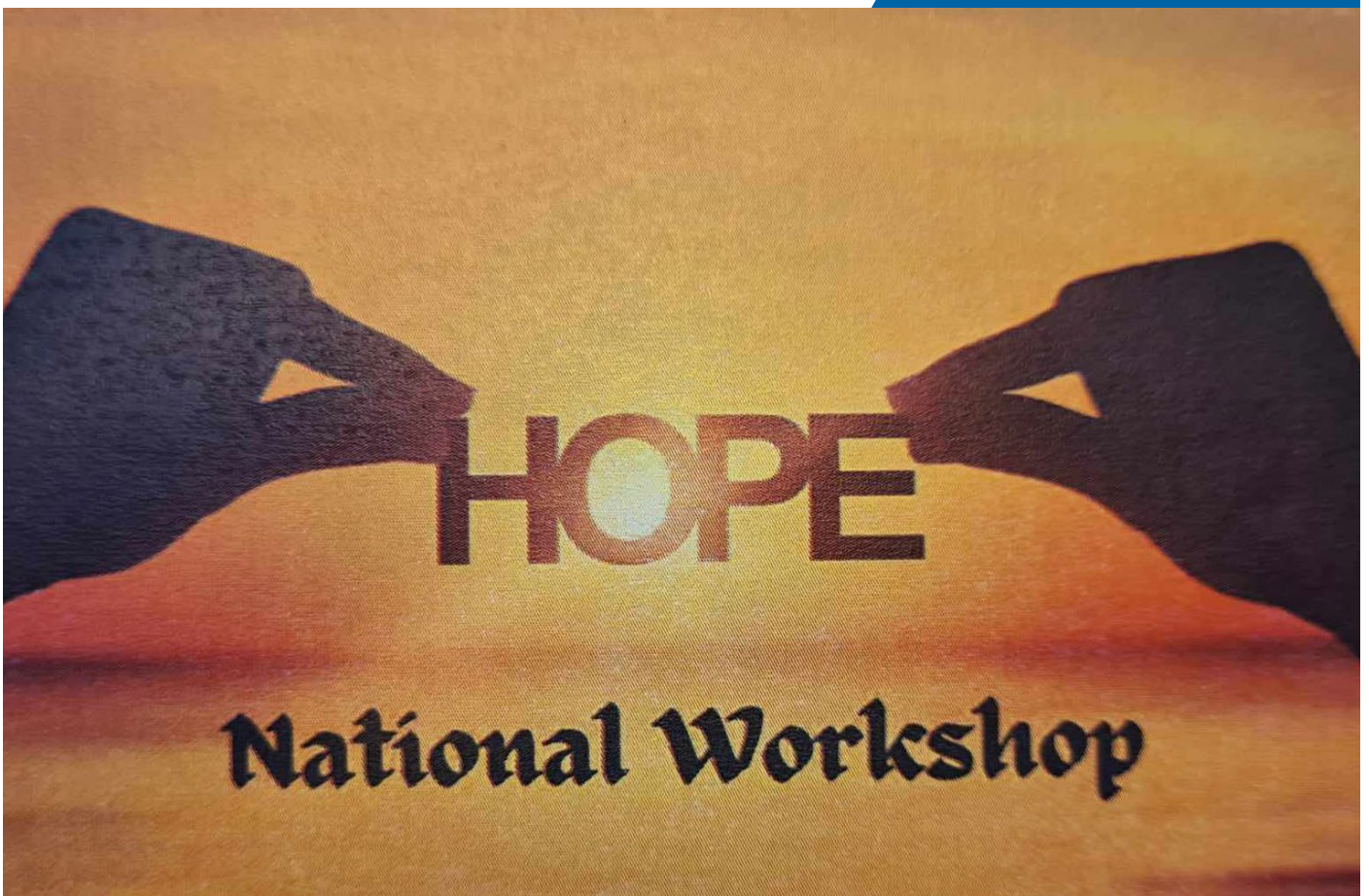




# Anglican News

a magazine for the Anglican Community of Canberra & Goulburn



## Offering Hope in an Uncertain World

*Read the full article on page 12.*



### Meet Our New Deacons

*Full article on page 4*



### Radford Choir Sings at Parliament

*Full article on page 8*

# Letter from Bishop Mark

**Dear friends in Christ,**

One of my greatest recent encouragements was one I experienced second hand! At the beginning of last month my wife Dr Monica Short, Archdeacons Tom Henderson-Brooks and Jonathan Holt were present in Melbourne for a symposium organised by the General Synod Ministry and Mission Commission. The purpose of the gathering, which included representatives from 22 of the 23 Anglican Dioceses (the one not present is very supportive), was to plan, dream and pray for a season of focussed evangelism in 2025 under the theme **'Hope in an Uncertain World'**. You will hear more about this initiative throughout this year – in Anglican News, at our May Clergy Conference and at other training events. There will also be online resources that you can use to connect your neighbourhoods and networks with the good news. Please join with me praying that our sense of hope in the Lord Jesus Christ will be renewed and contagious!

One of the disciplines I'm asking us to adopt as a Diocese as we prepare for 2025 is what I'm calling 'discerning signs of hope'. Amidst the busyness of life and ministry I am asking us to take time to notice and name what gives us hope – in creation, in the life of God's people and in the pages of Scripture.

For example, if it's your custom to work through the Lectionary you might like to engage the gospel reading for each Sunday by finishing this sentence:

**"This passage gives me hope because ..."**

As I write we are approaching the Fifth Sunday in Lent where the gospel reading is John 12:20-33. Before looking at my list I suggest you open your Bible and have a go at completing the sentence for yourself.

Anyway, here are my thoughts. This passage gives me hope because:

- it encourages me that I should expect the most unlikely people to be seeking after Jesus
- it reminds me that what looks like death may in fact be the prelude to new and abundant life
- it assures me that as Jesus was lifted up on the cross, and as Jesus is lifted up in our witness, He will draw people to Himself

May the God of all hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing!

**With prayers and blessings,**

*Bishop Mark Short*

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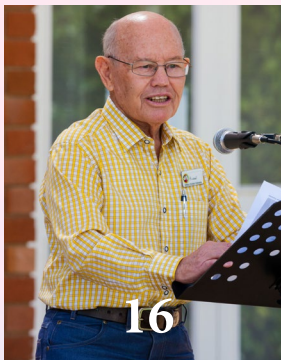


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## Contribute to Our News!

