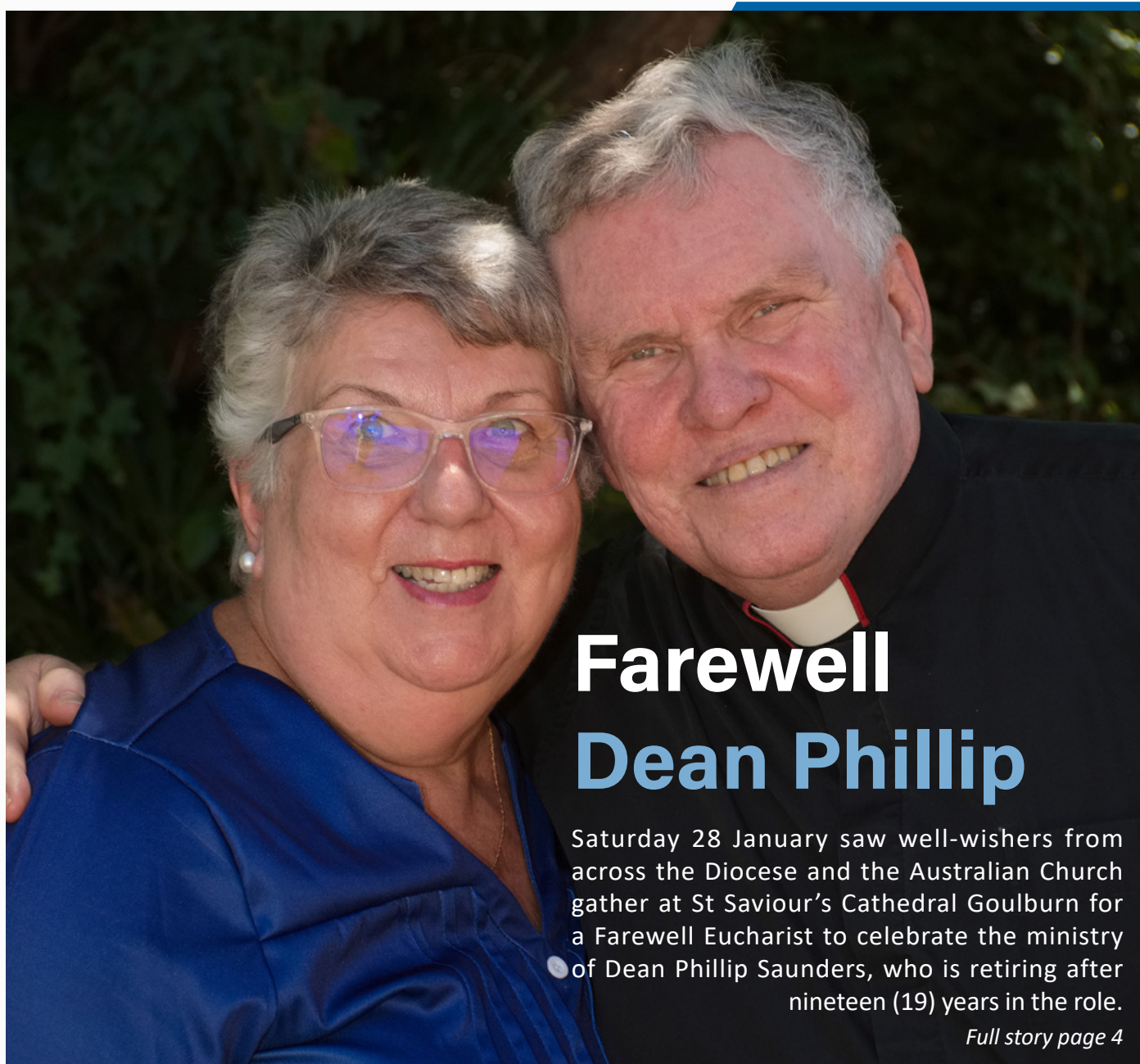




Anglican News

a magazine for the Anglican Community of Canberra & Goulburn



Farewell Dean Phillip

Saturday 28 January saw well-wishers from across the Diocese and the Australian Church gather at St Saviour's Cathedral Goulburn for a Farewell Eucharist to celebrate the ministry of Dean Phillip Saunders, who is retiring after nineteen (19) years in the role.

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Meet Our New Deacons

On 25 February, the Diocese ordained six new deacons.

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St Martin's College Acknowledgement

30th Anniversary celebrations for
St Martin's College

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From Bishop Mark

Every now and then it's a good idea to take a look in the mirror – as long as we don't spend too much time transfixed or traumatized by what we see!

A couple of weeks ago I received our Diocesan results from the 2021 National Church Life Survey. Although the rich diversity of church life, let alone the surprising work of God's Spirit, can never be fully captured in numbers it does provide a useful reflection of where we are. Here are some highlights:

- ✦ The 'average' Canberra Goulburn Anglican is a 59-year-old woman with a university degree.
- ✦ When it comes to church we most value sermons, preaching and Bible teaching followed by sharing in Holy Communion.
- ✦ We believe the top priorities for our local congregation should be growing a sense of community and encouraging spiritual growth.
- ✦ Almost all of us believe that Christians have a responsibility to actively care for the environment and around 70% of us can identify some way in which we are currently doing this.

