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Bishop Stuart's Last Hurrah



On Easter Saturday, in the final moment of his episcopacy, Bishop Stuart laid up his pastoral staff at St Saviour's Cathedral, Goulburn.

It was a magnificent autumn day and a service glowing with warmth and thankfulness to Bishop Stuart and Jane for their ministry amongst us.

In his last homily, Bishop Stuart shared memories of his father playing and singing his favourite hymn 'Standing on the Promises of God', explaining that he stills sings this hymn, with its theology informed by the Gospel reading in Matthew 28:1-10, as it serves as a powerful re-

minder that God is trustworthy and true, even when 'the howling storms of doubt and fear assail'. He encouraged those present, from the readings for the day, to look to God with confidence: as the one who slakes this world's spiritual thirst, whose word is life-giving and efficacious (Isaiah 55:1, 11); as our Refuge and our Deliverer, our Strong Fortress, the one who hears our cries for mercy and salvation (Psalm 31); as the source of renewal and release from the rule of sin and death; as the One in whom we have the hope of resurrection and eternal life (Romans 6).

Bishop Stuart then stood on the

Chancel steps and handed over responsibility to Bishop Trevor Edwards to be Administrator of the Diocese, until his successor is elected.

Speeches of farewell were made by The Most Reverend Dr Glenn Davies, Metropolitan of NSW, representing the Anglican Church of NSW, The Venerable Carol Wagner and The Venerable Dr Brian Douglas representing the Clergy and Justice Richard Refshauge and Mrs Lynette Glendinning representing the Laity of the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn and The Honourable Pru Goward, Member for Goulburn, representing the Community of Goulburn. Archbishop Glenn Davies, shared how he was with Bishop Stuart when he was informed of his election to the role, and told those gathered 'your bishop is a man of action and of prayer'.

Those who spoke from the Diocese paid special tribute to Bishop Stuart for the burden he had taken up and carried in response to the Royal Commission and his humble efforts to put the needs of vic-

tims first, with Archdeacon Brian Douglas reminding us that everything Bishop Stuart did was 'for Jesus'.

The Honourable Pru Goward, spoke of Stuart's lovability and his love for others as the characteristic that had enabled such effective leadership and of how much of what he did in Goulburn was 'unexpected', but appreciated all the more, concluding that 'our lives will be a little dimmer for his leaving'.

The gifts from the Diocese were presented to Bishop Stuart by the Registrar, Trevor Ament, including a wooden box from Bungendore Wood Works containing the letters and cards from parishes, a rural scene painted by Bungendore artist Jenny Becker, and an artwork of Canberra landmarks by Jim Kaucz.

In his response Bishop Stuart thanked all those who have aided him in his role – the Episcopal team, the Registrar Trevor Ament, his Executive Officer Bev Forbes, the ADS, the Clergy, and in particular his wife, for her unfailing support, which raised a standing ovation for Jane.

Finally he thanked all the people of the Diocese, saying 'you are our greatest asset ... through you the love of Jesus is manifested, the community is being transformed'.

Bishop Trevor and Archbishop Glenn Davies prayed for Stuart and Jane, who then left the Cathedral to rousing applause.

by Alison Payne



Bishop Stuart receiving the box of letters and cards from parishes.

Bishop Trevor writes...

Keep Calm and Carry On

Dear sisters and brothers,
We have just formally thanked and farewelled Bishop Stuart and his wife Jane after their nine years of faithful leadership in this Diocese. They have moved on to their next assignment in serving God and his people, so we are now officially in a time of transition as we await the election and installation of our next Diocesan bishop.

It is my unexpected privilege to lead and care for this Diocese during this season. In my recent travels and interactions, however, I have detected a level of uncertainty and anxiety, even fear about the future. To misquote Oscar Wilde 'to lose one bishop may be regarded as a misfortune, to lose two bishops looks like carelessness', but some of our people actually thought it was tantamount to negligence. It was indeed a very unfortunate co-location of resignations, but I think we all need to remember that while God has his mysterious purposes he is also absolutely committed to providentially working **all** things (even hurtful

or disappointing things) for the ultimate good of his people. Of course, in this Easter season, the truth of this precious promise is powerfully exemplified in the death and resurrection of Jesus.

