



FROM BISHOP MARK



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Singing Hallelujah



BY REVEREND STEVE BOXWELL

Written on 21 June 2019 following the protests in Hong Kong.

I've had a song stuck in my head all week. It's the song that has been sung by millions of protesters in Hong Kong in recent days, *Sing Hallelujah to the Lord*.

I remember singing it as a kid in my dinky 80s Baptist church, but I had completely forgotten about it until these last few days. It was a stroke of genius by church leaders in Hong Kong to start singing the song at the protests.

For one thing, religious gatherings are exempt from the definition of a 'gathering' or 'assembly' under Hong Kong's Public Order Ordinance and are thus more difficult to police. So, you might say, they figured out a loophole to prevent the protest from being clamped down on by government forces. They turned it into an enormous worship event. In

this, the churches were gifting the community their religious freedom – which is a word for Australians in our cultural moment.

For another, the conspicuous presence of churches at these protests seems to have had a soothing influence on the masses. Unlike the Umbrella Movement of 2014 it seems the protests have been largely peaceful. The ABC story interviewed one Christian protester, Mr Leung, who said, 'Christians started turning up at protests to sing *Sing Hallelujah To The Lord* in case there was the chance of violence when police wanted to disperse protesters. But once they started singing, everyone became calm.' Their singing turned a clash into a chorus.

But there's a third reason that this was the perfect song to choose for these demonstrations.

Think about the song itself for a

moment. It only has five words.

*Sing Hallelujah to the Lord
Sing Hallelujah to the Lord
Sing Hallelujah
Sing Hallelujah
Sing Hallelujah to the Lord*

The first line surprises, because though it extends an invitation to worship the Lord, it does so in a minor key. There is real empathy in that first line — things are not as they ought to be, the discontent is legitimate. And yet the invitation is made to sing to the Lord in the midst of that discontent, and then repeated. By the third line a note of hopefulness enters the melody. Things could be different, things will be different. The song guides our hearts to the Lord worthy of the Hallelujah. But this hope is not pie in the sky – the final line returns to the same place as the first as if to say,

Picture by fxxu on Pixabay.com

'our hope does not wallpaper over the present crisis – but it does help you navigate it'.

I love this choice because it is the exact experience of the Christian life. We begin in holy discontent, we dare to look upwards to Christ – the one worthy of our hallelujahs and hear him say, 'I will rescue from your pain and I will undo your shame' and then we continue to struggle in our present age, but now equipped with a hope that helps us traverse even the most difficult pressures.

Pray for the churches in Hong Kong. Pray that in the midst of their pressures they would remain faithful. Pray that the multitude of people (somewhere between a third and a quarter of the population of the island) who marched and sang would have been forced to reckon with the Lord we are invited to sing to.

Bishop Mark Writes

On 2 July 2019 Bishop Mark preached the sermon at the ecumenical service to mark the opening of the 46th Parliament. You can read the full sermon text on our website.

SEEING WHAT MATTERS TO GOD

Everybody needs good neighbours – don't they?

Monica and I have recently been through the process of deciding where to live in Canberra. We discovered all sorts of resources designed to help us make that choice. Go online and you can find the socio-economic score of a neighbourhood, compare its crime statistics with nearby suburbs and see how real estate prices have appreciated or not. You can check out reviews of local cafes and calculate the travelling time from there to your place of work.

However, the most remarkable part of that whole process is that we had and have that choice at all, because for most people living at most places in most times neighbourhood wasn't something you chose. It was chosen for you, according to the vagaries of birth and history and economics. But for those of us who live relatively affluent lives in contemporary Australia neighbouring is about the decisions we make. So even as we think about being a good neighbour the cards are already stacked in our favour, because we have neighbourhood on our own terms amongst 'our' kind of people.

