

Anglican News



December 2022

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True and Lasting Joy

Christmas reminds us that true and lasting joy is a gift we receive not a state we achieve.

In his webpost 'How to Find Joy' (www.tonyrobbins.com/mind-meaning/how-to-find-joy) life coach Anthony Robbins lists nine ways in which we can be more present and feel more joy. Almost all are about what we do – everything from 'Surround Yourself with Positive People' to 'Create Positive Rituals' to 'Change Your Physiology'.

How different is the message from the angels to the shepherds the first Christmas, as recorded in Luke's Gospel Chapter Two Verse Ten:

'Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people.'

Here joy comes to us. Instead of being the possession of a few who are able to master

is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord.'

The birth of any child is good news, but this birth and this child is uniquely good. This

and service. This child will be named Jesus, and in his life, death and rising he will do all that is needed to bring us back to God. That is great news, and if we receive it and believe it this news is reason to be full of joy.

Christmas can be a time of stress and anxiety, especially if we feel we have to create joy for ourselves and for others. Christmas can instead be a time of peace and gratitude, if we are able to rest in the joy Jesus made for us.

May God bless you and those you love with a joyful and peaceful Christmas, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

~ Bishop Mark

**This joy is good news for us,
not good news about us.**

the right techniques this joy is available to all the people without distinction. This joy is good news for us, not good news about us.

And what is that good news? The angel continues: 'to you

child is a Saviour, one who comes to rescue people from sin and death. This child is the Messiah, the long-awaited leader for God's people. This child is the Lord, the one who deserves our love and honour



Teamwork at Crookwell

by Archdeacon Paul Davey

Parishioners from the Southern Tablelands Archdeaconry gathered for a combined working bee recently to assist Crookwell parish.

The parishes of Crookwell and Taralga are getting ready to welcome a new rector next year: The Reverend Joy Harris. However, the rectory in Crookwell needed a lot of work. So, the word went out to the Southern Tablelands Archdeaconry to assist in fixing up the rectory and parishioners from other parishes gathered to assist the locals on Saturday the 29th of October.

The enthusiastic team threw themselves into the work both inside and outside the rectory. Inside, old cupboards were removed in preparation for new built ins, tiling was done and the shed was cleaned out. Outside, dangerous limbs were taken from trees, noxious weeds were removed, overgrown garden beds were weeded, decking was cleaned and oiled and windows dusted and cleaned. Several truckloads and uteloads of rubbish and garden refuse was removed from the site.

Of course, the ladies of Crookwell parish put on a fabulous spread at

both morning tea and lunch. There was much fun and laughter amidst the hard work as parishioners from different parishes got to know each other as they worked alongside each other and ate together.

'I want to thank those who've come

from elsewhere to help us today' said parish council chair Greg Seaman at lunch. 'And thank you to the locals who have worked and cooked for us. Working together much has been achieved.'



Ministry Moves

The Reverend Dr Alexander Abecina has been licenced as Senior Chaplain, Burgmann Anglican School from 26.11.2022.

The Venerable James Coats has resigned as Archdeacon for South Canberra from 17 December 2022.

The Reverend Chris Duff will be inducted as the Rector of Sapphire Coast on Saturday 7th January at 3pm at St Clement's Merimbula.

The Reverend Dr Benjamin Edwards has resigned as Area Dean of South Canberra from 31.12.2022.

The Reverend Dr Jane Foulcher has been granted an ATO on 17.11.2022.

The Reverend Joy Harris will be inducted as Rector of Crookwell and Taralga on Friday 27th January at 6:30pm at St Bartholomew's, Crookwell.

Mr Brandon Howard has been appointed as new CEO of Anglicare.

The Reverend Robin Lewis-Quinn has been granted an ATO on 26.10.2022.

The Reverend Philip Rademaker has resigned as Rector of Yass and will be granted an ATO.

The Reverend Wendy Robertson has been licensed as Assistant Priest, Parish of Jamison, and Community Chaplain from 26.11.2022.

The Reverend Ronaldo Sanchez has been licenced as Assistant Priest, Parish of Curtin from 26.11.2022.

The Reverend Dr Graham Simpson has relinquished his license as Honorary Associate Priest of Lanyon Valley Anglican Church effective 31.12.2022.

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Article Submission Details

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.

Meet the New Priests

On Saturday 26 November three new Priest's were ordained in St Saviour's Cathedral. As was prayed on the day, we ask that God might:

*Bless your servants,
Alex, Ronaldo and Wendy,
who are to be admitted to the order of priests.
Pour your grace upon them,
that they may faithfully fulfill
the duties of this ministry,
build up your Church,
and glorify your name.*



ALEX ABECINA

Alex currently serves as the Head of Ministry at Burgmann Anglican School, a role which he has held since 2011. He is married to Jenn,

and together they are raising their four children.

After receiving his physics degree from UTS, Alex taught science and maths at Shore, before moving on to Barker College to take up a role as youth worker and maths teacher. The Abecinas then packed their bags for Canada, so that Alex could undertake theological studies at Regent College, Vancouver. He received a MA, concentrating in patristic theology.

Recently, Alex completed his PhD in Theology at the University of Cambridge, focusing on the writings of St Gregory of Nyssa.

As Head of Ministry at Burgmann, Alex serves as chaplain to staff and students and also teaches Religious Studies to senior school students. In his leisure time he loves to read, write, play guitar, and run.

