishop Barlow Lecture in St Saviour’s Cathedral, Goulburn, on Friday evening, May 15.

Dr Piggin, Associate Professor and Director of the Centre for the History of Christian Thought and Experience at Macquarie University, Sydney, spoke on the topic: what God has wrought – Christian revival in Australia.

Addressing a gathering of over 400, Dr Piggin drew on five inspiring examples of revival in rural situations across Australia over the past 50 years. He referred to an amazing renewal at Tumbarumba in this diocese in 1972, and at Balranald (1975) and Broken Hill (1982) in Riverina Diocese. He also drew on the Aboriginal revival in the Northern Territory and Western Australia from 1979 – 88 and the events in the South Australian community of Wuddina in 1969.

He pointed out that the five examples of revived Christian communities were empowered to address a “wide spectrum of need”.

“At one end of the spectrum perhaps is nominalism, an age-long hazard of historic Anglicanism. There are people in the pews who expect nothing and feel nothing, even if they do a little. But they are bored and asleep – they need to be awakened by the alarm of revival, the light of faith, and the glory of the Lord’s tangible presence.”

He also listed anxiety, disappointment, despair, hopelessness, anger, resentment, addiction, depression, alienation and economic insecurity among the many needs of those in rural communities.

He said that these physical and psychic needs “seem to have reached epidemic proportions in our society, and it is good to be reassured that vital faith is the most radical answer to them”.

“We might not always diagnose these needs accurately, but we all know they are there. We are troubled by them ... we ask, ‘Where is the church in this hopeless situation?’ The absence of the



WORSHIP: *Dr Stuart Piggin’s study of revival has convinced him that when a church loves the glory of God through worship, God will glorify himself by flowing forth in revival.*

church creates such a vacuum in dealing with these needs that other groups are seeking to meet them, and charge a lot of money in the process.”

He explained that Macquarie University had recently established a Centre for Emotional Health, a “centre of research excellence” focussing on the understanding, treatment and prevention of anxiety, depression and related mental health problems.

“But the research might be more excellent if it explored the relationship between vital faith and personal and community health,” he suggested. “What such research might reveal is that it is healthier to get excited about the glory of God than to get worried about the psychic and social problems of humanity.”

Dr Piggin described revival as “waking up to the reality about God”.

“The reality is, to put it simply, that we are not at the centre of the universe, God is ... ultimately, God is not here for our benefit, we are here for his. God created us for his benefit and glory. It is for his glory’s sake that he loves you enough to save you.”

He stated that God’s forgiveness of our sins was “not so much for our relief, but

for his honour; he loves us not so much for our pleasure, but for his praise”.

Dr Piggin underscored these statements with Scripture: ‘I bound you to me,’ declares the Lord, ‘and made you my people’ – why? – ‘for my renown and praise and honour.’ (Jeremiah 13:11), and:

‘Help us, O God our Saviour’ – why? – ‘for the glory of your name; deliver us and forgive our sins’ – why? – ‘for your name’s sake.’ (Psalm 79:9).

“That is why, whenever the holiness of God is present in the worship of any congregation, when the sanctuary is truly filled with his glory, and the hearts of his people are truly absorbed in his praise, then the love of God must go forth as it did from the holy of holies, because that is what God’s glory is,” he asserted.

“If we love his glory above all else, he will love to glorify himself in flowing forth – healing, refreshing and multiplying those who flock to worship him in our churches, to see his glory in the sanctuary.”

The full text of Dr Piggin’s Bishop Barlow Lecture is available from the diocesan office at a cost of \$5 plus postage.

Canberra Uni to host Peace Conference

□ International Peace and Reconciliation Christian Conference (IPARCC) at the University of Canberra and neighbouring churches - September 25 to October 2

International peace, and reconciliation is on the hearts and in the prayers of many peoples all over the world.

A conference addressing these issues will be held in the spring of this year, featuring the cultural diversity of the University of Canberra (UC), in a city that plays host and home for many who have travelled far and wide for work and study.

We are provided with an opportunity to minister to people from every tribe, tongue, and nation at a pivotal time in their lives when, sadly, the wisdom of the world causes one to question the wisdom that comes from heaven.

Bishop Stuart Robinson has invited international SOMA partners to facilitate this equipping and edifying ministry. The diversity of this team demonstrates the cross-cultural and cross-geographical nature of God's kingdom.

In this respect the Church is ideally placed for the spread of international peace and reconciliation. The keynote speaker Archbishop Ben Kwashi will be coming from one of the most contested and divided regions of the world: northern Nigeria.

