

ANGLICANNEWS

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Bookham Community Church - from once a year to once a month



Helena Painting was among a team of three who successfully established the Bookham Community Church earlier this year. She tells the story of their journey to commencement.

There had been no regular church service in Bookham and its surrounding district in any denomination for the past ten years except for a Christmas Eve service. This service was very successful with the church always full to bursting. This to me proved that there were coals ready to be fanned into flame and also a desire for the people of Bookham and surrounds to connect or re-connect with church and come into a relationship, or a deeper relationship, with God.

It was Doug's and my heartfelt prayer that we could have regular church services back in our local community. Doug grew up attending this church and our kids went to Sunday School here. We prayed about it long and hard and said let's start.

But before we could start we had to have enough people on team. We found that there were three people committed to this – Archdeacon John Barnes, local lady Bimbi Turner (a lay leader at the Anglican Church in Yass) and myself.

Because we have come into a church where people have worshipped for many years, we made a point to honour the people who have gone before not just say 'here we are bigger and better'. Some people who attended services here 10 years ago have returned and new people who have moved to the district have joined.

Before our first service in April this year we put up a yellow cardboard sign out the front of the church announcing our first service (see above). It was hastily put up, we now have a lovely new sign with interchangeable lettering – very flash, but I did like our little cardboard one! News of the first service commencing was also spread through the Agricultural Bureau, a letterbox drop, an ad in the local paper and by word of mouth.

We have now been holding our services for eight months. We meet once a month in the most beautiful old stone building built from blue stone quarried in the Bookham District. The church was built in 1927 and is on the site of the original Presbyterian church which was built in 1885.

The Bookham Community Church is a partnership between the Anglican Church, the Uniting Church (who own the building) and BCA.

John Barnes is our up-front service leader and preacher. His dedication is inspiring. He has a round trip of nearly three hours each time he comes to Bookham. Our very own Peter Adkins (NSW/ACT Regional Officer) filled in for one service when John couldn't attend. Bimbi puts beautiful flowers in the church and generally does the prayers. I do the communicating by keeping our Facebook page up-to-date, emailing and calling people, putting together the PowerPoint as well as organising the music and together with Doug, setting up the church.

After each service we have a meal where people bring something to share. This is a great time to chat and fellowship and John is able to talk to the locals and get to know them. John now has plans to start up a men's fellowship group and we will begin a ladies' group too.

The prayer support from BCA has been so valuable in establishing the Bookham Community Church. Also, I would never have met John Barnes to start with if it wasn't for BCA. We built up a good relationship through running a youth group in Dalton where I taught Scripture with BCA. We have also had help in many ways from friends and supporters, for which we are very grateful.

We are really excited about how the church is going. We have a committed congregation of mixed denominations and ages. Our dream is that it would grow and be able to support a minister one or two days a week. We would value your prayers for this.

– By Helena Painting



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BISHOP STUART ROBINSON WRITES

Christmas

Beloved in Christ,
Advent greetings!

Given the shifts across the geopolitical scene (globally) and our own local issues (like the much needed Royal Commission[s]), I am always most heartened – in this Season – by God’s reminder that he has his ‘finger on the pulse’.

Seven centuries before the event took place, our Heavenly Father revealed through his servant Isaiah that, ‘the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel’ (Isaiah 7:14). ‘God with us’, in the person of his Christ addressed the principal cause of the abovementioned foment; **our sin**. Yes, our Lord Jesus came into the world to ‘save his people from their sins’ – Matthew 1:21.

And in the Epistle set down for Christmas Day, Paul masterfully ties together Jesus’ first and second coming (the focus of Advent) thus, ‘...we wait for the blessed hope – the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his own, eager to do what is good’ – Titus 2:13-14.

In this period between Jesus’ ascension and return our Father is

working out his good purposes through **us** – the redeemed, sanctified people of God.

So thank you for being eager to do what is good in this time of expectant waiting. Thank you for being warm, welcoming, creative and engaging in your ministries through the week and as the gathered community on Sundays and other times.

Thank you for your prayerfulness and generosity; your heart for the lost and marginalised is such a tonic. Any wonder new ministries are flourishing, churches are being planted, ‘seekers’ are being drawn to Christ and people are presenting for ministry selection.

On that note, in November our Cathedral was filled with family and friends who attended the Ordination to the Priesthood of fourteen fine women and men. And it continues: In January, I’ll be locally ordaining as part-time (transitory) honorary deacons, Sally Cullen, Tony McLennan, Graeme Dunn, Robyn Baxter and Paul Baxter. Then in February, I’ll be ‘deaconing’ John Kurivilla, Tim Purser, Liz Rankin, Anna Boxwell and Susan Baird. Do keep these gifted and godly saints in your prayers.