In Luke 10:25-37 Jesus tells a well-known story about being a neighbour. It concerns three travellers who see a person in desperate need lying half-dead beside the road. Two of them, both religious leaders, see enough to cross over to the other side and remain uninvolved. The third, who is a religious outsider, sees and is moved to act with mercy and compassion. What might seem like a chance encounter is embraced as an opportunity to engage the world in a manner that reflects the character of Jesus Himself. Neighbouring here is living well amongst people who are not like us in circumstances we have not chosen. It is to see the world as God does – with a deep awareness of its needs and an open-ness to mercy and compassion.

What might it mean for us to be a people who see what matters to God?

Since moving to Canberra Monica and I have noticed a number of changes since we last lived here a quarter of a century ago. New suburbs have carpeted districts we remember as paddocks. The city has a light rail system. There is more high-rise development. The population is



more culturally diverse.

However, one of the biggest changes we both noticed almost immediately: we see a lot more homeless people. Like the characters in Jesus' parable we must decide what to do with that sight. Will we cross over the road and retreat into neighbourhood on our terms? Or will we seek

to be the neighbours God is calling us to be and be open to responding with mercy and compassion?

Our world desperately needs good neighbours. My hope and prayer is that as a Diocese we might see the world as God does and feel and act in the Spirit of Jesus.

Blessing of the Truffle Dogs



Image credit: The Goulburn Post

The honorary priest-in-charge of the Mulwaree Mission District, Tom Frame, led the fifth annual 'Blessing of the Truffle Dogs' on Sunday 16 June as part of the Canberra district truffle festival.

This high profile local event brings farmers and churchgoers together with devotees of fine food in an atmosphere of friendship and fellowship.

More than 60 people participated in the liturgy followed by a truffle hunt and lunch featuring the many ways in which truffles, a new crop in the Tarago district, can be served and enjoyed.

The day was hosted by local identities Denzil and Anne Sturgiss who have been growing the highly sought after truffles for more than a decade.

Proceeds from the day support the work of St Andrew's church at Tarago, one of three churches in the Mulwaree Mission District, which was formed in 2012.

Tom Frame was formerly Bishop to the Defence Force (2001-2007) and Director of St Mark's National Theological Centre (2007-2014). He now works at UNSW Canberra and has a cattle property at the southern end of Lake Bathurst.

Clergy Moves

The Reverend Emma Street was appointed as a Reserve Chaplain RAAF which she will exercise alongside her ministry in the Parish of Charnwood.

The following clergy have been granted an ATO:

The Reverend Ian Chaplin (28.06.2019)

The Reverend Catherine Eaton (13.06.2019)

The Reverend Tracey Matthews (13.06.2019)

The Reverend Peter Rose OAM (21.06.2019)

Canon Dr Sallyanne Hart has resigned as Priest-in-Charge Taralga, Canon of St Saviour's Cathedral Goulburn, Area Dean Goulburn and as a Member of the Public Issues Commission (from 28.08.2019).

AnglicanNews

Editor: Alison Payne
Phone: 02 6245 7154

Address: GPO Box 1981, Canberra, ACT 2601
Advertising: enquiries to the editor.

Email: alison.payne@anglicands.org.au

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Celebrating 50 Years of Ministry



The Ven Emeritus John Gibson and Reverend Chris Simon cut the cake.

Christopher Simon and Ven Emeritus John Gibson were ordained as priests on 11 June 1969. The 50th Anniversary Celebration was held at St John's, Reid, ACT where they were ordained.

Christopher Simon

Christopher is a child of the Diocese having moved to Cooma with his parents and brother at 11 years of age.

He 'served' as a young person at Cooma, and at St John's Reid (while working in the Public Service), and then trained at St John's College Morpeth, NSW. He has served in many parishes across the Diocese, as well as a parish in the UK, and in relieving parish work in the Diocese of Sydney while lecturing at Southern Cross College, now known as Alphacrucis College. Since retiring he has continued to serve in ministry.

During the years Christopher has pursued much study, including achieving his Doctor of Ministry from Fuller Seminary in California, plus Masters' Degrees in Politics, Theology and Counselling. He is also a Clinical Counsellor in his spare time(!) and has Graduate Certificates in Pastoral and Clinical Supervision.

