



Anglican Diocese
of Bendigo

The Spirit

monthly

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issue 149



Reflections: The Revd Heather Cetrangolo provided her thoughts on Psalm 23 for those gathered at the Restore conference

Restore Women's Gathering nourishes relationships with God

Fiona Preston

Spacious times of worship and prayer, excellent food and an inspiring speaker were the ingredients to the success of the first ever Restore Womens' Gathering on Saturday, 7 September.

The Restore Gathering was a joyful success with over 70 women of all ages from across the Diocese of Bendigo

attending the event at Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Flora Hill.

The Revd Heather Cetrangolo, Chaplain at Trinity College in Melbourne and an Anglican Minister, was the guest speaker at the event. Split over two halves (with morning tea providing a delicious type of 'intermission') Heather shared her thoughts, reflections and real-life experiences of Psalm 23.



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The Bishop writes

....and tweets  @MattBrain1

The Spirit

Monthly newsmagazine
of the Anglican Diocese
of Bendigo

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November issue: Contributions due **Friday 18 October**

Dealing with dryness

As we go deeper and further into the drought, and the effects of scarce water are felt by many – especially those on the land – I have been reminded by two people I have pastored. They both faced 'dryness'. It wasn't a water drought, but it was a drought nonetheless.

They were of similar age. Both were single again, one following the death of her husband and the other as a result of divorce. Neither were particularly wealthy by western standards, but by the same token neither showed signs of particular financial struggle. Both were still independent and lived alone, yet there was a great difference in the happiness and stability evinced in their respective lives.

Whilst frustrated at her declining energy levels and diminishing physical capacity Sarah was able to cope with the challenges thrown up in her life and was consistently able to focus on what she was able to do, rather than what she had to let slide. She was well known around her community for the material and spiritual care that she so freely gave. Although facing significant health issues, Sarah had the capacity and resilience that enabled her to manage her growing challenges and in fact deepen her own faith and sense of self through them.

While sharing many external similarities with Sarah, Lyn was in many ways her polar opposite. Faced with a different raft of challenges to her health Lyn was consistently unable to see beyond the immediate threat of the presenting condition. While physically capable, Lyn was highly dependant upon the recognition and emotional support of others, and while keen to help others was easily offended if there is not some reciprocal benefit. Lyn's external circumstances played a significant role in determining her sense of spiritual and emotional wellbeing.

In short there was a spiritual stability and maturity about Sarah that Lyn did not demonstrate. This stability, I think, was directly related to the working of God's Spirit in their lives. This work of God is one of the themes that occupies St Paul's mind in Romans 8.

Paul gives us at least four great resources from which to draw when we are dry:

1. *The old and the new (Rom 8:1-17)* – When coming to Jesus we are enabled to live with an access to life that was not possible before we knew Jesus.
2. *The now but not yet (Rom 8:18-27)* – Too often we expect an instant fix to our problems. Paul shows us that we draw from the fullness of Christ's blessing, but are yet to experience it in full.
3. *Growth is a necessity (Rom 8:9-17)* – God takes us as we are, but he is

insistent that he will grow us. Often this growth comes through the tough, or dry, times.

4. *Setting the mind (Rom 8:5-8)* – God redeems every single part of us, but our minds play a central role in following on after God. Where is your mind set?

In Romans 8 Paul tells us that being given new, free and open standing before God is the essential event that drives the growth of a lifestyle that is characterised by life and peace. However, this new life is experienced by the Christian in a world characterised by groaning and as such needs completion.

Lyn continued to struggle to be reconciled with her place in the world, and her place before God. She was often lively, but showed a corresponding instability as external events quickly rob her of peace and vitality. Yet Sarah continued to be an unwitting blessing to people as she was able to give warmth and love to them without it causing instability within herself. Her obvious weaknesses were equally obvious points at which her Christ-like character shone through; in spite of her physical ailments Sarah radiated life and peace.

I wonder how this dry time gives you opportunity to grow in and show life and peace?

Matt



Restore: Over 70 women joined together at Holy Trinity, Flora Hill for worship, music and prayer

Inaugural Restore Women’s Conference uplifts and encourages

Continued from front...

Heather’s talk made for very genuine and inspiring teaching about God and how personal He is.

“I really appreciated the extended periods of music with no distractions! It was refreshing to dwell in the radical acceptance of the gospel and our status as children of God,” Verity Nicholson said.