I referenced the Royal Commission above. We have (as directed) made a number of submissions. These exercises are exacting, time

consuming and costly. Indeed, the volume and complexity of ‘safe church’ and professional standards matters has remained a constant throughout 2016.

You will be pleased to know that many victims of abuse are being cared for (by our diocese) and perpetrators have – in recent times – received custodial sentences. Even in such dark circumstances people are coming to faith in Christ and we, as a church and diocese, are being reconciled to people and families. God’s remarkable grace shines through tragedy and sin (ours).

Following the pattern of Bishop Christopher Barlow, I have been also serving as rector (for a time) of the Parish of West Goulburn. Bishop Trevor was similarly engaged at Harden/Murrumburrah (and having completed that assignment, he moves on to Bega) and Bishop Matt was recently installed as the rector, part-time, of Kambah. Bishop Stephen continues to serve among the people at Woden. These engagements afford us the opportunity to preach, lead and pastor locally whilst continuing a wider episcopal ministry. This exercise, in the light of *some* of the presenting diocesan



issues, is life giving.

You prayed earnestly for the restoration to full health of General Manager, Mr Trevor Ament. The Lord has indeed brought Trevor through an extended period of chemotherapy and he is now on a graduated return to work programme. God be praised! Our dear friend, Bishop Matt, served brilliantly as ‘caretaker’ in Trevor’s absence and has now relinquished that role to focus, inter alia, on ministry training and development and the parish of Kambah. And the indefatigable Bishop Trevor continues to oversee his regions with great aplomb whilst also serving as Vicar-General.

Recently, our long standing Chair of Anglicare, Dr Ingrid Moses completed her term. Dr Moses – in concert with her Board, CE Jeremy Halcrow and the diocese, steered the organisation into greater health and Kingdom effectiveness, I would opine. We are so grateful to God for Ingrid’s courage, tenacity, faith and grace. Yes, our Lord very much has his ‘finger on the pulse’.

On behalf of my Episcopal team, the Diocesan Services team, Bishop-in-Council – and my dear wife, Jane, I bid you God’s richest blessings for Christmas – and the New Year.

+Stuart
Bishop

creating safe ministries

Our Diocese is committed to holistic Safe Church Ministry. This means: we commit to our pastoral, duty of care, legal and insurance obligations; with the goal that all ministries are spiritually, emotionally and physically safe; based on the premise that Diocesan parishes and ministries should be person-valuing and respectful places free from abuse and harm, for ministry to God’s glory.

The Creating Safe Ministries program assists us to fulfil this commitment. In 2017 we will be making a number of changes to how we structure and deliver the program.

Details of these can be found here:
www.anglicancg.org.au/pages/safe-communities-training-and-workshops.html

Reporting Abuse Hotline: 1800 070 511

Clergy Moves

The Venerable John Barnes was licensed as Rector, Crookwell Parish on 21/11/2016.

The Right Reverend Dr Matt Brain, alongside his Assistant Bishop’s role, has been appointed Rector, Kambah from 13/12/2016 with assistance.

The Reverend Canon Margaret Campbell was licensed as Rector, Jamison Parish on 01/11/2016.

The Reverend Jonathan Cole was licensed as Assistant Priest, Canberra on 27/11/2016.

The Reverend Martin Johnson was licensed as Rector, O’Connor Parish on 08/12/2016.

The Reverend Robert Lindbeck resigned as Priest-In-Charge (Locum) Parish of Southern Monaro from 25/11/2016.

The Reverend David McLennan was licensed as Rector, South Tuggeranong from 06/11/2016.

The Reverend Dr Gary Mulquiney resigned as Rector, Kambah Parish on 27/11/2016. He will begin a new ministry in the Molonglo growth area in the New Year.

The Reverend Liz Sloane resigned as Dean of Aged Care from 25/11/2016.

The Reverend Ann Wentzel was licensed as Subdean, Cathedral Parish of St Saviour’s Goulburn on 06/11/2016.

Following a Professional Standards Ordinance process *Mr David French* is no longer a Priest in the Anglican Church.

Following a Professional Standards Ordinance process *The Reverend Susan Hanna* no longer holds a licence in the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn.

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Pelican Foundation - Woden Mission Initiative



The Woden Mission Initiative was a project funded by a grant from the Pelican Foundation, which enabled the Parish of St Alban's to employ Anthony Frost as a Mission Facilitator for three days a week, over two years, to develop a vision for reaching out to their local community.

