

# ANGLICANNEWS

a magazine for the Anglican Community of Canberra & Goulburn Vol. 34 No. 2 February 2017

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## Helping Young People Meet Jesus



Summer is a great time to hit the beach and that's exactly what our campers and leaders did during Summer Camp Pelican 2017. Our three January camps saw 88 campers and 47 leaders enjoy a week of sun, surf, sand and learning more about Jesus and what it means to follow Him.

Three dedicated leadership teams worked tirelessly to create an excellent program for each camp. There were amazing games and activities, fabulous meals, morning workouts and evening reflections.

Middle School camp sailed the seven seas on their way to treasure island, discovering the treasures of God and His Word. Junior High camp looked at 'A man for all seasons - A God for all time' exploring how God can meet us in whatever season of life we are in and help us grow in our faith. Senior High camp explored the theme of 'What Are You Here For?' looking at who God is, who we are and how we can live out God's call on our lives.

Don't only take my word for it, here's what some of our campers

and leaders had to say about their camps:

**"Absolutely incredible, always inspiring" - Tobias**

**"An unforgettable experience" - Georgia**

**"Awesome time with friends and God - best week of the year!" - Andy**

**"Always relaxing, inspiring and hopeful" - Judy**

**"Always an incredible experience" - Soraya**

**"Food, food, glorious food and lots of God" - Doug**

I'm continually amazed at the way God uses camping ministry to bring young people to Himself. There's something very special about taking young people away for a week of intentional Christian community, sharing life together and sharing the things of God, that allows young people to connect with God and God with them.

For some of our campers, Camp Pel is the one chance they have a year to experience a loving Christian community, hear the Gospel

and grow in their faith with their peers. For some there are no youth groups or other communities of faith they connect with throughout the year which makes their week on camp ever so important.

Running a camp takes a lot of time, people and funds and we need your help to continue this important ministry. Our camps are staffed completely by volunteers who pay their way to serve on camp. Planning and preparation for each camp begins five months in advance, with our amazing volunteers pouring countless hours into crafting programs and activities that will foster inclusive communities of faith.

Camps also have a lot of costs involved including accommodation, transport, food, activities and supplies. We want no camper to miss out on camp and we do all we can to make camp as affordable as possible, but the reality is that our costs increase every year.

Camp Pelican is in great need of your support. We are always looking for people who love and follow Jesus to join our leadership teams



and enable our camps to run.

We are in need of your financial support. Every donation we receive allows us to meet camp costs and keep camp affordable for all to attend.

We need your prayers that God will raise up leaders for our camps, raise up financial supporters for camps and raise up Christian communities for our campers to connect with outside of camp.

Would you please partner with us and support Camp Pelican as we continue to reach young people for Jesus?

For more information on joining a team or how to donate, please contact Andrew at Synergy on [andrew@synergy.org.au](mailto:andrew@synergy.org.au) or 0437 883 122.

*by Andrew Edwards*



BISHOP TREVOR EDWARDS WRITES

## FAITH AND POLITICS— TWO SEPARATE DOMAINS?

One of our clergy was recently visiting the United States and sent me a transcript of an address by Englishman Chris Wright, of Langham Partnerships, to an American audience. In the light of the upheavals caused by Brexit and the Trump presidency, Wright considers a Biblical perspective on politics. Sometimes Christians separate their faith from public life. However, commitment to Jesus Christ should permeate all of life.

Chris Wright, who is an Old Testament scholar, analyses contemporary politics according to the standards God expected of the nation of Israel. He isolates several national virtues: modesty not ostentation; integrity, not lying or 'alternative facts'; justice not exploitation. Wright defines three specific idols of Old Testament Israel which are still current in today's world, namely prosperity, nationalism and self-exaltation.

His article makes the point



that Israel is representative of more general patterns of human life, stating that the processes of Brexit and the US election are 'symptomatic of long-term idolatry and short term folly,' marked by 'cavalier disregard for truth' and 'massive expenditure and arrogance'. One biting sentence sums up his view: **'The idols have come to rule.'**

Regardless of our particular political leanings or sympathies regarding these overseas events, we need to apply Christian thinking to our own politics. I find Chris Wright's article stimulating in forcing us to do this.