Where Christians and Muslims are both terrorised by Boko Haram, Archbishop Ben leads like a modern-day apostle meeting fear and terror with love; standing in opposition to corruption and hypocrisy.

IPARCC will be further manifest in the SOMA leaders that will journey from Ireland, and England, South Africa, Singapore, and the United States. There will be encouragement through exhilarating worship, training, ministering to each other, and reaching out in conversation and practical action. It is our prayer that Christians will join us from near and far to share in the event and so experience a fresh outpouring of the Spirit.

The conference will explore how the peace-making concepts and skills of Christianity compare with the faiths, philosophies, and politics of others. We will focus on the work of Christ observed through apostle Paul's engagement with the cosmopolitan city of Ephesus with the message of how God reconciles divided races to God through the cross, by which he puts to death their hostility (Eph 2:16).

In so doing we will be refreshed and equipped to understand, then put into practice, the way a loving God makes peace through what Christ has done in giving His own life, so that we believing live. Rev'd Owen Davies, who is supporting the student leaders, emphasised: "This week will not be just a head trip. We will have our hearts set on fire. We will get out into our community to demonstrate and put into practice peace-making."

Partnering with SOMA, the UC Anglican Church aims to build up Christians' gifts and skills as peace makers. We are hosting this conference because most Christians understand how God makes us his friends through Christ yet struggle to bring this peace-making message to the



KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Nigerian Archbishop Ben Kwashi comes from one of the world's most divided regions.

diverse contexts in which we live and serve.

We want to encourage increased confidence in God and scripture, and dependence upon the Holy Spirit in introducing others to the reconciling love that transforms lives and communities; and to respectfully, carefully and creatively engaging new Australians and the 4,000 international visitors with the love and power of God.

Hosting this week of growth and fortification in Christ is a small group of Christian students, themselves from a number of nations, and friends from nearby churches. They have been meeting to grow in Christ and build a new faith community at the University. Neighbouring churches are sending representatives to share in an outpouring of God's love.

UC student Elliott Hartman said: "It is a great work to travel, to visit and edify other Christian communities sharing the blessings that God has given you with your brothers and sisters in Christ, but it is not necessarily some far off thing. We are all of us ordinary Christians in ordinary places, and fellowship among believers is equally a blessing whether it is that you travel from the other end of the world or from the other end of the pew."

Visiting SOMA team members will visit local churches to encourage and participate in this city wide mission.

For further information please go to www.facebook.com/CanberraCharisma or leave a message on 02 6161 0643.

Young remembers Gallipoli

□ St John's Young's ANZAC display for church and yard

From the parish

Ladies from St John's Anglican Church in Young along with others in the town community knitted, crocheted and made paper poppies for the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the ANZAC landing at Gallipoli.

Their efforts were in response to seeing many people throughout the world making and sending poppies to the Melbourne appeal: the church in Young decided to do its own poppy display and asked the parish craft group to start making the flowers.

A photograph and an article in the *Young Witness* encouraged some people from the local community to come and either learn to make poppies or collect the patterns. With such a great response, the result was a display of poppies that were all individual and a lovely mixture, in front of the altar in St John's, along with a border of Rosemary.

Parish priest John Thomas preached at the Anzac Sunday service with many people attending, and with a special morning tea afterwards. The ladies also made little crosses with poppies,



POPPIES: Hundreds of poppies, hand-crafted by local women, formed the display for the ANZAC centenary service in St John's Church.

bearing the 50 names from St John's Honour Roll, for the lawn in front of the church. The display attracted quite a lot of comments, with many in the town appreciating the significance for this

year's Centenary of Anzac Day.

The Sunday School children spent several hours and quite a bit of enthusiasm preparing a Remembrance Stand for the day.

Saving Holy Trinity Kameruka

A group of concerned residents in the Bega Valley has formed the 'Friends of Holy Trinity Kameruka' to help ensure the survival and ongoing maintenance of the historic brick church which was built on the grounds of Kameruka Estate almost 150 years ago.

Kameruka Estate was established by the Lucas-Tooth family, and was held in the family for 140 years. The Lucas-Tooth family built the Blackett-designed church in 1869, and since then the descendants of the original owners have taken responsibility for the care and maintenance of Holy Trinity Church, which is on land adjoining the estate.

The last family member to own Kameruka sold the estate in 2007, and clearly it was not incumbent on the new owners to continue caring for the church, cemetery and War Memorial.

The property is again for sale which will further remove the link with Kameruka Estate.

