



A NEWSLETTER FOR THE CANBERRA AND GOULBURN ANGLICAN COMMUNITY

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Redefining marriage: Synod considers issues

Three presentations outline range of opinions

By Paul Osborne

“Faithful Anglicans hold a wide variety of views” on same-sex marriage.

These reassuring words from Bishop Stuart Robinson provided the backdrop for a dialogue at the annual Diocesan Synod on what he described as one of the “most difficult” decisions facing the nation.

Synod, the ‘parliament’ of the Anglican Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn, met in Goulburn last weekend (Friday 11 - Sunday 13 September).

Rather than an actual debate, which had the potential to be divisive, Synod members engaged with the question of same-sex marriage in a way which Bishop Robinson described as “a space where we may consider the issue ‘Christianly’ and thereby be a community of reconciliation”.

The dialogue began with some comments from Bishop Matt Brain and Bishop Stephen Pickard on the motion to allow the Synod to go into “conference” mode.

Bishop Brain noted that the Synod could not change the definition of marriage in law or even the rites and ceremonies of the Anglican Church, but it could and should engage in the issue with grace and kindness.

Bishop Pickard urged Synod members to remember we are a church



BALANCE: Bishop Stuart (centre) told Synod the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn “is known as a place where the passion for both Gospel convictions and justice for those experiencing discrimination run very deep”.

of “principled pragmatism” and part of a “polity of persuasion”.

“We are about re-forming hearts and minds,” he said.

Three presentations were given, allowing Synod members to get a broad sense of the views held across the church.

The Reverend Dr Andrew Cameron, director of St Mark’s National Theological Centre, gave a “traditional” view of marriage as being between a man and a woman patterned upon the “union of God with his people his bride, the Christ with

his church”.

“I like to compare those of us who stand in this tradition to vegans,” he said.

“For vegans, the body is purposed to vegetables, and although we can eat meat, it violates the animal and ourselves to do so.

“Similarly, on the long standing view of marriage, we pull back from all the ways that sexuality can be expressed, to an expression of it matching what we take to be our, and its, purpose. We may be

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Redefining marriage

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wrong but we live this view and gather with others who do so.”

He welcomed the dialogue, saying that solving complex problems started with accurately observing them.

The Reverend Canon Professor Scott Cowdell gave a highly creative reflection on the idea of “over-accepting” same-sex marriage.

“Over-accepting” is an idea in improvised theatre, or so-called theatre sports.

“This means getting a good outcome out of whatever developments might come up, weaving the unexpected and even the unwelcome into the unfolding drama without stalling or derailing it,” he said.

He gave the example of a theatre sports event where a group of actors were discussing football. Suddenly a man in a gorilla suit springs on stage.

The actors have the option of “blocking” the intruder and ignoring

him, or “accepting” him by talking about gorillas.

But they instead “over-accept” and choose to weave the new character into their performance, perhaps by saying “Look! It’s an Essendon player on steroids!”

“The performance continues,” said Dr Cowdell, “demonstrating energy, edginess, creativity and pizzazz”.

“The unfolding Christian drama of God-with-us is full of over-accepting.”

Prison chaplain, the Reverend Peta Thorpe, gave a personal account of family members who have starkly different perspectives on same-sex marriage.

She said the way in which the church tackles the issue is just as important as the resolutions it reaches.

“Charity is the greatest gift of the Holy Spirit, a charity which allows us to walk in the shoes of another, even in the midst of robust debate and soul searching.

“What comes out of our hearts in this debate really matters.”

The dialogue itself involved each Synod member filling out a sheet of questions expressing their views on the three presentations. They were also asked to state what they felt were the challenges and opportunities a change of legislation might present to the church and individuals.

Then they met in small groups to discuss their reflections and the comments were collected for assessment by the diocese’s Public Issues Commission.

The commission will now work on resources for parishes to help broaden the dialogue over the next 12 months.

The results of the dialogue will be put into a report for the 2016 Synod.

Clergy moves and appointments

- ◆ **Mrs Jane Bacot-Kilpatrick** has been licensed as a part time Stipendary Lay Minister to coordinate the administrative functions of the Wanniasa parish.
- ◆ This month we farewell **The Reverend Susan Bridge** who is moving to Oxford University to take up the Diocesan Lucas Tooth Scholarship. She is our first female, and a most worthy, recipient.
- ◆ **The Reverend Dr Wayne Brighton** was collated as Archdeacon for Chaplaincy at the Synod 2015.
- ◆ **The Reverend Paul Cohen** has been appointed Honorary part time Chaplain to ACT Horse Racing at the invitation of the Australian Racing Christian Chaplaincy.
- ◆ **The Reverend Catherine Eaton** has been granted an ATO and will serve in our Cathedral.
- ◆ **The Reverend Roberta Hamilton** was made a Clerical Canon of St Saviour’s Cathedral, Goulburn (Bishop’s Appointment) at Synod 2015.
- ◆ **The Reverend Lynda McMinn** has been elected Area Dean for Central Canberra by her peers recently and has been licensed accordingly.
- ◆ **The Reverend Rebecca Newland** has been appointed part time Associate Priest, Parish of Moruya.
- ◆ **The Reverend Ian Powell** was inducted as Rector of Wanniasa on 5 September 2015.
- ◆ **The Reverend Haydn Swinbourn** has been granted an ATO.
- ◆ **The Reverend Gail Tabor** has left Bega Parish and moved to Melbourne to live closer to family. We are grateful for Gail’s outstanding service in this Diocese.
- ◆ On September 21 **Bishop Cecil Warren** will celebrate the 50th anniversary of his consecration as a Bishop in Canberra-Goulburn. Congratulations +Cecil.
- ◆ Also on September 21, **Bishop George Browning** will celebrate 30 years as a Bishop. Congratulations +George.

Anglican News

A newsletter for the Canberra and Goulburn Anglican community

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How should we elect a Bishop?

By Lewis Hitchick

Introducing the report from the Episcopal Election Review Committee at Synod, Committee Chair Greg Mills told the gathering that “perhaps the most important decision a Synod makes, is choosing its Bishop”.

He said that the traditional role of a bishop was reasonably well understood, and was listed in the Ordinal. It includes: maintaining the church’s witness to the resurrection of Christ; ensuring the Word is proclaimed and sacraments are administered; guarding the faith, unity and discipline of the church; promoting the church’s mission to the world; leading and guiding the priests and deacons; and being faithful in the choosing and ordaining of ministers.

“Perhaps less well-understood are the many facets of the contemporary role of the diocesan Bishop,” he added. “Today, in addition to performing the traditional roles, we expect the Bishop to be a competent media spokesperson; to be able to read a balance sheet; to have a working understanding of employment law, regulatory compliance and taxation. In short, we expect the Bishop to also have the skills and attributes of a Chief Executive of a medium to large corporation.