### 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.*

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# Meet Our New Deacons



On 24 February in St Saviour's Cathedral, the Diocese ordained seven new deacons. Archdeacon Paul Cohen preached to those gathered from John 15.9-17:

*As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.*

He concluded by exhorting the deacons to 'Be witnesses to Jesus' Resurrection, appointed to bear fruit that lasts!'

The following pages contain a brief biography supplied by each Ordinand to introduce them to the Diocese.



## Anna Krebs

Anna was born and grew up in Sydney. She and her brothers formed the Junior Choir at the church they attended with their parents, and as well as being taught to sing, were taught to read the Bible in church. She still enjoys doing both.

During High School, the school Crusader group, as well as youth group and church, helped Anna to think through her faith, and to own it as her own.

After school, Anna worked in a bank before going to university in Armidale. There Anna learned that God is totally dependable, and that Jesus is the best friend anyone could have.

After finishing her degree, Anna worked for nearly two years in a tissue culture laboratory before going to Gunnedah as Youth Minister at the Anglican Church. Anna is married to Gavin, and they have three wonderful adult children and one beautiful daughter-in-law.

Some years later, the family moved to Bathurst and Anna became a licenced lay minister, and her husband Gavin started his formation. Although Anna also began to think about ordination, at that time she was very unsure about it. Instead, she was involved as a licenced lay minister, on Parish Council, and as a sacristan (a type of caretaker, custodian, church officer).

After being in Goulburn for a year, Anna and Gavin moved to Wagga Wagga, where she started a BTH by distance through St Mark's.

Anna has always been involved in ministry, particularly in caring for those within the church, and encouraging them. She knows that God has always been there through the ups and downs of life and wants to share God's love with others.

Anna will be licenced to St John's Reid and is excited about serving God in a new setting and excited too about all that she will learn there.





### Andrew Lubbock

Andrew was born in Sydney, and born again through the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ at St Matthew’s, Wanniasa. Years of faithful witness to Christ by family, friends and church leadership, and ministry of the gospel through the Prayer Book, as well as Christ-centred teaching at church, came to a head in 1984. The reason for the cross suddenly became clear as Andrew prepared for confirmation: sin had to be paid for by Christ in humanity’s place, and God’s love compelled Jesus to pay that price. Andrew could do no other but trust Jesus, who ‘did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.’ (Mark 10:45)

Following Jesus led Andrew to serve in various places and ways. First as a St Matt’s Youth Group leader; then as a Uni student with FOCUS at ANU; to South Korea with the Korean Intersarsity Christian Fellowship; back to ANU as a ministry apprentice; and then writing, performing and recording music as a singer-songwriter with the band Stone to Flesh.

Andrew and Sarah married in 1996, and moved to Sydney in 1999 to study at Moore College. Together with children Zeke and Jemima they then flew to Italy in 2004 with CMS and the GBU, to train Italian Uni students in Florence to share Christ. Returning to Australia in 2016, Andrew, Sarah, Zeke, Jemima, Oscar and Matilda served with a Presbyterian Ministry on the Gold Coast.

As the family is dispersing around Australia, Andrew continues to serve as Senior Associate Minister at St Matthew’s, Wanniasa.

All praise to God, as Andrew’s desire is undiminished. He wants more than ever to ‘be found in Christ...to know Christ – yes, to know the power of His resurrection and participation in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.’ (Phil 3:9-11) And so to make Christ known.



### Bili Malek

Born in Prague in former Czechoslovakia, Bili escaped with her family to Australia via Austria during the Prague Spring. She completed most of her schooling in Canberra, where she met her husband, Stuart, at High School.

Bili worked as a doctor for many years, including fifteen years in the UK with her family. She has been involved in ministry both in the United Kingdom and Australia.

She has worked as a hospital Chaplain and a team leader, training others in Chaplaincy. She has led pioneer outreach services and participated in team healing ministries in an Anglican led Wholeness and Healing Centre. Coming from an Islamic background,

Bili feels she has a unique perspective to offer concerning her bi-vocational experience.

Parents of three grown daughters, Bili and her husband live with their dog Oscar and cat Pip. Bili remains active in teaching at the ANU medical school, where she has chaired a year three committee and led clinical skills at Queanbeyan Hospital. She retains admitting rights to Queanbeyan Hospital and works in the Emergency Department while caring for elderly patients in nursing homes.

Having completed her MA (Theo), she is transitioning into ordained ministry and will be the part-time Assistant Minister at Holy Covenant in Cook.



### Luke Midena

A tropical upbringing in Darwin made a move to Canberra at 18 for university jarring for Luke! For four years at the ANU, he pursued his passion for music, completing a Bachelor in French Horn performance.

The significant impact of university discipleship ministry during his time in Canberra led Luke to Sydney in 2006, where he began to work with the Navigators at Macquarie University. Immersed in Russian language studies and contemplating an international move, he was struck by the immense spiritual needs within Australia. A sense of the brevity of life and helplessness of young Australians compelled him towards vocational Christian work, a calling that has found constant affirmation through God's provision and encouragement over the last 18-years.

During Luke's time at Macquarie, he met Kate, his future wife. They were married in 2009 and moved to Canberra in 2015 with the Navigators, where they were blessed with two delightful daughters.

Luke has completed a Diploma in Theology and has nearly completed a Master of Divinity – a gradual process spanning over 11 years. Encountering the rich historical theology of Anglicanism, both in his studies and parish experiences, has drawn him into the Communion. Currently, Luke is serving at Arawang Anglican Church in Kambah.

Beyond Luke's commitment to helping others know and follow Jesus, he finds joy in mountain biking, brining olives and Russian music.



### Sascha Peard

Sascha is a proud mum of three high-school aged children, Kaeleigh, Sean, and Emma. After calling regional Japan home for more than fifteen years, the family moved to Australia in 2012 and found their new beginnings in Batemans Bay on the far south coast of NSW.

Sascha has a background in Educational Psychology, worked for Japanese Boards of Education, and enjoyed teaching English in rural Japan to students of all ages in educational institutions, as well as in community centres and homes. After moving back to Australia, she returned to university to complete a counselling degree. When Sascha secured part-time employment as the chaplain at St Peter's Anglican College in Broulee in 2014, she and her children found themselves warmly embraced by the Moruya parish of St John's.

