



Anglican Diocese  
of Bendigo

# The Spirit

may 2023

issue 161



**Celebrate:** Diocese of Bendigo Mothers' Union Branch Presidents celebrate the Annunciation

## A day for listening hears stories of challenges and opportunities

Jenny Rainsford

**I**t was indeed 'a day for listening' as Mothers' Union hosted speakers to share stories about Rochester flood recovery, youth challenges, mental health and family violence.

Mothers' Union traditionally holds a Lady Day gathering to celebrate The Annunciation annually on 25 March.

This year, in partnership with the Curnow Centre and St Paul's Cathedral, we tried a new format. We held informal 'armchair chats' in four groups and the sharing allowed exploration of key topics affecting our communities. Everyone and anyone was invited.

The chance to simply listen meant we could better hear the challenges being faced to then consider the best ways to help.

Three members of the Rochester and Bendigo community told how they or family members had been impacted by the October floods and the challenges in supporting community members to return to their homes.

The participants at the workshops were both informed and challenged by Chaplain Julie Harris who is employed at Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre and

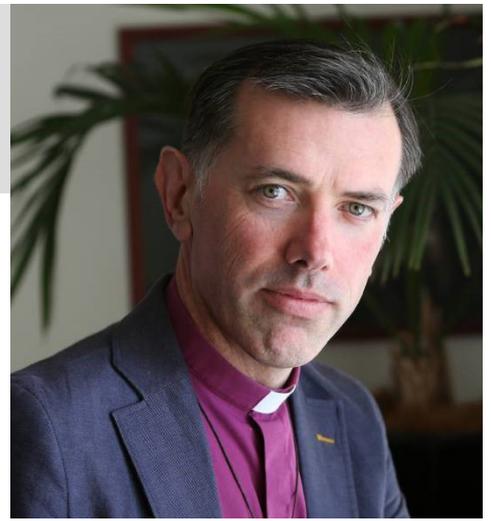
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# The Bishop writes...



**M**any will know that I enjoy cycling, especially on a velodrome. It is very exciting to gather speed around the tight, banked track. Once the bike has started moving and a bit of speed has gathered a rider can move up the track and then swoop down the steep boards gaining free speed in the process. Then it hits you!

At speed the forces on the body grow and begin to pull the rider inwards. It is like flying in a jet plane and having one's body pushed against the seat. Once confidence grows this 'inwards' force gives confidence to the rider. It holds them to the steep banking of the track. They can ride without worrying that they will fall. But that's not all!

As skill is added to confidence a rider can learn to relax their arms and the angle of their body as they leave the sharp corner of the velodrome and head into the straight. This will relax the 'inwards' force and shoot the rider 'outwards'. It feels like a catapult has flung the bike

before. They also stopped hiding away and were happy to stand boldly being identified as followers of Jesus. With Peter they were able to understand and interpret the way that Scripture pointed towards Jesus and found its fulfilment in him. Growth in capacity, bravery and insight shine out as inward changes which the Holy Spirit enabled.

Like a skilled cyclist, the Christian will realise that these inward changes are given to promote outward work. The first Pentecost which shows capable, brave and insightful disciples also shows that they were made so for a purpose that existed outside of themselves.

church (Acts 2:43-47). Some of the results took some time. Have you ever wondered how the disciples we hear about in the rest of the Book of Acts managed to know what to say in the most stressful of circumstances? Some results would smoulder like a coal that refuses to be extinguished. The visitors to Jerusalem would eventually leave to go back home and take their new insight...and inner changes...with them. You and I are the outward links in a chain that began that day.

So friends, as Pentecost approaches and we have the opportunity to refresh our memory of what the Spirit brought in

“...the Christian will realise that these inward changes are given to promote outward work. The first Pentecost which shows capable, brave and insightful disciples also shows that they were made so for a purpose that existed outside of themselves.”

forward. A good rider will flow between these 'inwards' and 'outwards' forces to propel themselves faster and faster.

I have been pondering the coming of the Holy Spirit on the first Pentecost again this year and have been struck by the way that the Spirit exerted an 'inwards' and an 'outwards' force on those who believed. Not unlike a rider travelling around a velodrome. The full story is in Acts chapter 2.

