

ANGLICANNEWS

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City-to-Country Mission



In July St Matthews, Wanniasa, ran a mission to Holbrook. Praise God for an abundance of opportunities to share the saving news of Jesus with kids, teens and adults. The program allowed the team to make connections with all people through door-knocking, a Trivia/Games night and a Big Brekky, in addition to the usual host, social and church settings. One mature-aged man told Ian McLure, "I've never heard the message of God and Jesus before". Praise God for opportunities like this that were created by the sacrificial servants from both Canberra and Holbrook.

Ian McLure led the team in some really practical training in door-knocking and armed the team with quality notes on how to answer common questions. The Lord poured down his grace and courage on the team and seven members door-knocked for the very first time. All reports back were inspiring and really set the tone for a very switched-on evangelistic week ahead. One team member said "Now that we've done it, I'm not sure why we never

have before!" Praise God for the confidence in him this adventure brought, and for the fruit of conversations and invitations to the events we put on. Ian McLure continued to door knock at other times throughout the week, and managed to door-knock the whole town!!

Despite the rain, and lack of jumping castle, 63 children came to the first day of kids club. The children enjoyed games, small groups, and activities like making juggling balls, bunting and a treasure hunt. They also enjoyed learning about the Miracle Maker – who he is, what his greatest miracle is, and why he came. The Memory Verse of John 11:25-26 was a real highlight and the children now have it hidden in their hearts.

Each day from five to seven local youth joined in with our own youth from the team for some games, a discussion around one of Jesus' miracles and a relaxed activity where we could talk to the youth and get to know them. We ate hot chips together, braided colourful bracelets, went on a scavenger hunt across

town and learnt about Jesus the son of God come to give eternal life.

The Trivia/Games night was a new feature of mission and provided whole families with the chance to have a whole lot of fun together while also hearing a family given talk on the loving gracious Father, otherwise known as the story of the lost son.

The big breakfast was a great success, with many people coming from the whole spectrum of life, from pre-schoolers through teens to retirees. We were incredibly blessed by the generosity of the Holbrook church and its members for providing the food and cooking it! The food was delicious and the talk even more nourishing. Many non-Church attendees were able to hear clearly and simply from Reverend Ian Powell the truth of what Christianity really is. This prompted many very long conversations which was a real blessing and joy be a part of.

It was exciting to hear from Reverend James Coats that there were many more people at the church service than usual. This included a group of kids who performed the memory verse they had learned during the week. The kids also enjoyed a puppet show reminding them of Jesus the Miracle Maker and how he came to give the miracle of eternal life! Reverend Powell



gave a clear Bible talk where Jesus forgives the sins of a paralysed man, which was of greater urgency than physical healing. It was amazing to see the team work together flexibly despite a late night and early morning! Reverend Coats noted the team's amazing unity and sacrificial service.

Praise the Lord for the clear benefit this mission was to all three people groups – The Canberra Mission Team, the local Holbrook Church and all the local Holbrook people. Please continue to pray for Reverend James and Skye Coats as they continue the work of mission. following up many people with new opportunities to engage resulting from the mission. Finally please pray for wisdom and guidance for future missions, as we review the changes made this year and the inclusion of the adult events. Praise God that we can join him in his mission to bless people of all nations.

by Phill Evans, Wanniasa



Bishop Stuart writes



Beloved,
 Just over a month has passed since Jane and I returned from our three months of hill-walking throughout the United Kingdom. The picture featured is the tow-path that follows the Thames River just outside Oxford (where we caught up with children and grandchildren). In the background (of this scene) is Godstow Abbey – built in 1133 for an order of Benedictine nuns. The roof needs work!
 We also enjoyed the spectacular scenery in and around Oban, Scotland – especially the rugged beauty of the Island of Kerrera. In Oban, we worshipped with