There is a particular challenge for Christians in some questions that Wright humbly addresses to

his American audience, many of whom felt Trump was the better of two bad choices notwithstanding his questionable morality, obvious narcissism and material greed. Wright maintains:

*When did following Jesus ever depend on religious freedoms guaranteed by the state? Certainly not in the New Testament itself ... For the vast majority of Christian believers throughout most of history ... following Jesus is a costly decision, under adverse political and legal circumstances ... Following Jesus is not something we can only do when the state allows us, or protects us ...*

He then properly asks:

*Did American Christians think about it in these terms: '[Was] the choice between a leader whom so many ... consider so unsuited to the dignity ... and enormous responsibilities of ... President of the USA, on the one hand, and the challenge of going on bearing*

*witness to the Lord Jesus Christ as his followers, even if it becomes more costly as the state likely becomes less friendly and accommodating, on the other hand?*

Likewise we Australian Christians should ask whether it is the idols of self-protection, prosperity and personal or national pride which guide our political decisions, or whether it is taking up our cross and following Jesus no matter what the social or political environment.

The second half of Wright's article unpacks the significance of Christian standards. I commend it to you. The full text is available at: <http://www.anglicanleadershipinstitute.com/following-jesus-political-change>.



## Clergy Moves

*The Reverend Alex Abecina* has been ordained Deacon and licensed as Chaplain at Burgmann Anglican School.

*The Reverend Eric Burton* will be licensed as Honorary Chaplain to the Parliamentary Christian Fellowship.

*The Reverend Joy Harris* has resigned as Area Dean of the Coast.

*The Reverend Captain Stuart Haynes* will be licensed as Assistant Priest Bega (part-time) and *commissioned* by +Trevor on 26 February, 10.00am, St John's Bega.

*The Reverend Michelle Philp* has been ordained Deacon and will serve as a part-time Defence Chaplain at the Australian Defence Force Academy and an Honorary Deacon Associate at Gungahlin Parish.

*The Reverend Jenni Roberts* has been granted an ATO and will serve, inter alia, as an Honorary Associate Priest in the parishes of Southern Monaro and Berridale/Snowy Mountains from the end of February.

*The Reverend Peter Rose* will be licensed as Honorary Senior Associate Deacon Kambah Parish.

*The Reverend Clem Watts* has resigned from his position as Chaplain, The Canberra Hospital, effective from 7 April. Clem will take leave from early March.

*Please keep the following Deacon Ordination Candidates in your prayers as they prepare for ordination on Saturday 25 February, St Saviour's Cathedral, Goulburn, 11.00am. They will be licensed to serve in the parishes listed below.*

Susan Baird (St Saviour's Cathedral, Goulburn)

Anna Boxwell (Lanyon Valley Anglican Church)

Peter Dyke (Queanbeyan)

Tim Hall (Gungahlin)

John Kuruvilla (Kambah)

Tim Purser (Curtin)

Liz Rankin (Batemans Bay)



*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](http://www.anglicancg.org.au/pages/safe-communities-training-and-workshops.html)

**Reporting Abuse Hotline: 1800 070 511**

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Advertising: enquiries to the editor.

# Notes from Syria: Please Pray



*Damascus, a beautiful but troubled city*

From 27 December to 7 January, Archdeacon Carol Wagner was part of a team that went on a short-term mission trip to Syria, through an invitation extended to Father Dave Smith from Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Dulwich Hill, to bring a delegation of clergy to Syria. The purpose of the mission was:

- To bring encouragement to Syrian Christians, praying with them for peace, restoration and renewal.
- To establish supportive relationships between Syrian and Australian communities.
- To give Syrian Christians the opportunity to tell their stories on video through the media team.
- To take in much-needed medical supplies.

Following the trip to this war-torn country, Archdeacon Carol Wagner has requested prayer for

the great difficulties facing those who remain in Syria.

