

ANGLICAN NEWS

a magazine for the Anglican Community of Canberra & Goulburn Vol. 34 No. 7 July 2017

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NEW ADS DIRECTOR



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Youth Ministry in the West



Synergy has some amazing opportunities to connect, support and serve local parishes in the west of our Diocese. Our Winter Camp Pelican has just completed its second year in Wagga with 45 young people and leaders spending a week together having tons of fun and learning about God.

Winter Campers gathered from across the Diocese including the coast, Monaro, Canberra, Goulburn and Wagga. We explored the topic of 'What If?': What if God is who He says He is? What If we believed what God says about us as His children? What If we lived our lives based on those promises?



Our activities included visits to the Junee Liquorice and Chocolate Factory, Capture the Flag, The Winter Pel Games and even a murder mystery night at the fateful 'Camp Jelly Fin'. I had the privilege of being camp speaker this year, which included answering some great (and tricky!) questions from the Question Box and praying with a camper to accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour – it doesn't get better than that!

We're blessed to be able to support ministry in the west of our diocese including a fruitful partnership with South Wagga Anglican Church as they connect with youth and young adults in their area. The Reverend Scott Goode shares about South Wagga's connection with Synergy:

"About 16 months ago we embarked upon a re-boot of youth ministry at South Wagga, and Andrew and the Synergy team came out to invest in our efforts. We

held 'Synergy Sunday' and Andrew and the team ran the newly formed Sunday night youth group for which I was truly grateful (and relieved).

In 2017 we're seeing around 20 young people a week for our Sunday night youth group and have begun a monthly evening service so our youth and young adults have a place to belong and contribute.

Again, Synergy came out to help us launch this evening service and then the Camp Pel leaders came out to our evening service the night before Winter Camp began. We've even had two Wagga-based Camp Pel leaders join us this year to do ministry and be amongst us.

Andrew, thank you for your friendship. Thank you for holding winter camp out at Wagga. Thank you for partnering with us in providing leaders. Thank you for what



seemed like a great camp – all our youth were raving about it. Thank you for Synergy and your leadership of it and the ongoing diocesan commitment to it."

We'd love to partner with you and your ministry to reach young people in your area be, that through local initiatives or supporting young people to attend Camp Pelican. Please drop me a line and we can chat about the possibilities.

Andrew Edwards - Director
Synergy Youth and Children
www.synergy.org.au
andrew@synergy.org.au

Summer Camp Pelican Dates

Middle School 3 – 8 Jan 2018
Junior High 10 – 15 Jan 2018
Senior High 17 – 22 Jan 2018



BISHOP TREVOR EDWARDS WRITES

Compassion for the lost

In the last month the 2016 Census figures have been released and it is no surprise that those figures reveal that Australians are less religious. As predicted in the previous edition of Anglican News, almost one in three people now declare no religion on their census form and a large number of those who say they belong only have a nominal attachment to the religion of their choice. While we should not be surprised, what should we do in this situation of decline?

Instead of just throwing up our hands in despair or shaking our heads sadly about what we believe are poor, short-sighted choices by many of our contemporaries, we need to ask God, through His Spirit, to make us more like Jesus in having compassion on those who have, for whatever reason, excluded God from their lives. When Jesus saw the crowds of his day '*he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless like sheep without a shepherd*' (Matthew 9:36). He was deeply moved with pity because of the absolute lostness of many of his fellow countrymen, who were leaderless, harassed, bullied, bruised and helpless. He likened them to a flock of sheep,

adrift and moving as a group but rarely knowing why or where. Their problem was that their leaders had no vision, and had carelessly led them astray by posing questions without answers and by adding burdens which had only increased their sense of sin and failure rather than bringing release. Today our 'crowds' are equally leaderless, foolishly putting their faith in fallible politicians or educators who can never provide ultimate answers, or even worse, in alternative religious ideologies which focus so much on what humans must do to earn God's favour rather than on what God has already done in Christ. If compassion was the instinctive response of Jesus then it should also be ours.

Of course the compassion of Jesus had already compelled him to leave behind his heavenly glory to identify completely with our humanity, yet without our sin, and in a few short years it would also lead the Good Shepherd to sacrifice his life for his sheep to bring us life to the full. But on this occasion it leads him to give two instructions to his followers which we must also heed in a different cultural setting. His *first* command to his followers is to



*pray whenever we see people in need. In particular he wants us pray for the labourers to be sent who will help people see he has the answers to every human dilemma and who will call them to trust him as the only ruler who can transform everything in this broken world. Prayer for God to act must be our first priority. It was the American theologian Jonathan Edwards who said '*every significant spiritual awakening has been preceded by a concert of unusual, united and persistent prayer*'. In fact the nearest white Australia ever came to spiritual revival occurred in the 1959 Billy Graham Crusade. That mission was preceded by extraordinary prayer, with all night prayer meetings where if you wanted to pray you had to begin as soon as someone else finished! I am an answer to their prayers. Even*

though I never went to any crusade meeting, my local Anglican church was heavily involved and as a 9-year-old from a "church sending" but not attending family, I made my first profession of faith in Jesus at Sunday school in the front pew of my local parish church. His *second* command to his praying followers was for them to go into their neighbourhoods (and eventually to the whole world) to *show and tell* the good news of his kingdom, that because of his death and resurrection the past can be forgiven, the present can be transformed and a new future can be guaranteed.

