

Deacons Around the Diocese



Don baptising Angus in a wonderful country shearing shed

BY REVEREND DON JAMIESON, MURRUMBURRAH-HARDEN

I am in my twenty-fifth year as a deacon and heading towards my eighty-third birthday. Having been a teacher through most of my working life it was quite a difference moving into the role of deacon and working in the aged care area. My main areas of ministry involved me visiting in two aged care facilities and a hospital in our parish. Early in my time as a deacon I also volunteered two days a week at the Centre for Ageing and Pastoral Studies for its first two years. While there I wrote two books for the Centre, *Walking with Forgotten People* and *Exploring and Affirming My Life*.

Early in my time as a deacon I was asked to baptise a baby in a garden. I must admit I was a little reluctant however I talked about it with Bishop George Browning and he encouraged me to go ahead and to work on ways in which both parents and godparents could be included more.

Together with Archdeacon Anne Ranse, I worked on this over a number of years resulting in some very happy baptism services in some unusual places. It seemed to fit so well with the idea of a deacon being a bridge between church and community.

At the invitation of Bishop Stuart Robinson and Archdeacon Anne Ranse I worked with a number of others on the Episcopal Task Force on Older People and Ministry. We produced a report for the Bishop and Synod called *They Belong They Believe*. This report covered a wide range of topics and included a number of research and position papers to help parishes include older people in ministry. As well Anne and I wrote a book called *When I'm Old: A guide to Pastoral Ministry with Frail Isolated Older People*. Anglicare published both the report and the book on behalf of the Task Force.

When you minister to older people one of the things that happens is that you are invited to take a lot of funerals. Early in my ministry I decided that I would make funerals my top priority. It is a wonderful privilege a person or a family gives you to bring people together in a celebration of someone's life, while at the same time, reverently acknowledging the loss and grief that goes with it.

Also it is a privilege to be asked to join with a family around the bedside of a loved one in their final hours on this earth. It is one of those

very special times where you feel God's presence so closely.

My ministry has taken me into a number of health-related groups over the years. These include the Southern Slopes Health Council, the Healthy Harden Committee and the Community Visitor's Scheme. Again these are connections allowing that bridge between community and church. More recently I have become a volunteer with Dementia Australia, working with the Dementia advisor for our LGA. We gather together people living with dementia and their carers in a pleasant social situation encouraging a lot of reminiscing, stories and laughs. Our main aim is to enhance the quality of life for those who come along. My main task in this area in 2022 will be working with a small committee to establish a Dementia Friendly community across the Hilltops Shire.

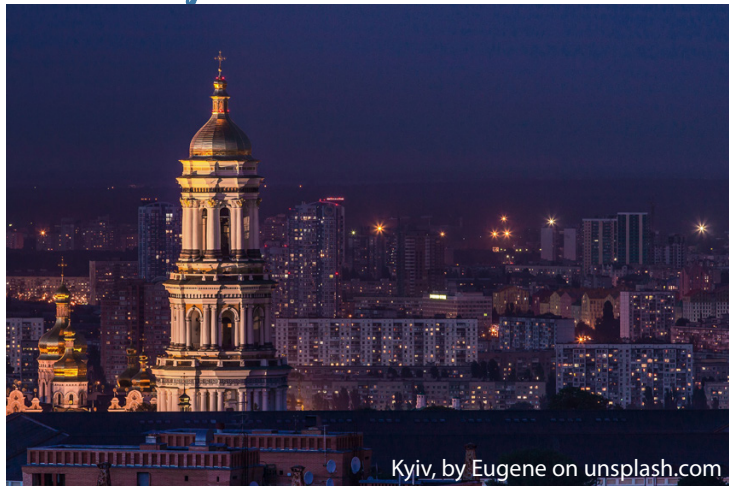
Once COVID came along some of my ministry with older people was curtailed by lockdowns. This has given me time to work on another project dear to my heart; writing a book about my experiences as a deacon. As well as a lot of material I have collected over the years I have been able to do considerable

research using the wonderful Library at St Mark's National Theological Centre. Our Diocese is very fortunate to have such a resource. My plan is to have this book finished by the end of this year.

One other area of ministry that has brought joy to my heart has been one I have called Supportive Listening. In the last ten years God has placed some older men in my path giving me opportunity to listen to their issues and difficulties in life. I gather one-on-one with each man on a regular basis at one of our local coffee shops and I let them talk while I listen carefully. I don't try to offer advice very often. Rather I use an old teacher's approach by asking questions that help the person discover their own answers. The gift of time like this can be very valuable to someone who really needs a supportive ear. Even in a small community like the one I live in there are always people who need that kind of support.

At my age I am never too sure what is in front of me, but one thing I can be sure of is that God will guide and encourage me to continue with current ministries or introduce me to new areas of diaconal service.

Bishop Carol Writes



Kyiv, by Eugene on unsplash.com

STANDING IN THE BREACH FOR UKRAINE

We have all been following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. How could we not? It has been plastered across our media screens since Russia began amassing its forces at the Ukraine border and we have been kept graphically informed ever since.

A few days after Russia invaded Ukraine, I saw footage of a Ukrainian couple who rushed into emergency with their 18-month-old child bundled in a bloody blanket. The child had been injured by shrapnel in the shelling. Although the hospital did everything they could, that little life was lost. The keening of the grieving mother is still etched deeply in my mind.

A nation has been violently subjugated, its freedom stolen. So many innocent lives have been lost; so many homes; so many of the nation's treasured buildings. There is no food, no water, and no power for heating in the thick of a Slavic winter. Now Russia is even preventing Ukrainians from fleeing – unless of course they flee to Russia. The rest of the world is incensed. Sanctions have been imposed, but nations have stopped short of antagonising Russia to the point where she might deploy her nuclear weapons.

I find myself thinking grimly, 'He who dares, wins'. It's not right, to win at such incredible cost. So many of us are feeling angry, aggrieved and completely helpless.

Yet as God's people, we are not helpless. In Psalm 106, the psalmist recalls the Israelites rebelling while Moses was on Mt Sinai with God. They made a golden calf and worshipped it and God was angry.

v23 Therefore he (God) said he would destroy them—

had not Moses, his chosen one, stood in the breach before him,

to turn away his wrath from destroying them.

The Israelites did it again, and worshipped Baal. Again, God was angry, and a plague broke out among the people. But then we read,

v30 Then Phinehas stood up and interceded,

and the plague was stopped.

My point is not that Ukraine has angered God, and that he has sent the Russians to punish them – my point is about the power of intercessory prayer. In the case of Russia and Ukraine, the power of prayer from people willing to 'stand in the breach' between the oppressor and the oppressed; people willing to intercede for the nation of Ukraine. My point is that prayer moves the hand of God.