“Why any priest would let their name go forward for the selection of a Bishop is a mystery to me.”

He said that feedback from a discussion session conducted by the members of the Review Committee at last year’s Synod meeting had shown that four-fifths of synod delegates agreed that the present election process is in need of change. The session revealed significant perceived shortcomings in the current method:

- ♦ Lack of transparency regarding names of candidates nominated (creating the potential to miss out on good candidates);
- ♦ Excessive pressure and expectations on nominators in managing and promoting candidacies;
- ♦ Lack of information for Synod to ‘really get to know’ the candidates;
- ♦ Challenges in ensuring a ‘level playing field’ for all candidates; and



COMMITTEE CHAIR: Greg Mills, Chair of the Episcopal Election Review Committee.

- ♦ The risk of harm to and need for a better pastoral protection of candidates.

Guiding principles

Greg Mills explained that his committee had used material from last year’s discussions to compile a set of guiding principles.

Any change to the method of electing a Bishop should:

1. Maximise the opportunity for the Diocese to attract and identify, discern and appoint the best candidate.
2. Maximise the opportunity for the Holy Spirit to reveal God’s will.
3. Maximise the ownership of the decision by the Synod and support for the successful candidate.
4. Require that any candidate is measured against agreed criteria.
5. Minimise harm to candidates.
6. Maximise the equality, timeliness, confidentiality and transparency of the process for all candidates.
7. Minimise the risk to the Diocese.

“You should note that Principle Two – ‘Maximise the opportunity for the Holy Spirit to reveal God’s will’ – has been taken as an overarching principle in the construction of the options,” he said. “This means that each option must address a question on how best to prayerfully maximise the opportunity for the Holy Spirit to reveal God’s will.”

He also reminded Synod of a skit his committee had presented a year ago,

highlighting the tension that can exist between the various guiding principles – an issue that “still exists, and will become evident when we begin discussing and debating options”.

He then listed five options his committee had developed, ranging from ‘status quo’ to ‘committee alone’.

Option 1: Synod nominates and elects (coordinated by a committee). This is the current system and is included for a base line comparison.

Option 2: Synod nominates and elects (assisted by a committee).

Option 3: A committee seeks all candidates who are then brought to Synod for election.

Option 4: A committee seeks all candidates and then one or more are nominated to Synod for election.

Option 5: A committee nominates and elects a Bishop.

In seconding the adoption of the report, Bishop Trevor Edwards told Synod members that the committee had done an enormous amount of work in preparing its report, “which you might be tempted not to consider carefully”.

“I want to say to you, that the report ... needs to be weighed and thought about so that when we come back next year there will be clear guidance by the Synod about which way it would like to go in terms of the selection of the next Bishop.”

He stressed that it was “absolutely critical” that Synod consider the options carefully, describing the election of a Bishop as “the biggest decision any Synod can make ... it’s about the mission of God in this place, and what shape that mission will take as we follow the Spirit’s leadership”.

Synod then passed the motion:
That this Synod:

- i. accept the report of the Episcopal Election Review Committee (EERC);
- ii. requests that the report (refined as necessary) be listed for discussion, debate and decision by Synod in 2016; and
- iii. requests that the EERC, prior to distribution of that report, facilitate further discussion with Synod members.

NEWS FROM SYNOD

Bishop in Council report:

'A complex and wide-ranging family'

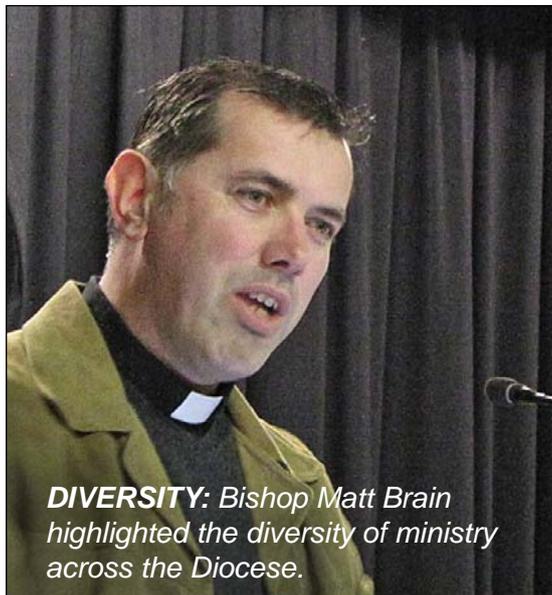
Introducing the Bishop in Council's (BiC) report to the annual meeting of the Synod of the Diocese in Goulburn last weekend, Assistant Bishop Dr Matt Brain gave a brief overview of the diversity of ministry taking place across the Diocese.

"We as the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn are a complex and wide-ranging family. We have schools that on any given day minister to over 6,000 students, and of course each of their families," Dr Brain said.

"We have the wonderful agency Anglicare, who, in the course of any given year minister to tens of thousands of people who are in particular need.

"We have the AIDF, which holds many millions of dollars in investment funds and then loans, to enable ministry across a wide range of areas."

He also listed agencies such as St Mark's National Theological Centre and Synergy, and institutions such as the ACC&C which seeks to reach, teach and equip leaders in all sorts of situations, and the various organisations who promote the Christian life - including



DIVERSITY: Bishop Matt Brain highlighted the diversity of ministry across the Diocese.

MU, the Lay Centre for Ministry and Mission, Cursillo and Anglican Women.

"Then at the very beating heart of the diocese we have 65 parishes, chaplaincy units and mission districts (which you largely represent) made up of the folk who meet in the ups and downs of life to praise God, to pray to God, to celebrate Jesus and be nurtured by his word and sacrament," he added.

He said it was the task of Synod and Bishop in Council to prioritise and equip these various ministries and activities from the finite resources that are available.

Bishop Matt introduced three reports which gave a 'snapshot' of the activity of Bishop in Council over the previous year.

Archdeacon Anne Ranse reported on the work that is being done, flowing from the Episcopal Task Force for Older People and Ministry (*see box below*).

Bishop Matt said the theme of the BiC report this year could be described as "stewardship and investment".

"How do we know our life, our mission and our diocesan dream is making good use of the resources that God has given us?" he asked.

He said three ideas had become key to BiC to help take control of marshalling and using the resources "God has given and entrusted to us":

1. Interdependence. Deep at the heart of Anglicanism is that we value local expressions. However, we are an

(continued next page)

Ministry by, to and with older people

As part of the Bishop in Council Report to Synod, Archdeacon Anne Ranse presented an overview of work being done in various parts of the Diocese following the Episcopal Task Force for Older People and Ministry.

"It's difficult to capture what is happening in ministry around the diocese by, to and with older people, but I do know from what people share with me that this area of ministry is developing in pockets across the diocese," she said.

Among the range of ministries she listed were:

- ◆ Reminiscence Groups for those with dementia, in aged care facilities in Cootamundra and Harden, which were proving "very successful, spiritually helpful and most welcome, with good attendances".