I have recently read two novels which reflect on the effects of bombing in England during the Second World War and they reminded me of the motto *keep calm and carry on*. I have actually since discovered it was a poster rarely used at the time, but if stripped of its very British stiff upper lip assumptions I think it is an apt slogan for us in 2018.

In the first place, if want to keep calm and carry on we will really commit ourselves to prayer in this transition. If we cast all our anxieties on God he will give us strength to face any challenge. If we present our requests to him we will experience his all-embracing peace and be content to wait expectantly for his answers. I therefore call us all to a sustained season of prayer for our Diocese and not least the present complex work of the Episcopal Election Nominations Committee. In that regard you might



regularly use some of the prayer resources it has already devised, which can be found on the Diocesan website, together with other material about its work.

In the second place, if we want to keep calm and carry on we

will do what Jesus taught us, namely to keep on seeking first God's kingdom and his righteousness. Our primary and daily focus must remain to further the mission of God and live for him wherever he has put us. Moreover, as we do these things in the power of the Spirit, we have his promise that we will receive not what we want but all the things we need. Just as God has consistently provided for us in the past, we can be confident he will also provide in the present and future.

Prayerfully yours,
+Trevor Edwards



Bishop Stuart and Jane being presented with the artwork gifts from the Diocese.

Clergy Moves

The Reverend Michael Dasey has been licensed as Chaplain Burgmann Anglican School.

The Reverend Dr Sallyanne Hart has been elected Area Dean of Goulburn by her peers.

The Reverend Debbie Mazlin has been licensed as an Honorary Assistant Priest, Woden in addition to her Chaplaincy responsibilities in two Canberra Hospitals.

The Reverend Neil Percival has been appointed Rector, Young Anglican District Ministry. Details of Neil's induction will be advised shortly.

The Reverend Michelle Philp has been licensed as Honorary Deacon Assistant Pearce.

The Reverend David Rajasekaram has been elected Area Dean of the North West by his peers.

The Reverend Canon Harvey Sloane has been licensed as Assistant Priest Wagga Wagga (part time).

The Reverend Liz Sloane has been licensed as Assistant Deacon Wagga Wagga (part time).

The Venerable Elizabeth Dyke has resigned as Rector of Queanbeyan and will become Dean of St Paul's Cathedral in Bendigo in late May.

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

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St Paul's Anglican Church, Burra 150th Anniversary

Garden Party

Our Garden Party will be held on Saturday 19 May 2018 in the grounds of St Paul's Burra as our way of recognising the involvement of community in our rich history - Weddings, Baptisms, Field Days, Blessings of the RFS Fleets, Youth Groups, Open Gardens, past clergy, connections through previous generations and the many other gatherings that have kept our beloved St Paul's relevant and cherished to this day.

Saturday 19 May 2018
1pm-3pm
St Paul's Anglican Church
1290 Old Cooma Road,
Burra NSW 2620

Consecration

With no evidence, despite significant investigation, of St Paul's ever being consecrated, we are amending this with our Consecration Service on Sunday 20 May 2018, joined by Bishop Trevor and followed by a light lunch at The Anglican School Googong.

Sunday 20 May 2018
10am
St Paul's Anglican Church
1290 Old Cooma Road,
Burra NSW 2620
Followed by Lunch at:
The Anglican School, Googong
136 Gorman Drive, Googong NSW
2620

We would be blessed if you were able to join us for one, or both, of these events as we honour the past and embrace our future.

Places are limited so please RSVP as soon as possible indicating which (or both) event you wish to attend by Friday 4 May to beadstreet@inet.net.au.



Tathra Devastated by Bushfire



Smoke over the township of Tathra

The seaside town of Tathra, in the Parish of Bega, was devastated by bushfire on Sunday 18th March. The lives of many residents have been turned upside down. After the initial shock of the event some are now dealing with the real grief of losing everything, while others are coping with severe guilt that their house was spared while their neighbour's was not.

Members of our church have been on the ground offering care and support from the beginning, including people who had been evacuated because of the fire. We publicly acknowledge the role of our local clergy and many volunteers in the Anglicare Disaster Recovery Teams who were mobilised to support people in a time of intense uncertainty.

The Diocese has been conferring with the Reverend Captain Stuart Haynes, who is our Priest-in-Charge at Bega, to devise a short-term and longer-term re-

sponse, and is committed to ensuring that Stuart and the parish of Bega are properly resourced to give the leadership and care needed, especially in the initial three months.