the kind and welcoming saints at St. John's (Scottish Episcopal) Cathedral.
 Another life-giving experience was trekking across the Dales Way in the Windermere/Lakes District. On average, we'd cover around 20 kilometres per day – generally in brilliant sunshine.
 I am most grateful to Bishops Trevor, Matt and Stephen for keeping a weather-eye on the diocese in my absence. My colleagues have also represented me well at the most recent General Synod in Queensland.
 Do keep our national church in your prayers. There have been/will be changes in episcopal lead-

ership in the dioceses of Newcastle, Perth, Adelaide, Bendigo, Gippsland and Bunbury. And I do take this opportunity to congratulate Bishop Kay Goldsworthy on her election (and translation) to the See of Perth. Change will invariably (and rightly) flow from the processes and procedures of the Royal Commission. As a diocese we have given hundreds of hours in caring for victims of abuse and have expended millions of dollars in our pastoral care and restitution endeavours. Further, we must become more aligned as a *national church* in the way we approach these matters and there is much good will to this end.
 Now that the proposed postal vote on same-sex marriage has survived a raft of legal challenges, I do urge our readers to assist lawmakers in forming a clear view on this matter, by voting. You will be aware that we've provided a wide range of balanced material to parishes over the past years and we've pondered this question over three sessions of

Synod. For my part, I continue to endorse the historic Anglican view that marriage is between a man and woman; it is a life-long, Christ-honouring union. This view is contested in many contexts and I would urge ongoing and respectful listening and dialogue.
 Last, I have appointed (with immediate effect) our dear friend, Mr Bob Arthur, as my Hon. Canon Liaison Officer between the Cathedral and Anglican Diocesan Services (ADS). Bob will work with the Dean, Chapter, Council and ADS on all aspects of planning for future ministry and mission as they relate to fabric, plant, finances and heritage issues. This is an omnibus role and Bob has been released from a raft of other diocesan responsibilities in order to give this activity the focus and time it warrants. I will present Bob with his new licence at the Synod service in the Cathedral.

*For Jesus,
 +Stuart*

Clergy Moves

Canon Margaret Campbell has resigned from Holy Covenant, Jamison effective from 13 November 2017.
 The Reverend David Willsher will be Acting Chaplain Canberra Girls' Grammar School from 17 July until the end of 2017.
 The Reverend Michael Palmer, will be commissioned as Chaplain to Mission to Seafarers, Eden, and Rural Chaplain (with Anglicare), Sapphire Coast Anglican Parish on Saturday 30 September, 11.00am, St John's Church, Eden. The service will be followed by a procession to the Uniting Church for lunch and welcome speeches. ALL WELCOME. Please RSVP for catering purposes to scaparis@bigpond.com.

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.anglican.org.au/pages/safe-communities-training-and-workshops.html

Reporting Abuse Hotline: 1800 070 511

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.anglican.org.au/pages/safe-communities-training-and-workshops.html>

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The Shed is OK! in Bermagui



Kath Preston and Nancy Whackett, who run the shed.

There is a certain busy-ness in Bermagui on Thursdays taking place at the The OK Shed. The full name is The Opportunity Knocks Gilmour Shed. The Shed was given in memory of Bruce Gilmour by the Gilmour and Paddison families. He was a much-loved

member of the community and church (and devoted husband of Ruth) whose own shed was a source of fun and laughter. It is situated at All Saints' Church, Wallaga Street, Bermagui, and is a great story of hope for our local community.

The usual opening hours are 11am to 4pm on Thursdays. If the flags are out The Shed is open and it doesn't take long for locals and visitors alike to arrive and enjoy a good browse, find bargains and have a chat with the friendly staff.

The Opportunity Knocks Shed provides very reasonably-priced, quality clothing and home wares for the area. It also provides a recycling initiative for locals to drop off donations with the proceeds from The Shed staying in our community. The Parish has a partnership with Anglicare to operate The Shed and meets all registration requirements with all staff being accredited. The Shed is completely volunteer-run and also provides an opportunity for Centrelink Newstart Allow-

ance recipients to meet their requirements.