Looking at trends over time, there are several encouragements. Between 2006 and 2021 the percentage of Canberra Goulburn Anglicans who always or usually experience inspiration during church services rose from 58% to 72%, and the percentage strongly committed to their local church's vision and goals rose from 35% to 46%.

There was one important indicator that moved in the opposite direction over the same period. The percentage of Canberra Goulburn worshippers who'd invited an unchurched friend or relative to church over the past twelve months fell from 40% to 30%.

Of course, the 2021 survey was conducted in the 'not-quite out of COVID' era and the stop-start nature of church life probably made invitations difficult.

However, the decline was constant over the 15 years and also consistent with a similar trend across the whole Australian church.

So why are we less likely to invite others, especially when we are so positive about many aspects of our own church experience?

Perhaps we recognize that there are ways for people to encounter God outside church worship. Of course, we want to invite people into a living relationship with God through Jesus Christ and not just membership of an institution. But what better place to meet Jesus than in the assembly of His people!

Perhaps we fear that people will reject our invitation and us. But why should we deny others the opportunity to meet Jesus because of our discomfort? Moreover, we know from other studies that even if people are skeptical towards the idea of 'The Church' they will often respond warmly to an invitation from a Christian they know and trust.

In John's Gospel 1:46 Philip responds to Nathanael's doubts about Jesus with the simple invitation:

"Come and see".

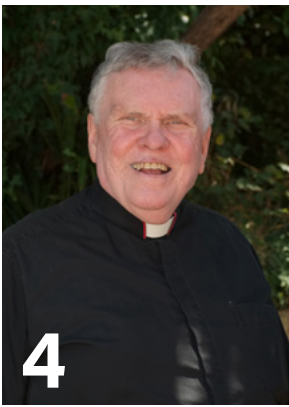
Nathanael responds, and meets the Son of God and King of Israel, the One who bridges the gap between heaven and earth.

As Easter draws near, what better time is there to issue a gracious and gentle invitation, and trust the Risen Lord Jesus to meet our friends and neighbours in all His love and truth?

Now Interactive!

Click on article to read.

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Farewell Dean Phillip

Saturday 28 January saw well-wishers from across the Diocese and the Australian Church gather at St Saviour's Cathedral Goulburn for a Farewell Eucharist to celebrate the ministry of Dean Phillip Saunders, who is retiring after nineteen (19) years in the role.

The preacher for the service was Bishop George Browning and the Bible readers and intercessors included other Cathedral deans. There were speeches of thanksgiving from Cathedral, Diocese and civic representatives, including the current Mayor of Goulburn Councillor, Peter Walker. The speeches also acknowledged the extensive voluntary contribution of Mrs Sue Saunders, especially in the Cathedral office.

In his remarks Bishop Mark commented on the multi-faceted ministry of a Dean as a pastor to the Cathedral, a leader of liturgy for the Diocese and a trusted confidante to Bishops and other clergy.

"In all these roles Dean Phillip has been a generous and gracious servant of the Diocese and Christ's mission" he said.

Dean Phillip and Mrs Saunders were presented a number of gifts, including a matching pair of vases featuring a pelican and a sleeping koala respectively – perhaps reflecting a season of service to the Diocese and a season of well-earned rest.

The Saunders will be travelling extensively during 2023 before returning to their home in Goulburn.

God's richest blessings to you and Sue!



"In all these roles Dean Phillip has been a generous and gracious servant of the Diocese and Christ's mission"





ECUMENICAL SERVICE

On Monday 6 February 2023 an Ecumenical Service to mark the start of the Parliamentary year was held at St Paul's Manuka.



Clergy Moves

- † **The Reverend Andrew Fleming** was licenced as Deacon Assistant Chaplain Radford College on 25.02.2023.
- † **The Reverend Andrew Vella** was licenced as Deacon Assistant Wanniasa on 25.02.2023.
- † **The Reverend Brett Marshall** was licenced as Deacon Assistant and Church Planter Gungahlin on 25.02.2023.
- † **The Reverend Christopher Murray** was licenced as Deacon Assistant Canberra and Hospital Chaplain on 25.02.2023.
- † **The Reverend Jonathan Holt** has been appointed as Archdeacon of South Canberra and Queanbeyan. Bishop Mark will collate Jonathan at Lanyon Valley Anglican Church on 26.03.2023.
- † **The Reverend Kenneth King** was licenced as Priest-in-Charge Braidwood on 03.03.2023.
- † **The Reverend Peter Bartholomeusz** was licenced as Deacon Assistant Gungahlin on 25.02.2023.
- † **The Reverend Dr Roger Lewis** was licenced as Deacon Assistant North Goulburn on 25.02.2023.
- † **The Reverend Dr Tim Watson** was elected by the deanery as Area Dean of Central Canberra on 30.11.2022. Tim has also been appointed to a one day a week role as Youth Ministry Co-ordinator at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture (ACC&C).

