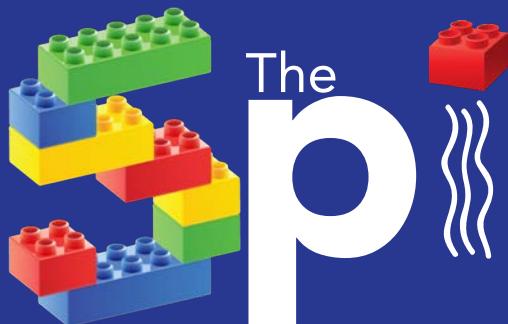




Anglican Diocese
of Bendigo



september 2021

monthly

issue 154



Most Technical Build: Marci Ritchie from St Paul's Cathedral depicting the Story of Jonah with lego

The very first BAD (Bendigo Anglican Diocese) Lego Challenge was held earlier this year with children asked to recreate the Story of Jonah.

The entries received were all very impressive, each with their own creative spin on telling the story through either a lego scene, stop motion animation movie or powerpoint story.

The judging panel had the difficult task of reviewing the entries across three categories, and selected the following winners:

First Entry Prize: Archie & Fleur Muling (South East Bendigo)

Most Technical Build: Marci Ritchie (St Paul's Cathedral)

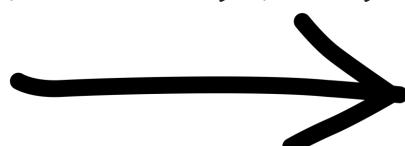
Most Creative Build: Winn Family (Mooroopna)

Most Faithful Build: Jonathan Summer (St Paul's Cathedral)

BAD Bishop's Lego Award: Josh & Jacob Hemmings (South East Bendigo)



View all the entries on pages
6 - 7 & watch the animations
on the diocesan website



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Maldon & Inglewood
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are you doing?
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Heather Marten
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Youth & Families
Ministry ideas
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The Bishop writes...

Riding a Unicycle

I thought that I would consult an expert on the most difficult thing a person could do...so I typed into Google 'unicycle juggling tightrope'. In the blink of an eye I was regaled with dozens of videos showing all sorts of unicycling activity including someone juggling while riding a unicycle on a tightrope. What a balancing act!

While not as thrilling our lives over the past eighteen months have been a constant juggling act. Moreover, like the unicycling trapeze artist we have not even had the luxury of simply juggling. We have had to navigate a complex and constantly changing world, and our own ever-changing reactions and emotions. As we in Victoria move through rolling lockdowns there is a measure of familiarity to the life in and out of restriction. However, even as we have a degree of familiarity with what we must do the longer the pandemic extends the more the effects weigh upon us. For some the fatigue of altered patterns of movement and relationship is palpable, for others staying warm, safe, and fed are a daily challenge.

In some senses the New Testament letters were written to people who were involved in a similar balancing act. I suspect this was why many of the letters included significant reflection on the value of hope. Invariably the early Christians were people who found themselves without the capacity to control the circumstance of their lives. However, hope would be the attribute that marked out the life of the small and fragile Christian communities dotted around the Mediterranean. This hope was not simply a kind of 'wishful thinking' that would help them tap into their own inner resources. Rather it was a hope that was inextricably tied to Jesus' resurrected life: Because Jesus is alive-through-death they could pin their future on him.

Hope will have an obvious benefit to those who are juggling difficult and unpredictable circumstances as it calms fear. Indeed, I have often talked about hope being the antidote to fear.



However, there is another benefit to the hope which we have through Jesus which we may overlook. Hope which rests on Jesus' activity can tame anger.

One effect of the long pandemic we are living with is that we will constantly run into frustration. Be it frustration at the will or actions of others, or that our own free activity is hindered. The likelihood is that each of us will have felt anger rise in response to this frustration. I also suspect that this will lie closer to the surface now than it did eighteen months ago. We are weary and our natural capacities are being exhausted.

Anger is a tricky emotion. It can be sparked by what is wrong in the world and be the right response to the effects of sin. It can also be let loose when our will is frustrated and reflect our innate selfishness. Occasionally both causes can be mixed in the same response. Anger flares in an instant but is tricky to hold and control. Rarely do we feel good after the emotion passes, and we will often regret the words said or actions taken when in its heat.