The worship time was led by an all-female band and it was a delight to have an all-male team serving the women morning tea and lunch. Many of the guests commented on how wonderful it was to be served in this way by such a loving group of men.

“I had this sense that what we needed as women was to be restored in our relationships with the Lord,” Fiona Preston, the event coordinator said, “Although I knew it would be a simple format, I was hopeful the day would be anything but ‘simple’! I heard many

great comments from attendees of that restoration happening throughout the day.”

Fiona’s work as a Community Chaplain in the diocese began at the start of this year and her passions are to support women one-to-one to grow in their faith, and also to organise opportunities for women from across the diocese to gather together.

“Towards the end of 2018 – before I’d even started in this role – I was dreaming about the future,” Fiona shared. “At 4am on 19 November last year, I woke up and wrote in my journal: organise a women’s conference!” Initially what seemed like a big task became achievable with the support of Ali Bullen and Sarah Sharpe.

Guest, Annie Treanor said of the day: “Restore, a beautiful time for women to reflect through music, prayer and delicious food! I do feel restored!”



Delicious: Sumptuous spreads



Helpers: Morning tea crew

Seeds Bendigo Internship

Seeds Bendigo is a Christian mission community in the Bendigo suburb of Long Gully offering a residential internship opportunity.



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Lead: The congregation join together to sing some favourite hymns

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Old favourites prove popular at Charlton's hymn sing-a-long

Judi Bird

At St Martin's, Charlton, at 2pm on Sunday, 25 August 2019, many from far and wide gathered to enjoy an afternoon of music, hymns and singing. Musical accompaniment was provided by the talented Gill Gretgrix. The afternoon was led by Garry Allen, a previous member of St Martin's congregation.

Seventy-eight voices lifted on high and sang out with gusto and passion, singing many old favourites including, "The Lord is my Shepherd", "Swing low sweet chariot" sung in a round with "Angels watching over me", led by the Goldfields Choir.

There was opportunity for everyone to select their favourite hymn and sing out surrounded by many.

Tanya, from the Goldfields Choir, sang a beautiful rendition of "That little brown church in the vale". Another hymn that proved popular was "God is our strength and refuge", played to the tune, "Dambusters' March".

The afternoon concluded with "The Lord's Prayer" sung to the tune Auld Lang Syne, followed by home made biscuits and a cuppa.

This was the fourth time this annual event has been held and again, all who attended departed with God's Word, within each hymn, dwelling richly within them.

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Novelty: A game of 'shave the dads' gets serious

Pizza and games gets people talking

Brendan McDonald

At the beginning of each new season the congregation at Common Ground like to let their hair down and have some fun.

Chat 'n' Chew is an informal, intergenerational form of worship where we pray, share a meal, do some fun activities and hear testimonies from various people in the congregation about their story and their faith. At the start of spring we had fun and games such as; catch the cheese with your face, shave the dads, mum's marshmallow stack and toilet paper mummies!

On a more serious side, we listened to Mark Warren and his daughter Alannah as they shared with us about their journey of faith. Mark is an avid photographer and he showed the church some of the images he captured on their recent family sabbatical in Canada as he opened up about the ways God had spoken to him through the beauty of creation.



Games: Mum's marshmallow stack

"We should not be fearful of trying alternative forms of worship from time to time," Revd Brendan McDonald commented.

"The wonderful benefit of *Chat 'n' Chew* is that some of our older people are interacting with our younger people and vice versa. This builds a sense of community in our church and we become an authentic witness to what the people of God look like."



Chat 'n' Chew: Pizza and conversation enjoyed by all

A DIFFERENT WAY

A week-long exploration of Christ's call to a new way of living

17 - 22 November 2019

Come and spend a week exploring Christian alternatives in areas of money, employment, consumption, sustainability, family, community, care for creation and serving the poor. The week will be hosted by the Seeds community in Long Gully, Bendigo, with input from some of our friends.

Cost: \$100

Registrations close 1 November

For registrations and details visit:
www.mannagum.org.au

St John's Dunolly 150th anniversary

*Sunday, 15 December
10.30 am service
with Bishop Matt Brain*

Light lunch to follow

Our organist, Esme Flett, is organising some pretty special music and there will be a display of historic and family photographs in the hall.

If any readers have photographs or memorabilia from an association with St John's in their family history, we would love to hear from you and include them in our exhibition.