Rector's Warden of Holy Trinity Kameruka and Chair of the newly-formed 'Friends' group, Sandy Macqueen, said that if the church is to survive the next 100 years and beyond there must be mechanisms in place for this to happen.

"One such possibility is the creation of a group of people who want the church preserved and maintained for future generations," he said. "Friends of Holy Trinity Kameruka want to see this church survive and by forming a group with unlimited numbers of 'members' it is reasonable to think that there will always be someone to carry the torch."

He said that the group was not



seeking money or labour, just concern for preservation.

An annual service is conducted in October and traditionally includes an inspection of the Kameruka Homestead gardens, Memorial Hall and a BYO picnic beneath the trees surrounding the Lords View cricket oval (on the property). Throughout the year, marriages, baptisms and funerals can be arranged.

Anglicare's Pantry Appeal needs you!

By Hannah McQuiggin

For many families and individuals, winter can be a difficult time and the need for emergency food relief is growing. For more than 10 years, Anglicare has been running the Pantry Appeal in Canberra and regional NSW to help local communities during the cold winter months and beyond.

On Friday 22 May, Anglicare's Pantry Appeal was officially launched in Canberra and Anglicare has already seen a great response from the community. Over 9,000 items have been donated so far, with a target of 40,000 items in 2015.

Beverly Doering, along with her husband Don, were present at the launch and volunteered their time on the Pantry Appeal collection stall. The dedicated couple have been volunteering for the Pantry Appeal for many years and have been overjoyed by the generosity of the Canberra community.

"We have had several very generous donors" says Beverly.

"Some people were even donating trolley loads of food."

Beverly's passion for supporting Anglicare stems from her own experiences.

"I live a very comfortable life; however, I know what it's like to struggle to afford food each week. I've been there! Now it's a real joy to give back."

Beverly and Don are part of the congregation at Holy Cross Anglican Church, which is also heavily involved in supporting those in need through weekly food collections for Anglicare's partner agency, St John's Care.

The Pantry Appeal runs from May 21 – June 27 and all of the donated food and essential living items are distributed through Anglicare and church-based programs.

Anglicare is looking for churches and workplaces to get behind Pantry Appeal and show their support by hosting a collection. Volunteers are also need for our Canberra-based shopping centre collection points over the coming weeks.

If you would like to get involved, please contact Hannah McQuiggin; Anglicare's Church & Community Communications Officer via Hannah. McQuiggin@anglicare.com.au or (02) 6245 7119.



VETERANS: Don and Beverly Doering have been serving as volunteers for Anglicare's Pantry Appeal for many years.

Vicki Hancock ordained as Deacon in Rockhampton

Congratulations to Vicki Hancock who was ordained a deacon in the Diocese of Rockhampton last month (Wednesday May 6).

Vicki, a former parishioner of St John's, Wagga Wagga, was ordained by Bishop David Robinson and she is now serving in the parish of Gladstone as a pastoral assistant.

Vicki and her family moved to north Queensland in March, having recently completed two years serving as managers of the Wambiri campsite at Tathra.

Archdeacon David Ruthven and the Rev'd Joy Harris were able to be present for the ordination in Rockhampton.

Our prayers are with Vicki and her family as she starts this new chapter in her ministry.



Anglicare 'recognises' *Recognition*

By Hannah McQuiggin

The Board of Anglicare NSW South, NSW West & ACT has resolved to support the 'Recognise' campaign. 'Recognise' is the people's movement to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Australian Constitution.

According to Recognise;

"Today Australia prides itself on being a place of fairness. But our Constitution still does not recognise the first Australians. And it still says in Section 25 that the States can ban people from voting based on their race. It's long past time that we ensure that there is no place for race discrimination in our nation's highest legal document."

Anglicare's Reconciliation Action Plan outlines Anglicare's vision for Reconciliation and becoming an official Recognise campaign partner is an important step towards closing the gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians.

In officially recognising the 'Recognise' campaign, Anglicare has joined over 50 other organisations nationally in the Recognise Campaign Partners Network. These include QANTAS, the Red Cross and Anglicare South Australia. As part of being an official Campaign Partner, Anglicare is looking forward to hosting more events, speakers and church activities centred on the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and constitutional recognition.

Anglicare has been showing support of the Recognise campaign by proudly displaying 'R' badges. If you, your church, school or workplace would like any additional information or 'R' badges, please contact Hannah McQuiggin via (02) 6245 7119 or Hannah.McQuiggin@anglicare.com.au. You can also view more information on the Recognise website www.recognise.org.au.



RECOGNITION: Anglicare Riverina staff members Kristy Daley, Kylie Falciani and Tarnie-Jo Brown supporting the Recognise campaign.