A great story of intercessory prayer is in Acts 12. Peter had been imprisoned and the new church was gathered in prayer for him. An angel miraculously set Peter free.

v12 ... he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark,

where many people had gathered and were praying. Peter knocked at the outer entrance, and a servant named Rhoda came to answer the door. When she recognised Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it and exclaimed, 'Peter is at the door!'

Jesus encourages us to pray and believe – and we will receive what we pray for (Mat 11:24); Paul tells us to 'pray without ceasing' (1 Thess 5:17). Stories of miraculous answers to prayer abound in Christian literature and in our own lives. We know God responds to the impassioned, persistent prayers of his people. (Luke 18:7) Although there is no formula which will enable us to manipulate God to do what we want, we can always be confident that if we pray, God will hear us.

We don't have to watch the unfolding tragedy in Europe and feel there is nothing we can do. There IS something we can do and it's more powerful than any threat of nuclear war. We can pray, and trust that our loving, compassionate, and almighty God hears us.

Watchman Nee, author of *The Normal Christian Life*, once said, 'Our prayers lay the track down which God's power can come. Like a mighty locomotive, his power is irresistible, but it cannot reach us without rails.'

A prayer from the service of Compline – slightly adapted – moved me this evening.

Come, O Spirit of God, and make this world your dwelling place and home.

May its darkness be dispelled by your light,
and its troubles calmed by your peace;

may all evil be redeemed by your love,

all pain transformed through the suffering of Christ,

and all dying glorified by his risen life. Amen

Let us stand in the breach for Ukraine – and pray!



Clergy Moves

The Venerable Paul Davey has been appointed Archdeacon for Goulburn and the Southern Tablelands 26.02.2022

The Reverend Canon Dr Ben Edwards was licensed and installed as a Chapter Canon of the Cathedral on 26.02.2022 having been elected at Synod 2021.

The Reverend Vicki Hancock has been licensed as Hon Priest, Cartwright Mission District 26.02.2022

The Reverend Kim Hoey has been licensed as Deacon Assistant, Wagga Wagga 26.02.2022

The Reverend Kay Pendlebury has been licensed as Assistant Priest Manuka 26.02.2022

The Reverend Wendy Robertson has been licensed as Deacon Defence Force Reserve Chaplaincy 26.02.2022

The Reverend Craig Rogers has been licensed as Assistant Priest, Wagga Wagga 26.02.2022

The Reverend Ronaldo Sanchez has been licensed as Deacon Assistant Curtin Parish 25.02.2022

The Reverend Byron Steele has been licensed as Assistant Priest, Gungahlin 26.02.2022

The Reverend Tracey Sutherland has been appointed Assistant Priest St John's Canberra (p/t) from 07.02.2022 and licensed accordingly on 03.03.2022

The Reverend Dr Guerin Tuono has been appointed Assistant Priest St John's Canberra (p/t) from 14.02.2022 and licensed accordingly on 03.03.2022

The following clergy have had their ATO renewed:

The Reverend Jill Elliot 08.02.2022

The Reverend Paul Sampson has been appointed BCA new NSW/ACT Regional Officer and will be licensed accordingly.

The Reverend Amanda Wheatley 03.03.2022

AnglicanNews

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Articles for each edition need to be submitted by the 25th day of the previous month.

The Anglican News welcomes contributions of up to 600 words that highlight ministry and mission initiatives across the Diocese or explore new ways of engaging a world of difference with the love and truth of Jesus.

Any statements or opinions expressed in articles published in this newspaper are attributed to the identified author and are not necessarily endorsed by or representative of the Diocese or its officers.

QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE MEMORABLY CELEBRATED AT ST PAUL'S MANUKA



Clergy are presented to the Governor-General

by Fiona Cochaud
Manuka Parish

On 6 February 2022, St Paul's Manuka joined churches around Australia and the Commonwealth to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Her Majesty the Queen's accession to the throne with a Festal Evensong service. No other Australian (or even British) monarch has ever celebrated seventy years of dedicated and faithful service to the nation, making this year's Platinum Jubilee truly unprecedented.

The special occasion was attended by Their Excellencies General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, and Mrs Linda Hurley, the British High Commissioner Vicki Treadell CVO, as well as our Diocesan Bishop the Right Reverend Dr Mark Short, and Assistant Bishop, the Right Reverend Carol Wagner.

Ecumenical guests included the Most Reverend Christopher Prowse, Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn; Father Trenton van Reesch, Administrator, St Christopher's Cathedral Parish; the Reverend Martin Johnson, Rector of O'Connor; and the Reverend Gabor Szabo, Canberra-Queanbeyan Lutheran Parish, and chaplains from the Forces. Other visiting and

associate clergy also participated, the colour and variety of their stoles and copes adding to the grandeur of the procession.

St Paul's is no stranger to royal occasions, including hosting visits from The Queen herself in 1988 and 2000. Nonetheless, marking such a unique occasion in the presence of so many dignitaries required careful planning. Led by their indefatigable Rector, the Reverend Canon Dr Ben Edwards, musicians, sanctuary servers and hospitality teams alike pulled out all the stops to make it a memorable occasion.

Under the direction of Matthew Stuckings, the choir, organ, brass and timpani joyfully rendered Stanford's *Evening Service in B flat*, and other well-known works by Vaughan Williams, Walford Davies and Elgar historically associated with royal occasions. After a short reflection by the Governor-General on Her Majesty's record of dutiful service to Australia and other countries of the Commonwealth, the service concluded with the royal anthem God Save the Queen.

During refreshments, the Governor-General and Mrs Hurley graciously mingled with guests and volunteers, showing a keen interest in the life of the parish. As the Governor-General led parishioners and visitors in giving a loyal toast,

the St Paul's Bellsingers rang a commemorative Quarter Peal lasting around 45 minutes.

Other Platinum Jubilee activities will likely follow this year. In the meantime, we continue to offer thanks to God for the special example of the Christian spirit of duty, commitment and self-giving service that The Queen has consistently and quietly modelled throughout her 70 years of public life.