Please contact either Trina Kay (0497 936 387) or Fiona Lindsay (0428 322 208) for further information.

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Faith professed with encouragement from supportive congregation



Faith: Anne, Gail, Bishop Matt, Ellie, Kim and Glenda

Although Sunday, 8 September was a cold and rainy day, inside St Mark's Golden Square it was love and warmth that radiated from the congregation.

The parishioners heartily supported two candidates for confirmation, mother and daughter, Kim and Ellie as they were presented to Bishop Matt.

The service also saw Bishop Matt officiate as Gail reaffirmed her faith, and Anne was received into the Anglican Communion.

- Rhonda Dallow

Tatura gives thanks to all the Super Dads

On Father's Day, All Saints Tatura celebrated dads and their contribution to family, community and the church. Whilst the church had traditionally celebrated Mother's Day each year, it had been quite some time since dads had been recognised in a similar way.

The Father's Day liturgy from *New Patterns of Worship* focused our worship on God the Father and was well received by the congregation. Our 'Little Saints' explored the Parable of the Lost Son and enjoyed making flying 'super dads', customising each one to look just like their own dad.

The service ended with a parish barbeque, Ray's barrista coffee and three very special guests - newly born baby goats!

- Simba Musvamhiri



Create: Some super looking 'Super Dads'

Classic games bring out competitive spirit at Bush Olympics



Competition: The wheelbarrow race in action

Most recently, we hosted the annual Bush Olympics, where the local Kid's Friday Club, an afterschool Christian club for primary aged school children in the East Loddon area, came with their families for a family celebration service.

Afterwards everyone joined in for some much loved and fun old fashioned games, such as three legged and wheel barrow races, book balancing, shoe scramble, running races and of course, there is always an appearance by the lolly man.

Many people contributed to the fun of this day, and it was a lovely outreach service.

- Pam Lawry

Around the Parishes

Daffodils out in bloom in show of support

Our rural congregation at Bears Lagoon is small, but our church has been blessed with a location along a busy highway. We've been putting signs of hope up in the church grounds as an outreach to the travellers passing by.

Last year after seeing St Mary's Kangaroo Flat's daffodil covered fence, we decided to have a service too. We did this with the hope that we could reach out to those affected by cancer in our community, and to let those passing by know that we care, we are praying, and they are not alone. Gwen had us all potting up daffodil bulbs in April, and by the Daffodil Day service our pots had bloomed, and we had a lovely display of bright daffodils outside the church. We also made paper daffodils and pegged them on the fence in memory of loved ones and invited anyone in the community to do the same.

- Pam Lawry



Bright: Bear's Lagoon with their daffodil display

Christ True Light Church celebrates the roles of parents



Engage: Parents and children play in a variety of games

Earlier in the year Christ's True Light Church had a special service to emphasise the important roles of parents that God puts in our hands. It was a meaningful and communal experience for all at the service. The theme was 'Teach our children to follow Christ'. We were reminded of the words of Joshua, "But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord," (Joshua 24:15) that the chief end of parenting is that the child will serve the Lord all the days of their life.

The children read scriptures, led in prayer and laid hands on and prayed for their parents. Afterwards a special lunch and games were organised. It was heart-warming and wonderful to see parents playing with the children.

Our prayer is that God continues to equip the parents to fulfill their role and bring up their children to serve the Lord. Amen.

- Simon Chan

Parish silo art trail road trip a success

Parishioners from the Anglican Parish of Maryborough with Avoca went on a recent tour to see some of the silo art work around country Victoria.

We visited four silos at Rupanyup, Sheep Hills, Brim and Rosebery. This was a successful fellowship and fundraising tour and was a wonderful day out.

We were well looked after by our tour guide Sharon and Greg, our driver.

- Heather Blackman



Admire: Parishioners enjoy the impressive silo art

Strathfieldsaye farewells Steve

Ian Robbins

It was Sunday the first of September that we gathered at the Strathfieldsaye Community Church to say farewell to Steve and Vanessa Weickhardt.

Steve and Vanessa will move to join the Anglican Parish of Port Lincoln in South Australia where Steve will embrace the role of their parish minister in the Diocese of Willochra.

The day commenced with Steve taking a service of Holy Communion which he shared with a large gathering of parishioners and guests. This service was followed by an informal presentation thanking Steve and Vanessa for their leadership and



Goodbye: Vanessa, Alyssa, Zoe and Steve Weickhardt

fellowship shown to our community over their nine years with us. Our parish has been very fortunate to have Steve lead us, merging two denominations to function and grow as one. He also is a very lateral thinker and has kept all of us up with technology.