Give happy, live happy – Anglicare says thank you

National Volunteer Week (May 11-17) gave an opportunity for organisations to recognise and show their appreciation towards volunteers.

Over six million Australians are, or have been, volunteers and almost 1,000 of those volunteer for Anglicare NSW South, NSW West & ACT.

"Volunteers are essential and valued members our organisation, coming from all walks of life" says Rev'd Ian Coutts, Parish Partnership Projects at Anglicare NSW South, NSW West & ACT.

"We are truly thankful for their hard work, dedication and support."

While Anglicare values each and every one of its volunteers, the organisation particularly wanted to recognise the efforts of 80-year-old John Kent, by nominating him for the 2015 ACT Volunteer of the Year awards.



VOLUNTEER: Long serving Anglicare volunteer John Kent was acknowledged at the 2015 ACT Volunteer of the Year Awards.

John has been volunteering for over 70 years. As a child in Wagga, he sold raffle tickets, completed paper runs, and washed dishes at different events. Additionally, he was a volunteer treasurer for the Woden Valley RSL and at Canberra Boys Grammar School.

Since John's retirement in 2000, his volunteering has rapidly increased. John is a committed volunteer for Anglicare and the RSL and is inspirational in raising awareness of the needs of those doing it tough and also in

encouraging others to volunteer.

John also plays a significant role in Anglicare's annual Pantry Appeal, spending hours every week collecting food and money for those in need.

Despite all he has done and continues to do for his community, John simply states, "It is only what my mother would expect of me."

NEWS FROM THE WIDER CHURCH

Helping in hard places in Africa

□ Anglican Overseas Aid worker reflects on a visit to some of the aid agency's African projects

By Nils von Kalm

For the past 15 years I have been privileged to work for Christian aid agencies that are making a huge difference overseas. But in that time, I had never experienced the work firsthand.

That all changed in March this year when I travelled to South Africa and Mozambique to visit Anglican Overseas Aid's partners and the communities they serve.

As my plane touched down in Johannesburg, I remembered watching the news as a young man in 1994 as Nelson Mandela was elected President of this new democracy. I recalled how I rejoiced with the rest of the world that this country had finally reached the end of its long walk to freedom.

As I travelled through Mandela's rainbow nation 21 years after that ecstatic moment in history, I discovered that much of the hope of 1994 has been replaced by frustration, as people's expectations of change have not been realised as quickly as they had anticipated.

As we took the daily, hour-long drive from East London to his office near King William's Town in the Eastern Cape region, my colleague, Tony Schnell, filled me in on the current situation. I was staggered to hear that the rate of HIV infection in South Africa is at 20 per cent, unemployment in some rural areas is up around 80 per cent, and there is an epidemic of violence against women.

Tony regularly encounters the stories behind the statistics as he leads our partner, the Anglican Diocese of Grahamstown's Department of Social Responsibility (DSR). I was to learn some of these stories as we visited the Women's Empowerment Program, the DSR project that we support.

It was so inspiring to hear from some of the women who are being trained to change community attitudes to violence against women and children, along with providing support to victims of violence.

One of these women is Noluthando. This brave woman has been trained



LOSS: The house of aid agency staff worker Eugenia (inset) was destroyed by floods earlier this year.

to talk to village chiefs – most of whom are male – about the fact that they can no longer turn a blind eye to violence against women (as the village chiefs often do). As I listened to her, I couldn't help but be reminded of Moses confronting the mighty Pharaoh and telling him to let God's people go.

In this project I saw the power of transformation at work. Women who used to be weighed down with oppression will no longer be dictated to by anyone. It made me proud to work for an organisation that helps enable this transformation to take place.

Leaving South Africa behind, I travelled to Mozambique, a land that has faced civil war and experiences extreme poverty. Here we work with the Anglican Diocese of Niassa, where I visited a program that provides access to clean water and sanitation.

As in South Africa, the work in Mozambique is being done in challenging conditions. The Diocesan field workers live with the same challenges as the people they serve. Last year a staff member died of tuberculosis. Earlier this year two staff had their homes destroyed by flooding, and yet continued their life-saving work. Staff also face constant transportation problems (having to hitch rides to many places).

Most of the work is done by local staff, but sometimes skills from outside are needed. The water project is led by a young English couple, and to my shock I discovered they live in a house with no running water. An unreliable electricity

source also means power outages are an almost daily occurrence. As in South Africa, the commitment to embodying the love of God was inspiring.

