

ANGLICAN NEWS

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Diving In at Waters' Edge



Chris Hadland, Ruth Walton, Rosalie Ryan & Tara Tuttle from the mainly music team

Without a vision the people perish. But when they attend to what He [God] reveals they are most blessed (Prov 29:18, NRSV/MSG). Forgive the use of mixed versions ... but these words express so well what has happened here at Waters' Edge @ Googong this year.

Waters' Edge @ Googong was established as a ministry unit some five years ago to reach a new township development, known as Googong, just south of Queanbeyan. The leadership team was an eclectic group of individuals drawn from several churches in the region. The Googong township is now home to 1500 people and growing every day.

At the end of 2016 we were invited by the Pelican Foundation to cast a vision for the future: we named this vision 'Diving In – Empowering Women'. Our goal is to reach female residents within the Googong township, both by developing pastorally sensitive visiting to the vulnerable, lonely and needy and identifying strong female role models within the community who are willing to share insights and energy. We have a passion to develop activities and events focussing on women and their families that would change lives and transform the Googong

community and provide opportunities for people to encounter Jesus Christ.

Since then, we have been astounded to see what God can do when we attend to the vision He has revealed to us. An ever-increasing number of women are making contact with us, perhaps looking for answers or simply wanting to connect with other women in their community, others sharing needs or concerns longing for us to walk with them, while some are desiring to take their walk with God to a deeper level. What is even more astounding is God's equipping of the Waters' Edge team to meet these opportunities. While the Pelican Foundation grant has made a huge difference in releasing me to devote more time to the building of the church in Googong, attending to God's vision has enabled us as a team to work together to achieve even more.

As we have responded to God's call to work with families with young children through a *mainly music* program we have seen a team of seven women, young and old, come together to create a quality event for the families we are seeking to connect with as well as a huge opportunity for growth amongst us as a

team. Our first session last week was clear evidence of God's blessing on this venture ... and the overwhelming enthusiasm of the community has already generated a waiting list of families wanting to join us.

Thank you Pelican Foundation

Board for stimulating us to listen to God and articulate a vision. But even more thanks to our amazing and loving God who has blessed beyond our wildest imaginings as we have attended to that vision.

by Reverend Ruth Walton

Walk a Mile in Queanbeyan



In the week leading up to Easter Christ Church Queanbeyan featured an interactive art installation from the artist Claudia Koelndorfer in the shape of a Labyrinth, using shoes as the means to describe the concepts of empathy, tolerance and understanding. Too often we walk through life without pausing to consider the pressures and demands of life faced by others.

Holy week was purposefully chosen to display the artwork to help participants to reflect on the life of our Lord Jesus Christ and the impact his teachings still have on our life today. Jesus is love, tolerance, empathy, acceptance and transformation personified. In Matthew 5:41 Jesus tells us to walk an extra

mile with a person who asks us to walk a mile with them. By walking the labyrinth we were challenged to pray that God would break down any barriers we may have towards loving people as God loves us.

Claudia Koelndorfer @ Grace Infused Art 2015. Claudiak1367@gmail.com



BISHOP MATT BRAIN WRITES

Up 'n at 'em!

It is interesting to see how birthdays can cluster around particular dates in the year. In my family we have four birthdays within the space of one week! While it does make planning birthday parties and budgeting for gifts a little tricky, it is a wonderful week of celebration and thanksgiving for God's blessing to us.

While not quite so tight as our birthday week the second quarter of each year is jam packed with significant celebrations. Lent rolls into Palm Sunday and Holy Week. The agony of Good Friday gives way to the joy of Easter Day. Jesus' triumphant resurrection is given universal effect in his Ascension. The events of Jesus' life are naturally paired to show out God's redemptive work to bring us from the depths of estrangement to the hope of glory. Yet there is a final pair that we must not miss because in it we find the pointers that help us to answer the question, 'How should I follow Jesus?'

Jesus' Ascension should be paired with the coming of the

Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Imagine yourself as one of the first disciples watching Jesus ascend into heaven. Did this mean that Jesus was now 'up, up, and away', or was it telling me 'now, up 'n at 'em!'?