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 Marks. In January 2021 Wendy started work



at Holy Covenant Jamison as a community chaplain. This year she is working in chaplaincy in a variety of areas – hospital, community and military. She is excited about loving and serving the Holy Covenant community in 2023 as their assistant priest.

Wendy is passionate about her call to chaplaincy, to meet people 'where they are at' and be a conduit of the love and care of God.



RONALDO SANCHEZ

Ronaldo came to know Christ as the Saviour and Lord after a work colleague graciously shared the gospel with him. After visiting church and reading the Bible, it all came together on a special night. Having read the gospels, Jesus' death on the cross leapt out from the pages. It was the love he had always wanted

but could not get. He was excited to have read the resurrection of Christ, and realised that nothing could conquer God's love for his world.

He is married to Meghan, and they have been gifted with three beautiful children, Rosita, Rafael, and Xavier. The Lord first took Meghan and Ronaldo to serve Christ amongst Muslims in Lakemba and Greenacre. There they learnt the importance of gospel contextualisation, hospitality, and multi-language church gatherings. They then moved to Sydney's multicultural west to St John's Cathedral, Parramatta, where they enjoyed seeing a new city built, but more excitingly, a generation of youth and young adults built up as servants of Christ.

In the Canberra-Goulburn diocese, Ronaldo serves at the parish of the Good Shepherd, Curtin. He has been entrusted with the responsibility of preparing God's people for acts of service, and to engage the church in mission by proclaiming the gospel and adorning it with good works.



30th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women to the Priesthood

by Bishop Carol Wagner

The gifts Christ gave were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ. Ephesians 4.11-12

What a joy it was to be able to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the ordination of women to the priesthood on the 5th of November, 2022. Those who were in our diocese at the time will remember the rocky start, and the keen disappointment of these women as the service was stopped on the day due to a court injunction. However, an appeal was launched, which was successful, and the service later went ahead.

Of the eleven women ordained in our diocese on the 20th of December, 1992, six were able to celebrate with us. Two of the eleven have gone to be with the Lord, and three others were sadly unable to make the journey. We were blessed to have the Reverend Susanna Pain also join us, who was ordained priest the same year in the Diocese of Adelaide. Adelaide will be marking their anniversary of this event on the 4th of December.

Bishop Genieve Blackwell travelled up from Melbourne to preach at the service, and her sermon was a great encouragement. It is available on the diocesan website should any who weren't there wish to read it.

We have been greatly blessed by the ministry of our women priests since this event, and we continue to give thanks to God for the gifts he has given his church through all his people.

The Reverend Ruth Dudley some years later wrote a poem about her journey towards the priesthood. It comes from her book, 'Fruitcake for Breakfast'. It is a moving account of her experience from hearing God's call, to her actual ordination as a priest.

INEVITABLY HERS

*Long ago it had seemed
like a wisp of cloud peeping
over the horizon,
shaping and unshaping,
full of exciting promise,
yet somehow ominous
for it carried the threat of
storms and thunder
and fierce pain.*

*For many years it seemed to
come no closer.*

*Then the wind picked it up
and, gathering momentum
it moved relentlessly
toward her.*

She feared it.

How she feared it!

*It was not of her choosing
yet it was hers –
inevitably hers
and she longed to own it
and to have others own that it
was hers.*

*Heavily it hung above her
heightening her sense of
foreboding,
stretching her pain,
sharpening her longing.
Bowed under the oppression of
denial
she waited.
Then the first drops fell.
Raising her eyes to heaven
she saw God smile as cleansing
drops
of possibility and affirmation
and encouragement
rained upon her.
No longer bowed, she waited –
for inevitably
it was hers.*

by Reverend Ruth Dudley



From L to R: The Reverends Susanna Pain, Daphne May, Gill Varcoe, Pamela Phillips, Vicky Cullen, Elaine Gifford, Anne Dudzinski



From L to R: The Reverends Susanna Pain, Gill Varcoe, Anne Dudzinski, Pamela Phillips, Daphne May, Elaine Gifford, Vicky Cullen



The Reverend Hadyn Swinbourn and Canon Kevin Stone who were ordained as deacons on the same day in 1992



Bishop Genieve Blackwell preaching the sermon



Shepherding Youth and Kids

by Kiara Meres, Children and Youth Minister, Curtin

If you drive past Good Shepherd Curtin on a Friday afternoon, it is not unusual to see children playing soccer in the car park, youth running around on a scavenger hunt, or leaders cleaning slime off the floor.

Friday afternoons at Good Shepherd are action-packed with ministries designed to help children and youth know, love, and live for Jesus!

Shepherd Youth launched at the start of Term 3 in 2021 ... just weeks before Canberra went into lockdown. Seven leaders and 20 youth gather together on Friday evenings (in person or on Zoom during lockdown) to develop relationships, read the Bible together, and have plenty of fun and food in the process.

This term we held a Q&A evening where the youth were able to ask any questions they had about what it means to follow Jesus. There were questions about sharing the good news of Jesus with their friends at school, about reading the Bible, and about living for Jesus. There were so many questions that we ran out of time to answer them all!

A highlight for Shepherd Youth was in September, heading to Katoomba for KYCK, an annual youth convention. It was a great time gathering with 1000 other youth from across Australia looking at the book of Philippians and thinking about the true joy that comes through Jesus.

At the beginning of Term 4 this



year, Good Shepherd launched Shepherd Kids Club. An afternoon of fun, food, and friendship for those in Kindy and Year 5 where they play games, get creative and learn about Jesus.