The privilege of working for Anglican Overseas Aid is not limited to the transformation I saw in local communities – I was also transformed in the process. As I sat in a departure lounge at Johannesburg airport on the way home, I realised that I would soon be back in the world's most liveable city, back in front of my computer.

Yes, I work for an aid agency trying to change the world, but my work is not nearly as stressful as those of our partners I had just left behind in South Africa and Mozambique.

God help me to not forget what I have seen and heard, and give strength to our partners who do their work in truly hard places.

Nils von Kalm is Church and Community Engagement Co-ordinator for Anglican Overseas Aid. To support their work in places such as South Africa and Mozambique, you can donate to the Helping in Hard Places Appeal. Go to: www.anglicanoverseasaid.org.au

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There was nothing safe about Jesus' life. It was risky in every way. He was consistently found among people who were on the margins. His ministry of friendship expressed the value and dignity of all. This example continues to inspire those who walk in his path.

Many find it hard to accept what Jesus may ask of us. Frankly, it is hard to be a disciple. Some, however, have accepted the call to serve in hard places. They continue, year after year, to give of themselves in the face of enormous challenges. They remain faithful in their task, and are inspired by the way Jesus loves and affirms all people.

Many of Anglican Overseas Aid's partners are examples of this kind of faithfulness. Their stories show that new life and hope can grow in hard places.

A donation to Anglican Overseas Aid's "Helping in Hard Places" appeal will support the work of our Anglican and like-minded partners as they work in hard places around the world.

You can find out more about the appeal and stories of our partners in Ethiopia, Gaza and more on our website: www.anglicanoverseasaid.org.au

ABOUT ANGLICAN OVERSEAS AID

Anglican Overseas Aid is an overseas aid and development agency of the Anglican Church of Australia. Our work is inspired by the gospel of Christ, with a vision for a peaceful, just and sustainable world for all.

Anglican Overseas Aid works with Anglican and like-minded agencies to create and strengthen partnerships in developing countries to overcome poverty, injustice and disaster. We support projects in countries across Africa, Asia, the Middle East and the Pacific.

Three easy ways to donate – all donations over \$2 are tax deductible

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Clerical influence on Australia's early years

Reviewed by Robert Willson

I have been thinking about a book and a DVD lately, both valuable for our Christian and Anglican pilgrimage.

The book is **Anglican Clergy in Australia: 1788-1850. Building a British World**, by Michael Gladwin. Published by the Boydell Press.

It is exciting to see more and more books being published, reflecting the research being undertaken by scholars associated with St Mark's National Theological Centre, Charles Sturt University, Canberra.

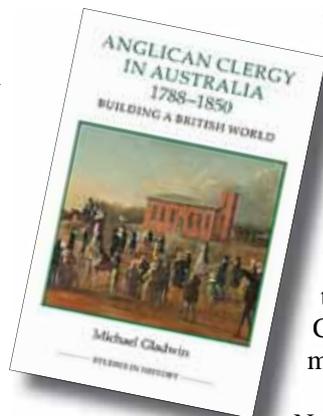
Dr Michael Gladwin is Lecturer in History there and has written the first systematic study of the subject, based on meticulous research.

Most people have heard of the famous, or notorious early clergyman, Samuel Marsden, described as the 'flogging parson', passing sentence on a rebellious convict one day and attempting to minister to him the next day.

The Reverend Sydney Smith, famed for his wit in the 19th century Church, is quoted as saying that Anglican clergy were like manure: 'thinly spread they do a lot of good, but all in a heap they are very unpleasant'.

Dr Gladwin writes that the study of 19th century Australian clergymen has introduced him to fascinating characters and lives of clergymen and has helped to understand the religious, social and political history of colonial Australia and the British Empire, in the years up to 1850.

The book is divided into three parts. The first part explores how and why clergymen arrived in the Australian colonies. The second part explores their role in colonial society, from leading



ship to serving as magistrates, and discusses their relations with indigenous peoples.

The final section is called 'Scenes of colonial clerical life' and the role of clergy wives is explored, as well as the relations of the clergy to the laity.

This book is a most valuable contribution to the study of a previously neglected facet of Australian history and the history of the British Empire.

I have spoken with the author, and he tells me that discounted copies will be on sale at the St Mark's Commencement on July 14. Those interested in the book may borrow from St Marks or purchase there.

Sacred Wonders of Britain (BBC DVD presented by Neil Oliver)

Scottish born Neil Oliver, a trained archaeologist, has made his name with television programs such as *Coast* and *The History of Scotland*.