Initially the project focused on new housing developments, but after research into the local needs St Alban's broadened their vision to include the wider community.

The parish fostered a positive relationship with Woden Community Services (WCS), resulting in a partnership that has been bearing fruit in two main areas.

The first is the establishment of a joint emergency food outlet in the Woden area. The Little Pan-

try is based in the WCS shopfront and is stocked with groceries donated from St Alban's parishioners and items from a larger food bank supplier. Parish and community volunteers serve together to distribute food to those seeking emergency assistance.

The second area of partnership is English Conversation classes. For many years WCS have used the church facility for English classes. After discussions with WCS, St Alban's realised there was a need for opportunities for women with preschool-aged children to be able to practice their English, make friends and establish support networks, so they began an English Conversation class especially for these women. While the women are having their class in the church the children are cared for in the community room by a team of carers from the parish and the WCS. This has been a much

needed ministry in the local area and beyond, deeply appreciated by the women who attend and their children who are making friends and also learning English through play and interaction. It has given St Alban's opportunities to develop relationships with people from many different backgrounds living in their area, and has served to further strengthen the relationship with WCS.

St Alban's has established and continued other ministries to reach out to their community, such as Meditation on Mondays, founding the Faith Based Action Group in support of Refugees and Asylum Seekers, joining with other churches in the area to work on the Lyons Community Festival and a monthly Chess and Pizza ministry.

What St Alban's is seeing, after two years of the Woden Mission Initiative, is people who attend different groups, such as the Eng-

lish Conversation class, beginning to attend and participate in other aspects of their life as a church. All of these ministries are now being facilitated by lay leaders in the parish as a result of the Mission Facilitator assisting the Rector in identifying and equipping people to take on roles of leadership and responsibility.

Over the course of the Pelican Foundation grant the parish found that God began a process of transformation, from a church on the edge of the local community to one imbedded within the local community. They have gained a new understanding of mission – that it is not something they do but it is who they are as a Community of Christ in their local community.

For further information on the Pelican Foundation or the Woden Mission Initiative contact: pelicanboard@anglicancg.org.au.

Ordination of Priests



Fourteen Deacons were ordained as Priests on 26 November 2016 at St Saviour's Cathedral. Bishop Stuart's charge to the ordinands was:

God has called you to make disciples; to partner with him in the salvation of women, men, girls and boys – and that, for eternity.

Those ordained were:

- The Reverend Stephen Boxwell – Lanyon Valley
- The Reverend Alison Champness – F5 Refresh Ministries
- The Reverend Brian Champness – F5 Refresh Ministries
- The Reverend Anthony Frost – Sapphire Coast
- The Reverend Yvonne Gunning – Gundagai
- The Reverend Wayne Landford – Crookwell
- The Reverend Christopher Lewis – Ainslie
- The Reverend Nathan Manwaring – Hawker
- The Reverend Tracey Matthews – Kaleen-Giralang-Lawson
- The Reverend Deborah Mazlin – Chapman
- The Reverend Peter Mylonas – F5 Refresh Ministries
- The Reverend Katherine Rainger – Jamison
- The Reverend David Schweinsberg – Weston
- The Reverend Emma Street – Holt/Business Life



Merger of Deakin and Curtin Parish

In September St Luke's Anglican Church, Deakin, voted to merge with Curtin Parish. This merge was accepted on 2 October by Curtin Parish Council and approved by Bishop-in-Council on 21st October.

New members of Good Shepherd, Curtin, who joined from St Luke's were formally welcomed on 6th November.

A Thanksgiving Service for nearly 60 years of ministry at St Luke's was held on 3rd December. We pray that as God has blessed many through the previous parishes of Curtin and Deakin he will continue to be active transforming them through the love of Jesus.

The new combined parish now includes Curtin, Deakin, Garran, Hughes and Yarralumla.

New rector for St Mary in the Valley Tuggeranong

The Reverend David McLennan was inducted as Rector of St Mary in the Valley on 9th November.

He reminded the congregation on the night of the US election results:

"The biggest political upheaval doesn't compare to the smallest local church, in terms of its ultimate importance."

"For it's through the church that people discover nothing less than God in Christ. It's where we experience just what a transforming gift real forgiveness is; where we see our own relationships transformed and find a new purpose and sense of mission."



Archdeacon Brian Douglas reads the licence to Reverend David McLennan.

Where has the year gone?

by Jenny Willsher, Head of St Martin's College, CSU Wagga

There is a hush over St Martin's College now – it is the summer break! What a ride we had in Session 2, a session that can be summarised in two words; food & celebration.