- ◆ One training course for those working with older people has been submitted to Lay Centre for Ministry and Mission, with at least two more currently being developed.

- ◆ Establishment of an Advisory Committee with RSL Lifecare to oversee chaplaincy services in all five facilities across the diocese. Chaplaincies will be by diocesan appointment.

- ◆ Deacon Don Jamieson conducted a seminar on

dementia at the annual Pastoral Care Day at Harden. As a result of Don's thoughts and reflections on ministry to people with the onset of dementia, and the spirituality of people with dementia, Alzheimer's NSW has requested permission to distribute his research paper amongst their support workers and include it in their magazine.

- ◆ St John's Reid has appointed Rev'd Canon Kevin Stone to coordinate their ministry to, by and with older people. This is a three-year appointment funded by a bequest to the parish for this purpose. It is envisaged that St John's could become a centre for training and development of resources for this ministry.

"We have a wonderful human resource in our parish congregations – call on them, mobilise them, for the sake of our older people and for the sake of the church," Archdeacon Ranse said.

"I leave you with three points:

- ◆ What are you doing in your ministry to, by and with older people in your area?

- ◆ What might you do?

- ◆ Who are the key people to draw into your vision and your plan?"

Bishop in Council report *(continued from previous page)*

Episcopal church, and we are led by a leader who has put before us a dream that will seek transformation under Jesus.

We have resources that will allow us to be more than just the sum of our parts, and BiC's job (and Synod's job) is to help keep all of these on track. We are interdependent, even though we might be independently minded.

2. Fidelity. We need to be true to that which we have inherited, and that to which God is calling us.

3. Endurance. One of the dangers of our age is to think that everything happens in a second - and everything must happen in a second. It is much better to think of life as a marathon rather than a sprint.

"One of our tasks as Synod and as Bishop in Council is to see this work through, and that means making decisions that prioritise some activities over others. It means working out what it is that we will carry along the way - because indeed, that is what 'synod' means: 'together on the way'," Bishop Matt concluded.

Reviews

The Registrar, Trevor Ament, outlined some of the reviews and administrative developments that had been made or initiated to support and underpin ministry throughout the year.

These included:

1. The Diocesan Education Review Committee, established in the second half of 2014, presented its final report to BiC and Ms Belinda Moss (Chair of Canberra Girls' Grammar, Diocesan Finance Committee member and Chair of the Diocesan Education Review Committee) will report to Synod on the outcomes of the review.

2. The Diocesan Finance Committee's review of the Diocesan funding model, which has widened from parish contribution-based assessment to a much broader funding model of the Diocese.

3. An evaluation by the Finance Committee of recent major Diocesan development projects. This process is continuing, but will be a critical component in identifying improved processes for future possible developments.



REVIEWS: Registrar Trevor Ament referred to a number of reviews conducted by Bishop in Council in the past year.

4. Working groups have been established to review the cost of ministry across the parishes, review alternative models of ministry and agree what are sustainable levels for ministry.

5. A review of the progress of the South Coast schools over the last two years, to be presented to BiC at its December 2015 meeting.

6. A review of the AIDF is to be undertaken once the loan facility is renewed. Noting changes in the Australian banking system over the last 50 years, BiC determined that a long-term strategic review of the AIDF, its purposes and operations should be established.

"As can be seen from these reviews, we need to continually recall how we are one diocese made up of many parishes, entities, agencies and committees," the Registrar said. "Although each parish, entity, agency or committee operates with a level of independence, we are in fact interdependent of one another.

"Collectively and following our Bishop, we all dream of a Diocese where the love of Jesus transforms people, communities and structures."

AIDF

Mark Baker, Chair of the Anglican Investment and Development Fund (AIDF), pointed out that the Fund had been supporting Diocesan ministry for 48 years.

He presented a slide show

demonstrating sustained growth of the Fund over recent years.

Profit last year had exceeded \$1.5 million, with a further \$661,000 in the first five months this year.

"Again, this points to an organisation that is in good hands and heading in the right direction," he observed.

Referring to plans for a new model of funding arrangements for the AIDF, Mark Baker said that the Fund wanted a model which allowed greater flexibility as the Diocese looked at development opportunities. He said greater diversity in funding providers would reduce what he described as "dangerous dependence on a single source".

"I can report that we are very close to finalising such an outcome," he said. "I must tell you, though, that negotiations have become very much more complex - tortuous would be another word - as a result of the Bathurst situation.

"Banks are simply no longer prepared to lend to churches - any church - on the same basis as they used to, particularly in regard to the security and undertaking that they accept."

He closed by acknowledging the "outstanding efforts" of CEO Douglas Bucknell, and the staff: Sarah Henderson, Leila Cochrane and Nienke Lucas.

The Bishop in Council report was received on the motion of Trevor Ament.

FROM THE EDITOR

And it's goodnight from me ...

Lew
Hitchick
Editor



Anglican News Editor Lew Hitchick has announced that he intends to retire at the end of this year. Acknowledging that this would be his final appearance at the Diocesan Synod in his official capacity, Synod last weekend gave him the opportunity to say farewell. Following is a transcript of his comments:

I wanted to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to the members of synod and the diocese as a whole for the support they've given me, and given *Anglican News*, over the twelve years I've been editing the publication.

It's been a great ride, and I have to say I've enjoyed it. It's given me opportunities to attend conferences, meet people, and have some inspiring experiences, and I realise that a lot of us just don't get the same opportunities.

It was through this job that I first met the then Reverend Stuart Robinson, when he had a habit of hosting some amazing conferences in Sydney on topics related to church growth. I remember thinking that, with the right training and encouragement, that boy could have a future.

Anglican News is not so much what I've made it, but what you've made it. And whatever form your internal publications might take in the future, can I encourage you to continue that ownership of your publication. It depends on contributions from people and from parishes. I know some people are reluctant to wave their banner in public, because it might seem to be self-promotion. Can I assure you that the feedback I get tells me that readers have appreciated the opportunity to hear what is going on in God's name in other parts of the diocese.

In fact as we have occasionally run Tri-Diocesan papers, it's been people across two thirds of NSW who have appreciated hearing about what might be going on in the parish of Bega, or the Parish of Crookwell or anywhere across the Diocese - because it is God who is active there. We are just his agents and it is encouraging for the rest of us to read about, and share the experience of God's activity. Please keep up that support for this avenue of communication.

Yes, as Bishop Stuart intimated in his Presidential Charge, the communication scene is changing

rapidly. In the twelve years that I've been in this job electronic communication has, I won't say improved, but changed the nature of mass media. I know that as a church we lag behind the major media outlets in that regard, and this year's experiment with electronic distribution has shown that we still have some way to go.

