



Anglican News

a magazine for the Anglican Community of Canberra & Goulburn



God is with Us

"God is with us" – precious words or dangerous words?

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National Prayer Breakfast 2023

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Meet the new Priests

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Divine Healing in 21st Century

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God is with Us

“God is with us” – precious words or dangerous words?

Throughout history those words or words like them have indeed been used by nations, armies and leaders to claim a special divine privilege over and against other people.

The first Christmas was no different, when the infant Jesus was welcomed as Immanuel, which means “God with us”.

As Jesus grew and began His work of teaching and healing in a contested land various groups and factions sought His allegiance. Occupiers, rebels and collaborators all wanted Him on their side. But Jesus resisted, not because He was indifferent to matters of justice but because He recognised a deeper calling and a deeper need.

Beyond all human divisions and differences He sees our universal need for a Saviour, someone to deliver us from our common failing of placing our particular desires and the status of our chosen group at the centre of the universe. So the peace He comes to bring through His life, death and rising from the dead is peace offered to all people, not just to some.

God is with us at Christmas, but not as someone we can manipulate onto our side. He invites us to His side, which is the way of life and hope in this world and the next. Christmas is an opportunity for each of us to give Jesus our allegiance and walk with Him in the path of doing justice, loving God and loving our neighbour. At this and any time of year the churches of the Anglican Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn welcome anyone who wishes to explore the way of Jesus.

May you know the comforting and challenging presence of God this Christmas, and may God bless you and those you love with safety and joy this holiday season.

With prayers and blessings,

Bishop Mark Short



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Article Submissions

The Anglican News welcomes contributions of **up to 500 words** with pictures 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.

Advertising Enquiries

The Anglican News also accepts submissions for ads, events and positions vacant within the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn!

Inclusion of articles and advertising material is at the discretion of the editors.

Please email submissions and enquiries to:

anglicannews@anglicancg.org.au

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National Prayer Breakfast 2023

*Written by Alexander Tu,
Good Shepherd Anglican Church*

We all know the pain of being hurt by someone else. The worse the pain, the harder to forgive.

So, I knew the theme of the 34th Australian National Prayer Breakfast —experiencing forgiveness—would impact people. It was a theme with a question: where does the strength to continue to forgive come from?

If one couple in Australia has the ability to answer that question, it's Danny and Leila Abdallah. Because few Australians have been hurt as deeply, or forgiven as completely, as Danny and Leila. It was an honour to hear them speak.

Held on 13 November at Parliament House, Canberra, many different people of unique backgrounds and opposite sides of politics, gathered in The Great Hall and via live-stream, to pray for our nation.

Over 500 people came in person, to hear their story. About the day, two years ago, they forgave the driver who killed three of their children and their niece while the driver was under the influence of drugs and alcohol.

And about today, how they practise Christ's forgiveness—even reaching out the hand of friendship to that driver.

Danny shared first about the power of forgiveness. In prison, the driver's life was threatened by fellow inmates who were incensed by the death of the young children.



But Danny made it clear to the inmates that he did not want the driver harmed: he had forgiven him. Danny communicated this not just to the inmates, but face-to-face in prison with the man who had taken three of his children.

This man, bereft of hope and drowning in self-condemnation, was restored by Danny's forgiveness. It drove him to seek the one who gave Danny the power to forgive. Jesus.

The driver, Samuel Davidson, is now a fellow believer in Christ. Upon declaring this sinner's salvation, The Great Hall erupted into applause, rejoicing over the repentance of a sinner.

Where Danny reminded us about the power of forgiveness, Leila revealed where the power to forgive can be found.

After her children were rushed to the hospital, she returned to the scene of the accident. She knelt down on the road and prayed the Lord's Prayer seven times. "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us..."

Each time she prayed that prayer, her heart felt heavier, until she beheld the scene of the cross: Jesus hanging on the cross crying out, "Father forgive them, for they do not know what they do".





She recounted that, as she dwelled on Jesus' forgiveness, and as the cameras turned on her and demanded a response to this crime, the Holy Spirit gave her the words, the courage, and the conviction to proclaim forgiveness on national television to the man who had killed her children. She forgave without knowing the driver's name. She forgave unconditionally, as Christ forgave her.