For some time Sascha balanced the

role of counselling and chaplaincy, working in both spaces within the College, as well as working with separated families and their children in the therapeutic space at Marymead, before accepting the full time school chaplaincy role. She has gently explored what it can mean to serve her community as an ordained person, methodically studying at St Mark's and continuing to live into the experiences and learning from her studies, as well as from her own children, students, colleagues, friends, and the supportive congregation of St John's and connected wider community.

Sascha loves being outside and can often be found camping or fishing with her children, accompanying them in their sporting endeavours, or facilitating chapel on a beach, in the bush, or around a fire pit. She values journeying with others and is committed to sharing life giving Love in an all too broken world.





### Andrew Shiells

Andrew was born in East Melbourne and raised in Geelong and Ballarat. He is a 'cradle' Anglican and was confirmed at the Ballarat Cathedral Church of Christ the King in 1975. Andrew has two adult sons, Douglas born in 1992, now a software engineer living in Canberra, and Robert, born in 1996, an actor living in Los Angeles.

As a professional librarian, Andrew worked in special, public and university libraries, before teaching library studies at the Canberra Institute of Technology for over a decade. More recently, he worked at St Mark's National Theological Centre as manager of the Registered Training Organisation. Outside work and church, Andrew enjoys spending time with his sons, reading, walking and coffee with friends. As a Victorian by birth, he is a lifelong supporter of the Geelong Cats AFL football team. He also enjoys travel, a passion re-ignited by a St Mark's study tour to Israel and Jordan in 2019.

Since moving to Canberra with his family in 1998, Andrew has lived in Tuggeranong and worships at St Mary in the Valley (SMiV) Anglican Church. He has been active within the Parish holding many voluntary roles including lay reader, Bible reader, Bible studies leader, choir singer, Parish councillor, warden, Synod representative, and Clergy Appointment Board representative.

Andrew has been discerning God's call to ordained ministry for a number of years, confirmed through the St Mark's formation program. He completed the St Mark's Diploma of Christian Ministry and Theology in 2018 and is currently studying towards the Bachelor of Theology.

Andrew looks forward to continuing and developing his role at St Mary in the Valley as a Deacon, especially in liturgical and pastoral care ministries, whilst continuing his theological studies at St Mark's.



### Nathanael Thierry

Nathanael was born in Geelong, Victoria and is married to Génovah, and together they have one adorable curly-headed son, Adam. Nathanael has sensed God's call to ministry since his teenage years. He studied theology in Geelong at the Reformed Theological College, where he discovered his passion for languages while learning Greek and Hebrew, before joining SIM with whom he served overseas in cross-cultural missions in francophone Africa. While studying French in Paris to work in Africa, he met Génovah.

Nathanael has a diverse background having grown up in the Dutch Reformed tradition on his father's side and experiencing a more charismatic Baptist tradition on

his mother's side. He has come to the Anglican church later in his faith journey, appreciating a space rooted in the church's great catholic traditions particularly liturgically, while simultaneously being committed to a more protestant reformed theology of the Word of God.

In between ministry roles he has also worked as a sourdough baker. Currently, Nathanael works part-time at All Saints' Anglican Church in Collector. He is passionate about Jesus, languages, books, and enjoys spending time with people and talking about theology, philosophy, history, and many other things!

# Radford Choir sings at Parliament Commencement Service

Written by Reverend Dr Katherine Rainger, Senior Chaplain

**The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.**

*2 Corinthians 9:6-8, a portion of the Bible read by the Prime Minister during the commencement service.*



Every year parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, faith leaders and members of the community are invited to an ecumenical service to commemorate the Commencement of Parliament. The service is organised by the Parliamentary Christian Fellowship in partnership with the Australian Capital Territory Churches' Council.

This year the service was held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February at the Presbyterian Church of St Andrew in Forrest. This unique service brings a sense of clarity and focus for our elected representatives who are called to a particular form of service and public life.

Radford College students were invited to sing at the service this year. An extra early start on the first day of the school year did not deter our singers and the co-curricular music team from arriving ready to sing for a 7:30am start.

Students, conducted by Dr Tracy Bourne and accompanied by Mrs Bronwyn Brown OAM, sang *The Lord's Prayer* from African Sanctus by David Fanshawe. Their beautiful singing enhanced the worship for those gathered.

The Prime Minister, the Hon. Anthony Albanese MP read from the Bible immediately after our choir sang. The Prime Minister said how special it was to have the Radford Choir sing *The Lord's Prayer* as part of the service. Even though applause is not usually part of a church service, Mr Albanese said that everyone was clapping internally!

Bishop Mark Short was in attendance along with other clergy and lay people from the Diocese. Rev. Daniel Mossfield, the Uniting Church minister in Crookwell, gave a poignant a rousing sermon titled, 'Life at the edge of despair' where he encouraged elected representatives to trust God's faithfulness and goodness, and to work for justice while also recognising their own limitations.

After the service the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, the Hon Peter Dutton MP, greeted our students, a highlight for them and the Radford staff present.

We continue to pray for parliamentarians and all who work at Parliament House as they seek to serve the common good.

A prayer for good government from a Prayer Book for Australia (Anglican Church of Australia).

*Spirit of justice and truth,  
grant to our governments and all who serve in public life,  
wisdom and skill, imagination and energy;  
protect them from corruption  
and the temptation of self-serving.  
Help us to commit ourselves to the common good  
that our land may be a secure home for all its peoples,  
through Jesus Christ the Prince of Peace.*

**Amen.**



# Senator David Pocock visits Anglicare Emergency Relief Hub



On Monday 15 January, volunteers from the Arawang Emergency Relief Hub welcomed a visit from Independent Senator, David Pocock. The hub, which is run in partnership by Anglicare and the Arawang Anglican Church, is completely volunteer-staffed and operates once a week on Monday mornings, providing free food and personal items to those in need.

“The visit was an opportunity give a front-line perspective on how the cost-of-living crisis is impacting Canberrans”, said Anglicare’s Emergency Relief Coordinator for the ACT, Rachael Tscharke.