The morning finished with the sharing of a light luncheon that gave one and all the opportunity to say farewell on a personal note. We wish the Weickhardt family every success and happiness as they move forward with the next phase of ministry.

Michael and Kris Hopkins farewelled from Northern Mallee ministry community

Aaron Riley

The Parish of Northern Mallee has said farewell to their Rector, Archdeacon Michael Hopkins and his wife Kris at a Eucharist service attended by over 200 parishioners and community members.

It was a day of wonderful celebration and thanksgiving for Michael and Kris'



Final service: Archdeacon Michael Hopkins at his last service in Mildura

ministry over 10 years. Members of the Tongan and Burundi communities performed hymns in their native language to express their gratitude and thanks for Michael and Kris' contribution to their communities over the course of their time in Mildura.

The service was opened by the Revd Robyn Davis and Ed King with a Welcome to Country, with

Canon Heather Marten highlighting Archdeacon Michael's contribution to the diocesan leadership team and gave thanks on behalf of Bishop Matt and the wider diocesan community.

Archdeacon Michael then addressed the congregation and formally ended his pastoral relationship with the parish. Bishop John Noble gave Michael and Kris a parting blessing as they begin their new journey in Geelong.

On behalf of the Parish of the Northern Mallee, we give thanks and praise to God for Archdeacon Michael's ministry and leadership over these 10 years and we ask God to bless them both in their journey ahead.

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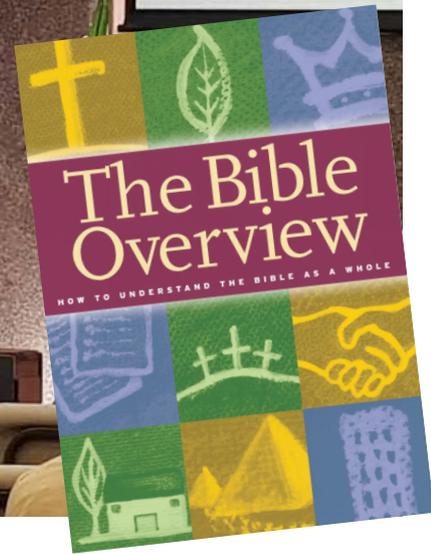
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In Loving Memory...



Understand: *The Bible Overview* helps explain the overarching story of the Scriptures



Bishop's Bible overview helps give big picture

Glenda Templer & Tracey Wolsley

While the majority of Australia was busy preparing for the AFL Grand Final between Richmond and Greater Western Sydney and thousands were making their way to MCG, a much smaller group of 80 people from across the Bendigo East Deanery were heading to St Mary's Kangaroo Flat to join with Bishop Matt for a 'helicopter ride' across the Bible.

Over the course of just two and a half hours, Bishop Matt presented 'the complete picture' of the Bible and showed how each section from Genesis and Adam and Eve and creation, to the new creation as painted in Revelation hung together.

The big picture explored the vast trajectory of time, the interaction and relationship between people and God, the coming, life, death and rising of Jesus, and the final

destination of the world. While following this broad sweep of human and divine history, we reflected on the heights and depths of being human.

It was a time of learning, reflecting and of fellowship - catching up with a variety of people over a busy hum of conversation before and during morning tea.

Thanks go to Kangaroo Flat for their hospitality, and the use of their welcoming surrounds.

YOUTH CAMP

INSIDE

OUT

- worship
- food
- games
- bible talks
- video making
- discussions

- canoeing
- gaga ball
- movies
- flying fox
- more games...
- more food...

18 - 20 October
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Anglicans gather to talk rural ministry across Australia

Bishop Andrew Curnow

On a beautiful weekend in mid-September an Australia wide conference on Rural Ministry in the Anglican Church was held at Rutherford Park Conference Centre, just outside Daylesford. The conference was fully booked out with representatives coming from 18 of the 23 dioceses and the Bush Church Aid Society.

The conference planning committee was convened by Bishop Matt who was supported by Bishop Andrew Curnow, Bishop Cam Venables from Toowoomba, Canon Heather

Marten from Bendigo and Dean Chris Chataway from Ballarat.