We started with a Bastille day feast and French quizzes to get the brain started for the new subjects. This was followed by more feasting, and dancing as well, as we joined with St Francis College for the Annual Saints Ball.

After the friendliness of eating and dancing together the Marties vs Frannies rivalry came to the fore as we battled for the Saints Cup, with Marties being the ultimate victors winning the indoor soccer and the touch footy, although the rivalry was put aside as we relaxed around the BBQ.

There was also some laughter each week as the Marties family met for pizza and Board games

in an attempt to de-stress from all the study we had to do.

Bishop Rob Gillion "trod the Boards" as we celebrated Christmas in July by performing his play "The Visit" and feasted on Christmas cake and shortbread. Marties students then trod the Boards at the College talent night whilst being sustained by chips, dip and lollies!



There were serious moments too, as we completed our census forms. The donuts helped with our concentration and we got a "gold star" from the ABS for 100% participation!

There was more food & fellowship as South Wagga Parish provided a Welcome back meal for Term 4, then more food from our local Anglican churches to get us through our final exams!

Speaking of food!! There were the Tim Tams at our weekly interfaith drum therapy meditation, cakes and coffee at our farewell morning teas . . .

Oh and then there was the three course Feast celebrating the College Year at our Annual Dinner. We were blessed to have Bishop Rob to give an encore speech following his brilliant talk last year. We also farewelled our graduating students and presented our College Awards. This year the Board sponsored a new award – the Green Shield – with points awarded for recycling, working in the college vege garden, saving power. The recipients, cottage 469, each received a \$30 Oxfam gift

Voucher and then nominated the ABM Project of a Community Library in Ethiopia for a \$150 donation from the College.

No wonder there is a hush over the college. We have eaten too much, celebrated too much, studied well, supported one another through some challenging times and are now catching up on some well-earned rest.

If you know someone coming to CSU's Wagga campus to study in 2017 let them know that Marties is the place to live. Send them to our new and improved website www.stmartinscollege.org for information and the application form, and encourage them to join us for 2017.



A New Principal for Sapphire Coast Anglican College



The Chairman of the Board of Sapphire Coast Anglican College has announced the appointment of Mr Colin May B.Ed., FACE as Principal of Sapphire Coast Anglican College from January 2017.

Colin commenced his career as a Primary teacher/Sportsmaster and Secondary Maths teacher at St Andrew's Cathedral School in Sydney City, and then at Trinity Grammar. He became the first male Principal at Arden Anglican School at Beecroft. Over a

period of 17 years he led the development of the school from a Primary School at Beecroft to a three-campus Preschool-to-Year-12 school with campuses in Oxford Street, Epping, and a Senior Study Centre in the Cambridge Business Park, Epping. He retired from Arden in 2009 to take up consultancy positions in different schools.

He has been Principal of Al Sadiq College, an Islamic Arabic Bilingual College, Principal of Italian Bilingual School, Meadowbank, and most recently in a Jewish school, Kesser Torah College.

"I have always prioritised the welfare of the students and encouraged each student to fulfil their potential by fully immersing themselves in the rich life of the School", said Mr May. "My Christian leadership and encouragement of young men and women in faith has been a hallmark of my teaching."

In 2010 he was awarded a Paul Harris Fellow for contributions

to Humanitarian and Educational Programmes within Rotary.

He has been a Sportsmaster, Outdoor Education Director, Director of Studies, coach and referee of many sports including basketball, rugby union, cricket and football. Colin was made a Life Member of the NSW Independent School Sport Association in 2011 for his services to Independent school sport. He has taught woodwork to students for many years and is a passionate woodworker in his spare time. He has run maths and problem-solving workshops for students as part of extension programmes with students at all levels across a number of schools.

Mr May is an active member of the Anglican Church, having held positions such as Sunday School Superintendent, conducted Vacation Bible Study programmes, lead Bible study groups and is an active lay preacher.

Colin is married to Kay, who has taught with Colin in each of the schools he has taught in

or led. As a parent of four and grandparent of seven he is conscious of the needs and aspirations of parents. Kay has taught classes in Primary in a variety of schools including Arden, Trinity and more recently with Colin at the Islamic College as teacher librarian, the Italian Bilingual School and at Kesser Torah College. Kay has also been an Associate and Supervisor for the past 22 years of education students from Boston University (USA) as they practice in the Sydney region.

"The College and community are blessed to have such a wise and Godly person as Mr May for our next Principal", Mr Oates said.