He is passionate and enthusiastic about the ancient history of the British Isles and in this new dvd he explores evidence for the spiritual hunger of ancient peoples to know and worship the divine. The discovery of DNA has made us more aware of our ancestors. Sacred sites from Stonehenge to Canterbury and Glastonbury help us to understand our own Christian faith much better.

In our Canberra Anglican Franciscan group we are watching this splendid series and discussing it. There are three parts to the series and the dvd is available from the ABC shops.

It is yet another example of how the dvd revolution has made the finest scholarship available to all. I warmly commend *Sacred Wonders of Britain*.

Olivia's Teenage Challenge by Geoffrey Horne

Published by Smashwords as a free eBook, available at <https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/511929>

Reviewed by Naomi Dasey

'Olivia's Teenage Challenge' by Geoffrey Horne is an easy read for 10 -13 year old girls. Through the character of Olivia, who turns 13 at the beginning of the story, Horne describes many of the challenges that young Christian teenagers face: making God a priority (even over school assignments), schoolyard bullying and emerging independence from parents to name a few. Through the voice of Olivia's parents, Horne gently encourages his young readers to value their relationship with Christ and to look for Biblical direction when facing life's challenges.

There are few books of this genre around and Horne's book is one that Christian teenagers will find engaging and helpful as they weave their way through this complex period of their lives. The story is warmly told with touches of both humour and pathos.

***Naomi Dasey** serves as a teacher at *Burgmann Anglican School, Canberra*



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International school planners visit The Anglican School, Googong

❑ Visitors impressed by use of facilities at new school

From the School

Canberra recently played host to the Council of Educational Facility Planners International (CEFPI) annual Australasian conference.

During the conference delegates had the opportunity to visit various educational facilities in the region including Googong.

Over two days we welcomed over 80 delegates who were keen to look at the building but more importantly to see what learning looks like in this new school.

Many delegates commented on how the children use all of their learning spaces and how exciting it was to see the teachers making the most of this.

School Principal Ian Hewitt said that the visitors included national and international architects, educational practitioners, government and non-government educational authorities and international learning consultants.

"It is always a pleasure to showcase what we have," Mr Hewitt said. "We are proud of the learning spaces we have and especially how the children are using these in a wide variety of ways in their learning throughout the day."

Open Day

The School's next Open Day will be held on Wednesday 5 August from 9.30-11.00am.

Open Days are important events to showcase the school to prospective families.

At each of the Open Days guests will hear from the Principal (Ian Hewitt), the Junior School Teaching and Learning Coordinator (Claire Dalziel) and the ELC Director (Rose Young). There will also be a tour of the school where visitors will be able to speak with students and see the wonderful learning environment they have.

The morning will then conclude with morning tea when guests will be able to ask any other questions they have about the school.

If you would like to attend please RSVP to: admin@tasg.nsw.edu.au



GARDENERS: Year 1 and 2 students plant seedlings in the Kitchen Garden at The Anglican School, Googong.



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Renewal movements in the Diocese

by Robert Willson

Lately I have been researching the history of various renewal movements in our Diocese, especially the Charismatic Movement and the Cursillo Movement.

The Charismatic movement gives a special emphasis to the Holy Spirit. Followers believe that God continues to give the gift of speaking in tongues, prophecy and healing, just as in the New Testament Church.

The word “cursillo” means a “little course” in the Faith, generally over a weekend, with the “fourth day” being the rest of your life. From Toronto in Canada, Bishop Warren brought the concept to our diocese.

In 1960 the Reverend Dennis Bennett, Rector of a Californian Episcopal or Anglican Parish, announced that he had experienced a personal “charismatic” renewal of his Christian faith. This was the beginning of a world - wide movement that moved beyond Pentecostal sects and touched all mainstream Christian denominations, including Anglicans in Australia and in this Diocese.

Spiritual Gifts

Charismatic Christians emphasise that the gifts of the Holy Spirit, as described in the New Testament, are available to contemporary Christians through the infilling or baptism of the Holy Spirit. The word comes from the Greek word *charis*, meaning grace.

After 1960 the Church of England in Britain was touched by it, with men like Colin Urquhart, David Watson and Michael Harper in the lead. It spread to the Roman Catholic and other

denominations. By the early 1970s the CMS bookshop in Canberra was featuring books by Charismatic British authors. I remember study groups where these writings were discussed.

According to Bishop Tom Frame in his excellent history of our diocese entitled *A Church for a Nation*, the Reverend Tom Wills, then Rector of Koorawatha, had attended Charismatic meetings in the nearby parish of Forbes led by the Rector, Douglas Peters, and had openly declared himself a charismatic.