I know that a number of people have felt quite disenfranchised this year because *Anglican News* has not been as accessible for them in the electronic format. And that's a challenge for whoever continues this ministry next year. The increasing cost of postage and print production has meant that we have got to explore alternatives, but many of us still like to have a paper we can hold in our hands.

As I said, I came into this role twelve years ago - I remember coming to a meeting with Bishop George, Allan Ewing, Trevor Edwards (neither of them were bishops at that stage) and David Holmesby was there too, as Registrar. We had a discussion and they decided to take me on as the new Editor of *Anglican News*. I thought that was rather brave of them actually, because they didn't know who I was or what my style or capabilities were. Although I'd been producing the Bathurst diocesan paper for 18 months at that stage, I didn't know much about Canberra-Goulburn diocese, and they basically took me on, unknown, on the recommendation of the then Bishop of Bathurst.

But I have since learnt to love this diocese. I've learnt to appreciate the social, political and spiritual diversity that you have here, and the inclusiveness that brings that diversity together - particularly at gatherings such as this Synod. It brings you together with a unity of purpose in pursuing a missional dream, and I have seen other dioceses where this is not the case.

I believe that a continuing media presence is an important part of your

missional dream and I encourage you to actively pursue ways of keeping the good news out there in the public domain. With *Anglican News* I've tried to produce a paper that a casual non-Christian enquirer could pick up and skim through, and find something of interest - and I was pleased a few years ago to hear that one or two parishes were putting their surplus copies out in a local newsagency, where they were picked up during the month, so that by the next month there were none left. That meant that the word was going out to a much wider audience than we were expecting, and people were reading it.

We need to continue to put good news out there and never be ashamed to give an account of the hope that we have within us - our wider community and our nation needs that hope! So whatever form your internal communication might take from here on, I pray that you continue to use it to tell that wider community what you are doing in the name of our Lord Jesus.

Following the Editor's address the Chancellor, Justice Richard Refshauge, moved:

That Synod expresses its deep and sincere thanks for the generous and successful efforts Lew Hitchick and his wife Sylvia have made for the diocese and the mission of the church, and offers them every good wish for their future.

The motion was carried by acclamation.

PS: although I've said my farewell to Synod, I will be continuing to produce Anglican News till the end of the year. My final edition will be the December issue, which will be published in tabloid newspaper form as well as the PDF version on the diocesan website.

Lay Canons

During the Synod Eucharist on Friday evening, September 11, Bishop Stuart Robinson invested three Honorary Lay Canons of St Saviour's Cathedral, in recognition of their contribution to the life and ministry of the diocese.

The three were Mrs Flo Young from the Parish of Sapphire Coast; Mr James Hamilton from the Parish of Wagga Wagga; and Mr Rod Sutherland of St John's Canberra.

Bishop Stuart read out the citations for each, as follows:

Flo Young has been invested Honorary Lay Canon in recognition of her exemplary service to the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn for over 40 years particularly at St John's Anglican Church Eden in Eden Parish (later Sapphire Coast) and in the wider Sapphire Coast community. She has served in significant leadership positions as Chair and Treasurer on Parish Council and Anglican Women, as a teacher of religious education at Eden Primary School and as a provider of Anglican welfare services to the wider community.

In 1995 with Anglicare Flo began emergency relief welfare in St John's Hall which flourished and moved to a shopfront Op Shop and welfare office (1997) then to a larger street front becoming Sapphire Surprises (2012). For the past 20 years she has been a member of the Organising Committee for the Annual Combined Churches Debutante Balls and on several occasions has been a member of Cursillo teams. We value her knowledge, graciousness and quiet achievement. We have been and continue to be blessed through her diverse efforts.



BADGE OF OFFICE: Dean Philip Saunders hands Flo Young her badge of office as an Honorary Lay Canon, while James Hamilton and Rod Sutherland await their turn.

James Hamilton has been invested Honorary Lay Canon in recognition of his generous leadership and services to the parish of Wagga Wagga and the wider region particularly through his financial, property, computing and administrative expertise. James has been the Treasurer for Wagga Wagga Parish, St Martin's Anglican Residential College, Anglicare Bungarimbil and other organisations in the Wagga Wagga region for varying periods over 25 years.

He has also assisted the Parish in many other ways serving for a time as People's Warden and Rector's Warden, assisting with Space ministry, Sunday school, the parish archives, property maintenance, and as a Lay Reader and intercessor. He was instrumental in facilitating the establishment of the Parish's local op shop.

In the wider Diocese James has been a member of Synod and Cursillo and regularly assists the Diocesan Registrar and Anglican Diocesan Service staff on financial, insurance and property matters in the Wagga Wagga region. We value James' energy, graciousness, hard work, good humour and positive approach he takes to all that he does.

Roderick Stanley Sutherland has been invested Honorary Lay Canon in recognition of his exemplary service to the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn for over 25 years in critical leadership and advisory roles in finance and schools.

Rod has Chaired or been a Director of the Anglican Investment and Development Fund (AIDF) for twelve years, Chaired and been a Director of the Diocesan Schools Council (DSC) for seven years and a Director of the Canberra Girls' Grammar School (CGGS) Finance Committee and/or Board and/or Gabriel Foundation since 1987.

He has given tirelessly, generously and passionately of his financial experience and skills. He has worked at the parish level as Honorary Treasurer to St John's Canberra. We value his knowledge, graciousness and good humour. We have and continue to be blessed through his efforts.



BLESSING: (left) Bishop Stuart gives the blessing at the end of the Synod evening prayer service on September 12. At the altar are symbols of asylum seekers, including a life raft, martyr icon and basket of food as well as the Bishop's cross. The collection taken at the service was given to the Syria refugee appeal.

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

Young's sesqui-centenary

From the parish

After many months of meetings and preparations, St John's Young celebrated the 150th Anniversary of the church with a weekend of great joy and fellowship on August 8-9.

With beautiful weather we began the weekend with some church tours, guided by Peter Kinsela and Robert Baker. For those people returning after many years, it was good to see that while there have been some changes our beautiful church is still loved and cherished by our parishioners and that our grounds are also cared for with love. Peter Kinsela planted a Lipstick Maple in the grounds.

The new cabinet for parish treasures was put in place with many people admiring both cabinet and contents. We are blessed to have these lovely items, thanks to people over the years.

Our past parishioner, historian and honorary priest, Rev'd Brian Ellerman dearly loved St John's. He researched and collected letters, images, memorabilia and minutes from early parish council meetings. His wife Betty re-typed lots of other items, so we are very fortunate to have the copies here in Young.

The display of photographs, newspaper cuttings, church bulletins, memorabilia and the like was enjoyed by all the people who went to see them and have afternoon tea. Thanks to all the



CHURCH PLANTING: Under the watchful eye of parish priest John Thomas, Peter Kinsela plants a Lipstick Maple in the church grounds to commemorate the sesqui-centenary.

people who found and gave all the great memorabilia such as Sunday School sticker books, Baptism, Confirmation and Wedding certificates.