Stuart moved his office from St John's Bega to St Martin's in Tathra when the roads cleared, to be available, and opened St Martin's Tathra as a drop in centre. It has become a base for material, prayer and counselling support.

Stuart reports that he has been walking alongside people while they go through the pendulum-swing of emotions in the aftermath. A number of those that lost their homes have been elderly single women, some of whom have also recently lost spouses. Those affected have, in some cases, had to spend considerable time recovering their identification after all paperwork was lost and dealing with other administration matters in the midst of the devastation.

While ministering to people from the church Stuart has had opportunity to talk to their neighbours, one of whom has since come along to church.



Stuart has praised the generosity of those who arrived to help, and said authorities responded well and people have had their immediate needs met. One suggestion from Stuart that might aid recovery is the donation of pot plants and garden plants. Even those whose homes are still standing have lost their gardens, which serves as an ongoing reminder of the devastation.

Anglicare will launch an appeal to specifically raise funds so that folk in the area can access properly qualified counsellors to help them process any trauma. Angli-

care's experience is that following a natural disaster, people require trauma counselling assistance in the medium to long term, so we want to be ready to offer help when they really need it.

Please continue to pray for this community and the small congregation, which is also grieving the loss and damage sustained by its own members. Ask God to give them the grace to be salt and light for Jesus at this time.

by Bishop Trevor Edwards and Alison Payne, photos from Sue Ford, Disaster Recovery Volunteer



Know Your Bishop – Mesac Thomas



Reverend Jonathan Holt considers the legacy of our first Bishop.

'We are a missionary diocese, and we have missionary work to do.' Six years into his three-decade project, Mesac Thomas found himself endlessly stretching to meet the expanding boundaries of white settlement in New South Wales.

After his first major tour of his See, Thomas reported that '... this diocese must be regarded as a missionary church for some years...'. And whilst Thomas may have longed for a peaceful day in which pastoral ministry was fully funded and worshipping communities were resourced, his time in episcopal leadership was primarily about the recruitment and deployment of clergy.

Bishop Thomas sought to build a financial support base that would fund the missionary endeavours of lay people and clergy alike. He drew on his experience and contacts developed during his time as Secretary of the Colonial and Continental Church Society. Mesac Thomas was a fundraiser.

Our first Bishop was also busy establishing the structures that he felt would best enhance the local and missional work taking place in the parishes springing up in the rural south and west of New South Wales. Bishop Thomas' strong leadership established a tone in the diocese of respect for the under-shepherd and clarity about the authority of such a role.

It is fascinating that whilst Bishop Thomas was vocal in his opposition to Roman Catholics and Dissenters, our common diocesan life together has steered away from partisanship. Mesac Thomas' alignment with English Evangelicalism appeared to leave him little room for tolerance or cooperation. Even as we

celebrate the formative role our first Bishop played, we can well acknowledge how a plentiful harvest draws us to labouring cooperatively with other workers our Lord has sent out.

I believe that Mesac Thomas spoke more truly than he knew: we must regard ourselves as a missionary diocese.

Although we no longer find ourselves on the edges of white settlement, or in the midst of a gold-rush population boom, we are a diocese on mission. God's mission is unfolding, and our part in it takes shape as we act in faith. Passionate for the life-transforming news of Jesus, Bishop Thomas formed a diocese with Jesus' saving work as a firm foundation.

Meet the New Deacons

Four new deacons will begin and continue their ministries in the Diocese after being ordained in St Saviour's Cathedral on Saturday 24th February 2018.

Bishop Stuart gave a short exhortation in which he encouraged the ordinands, as those who know their master's business (from the lectionary reading in John 15:9-17), to align their lives to that business:

* You are to joyfully testify (from the rising of the sun to its going down (to borrow from

Psalm 113)) to the power of Jesus' death and resurrection which deals with our sin and puts us right with God. Preach that gospel – in season and out of season.

* You are to live holy, attractive, fruitful, Christ-honouring lives – as you get about your Master's business.

He concluded with the encouragement that 'as Jesus was true to his word, you can be sure that an eternal reward awaits those who are faithful'.