Locums

- † **The Reverend Canon Emeritus Harvey Sloane** has been licenced as Locum Priest-in-Charge Batlow and Associate Priest Tumut from 01.02.2023 to 31.07.2023.
- † **The Right Rex Everett** has had his licence as Locum Rector Holbrook extended until the appointment of a new Rector.
- † **The Reverend John Jenner** has been licenced as Locum Priest-in-Charge Tumut from 01.02.2023 to 31.07.2023.
- † **The Reverend John Kuruvilla** has been appointed as Locum Rector South Tuggeranong from 19.02.2023.
- † **The Reverend Liz Sloane** has been licenced as Deacon in Charge of Pastoral Care Tumut from 01.02.2023 to 31.07.2023.

Resignations

- † **The Reverend Dr Chris Simon** has resigned as Locum Priest at Hawker, effective 25.02.2023.
- † **The Reverend Dr Grant Bell** has resigned as Rector of Wagga Wagga, effective 05.03.2023.
- † **The Reverend Kenneth King** has resigned as Priest, All Saints' Collector, effective 20.02.2023.
- † **The Reverend Lynda McMinn** has resigned as Rector of Ainslie, effective 26.03.2023.

Meet Our New Deacons

On 25 February in St Saviour's Cathedral the Diocese ordained six new deacons. Bishop Mark preached to those gathered saying:

"It is easy to feel joy, or at least a sense of accomplishment and relief on an occasion like this ...

Joyful ministry seems like a possibility, perhaps even a probability on a day like this.

But there will be other days".

He then spoke of the joy in Jesus that goes beyond mere hype and optimism because it is based on the four unchanging realities of: joy that comes from knowing you are heard (John 15:7); joy that comes from knowing you have a purpose (John 15:8); joy that comes from knowing you are loved (John 15:9-10); and joy that comes from Jesus (John 15:11) such that it is not something we need to manufacture ourselves but a gift we receive as we open ourselves to the transforming presence of God's Holy Spirit.

The following pages contain a brief biography supplied by each Ordinand to get to know a little about them.



Andrew (Andy) Fleming

Andy grew up in a Christian family in Sydney. After completing university at Bathurst he began teaching and married Ellen in 2000. Together they spent a year in England before moving to Canberra in late 2003 as new parents.

Andy took a teaching position at Burgmann Anglican School. During his time at Burgmann he held various positions, teaching across the Junior, Middle and Senior schools.

Andy also explored opportunities in coaching Rugby Union. At the same time as acquiring World Rugby coaching qualifications, he coached at Gungahlin

Rugby Union club, and in junior representative programs with the ACT Brumbies.

After attending the 2015 Emmaus Walk, Andy felt a greater stirring in his faith and completed a Diploma of Christian Ministry and Theology. At the same time as being drawn to further study, Andrew felt God's calling into ministry. In 2020, he moved to Radford College and is currently serving as Associate Chaplain.

Andy attends St Michael and All Angels' in Hall, which is part of the St Barnabas Parish. Married to Ellen, they have three sons; Aidan, Jack and Patrick.



Andrew Vella

Andrew was raised in a Christian family that serve at Camden Baptist Church, along with being long-term members on the Lake Tabourie Beach Mission team. However, it wasn't until he attended university that he truly began to explore and own his faith for himself. During this time, he started to read the Bible for himself, wrestled with the truth about Jesus and His resurrection. Over a year or so he came to see that the Bible is true, it presents a coherent world view and that Jesus did really rise from the dead. He now sees that the good news of Jesus needs to be told to a world in need of redemption.

In 2003, Andrew moved to Canberra for a job at the ANU College of Law. During this time he attended

St Matthew's Anglican Church, Wanniasa, met his wife, and began studying theology at St Mark's Theological College. He actively served at the church by leading small groups and services, being on the strategy and planning teams, and even serving as a warden. He was also part of the team that helped establish Waters Edge, a community of faith in the newly developed suburbs of Googong.

After earning his Bachelor of Theology in 2014, Andrew eventually decided to pursue full-time ministry and has been working at St Matthew's since 2018. He initially oversaw the youth ministry and is now overseeing the Life Groups and Seniors ministry.

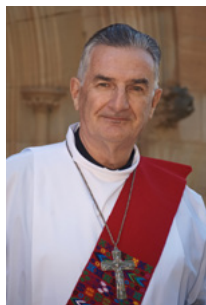


Brett Marshall

Brett Marshall BTh (SCD), BA (UNSW), MA (UNSW), is married to Amanda with two children, Jacob and Jada. After growing up in the Uniting Church where his dad was a minister, Brett joined the Army.

Following 11 years as an officer, Brett served in the Australian Public Service for over eighteen years, focused on intelligence and security, finishing in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Brett enjoys fresh challenges and learning, along with music, travel, good food, exercising to burn it off, and following the mighty Magpies in the Australian Football League. He and Amanda are energised by worship and helping people discover and grow in Christ. They look forward to planting a congregation in new the suburbs of north Gungahlin, ACT.



Christopher Murray

Chris is married to Denise and they have four children and four grandchildren. They have both lived in Canberra for a long time. They have a lovely garden, mainly because Denise has a good touch with plants. They have an active life with a love for Nordic walking and yoga.