Hope which is established on Jesus, the one who was not held low by the most vicious of circumstance, gives us at least three characteristics which will help us to find peace when finding that life is like juggling, while riding a unicycle...on a tightrope.

- Hope breeds patience. Hope will give us the capacity to see beyond the horizon and discover a new home. To be given Jesus' unfading and imperishable life is to also be given the eyes to see beyond the limitation of our present circumstance. We are not home yet, but because Jesus has gone ahead we can eagerly wait. Useful now, but not worried that the present circumstances are ultimate.
- Hope tames frustration. Too often my righteous anger at injustice and wrong is tainted by frustration due to my inability to bring change. I will tend to lash out at those who can (and should) change. My frustration causes me to lose sight of what is mine to be responsible for, and what belongs to another. Hope assures me that in Jesus we have one who can call to account those who fail to do right. This pledge sets me free to pray for those who are charged with responsibility. It is difficult to be seething over a person one prays for!
- Hope reframes satisfaction. Uncertain and unsettling times are a gift to folk who are used to comfort because ease or pleasure are not the measure of contentment in God's economy. To feel the pull of frustration and anger now is a spur to consider where our sense of fulfilment and joy is found. Too often we mistake earthly ease for divine blessing, yet we are reminded that the blessings we have are made full and complete in Christ.

timm



Opened: Wally Kelly and Olive Severin cutting the ribbon for the new ramp at St George's, Donald. Photos: The Buloke Times



Blessing of the Plough

All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above

Judi Bird

The Plough is the sign of all our labour in the country as the Plough is the foundation of the farmer's work. Before the soil can be broken, or the seed sown, or the grain be reaped, or the bread baked, or the people be fed, we must plough the paddocks.

As is our tradition in the Parish of Charlton-Donald, at the beginning of another year, we blessed the symbolic plough at each service held in Birchip, Donald, Charlton and Wedderburn.

As part of our service, a blessing was given to each plough and to all who work ploughing the paddocks on the farms in our communities. At Birchip, we ended the service listening to a rendition of "Mallee Boy" by John Williamson, who was born and grew up in Quambatook, some 70 kilometres away.

St George's Donald gives thanks for generous Goldsbury gift

Judi Bird

It was the great pleasure and honour of the congregation of St George's Anglican Church, Donald to hold a service on the Day of Pentecost to acknowledge the generosity of the late Mary Goldsbury.

During this service, the congregation gave thanks for the many gifts that had been made possible for St George's from her bequest over the past eight years. Mary's bequest has made it possible for St George's to undertake electrical repairs, lighting, carpet and floor coverings, roof repairs, a sound system and speakers, air conditioning, painting inside and out and the accessibility ramp.

The congregation welcomed the attendance of the ninth bishop of the

Anglican Diocese of Bendigo, from 2003 to 2017, Bishop Andrew Curnow, and his wife Jan. Bishop Andrew provided valued support and guidance to the congregation in progressing a number of the above gifts, especially the roof repairs.

Many other invited guests returned to Donald to attend this special service. Music was provided by organist, Kerrin Hancock, a former member of the congregation, with five hymns complementing our service of praise and worship for the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descends.

Simon Severin read the Bible passages on behalf of his uncle, Walter Goldsbury.

Joan Wood represented the congregation

of St George's in dedicating the plaque in memory of Mary Goldsbury. The plaque inscription reads, "In loving memory of Mary Goldsbury for her gracious bequest to restore this our St George's Anglican Church in 2016".

The plaque was dedicated with Olive, Simon and Justine Severin and Wally Kelly accepting the plaque on behalf of the Goldsbury family. The accessibility ramp, constructed by Leigh Hawkes and his team, was then commissioned, with the ribbon being cut by Olive Severin and Wally Kelly.

A fitting service was enjoyed by all gathered, with old friendships and new acquaintances made or rekindled in the beautiful sunshine outside the church.