A large focus of Kids Club has been to connect the children with each other and with a variety of Christian adults. We have loved seeing intergenerational relationships form between the children and the leaders with a leadership team ranging in age from their early 20s, up to their 70s! It has been great to see the children and leaders getting to know one another, enjoying fellowship, and being encouraged by one another.

A highlight of Kids Club has been seeing grandparents that attend Good Shepherd bring their grandchildren along! In the first term alone we have seen children who do not go to church coming along to Kids Club, and as a result

hearing about Jesus for the first time!

Kids Club spent this term exploring the question 'Who is Jesus?' Through fun activities, dramas, songs, and memory verses, as well as conversations over food, the group learned that Jesus is the lifesaver! One child says 'Kids Club was really fun and we learned lots about Jesus! Looking forward to joining you next year.'

With limited space, both the Kids Club and Youth teams have had to get creative when it comes to activities. Shepherd Youth head off-site once a term to enjoy running around, and just last Friday they went to Laser Tag. Kids Club loves playing table tennis in a blocked-off section of the church car park – it gets quite competitive!

Friday afternoons at Good Shepherd are a joy and a privilege as we see youth and children know, love, and live for Jesus.



From Archdeacon Tom Henderson-Brooks

Pelican Foundation Grants 2023



At Synod, the Pelican Foundation was re-launched and members were invited to apply for grants through their ministry units. The Pelican Foundation Board is pleased to announce the following grants in 2023 totalling \$20,591:

- F5 Refresh – \$2,500 to participate in the Revitalise CG City to City Program. The aim is to look for ways in which F5 can utilise their limited resources to grow the church community, to seek the lost and be a thriving and revitalised church. It will be an opportunity for F5 to be 'refreshed' itself.
- St George's Pearce – \$2,000 to participate in the Revitalise CG

City to City Program. The aim is to enable better community connection and outreach by engaging church leaders and members in the process of a CTCA Revitalisation consultation in 2023.

- Holy Cross Hackett, St Philip's O'Connor, Holy Covenant Jamieson, Bodalla and Narooma – \$15,000 spread evenly across the four parishes to engage the Rev Tracey Matthews to train and equip each of the local congregations in Missional Spirituality. The aim is to help each congregation understand their local context and be engaged in local mission through embodying faith that integrates their own Christian Spirituality with a specific missional praxis.
- NSW Police Force Academy Chaplaincy – \$1,091 to purchase baptism and faith resources. The

aim is to make resources available to students who wish to grow in faith and be baptised.

Finally, the Pelican Board will have the next round of funding in the middle of 2023. Selected projects for 2024 will be announced at the

September Synod in 2023. All ministry units, when selling property assets, are encouraged to direct 15% to the Pelican Foundation, which enables the Board to disburse funds every year. Other donations from ministry units, parishes and individuals are welcome at any time.

Prison Chaplaincy Opportunities

After many years of dedicated service at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) the Rev Peta Thorpe recently retired from her position as the AMC prison Chaplain. There is now an opportunity for the appointment of a new Chaplain into the AMC. This is a minimum of two days a week and can stretch to full-time. (The position could be divided into two roles.) If you are interested in applying for the role, please contact Archdeacon Tom Henderson-Brooks as soon as possible. We would love to have

someone start in January.

In the new year, Tom is hopeful of being able to advertise two other p/t prison Chaplaincy roles in our regional areas. The first role is for 2 days/wk role at the Riverina Youth Juvenile Centre (Wagga) as the Chaplain. The second role is for 1 day/wk at the Mannus Correctional Complex (Tumbarumba). If you are interested in either of these roles (they could be combined) please contact Archdeacon Tom Henderson-Brooks as soon as possible.



Propagating at St Mark's

by Alice Hathorn

In late September St Mark's National Theological Centre invited the community to a propagation workshop for local native plants as part of an ecological restoration project at St Mark's Woodland.

On a beautiful, crisp Spring morning a welcome to country was led by Reverend Dr Andrew Cameron followed by a brief presentation on

St Mark's Woodland Restoration project by Alice Hathorn from ACT Urban Woodland Rescue and some insights on health and wellness from ACT Landcare's Sally Halliday.

Guest horticulturalist from Greening Australia, Mathew Hafner, and Alice Hathorn shared their knowledge on all things native with twenty keen participants who took their places at tables provided with

native seeds, forest tubes and soil.

Different sowing requirements for more than 10 native species and the functions they perform was shared. Then more than 2200 plants were sown followed by a well-earned morning tea enjoyed by all.

A heartfelt thanks goes to the wonderful volunteers for a fabulous morning's propagation.

St Mark's would like to thank the ACT Government's Health and Well Being Grant program, ACT Landcare's Sally Halliday and Mathew Hafner from Greening Australia.

St Mark's is extremely grateful to ACT Urban Woodland Rescue and St Mark's facilities manager Julia Bell whose hours of volunteered effort brought the workshop together.

The grounds at St Mark's Theological College are always open to visitors. To volunteer for St Mark's Woodland Restoration project please contact Julia Bell on 6272 6254 or admin@stmarks.edu.au for more information.



Parishioners Active in Junee!

by Heather Jauncey, Secretary of Parish Council

In late October on a dry Saturday with blue skies and sunshine in Junee, 33 folk met in the Anglican Hall to undergo Diocesan Safe Ministry instruction with Belinda Townsend. The majority of the group were volunteer workers

in Annie's Op Shop (Anglican) and it was a good opportunity for them to learn the goal of safe ministry instruction which aims to keep them and the customers spiritually, emotionally and physically safe.