One of Chris's passions in parish ministry was encouraging youth and he ran youth ministries in nearly

every parish he served in. Much of his lecturing has been with young people in college. One of his greatest joys was parish life at St George's, Pearce, in the 80s and 90s where a mini-revival occurred with over a hundred young people turning to faith, many of whom are in Ministry positions across Australia and the world, and as well as those who still continue with their faith. The older congregation would often say 'we so love our youth!'

Since retiring Chris has done Interim Intentional Ministries in a number of parishes in the Diocese as well as in Bendigo Diocese.

He met his wife Kathryn while in Theological College and they married in August 1969 – nearly 50 years ago also! They have three wonderful children, and their partners, and five of the best grandchildren!

Through Chris's wide experiences his (sometimes obscure!) sense of humour and ability to laugh at himself has stood him in good stead. His strong sense of integrity and unwavering commitment to prayer and calling, and his love of God is commendable. With his broadened ministry he has an ability to minister and teach comfortably across the spectrum of the Anglican Church, Catholic, Evangelical and Charismatic, as well as working alongside the Pentecostal church. One young person once called him an Anglicostal!!

May the Lord continue to use him, and bless him, in whatever work he is asked to do.

by Kathryn Simon

John Gibson

Returning to St John's where I was priested 50 years ago brought back a flood of memories. As a child my father, Arthur Gibson, was appointed Assistant Priest at St John's (April 1952 – January 1954). All Saints Ainslie was then in its infancy and part of St John's Parish. We lived in



Archdeacon Emeritus David Hill, Archdeacon Emeritus John Gibson, The Reverend Dr Chris Simon and Father Michael Cockayne.

Angus Street, Ainslie, and I vividly recall early Sunday mornings when we would go to the Scout Hall in Corroboree Park, Ainslie, clean up and set up for the Holy Communion service. Towards the end of our time in Ainslie, All Saints Hall had been built and we worshipped there. Subsequently we moved and were among the first residents in the new suburb of O'Connor, then also part of St John's parish. My father's funeral took place at St John's in June 1954. My first curacy was at St John's (1969-1970) and in August 1970 Narelle (nee Kelly) and I were married at St John's where Narelle was a parishioner. So I have a varied and significant association with the parish.

I served in the Diocese until 1984 and then in the Diocese of Riverina from 1985 to 2007. Since returning to Canberra I have been 'recycled' as locum priest on several occasions and presently give a helping hand in the parish of Manuka.

Preparations for priesting included 'some formal attention given to what priesthood involves' (quote from Bishop Cecil Warren, then Assistant Bishop of the Diocese, in his letter to me in January 1969). This included a 3000-word essay on the topic 'Faith in the Living God' from the Lambeth Conference 1968, as well as

sketching a whole week's work in the parish as far as I knew it, including my work. I was to discuss this and state the priorities that I would set on the various things that are done.

Primarily the anniversary was a time of giving thanks to God for all his blessings. My ministry has been rich and varied including curacies, being rector of parishes, dean of a cathedral, archdeacon administrator of a diocese (Riverina) and participation in the wider life of our Anglican Church. My wife Narelle has been and continues to be a great helpmate, whilst also exercising her own gifts and interests, and our children Andrew and David and their families have enriched our lives. To God be the glory and thanks to the many laity and clergy who we have ministered with to make Our Lord known and loved.

by John Gibson

Below Left L to R: Kathryn Simon and Narelle Gibson.

Below: The Celebration Cakes plus historical photos.



Below L to R: Archdeacon Emeritus David Hill, The Reverend Dr Christopher Simon, Archdeacon Emeritus John Gibson, The Reverend Robert Lindbeck, The Reverend Bob James, Father Michael Cockayne, Father Bill Pryce, The Reverend David Clark.



St Alban's Day Celebrations in Woden Parish

BY REVEREND JENNY WILLsher



Lay Minister Basil La Brooy, Primate of Australia The Most Reverend Dr Philip Freier and Reverend Jenny Willsher.

The Parish of St Alban the Martyr had a wonderful celebration weekend for our Feast Day on the 22nd and 23rd June. We were able to Welcome Bishop Mark and Monica to our Saturday evening service.