Particular difficulties include:

- Aleppo is still very unstable, with various terrorist groups encamped only a few kilometres from the town in the surrounding hills.
- There are power rations right across the country.
- The water in Damascus has been poisoned by the terrorists; the only water available now comes in tankers and bottles.
- The people of Aleppo who have remained have been confined to their homes for as long as five years, and have been given meagre rations, mainly lentils, on which to survive. Only recently have they been 'allowed out', and now have to find a way to sustain themselves and their families.
- No produce or supplies of any kind are allowed into Syria because of the sanctions. The peo-

ple are eking out a living on what can be produced locally.

• Because of the sanctions, no aid whatsoever is being allowed in. There is no help on the ground at all, anywhere in Syria. The only help has been a very occasional project via UNICEF – such as being allowed to vaccinate a few thousand children in Damascus for polio last year.

• There are no medical supplies. Medical equipment is sparse, and what remains is breaking down. There are no drugs available for treatable diseases. What is so tragic is that Aleppo once had a thriving medical industry; world leaders in the manufacture of drugs and advanced medical equipment. The terrorists have stripped and dismantled medical equipment in hospitals and the manufacturing sector and sold it across the border to Turkey. The journalist in our team sustained an injury while researching material for a documentary on Aleppo, and spent a week without being able to receive medical help or find any pain medication. She has had to wait till her return to Australia to receive treatment!

• Money is not allowed in or out, other than what is legally permitted on the persons of those allowed across the border. This avenue though, has been utilised. Through the Greek Orthodox Patriarch, our team has been provided with details to the



*Through his youth centre initiative, 'Boxing for Peace', Father Dave Smith has established valuable relationships with faith leaders and their communities in Syria.*

Greek Orthodox Church bank account in Beirut (unaffected by the sanctions) and their church leaders are able to bring in money personally as they regularly come across the border.

• Please feel free to contribute via this avenue if you/your church is so moved. The aid goes straight to the needy. Bank details can be provided.

A report on this mission trip is available through [www.na-roomaanglican.com](http://www.na-roomaanglican.com), on the Syria Mission tab.

Thanks for your prayers for this troubled nation.

*by Archdeacon Carol Wagner*



*The Syria Mission Team*

## History Bytes – The Galloping Parson



**The story of Reverend Thomas Hassall, the first Australian to be ordained and one of the first people to bring the gospel to the Goulburn District**

I am fascinated by interesting anniversaries. In 1817, just 200 years ago, a young man named Thomas Hassall sailed from Sydney for England in a ship called the "Kangaroo". He was to be educated for the Anglican priesthood in Wales and became the first Australian to be ordained, returning to Australia as a Colonial Chaplain in 1822.

Hassall became Curate to the Reverend Samuel Marsden and later married Marsden's daughter Anne. Even before he went to Britain Hassall had started the first Sunday School in Australia and Marsden saw his gifts as an

evangelist and teacher and encouraged his education.

After his ordination Thomas Hassall served briefly in Paramatta, then at Port Macquarie and Bathurst, and finally in the new parish of Cowpastures, which Hassall described as "Australia beyond Liverpool". His estate at Denbigh became his headquarters and Heber Chapel and St Paul's Cobbitty remain as his memorial. They are well worth a visit!

Hassall is of particular interest to Anglicans in our Diocese because he was one of the very first to bring the Gospel to the

Goulburn district and also to the Illawarra. He was known as the "Galloping Parson" and also as Australia's first "bush parson".

Gradually his vast parish was reduced to a more manageable size and he was relieved of places like Goulburn. Hassall died at Denbigh on 29 March, 1868.

We should be much better informed about early evangelists like Thomas Hassall and Robert Cartwright. Their lives are well documented on the Internet and in St Mark's Library. They are an inspiration!

*By Robert Willson*

# AIDF – New Relationship Manager

In June 2016, the AIDF recruited Adam Wright to the new role of Relationship Manager.

Adam's goals are simple – to build strong relationships with each of AIDF's customers and to offer them great service. Further, he hopes they will then spread the word on how the Fund offers investors competitive rates and products and assists the Diocese to fulfil its mission. A genuine win-win!

Adam brings a wealth of experience from a similar role with a major bank, having spent almost 20 years in the banking and finance industry.

He is married to Karen and they have two boys, Morgan (12) and Ethan (9). The Wright family worship at All Souls' Chapman where they are the coordinators of Families Ministry and Adam serves on Parish Council. Adam's other ministries include serving on St Mark's National Theological Centre Council, along with being a coordinator of the Business

Life Network (workplace ministry) in the ACT. Adam also recently received his Lay Minister's Licence.