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Delivery: Frances helps her father Darcy deliver newsletters around town by bike

The Loddon Lockdown

The Loddon Lockdown is a publication created by Darcy Vaughan in Maldon and Inglewood as a way to keep people connected, caring for and encouraging each other as the church. Parishioners have sent through any musings they had inspired by the theme of 'home'. The first issues contained writings and reflections on the many different thoughts and experiences inspired by the time in which we are required to 'stay at home'.



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Ordained: The newly priested Darcy Vaughan with wife Philippa and daughters Frances and Violet.

Escape to the country for new joint ministry

Darcy Vaughan

It was nearing the end of December 2020 and our bags were packed. We were staying with family until we could move to our new home in Maldon, Victoria. And then, of course! A lockdown. How very 2020. Sydney was designated a red zone and we were not permitted to enter Victoria without two weeks hotel quarantine. We couldn't believe it!

My name is Rev'd Darcy Vaughan and I am the new Anglican minister for the Parishes of Maldon and Inglewood. I am married to Philippa and we have two daughters: Frances and Violet.

I was previously a lay-minister at St John's Anglican Church in the Sydney suburb of Glebe. There my ministry was

primarily to those living in public housing and sleeping rough. But for many years Philippa and I had wanted to move out of the city, and so we were very excited when the opportunity arose to come to the Diocese of Bendigo, and in particular to Maldon and Inglewood.

Eventually, of course, we did arrive safely in Victoria. When Daniel Andrews made the announcement in mid-January that we could cross the border, we threw our bags in the car and drove through the night to get here. It was an exciting end to a big year and the beginning of a whole new adventure!

We are very pleased to finally be here. Since we have arrived we have been busy unpacking, working away at our garden at home, as well as meeting

people and exploring this wonderful part of the world. We were excited to be in Inglewood and Maldon parishes for the history, the strong sense of community and the beautiful country. We have been so thankful for the very warm welcome we have received from both parishes.

My ministry for this year has mainly been about getting to know people, growing into my new ordination as priest, and appreciating the distinct strengths of each of the five centres of Newstead, Maldon, Newbridge, Bridgewater and Inglewood - and of course helping to negotiate the lockdowns of 2021. I am excited to continue to learn more about country ministry, to be part of the wonderful ministries of these churches, and of the Diocese of Bendigo more broadly.

BAD Lego Challenge



Most Technical Build: Marci Ritchie (St Paul's Cathedral)