Chris had a long career as a town planner. He worked for many years in Commonwealth, State, Territory and local government positions. After retiring, Chris trained as a hospital pastoral carer/chaplain.

This began an unexpected journey that led to ongoing study and involvement in caring for those in times of great stress. He has completed three units of Clinical Pastoral Care and is qualified as a Certified Advanced Spiritual Carer with Spiritual Care Australia.

Chris currently works in three hospitals part-time in the ACT providing support to patients

while they are in hospital. This work has greatly influenced his life and led to a deepening of his faith as he witnessed the work of God firsthand in a hospital setting.

Over time, the need to strengthen this experience with greater learning led to studying at St Mark's. Initially, this was daunting as it was not an area of learning that came naturally. However, the experience has been overwhelmingly positive and satisfying as he immersed himself in the richness of theological study.

The idea of ordination was planted subtly, and it has taken over a decade to come to fruition; which we celebrate today. Chris has a deep connection to hospital chaplaincy and the unexpected and challenging places it can take him. It is truly a privilege to be called to be with others in times of uncertainty, change and distress, a true expression of the Christian faith at work.



Peter Bartholomeusz

Peter is happily married to Ruth and has two adult daughters and two grandchildren. He grew up in southern Queensland where his father was an Anglican Priest. Peter has been involved in Christian ministry throughout his adult life.

Early in their married life, Peter and Ruth felt called to serve as missionaries with the South American Missionary Society and they took their young daughters to Paraguay where they served for about six and a half years.

More recently, using his Education degree, Peter served in the Navy as a Training Systems Officer.

A highlight was serving in HMAS Tobruk, where in addition to his set duties, he facilitated church services. While in the Navy, he moved through a number of parishes including Gungahlin and St John's Wagga Wagga in the Canberra Goulburn Diocese. Since leaving fulltime service in the Navy, Peter has returned to Gungahlin Anglican Church and has completed his Master of Arts (Theology). In Gungahlin parish, Peter is involved in the pastoral support, prayer and teaching ministries.

Peter is a self-confessed aviation tragic.

He enjoys reading about history and adventure novels. He especially enjoys spending time with his grandchildren.



Roger Lewis

Roger first identified as a follower of Christ as a teenager, but has since realised that God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world. He thanks God for faithful School Scripture teachers and Sunday School teachers who retold the words and deeds of Jesus. He has been strengthened and encouraged in his faith at St Philip's, South Turrumurra; St Stephen's, Coorparoo; Rockhampton Cathedral; St Michael's, Wollongong; Figtree Anglican Church; St Nicholas', North Goulburn.

Roger loves his wife, Helen, his dove, his perfect one. Their two children, and now two daughters-in-law, and now two grandsons, with two more on the way, with him call her blessed.

Roger enjoys science. A Senior Professor of Physics and Associate Dean Research in the Faculty of

Engineering and Information Sciences at the University of Wollongong, he is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Physics and of the Australian College of Educators.

Roger rides the boundary of faith and science. He holds that worship is in the Spirit and in truth. He prays scientists will not see science as a barrier to belief and Christians not see science as an enemy of belief. To this end, he chairs ISCAST (Institute of Study of Christianity in an Age of Science and Technology). With one foot in Jerusalem and one in Athens, and convinced that the person of God should be complete, equipped for every good work, Roger serves as Chair of the Australian College of Theology.

Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

From the Ashes

Written by Rev'd Doug Newman

In January 2020 Camp Pelican Summer camps had to be cancelled as bushfires raged up and down the south coast devastating communities. This was followed in March by COVID-19 and the packed cabins of teenagers that is camp where not possible with restrictions of two or three campers per cabin and the travel and isolation requirements. Pop-up day camps in Canberra helped but camp at the coast was not possible. Coming out of this season has been a challenge but God is good and always encourages us onward and upward.

Building leadership teams and re-engaging the camper community after a three-year hiatus was challenging but in January Synergy held three Camp Pelicans for years 5-6, 7-9 and 10-12. The two younger camps were held at Manna Park near Tathra and the older camp was hosted at Youth With A Mission (YWAM) in Canberra. This is the first time Synergy has camped at YWAM and it proved very successful with a number of senior campers wanting to return and also wanting to contribute to Camp Pelican as junior camp leaders. Thanks to Judy Koch-Douglas, Amy Clausen, Michael Shaw and Libby Emerson-Elliott for stepping up and leading these camps and to the teams and campers who came and started us onward again. Synergy expects to hold a Winter Camp this year.

About 40 years ago a young girl in Year 8 just made it to Camp Pelican but there she made a decision that changed her life as she committed herself to Jesus love and care. This year that woman is very busy; as a mother and coordinating kids at church but she closed the loop and returned to Camp Pelican as not just a leader but as both Camp Director and Chaplain. Congratulations Libby for inspiring us with your faithfulness and passion for young people to have the opportunities that you did. Following God's prompting often takes us beyond our comfort zone but always takes us deeper into life and faith. We do not know what life-changing decisions were made this year on Camp Pelican but we trust God to reveal them in his time.