A sequence of photographs from the original church through to the present one gave an idea of the changes that have taken place. Wedding photographs were very popular, some from the early

1900s also showed the changes in costume since then. What a great display they made giving people lots of good memories of past church days. Some items went back to the 1800s.

Our dinner on Saturday Night was a great success for all who attended. We were blessed to have our Bishop Stuart and Jane, Archbishop Jeffrey Driver, Rev'd Don and Judy Turnbull, Father Bill and Dorothy, Rev'd Robin Lewis-Quinn and Rev'd Kevin Stone and his wife from our Diocesan Historical Society. Kevin gave an extremely interesting address.

Sunday morning began with an uplifting Service of Holy Communion with a full church. Archbishop Jeffrey preached and Bishop Stuart celebrated the Eucharist. After the service, we had morning tea in the hall where a special 150th Anniversary Cake was cut by the Ellerman family: John, Elizabeth Baker and Margaret MacLachlan.

One hundred and fifty years after our first church was built, we are grateful for Margaret Wilkie and others such as Rev'd William Pownall who had the vision in this place of 'outer limits', for the priests and the people who worshipped here and the people who came and loved our church.



REUNION: The event brought some back to Young after having moved away. Dorothy Smith from Harden (right) caught up with three Robinson sisters (Marie Sagar, Daphne Millett and Valerie Wauters) who left Young 53 years ago.

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

Help Bungendore celebrate 150 years

From the parish

This year marks 150 years since St Philip's, Bungendore opened its doors for God's business. There is much to reflect on; much to look forward to.

Over the years, many have walked through the open doors of the old stone building ...

Some come to rest on their journey – to seek God's guidance, to be refreshed and empowered, to worship Him and to rejoice in His promises. Many are still to come – whatever their walk; whatever their journey.

Some stay awhile and grow in fellowship with their Christian family. Others, once refreshed, journey on – taking with them some memory of God at work in Bungendore.

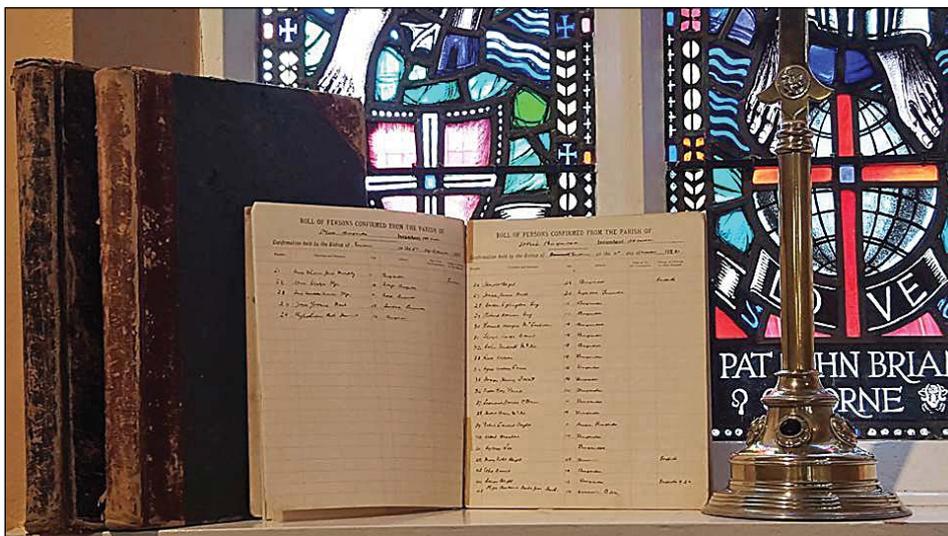
Some lead in discipleship from the front. Many lead in discipleship from within, reaching outward with unconditional love to those in their community.

Others welcome a child with baptismal promises, rejoice at a lifelong loving union, or celebrate the life of one dear to them.

Some come to enjoy the architecture – the creation of a worship centre radiant in God's love.

Some come to remember – remember relatives or a friend with a connection to this place.

We are celebrating God's work in the



HISTORIC: Displays at St Philip's Church's 150th anniversary will include historic records and memorabilia.

lives of those who have journeyed our way over the last 150 years, and giving thanks for those who are yet to journey this way.

To celebrate, we will hold a Family Fun Day on Saturday 10th October 10 am – 3 pm, in the grounds of St Philip's in Gibraltar Street. Activities will include displays of church memorabilia, tours of the church, a prayer tree, jumping castle, children's craft, old fashioned games, morning tea, a BBQ lunch and a big cake.

We will also launch a book by one of our parishioners, on the history of St

Philip's Bungendore. For more details follow the updates on our web page (www.bungendoreanglican.org.au) and on Facebook (www.facebook.com/bungendoreanglican).

We need your help to make the day special. To celebrate church life through the ages, we will display baptismal, wedding and celebrant clothing through the generations; old prayer and hymn books, photos of past and present reflections of St Philip's, Bungendore, and anything else that shows church life over time. If you have some memorabilia, and would be happy to display it for this special occasion please contact the Parish on 6238 1251 or office@bungendoreanglican.org.au.

On Sunday 11th October, Bishop Stuart will join us at our 9 am service to commemorate the years past and to share in God's vision and mission for our future.

The cornerstone of our old stone building – God – still stands strong. The chimes of the historic St Philip's, Bungendore church bell call all to pause, focus on God's grace and reflect on our response. We would love it if your journey were to cross ours as we celebrate – maybe from curiosity, maybe from some connection.

We look forward to meeting you on your journey as you pass our way.

Knock and the door will be opened (Matthew 7.7)

Woden fund-raising concert

The Anglican parish of St Alban's, Woden, is offering a delightful afternoon of vocal music from some of Canberra's favourite musicians next month.

The Heart of Spring: Music of Beauty and Joy will be held at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture (15 Blackall St, Barton) on Saturday October 31st, starting at 3:00pm.

This concert will help raise funds for improvements to the community facilities at St Alban's Church.

Featured in the program are Louise Page (soprano), Rose Holcombe (piano), and The Resonants choir conducted by Helen Swan and will include songs such as *O for the wings of a dove* and *A Nightingale sang in Berkley Square*.

Tickets will be available at the door, at \$20 each - which includes afternoon tea. For further enquiries phone: 6281 4505



SOPRANO: Louise Page.