'Joy' was the theme of the Junee



Safe Ministries Instruction at Junee

Combined Churches Activity in the Memorial Park on the 5th Sunday in October. Approximately 50 folk plus children from the community met for Fun, Food and Fellowship.

Meanwhile, Gail Commens (Junee) was deployed with an Anglican Disaster Recovery team (Sydney) to assist for ~10 days in providing material aid and general support to

flood affected victims in the Moree area of NSW.



Disaster Recovery Sydney Team - Steve, Gail (Junee), James, Penny, Garry



Games & Singing for Children provided by Fusion



Crowd gathered in Junee Memorial Park for the Combined Churches Community Activity



St Luke's Preschool and Chapel at Wagga Wagga

by James Hamilton

The development of the St Luke's Church and Church site has been a major development for the Parish of Wagga Wagga in 2020. This has meant a significant increase in our mission through the Preschool as well as maintaining a St Luke's worship centre which is modern, comfortable and fit for purpose.

Historically St Luke's Church has grown from 1913 when the Foundation Stone was laid by Bishop Barlow. A Sunday School was first conducted in the Church by late Mr Hansard with Miss Wulff providing the Ministry.

The St Luke's Hall was built in 1924 and this was used as a Parish Hall as well as the Sunday School which had grown extensively. By 1957, Archdeacon Davies handed the keys to Miss Wulff to open the new kindergarten/preschool rooms which had been built. The Sunday School was in operation for fifty-eight years and at its peak there were nine Kindergarten/preschool teachers and thirteen Sunday School teachers catering for between two hundred and three hundred children who attended Sunday school.

During this time the St Luke's Church congregation was very well attended and St Luke's was a very significant worship centre.

The last service was held at St Luke's Church on 30 June, 2019. Many of the memorial pieces were placed in the parish archives but the Candlesticks from the pulpit were gifted to the Anglican Chapel at Kapooka Army Base.

Given this history, establishment of the state-of-the-art St Luke's Preschool commenced February 2020 by Stephen Lawrence constructions. The contractor had to work on-site while St Luke's preschool was operating, which involved close cooperation, and worked through the pandemic period. The project involved interconnecting the existing Preschool, Hall and

Church buildings to create a sixty-place preschool and forty-place chapel.

The contractors worked diligently and had the building work completed in October 2020. In 2022 the Master's Builder's Association inspectors visited St Luke's site as the works project was put forward in the commercial field of project \$700,000 to \$1,000,000 category. Stephen Lawrence constructions was awarded 1st Prize for best project in the Riverina area.

One interesting aspect was that due to Wagga Wagga City Council not allowing St Luke's Church building to be demolished, the church building had to be modified to be included as part of the new building. Contrary to how everyone felt at the time, the excellent modification of the area provided for learning that had a very special quality.

The existing building and the new additional area have made a highly functional, modern learning facility. The inclusion of high-tech facilities has meant that learning opportunities for students is maximised. Incorporated into the new building area is the St Luke's Chapel, our new place of worship. The chapel has a seating capacity of forty people in comfort. The Sanctuary of the chapel has windows from the St Luke's Church acknowledging the past.

The beautiful altar from the St Luke's church was too large to be used in the chapel. The altar was reduced in size by the master craftsmen at the Wagga Wagga Men shed. The result was an altar professionally finished, a perfect size for placement in the Chapel Sanctuary, and able to be pushed back easily to allow more space for other activities.

The chapel is air-conditioned with adequate secure storage provided. The modern kitchen fitted with state-of-the-art appliances and modern work benches and BBQ facilities provides the ability for any catering needs to

be provided. Audio visual capacity provided is enhanced by two A/V screens placed one each side of the sanctuary to support computerised components of services. This space is used by preschool students from time-to-time for religious instruction or learning-associated activities and educators training. The chapel can be used by community groups during the week and weekends as it can be independent to the preschool component of the building.

The Preschool refurbishment and additions has enabled the Wagga Wagga Anglican Parish to provide outstanding outreach to the community, offering high-quality Church services, a meeting space and

high quality learning opportunities for Preschool children from across the City of Wagga Wagga. The Preschool provides an inclusive learning environment including children with additional needs (a special sensory room facility), cultural differences and first nations children. A part-time chaplain is engaged to interact with parents, children and staff to spread the word of the gospel. The chapel was dedicated by The Venerable Dr Grant Bell on Sunday 5 December 2021.

The parish's core values of Caring People, Cherished buildings, Compelling Worship and Connection with Jesus are all fully met by this carefully planned and completed Preschool and Chapel.



POSITIONS VACANT



ANGLICAN DIOCESAN
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The Anglican Diocesan Services has the following positions available:

- Executive Administration Manager
- Reception/Executive Support Officer
- HR Business Partner, Anglicare
- HR Business Partner, Parishes
- ICT Team Leader - Technology Infrastructure

For position descriptions and further details, please email HR@
anglicands.org.au or



Anglicare is seeking a Parish Partnership Manager. Please also see the separate advertisement for additional positions.

Further details: <https://anglicare.recruitment.com.au/Current-vacancies/6189626/title/Parish-Partnership-Manager>



Embracing Ministries is seeking an Administrative Assistant.

Further details are on our website: <https://anglicancg.org.au/embracing-ministries-administrative-assistant/>



Kasy Chambers, Executive Director of Anglicare Australia, speaking at Christians for an Ethical society forum at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture.