Synergy congratulates our Director Ben Paton. Ben joined in April 2019 and has led us through the COVID season but it is now time for him to move on. In December Ben was ordained as a Deacon and in late February he joined his family in Thursday Island where his wife Caitlin has been appointed to the Administration. Ben is currently on leave and Synergy will be seeking a new Director this year.



Acknowledgement of St Martin's College in NSW State Parliament

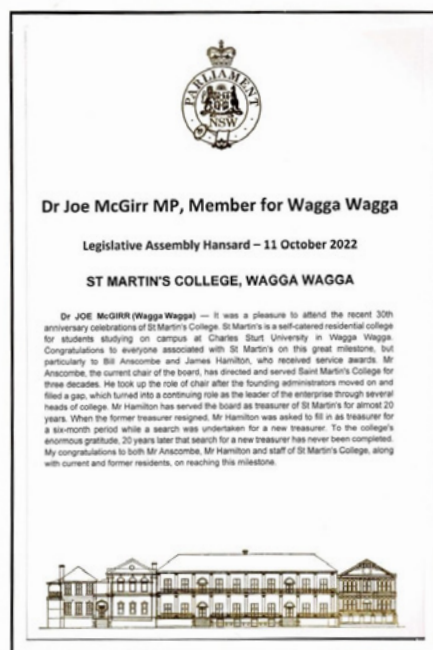
Long standing St Martin's College Board members, Bill Anscombe and James Hamilton were acknowledged in the NSW Legislative Assembly by Dr Joe McGirr, the Member for Wagga Wagga, for their long and distinguished service to the College.

Written by Susan Bazzana

Dr McGirr made the speech after he attended the 30th Anniversary celebrations for St Martin's where Board Chair Bill Anscombe received a 30-year service medal and Board Treasurer James Hamilton received a 20-year service medal.

The anniversary celebrations saw over 100 people attend various events including a dinner and a service of thanksgiving at which the first College chaplain, the Rev Glenn Maytum, spoke. The sermon pointed to the life of service of St Martin of Tours, after whom the College is named.

Four of the original eight residents who moved into St Martin's in 1992 were able to return for the anniversary celebrations and took the opportunity to revisit George Tassell House, the cottage they first lived in. All but one of the previous Heads of College were also able to attend the anniversary celebrations.



For 2023, St Martin's College is back to full capacity after three years of disrupted enrolments resulting from the COVID pandemic interrupting on-campus learning. College Head, Susan Bazzana, is excited to have the College completely full again. Susan said:

"We have successfully navigated our way through the pandemic, had a fantastic time celebrating our 30th anniversary and taken the opportunity to renovate one of our cottages, so on top of that to get to back to full capacity this year is great."

"We want to take some time this year to start the strategic planning process that will provide direction for the next 30 years of ministry at St Martin's."



First residents – Andrew Hatty, Narelle Magner, Rev Glenn Maytum, Coralie Remke, Lachlan Graham.



Heads of College – Jenny Willsher, Glenn Maytum, Susan Bazzana, Ian Armstrong, Grant Bell, Peter Savage.

God at Work *in Play*

Sports Chaplains in Boorowa

Written by Peter Prior

Meet Maurie and Marg May, chaplains to the Boorowa Rugby Club.

Though many trek from Canberra to Boorowa for history or fine food, a very different set of circumstances led me to the region around Easter 2022. The rugby season had not long commenced, but many in the town were suddenly reeling after an horrific injury to one of their players. As plans begun for some sports chaplains from Canberra to attend the team's training later in the week, to offer support and some insights on grief, a nagging thought of involving some locals drove me to find a church and knock on the house next door. What has unfolded since is great testament to the sovereignty and provision of God and His desire to work through those who faithfully serve and follow His lead.

What are your recollections of that first week?

The way the initial contact was able to be made it was blatantly obvious the Lord had to be in it, and that's why we agreed to go along. We had never heard of Sports Chaplaincy Australia (SCA) before, but that night was an introduction to the club and we just went with the flow.

How has your involvement with the club developed since then?

The club officials have been very, very enthusiastic and most of the players too. Some of them have taken a while to get over a shyness and talk to us, but the very first week that Marg came, a girl came limping off and we chatted and she opened up a little and that opened up contact with the girls team, the Goldilocks, as well. When we had the Christmas party, this girl was the one who put her arms around Marg and gave her a big hug. You just never know. It's just your being there and being willing to be present and open and that's the main thing.

How has SCA supported and equipped you in your role?

SCA's training was really valuable, getting together with the others (online) to talk through the material and work through questions. We still have the booklet to be able to go back to. The training was certainly invaluable, not just for sports chaplaincy, but for Christian life.

What has been the response of your church, St John's?

When we were approached initially, we asked the church because we didn't feel we could be representatives of them without them knowing. They said yes, then asked if there were any costs involved and were happy to cover our training fees as well. They are very keen that we've been involved as a ministry of the church, they've owned it, it's their ministry too.



*The 'Boorowa Goldies' and the 'never too oldies':
a match made in heaven*

What would be your encouragement for others with regards to sports chaplaincy?