We see in the beginning of Acts that the first disciples were actually left feeling bereft. As if Jesus had 'up, up, and away-ed' from them. They knew that he was alive, but did not quite know how to act given that wonderful reality. Yet it all changed when the Holy Spirit came at that first Pentecost. The pairing of Jesus' return to heaven with the coming of the Holy Spirit resolved the disciples question about what they were to do.

... the coming of the Holy Spirit resolved the disciples question about what they were to do.

If Jesus' death and resurrection was pivotal, the means for death to be turned to life, then his ascension and then gift of the Spirit



es. Not as bystanders, but as key workers.

2. The scope of God's plan is revealed. No longer was the call 'come in here to find God', but rather 'we will go to you to tell out his great deeds.'

3. That as our humanity was assumed into the Trinity in Jesus' ascension, God chooses to grace our humanity with the Holy Spirit.

4. That God's power would be made perfect in our weakness. The upside-down kingdom Jesus preached would be seen working in practice.

So what are you waiting for ... up 'n at 'em!



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

Soon the Diocese will have access to an *Online Version* of the Creating Safe Ministries workshop through OpenLearning. Once the Online Course is ready to go, the Safe Communities Unit will be in contact with all parishes to give them information on how to access the course.

Reporting Abuse Hotline: 1800 070 511

AnglicanNews is a magazine for the Anglican community in Canberra and Goulburn.

Editor: Alison Payne

Address: GPO Box 1981, Canberra, ACT 2601

Phone: 02 6245 7154

Email: alison.payne@anglicans.org.au

Advertising: enquiries to the editor

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Clergy Moves

The Reverend Ann Burt was Ordained Priest on 3 May 2017 at St Stephen's Kambah and has been licensed as Assistant Priest Kambah. *The Reverend Kelvin Harris* was ordained Priest on 13 May 2017 at St Paul's Manuka and has been licensed as Assistant Priest Manuka. The Induction for *The Reverend Jenny Willsher* as Rector of the Parish of Woden will be held on Tuesday 18 July 2017 at St Alban's Woden. All Welcome.



On 8 April several members of the Diocese participated in the Canberra Running Festival 10 km event. Pictured are Alan Wilson, Alison Payne, Reverend Scott Goode, Reverend James Coats and Gary Scott.

Conversations about same-sex relationships

Being Christ's Body

a conversation series
about same-sex relationships,
marriage and the church

In May 2017, the Public Issues Commission released the complete version of Being Christ's Body: a conversation series about same sex-relationships, marriage and the church.

This version includes two additional conversations.

Conversation 4 explores Christian marriage in a changing world. It considers the diversity of views between Christians concerning the spiritual nature of marriage.

Conversation 5 examines how Christians might live together by

observing the many different and divergent responses to gender diverse and same-sex oriented people by people of faith.

The series is unique among resources produced by churches about same-sex relationships and gender diversity.

'The publication is not the usual type of doctrine report offering a paper or a definitive position on a controversial subject', explained the Rt Revd Professor Stephen Pickard, the Commission's chairperson. 'It is a conversation starter that calls for Christians to

engage in a richer and more difficult process of theological reflection by listening to Scripture and each other as the body of Christ.'

The resources are designed to foster discussion among people who hold different views without expecting that everyone will share the same views or beliefs. Rather, the conversations aim to encourage mutual understanding and a stronger focus on caring for people who are gender diverse and same-sex oriented.

'This is not a definitive piece nor is it a diocesan position statement', said Bishop Stuart Robinson. 'It is a document for small groups of Christian people who wish to engage with complex issues that impact the lives of parishioners, family members and our neighbours.'

The resources utilise a kitchen-table format to encourage learning, listening and praying together. The format provides a useful theological framework that encourages responsibility – for what people say, think and

the outcomes that arise. After all, religious conscience is not simply the capacity to say what is believed but the willingness to own the consequences that follow.

The series builds on the foundation laid by an earlier release of three conversations designed to build trust and generosity in September 2016.

The first conversation explored what it means to be same-sex oriented and gender diverse. The second conversation focused on how Christians can disagree with each other in a respectful way. The third conversation examined the *Australian Marriage Act* and its impact on LGBTQI people.