Dozens of Senators and Members of Parliament joined them in tears, and in prayers. Along with hundreds of staffers and government workers, thousands more joined online.

I do not know if the pain resurfaces every time Danny and Leila share their story. But what I do know for certain is that every time they share that story, they rejoice in forgiveness, because it is Christ who shines brightest in their story. From him comes the strength to forgive.

The Abdallahs' message compelled all of us to reflect on the need for forgiveness in this time of tension and division; and it pointed me to the wellspring of forgiveness, from whom the power to forgive overflows.

The Speaker of the House, Milton Dick, led all in the great prayer, "forgive us our trespasses". David Smith MP, and Senator Matt O'Sullivan, though from different parties and different houses of Parliament, joined them in songs and great amens.

It was Senator O'Sullivan who finally answered the question, about how this kind of forgiveness is made possible. The answer is found in the Apostle John's first letter, chapter 4, verse 19: "We love because He first loved us."

As I reflect on that morning now, I have since been blessed with opportunities to forgive. I have learnt that forgiveness is not a singular event. It is ongoing. You forgive when you choose not to question the authenticity of the other's repentance in your mind. You forgive when you choose not to dwell on the hurt and bitterness that resurfaces. You forgive by not raising again a forgiven slight when the same person hurts you again. And it is only Christ who gives us the strength to continue to forgive.

Next year's National Prayer Breakfast will be held on Monday, 4 November 2024.



Alexander Tu is a lawyer serving in Australia's public service and Canberra's Good Shepherd Anglican Church.



Pictured: Senator O'Sullivan beautifully wraps up the event by connecting our need to forgive others with the initiative of God "who first loved us" (1 Jn 4).



Ordination of Priests

On Saturday 25th November, five (5) new Priest's were ordained in St Saviour's Cathedral.

Biographies are as supplied by the ordinands.



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, 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 Michaels and All Saints in Hall, which is part of the St Barnabas Parish. Married to Ellen, they have three sons; Aidan, Jack and Patrick.



Brett Marshall

Brett 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, where he subsequently gave his life to Christ.

Following eleven years as an Army officer, Brett served in the Australian Public Service, where he focused on Intelligence and Security, finishing in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Brett enjoys fresh challenges and learning, music, travel, good food, exercising to burn it off and following the Mighty Magpies in Australian football.

He and Amanda are energised by helping people discover and grow in Christ. They look forward to planting a congregation in the new suburbs of northwestern Gungahlin, ACT.



Angela Stanfield

Angela was born and raised in Melbourne. She began her theological studies in 2005 at Trinity College Theological School in Melbourne, and then moved interstate, finishing her studies through St Mark's Theological Centre.

Discerning a call to Defence Force Chaplaincy, Angela joined the Army Reserves as a medic in 2007 whilst completing her theological studies and placements. In May 2013, Angela was ordained to the Diaconate in the Diocese of North Queensland. In 2018, she transferred to the Air Force as a Chaplain, and she and her husband have posted to Townsville, Sydney, and Darwin. They are currently posted to Wagga Wagga and are loving their time there.

Angela is married to Matthew, and they have two daughters, Rachel and Grace. As a family they like to spend time outdoors, exploring whichever city they're posted to, and walking their beloved Bull-Arab, Missy, who has accompanied them around the country.



Trent McGrath

Trent is husband to Alice and the father of Henry, Maisie and Siena.

He was born and raised on the Northern Beaches of Sydney. At twenty-eight years old, the Lord found and saved Trent when he was given a Bible to read by a colleague, and so read the Gospels for the very first time. Convinced by the reality that Jesus is Lord of all and with a deep sense of calling to serve him, Trent committed himself to the local church to grow in the knowledge and love of God, and his people.

Soon afterwards, he married Alice, underwent a ministry apprenticeship, spent five years being formed at a Bible College, was ordained a deacon, and pastored for five years in Sydney while becoming a father of three.