Adam says, 'The AIDF plays such an important role in the Diocese. It facilitates and supports the ministry of parishes, schools, other agencies and community service entities by providing appropriate accounts, investments and loan facilities.'

'Our customers support the mission of the Diocese by investing in the Fund. This, in turn, allows the Fund to provide loans to the Diocese, Diocesan agencies and Ministry units to finance developments that promote, support and expand the mission of the Diocese. Moreover, customers are rewarded with competitive interest rates. It's a virtuous circle of mutual support.'

'The AIDF also directly supports Parishes and Diocesan agencies by donating 0.50% of the balance of interest earned on community saver accounts to the customer's nominated parish or agency.'

'I am delighted to have joined such a great team of dedicated staff. Leila, Nienke, Sarah and I are always available to assist our

customers. I have really enjoyed meeting and getting to know so many of our customers throughout the Diocese.'

The hard work of Adam and the team has contributed to some outstanding results over recent months. As reported recently, for the first time in its history, the AIDF reached over \$60 million in investor funds.



## EVERYDAY DISCIPLESHIP

18 March 2017

Lively disciples create vibrant churches. When engaged, disciples help turn a congregation into a community engaged with God's mission.

This one day workshop is an opportunity to learn, pray and dream about how you can lead others into ways of fruitful discipleship. The 3DM team will share how they have learned to use Huddles (a discipleship vehicle) and Missional Communities (a missional vehicle) to see discipleship and

mission come alive in church communities across Australia and New Zealand.

The workshop will be presented by Andy Goodacre, the coordinator for 3DM in Australia.

Location: Centre for Christianity and Culture, Pavilion.

Cost: \$55 + Eventbrite fee

Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/everyday-discipleship-tickets-31053828838>

## What's On



### Diocesan Synod 2017

Our Diocesan Synod will be held from 6-8 October 2017 in Goulburn. This is owing to General Synod being held in early September 2017.

### Stations of the Cross Exhibition

The Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture will be hosting a contemporary Stations of the Cross exhibition, which will be opened on March 17 at the Chapel of the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture.

The evening begins with a curator's tour by Rev Dr Douglas Purnell OAM at 6pm followed by the official opening by Professor Sasha Grishin AM, FAHA, at 7pm.

The Stations of the Cross exhibition takes the original story of Jesus' walk along the Via Delorosa, from his being sentenced to death, to his crucifixion and then resurrection.

Light refreshments will be provided on the evening. Please RSVP to Katherine Spackman by 14 March: [kspackman@csu.edu.au](mailto:kspackman@csu.edu.au).

The exhibition runs from March 17 to 26, 10am to 4pm each day.

## BOARD POSITIONS EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST INVITED

Expressions of interest are sought from people around the Diocese who are interested in serving on a Diocesan Board or Committee.

If you have skills, expertise or interest in any of the following areas then we would like to hear from you:

Education/Schools; Property Development/Management; Finance/Banking/Business; Trust Management; Risk Management; Environment; Social Justice and Welfare.

If you are interested in serving the Diocese in this way please forward

your name, parish/location, contact details (email/phone) and an outline of your relevant skills/expertise/interest to the Registrar's Executive Assistant: [emma.body@anglicands.org.au](mailto:emma.body@anglicands.org.au)

Your details will be entered on a Register and will remain confidential. As positions become available your contact information may be provided to the Chair/Secretary of the Board/Committee who may then contact you to discuss possible nomination.



From 5-8th June 2017, Anglican Women Australia will hold their bi-annual State Conference, hosted by Anglican Women, Diocese of Newcastle.

The location is Club Macquarie, Argenton, near Newcastle NSW. The theme of the conference is 'Thanksgiving for the ministry of women'.

All Anglican women are welcome. For further information see [anglicanwomennewcastle.org.au](http://anglicanwomennewcastle.org.au) or contact Coordinator, Marion Willey, [marion.willey@inet.net.au](mailto:marion.willey@inet.net.au).

**REGISTER NOW!**

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