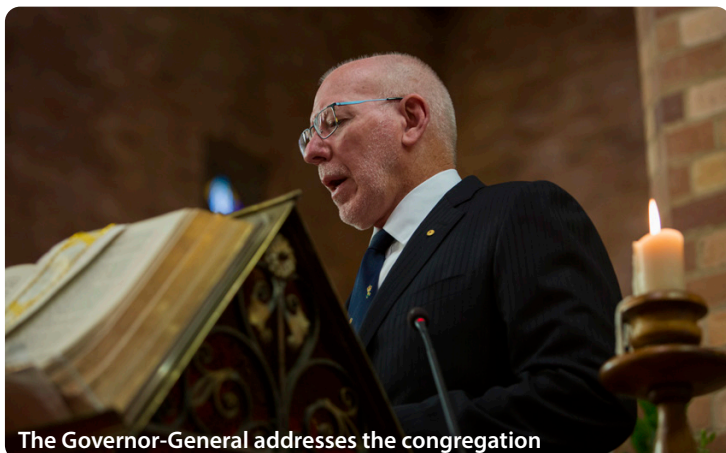
Mrs Hurley prays for The Queen



The Governor-General gives the loyal toast



Governor-General & Mrs Hurley with Canon Ben Edwards & Kate Edwards



The Governor-General addresses the congregation

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ORDINATION OF PRIESTS AND DEACONS



On 26th February in St Saviour's Cathedral Bishop Mark ordained four new priests and two deacons. Bishop Carol, who is also Director of Ordination, preached to those gathered saying:

'Being called by God to ministry is both a wonderful privilege and

serious responsibility. A deacon or priest in the Church of God must be called by God to that ministry, and this call attested to by the wider church and confirmed by the Bishop.

...

In the choosing of Matthias, we see that the first apostles trusted in God

to guide them, relying on prayer, agreed criteria and shared wisdom in their choice of a new apostle. As they prayed, discussed and discerned, the

clear call of God became evident and Matthias was chosen.

In our Gospel reading, Jesus told his disciples 'You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit'. While the apostles certainly did some work on the ground, ultimately the decision belonged to Jesus.

In our own selection of ministers, we value the same things. Our discernment process trusts God to guide us. It is steeped in prayer. Agreed criteria are taken from the Scriptures and there is shared wisdom between the church, a group of mature and dedicated advisors, and the bishops. Ultimately though, as with Matthias, the decision belongs to Jesus.'

We've included a biography supplied by each ordinand so you can get to know who they are and how they came to enter ordained ministry.

MEET THE DEACONS



WENDY ROBERTSON

Wendy is happily married to Lachlan and has four school-aged daughters Isla, Lainie, Tahli and Estelle. She grew up in Canberra (Belco girl!) and married an ADFA boy. She has worked as a registered nurse in the many different locations that the Army has taken the family. She has been an active member of lots of different churches, served in a variety of roles, and has found people who love Jesus everywhere!

During a posting to Fiji in 2013-2016, she helped with hospital chaplaincy at Colonial War Memorial Hospital in Suva and 'came alive'. Chaplaincy was the way she could best care for people.

A move to Missouri, and studies

in ministry (chaplaincy) began. She was fortunate to be able to interact with and learn from military chaplains as she trained for ministry. Moving to Canberra in 2019, she completed a MA (theology) and thoroughly loved the learning environment at St Mark's.

In January 2021, Wendy started work at Holy Covenant Jamison as a community chaplain and as a student in the pastoral care team at Calvary Hospital.

This year she is working in chaplaincy in a variety of areas – hospital, community and military soon to follow. Wendy is passionate about her call to chaplaincy, to meet people 'where they are at' and be a conduit of the care and love of God.



KIM HOEY

Kim was born in Glen Innes NSW, to farming parents, but spent most of her youth years in far North Queensland. She went to boarding school (New England Girls School (NEGS) & Somerville House) where she was introduced to God and church, and what it was to be part of a church family. After school Kim worked in the travel industry for a few years before deciding she had to get a 'real' job which brought her back to Armidale and the University of New England, where she studied to be a primary teacher.

She returned to NEGS as a boarding mistress where the school chaplain, Reverend Andrew Dirks, encouraged her to take on a greater leadership role within the school's worship, which she did. Teaching brought Kim to the Riverina area where she taught at Yerong Creek, and from there was principal at Wee Jasper and Nangus. Kim married her husband, Phil, whose lifetime career was as a paramedic – now retired. They have two girls; Eleanor

is now 18 and Katherine is 15. It was important to Kim to be at home with her girls in their years before school.

Having children and a desire for them to know God as she too had come to know God, brought Kim and the girls to St John's, Wagga Wagga. Once the girls were both at school, Kim returned to teaching on a casual on-call basis. While doing this, the position in the office at the Anglican Parish of Wagga Wagga became available and it was heaven sent. It was perfect for Kim and her family. While she may have begun in this position as strictly administration, the position has grown considerably into much more than that. Kim is an integral part of the ministry team at Wagga Anglican and coming to 'work' is a blessing and a joy each and every day.

Many have encouraged and supported Kim on this journey; her faith family at Wagga Anglican and those who have led her in that place. Kim thanks God for this opportunity and is excited about what the future holds.

MEET THE NEW PRIESTS


VICKI HANCOCK

Vicki was born in Lismore, NSW, the youngest of three children. She became a Christian in 1978 and married Tony in 1983. They moved to Canberra in 1985 and then to Wagga Wagga in 1988. During 1988 their son Ben was born, Amie followed in 1991 and Sara was born in 1994.

During 1992, Vicki made her Cursillo, which was an important event in her life. In early 2000 she completed a four-year Education for Ministry course. While working at St John's Anglican Church in Wagga Wagga, Vicki attended her first Synod and during this weekend felt

a strong call to Ministry.

In 2010 Vicki started studying at Charles Sturt University and this study has continued over the years. In 2012 Vicki and family moved to Tathra to manage Wambiri for a few years and then they moved to Gladstone, QLD, where she was ordained as a Deacon on 6 May 2015.

After serving in the Rockhampton Diocese they moved to Goulburn where Vicki has held a position of Chaplain to The Salvation Army, Gill Waminda Aged Care since 2016. Vicki has also served in the Cartwright Mission District at St Edmund's Gunning as a Deacon during this time.


KAY PENDLEBURY

Kay was made deacon in St Saviour's Cathedral on St Matthias Day in 2018. Since then she has held the position of Deacon Assist at St Paul's Manuka, and locum chaplain to two of Anglicare's retirement villages. She is a graduate of St Mark's Canberra, with an academic background which includes a Masters Degree in Economics and a Graduate Diploma in Asian Studies (Sanskrit). Her employment background is tutoring and lecturing in Economics, and (after children) a Hansard reporter in the Commonwealth parliament.

Kay grew up a cradle Anglican in Bunbury, Western Australia, where she attended Sunday school in a little church only a few doors up (St David's), was confirmed at the Pro-Cathedral St Paul's, and worshipped as a young adult at the newly built St Boniface Cathedral. As a child she was 'converted' by the sense of spaciousness in worship, and the beauty of the music and liturgy.