“The senator was very generous with his time. Bearing in mind that the Hub was operational throughout the visit, he made every effort to speak with as many volunteers as possible and to thank them for their work.”

In the last year alone, the team at Arawang have seen a 72% increase in the number of households assisted, and a 101% increase in those seeking assistance for the first time. Lynne Newman, Volunteer Team Leader at the hub, has watched the need grow month after month. Late last year she began writing to local representatives to provide her first-hand perspective on the issue and to invite them to visit the hub.

She was glad that Senator Pocock and his staff made the effort to come in person. “I think that they were surprised at some of the statistics that Anglicare provided for them regarding the increasing demand for assistance”, said Lynne. “The ‘big picture’ is usually made of thousands of ‘little pictures’ and I think it is important to keep our politicians and decision makers aware of the ongoing impact of cost-of-living decisions on individuals and families in our community.”

The hub provides approximately \$100 worth of assistance to individuals per visit, and more to couples and families. Government funding covers only around 15% of this assistance, while current reporting guidelines often underestimate the need in the community by focussing on households helped rather than total individuals helped.

During his visit, the Senator spoke to volunteers who collect surplus fresh food donations from local supermarkets every week to help stock the fridges. “This is an area where we would like to see government play a role in incentivising the donation of good, quality and nutritious produce to Emergency Relief providers”, explained Rachael.

The team at Arawang were pleased to share their experiences, and the importance of the work they are doing. One volunteer expressed their appreciation of how interested and insightful the Senator and his staff were throughout their visit, saying: “They were deeply touched at hearing some of the kinds of situations folk find themselves in and fully understood why there is such an increase in demand. They could see why it was not just about helping homeless people, but those just trying to survive incredibly challenging life circumstances.”

The Arawang Emergency Relief Hub currently has enough volunteers to operate once weekly. With the ongoing increase in demand for their services, however, the hub is looking for additional volunteers to allow the service to operate more frequently.

If you are interested in volunteering with Anglicare visit [www.anglicare.com.au](http://www.anglicare.com.au) or contact 02 6232 2488.

*Article supplied by Anglicare*



# “If you can take early retirement, take it!”

Written by Reverend Patrick Cole, Canon Liaison to the Diocese of Jos, Nigeria

25 years ago, I can remember clear as day sitting in a service at St Matthew’s Wanniasa as a guy called Vijay Menon (an active lay member of St Helen’s Bishopsgate Anglican church in London) gave a lively, feisty, amusing and challenging talk. Born a devout Hindu, Vijay found the Lord Jesus “accidentally” through the lunchtime businessmen’s ministry at St Helen’s. In time, he took early retirement from Lloyds Insurance to concentrate on telling others about Jesus. *“God sent me to Britain to convert the natives”*, he told us with a huge smile! Now in his 80’s, he remains as active as ever, including in one-to-one training in Christian discipleship.



Amongst other gems, he said, “If you know Jesus, if you love his word, if you want to serve him faithfully in this world, and see others come to know him too, and if you ever have the chance to take early retirement to do that, TAKE IT!”

At the time, Naomi and I were confident that Jesus had called us to serve him within Foreign Affairs and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. And in the 30 years I spent as a public servant and diplomat, time and time again we found Jesus opening up absolutely wonderful opportunities to serve him and make a real difference for his sake in the secular world. Lay-employment ministry is a fantastic gift and calling, with great satisfaction as we deliberately and consistently look for ways to serve Jesus in our jobs, not just our financial security and social status!

But Vijay’s words stuck with me, and the time came in 2009 when we felt (with some nervousness) that Jesus was calling us out of the excitement, status and professional satisfaction of a career in Foreign Affairs, into exploring full-time ministry. 13 years later, we have not regretted that step, and God has been really good to us. Theological study at our own St Mark’s National Theological Centre was deeply enriching and a great spiritual learning experience. Pastoral leadership and care of a Canberra parish family and aged care ministry for 11 years was a blessing as we walked with our church family and friends through their challenges. Skills from Foreign Affairs and the public service helped us in supporting that family and meeting needs. And still today in post-parish “retirement”, active ministry continues, including in coordinating our diocesan partnership with the Diocese of Jos in northeast Nigeria. Jesus has wonderfully provided for our needs every step of the way, including so that we could substantially self-fund our ministry.

And sisters and brothers, that’s the point. Here in Canberra, and the Diocese, we have pressing needs for people to hear the good news of Jesus’s love, and to experience that love through pastoral care and

actions which put flesh on his love. We have vacant parishes, and rural parishes unable to fund ministry workers. We have a pressing need to establish new church families; to renew the energy of existing works; to support children's, schools' and aged care work; and to reach out with powerful pastoral care for the least, the last and the lost. Many of us live and work in Canberra, and have the opportunity to take early retirement. This with a level of financial security which would enable us to give 10-15 years to full-time lay or ordained ministry in places which could not otherwise afford that ministry. Many of us have developed public service skills the church family desperately needs (remember that spiritual gift of "administration"?).

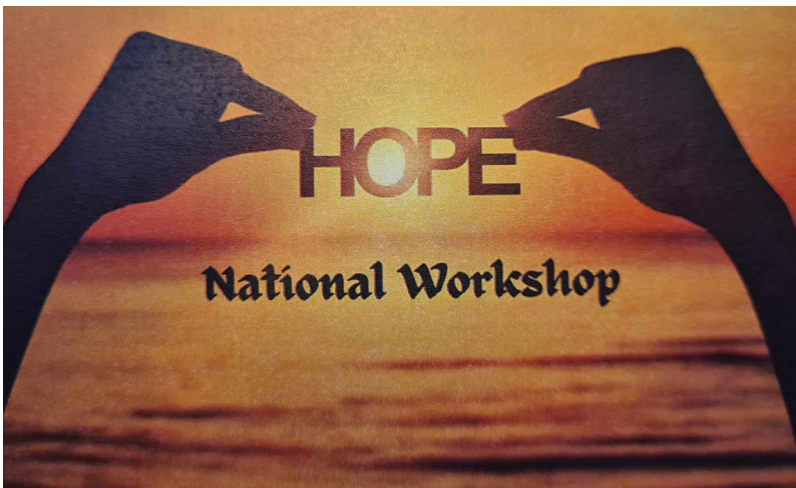
We also have our very own St Mark's National Theological Centre, offering a wide range of theological and pastoral preparation courses right on our doorstep (or remotely online). This while offering a teaching and learning flexibility probably unparalleled by other Australian institutions. A chance to dip your toe in, to explore lay or ordained calling, to be equipped for ministry, or to simply learn more about Jesus so as to enrich your walk with him. And we have a diocesan Bishop and team anxious to find and encourage flexible pathways into affirming and equipping folk to step intentionally into lay and ordained ministry.