Ken King

Ken committed his life to Christ while visiting Sydney in 1984. In February 1985 Ken moved to Canberra to work on the construction of New Parliament House where he initiated a construction workers Christian fellowship group. Ken also became actively involved in leading Camp Pelican and participated on six Cursillo weekends. Ken also attended the St Matthew's Wanniasa young adults group where he met Karen – they were married in 1988.

In the 1990s, Ken trained as a social worker. Since then, his work has focused on community development and engagement, and empowering the disadvantaged – particularly in the disability sector, aged care, geriatrics and rehabilitation.

Ken and Karen initially moved to Belconnen and St Barnabas, North-West Belconnen. With two young daughters, the family relocated to Tuggeranong, and St Mary's in the Valley and later Christ Church, Queanbeyan. The family moved to Bungendore in 2006, and worshipped at St Philip's Bungendore. Ken has been a parish councillor, warden, lay

leader, led community and parish activities and study groups, and later assisted with organising and leading parish worship during inter-regnum periods.

While at Bungendore, Ken knew it was time to act on a long-time calling to ordained ministry, and commenced part-time training. During his discernment, Ken was privileged to contribute to ministry work at Bungendore, Braidwood and currently while embracing the role of part-time ministry leadership at All Saints' Collector. Ken is encouraged and excited to continue to follow Christ's call to evolve the worship and ministry at Collector with the support of the F5, West Goulburn community – and wherever else he is called to.

Ken recently accepted the role of honorary Chaplain for the NSW Rural Fire Service. This role enables him to combine 10 plus years of volunteer fire fighting, including various leadership roles in the Bungendore Brigade, and decades as a social worker to effectively support and minister to members of the NSW RFS.

Ken and Karen have two adult daughters, two wonderful sons-in-law, and two grandchildren.



Gavin Krebs

Gavin grew up in Moree NSW where he became a Christian through the faithful witness and prayer of some long suffering youth group leaders. Since then he has pretty much been involved in a variety of ministries such as ISCF, youth groups, young adults groups, music, Cursillo, prayer ministry and most recently as a Licenced Lay Minister at All Saints Cathedral Bathurst.

Gavin is married to Anna and they have three adult children, David, Ellenor and Johanna, who all help to keep his feet firmly on the ground and are quick to let him know when he is getting "too big for his boots".

After spending most of his adult life running away from the idea of ordination, Gavin finally surrendered to God and five years ago began the journey which is the discernment process, starting a Masters of Theological Studies

while still working 45 hours a week as a pharmacist. This period of his life has been some of the most challenging emotionally and spiritually that he has ever experienced, but through it all has been the realisation that God is sovereign and in control and the conviction of God's call on his life to be ordained.

He and Anna will be living in Goulburn and Gavin will be working at St Nicholas' North Goulburn, and getting to know the people there, as well as in the Cathedral parish of St Saviour's, where he will continue to further relationships already begun in the last twelve months.

He and Anna are excited to be starting a new chapter in their lives and are continually overwhelmed with God's peace as they work towards continuing along the path that God has set before them.



All Deacon photographs taken by Brad Nichol from ZeroOne Imaging

Contributions to the Anglican News are very welcome.

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 to submit please send it to: alison.payne@anglicands.org.au



Steve Nation

I was born in Melbourne in 1977. Thankfully, the family I was given was loving and stable. After school I studied a Bachelor of Landscape Management and Conservation in the hopes of becoming a Park Ranger. Then in my third year at university, I was invited to church, where I heard the good news of Jesus - my life was forever changed.

After university, I realised that I didn't want to tell people about creation as an environmental educator, but about our Creator - and how through Jesus, we can become friends/family with Him. I then began three full-on, life changing years at Sydney Missionary and Bible College. These were some of the greatest days of my life. But I didn't just get a good theological education at College. That's also where I met and married my wife Keiyeng.

Keiyeng is a strong woman, with a kind heart, and a great love for people who are on the fringe of church and society. In 2006 we moved up to the warmer pastures of Brisbane where I pastored at the Chinese Christian Church Brisbane (2006-2016). It was in Brisbane that our three children were born - Jakey (7), Levi (5) and Lucy (2). We have a lot of fun together in our backyard, going on excursions around Canberra, and doing the odd camping trip.

In January 2017 I joined the staff team at St Matthew's Anglican Church Wanniasa. We have been welcomed with open arms. On top of my responsibilities in seeking to help St Matt's grow as a community of grace, I have enjoyed studying at St Mark's. I'm thankful to God for leading me to the Canberra and Goulburn Diocese, and am looking forward to a life of Anglican ministry.