Home is more than a roof: it is where someone knows your name

by Katy Nicholls

What does home mean to you? And what sort of world do we want? These were the questions that occupied those attending the October Christians for an Ethical Society (CES) forum. Chair Clive Rodger opened with a meditation on the meaning of justice in both the Old and New Testaments, reminding us that the Hebrew bible entreats just behaviour, that it is incumbent on us to treat the poor with justice and generosity.

He then introduced Kasy Chambers, Executive Director of

Anglicare Australia, who captivated us with stories from her own life and from Anglicare work and research.

'Home' means so much to those who have had a fractured relationship with it: a place to be you, a foundation for meeting human needs, including a place of nurture, learning, belonging, safety and permanence, and so much more. Yet now the key public discourse is of a house being a place to build wealth. The bulk of her talk was an excoriating analysis of how we use our collective wealth (in taxes) ineffectively when it comes to

housing everyone.

Kasy discussed the changing scene for those who can't afford to buy a home, and may never be able to: the increasing crunch between income (whether benefits or wages – wages rose about 2.6% in the last year) and rent (rising about 21% in the same time); the tenancy laws still assuming that tenancy is transitory and not supporting long-term needs; the drop both in quantity and quality of social and community housing; and the inevitable consequences: people going without food and heating to pay the rent; retired people and single parents unable to afford to rent.

Kasy pointed out that the public dollar is primarily being spent on subsidising private rental – in other words over \$20 billion of Commonwealth funds are spent primarily on negative gearing and capital gains tax concessions (the final quarter is rent assistance). Further modelling on general personal tax concessions noted that of \$135 billion foregone each year, over half went to the richest 20%, and only about 4.5% went to the poorest 20%. How effective is that when (as the last Anglicare rental affordability snapshot shows) out of 60,000+ dwellings, less than one place is affordable for a single person on jobseeker.

The story repeats when we consider the costs for older people to age in place in private rental, or the increasing number who are employed in insecure work or on

minimum wage. For a wide range of reasons, including changing work conditions, underemployment and an inadequate minimum wage, there is a new large class of working poor who will never be able to afford to buy a home, and are at risk of homelessness.

How did we become a society where we accept that more and more people, including families and older women, should live in tents and cars? How did we become a society where the risk of economic change and development is borne by the individual? Are we creating a society that honours God and God's creation?

Kasy called us to reframe our thinking of housing – from wealth accumulation to a human right where people can flourish. She listed various models (such as defence housing) that change the model while reducing the risk for individual landlords.

You are invited to sit with the discomfort of the things we need to do to reframe housing. To talk to your elected officials. To recognise that our comfort is built on the disadvantage of others. Even to consider practical actions such as establishing a collective to buy a home and rent it out at a rate that those on jobseeker could afford.

Christians for an Ethical Society (ces.org.au) is a Canberra-based ecumenical forum which seeks to engage with the ethical challenges of the contemporary world, locally, nationally and internationally.

The Birds of the Air

by Reverend Robert Willson



Tristram's Grackle taken at Masada, Israel. In public domain.

In the teaching of Jesus in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, we have a simple illustration in his reference to the birds of the air. They have nests but the Son of man has nowhere to lay his head.

Early settlers in Australia marvelled at the brilliant plumage of our native birds. In Palestine in Biblical times, there were about 350 species of birds. When my wife and I toured Israel years ago, I managed to photograph one of those species close up, just before he flew off.

Later I discovered that the bird was called, 'Tristram's grackle', and was common in the Holy Land. I

photographed the bird in one of the most awesome places in Israel. It was on top of the massive fortress rock of Masada, overlooking the Dead Sea. The famous Scrolls were found nearby.

Masada is a flat-topped rock with steep sides, looking almost like a gigantic aircraft carrier floating in the desert, as someone described it. In 74AD, thirty years after the Crucifixion, it was the scene of a brutal siege by Roman legionaries who struggled to destroy a group of 900 Jewish Zealots defending the Masada. It was the epilogue to the destruction of the Jewish

Temple in the first Jewish War, four years earlier. Jesus had foretold this destruction and today the Wailing Wall is the only survival of that siege. Jews gather to pray there as we did.

It was Josephus, the Roman/Jewish historian, who records the story of the Masada siege. Zealots who escaped from Jerusalem gathered on Masada and finally Rome decided that they must be wiped out. The zealots decided to commit mass suicide rather than surrender. A couple of women hid in a cave and emerged to tell the Romans the story.

My wife and I went up in a cable car and on Masada we relived those grim days. The Internet has details. My photo of Tristram's Grackle reminds me of it all.

But who was Tristram?

The Reverend Henry Baker Tristram, born in 1822, was the son of an Anglican priest in Northumberland. He graduated from Lincoln College, Oxford, and was Ordained in 1846.

Tristram was typical of the parson-naturalist of the 19th century. In NSW the Reverend WB Clarke, an early discoverer of gold, was very similar. While Clarke explored the Australian bush, Tristram explored the Middle East, especially Palestine, recording both natural history observations, and localities mentioned in the Bible. Like Clarke, Tristram was an early supporter of Darwinian evolution, though he later came to question aspects of Darwin's teaching.

I have a photo showing the explorer dressed for the field, armed with sun hat, gun, and clothing ready to meet any emergency in the wilds. Tristram wrote many books, very popular in their day, and still of great value to experts.

When I look at my bird on Masada, I recall with affection the man who recorded it and did so much to bring Palestine to life in his day. Indeed he followed our Lord's teaching to look at the birds of the air, and learn from them.