The worship was uplifting with an exceptional sermon from Bishop Mark and some truly wonderful and rousing hymns about St Alban and his beheading! Our worship was followed with delightful fellowship as we shared a meal together in the Parish meeting room.

The celebrations continued on Sunday morning with a surprise visit (at least to those who did not have access to the Parish Facebook Page) to the 10am Eucharist by the Primate, Archbishop Philip Freier. The Primate, who was in Canberra for 10th National Forum

of the National Council of Churches Australia, was the celebrant for our sung Eucharist. The Rector, Reverend Jenny Willsher, used the images of the red rose – symbolising sacrifice, and a glass of water – symbolising hospitality, to draw together the martyrdom of St Alban and Jesus' words in the Gospel for the day, challenging the congregation to live the Gospel in their lives by being people of hospitality and sacrifice.

Archbishop Philip ended the worship by reflecting on his ministry as Primate and offering words of encouragement to the Parish and their ministry and inspiring them to continue to seek new ways to reach out to others with the love of Christ.

The congregation then gathered for a sumptuous morning tea and fellowship with the Primate.

Sharing a Meal; Sharing a Story

BY CHARLES BODY



*'Don't lock me up, I'm not a criminal;
You know that I have done no wrong.
I'm just a poor asylum seeker,
Won't you listen to my song.'*

These sad and haunting words were sung at an interdenominational service at Holy Covenant Anglican Church, Jamison, on Sunday 23 June to mark Refugee Week.

The speakers at the service were the Reverend Peter Malone (an aged care chaplain in our Diocese) and Ms Megan Watts (from Tuggeranong Uniting Church) who voiced their despair and anger that Australia continues to lock up innocent people on Manus Island and Nauru, with no prospect for some of them of ever being released. Peter and

Megan expressed their commitment to stand firm with Jesus in the struggle for justice, even in the face of criticism and intimidation.

But the speakers also celebrated the contribution refugees can make to Australia when they are given a chance. The theme for Refugee Week in 2019 is 'Sharing a Meal; Sharing a Story'. Peter suggested that when Jesus shared the Last Supper with his friends and said 'Do this in remembrance of me' he was not just talking about remembering the past. Jesus knew that he was about to

face great suffering and that many of his followers would endure similar

suffering, and he was encouraging them to remain strong in the certain promise of God's future kingdom on earth. We can cling to this hope today on behalf of our brothers and sisters who are enduring unimaginable suffering in detention centres.

Following a time of prayer and reflection, candles were lit for the people still trapped on Manus Island and Nauru.

The idea of holding an interdenominational service during Refugee Week came from the Faith-Based Working Group of the Canberra Refugee Action Campaign and was readily embraced by the Rector of Holy Covenant parish, Archdeacon Wayne Brighton. Future activities by the Refugee Action Campaign can be found on the website refugeeaction.org.

- Introduction to New Testament
- The European Reformations
- Being the Church

... and more!

AUDIT CLASSES WITH ST MARK'S
Participation without assignments

CLOSING DATE MONDAY 15 JULY

St Mark's
NATIONAL THEOLOGICAL CENTRE

STMARKS.EDU.AU

Mothers' Union Canberra & Goulburn Diocesan Overseas and Northern Outreach Day

BY JOAN EBERLÉ, DIOCESAN PRESIDENT



Christine enjoying lunch with MU Immediate Past President, Anne Downing

Christine Brain travelled from Perth to be our preacher and guest speaker at Holy Cross Anglican Church, Hackett, where members of Mothers' Union and friends gathered on 26 June to hear of the wonderful projects being promoted, both here in Northern Australia and Overseas.

The service was presided over by our MU Chaplain, Reverend Joan Smith and the Rector of Holy Cross, Reverend Dr Tim Watson, also an MU member.

Christine's sermon was from the Book of Ruth and explored her relationship with her mother-in-law, Naomi. Ruth found ways to serve Naomi in a loving way and by

being faithful to her God's promises. Christine encouraged us not to be bitter, grumpy and disappointed, allowing our disappointments to cloud our vision of life but to find our hope and joy in the many ways God cares for us and the Nations.