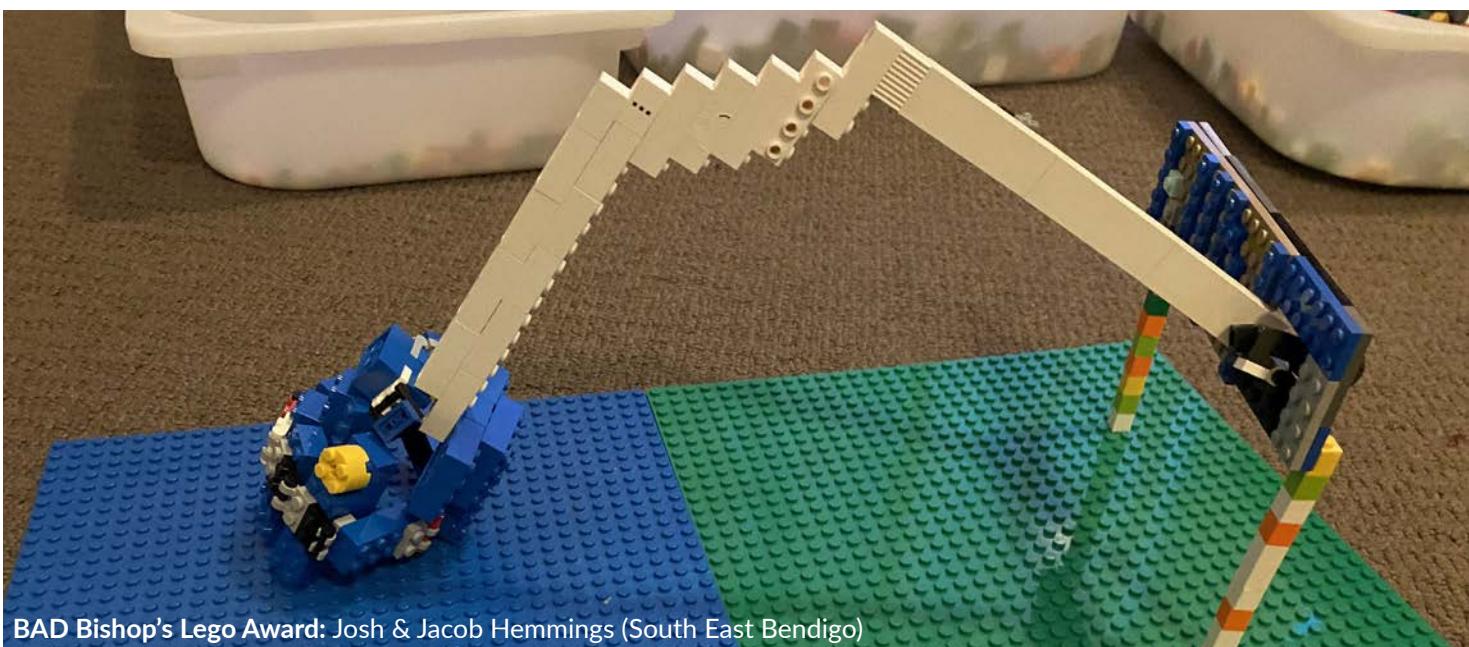


First Entry Prize: Fleur Muling (South East Bendigo)



Most Faithful Build: Jonathan Summer (St Paul's Cathedral)

After three days the fish had indigestion, so he sicked up Jonah onto dry land.

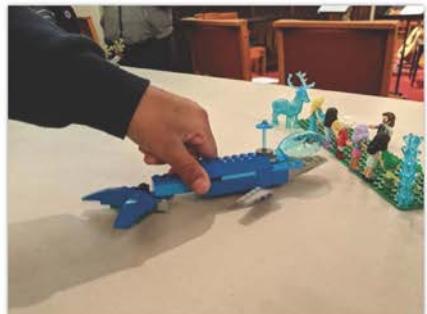


BAD Bishop's Lego Award: Josh & Jacob Hemmings (South East Bendigo)

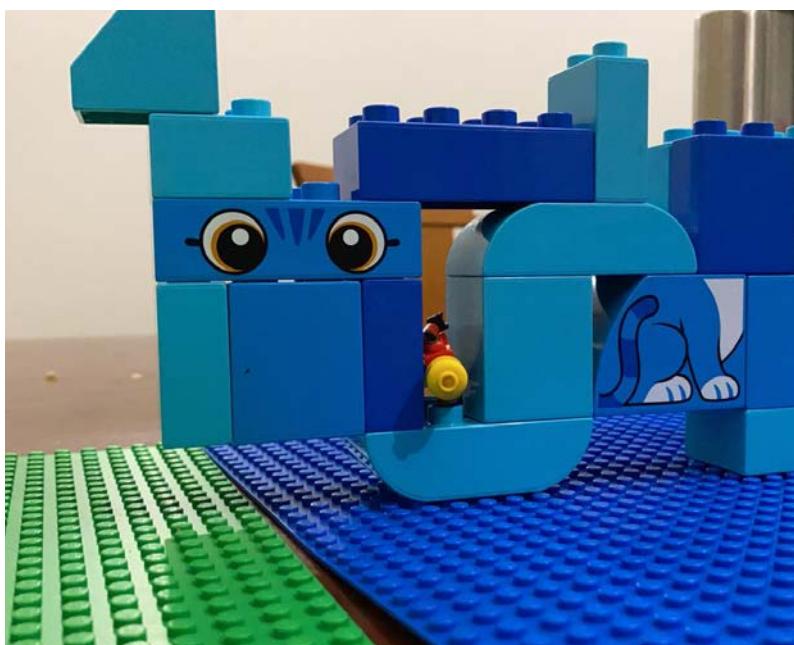
The Story of Jonah



Most Creative Build: Winn Family (Mooroopna)



The sailors threw him overboard and he got swallowed by a whale.