Kay and her husband, Terry, and their two daughters (soon to be three)

moved to Canberra in the 1980s and began worshipping at St Luke's in Deakin. She joined the bell ringing band at St Clement's in Yass, and also at St Saviour's in Goulburn. In 2003 when St Paul's Manuka installed a ring of bells, she began ringing and worshipping there. Kay joined the EfM group, and began to serve in the sanctuary. She was encouraged to seek a conversation about ordination by a priest friend over a period of three weeks as they rode their bicycles along the 1,000km of the Munda Biddi Track in Western Australia.

Kay's ministry at St Paul's includes serving in the liturgy, mentoring the EfM group, facilitating the pastoral care team, visiting parishioners unable to attend church, preparing families for infant baptism, looking after the succulent garden, supervising the young singers in the Junior Choir, and generally hanging around the office and vestry. She preaches on occasion, and writes the odd article for the E-pistle. Unfortunately, she rarely gets into the bell tower these days.


CRAIG ROGERS

Craig is married to Sharon and they have two adult sons, Iain and Seamus. He grew up in Sydney's north and has fond memories of a childhood living close to the bush. Craig's earliest memories of church are of Sunday School and the traditional family service at St Peter's Anglican, in Hornsby. Craig trained as a Navy aviation technician and served at sea and ashore over a twenty-year career, before moving to Wagga Wagga to become a civilian trade trainer at the RAAF School of Technical Training.

The move to Wagga coincided with a reconnection with church life, and over the next two decades he was involved in Bible studies, pastoral

care, men's ministry and as part of the music team. After completing the BTh part-time through St Mark's, Craig was ordained deacon in 2019 and served two years as Honorary Deacon Assistant at South Wagga Anglican Church.

Craig feels a strong calling to ministry to the elderly, and in early 2021, Craig was appointed as the Anglican Chaplain and member of the pastoral care team at The Forrest Centre's residential aged care facilities. Craig is now part of the ministry team of the Wagga parish, and enjoys the diversity of worship styles and ministries the parish offers, as well as the supportive team environment.


BYRON STEELE

Byron grew up in Canberra until his parents' call to overseas ministry. This saw Byron spend his High School years in Portugal in Europe before returning to Australia in 1997.

In 1999 Byron joined the Royal Australian Navy as an Aircraft Maintenance Technician - Avionics, serving in Australia and overseas in a variety of roles. During this time, he experienced the impact of both the presence and absence of good Chaplains and witnessed the difference they can make to individuals and to an entire ship's company.

While posted to the Navy's Technical Training Faculty near Melbourne, Byron was challenged

to serve God as a Navy Chaplain and was officially accepted as an in-service trainee in 2017.

With a denominationally diverse background due to his parent's ministry, Byron has been involved in church music since his teens. This developed into gaining experience in a wide variety of church and para-church roles including involvement with IFES in Portugal, youth group and music team leadership, public event coordination, and Parish Council.

Completing theological training at St Mark's National Theological Centre in 2020, Byron is currently enjoying a two-year placement at Gungahlin Anglican Church where he worships with his wife Meredith and their two sons Lachlan and Caelan.

CURTIN CELEBRATES TEN YEARS WITH RECTOR



Reverend Guy Matthews recently celebrated ten years as Rector of Good Shepherd, Curtin. Guy and Sita were interviewed during the 4:30pm service by the Chair of Parish Council, Michael Simon, and Anglican News asked Guy some questions about longer term ministry in one place.

How did you come to be at Curtin? Is this the longest you have ever been a Rector in one parish?

I finished my schooling here before moving to Sydney, but my family remained in Canberra. After 14 years of ordained ministry in Sydney, Sita and I looked for opportunities to serve in Canberra. After a brief stopover in Wanniasa the Lord led us to Good Shepherd. Ten years is the longest I have served in one parish (by three months).

How has Curtin changed in the time you have been there?

Under God we have seen the church grow and our demographic get significantly younger. We now have many young adults as well as a blossoming children and youth ministry. I think we have also seen the church become more attractive

and welcoming to newcomers from all backgrounds.

What have been some of the highs and lows of the last ten years?

The highs have come mainly through seeing Spirit-led change in people's lives, whether it's coming to know Christ for the first time, or growing in their love for him and living for him. Getting to know and serve alongside our Karen brothers and sisters (who have come mostly from refugee camps in Thailand) has also been a highlight. Seeing the children and youth ministry grow has been a great answer to prayer. The lows include the recent lockdowns, the death of beloved brothers and sisters and the moving away of others.

What are some things you have learned from staying in the same parish for ten years?

One of my early mentors advised me, 'Don't overestimate what can be achieved in one year, don't underestimate what can be achieved in five years.' I think we have seen that at Good Shepherd x2! We put a lot of work into preparing the soil and sowing the seed but the fruit may take many years to come forth.

What would you say are the benefits of staying long-term in one place?

Staying long-term allows for stability and consistency in parish life. It also allows deep trust to be built between the Rector and other leaders in the church. This in turn allows for more thoughtful and long-term plans to be put in place which we trust will see long-term fruit.

Do you have any advice for other Rectors about ministry over time or anything you've learned from your experience?

Stick to the basics: Love and serve your people, preach the Word in season and out of season, pray on all occasions, work on your own godliness and building healthy family life, encourage and empower others to use their gifts to serve in the church, keep thinking about how to make church inviting for all newcomers.

Do you have any future plans at Curtin?

We have recently been through a 'church consultation' with *Reach Australia*. During the process they carried out a thorough analysis of our church and helped us identify



pathways for growth into the future. The comprehensive report has given us much food for thought. It boils down to being as clear as we can about our mission and the various parts to it and then intentionally building teams and directing resources to enable the mission. This is what we are going to be working on in the coming year. We are also considering how we can allow Good Shepherd to continue to grow with current limited facilities.



PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY and

PUBLIC LECTURE

From social media to submarines, the world is increasingly obsessed with surveilling others to commoditise and control. Join us as Lecturer in Theology and Ethics, Dr Amy Erickson, contrasts these prevailing forms of surveillance with the spirit of Sabbath. This lecture will explore how Sabbath and surveillance depart in their approach to the act of watching, their handling of time, and their final hope.