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

Peace conference at Canberra Uni

□ African peace and reconciliation advocate to speak at conference

By Terry Craig

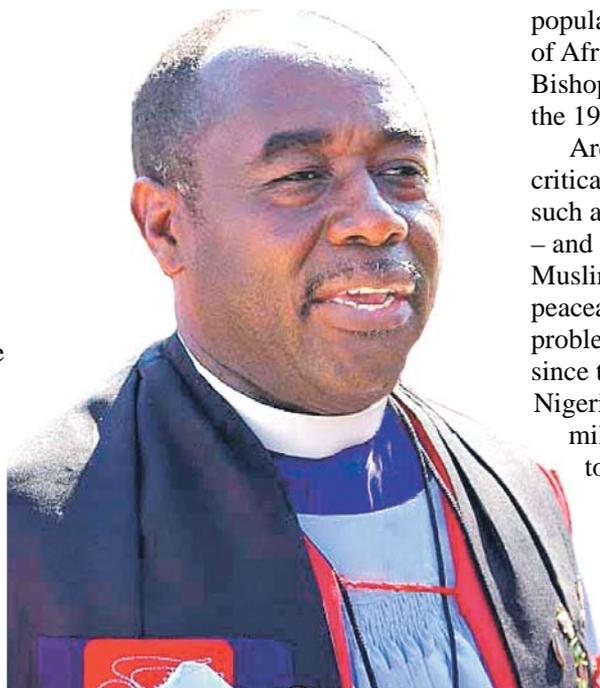
A leading African advocate for reconciliation and peace between Christians and Muslims, and a vocal critic of some foreign corporations operating in Nigeria, Anglican Archbishop Ben Kwashi will be keynote speaker at the **Peace in the Midst of Conflict and Chaos Conference** in Canberra in late September.

Archbishop Kwashi lives and works in one of the world's most contested and divided regions – northern Nigeria – where both Christians and Muslims are terrorised by Boko Haram.

Although his wife was brutally attacked by extremists and he has received death threats, Archbishop Kwashi continues to urge Christians to obey Christ's teachings and love their enemies by not retaliating and thus playing into the hands of the terrorists who are attempting to destabilise communities and create religious strife.

Archbishop Kwashi will speak at the Peace in the Midst of Conflict and Chaos Conference at the University of Canberra, to be held on Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 September. The conference is being organised by Christian university students with the assistance of local churches.

Archbishop Kwashi is the international chairman of Sharing of Ministries Abroad (SOMA), a global Anglican ministry that seeks to share



PEACEMAKER: Archbishop Ben Kwashi.

the blessings of renewal in the Holy Spirit. The conference and SOMA events in the week following are being held at the invitation of Bishop Stuart Robinson. A team from Singapore and SOMA directors from other nations will be joining Archbishop Kwashi to encourage local Christians.

The hosts of the week's event are a small group of Christian students, themselves from various nations, as well as friends from nearby churches. Neighbouring churches will be sending representatives to the conference.

Ben Kwashi is Archbishop of the Diocese of Jos, a region in northern Nigeria where a large Anglican

population emerged from the work of Africa's first indigenous Anglican Bishop, Samuel Ajayi Crowther, during the 19th century.

Archbishop Kwashi has been highly critical of extremist Islamist groups such as Boko Haram: "It's an old story – and a fact – that the Christians and Muslims of Nigeria have always lived peaceably together. We never had any problems until recently," he said, "but since the first burning of churches in Nigeria in 1987, successive Nigerian military governments had done little to curb the violence.

"The Muslims we have to live with are ordinary Muslim people: some are business people, some go to school, some are civil servants, but we have to live together. There is no way in this life that we can be isolated from one another. We live and we talk, Africans do it one day at a time.

"It is utterly useless if I am not reconciled to God and to fellow human beings. Reconciliation between me and God, and between me and a black man or a white man, or a Muslim, is of the utmost importance, and an evidence of what Jesus Christ has done in my life. That is the heart of my message."

Archbishop Kwashi has also criticised major foreign corporations operating in Nigeria. He said recently that the World Bank record showed the capital flight out of Nigeria by major companies has been almost \$US300bn to date.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Prayer vigil under threat

Dear Sir,

For many years a small group of Christians has gathered for a prayer vigil in Canberra near where a clinic for those requesting the termination of a pregnancy is situated.

Anglicans have supported this group. A member of the ACT Government has announced that he will move to have this group banned from meeting there.

A lively discussion about the whole issue of legal abortions has appeared in the local press. Letters supporting a woman's right to this procedure have appeared, together with those opposing abortion on demand, particularly on Biblical grounds.

Anglicans should be thinking about this controversial and emotional issue and should make it a matter of

prayer, along with the 'redefinition of marriage' issue. We need to be much better informed about both questions. I published a letter in *The Canberra Times* on the subject and would be happy to send a copy to readers who missed it.

Father Robert Willson
Deakin, ACT.

Food Fair helps ease living costs

❑ New outlet helps meet a need in Queanbeyan

Anglicare has launched a new food pantry program in Queanbeyan to help support people on low incomes.

The service has been established due to an identified need in the community, thanks to the generosity of our donors and supporters.

Run from Anglicare's Bargain Hunter store, Food Fair is the first of its kind in the area and will offer groceries like pasta, cereal, toiletries and cleaning products to pension and Centrelink card holders at a subsidised price.

"We're trying to help people who are living week to week to stretch their dollar further," Retail and Community Engagement Manager, Kaye Pritchard said.

"People can sign up to become a member, costing \$2 for twelve months and then they can shop as they would in a supermarket."

Anglicare's Food Security Mapping research conducted in 2013 found 35% of respondents from Queanbeyan had needed help with food and not been able to access it.

"Queanbeyan has pockets of



VOLUNTEER Chimi Rinzin at Anglicare's Food Fair in Queanbeyan.

disadvantage and we know that it's a solution for many people who can't afford to live in Canberra," Mrs Pritchard said.

"We know it's often nutrition that suffers when money is tight."

Food Fair will operate twice a week

on Thursday and Friday between 10am-12pm and 1pm-3pm.

A small emergency relief operation will also run, handing out items donated from annual campaigns such as the Pantry Appeal.

Introducing Stuart Davis-Meehan

Anglicare is delighted to introduce the new Director of St John's Care, Stuart Davis-Meehan, who commenced the role on 27 July.

Stuart brings with him a wealth of experience and passion for working with the vulnerable including at risk young people, drug users, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, people living with disabilities, Indigenous communities and people who are frail and aged.

"I really believe that St John's Care supports the most disadvantaged people in our community," he said.

"This is what really drew me to St John's Care."

Stuart was born in Newcastle where he lived with his family for over 30 years. Additional to his work alongside the disadvantaged, he and his wife have run a social research and strategic planning consultancy business, *Key Insights*, for more than two decades. He has also been an active volunteer and a board member.

Despite only a short time in the Director's role at St John's Care, Stuart has been overwhelmed by the public's support for the emergency relief Centre and the support from Anglicare as the partner organisation.

"The support we get from churches, organisations and the



DIRECTOR: Stuart Davis-Meehan.

community is just fantastic. There are a lot of people out there who are very passionate about the work of St John's Care."

St John's Care is open from 9:30am to 2:00pm Monday to Friday in Canberra.

Examining the rise of atheism

POST GOD NATION? By Roy Williams. ABC Books. 406pp. \$32.99.