In 2020, Trent and his family planted The Village Church in Jindabyne where they currently live and serve. It's his prayer that The Village Church in Jindabyne will overflow in the grace of God and the Gospel to impact people more broadly across the Parish, and the Snowy Mountains.



Andrew Vella

Andrew is married to his lovely wife Hannah who has supported him through his transition from programmer to priest and is the proud father to three primary age children.

Raised in a Christian family actively involved with Camden Baptist Church, it wasn't until he attended university that he truly began to explore and own his faith for himself. Over a year or so, he came to see that the Bible was true and that it presented a coherent world view. He now sees that Jesus really did rise from the dead and that this good news needs to be told to a world in need of redemption.

In 2003, Andrew moved to Canberra for an IT role at the ANU College of Law. During this time, he attended St Matthew's Anglican Church, met Hannah, and began studying Theology at St Mark's Theological College. He actively served at St Matthew's and 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 Senior's Ministry.

Parishes Teaming Up With Quiz Worx for Combined Mission

Written by Reverend Paul Davey, Rector - St Nicholas Anglican Church Goulburn

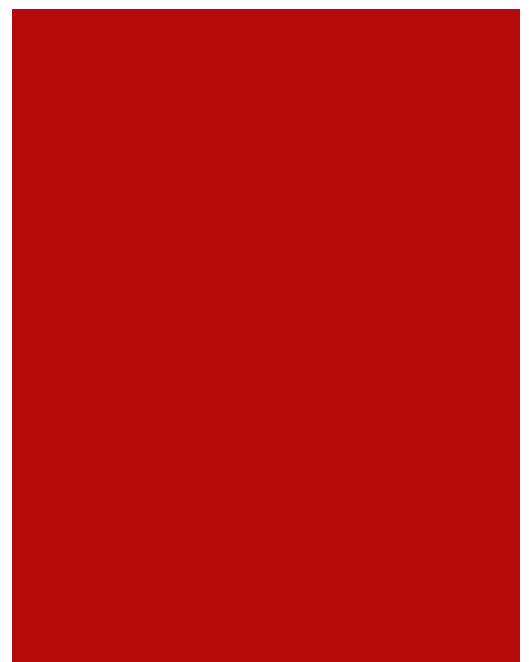
St Saviour's Cathedral and St Nicholas North Goulburn teamed up recently with Quiz Worx, to bring a kids mission to Goulburn. Quiz Worx exists to share Jesus with kids everywhere. They use the creative mediums of puppetry, music, chalk talks, animations, storytelling, drama, quick draw, comics, and numerous other tools to present the Good News of Jesus. In Goulburn, puppets Cosc, Moxy and Gemstar (with some human help) used stories and song to share the good news from the Bible that 'Christmas is Merry because of Jesus Christ'. Kids and big kids alike were wowed by the high energy and creative presentations at St Saviour's and St Nick's on the Sunday.

"This was a great event to invite people to and those who came heard the good news clearly and had a really positive experience" said Reverend Paul Davey from St Nick's. "The feedback from newcomers was amazing and we've seen a few return in the weeks that followed. It helped us to kick off a small Christianity Explored group too!"

After shows at St Saviour's and St Nick's the Quiz Worx team backed up with presentations to 7 public primary schools in Goulburn over 3 days. Hundreds of kids in Goulburn who don't go to church regularly also now know that 'Christmas is Merry because of Jesus Christ'!

"Quiz Worx were great to partner with in this kids mission" said Reverend Davey. "Their staff are super experienced in kids mission and have great ideas. Their performers are really, really good at relating to kids and clearly share the Good News of Jesus in a way that kids understand and is fun! That's why Quiz Worx is my go to partner for mission to kids!"

Through this kids mission St Saviour's and St Nick's are also demonstrating that you don't have to be the same to work together and by doing so are more able to work with outside partners like Quiz Worx.



Divine Healing in 21st Century

*Written by Bishop Ian Lambert, Chair of SOMA Australia,
ARNA Core Steering Group*

Anglican Renewal Network Australia reports from the Divine Healing in 21st Century Conference.