Representatives came from far North Queensland, Bunbury in Western Australia as well as Tasmania. Each state was represented, along with a voice for indigenous ministry in rural Australia through Bush Church Aid.

Over the three days the sessions focused on significant topics to do with rural ministry including safe church practice in rural dioceses, an indigenous view of ministry, professional supervision, an opportunity to share stories and a reflection on rural ministry by the

Primate. There was also plenty of time for fellowship and informal discussion with wonderful country hospitality.

The conference resolved to ask General Synod to establish a Rural Ministry Network and to convene again in 2021.

"It was great for us all to be able to start the conversation around sustaining rural ministry and come away with some concrete outcomes," Bishop Matt Brain said. "I hope this first Rural Ministry Conference provides a platform to further share ideas and resources as we seek to grow God's kingdom across Australia," he added.



Primate: Archbishop Philip Freier



Supervision: Geoff Broughton explains pastoral supervision



Network: Representatives from 18 diocese gathered to share ideas and support each other in rural ministry

Connecting with others

In my new role of diocesan youth and family development officer, one of the broad goals is to assist young people and children to be well connected and nurtured in the life and faith of local Christian communities. One of the needs or skills that our local adults require to make this goal happen is the ability to make connections with and forge genuine interest in the younger people in our parishes.

It turns out, however, that what is needed for connecting with children and young people is relatively the same skill set that our churches need to make connections with regular attenders and newcomers to our community. For this reason, I will assume that for the most part what I have to share will apply to most people who come to church.

I understand that for some people, connecting with others is extremely easy, yet others of us:

1. don't know where to start, or
2. don't want to impose themselves on others, or
3. are terrified at the prospect of striking up a conversation with another person, or
4. just don't know what to say.

Over the coming months it's my intention to outline a few ideas that I've found helpful over the years in making connections with people who cross my path at church or in the community.

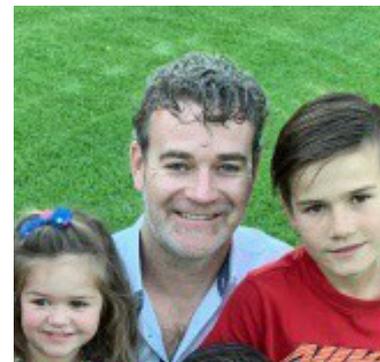
I will start off today with a small suggested mind shift...

Remember that while coming to church is for you, it's not about you

As we realize this, church becomes less about solely my needs and what I can get out of church and it turns towards **worshipping God** and journeying and serving the Christian life together. As we shift from a focus on our needs to the needs of the community of faith, we find that we begin to **see others** and the things that could help them.

The upside-down nature of God's way however, begins to work its mystery, that as we serve others first, that somehow our needs are met. I have a feeling it is because **as we serve others like Jesus did**, we are bringing into the church a different type of wonderful worship that God loves, worship in both word and actions.

I look forward to sharing some other ideas with you over the coming months.



The Rev'd Trev Bell

*Youth & Family
Development Officer*

Trev's here to grow ministry with young people in our parishes.

If you'd like to speak with Trev about things you can do to engage children in your church, email him!

yym@bendigoanglican.org.au



Snow wonder it's cold outside!

A cold winter snap came across the Macedon Ranges in mid-August spreading blankets of snow over our church buildings in Daylesford, Woodend and Trentham.



Glisten: Christ Church, Daylesford



Spectacular: St George's Trentham



Clergy Retreat

7 - 10 October, Rutherford Park

Diocesan Executive

Monday, 14 October

Diocesan Youth Camp

18 - 20 October, Corop

St Paul's Cathedral Art Show

18 - 20 October, St Paul's Cathedral

SOMA Weekend

25 - 27 October, St Paul's Cathedral

Bible in the Bush

1 - 3 November, Red Cliffs

Bishop in Council

Tuesday, 12 November

Got an event coming up?

Send the details to
thespirit@bendigoanglican.org.au

DOLLY PARTON & ABM AUXILIARY

What could ABM and Dolly Parton possibly have in common?

Find out at **St Peter's Eaglehawk** on **Tuesday 12 November** at 12 noon!

Bring some lunch to share and also a book for selling on the second-hand bookstall.

This will be the annual gathering to hear news of the Anglican Board of Missions Australia (ABMA) brought to us by the Revd Ian Howarth and Ian Smith who have attended recent national meetings on behalf of the diocese.

*RSVP to Barry Rainsford
by Friday 8 November*





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