Reviewer: Robert Willson

Post God Nation? begins with a provocative quote from Australian novelist Patrick White.

White wrote: 'I suppose what I am increasingly trying to do in my books is to give professed unbelievers glimpses of their own unprofessed faith'.

Is Patrick White suggesting that even unbelievers have faith? Roy Williams, retired lawyer, probes the rise of atheism and agnosticism in modern Australia. Every Christian should come to grips with atheism.

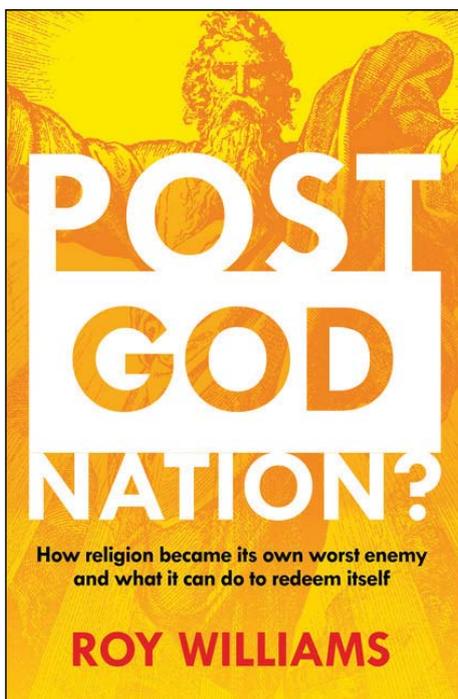
The author reminds us that in 1901, 96% of Australians identified themselves as Christians. In the 20th century religious faith for many has collapsed and we now have a secular society. I have been in Christian ministry for more than fifty years and I have personally witnessed this massive shift.

Today most Australians perceive Christianity as implausible, undesirable or irrelevant. Most people have either no idea of what the Christian religion is offering or they have rejected what they mistakenly think it is offering and Williams tells us candidly that such was his own position for many years. Now he is an active, worshipping Presbyterian.

Williams does not set out to convince us that Christianity is true, but rather he is writing a work of historical and social observation to show that faith in God has been an integral part of Australian history, from the Aboriginal Dreaming Time. God did not arrive with the First Fleet. Roy Williams makes three bold claims.

Firstly, he claims that the historical influence of religion on Australian life has been vital and largely favourable and that the Christian Churches and other religions have done more than any other institution to civilise Australians. Many historians try to deny this.

He stresses the key role played in Australian history by outstanding individuals of religious faith from 1788,



and he gives many surprising examples.

Secondly, he states that the decline of religious belief in Australia has been partly the Churches' own fault, and partly the result of forces beyond their control, such as the two World Wars. Also, sexual abuse of children by clergymen and the cover-up of their horrible crimes by bishops and others has almost trashed the Church in the eyes of many.

Finally, Williams claims that religion is worth saving, and he suggests ways that this might be done. He admits that restoring our religious heritage would be a massive task. He believes that a society which rejects or denies its religious history is in moral and spiritual danger.

Whether you find these propositions outrageous or inspiring, please suspend judgement until you read *Post God Nation?* Roy Williams makes a powerful case. I wish he had said more about the moral issues raised by the 100,000 legal abortions performed each year in Australia, but every Christian will find much to think about in his book.

This review first appeared in the Canberra Times on July 4, 2015.

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Church Life Survey next year

❑ Australian churches plan to extend world's largest survey of local church life: 2016 National Church Life Survey

The 2016 National Church Life Survey (NCLS) will take place in October 2016, continuing the largest longitudinal survey of local church life in the world.

Conducted by NCLS Research, partnering with more than 20 Christian denominations across Australia, it is expected that the 2016 NCLS will, once again, involve hundreds of thousands of church attenders and leaders.

“When we started 25 years ago, we never contemplated a sixth wave of the NCLS would happen.

“To now have 25 years of accumulated learning about Australian local churches is quite astounding,” said Dr Ruth Powell, NCLS Research Director. “It is a tremendous testimony to the collaboration of so many church leaders over such a period.”

What began as a small research project in 1991, asking “who goes to church”, has grown into a research organisation of international renown.

The 2016 NCLS will produce a snapshot of the role of faith in the lives of individuals, the place of local churches in their communities, and of local and denominational church vitality. Responding to changing needs, the 2016 NCLS will be adaptive and innovative in its approach.

Nation-wide results will map church activities and appraise effective leadership practices, providing a national perspective of the presence



NCLS DIRECTOR:
Dr Ruth Powell.

and impact of local faith communities. The NCLS will also capture the individual congregation, its hopes and its journey. Practical life-giving processes are offered to help each church identify their strengths and get the most out of their survey results.

“Our mission in 2016 remains— to help identify signs of hope in churches and its leadership,

providing a credible research base to build vitality and connect churches and communities,” explained Dr Powell. “Our goal is still to listen to the great diversity of Australian churchgoers, leaders and communities and to learn from them.”

Counselling, Ministry & Supervision Info Day



- ▶ Canberra: Thursday 8 October
- ▶ 12 noon–2pm, 5pm–7pm
- ▶ St Mark's Library
15 Blackall Street Barton ACT

Courses on offer

- | | |
|----------|---|
| CHC51712 | Diploma of Counselling |
| 10348NAT | Graduate Certificate in Professional Supervision (Clinical)(Pastoral) |
| 10434NAT | Diploma of Christian Ministry & Theology |
| 10435NAT | Advanced Diploma of Christian Ministry & Theology |



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Living Waters 15

"seeking the Lord afresh"

Conference

6 Herarde Street

Batemans Bay

7-9pm 9 Oct 2015

9am-5pm 10 Oct 2015

www.anglicanbatemansbay.org.au

Speakers:

Archbishop Ben Kwashi, Nigeria

Rev'd Chris Viljoen, South Africa

Rev'd Ian Ballentyne, Northern Ireland

We are delighted to have three men of faith, passion and love for the Lord Jesus to lead and guide us by the Holy Spirit over an evening and a day.

Details and registration forms from the parish.

Two Bishops and Patrick Bronte

By Robert Willson

In 2012 I wrote a piece for *Anglican News* about the consecration in Canterbury Cathedral of the first bishop of our Diocese, Mesac Thomas.

Little seemed to be known about this event until I discovered a full account of it in the London *Times* of March 26, 1863. Thomas was consecrated by Archbishop Charles Longley and I wonder if the two men ever kept in touch after the event.

Archbishop Longley had a passionate interest in the planting of Anglican churches in the new colonies of the British Empire which was then expanding rapidly. In 1868 he called the first "Lambeth Conference" of bishops from all parts of the Empire and I am researching to see if Mesac Thomas attended.

Longley had previously been Bishop of Ripon in the north of England. When he went to Canterbury he took his vast file of personal letters with him. After his death his family inherited these archives. A few years ago his descendants decided to donate them to Lambeth Palace Library. If he and Mesac Thomas corresponded then there would be letters from our bishop in those archives, telling of his life in Goulburn diocese.