We commenced the weekend with an evening specifically for pastors/priests to allow them to worship, dine, network and fellowship together. On Friday, we heard of the wonderful healing legacy which is St Paul's because of the faithful healing ministry initiatives by Rev Hickson at the turn of last century. Each session had inspired worship which lead us into His presence and prepared us to receive great messages of encouragement and teaching.

Rev Dr Teresa Parish, who has visited churches in Canberra and Goulburn previously, lead each of the evening sessions and ministry times. What an inspiring and lively time we enjoyed with Teresa. Rev Dr Mark Durie taught authoritatively on Healing and Deliverance and then on Life in the Spirit; Bishop Ian Lambert shared stories around our supernatural God from his ministry and missions using Elijah and the prophets of Baal narrative. On Saturday, Bishop Ian dealt with the difficult subject of when healing doesn't come, and forgiveness. On Saturday afternoon there were six workshops, including: establishing healing ministry in local church; navigating renewal in the local church; spiritual gifts; deliverance ministry.



Dr Teresa outside St Paul's North Caulfield

The testimonies tell the story of our awesome God in action at the St Paul's North Caulfield conference in November.

- † "Ever wondered what happens when God's people soak in an atmosphere of prayer and come expectant? Miracles become normal!"
- † "This was amazing. God has completely changed my life!"
- † "I wanted to tell you that I had amazing breakthroughs and deliverance from the spirit of control."
- † "We saw God heal, almost everyone with a physical need, and as forgiveness was released, many received peace and inner healing. Demons were dealt with, and joy was abounding!"
- † "Wow, what a weekend! God poured out blessings to us all. I truly felt like I was drinking at a new well."

St Paul's were outstanding hosts, the gathering ran seamlessly, and the large bold billboard outside the church on the highway which read: "WE PRAY. STUFF HAPPENS!" was true to its word. The presence of God, the weight of his holiness - the kabod - was something to be experienced. People were healed, captives set free, words of knowledge spoken, demons fled, and there was much weeping! Nothing more powerful than when God's presence rested heavily on the clergy as they were prayed for individually by Bishop Ian.

What outstanding young leaders in Rev Brendon and Virginia McDonald at St Paul's, so ably supported by their lay folk. Looking towards more of the same over the years to come bodes well for the Anglican Church in Melbourne! Praise God.



*Q&A with Bishop Ian Lambert, Rev Dr Teresa Parish,
and Rev Dr Mark Durie*

War Memorial Window Rededication

St John's Anglican Church, Young

Written by Rob Nash

On Sunday 12 November 2023, a congregation of around 130 assembled at 9am in this lovely church to see and be part of the rededication service. This was a solemn and happy occasion. The service was conducted by the Venerable Doctor Neil Percival AM assisted by Assistant Bishop Carol Wagner who did the actual rededication and Chaplain David Deal from the RAAF who did one of the prayers.



The church was honoured by the attendance of several dignitaries. Senator Deborah O'Neill represented the Minister for Veterans Affairs and the NSW Minister with responsibilities for Veterans who were unable to attend. Dame Annette King, the High Commissioner for New Zealand, and the Deputy Chief Ambassador for Turkey, Umut-Vatan Aydin, well and truly represented their countries. Ms Steph Cooke, the Member for Cootamundra, and the Mayor of Hilltops, Cr Margaret Roles, attended. The Member for Cootamundra, Michael McCormack, was unable to attend and wished proceedings well. Major (AAC) Phillip Mitchell, the immediate past President of the local Sub-branch of the RSL and leader of the local Army Cadets, participated.

There were four pews with relatives of the men listed on the plaques adorning the sides of the Window. They included Bill and Gill Eastlake (James Ashton), Pam and Les Warren (Frank Horwood Johnson), Janice Ward (Norman Page Harris), Margaret Davis (Henry Johnson), Elsa & Peter Sorensen from Erina (Arnold Metcalfe), Glenda Smithers (Ernest Henry Hinton) and Jarrod and Pat Johnson-Smith from Cowra (Ernest Beplate). Vicki Burstal (Richard Burstal) was on reception duties. Mrs Sue Hardy who had kindly lent the Great War Scrap Book which led to this Rededication sat with the relatives. It seems that they all were thrilled to be there and remarked favourably on the ceremony.