Kay Pendlebury

Born in 1951, Kay grew up in Bunbury, Western Australia, where she attended Sunday school at a little church three or four doors up the road—St David's. She was later confirmed and attended Sunday worship at St Boniface Cathedral. As a teenager, Kay felt a burning call to serve God through the church—a yearning to serve some higher purpose, to adore something she couldn't quite grasp. But the time wasn't right, so she went to university on a scholarship that later brought her to Canberra after marrying Terry in Bunbury in 1972. Kay and Terry now have three adult daughters, three splendid sons-in-law, and eight grand children, all of whom delight them immensely, and keep them quite occupied.

Kay is a bell ringer, and rings and worships at St Paul's in Manuka. She also joined the Education for Ministry (EfM) group at St Paul's and over her time working through the scriptures and reflecting theologically, her

call to ordained ministry grew stronger. On a three-week bike ride in Western Australia, Kay met a priest who encouraged her to explore that call further. With help from The Reverend Dr Brian Douglas she became part of the discernment program, and began to study at St Mark's.

Kay's ministry at St Paul's includes home and aged care facility visiting, and she is currently participating in the Clinical Pastoral Education program at Canberra Hospital. She has also taken on the role of mentor for the EfM group. Kay sees a great need for an informed and empowered laity. She also sees a need for a safe and nurturing forum where people can talk about their faith, and express their doubts and delights. Kay also sees her ministry at St Paul's as serving where needed, whether in the sanctuary, the pulpit, the garden, the office, the bell tower, the EfM group, the aged care facilities or wherever there is a need. The world is crying out for God's healing.



Renew Turns One



Milli Wong and Sarah White welcoming people to Renew at Limelight cinemas

We're thankful that God has sustained us through our first year as a church, and brought people to hear of Jesus' saving love for them.

At Renew's first anniversary service on the 17th of March, Matt McLaren reflected on his

and his wife's move to Canberra and joining Renew a year ago. 'We've loved this past year. In our old church we basically had 26-year-olds in our congregation, and we were all doing the same kind of things in work and life. I've loved that, at Renew, we have been welcomed in by a range of ages - 20-somethings as well as people who are older than us and have been followers of Jesus for longer. I've really appreciated being able to learn from them and be welcomed into their homes and lives as we've sought to share Jesus together.'

A new park next to new apartment buildings in Greenway (in Tuggeranong) was the location for our anniversary BBQ lunch and Good Friday service.

Renew has recently started having our regular Sunday morning services in Limelight Cinemas, in the middle of the Hyperdome mall in Greenway. We pray for opportunities to share Jesus and hope to see Canberra transformed by the love of Jesus.

*by
Reverend
Anna
Boxwell*



Want to hear what's happening in Palestine?
Come and hear Ecumenical Accompanier (EA) Mary Kelly speak about her time in the West Bank.



Hosted by Wesley Uniting Church
22 National Circuit Forrest
Fri 13th April 6.00-7.30pm
Helen Rainger 0421825 698
-Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network

Episcopal Election Nominations Committee



EENC from left to right: The Reverend James Coats, Dr Ingrid Moses, The Venerable David Ruthven (Chair), The Reverend Anna Boxwell, Mr Greg Mills, Canon Robert Arthur

On Saturday, 3rd March 2018, at the Second Session of the 46th Synod, synod members voted to elect the Episcopal Election Nominations Committee (EENC). The following members of the clergy and laity were elected to the Committee:

Archdeacon David Ruthven (Chair); Revd James Coats; Revd Anna Boxwell; Mr Greg Mills; Dr Ingrid Moses; Mr Robert Arthur

Regular meetings of the EENC are being convened and the Committee is actively working to discharge its role and functions as described in Schedule 1 of the *Governance of the Diocese Ordinance*.

Consultation Workshops will be held across the Diocese throughout April and early May to help prepare a Diocesan Profile. Synod members, as part of this process, are encouraged to reflect on the qualities and experience needed for a new Diocesan Bishop. The profile will help members to decide between likely nominees, and it will ensure that suitable information on the Diocese is provided to them. Contributions can also be made via an online survey to be released in mid-April.