Transforming communities through partnership: ABM Advent & Christmas Appeal

by Reverend Dr Katherine Rainger, Senior Chaplain Radford College

This Advent and Christmas Anglicans in Development (AID), a branch of Anglican Board of Mission (ABM), invites you to support projects which will positively impact individuals and communities in Australia and around the world.

Wontulp-Bi-Buya College supports the development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander church and community leaders through study programs leading to awards in theology, suicide prevention, addictions management and community development. 'This College is God's gift to our people' says one student who attends Wontulp-Bi-Buya College from Boigu Island in the Torres Strait. 'I was on a little island, and now I can understand the Bible and talk about the Bible. Before, I never knew what the Bible was all about.'

As well as courses in Theology and

Ministry, Wontulp offers courses in Addictions Management, Community Development, and Indigenous Mental Health. Wontulp-Bi-Buya provides culturally-grounded training, led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Wontulp is a transforming community that empowers people with the faith, vision and skills, to be effective in building up their people, their church and their community. Your support enables Wontulp-Bi-Buya and Nungalinya Colleges to equip Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander church and community leaders to truly transform their communities.

Access to clean drinking water has made a huge difference in the lives of thousands of people whom AID supports in Kenya, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and Myanmar.

In Kenya, communities have gained access to water for drinking as well as for use with stock and

crops, improving food security. Schools have rainwater tanks, freeing children from the burden of travelling long distances to collect water. In Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and Myanmar, our church partners work with volunteers in remote communities to provide access to clean water. Sometimes they will rehabilitate existing storage facilities. Patrick Mark, Chief of Lesa community in Vanua Lava in Vanuatu's north, says, 'Since 1980 up to now, we don't have access to clean water. We only drink dirty water from the river. In 2021 water supply

came to our community. It makes life easier for us. Vulnerable people, mums, and kids no longer have to go to the river to fetch water... It is through Anglican Church of Melanesia Vanuatu's WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) project that we manage to have access to clean water.' Ready access to clean water means better health for whole communities, especially young children who are particularly prone to waterborne illnesses. A gift to ABM's Advent and Christmas Appeal is truly a gift that gives life in all its fullness!



Images of Worship

by Reverend Dr Katherine Rainger, Senior Chaplain Radford College

One of the joys of being a school chaplain is gaining new perspectives as students share their insights and learning. This often occurs through spoken and written words. Other times students use images to convey their understandings.

Recently, Year 8 went on an excursion to different places of worship around Canberra as part of a unit on World Religions. They visited St Paul's Anglican Church and St Christopher's Cathedral in Manuka, the Jewish Memorial Centre in Forrest and Sakyamuni-Van Hanh Buddhist centre in Lyneham.

Shout out to Reverend Kay Pendlebury and Reverend Dr Ben Edwards whose discussion about St Paul's and Anglicanism were engaging for students and staff.

Students were asked to take photos which they then used in their classwork. Selfies with various faith leaders were very endearing as were the different details that they captured in each setting. This photo taken by Michael captures light and beauty filling the space, the movement of the students and a sense of being sent from the church into the world.

Advent and Christmas

APPEAL 2022

Your gift will transform communities

To make a donation, please visit:

www.abmission.org/Christmas2022

In 2022 we hope to raise \$38,000
This appeal is Tax-deductible

ABM's Advent Study,
"Songs from a Strange Land"
is available at

www.abmission.org/songs-from-a-strange-land

or scan this QR code

www.abmission.org/Christmas2022



‘Time to abandon guilt and embrace loving action – living responsibly in today’s world’

Christians for an Ethical Society Forum 23 November 2022

by Katy Nicholls

‘What can I do today to help the climate emergency? And how can I look after future generations?’ Jo Clay, Greens MLA for Ginninderra, asks herself these questions every day. In a very personal address, Jo told the attendees at a Christians for an Ethical Society forum that she became a Christian long before she joined the Greens, and shared part of her story, guided by those questions, and an enthusiasm for how many options there are now to make a change. The two key other personal features she shared were the variety of experience she has, from entrepreneurship to law, climate

activism to counter-terrorism, and the powerful focussing effect of having a baby, who gives a face to future generations.

In attempting to find her own response to those questions, Jo has developed and documented her carbon diet (<https://www.carbondiet.com.au/jo-clay>), reducing her family’s carbon footprint by 75 per cent while still enabling them to enjoy what matters in life (including steak on Saturday night), noting that the average Australian emits about 22 tons of carbon equivalent a year; developed a patented recycling company; found new ways to express her hedonism

and thrill-seeking with a lower footprint that flying across the world on a whim (zip-lining off buildings for charity anyone?); and entered politics where she daily confronts the toxic false dichotomy of ‘people or the planet’, noting that people will not survive without a planet.

Recent successes for Canberrans she listed were: 7-star ratings for buildings, ensuring they will be well-insulated and designed to increase comfort and reduce heating and cooling costs; introducing a ‘get off gas’ policy; and working on reducing transport emissions, starting with electrifying the government fleet and public transport, and supporting electric vehicles. The Climate Council has rated the ACT as being the most advanced of all States and Territories in clean transport (<https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/resources/are-we-there-yet-clean-transport-scorecard-for-australian-states-and-territories/>).

