



FROM THE BISHOP



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Embracing Ministries



From ever so humble beginnings, Embracing Ministries continues to expand in an effort to meet the very great and special needs of families who are affected by disability.

In 2015 The Reverend Andrea de Vaal Horciu was trying to follow the Apostle Paul's example and be 'all things to all people' but was finding it increasingly hard to fit in her pastoral work with special families around her other demanding roles. As others caught her vision of inclusion, Andrea organised the first Christian holiday program for children with disabilities, and the Mentor program for training young people in inclusive ministry. With funding from Anglicare and a private charitable trust, a paid position as Director has given Andrea time to dedicate herself more fully to this project.

In 2018 Embracing Ministries will be adding the Little Treasures holiday program for primary school children with special needs

and their siblings, plus retreats for men, to the already busy calendar of women's retreats, the Spring Christian Holiday program, the mentor program, inclusion training with CBM's Luke 14 resources, disability chaplaincy and pastoral care. 2018 will also bring two more sessions of the popular Minnows Music program, where children with special needs and their parents or carers move to music and practice communication using Auslan signs and pictures.

The work of Embracing Ministries is only possible with the support of its volunteers, who embrace the concept of inclusion and recognise the face of Jesus in every person. Penny and Nikki are two such volunteers, and this is their story. My daughter Nikki and I (Penny) have been involved with Inclusion Ministries for some time now. We both volunteered for the very first Holiday program for teens with special needs.

The program is extraordinary for many reasons. We know that families with special needs children adore their children but are dehydrated on so many levels. First, there is emotional dehydration – most marriages fail, friends and families can distance themselves and the stress levels parents feel is akin to the post traumatic stress of veterans. Second, there is spiritual dehydration – where they can feel forsaken. Third, there is the financial dehydration – funds are very tight as many are single parents and there are those that are unable to work full time or at all given the high and intense needs of their children. Many would like to place their children into school holiday programs but are unable to find something that they can afford and in particular, that will truly cater to the needs of their children.

And so when I heard about Andrea's free holiday program tailored to meet the needs of these families, I wanted to get on board. And what I experienced and witnessed at the holiday programs took my breath away. I saw vibrant Christian high schoolers who were willing to undergo carer training, in their own time, on how to best meet the needs of the families and children with special needs. A BBQ lunch was organised to enable a meet-and-greet between carers, children and families so that a rapport and understanding was developed well before the program even started. This enabled a seamless transition for the children into the program – such an im-

portant step that ensures their ability to engage and enjoy themselves.

There was also a careful matching of children with a carer. And during the program, I saw endless smiles and laughter from everyone involved. No child was ever left unattended. Christ's love for all was brought to life for the children with interactive stories, play and joy. So many wonderful activities were provided, from animal petting to circus acts. The happiness on the parent's faces when they picked up their children almost brought me to tears – they knew with every fibre of their being that their children had enjoyed a fantastic day provided by people who truly cherished them.

And while their children were in the program, the parents also had the opportunity to relax and recharge their batteries – such a rare experience for many. This was truly faith in action and I pray that we can continue to be human bill boards that walk and talk the need to love and support others, especially the families and children with special needs. With one-in-four people now experiencing a disability, I also pray that we can continue to bless more families and children through the Inclusion Ministries programs. God bless you Andrea and the Embracing Ministries Team!

by Penny and Nikki Watts



Bishop Stuart writes ...

Beloved in Christ,

Warmest greetings from myself and Jane!

This will be my last piece in Anglican News as Bishop Trevor will effectively be at the helm when the March edition arrives.

The most frequent question(s) we've been asked of late is, 'why are you retiring and what have been the highlights?'. Let me attempt a short answer:

I was afforded the very high privilege of being elected to lead this See in November 2008. We moved to Canberra in the new year and began the process of engaging with God's people across this vast and great diocese. The Bishop of Canberra and Goulburn has pastoral responsibility for around 20,000 people. They are connected with our churches, schools, Anglicare and other agencies. The 'cure' of that many 'souls' carries with it a certain weight that is apt to become depleting if not carefully managed.

In this period, we also engaged (quite rightly) with a great many victims of sexual and other abuses. These atrocities, by and

large, were perpetrated by leaders within our own communities of faith. A travesty. With my team of professional and godly leaders, I have met with individuals and their families and have carefully listened to their stories; generally in very great (and galling) detail. I can report that our redress and pastoral care programmes have brought much honour to Christ and healing to some. That said, the sheer volume of cases and the deep pain associated with every story takes its toll on those who are seeking to bring wholeness and justice. I do hope that many of you will join me for a Service of Lament and Repentance in our Cathedral on Sunday February 11th at 3.00pm.