The Anglican Parish of Cobargo on the Far South Coast of NSW encompasses Bermagui, Cobargo and Quaama and we minister to a population of 5,000 inhabitants. Revenue from The Shed helps to keep our three churches open in an era when many small town churches are closing and communities are losing some of their heritage and diversity. We are presently interregnum and hoping to have a part-time minister in the near future.

If you come to Bermagui make sure a visit to The OK Shed is on your list of things to do!

by Chris Richard-Preston

World Council of Churches Consultation



In June I attended a World Council of Churches (WCC) consultation meeting in Beit Sahour, close to Bethlehem, Palestine. The consultation marked the fiftieth anniversary of the Israeli military occupation of Palestinian people and their land.

I represented PIEN (Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network) and was the only Australian present. There was one other Anglican in attendance.

The purpose of the meeting was:

- To examine the nature of the present occupation;
- To consider Biblical thought about some of the issues and prayerfully reflect on them;
- To review WCC policies and some of its projects;
- To make recommendations that might help the WCC to develop a better co-ordinated and enhanced ecumenical response to the occupation.

Of course, the way the occupation affects the lives of Palestinian Christians and others was clear to see. This included the

haunting separation wall, restrictions of movement and checkpoints, colonial settlements, poor infrastructure and poor living conditions.

Some of the themes that I discerned are:

1. Palestinian Christians (as well as their Muslim friends) feel a sense of despair. Fifty years on and it seems that churches don't care very much and the international community is complicit in the occupation.

2. Palestinian Christians want urgent action and less "Christian diplomacy" from the WCC, churches and individuals.

3. Immigration: Palestinian Christians are very concerned about the rate of Christians emigrating or wanting to emigrate. The Christian population is shrinking and emigration is a prime reason for this. A Lutheran priest related how he would discuss emigration with a family on average once a week. How the struggle can be maintained if the Christian community is continuously depleted and how many Christians will return to Palestine when the occupation ends are significant considerations.

4. Tourism: A lot of tours don't mention the occupation, let alone its implications for Palestinian people. Many Christians are content with a Disneyland

view of the 'holy land'. The Israeli government is increasingly discouraging tour groups from going to the West Bank, which means that local economies are put under more stress and local people are not able to tell their stories.

Those considering going on a tour can contact PIEN www.pien.org.au who can provide ideas on how to embrace wider issues, including meeting with Palestinian Christians.

The National Coalition of Christian Organisations in Palestine presented an open letter at the consultation, commenting that while the previous Kairos

Document was one of hope this letter is one of despair. The letter is on the WCC website (www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/). The Vice Moderator of the Central Committee of WCC responded positively to the letter and undertook to guide it through the decision-making processes of the WCC to form a response.

The WCC, many national churches, many parishes and indeed many individual Christians cry out for the end of the occupation and for justice and peace to reign between Jewish people and Palestinian people.

Fred Rainger; St Saviour's Cathedral Parish

Update from ADS

New policy resources now available:

- **Sale and Gifting of Second-hand Goods** – applies to all goods for which mandatory safety standards apply. For example: bicycle helmets, electrical goods and car seats for children.
- **Property Hire Agreement** – revised template covering insurance, indemnity and hirer responsibilities.

These policies are being distributed to ministry units and Diocesan Agencies. To download a copy visit the website <http://www.anglicancg.org.au/pages/risk-and-legal.html> or contact Andrew Guile, Director of Risk and Compliance, at Andrew.Guile@anglicands.org.au or call 6245 7103.

New Head of College for St Martin's



The Reverend Dr Grant Bell has been appointed the new Head of College for St Martin's College, Wagga Wagga. The Revd Dr Bell is currently the Director of Leadership Studies and Senior School Boarding Housemaster at The Kings School in Parramatta and has been the School Chaplain.

At the Kings School for 11 years, he was formerly the Anglican rector of Lightning Ridge/Collarenebri, Glen Innis and Vaucluse, and has been the Principal of Macquarie Anglican School at Dubbo. He has also been a former Director at Cranebrook School and Kambala Girls

School and a former member of the Board of New College at the University of NSW.