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TIPS FOR PARISH STRATEGIC PLANNING



Ian and Steve examine the St Nick's Parish Strategic Vision

by Reverend Paul Davey

In the first part of this two-part series on parish strategic planning we saw that strategic planning was part of the core business of parish councils. Parish councils in conjunction with their rector/chaplain are called by the *Governance of the Diocese Ordinance 2000* to set objectives and strategies for the work of the parish/ministry unit. This may be alarming news to some parish councils but it need not be so! Strategic planning is simply about setting objectives and deciding on strategies to meet those objectives. The following are some tips to help your parish council to plan strategically:

1. **Plan to plan** – It's important to set aside special time for parish council to engage in strategic planning. If time is not set aside it usually doesn't happen. My recommendation is to set aside separate time for a parish council strategic planning day(s).
2. **Plan to pray** – It's God's church, so humbly seeking his guidance and blessing is not just godliness but good manners! Without humble prayer and the recognition of God's sovereignty strategic planning can become an exercise in hubris (James 4:13-17). With humble prayer it is another act of faith in God's goodness and the words of the Scriptures that tell us he wants to bless his church (Matthew 16:18). So set aside special time for praying in small groups in your planning sessions and pray before each session and at other times.
3. **Look at your own strengths and characteristics first** – One of the temptations of strategic planning is to simply import a model of doing church from

somewhere else. This doesn't take into account your parish's real strengths (every parish is good at something otherwise it wouldn't exist!). It also misses the unique characteristics and situation of your parish that make it special. The danger is that you end up planning to be a pale imitation of somewhere else. Instead, plan to be the best version of *your* parish, complete with its unique setting, style and people! So, brainstorm what you're doing well (strengths) and what makes your church special (uniqueness) and build around that.

4. **Look at weaknesses too** – There may be some things your parish is not doing well at the moment. Looking at these honestly can help you decide how to either fix it or stop doing something you can't realistically do.
5. **Do some research** – Look at how other churches in *similar* settings to you have done things. Be very careful of churches that are in radically different situations either due to different culture, size or settings.
6. **Set measurable objectives** – The only way to know you have achieved your objectives is to set measurable objectives in the first place. 'A thriving children's ministry' sounds like a great objective but actually isn't. What does it look like? Can you quantify it somehow?
7. **Plan in evaluation** – This is the twin to the previous tip. You should set an end point by which you want to have reached all objectives. It's also helpful to set way points or intermediate objectives as you work towards big objectives. I find it helpful for parish council to evaluate

progress each year in October/November as a minimum. Of course, as your parish completes objectives parish council can tick them off and everyone will feel the progress that you are making.

8. **Determine strategies** – Once you have set objectives then your strategies are the things *you will do* to reach those objectives and preferably *when* you will attempt them. They are the ideas and actions that will 'get you there'. Sometimes an objective will just require one strategy. At other times it will involve multiple strategies.
9. **Dream realistically** – Shooting for the stars sounds wonderful but if a dream is too 'out there' it will actually discourage the parish. A good strategic plan

should involve manageable incremental action and change.

10. **Multiple Drafts** – Parish strategic planning is ideally something that you do over several sessions. After each session write it up and distribute it so that councillors can pray and think about it some more. Then at the start of the next session allow time to edit the draft objectives and strategies. Only when there is a consensus should you move to final printing and publication.

So, there are some tips for your parish council's strategic planning. It's not an exhaustive list but I hope it's helpful. Under the direction of your rector/chaplain enjoy praying and planning for your parish's flourishing.



Archangel Michael with sword

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ECUMENICAL PRAYER VIGIL FOR UKRAINE



Canon Ben Edwards, Catholic Archbishop Christopher Prowse, Archpriest Alexander Morozow (Russian Orthodox), Fr Walodymyr Kalineck (Ukrainian Catholic Church) and Bishop Mark

On Ash Wednesday St Paul's in Manuka hosted an ecumenical vigil for peace in Ukraine, organised by Bishop Mark and Canon Ben Edwards.

The Ash Wednesday liturgy was adapted to commence with a prayer vigil, climaxing with the Greeting of Peace and Holy Communion.

Representatives of other denominations who attended the service included: Bishop Mark Short, Archbishop Christopher Prowse and Fr Trenton Van Reesch (Catholic Church), Bishop Bartholomew (Greek Orthodox), Fr Walodymyr

Kalineck (Ukrainian Catholic Church), Archpriest Alexander Morozow (Russian Orthodox), Marusa Stular (Canberra Baptist), Sue Miller (Pentecostal Church), Ramy Nakhil (Presbyterian Church)

Bishop Mark gave a thoughtful and timely reflection from Genesis 4: 1-2, on dust and how it helps us to remember our common humanity as from it we are all formed in Genesis 2; to remember the tragedy of war as first seen in the story of Cain and Abel; and to remember the hope of redemption we see in Hebrews 12, where we're told

the sprinkled blood of Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Ash Wednesday is ordinarily a very solemn occasion, and this was even more so as a gathering in Vigil for the Ukraine. A most poignant moment was the embrace of the Russian and Ukrainian priests who sat beside one another in the front pew of St Paul's Church during the service.

A small group of people from the Ukrainian community were present, including some whose families are in Kyiv.

With thanks to Canon Ben Edwards for providing the photographs and details.

Today is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent in the Western Church calendar. It's a time for reflection, perhaps an opportunity to pause and do some of our own writing in the dust.

And if that dust helps us remember our shared humanity, the awful tragedy of war and our common need for grace and redemption, and if it inspires us to pray fervently, give generously and reach across the barriers and borders that divide us – then it will have served us, and our broken world, well.

May we all remember that we are dust and to dust we shall return.

~ Bishop Mark Short



TRAVELLING TALES

by Reverend Robert Willson

The recent restrictions have made travel much more difficult. I love the cartoon of the librarian welcoming a chap to the lending library. As she shows him around she says: 'You will notice a few changes to the books. We have now filed holiday and travel books in the fantasy section!'

When John Masters retired from the British Army in India, where his family had served the Empire for generations, he decided to go to the USA and write novels about India. A friend gave him good advice. In writing a gripping story always begin with someone going on a journey. Immediately the reader will want to know where the person is going and what will happen to them.

Jesus knew that very well. His favourite teaching method was the parable. In the parable of the prodigal son and the loving father we see the young son ask for his share of the inheritance and then he departs to a far country. Another parable begins: 'A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho...'

Jesus himself simply walked about the countryside in his ministry. As



The Sinai Desert, from Wikimedia.org

he travelled he met and talked with people. The Gospel tells us that he had nowhere to lay his head. Finally, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.

Saint Paul was one of the greatest travellers of the ancient world. It was said of him that he could never see a road winding over a mountain without wanting to know what lay beyond. He could never see a boat in a harbour without wanting to board her and sail for distant parts. And everywhere he went he simply told people about Christ, and his ministry of inclusive love, and how the fundamentalists of his day plotted to kill him.

I shall never forget a day when my

daughter and I were touring southern Turkey. Our tour guide pointed out a great range of snowclad mountains. We stopped and I walked a little way towards the Taurus mountains, recalling that Paul tramped through them on foot.