Following communion Christine used a Power point presentation to outline some statistics relating to Mothers' Union projects along with her enthusiastic reporting of God's work being carried out under the MU banner in 84 countries, supported by over 4 million members worldwide.

In all that we undertake to do we are asked to focus on the Objects central to our Charter; to uphold

and support marriage and family life, protecting children, helping families who have met with adversity, and underpinning our work with prayer.

Christine highlighted some of the overseas projects that Mary Sumner House London, UK, is coordinating in 2019-2020. Reaching out to refugees is a key area of focus: of the 25.4 million refugees worldwide, 2.4 million are from South Sudan and Uganda hosts 1.4 million of them. Both of these countries with large Mothers' Union memberships have priority in the 2019/20 project; Training and Support for South Sudanese church leaders who were hosted in safety in Uganda as they worked out Peace and Reconciliation strategies for their people in trauma. There are also members working with internally displaced people and refugees in Myanmar, Burundi and Manchester, UK. This diocese is the first Mothers' Union to officially sponsor a family from Syria under the government's Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme.

Here in Australia our 5,000 members focus on local needs such as hospital visiting, Marriage Enrichment, Parenting Programs, Women's

Refuge Centres, Family Court Duty and praying for families affected by a parent in prison.

Christine outlined how monies received from Branches across Australia were administered, describing in detail the allocation of grants for 2019 her in Northern Australia. Altogether well over \$55,000 was allocated.

As convener for Overseas and Northern Outreach, Christine concluded her talk with a challenge (referring to 1 Timothy 2:18). If each MU member (5,000) put aside \$1.00 per week for 50 weeks it would add up to a staggering \$250,000. There is much that could be done to grow God's Kingdom in remote regions of Northern Australia and in Overseas Countries with such resources.

Members and guests enjoyed a hearty soup lunch in St Margaret's Hall where Hackett Branch members demonstrated their wonderful hospitality and care to those present.

We look forward to and welcome seeing new faces at our next Diocesan Day on Wednesday, 21st August, when AMUA's Australian President, Reverend Anne Kennedy will be our Guest Speaker at Holy Cross Hackett.

A New Junior School Building for Radford College



Principal of Radford, Fiona Godfrey, Radford Chairman Steve Baker, Bishop Mark Short and children from the School.

Radford College was honoured to have Bishop Mark officially open the new Years 3 and 4 building, The Ridge, on Friday 7 June. The sun was shining, and the faces of the students beamed too as they waited for the event to begin.

Year 4 Students Eli Hezkial and Imogen Wallace did a fantastic job as MCs. They opened proceedings with an acknowledgement of the Ngunnawal people, the traditional custodians of the land on which the building proudly stands. Radford appreciates the significance of our relationship with Gossan Hill and being united in living, learning and connecting.

The children sat engaged as Radford Principal Fiona Godfrey drew on the classic tale of the *Three Little Pigs*, telling the story of a school that wanted to make sure there was room for everyone. Mrs Godfrey spoke of the many wise people who came together to create the new building—made of bricks—and we were lucky to have a number of them in attendance at the opening. Radford Chairman Steve Baker spoke to students of his own fond memories of Years

3 and 4, as well as those of his children. Overwhelmingly, the recurring theme was about people – the wonderful teachers we learn from and the lasting friendships we make.

The Years 3 and 4 students sang an inspirational rendition of *I am the Earth*, which was met with widespread applause. The performance highlighted the considerable talents of the College's music teachers and we are grateful for the energy, efforts and influence of Caroline Suthers and Bron Potter.

As he unveiled the plaque, Bishop Mark remarked on the beautiful natural environment surrounding the new learning space. His moving dedication honoured those who will work and learn in the building, wishing it to be a place of safety, joy and wonder for them.