It is also true to say that Jane and I feel that in our tenth year, we've done that which the Lord called us to do: to serve alongside remarkably gifted and able women and men who are committed to seeing the love of Jesus transform individuals and communities. That in itself has been a great highlight.

Other memorable events and ministries have been the 2013



Walk with The Cross through regional NSW and the ACT; the five Bishops Lay Ministry Conventions (Canberra [1], Goulburn [3], Wagga Wagga [1]); my annual open air evangelistic service in Belmore Park, Goulburn, where people are invited to publicly give their lives to Christ (and do); our Synods where we gather for fellowship, grace-filled debate, prayer, worship and legislation; inductions, parish visits and ordinations (around 100 or so); serving as Priest for the congregations of F5 and West Goulburn.

Though we are retiring from episcopal ministry we are (to quote the Reverend John Jenner) 'refiring' back into full-time parish ministry. I'll be inducted as Priest, St Michael's, Vacluse and Rose Bay, on Saturday May 5th at 4.30pm. And my formal farewell from this Diocese is Saturday March 31st at 11.00am. This is a 'Laying Up Of The Pastoral Staff' event. You are all very welcome.

Lent is fast approaching. In this lead up to Passiontide, I do enjoy you once again to be thankful to God for his remarkable grace in sending a Saviour, our Lord Jesus. As the redeemed people of God we have been called to be beacons and conduits of light, mercy and hope. May God, by his Spirit, through you, continue in bringing the transforming love of Jesus to our homes, communities, schools, businesses and nation. Hallelujah!

Much love in Christ,

+Stuart and Jane
February 2018

Clergy Moves

Bishop Stuart Robinson will complete his term as Rector, West Goulburn, on Ash Wednesday, 13 Feb; lay up his pastoral staff of the Diocese on 31 Mar; and commence as Rector, Rose Bay and Vacluse, Sydney on 6 May 2018.

The Ven John Barnes has been licensed as Regional Archdeacon Goulburn and Southern Tablelands and Team Leader (Part time/Hon.) of exploratory and cooperating ministry units to be known as the 'Southern Tablelands Minster'. His induction will be held on 24 Feb at 6.00pm at West Goulburn.

The Revd Wendy Bloomfield has been appointed Priest-In-Charge, Gundagai, (part-time) from mid-Feb 2018.

The Ven Dr Wayne Brighton will be inducted Rector, Jamison, on 21.02.2018 at 7.00pm at Jamison.

The Revd Canon Margaret Campbell has been appointed Assistant Minister (part-time) at St John's Canberra with a ministry focus on children & families from 22.01.2018.

The Revd Canon Scott Cowdell has completed his honorary ministry at Ainslie and will be appointed to a new honorary post in February.

The Revd Tim Mannix has been licensed Deacon Assistant, Kaleen-Giralang-Lawson.

The Revd Tim Narraway (Deacon) has been licensed Joint Youth and Families Minister at Cobargo, Bermagui, Bodalla & Narooma for 2 years from 28.01.2018 (renewable).

The Revd Canon Emeritus Brian Roberts has been licensed as Hon. Acting Archdeacon Queanbeyan, Monaro & Alpine Region (part-time).

The Right Revd Trevor Edwards will become Episcopal Administrator of the Diocese from 31.03.2018.

The Revd Peter Rose has been licensed Acting Director Ordinations 2018 (part-time) from Mar 2018.

The Revd Emma Street has resigned as Hon. Assistant Priest, Holt, in Dec 2017 and been licensed as Business Development Manager, St Mark's National Theological Centre & Hon. Assistant Priest (part-time), Manuka.

Clergy Moves (Cont.)

The Revd John Jenner will retire as Rector, Temora, with his last Sunday in the Parish as Easter Day, 01.04.2018.

The Ven Dr Erica Mathieson has resigned as Rector of Hackett Parish sometime after 08.04.2018 after a period of leave is complete. Erica has resigned as Archdeacon North Canberra from 08.04.2018.

The Revd Canon Gillian Varcoe has been licensed as Missioner-at-large; Senior Associate Priest, Combined Ministry District of Southern Tablelands Minster; Associate Priest, F5 Refresh Chaplaincy Unit; and Bishop's Chaplain for Charismatic Expressions of Ministry.