When the letters were catalogued a great treasure was discovered. It was a four-page letter from the Reverend Patrick Bronte, Rector of Haworth in the Ripon Diocese, and father of the most famous literary family in England. After the tragic death of his wife and five daughters and only son, victims of the filthy living conditions in Haworth, Bishop Longley had written to the Rector words of comfort.

Perhaps by then the Bishop knew that three of the Bronte girls had become famous through their writings. *Jane Eyre*, *Wuthering Heights*, and other novels by the Brontes were being read even in far-away Goulburn, though perhaps not by Bishop Mesac Thomas.

Patrick Bronte's reply to the bishop is a most moving letter. The 78-year-old priest wrote: "I have lived long enough to bury a beloved wife and six children – all that I had ... Now they are all gone – their image and memory remain, and meet me at every turn – but they themselves have left me." Bronte admitted to the bishop that his grief had challenged his faith.

He wrote: "The Lord gave and the Lord took early away. But I have often found, and find in this last sad trial, that it is often frequently extremely difficult to walk entirely by faith and sincerely to pray *Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*"

150 years later we may still identify with the grief of that Victorian priest, and recall the Gospel words of the man who said to our Lord Jesus Christ: "Lord I believe. Help thou mine unbelief" (Mark 9: 24).

I am hoping that research will uncover letters from Bishop Thomas in Goulburn to the Archbishop of Canterbury preserved in his correspondence.

St Mark's lecturer wins literary award

❑ Book on military chaplains wins Sparklit Book of Year

Dr Michael Gladwin, history lecturer at St Mark's National Theological Centre, has received a major Australian award for his book about the history of Australian Army chaplains.

The book, *Captains of the Soul: A History of Australian Army Chaplains*, has been named the 2015 SparkLit Australian Christian Book of the Year.

Captains of the Soul was published in 2014 and is the first comprehensive historical account of Australian Army chaplains in wars, conflicts, peacekeeping missions, and in barracks and among service families.

The book was one of nine shortlisted for the annual prize and was judged to be 'a history of national importance and an insight into the Australian character.

While increasingly unfashionable in some spheres of society, chaplains continue to be valued in proportion to the proximity of battle.'

Dr Gladwin said he was honoured to receive the award.

"I am encouraged and honoured to have received the award, especially given the calibre and strength of the shortlisted books by writers and scholars like John Dickson, Michael Bird, Rhys Bezzant and Richard Shumack.

"This year's awards are, I think, a testament to the depth and breadth of contemporary Australian Christian writing and thinking," he said.

Dr Gladwin is a graduate of the Australian National University and the University of Cambridge, and has been lecturing at St Mark's since 2009.

He has written widely on the religious and cultural history of Australia in the context of the British world, as well as the

relationship between religion and war in Australian history.

Dr Gladwin is also the editor of *St Mark's Review*, one of Australia's longest-running journals of Christian thought and opinion, and the author of *Anglican Clergy in Australia, 1788-1850: building a British World* (2015).

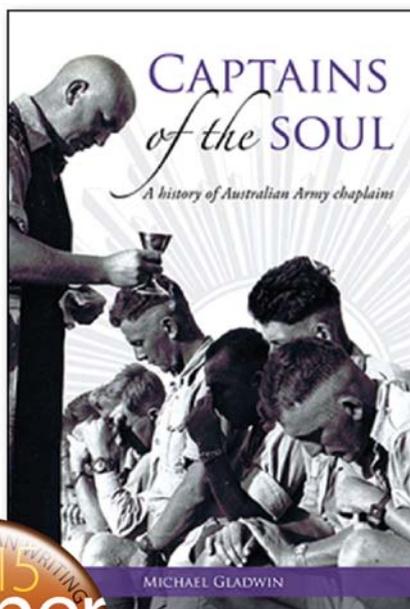
His current research projects include the intellectual history of mission and colonialism in the nineteenth century; religious aspects of Australian war commemoration and experience of the Second World War; and the history of preaching and religious discourse in Australian cultural life.

The award was presented to Dr Gladwin at a celebration dinner in Melbourne on Thursday 13 August.

Captains of the Soul: A History of Australian Army Chaplains is published by Big Sky Publishing and can be purchased for \$34.99.



Congratulations Dr Michael Gladwin



St Mark's celebrates the recognition that history lecturer, Michael Gladwin, has received for his scholarship and research into military chaplains.



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engaging the people of God
with Australian society



Linking youth ministry in ACT's northern parishes

❑ **Local leadership team combines resources to build an effective youth group**

By Wil Newman

Hi, my name is Wil Newman and I would love to share with you what I am a part of right now.

I am a part of the leadership team of a combined Youth Group. Basically we are four local Belconnen churches (St Barnabas' Charnwood, St Michael's Hall, St Paul's Ginninderra and St Simon's Kaleen) that get together and share our resources and young people and run a Youth Group.

Each church was struggling to get the numbers of youths and leaders to run their own groups, so we got together and have been having fun ever since.

We have gone bush and had bonfires, run a Youth Alpha course, prayed together and taught the Scriptures. All this wouldn't have been possible without the willingness of our parishes and priests to work together and to put the needs of their young people first.

In this spirit of sharing, we'd like to invite you all to come along to our Family Fun Night on the 25th of September, 7 til 9pm, at St. Paul's Ginninderra (off Curley Street in Spence).

It's a night where we invite not just the young people but their families to



TEAM LEADERSHIP: Wil Newman, an experienced Camp Pelican team leader, is part of the leadership team providing youth ministry across four parishes in the Belconnen area.

come along and have fun with us. So if you are a young person, have a young person of your own or are young at heart, we'd love to see you and yours on the 25th.

If you'd like to know more email me at: wilnkat@gmail.com

After all, the more the merrier!

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)

OMG! It's a Conference!

❑ **Yass to host OMG! 2015**

Assistant Bishop Matt Brain will be the keynote speaker at a conference being held by the Anglican Church in Yass on Saturday November 21.

On the theme of OMG!, the conference is sub-titled 'A Common God, an Uncommon Grace'.

Organisers have chosen the title, frequently used as an expression of surprise or anxiety (particularly in SMS jargon), pointing out that many people do not know the God they instinctively cry out to.

"OMG! 2015 might just help you

find your place in the greatest of all adventures ... sharing the Gospel you believe in to the world you live in," says the promotional leaflet.

The program starts at 2:00 pm and runs through to 8:30 pm, with breaks for afternoon tea and dinner.

The evening worship session will benefit from the leadership and brilliant musical talent of Katie de Veau, a Canberra-based singer, songwriter, worship pastor and church consultant.

More info at <https://yassvalleyanglicanchurch.org.au/>



WORSHIP LEADER: Katie de Veau