All people throughout the Diocese are encouraged to participate in the workshops and online survey. Full details of the online survey will be communicated shortly. Please also visit the EENC page on the Diocesan website for further information.

<http://anglicancg.org.au/our-diocese/governance/synod/episcopal-election-nominations-committee/>

The committee will also be preparing a list of selection criteria for prospective nominees, building on information gathered from the workshops and other mandated sources. After the Diocesan Profile and the Selection Criteria have been completed they will be circulated to all Synod members. Once members have had the opportunity to become familiar with this material we will then invite Synod members to propose suitable candidates.

Mindful of our own inadequacies, and that none of this is possible without the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the EENC would be grateful for your continual prayers that together with God's guidance we might find a shepherd that loves Jesus and his sheep. Prayer resources are available from the EENC page on the Diocesan Website. The following prayer from our Prayer Book might also be helpful:

At the time of choosing a bishop:
Eternal God, shepherd and guide, in your mercy give your Church in this diocese a shepherd after your own heart who will walk in your ways, and with loving care watch over your people. Give us a leader of vision and a teacher of your truth. So may your Church be built up and your name glorified;

Ordinances Passed at the 2nd Session of the 46th Synod



The Second Session of the 46th Synod of the Anglican Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn met on Saturday 3rd March 2018 to consider 10 canons made by the Seventeenth Session of the General Synod in 2017 pertaining to child protection. Two of these canons made alterations to the Constitution and the other eight affected the order and good governance of the Church within this Diocese.

In the words of Bishop Stuart in his introductory remarks:

'The legislation that we need to endorse will, please God, say to a watching ... world that they are loved of God – as evidenced by our commitment to their well-being, safety and wholeness; that our churches and communities

of faith are safe places – that the hospitality we offer is truly life-giving ...'

Great thanks is extended to the Chancellor for his enormous effort in preparing the material and so ably leading the Synod through the Ordinances.

The list of the ordinances passed is available on the Diocesan website.

From Bishop Stuart following the result:

'I am delighted to report that all the 'child protection legislation' ... was endorsed wholeheartedly by the Synod (3/3/18). This is a moment of great significance and it will set the course for ministry and pastoral care for a generation. Thanks be to God!'



through Jesus Christ our Lord.
 Amen

by Venerable David Ruthven
 Chair of the EENC

EENC Consultation Workshops

Canberra South

St Mary in the Valley, South Tuggeranong, Friday 20 April, 7pm-10pm

Cooma

St Paul's Cooma, Saturday 21 April, 10am-1pm

Bega

St John's Bega, Saturday 21 April, 7pm-10pm

Batemans Bay

Church of the Ascension, Batemans Bay, Sunday 22 April, 1.30pm-4.30pm

Canberra North

St John's Canberra, Thursday 3 May, 7pm-10pm

Goulburn

Christ Church West Goulburn, Friday 4 May, 7pm-10pm

Young

St John's Young, Saturday 5 May, 1.30pm-4.30pm

Wagga Wagga

St Paul's Turvey Park, Sunday 6 May, 2.00pm-5.00pm

St Mark's - The Next Forty Years



I have been thinking a lot lately about ministers. All ministers, whether bishops, priests, deacons, or lay people.

Our church is based on ministers—ok, no, our church is based on Christ; but what happens next happens through ministers.

When Paul wrote to the Thessalonian church, formal ministry titles hadn't really been invented. There were simply people, whose 'work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope' took others' breath away. In a land riddled with idols, these people heard news of the resurrected Jesus and 'turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God'. Something about a living and true God made untrue, dead idols boring. They wanted in on something different. Everyone noticed it: 'in every place your faith in God has become known'.

That, basically, is the essence of ministry. Something springs from you that you can't help, a response to Jesus Christ that you really cannot make go away. As Paul also puts it, 'our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction'.

People like this keep turning up at St Mark's for us to teach and train and form. The Holy Spirit has started that happening—in these parts, we call that a 'call' ... the sense you cannot suppress that Jesus Christ is taking you somewhere new, and that he is worth it. At our best, St Mark's only cooperates with the Spirit. So far, so good.

But as I think about ministers, I get so mad about what is asked of them. I don't mean by congregations, although that is a part of it. I mean something bigger.