The service took the form of a much modified Morning Prayer service. The Rector welcomed all, especially the invited guests and their families and relatives of the

men listed. Then followed that great celebratory hymn "Tell out My Soul" by Timothy Dudley-Smith, which was sung with great gusto to the accompaniment of the musicians (Leanne Percival, Liz Boland and Fred Dimmick). The Rector outlined the background to the service which all started with a photocopy of the article in the Young Witness of 27 April 1922 in the scrapbook.

After that the Rector, the Bishop, Senator O'Neill and Rob Nash moved to the Window area where the Bishop did the actual rededication of the Window. This was followed by Major Mitchell reciting the Ode, Mrs Boland on the bugle sounding the Last Post, then by silence, then The Rouse again by Mrs Boland. Senator O'Neill laid a wreath on behalf of the Minister for Veterans Affairs and Rob Nash laid a wreath on behalf of the congregation.

Chaplain Deal followed that with a prayer. Peter Kinsela read a passage from Revelation 7:9-17 and Bev Kinsela read from John 15:9-17. The Rector preached a very appropriate sermon about the two saints portrayed in the Window – St Michael and St George, the latter portrayed as slaying a dragon, which the Rector said originated in mediaeval times. The emphasis was on the sacrifices by the men listed on the Window.

The hymn "All Glory be to Christ" by Dustin Kensrue was then sung after which Mr Chris Gibson, Chair of Parish Council, led the congregation in prayers of intercession. The final hymn was "I cannot Tell" by WE Y Fullerton (1857-1932).

Senator Deborah O'Neill then made a formal address. She made an acknowledgement of country and of the official dignitaries. She spoke on behalf of the Minister for Veterans Affairs, she thanked people for coming along to support she thanked the three people who had done the research for the book – Vicki Burstal, Judith Langfield and Rob Nash. The Senator recounted her visit to Ypres in 2012 and how moving she found the Anzac Dawn Ceremony. This address really rounded off the service capturing the tone of the day, with the Senator very immersed in the Service. Her address was remarked on by many as very appropriate.

Bishop Carol concluded the service with the Benediction. The congregation then moved out solemnly proceeding from the church through a Guard of Honour provided by the local Army Cadets.

The congregation then enjoyed a sumptuous morning tea set up in the church hall. The Chairman of the Parish Council, Mr Chris Gibson, addressed the gathering welcoming again the various dignitaries and thanking people for coming. The Army Cadets assisted by handing around the morning tea. During this time visitors and families of men listed mingled with the congregation with many interesting discussions following. No one seemed in a rush to depart indicating that this day had been a tremendous success.

The church is going to put a plaque at the Window indicating when it was dedicated and rededicated, so that in a hundred years time, people will know. This story follows more or less the style of the original article in 1922.

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More Information

For further information on all vacancies, visit our website under [Positions Vacant](#).

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Please note, we only advertise positions vacant and events within the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn.



Anglican Diocese of
Canberra & Goulburn

Director of Embracing Ministries (Disability Services)

Embracing Ministries, a Chaplaincy Unit under the Anglican Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn seeks a dedicated individual for the role of Director and Anglicare Disability Chaplain. This full-time, fixed-term position is a unique opportunity to lead a ministry deeply committed to the welfare and spiritual growth of individuals with disabilities and their families.

This is an opportunity for a compassionate, skilled, and dedicated individual to significantly impact the lives of those with disabilities and their families. We welcome you to join our love, advocacy, and service mission.

Please contact Clive Rodger, Embracing Ministries Board Chair, on 0413 333 770 (during business hours).

A full description of this position, and details on how to apply, can be found [here](#).



Christian Education in Schools

CEIS Staff Member

Christian Education In Schools (CEIS), a project of the ACT Churches' Council, has a staff position available from February 2024. Applications are invited from committed Christians willing to lead and deliver Christian education sessions in ACT public schools (under current legislation). Desirable skills and experience include teaching or children's ministry and at least some of a combination of teambuilding, public relations, administration, fundraising, and communication.