Three Clergy will be ordained Priest in the Church of God at a special 'out-of-session' **Ordination** on Sat 10 Feb at 11.00am at St Paul's Manuka. They are:

The Revd Andrea De Vaal Horciu to be Priest in Charge, Embracing Ministries

The Revd Peter Malone to be Priest, St David's Red Hill, & Chaplain at Anglicare Retirement Villages

The Revd Tracey Sutherland to be Priest, ADF Chaplain, at Duntroun.

Four new deacons to be **Ordained** on 24 Feb at 11.00am at St Saviour's Cathedral Goulburn are:

Ken King to be licensed Deacon Assistant, All Saints Collector with F5

Gavin Krebs to be licensed Deacon Assistant, St Nicholas' North Goulburn with St Saviour's Cathedral, Goulburn

Steve Nation to be licensed Deacon Assistant, St Matthew's Wannassa

Kay Pendlebury to be licensed Deacon Assistant, St Paul's Manuka.

Christmas at Manuka



Christmas services at Manuka were once again very well attended with some 1400 people present over the six services. The highlight was the annual children's Eucharist and nativity play (picture attached). A large number of children attended with their parents and grandparents to make a church full of about 400 people. The nativity play told the story of Christmas to the great enjoyment of the children. Other services were also well at-

tended with the midnight Eucharist overflowing down the path to the church with over 400 people present.

For many people this is an important time of the year to gather with family and friends and remember that God has come to us in the person and work of Jesus Christ. The parish gives thanks for this unique opportunity to bring the Christmas message to so many people.

by Archdeacon Brian Douglas

History Bytes - Remembering Sir Marcus Loane



In 1978, nearly forty years ago, I was Rector of Berridale. The clergy of the Monaro were invited to dinner in the Cooma Rectory to meet Sir Marcus Loane, then Archbishop of Sydney and Primate of Australia. I found him a shy and reserved person, but when Church history was the subject his face lit up. He loved

the stories of the great Christians of the past, especially the leaders of the evangelical end of the Anglican spectrum.

I mentioned Henry Martyn, Anglican missionary (1781 to 1812), who translated the Scriptures and the Book of Common Prayer into various languages including Hindustani, Persian and Arabic. Sir Marcus had written about Martyn and other notable missionaries. He expressed surprise that I was so interested in Martyn, though I was Anglo-Catholic in theology. Sir Marcus wrote to me later and said how good it had been to talk about such men and he hoped I would keep up my reading and study.

The other day I found several letters from Sir Marcus Loane in my library. The list of Loane's

New Principal for The Anglican School Googong

As an educational leader passionate about emerging Christian schools placed in growing communities, Merryn Clarksmith is delighted to join The Anglican School Googong as Principal. Merryn has moved from St Luke's Grammar School in Dee Why, Sydney, where she was Deputy Principal. Merryn has over 15 years' experience in leadership positions in Christian schools. Before joining St Luke's in 2016 she was, from 2008, Head of Senior School at Rouse Hill Anglican College. Prior to this she was at Northholm Grammar School in the Sydney suburb of Arcadia, where, over a ten-year period, she held the positions of Dean of Senior Students and Assistant to the Deputy Principal, among others.

In her many roles, Merryn has had a keen focus on pastoral care and student wellbeing, supporting students to ensure their optimum engagement in both their learning and life. Her particular passion for teaching student leadership and service has seen the development of many successful programs in several schools. As an extension to the work she was undertaking in her own school, in 2010 Merryn established a pastoral care network for educational leaders across NSW within the HICES group. In more recent years, Merryn has been focused on promoting the learning power framework which helps students develop specific dispositions so that they can be confident in negotiating a somewhat unknown future as well as managing life's many challenges, alongside their academic achievements.

Merryn is a graduate of Macquarie University from which she has a Bachelor of Arts and a

writings on Biblical and doctrinal subjects as well as many biographies, is most impressive. I treasure his letters as reminders of one of the great men of the Australian Anglican Church, the first Australian born Archbishop of Sydney and Primate of Australia.

Born in Tasmania in 1911, he died in 2009 at the age of 97. He married Patricia and, with their four children, they celebrated 71 years of married life. Sir Marcus



Diploma in Education (English/Drama). She says that the very core of education has to be the dynamic of the classroom, and this is a place where Merryn loves to be – a place where she can connect with students, where she can see them learn, question, discover, probe, wrestle with a concept to its full realisation, triumph and develop a passion for life-long learning. Merryn also has a Master of Educational Leadership from the University of New South Wales, through which she was able to really hone her passion for supporting teachers in the development of their classroom practice, as well as negotiate the new accreditation processes. She knows that leadership is ultimately about influence and places value on building strong teams. Merryn prioritises staff wellbeing and feels very privileged to continue leading, nurturing and encouraging the staff at Googong as the school continues its rapid growth phase. She recognises the privileged role of being an educator, with the daily opportunity to share God's love with students, staff and parents, and seeks to embed the message of Christ's redemption in her everyday practice.

by Merryn Clarksmith

served his entire ministry in the Diocese of Sydney, except for two years as an army chaplain in New Guinea. He loved his Diocese but was very sad to see the use of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer in worship being discarded in recent years.