They need to respond to the enraged disappointment Australians feel about Christian institutions. They need to gently dislodge Australians' misinformed prejudices against Christianity. They need to team-build, lead change, manage organisations. They need to assess risk, provide safe workplaces, do safe church. They must run 'human resources', read a balance sheet and maintain buildings.

Yet they also need serious biblical knowledge, and an awareness of Christian history. They need to wed people, preside, and run funerals without being a klutz. In times of stress they need rigorous, intentional awareness of their flaws, shame, vanity and ego. Within all this, they need continually to introduce people to Christ, in both word and deed.

On it goes. I have been collecting such lists, and they are horrifically long. Realistically, people need to learn all this in several goes over several years.

But what do we do? Bishops are usually now forced to find people trained at no cost to their Diocese. Our own Diocese cannot pay for training due to several legacy debts (arising from schools, historic sexual abuse, and a superannuation scheme). Elsewhere in Australia, some people get less than a year of training that is supposed to set them up for life. Learners are expected to pay for everything themselves, or borrow money for tuition, or rely on some form of government assistance, often juggling part- or full-time jobs at the same time. St Mark's regularly writes off debts for people who cannot pay us, which stretches us thinner and inhibits us developing much-needed new courses.

And then we wonder why people are under-equipped, or burn out, or move on quickly. Or why, in forty years, some legal process will come after them to name and shame the ineptitude that has been forced upon them. This situation is completely, totally and utterly unsustainable.

A letter from the famous fourth-century figure Augustine of Hippo begins obviously enough. 'During our life on earth,' he writes, 'and especially in our own day, nothing is easier, pleasanter and more likely to win people's respect than the office of bishop or priest or deacon, if it is performed negligently and with a view to securing their approval.' But 'there is nothing in this present life, and especially now, more difficult, toilsome, and perilous than these offices if they are carried out in the way our Lord commands'. I am sure you've seen both kinds.

As it happens, Augustine has

recently been dragged into ministry by one Bishop Valerius, and without any training. He pleads with, begs and cajoles the bishop for just a little time off to read the Bible, pray and learn. Then he throws this spiritual grenade:

For what shall I say to the Lord my Judge? Shall I say, 'I was not able to acquire what I needed, because I was engrossed wholly with the affairs of the Church?' What if he replied 'You wicked servant! ... How do you allege that you had no time to learn how to cultivate my field?' Tell me, I beg you, what could I reply? Are you willing for me to say, 'Old Valerius is to blame'?

How's that for spiritual blackmail!?

People like Augustine keep turning up at St Mark's for us to teach and train and form. They remind me of what Paul said to the Thessalonians: 'our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction'.

But I fear we are in the position of old Valerius, expecting these people to do a high, noble and cosmically significant task with an increasingly shabby, cheap and ramshackle foundation.

So on the evening Monday April 23rd, we will gather at St Mark's to consider our **next forty years**. We will hear from **Rev. Dr Mark Short** about the ministry needs he has seen as Director of Bush Church Aid. On the fortieth anniversary of the founding of St Mark's College of Ministry, Bishop Trevor will **rededicate** us to the next forty, when we will be Christians in more sceptical,

hostile and resistant terrain.

People will need a training institution that can teach Scripture to such depth, in dialogue with the best thought and practice from other disciplines, as to enable canny, wise, competent, resilient and godly ministers whom people talk excitedly about—like those Thessalonian Christians of long ago. Over these next decades and as existing funding sources dry up, St Mark's will need a fighting-fund of tens of millions of dollars to finance this kind of ministry formation.

I will therefore be launching the **Ministry Future Fund**. We do not need this fund for regular operations. It will expand our capacity for good training and formation. We need it to attract and support additional excellent staff; to develop significant new courses (even a cheap new course costs \$25-\$40,000 to develop well?); and to subsidise future students.

I'll propose that it accrue over time as people bequest a portion of their estates. Of course, direct donations will also be great, just as Beth and the late Chris Heyde recently donated \$500,000, both flexibly and endowed, toward ministry formation. The point, though, is that the luxury of 'someone else' paying for ministers—whether Diocese-central, some government, or the candidates themselves—has passed. As an entire Church, we need to take responsibility for the next forty years. The Ministry Future Fund will be a good way to do it.