Applications close Monday 15th January 2024 and must include names and contact details of three referees, one being the current minister of the applicant's church.

Submit applications or further enquiries to Karen Baron coord@ceis.org.au (0424 393 748).

A full description of this position, and details on how to apply, can be found [here](#).



Current Job Vacancies

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- **Early Childhood Teacher** Canberra
- **Family Connection & Mentor Support Worker** Wagga
- **Youth Worker** Canberra
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- **Casual Case Manager** Goulburn
- **Outside School Hours (OOSH) Coordinator** Canberra
- **Director of Early Learning Service** Canberra
- **Case Manager - Permanency Support Program** Orange
- **Casual Educator** Goulburn
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Image mural: The Jubilee mural was created jointly by students in Nungalinga College's Art and Faith group. Both images: © Nungalinga College. Used with permission.

PRAYER

We wait for you, Lord Jesus Christ,
not surrounded by snow and holly,
but by blazing sun,
ultramarine, turquoise and cerulean blue seas,
fiery bottlebrushes and crimson waratahs.

As we wait for you to come to us,
Lord Jesus Christ,
as a baby in a manger,
hear our prayers for the students
at Nungalinya College
and Wontulp-Bi-Buya College,
that their studies may bring them closer to you,
you who took on human flesh
and became one of us.

As we wait for you to come to us,
Lord Jesus Christ,
as our Judge at the end of time,
hear our prayers for the teachers and other staff
at Nungalinya College
and Wontulp-Bi-Buya College,
that whatever they teach and model,
it may point their students to know you more,
you who come to us with judgement
and with mercy.

As we wait for you to come to us,
Lord Jesus Christ,
as our food for the journey in your
great gift of the Eucharist,
may we all prepare for that day when the
redeemed shall sit and feast with you,
you who come to us as today as Bread and Wine
that we may know you more and more
as we walk together
towards the heavenly banquet.

Amen.



When: 8 - 12 January 2024

Who: Highschool and College, Grades 7 - 12

Where: YWAM Canberra, 76 Federal Highway



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Seeking Connection

A Year of Living Intentionally

Session 1: Seeking Connection Entrée	January 20	Tim Narraway
Part 1: The Inward Disciplines		
Session 2: Meditation	February 17	Linda Chapman
Session 3: Prayer	March 16	Rebecca Newland
Session 4: Study	April 20	Michael Brown
Session 5: Fasting	May 18	Tim Narraway

Part 2: The Outward Disciplines

Session 6: Simplicity	June 15	Tim Narraway
Session 7: Solitude	July 20	Jane Simmonds
Session 8: Submission	August 17	Tim Watson
Session 9: Service	September 21	Karly Ferguson

Part 3: The Corporate Disciplines

Session 10: Confession	October 19	Angela Young
Session 11: Worship	November 16	Mandy Wheatley
Session 12: Guidance	December 21	David Oliphant and
Session 13: Celebration	January 18	Tim Narraway

Venue: All Saints Bodalla Anglican (the church with the yellow door), Bodalla.

Cost: \$15 to cover cost of printing, materials, and refreshments

What to bring: notebook, pen, life experience, generosity of spirit

What time will it begin? 11am **What time will it end?** 1pm

RSVP: Tim Narraway Email: revtimanglican@gmail.com mob: 0411 825 204

What is it?

An intentional friendship group for those who want to cultivate a deep connection, those who seek to grow in their relationship with God, are curious about ancient practices from the Christian Tradition, and have the courage to explore life changing experiences in a kind and generous group setting. All groups are facilitated.

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AND THE AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR CHRISTIANITY AND CULTURE (ACC&C)

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– Tuesday 24 September 2024**

(Pre-conference workshops on Sunday 22 September)
ACC&C campus, Barton, Canberra, Australia

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that will help us all flourish
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- **Call for papers and presentations early 2024**
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To register your interest, please email caps@csu.edu.au



AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR
CHRISTIANITY AND CULTURE
WISDOM FOR THE COMMON GOOD



Charles Sturt
University

Christmas Services

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