Two enormous strategic mission assets right in front of us! The temptation as we age is always to take the easy comfortable path into "retirement" from work, to subtly move into living for ourselves rather than continuing to live actively for Jesus. The temptation may be to take early retirement and go cruising, go caravanning, or go bucket-list travelling.

Of course, Jesus may be calling you to stay where he has placed you in a strategic lay job. But listen for his call, be sensitive to those times of godly dissatisfaction and of asking him to guide you. And in those times, as Vijay would say, if you know Jesus, and love his word, and want to serve him faithfully, and see others come to know him too, and if you have the chance to take early retirement to do that, TAKE IT!! Take it prayerfully, after examining the state of your heart. Take it recognizing your need for the Spirit's wisdom and empowerment. Take it after speaking with and listening carefully to others you trust, and counting the cost. But if you *do* become convinced of his call, expect to be joyfully surprised by how Jesus has gone ahead of you, planning for *your* good as you seek the good of his kingdom. I for one would love to encourage you! God has particularly gifted many of us who live and work in this part of Australia with the early retirement option, and with St Mark's to help equip us: let's invest these two great local strategic assets wisely for the kingdom, and expect great returns!

## Clergy Moves

- † **The Reverend Anna Krebs** was licensed as Deacon – Parish of Canberra on 24 February 2024.
- † **The Reverend Andrew Lubbock** was licensed as Deacon – Parish of Wanniasa on 24 February 2024.
- † **The Reverend Bilkis Malek** was licensed as Deacon – Parish of Jamison on 24 February 2024.
- † **The Reverend Luke Midena** was licensed as Deacon – Parish of Arawang on 24 February 2024.
- † **The Reverend Sascha Peard** was licensed as Deacon and Chaplain – St Peter's Anglican College on 24 February 2024.
- † **The Reverend David Rajasekaram** was licenced as Rector of Parish of Tumut effective from 3 March 2024.
- † **The Reverend Andrew Shiells** was licensed as Deacon – Parish of South Tuggeranong on 24 February 2024.
- † **The Reverend Nathanael Thierry** was licensed as Deacon – Collector Exploratory Ministry Unit on 24 February 2024.
- † **The Reverend Phillip Saunders** was licensed as Locum Rector in the Parish of Queanbeyan (from 18 February 2024 until the appointment of a new Rector).
- † **The Reverend Canon Professor Scott Coddell** resigned as Canon Theologian, and Honorary Associate Priest at St Philip's, O'Connor, effective 1 April 2024.



**SET YOUR HOPE  
ON THE GRACE TO BE  
BROUGHT TO YOU WHEN  
JESUS CHRIST  
IS REVEALED AT HIS COMING  
1 PETER 1.13**

# Offering Hope in an Uncertain World

*Written by Archdeacon Jonathan Holt*

**The message of the Lord Jesus is a story of hope. He offers hope to the sick and marginalised, He offers hope to the lonely and afflicted, He offers hope that overcomes the tomb. The theme of hope, as a good gift, is woven through all of the Bible.**

This makes it an excellent, unifying theme for an intentional Season of Outreach for the entire Anglican Church of Australia, in 2025.

I recently had the joy of meeting with representatives from Anglican Dioceses from Bunbury to Tasmania, to the Northern Territory and all Dioceses in between and around them, for a National planning conference to come up with the next steps for how we can collaboratively implement the preparation and proclamation planned for Lent and Easter to Pentecost, 2025.

From our Diocese, joining me was Archdeacon Tom Henderson-Brooks, our Archdeacon for Mission. And also, as an extra blessing Monica Short, who serves on the Mission and Ministry Commission of General Synod (the group who organised and ran the planning conference) was also present to help with planning and direction.

The concept is simple: Our Diocese joins with all the others around Australia (and every Diocese is on board with this plan) to being preparing ourselves, our parishes, our schools, Anglicare, chaplains and all of us

for a Season of Preparation (in Lent 2025) and then a Season of Proclamation (Easter to Pentecost, 2025). And all so we can offer hope in an uncertain world.

If every Parish across Australia ran one outreach event during this Season of Proclamation, there would be two and a half thousand events, all over Australia, all offering hope in Jesus name.

There is plenty of work to be done, if we are going to hit our target. All the delegates from the planning conference have returned to their Diocese to explain the plan and invite people to join this national effort. There are things we can each do in our local mission area, and there are things we can do as a whole Diocese to help and support one another. There are resources that will be produced to be used nation-wide. As you can see there is much more information coming.

For now, we can fruitfully engage by praying for the plans and the people needed to make a real impact in 2025, and we can set our hope on Jesus, so we are ready to share our reasons for being confident in an uncertain world.

# Remembering the life of Paul

*Written by Reverend Robert Willson*

During the holiday season it is easy to miss some important days in the Christian calendar. January 25, the eve of Australia Day, is marked by the commemoration of the Conversion of Saint Paul. A number of churches in our Diocese take the name of Paul, perhaps the largest being St Paul's, Manuka. It is an important day for me personally because exactly 50 years ago in 1974, I was confirmed in the Anglican Church.

Paul's life was filled with action and drama, from ceaseless travelling across the Roman Empire, finally to Rome itself. Many years ago my daughter and I were fortunate to make an extended tour of Turkey, which the Romans called "Asia Minor". Many of the places we visited, such as Ephesus, have rich associations with Paul.

In the Book of Acts, chapter 19, we may read a dramatic account of the time that Paul spent in Ephesus. It was an important centre for the worship of the goddess Diana, whose name in Greek was Artemis. She was the goddess of the hunt and her beautiful Temple was one of the Seven Wonders of the ancient world. Only a single battered column of it still survives.