He ignored those who were critical of the movement and continued to prove the value of his ministry. Bishop Frame concludes that only a small number of the clergy in this diocese were at that time touched by the Charismatic movement.

Renewal

When I was ordained priest in this diocese in 1974 I met the Reverend David Durie, who had recently been appointed to direct the newly-formed College of Ministry. As Bishop Frame reminds us, David and Ruth Durie were holding Friday evening ‘Renewal’ meetings in their home. These attracted large numbers of people and a number of clergy were touched by it in a very positive way.

Bishop Owen Dowling supported charismatic renewal, but Bishop Warren had reservations about it, as he writes in his autobiography *A Little Foolishness* (see page 99). Bishop Warren believed that “renewal” should not be limited to those touched by the Charismatic movement. Bishop Warren had ordained me in 1974 and he often spoke to me

about various movements of renewal.

In line with his own desire to renew the Church, he introduced the Cursillo Movement to the Diocese in September 1979. I attended a Cursillo weekend and I found it an excellent way of invigorating my own spiritual life. I know that it has had very positive effects in our Diocese. Today Cursillo has spread widely in the Australian Church.

When I became Rector of O’Connor Parish in 1979 I found that the neighbouring Uniting Church Parish was greatly touched by Charismatic renewal. Members of my parish were also influenced by attending Charismatic meetings on a Sunday evening in a Canberra hotel. Other parishioners found great blessing in Cursillo weekends.

In the last seven years Bishop Stuart has actively encouraged spiritual renewal in the Diocese, including Charismatic Renewal. Readers of *Anglican News* will have noted initiatives such as the SOMA mission in the Diocese four years ago. There have been annual Spirit Conferences in the Batemans Bay Parish and these have attracted wide support, and been a blessing to many.

For me questions about the Charismatic movement remain, but God speaks to us in many ways and this movement, along with other renewal programs, have been a blessing to many.

Chapter 16 of Bishop Frame’s history of the Diocese has a very perceptive account of these renewal movements. Copies may be borrowed from St Mark’s Library.

Anglican News July - September

Changed production schedule

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

The deadline for the **July** issue will be **June 19**. There will be **no August edition**, and the **September** issue will be a **week later** than usual (deadline Monday September 7).

‘Marriage Equality’ debate

As public debate on the question of ‘marriage equality’ intensifies, Bishop Stuart has released the following statement:

The Anglican Church in the diocese of Canberra and Goulburn warmly welcomes people of all traditions and situations to our churches.

Our marriage rite – not unlike baptism for those wishing to identify with Christ’s death and resurrection or Confirmation for those publicly ‘turning to Christ’ – is for the union of women and men who wish to live after the

pattern of Christ and his church.

Our western liberal democracy affords people who do not subscribe to these values the opportunity to embrace a secular alternative via celebrants and other practitioners.

Our prayer, in any debate related to the highly sensitive issue of ‘marriage equality’, is for gracious and respectful dialogue around religious sensibilities, human rights and sexual orientation.

Stuart P. Robinson, Bishop, Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn.

New 'wholeness' ministry expands

Canon Gill Varcoe last weekend (May 29-31) pursued her recently-established ministry role by conducting a healing and wholeness seminar in the parish of Tea Gardens/Bulladelah, in the Diocese of Newcastle.

In March of this year, Bishop Stuart licensed Gill, among other things, to a 'ministry-at-large' under the banner of the Southern Tablelands Archdeaconry [Exploratory Ministries] Minister Team, which focuses on renewal and wholeness. Her commission is to conduct missions, especially focusing on healing, wholeness and transformation of communities and individuals through the power of the risen Christ. It also encourages her to work further afield, should the opportunity arise.

Parish priest at Tea Gardens, Michael Birch, said he read of Canon Varcoe's new ministry in the April issue of *Anglican News*, and rang her straight away to discuss the possibility of coming to Tea Gardens.

Beginning on the Friday evening, Gill Varcoe presented an introductory session in which she outlined the weekend program and shared something of her own journey, particularly over the past six or seven years.

On Saturday morning she followed on with four more sessions:

- ♦ **The Power of the Cross** ("because everything around healing and wholeness flows from the cross of Christ");
- ♦ **The love of the Father** ("Oh, how he loves us!");
- ♦ **What stops us?** (from receiving the love, the call and the healing that he has for us?)
- ♦ And the final session, **'Getting Dressed'** ("God has provided wonderful clothing for us").

Woven throughout the weekend was a message of wholeness, and while this also included physical healing, Gill said "the main game is God working in us to transform us into the image of Christ".