My wife and I on another journey crossed the Sinai desert in an airconditioned bus, part of a military style convoy. We kept stopping and changing the order of vehicles, so that each vehicle had an equal chance of hitting the landmine first.

I remembered the scene in the movie *Lawrence of Arabia*. Lawrence tells the Sheik that he will go to Cairo and get British gold for him.

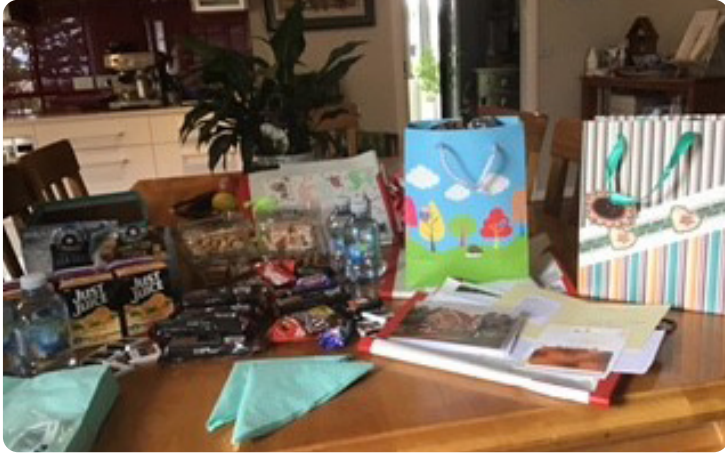
The Sheik is horrified. 'You will die crossing Sinai'. Lawrence replied 'Moses did'. The Sheik replies that Moses was a great prophet of God and Lawrence shouts 'So am I' and urges his camel on.

Australian history includes epic journeys of the great explorers, as well as bishops and clergy like Broughton. Bishop Neville Chynoweth told me once of a hot summer day at Manly Primary School. He was nine years old and thinking of the beach and the pool after school.

Miss Ogilvie was telling the class a boring story about some dusty old explorers named Burke and Wills. Suddenly her voice broke and she burst into tears. She had become so emotionally involved in this epic story of blundering and survival and death and courage and fear, that she sobbed and sobbed.

The whole class sat up. Neville said he never forgot it. Life is a fearful and a wonderful journey. At the end of his travels Jesus set his face to go to Jerusalem and the Cross. And at this season of Lent he says to us: 'Take up your Cross and follow me.'

BLESSING PACKS



by Dr Monica Short

COVID-19 disrupted many of our clergy spouses' events in our beautiful Diocese in 2021 and early 2022. This was a shame as excitement about the programmed events had grown; there were quite a few early bookings. Those of us who were organising the events were disappointed about the cancellations.

Mothers' Union, Bishop Mark Short and Monica Short started sharing ideas of what we could do to bless the people who had booked into a cancelled event. We came up with the idea of blessing packs.

Mark and Monica went shopping for treats. Mothers' Union donated gift cards for coffee, and Joan and Dorothy from Mothers' Union started packing picnic bags. Each

registered spouse was mailed treats for a picnic to share with their spouse.

It was fun to receive thankyou from the spouses – and it seems everyone did something different with their packs. We genuinely wish every spouse in our Diocese to feel

loved and appreciated. We pray that spouses will be able to congregate together again soon.

Dear spouses, please lookout for the next round of events. A deep thanks for everything you do for our beautiful Diocese.



Reverend Jason and Meredith Clift from St George's Pearce enjoying a picnic with their blessing pack.

ST JOHN'S FAREWELLS MARGARET MAGI



Photos provided by Bill Sutherland

Our Margaret Magi is one of Canberra's 'originals'. Margaret has lived 94 out of her 95 years here in Canberra. Surely close to a record? It is our loss that she is shortly relocating to Brisbane to be closer to her daughter and to her elder sister Jean! That's not a misprint.

Her grandfather ran the Murray's Bakery until 1923, the first of its type in Canberra (you can see the plaque in Commonwealth Park). Her father, Ernest, was Canberra's first Anzac who was decorated for his service at both Gallipoli and the Somme. He returned suffering the effects of mustard gas and died at the age of 54.

Margaret Murray was born in 1926 on her parents' farm, a Soldier

Settlement block in what is now part of Narrabundah and Fyshwick. She grew up helping with sheep, dairy, and cropping. One of Margaret's many jobs during her high-school years was to cook the evening dinner every night for 10 or more people. A common meal for the family was tripe, potatoes with butter and cabbage.

'Mum had three rules for the dinner table – boys wear a shirt, girls brush their hair, and everyone had to sit up straight,' Margaret recalls.

Senior school was the newly constructed Canberra High on the site of what is now the ANU School of Art, a round trip of 16km on abicycle.

After WW2, she met Paul Magi at a dance and they married in 1953. Three children came and they applied for and settled in a new government duplex in Reid just around the corner from St John's. She still lives in this same house 65 years later!

Now widowed, Margaret is still a bundle of energy, radiating joy to all who meet her.

She has been part of St John's church family since Confirmation as a teenager when she would walk 8kms from home.

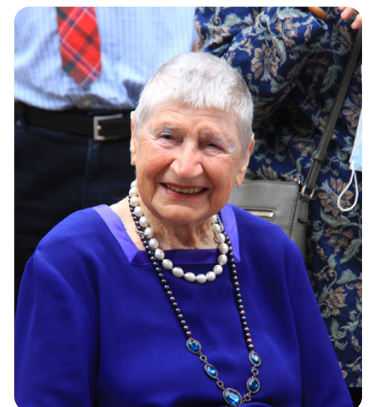
She has blessed the church in innumerable ways, such as establishing a visitation ministry to the elderly and to Canberra

Hospital, but she would like to be remembered especially for her prayer ministry. She helped start the meditation meetings and was involved with 'renewal' prayer meetings with church folk.

St John's Care will also miss her after almost 30 years of volunteer work. Her days now are filled with a leisurely breakfast in the garden, reading, prayer and meditation, listening to music and DVDs, plus a one-hour walk around the local streets and to visit her parent's graves.

St John's will miss you, Margaret Magi, and we wish you God's blessings for your new adventure in Brisbane.

This is an edited extract of an article published in Canberra Weekly, written by Neil Bowman, a parishioner at St John's. An extended version is available online at canberraweekly.com.au.



ST JOHN'S YOUNG MEN'S BREAKFAST WITH SIR PETER COSGROVE



by Rob Nash

Sir Peter Cosgrove was the guest speaker at the Men's Breakfast hosted by St John's Anglican Church, Young, on Saturday 29 January in the church hall. This visit was extremely popular and over-subscribed.