Do we want to see the spiritual decline in our nation arrested? It will begin by asking God to give us the compassion of Jesus for our neighbours, relatives and friends who are lost and leaderless without him. This compassion will drive us to pray earnestly and regularly to God the evangelist to do what he only can do, namely bring those who are not yet Christian to faith in Jesus. Such compassionate praying will then motivate us to be agents of his gospel in our unique networks where we will lovingly show and tell how Jesus has changed our lives and can transform theirs too for their ultimate good.



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

Reporting Abuse Hotline: 1800 070 511

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

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Clergy Moves

The Reverend Ken Day has been licensed as Acting Priest-In-Charge Adelong & Tarcutta.

Reminder that 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 at 6.00pm led by Bishop Trevor Edwards. All Welcome.

The Reverend Michael Palmer is resigning as Rector of Vaucluse in the Diocese of Sydney and will be joining the Sapphire Coast Anglican Parish at the start of October to take up two Chaplaincy roles.



**Safe Ministry
eTraining Induction**

The online Safe Ministries eTraining course is now here. This course is an alternate way of completing your Safe Ministries Workshop.

For more details on completing your workshop online visit: <http://www.anglicancg.org.au/pages/safe-communities-training-and-workshops.html>

Prime time in the City



As diverse as are the members of the body of Christ are the many ways to be the church in the world. Reverend Emma Street and Reverend Chris Lewis were both looking for a way to bring the church to people working in Canberra's city centre. Emma was seeking to gather people she

connects with in workplace ministry into a worshiping community. Chris was looking to take advantage of the close proximity of All Saints', Ainslie, to the city centre as an opportunity to reach out to the business community around it. In September 2016 a group called PRIME began meeting in the hall at All Saints'.

Meeting on Fridays at 7.15am, Prime takes its name from the traditional early morning office, whilst also reflecting that one's prime is 'the state or time of greatest vigor or success in a person's life', and to prime is 'the beginning of something'. The mission of Prime is to encourage people to begin a new journey with Jesus, and for people caught up in the busyness of working life to experience the vigor and energy that comes with disconnecting from the worldly and reconnecting with God. Therefore the

focus of the ministry is in the key areas of building and maintaining a relationship with God in Word, Prayer and Communion.

Convenient to people working in the city, Prime offers a simple thirty-minute 'service' in a small-group format within the informal setting of the church hall. Scripture is opened up through guided discussion on a selected text, particularly how this might apply to present issues or a workplace context. Prayer time provides the opportunity for a little variation and takes different forms each week including intercession, litany or lectio divina.

This ministry is premised in a Eucharistic mission, introducing people to the living Christ in visible form. Sharing the Communion is a fundamental element and, as hoped for, has been a strong attraction for people attending. Prime seeks to make

sacramental worship accessible for those on the threshold of commitment to faith and at the margins of the church. It serves both existing Christians who have become disconnected from a Sunday gathering, as well as new Christians taking their first step into a structured worship setting.

It is also about Community. After worship people stay on for 30-40 minutes enjoying conversation over coffee and raisin toast, with everyone heading off to get to work by 8.30. Prime is a transitory community with people coming and going as they need, and they have been coming from across Canberra and Queanbeyan.

For more information on attending Prime or starting a similar ministry contact Emma on 0411 150 841.

by Reverend Emma Street

On Ageing & Pastoral Care



Ageing is so imperceptible. My family moved to Canberra three years ago. After that I got up every day, went to work, and did the other things. I accidentally got three years older as well. I didn't really plan for that.

In a way, the process is a bit miraculous. We don't hate it when a tree spreads its boughs across the sky, or when a young man and woman become strong and able. A wedding-couple's parents have a whiff of stateliness to them, all resplendent in their finery and glowy joy. A grandfather playing with his grandson; a grandmother tending a baby; a very elderly person smiling and reminiscing with a middle-aged son or daughter, their faces trans-

ported to childhood or youth ... something good and beautiful happens in these moments, all delivered by growing older.

Yet we speak of this process as something insidious. The prospect of age has somehow become a threat to us. A twenty-something, shifty with unease around the old, finds them vaguely repellent. A thirty-something fears the first wrinkle, then a decade later those first grey hairs. Later, it's the fear of loneliness, illness, irrelevance, dementia.