Sir Marcus Loane was a great man and we give thanks to God for him.

by Fr Robert Willson

An invitation to join an Education for Ministry group



Today's church upholds the ministry of the laity: all baptised people have a ministry. To effectively exercise this ministry we need to be informed and skilled. Efm helps us to interpret the richness of the church's faith in our complex world and to express it with confidence, in both words and actions, in our day-to-day lives and in our own commu-

nities. Efm can be summed up as Exploring faith Matters. Efm is formational and transformational for Christian life and ministry.

Efm groups meet once a week during school terms. We ask you to commit to a year at a time. The full program takes four years to complete but does not have to be done continuously. There are some modest costs involved.

There are several active Efm groups in Canberra. For further information, please contact Kay Pendlebury (6297 8587 or kay.pendlebury@ozemail.com.au). Details of the Efm curriculum are at <http://efmaustralia.org>

The St Andrew's Braidwood Summer & Autumn Concert Series

Historic, light-filled St Andrew's Anglican Church, designed by Cyril Blacket, is increasingly resonating to the strains of high-quality classical music. From February to May, we have a record seven wonderful performances to present. Our aim is to contribute to the diverse musical experiences on offer in Braidwood and share the beauty of St Andrew's more widely.



It all began almost five years ago with the Canberra choir, Igitur Nos, kicking off our fundraising effort to refurbish St Andrew's rare historic organ. Organs are like steam trains: they have a dedicated following.

Increasingly over the years, through links to the South Coast Music Society and the Canberra classical music scene, a greater range of ensembles and musicians have come to perform and audiences, both local and regional, have begun to grow.

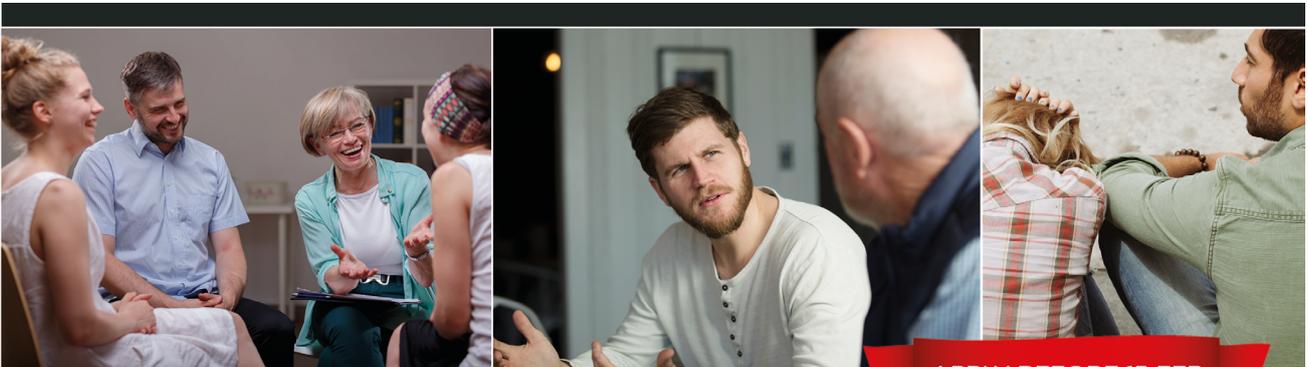
We have also linked with the beautiful Braidwood Uniting Church – also St Andrew's – where Bush Baroque have performed to rapturous applause and where we will premiere the

first classical guitar recital by the highly-respected Minh Le Hoang in May. Both churches have excellent acoustics and offer that rare and magical experience of intimacy. This works well for both performers and audience members and is further enhanced with the performers mingling and chatting after the concerts over afternoon tea.

Details of upcoming concerts are available on the Diocesan website under coming events.

If you would like to be included on our e-newsletter for concert updates, or would like to discuss the program, please email artwork123@icloud.com.

by Anne Sanders, St Andrew's Anglican Church concert co-ordinator



APPLY BEFORE 15 FEB

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