"Physical healing is fantastic – I just love watching God do that in people," she said, "but there's also great fruit from the healing of our woundedness and our brokenness, which sets us free then to be a blessing to other people."

Michael Birch said the weekend had been an amazing experience for the parish.

"About 35 people took part in the



RESTORATION: Canon Gill Varcoe speaking in Tea Gardens.

seminar, with many saying afterwards that they had been greatly blessed," he said. "Most of them took the opportunity to

receive prayer ministry, and quite few said they experienced emotional or physical healing as well as spiritual restoration."

Call for boycott of goods from Israeli settlements

The campaign was launched today by the Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network (PIEN), an organisation of Christians nationally who advocate a just peace for Palestine and Israel.

"Illegal settlements are unilateral Israeli land-grabs that now control nearly half of the Palestinian West Bank," said Uniting Church's Rev'd Gregor Henderson, co-convenor of the Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network. "To buy or sell goods made in these settlements is to support the military occupation of Palestine.

"Guided by the proud history of moral nonviolent movements that have used peaceful boycotts as a tool for seeking justice, we are calling on Australians not to buy goods from these illegal settlements and we are asking Australian businesses not to trade with these illegal settlements and sell their products," Gregor Henderson said.

The boycott call comes in the wake of a Human Rights Watch report that revealed exploitative child labour conditions in many settlement farms, as reported by the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

"Palestinian Christians have been clear – as the effect of the occupation gets worse every year, they ask for our practical support. They seek not only words but also actions, including through boycotts."

In Australia both the National Council of Churches and the Uniting Church have invited members to consider boycotting settlement products. Jewish support for boycotts has also been well documented with key groups such as Jewish Voice for Peace (USA), Gush Shalom (Israel), Australian Jewish Democratic Society, and European Jews for a Just Peace supporting such campaigns.

The initial focus of the campaign is on the Australian distribution and sale of dates imported into Australia from growers and processors in the illegal Israeli settlements.

"We know that dates being grown on stolen land are being sold in Australia", said Rev'd Henderson. "We are working to identify companies that import or distribute these dates and we'll be asking these companies to switch to ethical, non-settlement suppliers."



The importance of peak experiences

By Andrew Edwards

As I reflect on my faith journey, my strongest memories are ones where I've intentionally taken time out from everyday life to do something that would bring me closer to God.

We have many words for these experiences – retreats, quiet days, camps, adventure days, mission trips and so on.

I can draw clear lines between these experiences and times when my faith and spiritual life grew almost exponentially. Two such experiences are my times spent on youth camps and on short-term mission within Australia.

Time spent on camps where the Word of God was taught and life was lived in true Christian community opened my eyes to the reality that following Jesus is so much more than simply going to church on Sunday. I was challenged to live everyday for Jesus, walking in His promises and living in a community that reflected His love for others and the world.

Likewise my experience on short-term missions stretched my faith as I learnt what it meant to "go out into all the world and make disciples". This was where the rubber met to road for my faith, the place where I took what I believed, trusted that God would provide and stepped out in faith to share the Good News with those around me.

What completed these times of growth was the loving faith community that I was

part of week by week. This group allowed me to explore my faith, ask questions and seek answers under the guidance of Godly men and women who loved to help me grow as a disciple of Jesus.

I'm sure you can recall similar experiences in your faith journey that enriched your faith and strengthened your walk as a disciple of Jesus. I'm certain that it was the combination of those willing to serve on my experiences and those willing to walk with me everyday that allowed me to grow as a disciple of Jesus.

Our young people and children need these peak experiences to help them grow in their faith. They need intentional, safe spaces where they can explore their faith, ask questions and seek guidance in a loving Christian community. They need older, wiser disciples of Jesus to show them how to live as a follower of Jesus and help them navigate the complexities of life.

Friends, our young people and children need you!

Will you come alongside them and teach them what it means to be a disciple of Jesus? Will you to share in the good times and the bad and how faith stands strong through it all? Will you to lead them through experiences where their faith can grow?



CALL FOR INVOLVEMENT: Andrew Edwards, Synergy Youth Director.

Will you get involved and help another continue growing as a disciple of Jesus?

Synergy exists to help you minister to young people and children. We would love to discuss ways we can help you do this. Synergy also has a range of camps available for young people and children. For more information visit www.synergy.org.au.

Synergy contacts

Synergy Youth: www.synergy.org.au

Synergy Youth Director: Andrew Edwards, (Andrew@synergy.org.au; 6245 7101)

Synergy Youth Chair: Ruth Edwards (contact via 6245 7101)

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