Like all anxiety (which attaches to anything), these fears are blind to much evidence. We see content older people who are well and often happy, even with their challenges. So it can be done. Yet modern Australia generates a miasma of doom and fear around something that has happened to everyone since the dawn of humankind. It's a bit odd, really.

Moments in the Bible (like Ecclesiastes 12) are realistic about ageing's hardships. But we miss the celebration of people who 'are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not

wither' (Psalm 1:3). That could refer to a young person, but on the whole it points to someone immersed over many years in God's wisdom (here, via Old Testament law), who then brings shade, stability and calm to those around them.

At our best, older people are wise. Anxious Australia sorely needs that. In the New Testament, Jesus Christ is 'the wisdom of God' (1 Corinthians 1:24). The wise elders are attracted to him, and dwell 'in him'. We need them.

On Friday September 29th 2017 we're holding a Symposium

on Ageing and Pastoral Care at St Mark's (www.stmarks.edu.au). It's for those who want to care for those in later life, but I think it will also help older people themselves. You'll see wise people who care for the ageing; who live with dementia; who have thought and taught about ageing; and more. I'll be there partly because I want to find how not to live in fear of my later life, and how to be wise, and how to age well in Christ.

*Reverend Dr Andrew Cameron
Director,
St Mark's National Theological
Centre*


Spiritual Care in a Secular Age
 A SYMPOSIUM FOR PRACTITIONERS AND LEADERS IN LATER LIFE CARE
Featuring prominent industry leaders such as
 Christine Bryden (Alzheimers and Dementia advocate); Andrew Heron (Anglicare Sydney); Julie Philpott (Carrington Care); Mavis Salt (Salvation Army); Isa Hampton (Meaningful Ageing); Elizabeth Pringle (Charles Sturt University); Andrew Cameron (St Mark's), and many more!
 Friday 29 September | Canberra | stmarks.edu.au

ADS Risk & Compliance Update



On 29 June 2017 Marianne Cavanagh, Director of Risk and Compliance, retired. Over the past four years Marianne's role has increased significantly in delivering services to Ministry Units, Anglicare and, more recently, the AIDF. Marianne has been instrumental in developing and pro-actively progressing the management of risks and legal issues across the Diocese and its

agencies. In addition Marianne acted as the Executive Director of the AIDF during 2016 while Trevor Ament was on extended leave and ensured its operations continued uninterrupted.

We are so grateful for Marianne's outstanding contributions and extend to her thanks and appreciation. The ADS staff staged a magnificent high tea in the boardroom to farewell Marianne and wish her all the best as she retires and heads north for the winter.

Mr Andrew Guile has been appointed to the role of Director, Risk and Compliance. Andrew comes to the role with a broad background, which has covered local government, infrastructure investment as well as the development of regulatory frameworks for transport and re-

gional development, schools and vocational education, environment and planning.

With training in marketing and management, Andrew was previously Corporate Affairs Manager for the Anglican Schools Corporation and prior to that was the Business Manager for independent schools on the NSW South Coast. He was elected as a Coun-



cillor to Shoalhaven City Council in 2008, 2012 and 2016 and has served as Deputy Mayor.

Andrew is married to Natalie who teaches music at Canberra Girls Grammar School. Along with their children Elsa and Ollie, they attend St Matthew's Wanniassa.

What's On



Diocesan Synod 2017

Our Diocesan Synod will be held from 6-8 October 2017 in Goulburn.



Sex & Gardening
TALKS FROM GENESIS

RORY SHINER • 5 AUGUST 2017 • WWW.CANBERRACHRISTIANCONVENTIONS.ORG.AU

Canberra Men's Christian Convention
[www.canberrachristianconventions.org.au](http://WWW.CANBERRACHRISTIANCONVENTIONS.ORG.AU)



PRAYER
TALKING TO OUR FATHER

SUSAN RAVENHALL • 21 OCTOBER 2017 • WWW.CANBERRACHRISTIANCONVENTIONS.ORG.AU

Canberra Women's Christian Convention
[www.canberrachristianconventions.org.au](http://WWW.CANBERRACHRISTIANCONVENTIONS.ORG.AU)

The Real Australian Mission Conference
Making Australian mission happen

bca 

Saturday 19 August 2017
Village Church, Annandale

To find out more or book visit bushchurchaid.com.au/conference

Hear from
The Revd Simon Gillham Moore College
The Rt Revd Greg Anderson Bishop of the Northern Territory
& BCA Field Staff from across the country

Saturday 19 August 2017
9am - 4pm
Village Church
Cnr Johnston and Booth Streets
Annandale

\$35 for singles
\$55 per couple which includes morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea.

bca 
Going the distance
Reaching Australia for Christ since 1919

PUBLIC LECTURE

Risk, Responsibility and Redemption: Remembering Our Future

A Theologian Reflects on Australia's Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

14 AUGUST | stmarks.edu.au