An ordained Anglican Minister with experience with the Bush Church Aid Society in rural Australia, Reverend Dr Bell commenced his working life as a uniformed police officer and then a detective, including work with INTERPOL. He has also been the Investigator for the Archbishop of Sydney's Professional Standards Unit as well as a defence force Chaplain. Academically, he has a BTh, a Master of Letters (UNE) and a PhD (UNE) where his thesis was *Charisma: A study of leadership in the Judaic-Christian Tradition in the light of Weberian thought and its contemporary application to Anglican Schools in the Diocese of Sydney*.

The Revd Dr Bell has wide community and church experience and currently coaches two Rugby teams. He enjoys painting and drawing, fishing, theatre,

reading, entertaining and golf.

He will commence as Head of College on the 17th October and will be joined by his wife, Lesley.

Prospective students are encouraged to take a virtual tour of our website (smartinscollege.org) or follow us on Facebook.

Protect Her Appeal



Imagine if you were a teenage girl, traumatised by circumstances beyond your control, with nowhere safe to live and no one to take care of you.

This was the reality for Laura. From only five years of age she was severely bullied at school. From the age of eleven she was repeatedly sexually assaulted. Overcome with mental health issues from these repeated traumas, she struggled to stay in school.

Home life was also filled with difficulties and at just 15 years of age she was out on her own, trying to survive on the streets, in shelters and 'couch surfing' in dangerous environments.

At the age of 16, Laura came to Anglicare's youth services centre known as Club 12/25 for the

supported Youth Education Program. It was a last ditch effort to try and continue the education she desperately wanted, but no longer felt good enough to achieve.

'I thought I was just a drop kick and not going to get anywhere ... but the teachers thought differently. Anglicare made me feel equal. When I felt cared about, I did better at school. I pushed myself because people believed in me', says Laura. 'I always felt like I was less than a person. But then no matter what I did, Club 12/25 was my safe place. A home. They advocated for me and protected me.' - Laura

To support Anglicare's 'Protect Her' appeal, visit anglicare.com.au or call 02 6278 8400 to donate.

What's on

He is coming

A Quiet Day of Reflection
Saturday 2 December 2017 9am - 3.30pm
St Mark's Theological Centre, 15 Blackall St, Barton

This Quiet Day welcomes in the season of Advent. This is a time to escape the business and pause to reflect on the significance of the birth of God's Son - for humanity, and for us personally. How is Jesus' birth and life on earth important to me and what I do? How should I respond to the grace provided in this act?

Meditation is a way of simplicity, silence and stillness; a time to stop, listen and reflect.

Donation: \$30 per person (in cash on arrival).
Morning tea provided. BYO lunch.
RSVP appreciated by 25 November to Ken King
ken@88barnabas.id.au 0417 494 283

God is Near

A retreat inspired by the songs and prayers of Taizé

Saturday 21st October 2017
Weston Creek Uniting Church
10am - 6pm

Cost: \$15.00.
Morning and afternoon tea incl.
Please bring your own lunch.

Come share a day in song, prayer, silence and sharing ... and come away refreshed by spending time with 'a God who simply loves and can do nothing else, a God who never stops seeking us.' (Brother Roger of Taizé)

For more information and registration visit: <https://god-is-near-retreat-2017.eventbrite.com>
or email CBRTaizeFriends@internode.on.net.

Queries via email or phone Kathrin on 0435 122 610.

SENATOR DAVID FAWCETT AND SENATOR DEBORAH O'NEILL

INVITE YOU
TO JOIN WITH US FOR THE

28TH AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

MONDAY 16TH OCTOBER 2017, 6:30AM FOR A 7:00AM START
GREAT HALL, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, CANBERRA

GUEST SPEAKER: DR. JOHN DICKSON

nationalprayerbreakfast.org
TICKETS \$55 OR \$400 FOR A TABLE OF 8