We're still very new to it, but we'd certainly be positive if someone was asking. What encouraged us was it being God-centred, with the Lord, not sport, at the top, seeing how God is working in the sport and how will He use us through the sport to hopefully introduce others to Him. When talking to one of the players once about our surprise in finding ourselves at being involved as a chaplain to rugby which I knew nothing about he said, "you're not here for the rugby, you're here for us!" That's what they've always thanked us for, every time, "thanks for being there".

How can we be praying for you both?

For the physical stamina and strength to keep going with us well into our 70s! Also for wisdom to know what our boundaries are and wisdom as we speak to these people from a different generation.

There are many needs and opportunities for sports chaplains across our region.

***For more information, check out
sportschaplaincy.com.au.***

Who knows what God has in store!

Bible Aloud

Written by Will Mackerras

Among my most treasured times in my Christian life have been when I've been able to read long passages of the Bible in one sitting. But I find it very hard to do it on my own. And even if I could do it, I wouldn't enjoy it nearly as much as if I could read aloud with others.

That's the thinking behind a new initiative at St Peter's Weston Molonglo – 'Bible Aloud'. A group of us will gather and simply read the Bible aloud for 45 minutes, with short prayers before and afterwards.

One reason we tend to focus on shorter readings in Christian gatherings is that there are inevitably parts of the Bible that are harder to understand or apply. So we take time to listen to a sermon (in a church service) or have a discussion (in a home bible study).

But another helpful approach is just to keep reading, trusting that eventually the harder verses will become clearer, for example because we come to another passage on the same issue. That's another part of the thinking behind 'Bible Aloud'.

I'm also conscious that sometimes people can find homegroups a bit intimidating, for example if there are group members with strong opinions who are quick to argue a point. For that reason, if people do want to discuss anything at Bible Aloud, I'll stay on afterwards to do that (after others have had an opportunity to leave), or perhaps come early the next week to talk about the previous week's passage.



Christmas Memory Tree

Written by Rev. Craig Rogers

As part of the celebrations at Wagga Anglican Church, A Festival of Christmas Trees was held in St John's in the days leading up to Christmas. One of the most popular trees was a two metre live tree which stood in the Christ the King Chapel. Visitors were able to write the name of someone they were missing at Christmas time on an angel or star, and hang it on the tree. It may have been someone who had recently passed, or simply the name of someone they were not able to celebrate Christmas with. The decorations were made from salt dough, and at the end of the Christmas season, the decorations will gently dissolve away in the Calvary Garden set in the tranquil grounds of St John's.

Another popular tree was one decorated by staff from The Forrest Centre. Simply decorated with words that express the Christmas season, it looked stunning under the changing coloured lights set up by our tech expert Anthony Ireland.

The Festival was a great opportunity to invite the Wagga community into our church in the days leading up to Christmas, and many visitors expressed their appreciation of having a quiet and reflective space to come to in what is often a busy time. A team of welcomers were on hand to provide refreshments and a friendly chat.



We'll be on every Monday at 8pm except for public holidays – aiming to start reading at about 8.10pm.

We hope Christians and anyone near Weston will come and join us!

Sharing Our Faith

From Generation to Generation

Written by Joan Eberlé

In October 2022, Mothers Union Canberra & Goulburn Diocese was privileged to conduct the NSW State Conference at the Australian Centre for Culture and Christianity (ACC&C) exploring the issues of **Sharing our Faith from Generation to Generation**.

On Friday evening, members from each Diocese in NSW gathered at the National Press Club, Situation Room, where we were welcomed by Bishop Mark and Dr Monica Short (our MU Patron). Following dinner served by the Press Club the Reverend Dr Tim Watson, NSW State President, spoke on Praise, Lament, and Thanksgiving in the Psalms. Ms Dorothy Mackenzie of the Hackett ACT branch was interviewed by our Diocesan President, Mrs Joan Eberlé, on living in an intergenerational family. Compline concluded the evening, conducted by our Diocesan Chaplain, the Reverend Canon Anne Wentzel.



Auditorium and Chapel Assembly

For our Open Forum Day on Saturday, we welcomed the attendance of local friends interested in this vital issue in our Anglican Church today.



Dr Ruth Lukabyo (pictured), Dean of Women, Youthworks, Sydney, is passionate about God's work with young people and Intergenerational Ministry.

71% of Christian kids drop out and become 'faith-repellent'.

29% of Christian Kids are hanging in there.

WHY?



The challenge for us is passing our faith down to the next generation (see Proverb 1:1-9). Ruth suggested what we need to do as a family, as a church, and what the next steps should be when thinking about Intergenerational Ministry.

Each participant attended 3 workshops:

1. Dr Monica Short helped us to consider nurturing relationships between generations: 'Forgiveness: reconciliation through reconciling' - helping us to consider how forgiveness nurtures relationships between generations.
2. The Reverend Judy Douglas is passionate about working with youth and Christian leaders, developing resources, and establishing intergenerational environments within the church. Her book 'Finding Real Satisfaction' helps young people think through sex, relationships, and gender as followers of Jesus.
3. The Reverend Anna Boxwell and Skye Coats explored Christian parenting the Gospel way by nurturing our children, and grandchildren by sharing Christ's love and by sharing our own faith with them in a presentation on 'Discipling Parents, Discipling Kids'.