General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK AC(Mil) CVO MC (Retd) had a long and distinguished career, firstly as an Army officer then as our Governor-General from 2014 to 2019.

Sir Peter held the audience's attention with his address and

follow-on questions. He talked about the duties of the Governor-General and what they conveyed to the community. He mentioned the shooting down of MH17 and the terrible aftermath of that for families of lost ones, which saw him in the Netherlands to offer support and comfort to those people. He talked of his role with prisoners and indigenous communities. He shared about meeting the Queen on several occasions and how gracious a lady she was; how it was clear her interest in Australia was genuine. He said the most difficult part of his duties

was being made a judge at rural shows! His talk and questions held the audience spell bound for nearly two hours.

Our local Federal Member, the Honourable Michael McCormack MP, Member for Riverina, said he was delighted to attend the Men's Breakfast and commended Sir Peter Cosgrove on his dedicated service to our nation. In moving a vote of thanks to Sir Peter he said in part:

'Sir Peter Cosgrove is an inspiration to all Australians and has served our country magnificently – not only as a decorated soldier and as Governor-

General, but also in so many other facets of life.'

'Inspector Adrian Matthews led the local police contingent of six officers, the police have been strong supporters of previous breakfasts and it was good to see them here again,' said the Rector, the Venerable Neil Percival OAM.

There were men from Rotary, Lions, Fire Brigade, Police, Masonic Lodge, around 12 Vietnam veterans, Men's Shed, Harden Galong Presbyterian Church and the Islamic community who joined this gathering for the first time plus men who responded to the various media announcements.

'The ladies turned on a well-received breakfast of egg and bacon rolls. There wasn't much over at the end,' said Rob Nash who thanked the ladies for all their efforts and all who had helped in any way. The newly elected Mayor of Hilltops Council Cr Margaret Roles helped the ladies handing out meals.

Sir Peter was presented with a gift pack compiled by our local Poppa's Fudge and Jam Factory as a token of our appreciation.

The next function is scheduled for Saturday 5 December when it is hoped that Ian McNamara of the ABC radio program Australia Allover would be the guest speaker, but that's a long way off.

JUSTICE FOR REFUGEES

Palm Sunday

1pm 10 April Garema Place

by Charles Body

Readers of Anglican News might recall two articles last year by Bishop Carol Wagner about the trauma being experienced by a Sri Lankan refugee family who arrived in Australia ten years ago and have been assisted by the Parish of Bodalla-Narooma to settle into life in Australia. For no apparent reason, the family's refugee status has been revoked and, unless a court appeal in a couple of months is successful, they will be sent back to Sri Lanka where they have no house, no jobs and likely persecution.

Readers might also recall the Murugappan family who were dragged from their home in Biloela

in a pre-dawn raid four years ago and have been in detention ever since. For two years they were effectively in solitary confinement as the only detainees in the Christmas Island detention centre. It was only when four-year-old Tharnicca (who has spent all but the first few months of her life in detention) became dangerously ill that the government allowed Tharnicca and her mother to go to Perth for urgent treatment. Her father and sister were forced to remain behind on Christmas Island. Eventually the family was reunited and they are now living in community detention in Perth until their visas expire in September this year when they face the prospect of being sent back to Sri Lanka.

More recently, Novak Djokovic described as 'torture' his five-day detention in a Melbourne hotel room without healthy food, fresh air and the ability to exercise. At the time there was brief media interest in the refugees who have been there for two years and have no prospect of release. Media attention might have moved on, but the hopelessness and despair of the detainees has, if anything, increased.

These are just some of the human faces of people who are being destroyed by Australia's harsh refugee policies. Christians of all denominations, and many other concerned Australians, have decided they cannot keep silent about our heartless and brutal refugee

treatment of innocent people who need our help.

On Palm Sunday, 10th April, there will be rallies around Australia to call for 'Justice for Refugees'. The Canberra rally will begin at 1.00 pm in Garema Place, Canberra City. Speakers will include our own Bishop Carol, Craig Foster (former Socceroo, SBS sports reporter and Refugee Ambassador for Amnesty International) and Mostafa Azimitabar (a Kurdish refugee from Iran who spent 2,737 days – nearly eight years – in detention before being released a year ago on a temporary bridging visa; he faces deportation if his visa is not renewed).

NEW STAINED GLASS WINDOWS FOR ST PETER'S, NIMMITABEL



Bishop Mark Short and Reverend Wendy Bloomfield after the service.

These two stories and photographs were first published in the Monaro Post and are reproduced with permission

Nimmitabel's St Peter's Anglican Church is one of the oldest stone churches on the Monaro.

It was completed in 1882 and has been in regular use since that time.

Over the years, many generous benefactors have donated a new roof, furniture, carpets, a sanctuary lamp and organs.

In 2010, four stained glass windows were given to the church.

Three behind the altar were the gift of Peter Taylor in memory of his late wife Anne and one in the porch was given by Joanna Herbert in memory of her husband Mike.

Members of the congregation past and present also contributed to the conservation work associated with the installations.

The windows were designed by Cedar Prest OAM, one of Australia's leading stained-glass artists who has made windows for St Peters Cathedral, Adelaide, Sydney Airport, Kalamundra library, Perth, the Chaffey theatre, Renmark and numerous community projects throughout Australia.

She studied extensively in Europe and UK and was awarded a Churchill Fellowship.

Her windows are all contemporary and very colourful.

On accepting the commission to make windows for Nimmitabel in 2010, she visited the church and explored the district in order to understand the landscape.

Last year, on hearing that Cedar was planning to retire, she was invited to prepare concept designs for the remaining eight windows in the church.

Her response was immediate – she not only agreed to design the windows, but also offered to manufacture them as a gift to

the church.

She asked for designs and themes and the decision was to depict the local landscape.

She asked for photographs of favourite views and places and her final designs were unanimously accepted.

Donations were received from members of the congregation and Peter Taylor generously offered to underwrite the project in order for it to go ahead.

It is Cedar's last commission, as she has now dismantled her workshop and is disposing of her huge collection of glass.

Local builder Cliff Richards has installed the windows – a huge job requiring replacement of rotted timber frames, repairs to plaster and fitting of protective Perspex to the exterior.

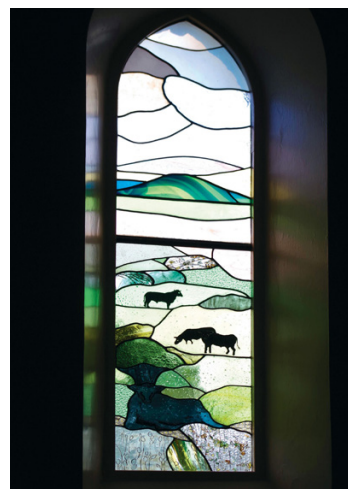
Stained glass windows have a history going back more than a thousand years and wonderful examples exist throughout the world.