The story of the impact of Paul's preaching of Christ in Ephesus is well known. The local silver smiths made a very profitable industry of the manufacture of little statues of Diana. The hip pocket nerve is the most sensitive nerve in the human body. The word spread that these Christians, led by Paul, were destroying the Cult of Diana, and a riot erupted.

Paul never lacked courage and wanted to come out and confront the mob. Friends stopped him because it would have cost him his life. I vividly recall sitting in the great Theatre of Ephesus, said to seat up to 25,000 people, and imagining the scene and the noise of long ago.

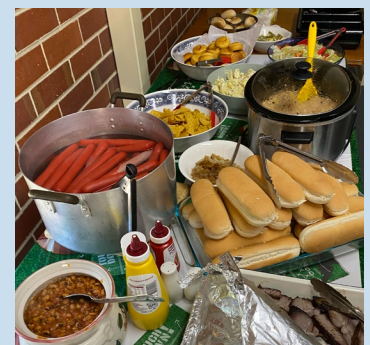
Finally the city officials quietened the mob because of the fear of heavy Roman intervention.

Paul left Ephesus and a small Christian community there but later he wrote the letter to the Ephesians. It seems odd that he does not mention the earlier Riot. It seems likely that he was writing a circular letter to the whole district where he had ministered.

Memories of my visit to Ephesus come back as I recall his Conversion and give thanks to God for his dynamic ministry to the world.

## Building Community

*Article supplied by Anglican Parish of Junee*



20 people from the Junee community, including St Luke's Anglican, got together to watch the American Football Grand Final - THE SUPER BOWL!

Monday 12 February 2024 was the second such event held in the small hall of St Luke's precinct. As well as corn chips & salsa during the game, folk enjoyed a good southern-style meal, including black-eyed peas, Mexican chicken & beans, cornbread & pumpkin pie while watching the exciting half-time show! GO KANSAS CITY!

# Finding Hope and a Future

Written by Kate Rodwell, CEO Dignity Freedom Network

\*Satya was just 11 years old when tragically, her baby brother died. Although devastated at losing the little boy she adored, Satya had no idea that this loss would change her life forever. Thinking the gods were angry with them, her parents decided to dedicate Satya to the temple goddess to appease them.

A marriage-like ceremony took place, and Satya became the property of the village, to be used and abused sexually by any man, anytime, anywhere. For 10 years she served up to a dozen men a day, initially at the temple, and later at a shack in her village.

The women in her village despised her and Satya hated how this work made her feel but believed she had no options. As a single mother, she had to provide food and clothing for her three children. Alone and abused, Satya sank into a deep depression.

Four years ago, Satya met \*Sharada, one of our team leaders, who explained there was a way of escape, an alternative life of restoration and hope.

Sharada helped her access health care. Sadly, Satya tested positive for HIV, but Sharada provided medications and support. As her health returned, Satya joined a 3 month sewing course and for the first time since she was a little girl she enjoyed friendship with other women. When she graduated, she was given a sewing machine, and resources to start a small business.

Satya is so thankful for Sharada and the love and support she received. Her children are enrolled in a Good Shepherd school, and she has high hopes that their lives will be different.



Satya is part of a growing number of women who have found help and freedom and is using this new-found hope to reach others still in bondage under this oppressive systemic abuse.

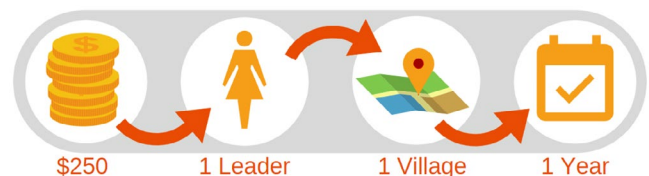


For over 2,000 years, girls have been dedicated to a goddess and forced into a horrific life of exploitative abuse. Girls are initiated without their consent, with little understanding that they will be trapped in a life of ritualised prostitution. They struggle with poverty, health issues, substance abuse, and depression. Their children are deprived of identity making them vulnerable to cyclical exploitation.

Our teams work in over 300 villages providing advocacy, education, health care and economic empowerment, protecting vulnerable girls, and liberating women. Local teams, mainly led by rescued and restored women like Satya, are the key to ending this abhorrent practice.



March 8th is International Women's Day. Join our 2024 IWD initiative and be a voice for these women (Proverbs 31:8-9). Each increment of \$250 raised supports 1 Village Leader in 1 village for 1 year, working to end the practice in her community by rescuing women like Satya, and preventing at-risk girls from being dedicated. People can donate directly, or organise their own 'challenge' or event to raise awareness and funds.



Would you join us this March so together more damaged women and at-risk girls can find hope and dignity, and learn of a God who yearns to heal them, to have a relationship with them, to love them.

Details are at [www.dfn.org.au](http://www.dfn.org.au) or E: [info@dfn.org.au](mailto:info@dfn.org.au)

Additionally, we are looking for volunteers to help with communications, and raising awareness. E: [info@dfn.org.au](mailto:info@dfn.org.au) for details.

\*Name changed to respect identity and privacy. ■

# Thanking God for Church Army

Article supplied by Timothy Scheuer, Church Army Board of Directors

**After 90 years of sharing the good news of Jesus across Australia, Church Army Australia is formally concluding its ministry, and marking the occasion with a Celebration and Thanksgiving Service on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2024.**

Church Army Australia was begun in 1934 at a meeting of the Bishop’s committee in Sydney under the chairmanship of the Archbishop. This was the result of a successful 2-year mission across Australia undertaken by a team of evangelists from the mother society in England. Church Army’s purpose was to preach the gospel by identifying, training and sending out Australian men and women as dedicated and pioneering evangelists. Over the decades hundreds of Church Army ‘Officers’ were trained and commissioned, and sent to serve in Anglican Dioceses across Australia. These Officers have been used by God to share his gospel with tens of thousands of people, establish innovative churches, love the hurting, strengthen the church, and commend Christ to communities that desperately need Him.

“For the last nearly 40 years I’ve been privileged to be connected with the Church Army. I found a home to live out my calling among other like-minded evangelists committed to sharing the gospel among the least, the last and the lost!” – Capt. Tim Scheuer, former Church Army National Director.