Trusting in God through COVID lockdowns

Raymond Zhang

Christ's True Light Church had been planning a Confirmation Service with Bishop Matt that has now been postponed twice due to yet another round of lockdown.

Praise God that we were still able to have our worship service online via Zoom with Bishop Matt Brain as the preacher, and our Anglican church mates from across the wider diocese invited to worship together. There were around 80 households joining the online service from all corners of the diocese. It was a great opportunity for us to meet each other, and listen together to the sermon of the bishop in such times as the lives of more and more people are affected by COVID-19.

As we are waiting for the situations to become better, we trust in our God who is in absolute control of everything. We should not be concerned by the numbers up or down, more importantly, we should wait upon God and look up to Him.

What we are experiencing now is what God wants us to go through and He will continue to journey with us. There was also a children's programme 'Kids' Talk'. Around us, we find anxious adults worrying about COVID-19, but kids seem to live in another world. They live as happily as before without any worry because they know the adults will protect them.

Maybe we should also learn from them that we have a God above who watches over us, and is in control of all this pandemic situation, and protects us all the time. We should believe firmly that all of these will come to an end, and we should get encouragement from God by listening to His Word more, and let God take control.



Christ's True Light Church

基督真光堂

Welcome

May God's blessings be upon you!

欢迎

愿您蒙福！

Shared worship: An online diocesan bilingual service during a recent lockdown

Online bilingual worship celebrated

Heather Zakrzewski

On Sunday 8 August, during a lockdown period, I discovered an opportunity to share worship with many others around Bendigo, and especially Christ's True Light Church, Bendigo East.

Archdeacon George sent a Zoom link inviting anyone to join in, and I'm so glad I did. The service was fully bilingual and was led by Rev'd Simon Chan with Sin Huy as interpreter into Chinese at regular and frequent intervals, making everything very easy to follow.

The technicalities were well managed by George - all scripture readings and song words were displayed on screen in both languages. Rev'd Simon read first Galatians 3:26-28, then interpretation by Sin Huy, followed by a prayer, then interpretation. This was the pattern all through the service.

Songs sung were "10,000 Reasons" and "Jesus Paid it all" and as the congregation was muted, we could sing as loudly or softly as we liked, tunefully or otherwise, each in our own language but all words visible. A further song surprise which I enjoyed was a beautiful rendition of "50 Countries Sing Amazing Grace," all on screen from YouTube.

The Peace was read and shared in both languages at the same time, and Rev'd

Simon led prayer time inspired by 2 Chronicles 7:14, with interpretation into Chinese.

Then Archdeacon George gave a delightful children's talk on Psalm 130, amusingly illustrated with drawings by himself, aimed at encouraging us all through this challenging lockdown time. We, and the children, are to Hope in God alone who hears our cries and loves us all.

Bishop Matt then appeared and shared his sermon on Jesus the Bread of Life, which had many great ingredients that provided for me a better understanding of this passage. His cooking analogy was a good place to start! We were challenged and invited to savor Jesus with fresh eyes through the gospels each day as someone not knowing Him might do, then discuss it with Him each night. I found the pauses for Chinese interpretation were giving me time to absorb more readily what Bp Matt was saying. The advantage of being alone at home on Zoom makes for very relaxing listening !

Rev'd Simon responded with a prayer of thanks, we sang the last song and in closing, he reminded us that today's fellowship and worship was a foretaste of heaven where all are One in Christ Jesus.

For me it was a joyful and encouraging experience of being locked into lovely fellowship.

Laying down a life dedicated to ministry

Sarah Crutch

"I want to accept you as a candidate for ministry but I have no idea what that means" was the response Heather Marten received from the Archbishop after her selection conference in Melbourne in the late 1970's.

In a time when church legislation didn't allow women to be ordained deacons or priests in the Anglican Church, it was through meeting a similar group of women in ministry while studying that Heather started acting on the questions she had about the role of women in the church.

"There was something urging me in this direction", Heather says. "I was told how difficult it would be, but once I'd been in ministry as a 'trained woman worker' for four years I knew that was what I wanted to do".