One of the earliest known was a window at St Paul's Monastery in Yarrow, England, dating from 686AD.

Throughout the centuries the art has developed and changed, but has never gone out of fashion.

To have a complete suite of windows made by one respected artist is a valuable addition not only to St Peter's Church but to Nimmitabel's future heritage and history.

Following the installation of the eight new stained-glass windows in St Peter's, Bishop Mark Short held a dedication service at the church on 30th January.



BRAIDWOOD CONCERT SERIES



Photographer: Andrew Browell L-R: Hamish Stuart, Mick Nock, Jonathan Zwartz and Julien Wilson

Braidwood Concert Series is back in action! Based at the historic St Andrew's Anglican Church in Elrington Street Braidwood - a Cyril Blackett designed building, light filled with excellent acoustics and a recently restored 1904 W G Rendall manual pipe organ – we have a wonderful autumn series of live performances to present.

MARCH 2022

Saturday 12 @ 5pm **This World** new album 'Another Dance' featuring Mike Nock, contemporary jazz

Saturday 26 @ 5pm **Luminescence Chamber Singers** performing 'Ave Regina God, be with the mother'

APRIL 2022

Sunday 3 @ 2pm **Canberra Strings** performing Tchaikovsky's String Quartet No.1

Sunday 24 TBC **Anzac Organ Recital** performed by organist Brendon Lukin and soprano Catherine Lukin

Yes, we're rearing to go with our Autumn program in March and April! And the relaxation of COVID restrictions will enable you to fully enjoy these fantastic live concerts.

The Braidwood Concert Series is kicking off with the return of Australia's jazz super-group, **This World**, with selections from their new album 'Another Dance', just launched early 2022. Comprising four of Australia's most esteemed jazz musicians, the celebrated jazz ensemble **This World** made waves in 2020 with their critically acclaimed and ARIA nominated debut album. Two years on, they ask you to join them for 'Another Dance', their second full length album, recorded in Sydney on the very brink of the 2021 extended lockdown.

To celebrate the release of the new album 'Another Dance', **This World** – Mike Nock + Hamish Stuart + Julien Wilson + Jonathan Zwartz - will play four very special dates in the coming months including Braidwood. Get in early and book your tickets now as this will be a rare chance to experience live and outstanding contemporary jazz!

The first tour in February 2020 let them see firsthand the devastation wrought by the Black Summer bushfires through parts of regional NSW and ACT. In Braidwood the band donated the proceeds of their show to local bushfire victims through Blazeaid, only to have floods prevent many from attending. Several shows and festival appearances were cancelled at the eleventh hour due to COVID lockdowns and travel restrictions, including their scheduled return to Braidwood last June.

The eight new pieces presented on the 'Another Dance' album bear witness to the enduring bond the musicians share, and offer a deep and rich sense of optimism, hope and shared humanity as a tonic to these most interesting of times. Online pre-booked tickets are available through Humanitix: <https://events.humanitix.com/this-world-2022>. Tickets purchased at the door on the day will be \$38 adult and \$30 pensioners and students.

Two weeks later, the exquisite **Luminescence Chamber Singers** return under the baton of Roland Peelman AM (Canberra International Music Festival Director) to perform with composer/guitarist, Jess Green, a curated selection entitled 'Ave Regina God, be with the mother'. This celebrated ensemble includes A J America, mezzo soprano; Veronica Milroy, soprano; Rachel Mink, soprano; Jack Stephens, bass and Dan Walker, tenor.

The selection ranges from renaissance music by Guillaume Dufay, Pierre

de la Rue and Jacob Obrecht to new music by Alice Chance, Andrew Ford and Jess Green. This program reimagines the long tradition of devotional music for the virgin Mary and celebrates the many meanings of motherhood. Since 2013, **Luminescence Chamber Singers** have gained a reputation for fine singing and innovative programs. A recent reviewer extolled 'Few musical experiences can compare to the sound of unaccompanied human voices. When it's the **Luminescence Chamber Singers** that experience becomes sublime.'

For online pre-bookings for the Braidwood performance, a 10% discount has been offered using the Promo Code BCS2022 available at this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/ave-regina-god-be-with-the-mother-7429>. Otherwise, tickets purchased at the door on the day are \$45 adult, \$40 concessions and \$30 under 30s and students.

A week later, on Sunday 3 April, **Canberra Strings** return to perform Tchaikovsky's String Quartet No.1. Written in 1871, the quartet is one of Tchaikovsky's most beloved chamber works. The beautiful slow movement (Andante cantabile), based on a Russian folk tune, was adapted by the composer for cello and string orchestra to great acclaim. When Helen Keller experienced the work played by the Zoellner Quartet by touching the instruments as they were played, she wrote:

'Each note is a picture, a fragrance, the flash of a wing, a lovely girl with pearls in her hair, a group of exquisite children dancing and swinging garlands of flowers—a bright mingling of colours and twinkling feet. There are notes that laugh and kiss and sigh and melt together. And notes that weep and rage and fly apart like shattered crystal.'

Canberra Strings is a group of some of the region's leading professional musicians, dedicated to the performance of string chamber music. Directed by former Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra concertmaster Barbara Jane Gilby (and Braidwood resident), the group has received two Critics Circle awards for performances in and around Canberra. Online tickets to this performance are available at this link: <https://events.humanitix.com/canberra-strings-2022>. Ticket prices are \$30 + booking fee adults and \$25+ booking fee for concessions.

The final performance will be an organ recital dedicated to a reflection on Anzac Day. Celebrated organist and bugle player, Brendon Lukin accompanied by soprano Catherine Lukin, is preparing a performance for Sunday 24 April, Anzac Day eve. Nearer the date, program and ticket sales will be announced. Braidwood Concert Series is keen to ensure that all are welcome to attend, particularly current and previous serving members of the Australian Defence Forces.

The venue for all these performances is St Andrew's Anglican Church in Braidwood. It is advisable to bring a cushion to soften the impact of wooden pews and to arrive 20 minutes prior to the concert start times, in order to get settled and allow the performances to start on time. And, if you would like to get regular updates via the Braidwood Concert Series newsletter, please email: artwork123@icloud.com.

Contact person: Anne Sanders, Concert Co-ordinator, Braidwood Concert Series

Email: artwork123@icloud.com **Phone:** 0427 260 856

Facebook: Braidwood Concert Series News



Luminescence Chamber Singers with Roland Peelman AM