Everyone knows that a good party often involves cake. The cutting of the official cake completed the ceremony, and was carried out by Pre-Kindergarten students, Naksh Yalamanchili and Peilin Luo, the youngest students in the College.

by Natalie Sweet, Communications Officer Radford College

What's On



Diocesan Synod 2019

Our Diocesan Synod will be held from 6-8 September 2019 in Goulburn.



CANBERRA
CHURCH
PLANTING
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**FRUITFUL
CHURCHES
CONFERENCE**
Monday 19 August
Good Shepherd, Curtin
jonathan@LVAC.org.au



AMBER NICHOLS

KATIE DE VEAU

Embracing MUSIC

join us for a night of

Embracing Ministries are fundraising to support refugee families living with a disability

Saturday 20 July | 6.30pm
Mosaic Baptist Church
Dallachy Street, Page

Tickets \$40 : www.trybooking.com/BDCYT

For more info please contact Andrea De Vaal Horciu:
P | 0404 256 714
E | info@embracingministries.org

If you can't make the night but would like to contribute, donations can be made to Embracing Ministries via: Anglican Investment Development Fund (AIDF) BSB 702 389 | ACC: 0520 9841 | please label it 'refugee fund'

BOARD POSITION VACANT

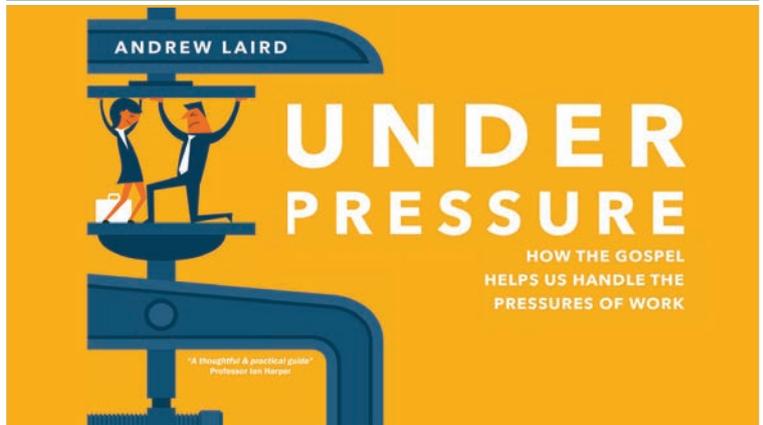


Situated on the Murrumbidgee River at Cotter, Greenhills Centre is one of the larger Christian camp and conference facilities in Australia providing catered accommodation to church, community and school groups. It provides a Christian outreach for the Uniting Church in this region and is governed by a Board appointed by the Presbytery. Many Anglican groups choose to use Greenhills for their church camps, retreats and educational activities.

We currently have vacancies for Board positions particularly for people with financial, educational or building related skills. The Board meets 4 times each year.

If you have been spiritually uplifted by a stay at Greenhills or have a heart for God's work in Christian camping, you might want to consider making a contribution either as a Board member or in an advisory capacity.

Please contact Harold Small, Board Chair, on 0429880415 or hjsmall@grapevine.net.au to discuss and explore how you might be able to help. Website www.greenhillscentre.org.au



'Why do I feel so stressed about work?' 'Is life always going to feel this overwhelming and busy?' 'How can my faith help me cope with the demands of my workplace?' If you've asked these kinds of questions before, you're not alone. When it comes to our daily work, most of us are feeling the squeeze. We're under pressure.

Join us for one night only, after work, as we consider how the Gospel helps us handle the pressures of work. From addressing our hearts to changing our daily work habits, we will provide hope for the working Christian who feels under pressure.

Featuring:

- Andrew Laird (author, Under Pressure)
- Lieutenant Colonel Carney Elias (Australian Defence Force)
- Rev Dr Andrew Cameron (Director, St Mark's)

Tuesday, August 13, 6-8pm
St Mark's National Theological Centre
<https://lifeatwork.org.au/canberra>

30TH AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST
MONDAY 14TH OCTOBER 2019, 6:30AM FOR A 7:00AM START
GREAT HALL, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, CANBERRA

nationalprayerbreakfast.org