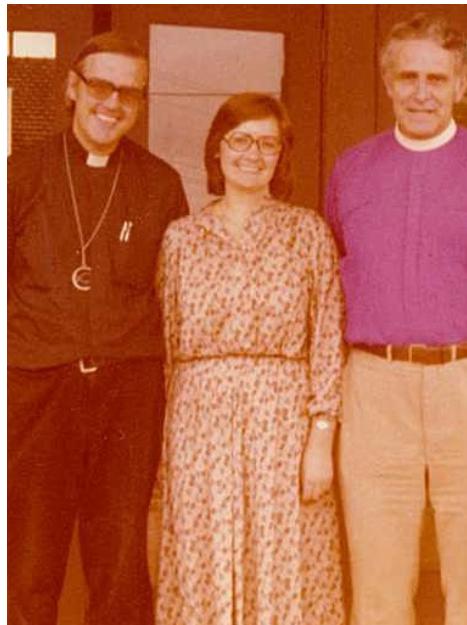
Some seven years later once General Synod legislation was changed to allow women to be ordained deacon, Heather was ordained a deacon in 1986 alongside other familiar female clerics like Peta Sherlock, Barbara Darling and Amy Turner.

While there wasn't much debate at the time about women being allowed to be ordained deacon, it wasn't the same story when it came to priesting women – that took another seven years.

"There was lots of debate at the time, over some 15 years" Heather recalls. "It had to go through several Appellate Tribunal opinions, with two special sessions of General Synod called in the one year, and then the process of dioceses giving their assent before it could take effect".

Finally ordained as a priest in 1992, there were some 33 women ordained as priests in a three-week period after the Diocese of Melbourne passed the legislative changes.

"By this time women being priests was generally well received, however there were petitions at the ordinations from those opposed to it," Heather says. "At the time I was deacon in charge of a parish in Lilydale, and I used to call it the 'Lilydale sidestep' as I'd have to step aside from the altar while the rostered priest for that Sunday would do communion for me. I would laugh to deal with it otherwise I would let my life



Life in ministry: Heather at her commissioning for ministry in 1979 (left) and on her ordination as priest in 1992 (right)



be overcome by it. My parish were very supportive."

As Heather now prepares to lay down her active ministry, she will have served for 43 years, 29 of those as a priest across many parish-based and diocesan roles in Melbourne, Gippsland and Bendigo. Supporting many curates in her days in parish-based ministry led Heather to her current role as Ministry Development Officer in Bendigo that she's held since 2014.

She's worked with 11 bishops and has navigated being the only female cleric in senior staff teams while being wary not to become a token female to simply boost the appearance of gender balance, as well as being one of the first female deacons to sit in the house of clergy at General Synod in 1988.

She's observed much change in the church over that time, including the increasing secular nature of the community. "We do fewer pastoral offices these days - weddings, baptisms and funerals - but there is also more opportunity in other ways to allow people to engage with church."

Heather first noticed the shift in the early 80's when women began working full time outside the home, which changed the dynamic of the family-work lifestyle. "It was usually the women who had the

connection to the church rather than the men, so when women started working and family life changed it led to changing patterns of worship".

The other notable change is the increased focus on professional standards and safe church. "The understandable loss of trust resulting from the way the Church has responded to past abuses within the Church has long term implications. It will take time to rebuild," Heather says.

Challenges she can see facing the church include the divisions in the Anglican Church, sustaining ministry in regional areas and administration. "There is more compliance and administration in parishes now, and that falls to clergy, and I only see that increasing, not decreasing".

"Ministry is a lot harder now than it was. I admire younger people willing to stand up and follow God's call in a world that doesn't understand that language anymore. Ministry can be the most exciting, rewarding and the most challenging way to live your life. It's the people that make ministry worthwhile, and you have the opportunity to serve communities, to be Jesus in that area. But it's really hard work."

And as for her plans for retirement?

"Well you never actually retire from ministry," Heather says, "it just takes a different shape and form. I don't have too many plans or commitments and am just looking forward to what might emerge."

Youth and Families Ministry

A word from George...

When I worked in a bookstore there was a connected series of readers called Aussie Nibbles, Aussie Bites and Aussie Chomps.