Come and help me form a better ministry future for Christ in Australia. www.stmarks.edu.au.

by Reverend Dr Andrew Cameron

THE NEXT
40
YEARS
St Mark's and the Mission Ahead
MON 23 APR | 6:30PM COCKTAILS | \$50 A HEAD
FULL DETAILS - STMARKS.EDU.AU

St Mark's will be celebrating 40 years since the centre expanded its focus to the teaching and equipping of others in ministry. Come celebrate with us as we look forward to 40 more years of St Mark's as we continue to be the teaching heart of a learning diocese.

Engaging with People Living with Disabilities

A big weekend at St Alban's Woden



Rob Nicholls, Church Relationship Manager, CBM Luke 14 Program; Monica Short, lecturer CSU; Mark Short, National Director, Bush Church Aid; Mrs Jane Robinson and Bishop Stuart Robinson



As part of her PhD research, Monica Short has recently published a book in conjunction with BCA, *The Anglican Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn, CBM Australia Luke 14 Program and Charles Sturt University.*

Anglican Churches Engaging with People living with Disabilities was launched at the National Anglican Bishops' Meeting in Canberra, Monday 19 March. The meeting, held in different locations across the country each year, was attended by bishops from all 23 dioceses of Australia.

'This book is the second in a series about the Anglican Church of Australia and its engagement, focusing on people with disabilities living outside capital cities,' says Monica. 'It addresses the questions: how does the Anglican Church of Australia outside capital cities engage with people living with disabilities, and what are the intentions, impacts and implications of these engagements?'

Monica's research involved actively engaging with 20 people living with disabilities from six churches located within the Anglican Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn – St Andrew's Angli-

can Church Braidwood, Refresh F5 Goulburn, St Luke's Anglican Church Junee, All Saints' Anglican Church Marulan, St Jude's Anglican Church Tumbarumba and Yass Valley Anglican Church.

'I was surprised by the level of agreement the people participating had about church engagements with people living with disabilities,' Ms Short said.

'Their testimonies attest that these six churches are exemplars of successful engagement. The experiences of these churches offer direction for other churches who seek to improve their engagement. As the research progressed, many participants, partners and/or informants suggested key themes, recommendations and conclusions that were all included in this book.'

Also included in the book is an essay by Dr Louise Gosbell from CBM Australia's Luke 14 Program titled, 'The experiences of people living with disability in three urban Anglican churches'. Dr Gosbell's essay explains that each interviewed person had a strong sense of belonging to their urban church and participated in church activities.

A printed copy of the book is available by contacting Janine van den Tillaart at BCA – janine@bushchurchaid.com.au or you can download it at bushchurchaid.com.au/book2



Parishioners from St Alban's Woden joined with other Woden Valley Christian churches to provide a free festival for the community of Lyons. This year the annual Lyons Community Festival featured the Noah's Ark petting zoo which was provided by the Anglicans, a "strange Bibles" display, jumping castle, board games, plaster painting, face painting and hair spraying, continual community games in the centre of the festival and lots of free food and drinks. With temperatures on the day reaching 32 degrees the icecream stall and cold drinks were a hit. The community was entertained by

the Western Winds Band. This pre-Easter festival is an opportunity for the churches to work together ecumenically and form positive links with the local community. It was a big weekend for the Parish as the following day was a Parish lunch at the home of The Reverend Morton Johnston and Pam Wright, which gave the Parish an opportunity to farewell Parishioners Alexis Fraser and Bill Dahlberg who are headed to South Australia for a couple of years to establish a new retreat house for SSM (The Society of the Sacred Mission) at Willunga, south of Adelaide.

by Reverend Jenny Willsher

HOW TO SURVIVE THE DAILY GRIND

Every day it's the same "daily grind" - wake up, get dressed, go to work, go home, eat, and sleep. We have a haunting feeling that the next 20-40 years will be the same. What's the point? What do we gain?

But what if our "daily grind" is actually a good thing?

Sam Chan will show us how to survive, enjoy, and thrive on our "daily grind" at this outreach event ideal for your non-Christian friends, and also an encouraging word for you! Join us at **The City Labor Club, Petrie Plaza, on Thursday 19 April at 6pm** for light refreshments followed by a short talk by Sam, including Q&A. All welcome! Rego & more details: citybibleforum.org/city/canberra

There will also be a **How to find extraordinary pleasure** breakfast on Friday 20 April and a training day on Saturday 21 April, with more details available on the website.