Saturday evening was a time of fellowship and sharing our Diocesan stories. While the BBQ was being prepared Bishop Mark and Dr Monica Short led those who were available on a walk through the Biblical Gardens at the ACC&C which was most enjoyable (pictured below).





The final activity of the Saturday Open Forum Day was a time in which MU groups explored our theme for 2022, 'Transformation Now' through an interactive session with feedback and questions from members.

Sunday Worship at the ACC&C was an uplifting and memorable time led by the Reverend Canon Anne Wentzel and with the sermon preached by Bishop Mark, as pictured below.



The Grand Finale of the weekend was our cruise of Lake Burley Griffin on board the Southern Cross Yacht. It included some fine dining and a commentary from the Captain about the history of the ACT and our beautiful lake.

During that time, each Diocesan President spoke briefly about activities in their Dioceses during 2022 and State Secretary for 2022, Joan Eberlé, formally thanked our NSW State President, Reverend Dr Tim Watson for his leadership during the long build-up to the conference (pictured to the right).



Rev'd Anne Wentzel, Anna Krebs and Rev'd Gavin Krebs enjoying seafood banquet aboard Southern Cross Yacht



Our committee worked tirelessly for two years in planning and ultimately delivering a very productive weekend exploring the issues of 'Intergenerational Faith' and how we can share our faith from generation to generation.

We would like to acknowledge with thanks and gratitude the support of Bishop Mark, our MU Diocesan Patron, Dr Monica Short, and the NSW State President for the conference, Rev'd Dr Tim Watson.



The Faith of an Atheist

Written by Robert Willson

In Psalm 53 we read these words in verse 1:

"The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God."

Today we live in what is called a secular society, where many thinking Australians deny the existence of God. About half the Australian population would tick the "no religion" box in the census form.

I have appreciated the opportunity to discuss these matters with friends who claim to be atheists. When I say to them that they really do have faith, they deny it very strongly.

Each year when I was Chaplain at the Canberra Girl's Grammar School we would have an Orientation day for new students and their families. I would be asked to speak about the fact that the School is a Christian School in the High Church Anglo-Catholic tradition, founded about a century ago by an Order of nuns, the Sisters of the Church. I spoke of the place of the Christian faith in the life of the School, in classes and Chapel services.

One year a chap whose daughter was starting at the school asked me afterwards what I would say to those who seek a good education for their daughter but absolutely deny God and reject the Christian Church.

I astonished him by pointing out that even an atheist like him has a strong faith. What is the faith of an atheist?

I pointed out that to be an atheist requires an enormous act of faith.

A atheist must have faith that our amazingly complex world just happened by accident. There is no loving Creator and no purpose to it at all. It just happened.

They must also have faith that there is no moral law of right and wrong. For them good behaviour is just a matter of naked self interest. We treat others well because they might return the favour.

Atheists must have faith that there is no spiritual reality and no life after death. As Bertrand Russell put it, *"When I die my life will be like a blown out candle"*. Or, as my computer screen puts it at the end of the day: *"Shutting down"*. But there will be no *"Welcome"* screen the next day.

Atheists must have faith that they, and fellow human beings, have no souls. We are just smart animals. Concepts like truth, and love, and beauty, are just nice words.

Atheists must have faith that Jesus Christ, if he existed, was just a deluded fanatic. Sure, he inspired beautiful music and literature and art and heroic self sacrifice, but this was just a coincidence.

When it comes to the point, atheists must have faith that Jesus was in fact a liar when he said that in his Father's House are many mansions. He certainly was not the Son of a non existent God and he did not rise from the dead.

These issues convince me that atheists must have a strong faith.

Personally I do not have enough faith to be an atheist. What about you?

"The Chiefs Take It" in Junee!



On Monday 13 February 2023, 17 people from the church and Junee gathered in St Luke's Anglican Hall to enjoy an American traditional Super Bowl Party, including a typical Southern American Lunch with Cornbread, Beans, Brisket, Salads and Pumpkin Pie.

Several members familiar with American football were able to explain the nuances of the game to those unfamiliar.

A good time of friendship, food and fun was had by all!

Written by Heather Jauncey



Parish Grounds & Gardens

Written by Peter Keith

I have been asked to write an article for Anglican News on how to set up and maintain suitable gardens and grounds in typical churches wishing to have a nice outside ambience that is also achievable.

When I retired from General Practice in 2014 I was aware that the gardens at the St Paul's Turvey Park Wagga Wagga (now part of South Wagga Anglican Church SWAC) were in need of considerable planning and ongoing maintenance. They had declined significantly due to the health issues facing the man who had previously maintained them for quite a few years through the church's male working group called the Chain Gang.

As I had previously cared for my own nature strip at home and helped considerably in my former work place, it was not a hard decision for me to ask the church for three years and some adequate funds to take on the vision, planning and implementation of viable, attractive, low-cost and easy-maintenance gardens and grounds.