The fun thing about them was that you could tell which series a particular title belonged to by the size of the bite that had been taken out of the book!

This page of *The Spirit* will look at a particular theme or part of the bible and give you some suggestions of how you might take a nibble, a bite or a chomp into it with your family.

These ideas can be used at home for family time, as something for the kids (or adults!) to do while zooming in to online services, for Sunday School (when we get back to in-person church) or an activity to do with the grandkids when they come up to visit (post-Covid!).



Archdeacon George is the Children's, Youth and Families Ministry Development Officer for the Diocese, a position partly supported by Bush Church Aid.



Prayer

Prayer is talking to God. Thanks to Jesus we don't need to use any special words or actions or tools but can speak to God anywhere, anytime and anyhow. It doesn't matter if our prayers are long and about big things or short and simple, God hears them all. We can pray for ourselves, our family, our friends, our church, our community or even our whole world. When we pray we not only ask God for things, but take time to say thank you and to praise him. Here are some ideas for how you can pray together with your family.

..... Nibbles

Prayers need not be long and complicated. Try building little moments of prayer into your day. When you see something amazing in the garden, take time to say 'Wow' to God. When your children are struggling with yet another lockdown, take a moment to pray with them and tell God how you feel (even if it's to say, 'God this sucks!').



Doodle Prayers

Prayers don't always have to be spoken out loud. For those with young children, why not encourage them to draw something they'd like to pray about. You can then use it as part of a time of family prayer.

Bites

The prayer Jesus taught his disciples is perhaps the most well known prayer in the whole world. Take time to learn it together by heart as a family. Share with your children/teenagers/others how you first learnt the Lord's prayer and what it's meant to you through the years. Have a read of Matthew 6:5-15 and discuss what else Jesus said about prayer.



Prayer chain

Write each line of the Lord's prayer on a strip of paper and then use them to make a paper chain. See how long you can make the chain by adding your own prayers through the week. Those with older children/teenagers could challenge them to memorise each link in the chain.



Chomps

The prayer Jesus taught his disciples isn't the only one in the Bible. Paul begins many of his letters with a prayer. There are also many great prayers in the Old Testament. See how many you can find. The Psalms are as much prayers as they are songs. Read through some of the Psalms and ask your children/teenagers/others how they think the Psalmist was feeling and then use the Psalm as the basis of your own prayers.

Praying Pretzels

Legend has it the first pretzels were made by monks as a reward for children who had learned their prayers. The twisted shape is meant to look like the folded arms of a child praying.

There are lots of recipes for pretzels, but this has to be about the easiest. Have a go at making them as a family. Don't forget to pray and give thanks before you dig in!



Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C. Line a tray with baking paper.
2. In a large mixing bowl, combine 1 ¾ cups of self-raising flour with 1 cup of Greek yogurt and mix until fully combined. Form the dough into a ball.
3. Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured surface. Sprinkle a tablespoon of flour on top of the dough ball and knead a couple of times.
4. Divide the dough into 6-8 pieces. Roll each piece into a long, thin sausage and then fold into a pretzel shape, pressing the joins together firmly.
5. Place on the lined tray and brush the top with a little milk, water or egg-white.
6. Bake for 20 minutes or until golden.
7. Brush the tops with melted butter and sprinkle with cinnamon sugar (or coarse salt).
8. Give thanks to God and then eat and enjoy!



Send in photos of your creations to:

archdeacon@bendigoanglican.org.au



Baptised: The Rev'd Denis Gell with Archdeacon Peter Blundell and Emma Pitts

Welcomed to faith with baptism and confirmation

Peter Blundell

In July Emma Pitts was baptised by Archdeacon Peter Blundell and then confirmed by Bishop Matt Brain in Swan Hill.

Nearly forty people witnessed the special occasion as Emma took this step in her Christian faith. The Bishop spoke of the blessings we have in Christ as mentioned in Ephesians chapter one.

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Photographs should be sent in digital form to the general email address above. Full size, 'raw' files are necessary. Physical photos are normally not returned.

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October issue: Contributions due by Friday 17 September.

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