In response, Alison Weeks, Chair of the Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn Caring for Creation (CFC) movement, reflected on the similarities between the Greens’ approach of social justice and ecological sustainability with calls of the Pope to recognise that everything is connected and to embrace the paradigm of integral ecology. She discussed the Catholic Church’s response to God’s

creation, reflecting particularly on the 2015 encyclical from Pope Francis: *Laudato Si – On Care for our Common Home*. Alison noted that Christians brought the unique perspective of placing God at the centre, and that Genesis charges humans with an obligation to care for creation. Humans are not at the centre of the universe, but each one of us is one of God’s creation. Alison’s talk emphasised that there is no difference between the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor – the earth has become one of the poor.

The local CFC movement has learnt that a crucial step to enable change is educating ourselves to see anew, and then to find a common language including respect for difference. Actions they are initiating include solar panels, divesting fossil fuel investments, encouraging electrical vehicles.

What key questions will you use to guide your actions of living in the world with inclusive love?

The Chair of CES, Clive Rodger, thanked both speakers and the many interested questioners, and noted that the next forum will be in 2023, with Peter Martin as the speaker.

Christians for an Ethical Society (ces.org.au) is a Canberra-based ecumenical forum which seeks to engage with the ethical challenges of the contemporary world, locally, nationally and internationally.

Great News of Great Joy

by Kate Rodwell, Dignity Freedom Network

Like 2 records the angels proclaiming, ‘Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people.’

Good news can seem a bit harder to find at the moment, but DFN continues to deliver good news and great joy to vulnerable communities living in fear of starvation, poverty, discrimination and exploitation.

We are delighted to announce that 50 at-risk girls in South Asia now call our new shelter ‘home’. These girls have all been prevented from being trafficked into a lifetime of heinous ritualised abuse, thanks to people sowing into and supporting our ministry amongst ‘the least of these’.

So what do the girls think?

‘Wow’ said one girl. ‘I am so thankful for this new home. I never thought I would live in a place like this. It is big and clean and beautiful.

It is like a palace!’

With the new facilities open, our team have been able to rescue 47 more at-risk girls!

*K’s grandmother and mother were both trafficked into this abusive system. Now K was ten, the village was pressuring them to dedicate her too. Neither her mother nor grandmother wanted that to happen. They were desperate for a way out, but did not know of another option.

Recently they attended one of our Awareness Programs by New Zealand partners. Along with 200 other women and their young children, K’s mother and grandmother learned that they did not have to dedicate her as a Jogini! They thought her fate had been sealed and were thrilled to learn that there were options.

They approached our team and asked about the possibility of sending K to our shelter home. Since K was



at extreme risk of being dedicated the Social Workers leapt into action and made the arrangements.

Today, K is living with the other girls being safely sheltered and discovering a God who loves her and has incredible plans for her life. Plans that do not include being abused and violated. Her grandmother and mother can visit her whenever they can. She is in Grade 5 at one of our schools and settling in well. The trajectory of her life has been changed forever and her future is full of hope, thanks to churches in New Zealand supporting this work.

Thank you to each and every person who has prayed, given and supported

this transformational initiative, restoring hope to girls like *K.

Our Christmas Appeal is a great way to support those most in need. We have four areas of focus: Education, Healthcare, Economic Empowerment and Anti-human trafficking, all undergirded with the hope of the gospel. To donate, go to dfn.org.au/Christmas_Appeal, Ph 1 800 949 774, or E info@dfn.org.au

We are so thankful to all our partners for bringing Good News of Great Joy to ‘the least of these’ in South Asia.

*Name changed for protection and dignity

Perfect peace possible, because of Jesus

submitted by Lindsay Counsell, Anglican Aid

As we remember the birth of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, this Christmas, remember too that his arrival was accompanied by a host of angels proclaiming 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests' (Luke 2:14).

Together, Anglican Aid and the Anglican Diocese of Canberra & Goulburn long to see this peace known in Nigeria. In 2022, attacks in the North have generated unspeakable hardship, loss and trauma to thousands of Christians, many who have been displaced from their homes, villages and families for more than five years now. This has worsened already poor access to sufficient food supplies, medical care and safe shelter.

In God's kindness, funds raised

through Canberra-Goulburn and Anglican Aid have provided emergency food relief to over 35 villages reaching 300 households and impacting 17,000 people, predominantly women and children.

One of the recipients of humanitarian assistance, from Kurmin Masara, was asked what assistance his village had received. He replied, 'the only assistance we have received is the food from Jos, through our brother Hassan John'. When told that the assistance was through Anglican Aid he said, 'oh ... Lord, from all that distance? ... Thank you so much. Thank you. The food is what we have been feeding on over two months now. Thank you.'

The Bishop of Zonkwa Diocese, the Rt Rev Jacob Kwashi, who was also the lead team leader in the



distribution of the food and roofing sheets to the villages in southern Kaduna said, 'This is the only hope our people got from the grains and roofing sheets. No organisation, not even the government, provided any relief to the thousands of people that were displaced by these senseless attacks.'

The generosity of Australian Christians brings assurance to those with nothing; that our God is mighty, that his church is one body, that he walks with them in their suffering and that he will not forsake them. For some, like the grateful villager, it has been the only source of food for over two months. As traditional idol worship, coupled with severe Christian persecution and ongoing displacement continue to plague

Nigeria, our faithful prayer and giving only becomes more urgent.

Thank you for sharing in this gospel work this year, showing Christ's love so that his peace may reign. We celebrate Christmas because of Jesus, who is himself our peace (Eph 2:14) and pray that God would bless our partnership with Nigeria in 2023; that many would be fed, cared for and saved through our aid, and that here in Australia we would see his abundant mercy, and respond with joyful thanksgiving.