Parts of the grounds had not had a plan or any attention and there was much to do. I set to it. And it did take concerted effort over two-three years. I had a pretty good idea of what would be likely to work.



Row of seduction roses with seaside daisies planted at the entrance.



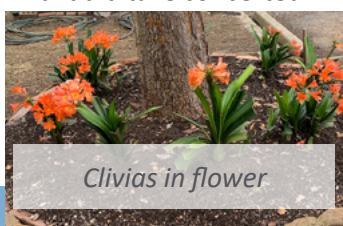
Bark Chip Mulch



Begonias love shade



Agapanthus



Clivias in flower



Row of crepe myrtles



Kangaroo Paw Big Red

SOME OF THE LESSONS I HAVE LEARNED

- † Select an interested person who has a vision, a do-able plan, long-term commitment and drive, and is prepared to see it through.
- † Use hardy, low maintenance shrubs and plants, suited to the right locations.
- † Do not be afraid to use good soil, good compost, good mulch, good bark chip etc as needed and make your own compost if like us you had lots of fallen leaves in late autumn and early winter.
- † If you can find a good local source of natural rocks terrific (we had Riverina Water excavations nearby our community radio station where I present, and was their gardening guru as well), otherwise buy bricks, blocks and stones as needed.
- † A team of at least four are required to optimally mow lawns, do edging, keep on top of weeding, pruning and watering etc for the long haul.



Braidwood Concert Series

Written by Anne Sanders

Braidwood Concert Series' Autumn 2023 program has been bursting with variety and outstanding performances. Three concerts have been scheduled from February to April all to be held in the beautiful St Andrews Anglican Church, 47 Elrington St, Braidwood.

Leading off in February was Limestone Consort from Canberra with *Women by Women*; works by women composers performed by women musicians!

March saw the Sydney-based contemporary jazz ensemble led by Mark Ginsburg performing their newly recorded album 'Oceans Together'. Braidwood Concert Series was delighted to bring more outstanding-quality jazz to Braidwood.

April brings another first to Braidwood. Brisbane-Sydney based Australian Baroque Brass, led by John Foster, will be presenting a program of *Courtly Musick*, accompanied by an outstanding organist and soprano.

Australian Baroque Brass have built a fine national and international reputation, and it is wonderful that they will be performing for us in Braidwood on Saturday 15 April from 2pm. Tickets \$45 adults and \$40 concessions.

You can find updates on the [Braidwood Concert Series News facebook page](#) and on posters around town. If you have any queries, please email: artwork123@icloud.com

For those people residing the Braidwood area, you should receive a flyer with all these details in the post.

Online tickets and detailed information for all performances are available through [Humanitix](#); just key in under *Events*: 'Australian Baroque Brass'.

Otherwise tickets will be on sale at the door on the day.

For all performances, under 16s can attend free, as long as they are accompanied by an adult.

www.anglicare.com.au

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- **Retail Supervisor** Canberra
- **Direct Support Worker** Canberra, Goulburn, Orange, Moruya
- **ITC Manager** Queanbeyan, Wagga Wagga, Liverpool
- **Youth Worker, ICT** Wagga Wagga, Queanbeyan, Liverpool
- **Case Manager, Permanency Support Program**
Bega, Liverpool, Moruya
- **ITC House Manager** Wagga Wagga
- **Youth Worker, Permanency Support Program**
Nowra, Liverpool



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Anglican News

Editor: Alison Payne

Layout & Design: Jemma Thomas

Article Submissions

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.

Articles for each edition need to be submitted by the 25th day of the previous month. Please email all articles submissions and enquiries to: anglicannews@anglicancg.org.au

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.



EMBRACING MINISTRIES

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We cannot run our programs without the help of our valuable volunteers. Prior experience or training is not needed as we provide our Volunteers with training in Disability Inclusion and Safe Ministries. The next program we are running will be a holiday program called Little Treasures. Little Treasures is a three-day Christian Holiday Program for primary school-age children including those with special needs. 'Celebrating Easter' is the program theme, with a different part of the Easter story told each day.

The program will operate over three half days from 12th-14th April and volunteers will need to be available from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm. We will also have a get-to-know-you orientation day on the 11th of April between 10 am and 3 pm.

We are looking for Volunteers to provide support in the Preschool – Year 1 room, Year 2 – Year 6 room, as well as two people to drive Vans provided to pick up and drop off selected children who are attending.

If you are interested in volunteering or have any more questions, please email Embracingministries@gmail.com or phone Andrea on 0404 256 714.

We hope to hear from you soon.

Parliamentary Christian Fellowship

COMMISSIONING OF CHAPLAIN

On behalf of **Mr David Smith MP** and
Senator Matt O'Sullivan, Co-Chairs of the
Parliamentary Christian Fellowship,
you are invited to attend the commissioning
service of new chaplain Mr Leon Hribar.

Wednesday 29 March

Room 2S3, 9:00am arrival for 9:10am start

Tea, coffee and light refreshments to follow.

*Please RSVP to michelle.boylan@aph.gov.au
by Monday 27 March.*

*Non-APH pass holders will be met at the
Marble Foyer at 8:45am sharp to be escorted to
the venue.*