“We want to praise God for all he has done through the ministry of Church Army Australia across ninety years. Only in glory will we truly be able to see the eternal impact that Church Army’s Officers have had as they have shared the gospel across Australia. While it is of course sad to recognise that CA Australia has run its course, and so to this year formally wind up the ministry, we also want to rejoice that this was a movement God used to do great good.” - Rev Tom Melbourne, Chair of Church Army Australia.

‘Kihilla’, a much-loved Christian Retreat and Conference Centre in the Blue Mountains which has been run by CA Australia for the past 19 years, will continue to operate, serving the church as a beautiful and accessible place to gather together under God’s word.

A Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving to God for the work of Church Army Australia is being held on the 25th May 2024, at Kihilla Christian Centre (5-17 Queens Rd Lawson NSW) from 11am, with a BBQ Lunch and afternoon of fellowship from 12:30pm. Bishop Stuart Robinson will preach, and the occasion will mark the launch of a website and videos that capture the story of CA Australia. All former Officers, supporters, and friends of CA Australia are warmly invited to attend. RSVP for catering purposes by 11th May to [mel@kihilla.org.au](mailto:mel@kihilla.org.au)

If you are unable to attend the event in person but would like to view a livestream, please email [churcharmyau@gmail.com](mailto:churcharmyau@gmail.com) with the word “livestream” as the subject and a link will be sent to you prior to the event.



# Book Launch: Faithful Service

Written by Reverend Russell Bielenberg

## Launch of “Faithful Service”, a personal history of the Military Christian Fellowship by Reverend Russell Bielenberg, AM.

An animated group of some 30-odd people gathered on the grounds of St John’s Reid on Saturday 9 March 2024 when Russell’s personal history of the Military Christian Fellowship (MCF) was launched by former Principal Chaplain Navy (Anglican) Reverend Eric Burton, CSC.

The date coincided with the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the MCF when two earlier groups combined. Preceded by Peter McKay, a former Army Officer who spoke of Russell’s long-term commitment to the ministry of MCF, Russell gave the background to his writing, including his knowledge of the establishment of the Officers’ Christian Union in 1959, which he joined in 1962. He covered difficulties with sources before highlighting the huge need both to share the gospel with those in and entering the Defence Force. He urged all present to be diligent in prayer for those serving and their families.

The air was filled with conversation over a light meal as they shared fellowship while Russell signed books for the many who purchased them.

Copies are available for \$45 + \$15 P&P unless picked up at Macquarie from Russell who can be contacted by email at [rjb11@me.com](mailto:rjb11@me.com).



**Congratulations to Revd Russell Bielenberg, AM, on his book Faithful Service: A personal history of the Military Christian Fellowship of Australia. David Coleman took the photographs at the book launch at St John’s Reid (pictured).**

**Bishop Mark and Dr Monica Short are looking forward to reading this exciting memoir, which reminds us how God has always been and always will be at work in the forces.**

*- Dr Monica Short*





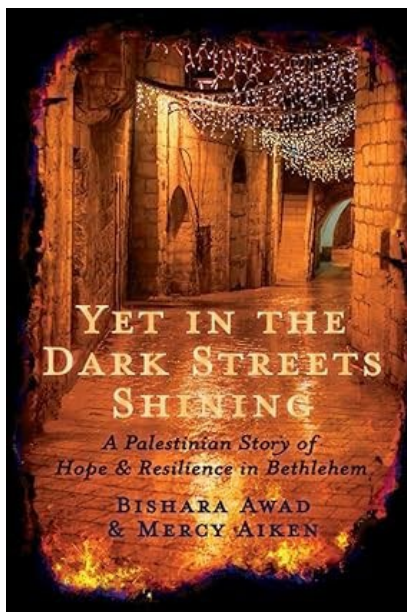
# Emu Music Conference at South Wagga Anglican Church

Written by Reverend Scott Goode

During February St Paul’s Turvey Park (South Wagga Anglican Church) hosted a church music conference for Emu music. It attracted churches of all denominations from around the Riverina with more than 90 attendees. The particular motivation for this conference arose from a request by Natalie Goode for musical training within the parish to encourage and equip our own musicians for leading the parish in congregational singing. Topics covered included a session on the biblical foundation of singing, how to work together when there are multiple instruments, workshops on particular instruments, and one for sound technicians. With more than 25 members in our music and sound ministry (see image for some such members with the Emu team) it was an invaluable experience not only in terms of what was learnt, but also in coming together in such an intentional way.



Emu Music exists to encourage and equip the church in biblical, beautiful and transformative singing and our recommendation is to check them out at [emumusic.com](http://emumusic.com).



## A story to hear...

**Come along to St Simon’s Kaleen to hear the multi-layered story of Bishara Awad, hearing also a Palestinian story in the wider context.**

- Event** Mercy Aiken, from the US, will speak about the book *Yet in the Dark Streets Shining* she has co-authored with Bishara Awad, the founder of the Bethlehem Bible College. Mercy is hosted by the Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network (PIEN).
- Venue** St Simon’s Anglican Church, Georgina Cres Kaleen
- Date & Time** Friday 12 April, 2024 | 7pm
- Contact** Helen Rainger | 0421825698

[Book available from Amazon here.](#)

Event sponsored by the Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network Australian Christians and supporters who seek lasting peace for the people of Palestine and Israel. We aim to equip and inform Australian churches, inspired by Christ’s vision for universal reconciliation.

[www.pien.org.au](http://www.pien.org.au)

[www.facebook.com/PalestineIsraelEcumenicalNetwork/](https://www.facebook.com/PalestineIsraelEcumenicalNetwork/)



**PALESTINE ISRAEL  
ECUMENICAL NETWORK**



Anglican Diocese of  
Canberra & Goulburn

- **Rector** All Saints' Ainslie
- **Rector** St John's Wagga Wagga
- **Community Chaplain**  
Lanyon Valley Anglican Church
- **Senior Associate Priest** Bega
- **Afternoon Church Ministry  
Coordinator & Community Chaplain**  
St Mary in the Valley, South Tuggeranong
- **Voluntary Ministry Roles** Charnwood
- **Associate Minister**  
St Nicholas' Anglican Church Goulburn
- **Children & Youth Minister**  
Good Shepherd Curtin

[anglicancg.org.au/news-and-events/positions-vacant/](http://anglicancg.org.au/news-and-events/positions-vacant/)

#### More Information

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

#### Advertising Enquiries

For advertising enquiries, please contact the Editors at [anglicannews@anglicancg.org.au](mailto:anglicannews@anglicancg.org.au)

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



### Current Job Vacancies

- **Senior Carer Practitioner** Albury
- **Carer Support Practitioner** Liverpool
- **Youth Worker - Young Carers** Canberra
- **Reconnecting Home Youth Counsellor** Wagga Wagga
- **Direct Support Worker** Moruya, Goulburn, Canberra
- **Early Childhood Educators** Canberra
- **Casual Educators** Goulburn
- **Youth Worker - Intensive Therapeutic Care** Liverpool
- **Youth Worker - Permanency Support Program** Liverpool

SCAN THE QR CODE  
OR [CLICK HERE](#)  
TO LEARN MORE  
& APPLY TODAY!