Would you strengthen our partnership with the Diocese of Jos? For more information, visit www.anglicanaid.org.au/locations/nigeria or contact Rev Canon Patrick Cole at pandncole@bigpond.com.



www.anglicare.com.au

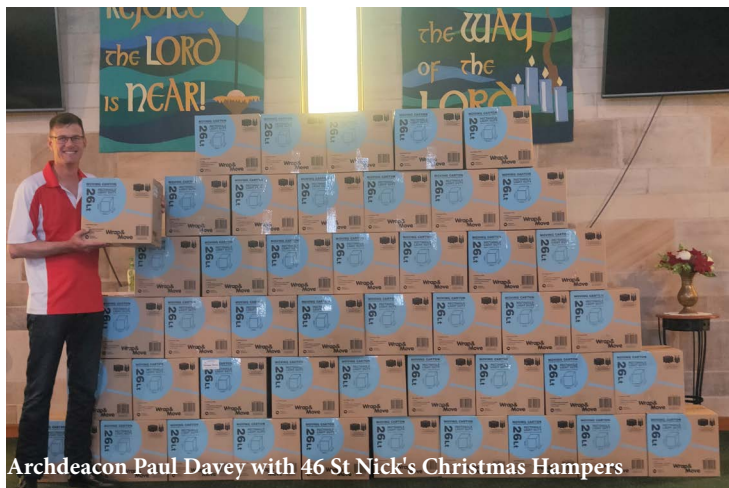
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Applications are now open for a variety of roles across our region. Visit our website for more information.

- **Coordinator - Housing and Homelessness** Goulburn
- **Administration Officer** Orange
- **Parish Partnership Manager** Canberra
- **Senior Carer Practitioner** Albury, Orange, Moruya
- **Youth Worker Permanency Support Program** Albury, Moruya, Bega
- **Case Manager** Goulburn, Yass
- **Centre Director - Early Childhood Centre** Goulburn
- **Lead Educator** Canberra
- **General Practitioner** Canberra
- **Early Childhood Educators** Canberra, Goulburn
- **Direct Support Workers** Goulburn, Moruya
- **Out of School Hours Assistant Educator** Canberra
- **Early Childhood Teacher** Goulburn
- **Youth Worker** Wagga Wagga
- **ITC Youth Worker** Liverpool
- **Carer Support Practitioner** Orange



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Archdeacon Paul Davey with 46 St Nick's Christmas Hampers

St Nick's Christmas Hampers

by Archdeacon Paul Davey

St Nick's Anglican Church in North Goulburn has been at it again with its St Nick's Christmas Hampers. Parishioners brought in groceries and Christmas goodies across November for boxing on St Nicholas Sunday. Forty-six boxes or 1,196 litres of help for families in need in the Goulburn community were packed. These were

distributed through local schools who are keen to be the conduit for help for needy families. 'It's a great way of getting out there and blessing local families in Jesus' name' said The Venerable Paul Davey. 'What's more, it's a simple way of helping that almost any parish can do! Why not give it a try in your parish or mission district?'

Christians Oppose Waste Incinerator Proposal

Christians in the Southern Tablelands have been in the thick of the fight against a proposed industrial-scale waste incinerator planned for Tarago. Clergy and lay people have been erecting signs, handing out flyers, manning stalls and speaking out to inform the community and help them find their voice.

The proposed incinerator at Tarago is planned to burn 380,000 tons of Sydney's rubbish every year. This will potentially affect the communities of Tarago, Bungendore, Braidwood, Goulburn, Yass, Collector, Gunning and Canberra through toxins that will be airborne and then collect in the soil and waterways. Local Christians concerned at the health risks of the proposed development have been loving their neighbour by speaking up for those who cannot speak (Proverbs 31:8-9).

A recent extraordinary session of Goulburn Mulwaree Council saw a good turnout of locals including a good number of Christians who came to show their opposition to the proposal. They also heard community members and leaders including the Archdeacon of Goulburn and the Southern Tablelands speak against the proposed development. They then heard a right of reply from the proponents of the proposed waste incinerator. The council passed a motion 9-0 to approve a submission opposing the proposed waste incinerator to the NSW Department of Planning. This continues Goulburn Mulwaree Council's consistent opposition to any waste incinerator proposal.

If you would like to learn more on this issue then head to <https://www.notaragoincinerator.com/>.

by Archdeacon Paul Davey



Pastor Mike Adams (Goulburn Presbyterian), Archdeacon Paul Davey, Councillor Andy Wood (Shooters Fishers Farmers Party) & Mr Ian Anderson. Some of the Christians fighting the waste incinerator proposal.

Thanksgiving Eucharist

on the retirement of Dean Phillip Saunders

In St Saviour's Cathedral
On Saturday January 28th 2023
at 11am

Clergy are invited to robe and process.
The liturgical colour is white.

Take a
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"Together we can set children free from slavery and exploitation!"

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Please Note: Some of the content to be shared throughout the session is of a sensitive nature.
Light afternoon tea will be provided.



CPE Introductory Pastoral Care Course

This 5-day course is a great way to get a feel for pastoral care. It would suit anyone interested in spiritual care, already doing pastoral care, or for those working in associated fields who want to be able to support the spiritual and emotional needs of others. Topics include, what is pastoral/spiritual care, empathy, grief and loss, spiritual reflection and self-care.

Queanbeyan Hospital and associated Health Care premises
on 5 Wednesdays,
Feb 15 to March 15 2023.
Cost: \$400.

Further information:
Susanne Schmidt,
susanecpe@gmail.com
or 0431 243 486.