The Commission hopes that these resources might help Christians value reconciliation in their life together given that Anglicans are not of one mind about how to respond pastorally to same-sex relationships.

To read the document: anglicancg.org.au/data/BCBFinal.pdf

How Gungahlin is reaching their community



Let me tell you how the Gungahlin Anglican Church reaches out to people in the community.

Recently, during the annual Gungahlin Festival, many of the church members volunteered to meet and greet the people who came to the Festival. They helped set up stalls, then met with and greeted the people as they arrived, passing on information

about the church's activities and inviting them to join us in these activities. On a personal level some of the volunteers invited them to the church services, assuring them of a warm welcome at the 9.30am and 7pm services at the Grace Chapel (at Burgmann School), and at 10am at Heyward Hall (Forde campus) and to join with others at morning tea and a

chat after the services.

Directed at the community of stay-at-home parents is the Tadpoles play group. One young mother who had just left her daughter at school noticed a mother having problems with a much younger child who was crying. The little girl wanted to go with her sister. She had no one to play with at home. The other young mother invited the mother and daughter to the Tadpoles play group, which meets on Wednesday morning during term time, to provide a source of support that includes prayer and a short Bible study.

For older children there are two youth groups – J-Walk and Exalt for year 6-9 and year 10-12 respectively, regularly attracting a number of non-church attendees. When some of the youth group members are asked by their friends at school what they did over the weekend they tell them about the youth groups and invite them along to play games

and share a bible study.

For any of Gungahlin's New Australians with an interest in improving their English and making friends, our church runs an English conversation class on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings. Church members are encouraged to invite their New Australian friends and neighbours to these classes, offering to take them to the classes and introducing them to others.

There are so many more ways that the Gungahlin Anglican Church reaches out to people in our community. All these activities are designed to fulfil our vision to grow joyful followers of Jesus and to equip them for service through God's Word empowered by his Holy Spirit.

By Pat Douglass, a regular attendee at the 9.30am service. Pat is 86 years old and hosts KFC picnics in her home where newcomers to the Parish and others are made welcome.

Burgmann School Launches Pantry Appeal

STUDENTS from Burgmann Anglican School in Forde are helping to provide food for those residents of Canberra who are currently struggling to make ends meet.

The donations of food were made as part of the launch of Anglicare's Pantry Appeal.

The appeal will run throughout May and June, with collection points for food items being set up at shopping centres around Canberra. Among the food donations requested are non-perishable items such as cereal and rice as well as items such as toothpaste and nappies, with more than 40,000 items donated during last year's campaign.

Burgmann's head of middle school Liz Craig said the campaign is a way for students to assist those less fortunate. 'We want our students to understand the importance of supporting people in their community,' she said.

To donate to the pantry appeal visit: <http://www.anglicare.com.au/services/get-involved/appeals/pantry-appeal>.



[au/services/get-involved/appeals/pantry-appeal](http://www.anglicare.com.au/services/get-involved/appeals/pantry-appeal).

Anglicare is also running an ur-

gent Winter Appeal.

To donate to the winter appeal visit: <https://www.anglicare.com.au/services/get-involved/appeals/winter-appeal>.

What's On

alt-Jesus?
the Jesus you never knew

**Cross-city mission events with Dr. Sam Chan,
June 2-8**

Organiser: City Bible Forum Details: www.altjesus.org

A series of events across Canberra designed to make it as easy as possible for believers to invite non-believers to a safe place where some of their issues can be addressed and the gospel presented.

We love to hear stories of things happening in your parish that highlight our dream of a Diocese in which the love of Jesus transforms people and communities. If you have a story you'd like to submit please send it to: alison.payne@anglicands.org.au

**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.

ENGAGE
DISCIPLING TEENAGERS CONFERENCE
Thursday 8 June 2017
10am – 3.30pm
Holy Trinity Anglican Church Dubbo

*Connecting across generations
in churches of all sizes*

GRAHAM STANTON
Lecturer in Practical Theology, Ridley College

JULIE MOSER
Youth Minister and Youth Ministry Consultant
Diocese of Saskatchewan, Canada

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For further information or to book visit
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