[www.anglicare.com.au/careers](http://www.anglicare.com.au/careers)

# HELPING REFUGEES MAKE A HOME

Want to help refugee families make a home in Canberra? Come along to discover how your community can help people start over



SATURDAY 16 MARCH, 10.30am  
GOOD SHEPHERD ANGLICAN CHURCH  
157 Carruthers St, Curtin

## SUSTAINABILITY KEY DATES

18 - 24 MARCH

Harmony Week

22 MARCH

National Ride2School Day

World Water Day

23 MARCH

World Meteorological Day

30 MARCH

Zero Waste Day

# LENT AND GOOD FRIDAY APPEAL 2024

Give the gift of improved health care, education and livelihoods



Donations to this appeal are Tax-deductible



DONATE ONLINE at [www.abmission.org/Lent2024](http://www.abmission.org/Lent2024)

## LENT AND GOOD FRIDAY APPEAL 2024

### PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ,  
your love for us stretches from heaven to earth,  
from beyond the grave to us here in this life,  
from celestial eternity to our time-bound existence.

Help us, your servants,  
to share that love – as you have commanded us to do  
– in practical ways.

During Lent, may we share that love by helping the children of Gaza and Sri Lanka to have good food to eat, and helping their parents to learn new skills. May we also serve those dealing with drought in Kenya to establish incomes to support their families.

On Good Friday, may we share that love by assisting the deaf to hear by providing hearing aids for refugee children in Jordan, through the Diocese of Jerusalem's Holy Land Institute for the Deaf.

Send your Spirit to urge us to pray for partners,  
and to stand with them in effective and down-to-earth ways,  
for it is in truly loving them  
that we show our genuine love for you.

Hear this prayer for your love's sake.

Amen.





# Save the Dates for Celebration at your Cathedral!

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2024 | 11:00am

160-years since the arrival of Mesac and Mary Thomas  
in Goulburn

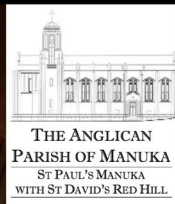
Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2024

25-years of the Friends of St Saviour's Cathedral

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2024 | 10:00am

140-years since the dedication of the Cathedral

A unique "great hall" ambience banquet & musical feast fundraising for the new Parish & Sacred Music Centre



SATURDAY 6 APRIL 2024  
in  
St Paul's Church, Manuka

# Gala Banquet

Jazz and canapés in the garden  
Banquet in the church  
Choral & chamber music and after-dinner speaker  
Christopher Lawrence, broadcaster & musician,



SCAN QR CODE FOR INFO AND BOOKINGS,  
use URL below or email [office@stpaulsmanuka.org.au](mailto:office@stpaulsmanuka.org.au)

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/gala-banquet-in-st-pauls-tickets-777277537037>

above: artist's impression of event



- Study theology, ministry, pastoral care, counselling, professional supervision (certificate, Bachelors, Masters, PhD)
- Faithful, practical, academically rigorous
- Flexible and affordable learning options (Canberra on-campus and online)



## St Mark's Book Discussion

*Dear (Post-)Christendom:*

Reading Kierkegaard for Today

Semester 1 2024

Time and venue

12:30-1:30PM, Tuesdays, Pickard Room, St Mark's campus (*in person only*)

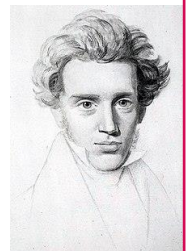


Text: Søren Kierkegaard, *A Kierkegaard Anthology*, ed. Robert Bretall (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1973).

We will work our way through this acclaimed anthology of Kierkegaard's corpus arranged by Robert Bretall. Unlimited online access will likely be available through CSU's library for current staff and students (if not, we'll see if digitisations can be provided in accordance with copyright); you can also purchase your own copy (physical or kindle version) through Amazon.au.

### Schedule

- 27<sup>th</sup> February – The Journals + Either/Or (pp. 1-36) [36]
- 5<sup>th</sup> March – Either/Or (cont.) (pp.37-80) [43]
- 12<sup>th</sup> March – Either/Or (cont.) + Two Edifying Discourses (pp. 80-116) [36]
- 19<sup>th</sup> March – Fear and Trembling + Repetition (pp. 116-152) [36]
- 26<sup>th</sup> March – Philosophical Fragments + Stages on Life's Way (pp. 153-189) [36]
- 2<sup>nd</sup> April – Concluding Unscientific Postscript (pp. 190-231) [41]
- [mid-session break]
- 23<sup>rd</sup> April – Concluding Unscientific Postscript (cont.) + The Present Age + Edifying Discourses + (pp. 231-281) [50]
- 30<sup>th</sup> April – Works of Love (pp. 281-323) [42]
- 7<sup>th</sup> May – The Point of View + The Sickness Unto Death (pp. 323-371) [48]
- 14<sup>th</sup> May – Training in Christianity (pp. 372-418) [46]
- 21<sup>st</sup> May – Two Discourses + The Journals + The Unchangeableness of God (pp. 418-433; 469-482) [25]
- 28<sup>th</sup> May – The Attack Upon "Christendom" (pp. 434-468) [34]



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/S%C3%B8ren\\_Kierkegaard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/S%C3%B8ren_Kierkegaard)

Contact: Amy Erickson, [gerickson@csu.edu.au](mailto:gerickson@csu.edu.au)

\*While this discussion group is primarily for St Mark's faculty and students, it is also open to interested members of the community. Please email above\*