The inward changes on the disciples become apparent very quickly. They are able to speak in a range of languages which presumably they had not spoken

They were made capable to speak the languages so *that* the people from all over the world who had congregated in Jerusalem could hear of Jesus and God's work through him. They were made brave so that rather than cowering in fear they would stand as God's witnesses in the cut and thrust of everyday life. They were made insightful so that more and more people could taste and see what engaging with God through his Word was like. And we see the results of this work.

Some of the results were immediate. Many people put their faith in Jesus that day, and over the days that followed formed the beginning of the Christian

that first outpouring, and wonder anew what gifts are given for the present. Where are their 'inwards' gifts that will help you stick to the track, and where will they drive you 'outwards' propelling you on into God's mission?

Your servant in Christ

*thatt*



**Listening:** Jenny Rainsford leads prayer for the Rochester community

## A day for listening hears stories of challenges and opportunities to bring light to the lives of others

the Revd Tracey Wolsley who, along with the Revd Fiona Preston, ministers to people 'on the street' and at Tarrengower Women's Prison.

The Revd Zan Daniels, President of the Mothers' Union Bendigo, gave a birds eye view of how the Anglican Church, Mothers' Union and secular organisations are working to respond to and prevent family violence locally and globally.

She encouraged us that every small step is an important piece of the puzzle and by working together across organisations sustainable change will occur. In our diocese, *Orange Door* is the best 'first port of call' organisation. The day

concluded with serene music as harpist, Jill Findlay played some of the 'old' hymns prior to and during the service of thanksgiving and celebration. We were also treated to the Cathedral parish organist Stan Jackson's wonderful repertoire.

Our service was led by Mothers' Union Chaplain, the Revd Peter Dyke with our President, Zan Daniels preaching on the important role of Elizabeth in Mary's 'yes'.

The aim of the workshops and the whole day was to inform and challenge. It was also seen as an opportunity to consider how to bring light into the lives of others by transforming who we are, what we do and how we do it.



## The Curnow Centre for Rural Ministry Training

Tracey Wolsley

**R**esponding to need through loving service is part of our mission as a diocese. As such, we are committed to bringing positive change and transformation to promote healing and reconciliation. This of course comes in many ways, one of which is through the very practical provision of counselling and psychotherapy.

Through the Curnow Centre at Myers Street in Bendigo, we are also now able to offer counselling and psychotherapy in addition to Spiritual Companionship (Direction) and Pastoral Supervision.

Sometimes in life there are things we struggle with and talking to a trained therapist can help. Taking care of our mental health and accessing the help we need when we need it, is important. Please reach out if you or someone you know is struggling with:

- anxiety
- depression
- stress
- trauma
- grief
- decision making

Tracey Wolsley is a trained Counsellor and Psychotherapist registered with the *Psychotherapy and Counselling Federation of Australia*. Tracey is available to assist you work towards your therapeutic goals and uses a collaborative, strengths-based, person-centred approach alongside evidence based interventions to help address areas that are troubling you so you can reach your full potential.

To suit individual needs and preferences, sessions are available face-to-face or via Zoom.

**For more information or  
to book an appointment**

tracey@ministreebendigo.org.au  
0423 217 446



**Baking:** Members of Christ True Light Church with the packaged biscuits

## Baking biscuits for Prison Fellowship

Simon Chan

**M**embers of Christ's True Light Church East Bendigo recently spent a Saturday together packaging biscuits for Prison Fellowship.

A great time of fellowship was held as we worked together to fill 616 bags of biscuits, including an Easter message, for the men and women in the Loddon, Middleton and Tarrengower prisons- an amazing 3080 biscuits.

Prison Fellowship Melbourne also sent us another 130 packets totaling 746 bags of biscuits which makes a grand total of 3,730 biscuits for the three prisons. This is an initiative organised by Prison Fellowship, whose members visit prisoners to show that God's love and forgiveness is for all.

Biscuits were kindly baked by members of churches and groups and brought

for us to pack, ready for delivery to the three main prisons in our area. It was wonderful to have the secondary children from Creek Street Christian School contributing jam drop biscuits they had baked. It was amazing to receive many biscuits from the people of the Northern Rivers Cluster consisting of Rochester, Bamawn, Elmore and Tongala, an area where people are still recovering from the recent floods.

Thank you to all the local churches and groups, including a large donation from the Kangaroo Flat Baptist Church, who helped to bake biscuits to provide a special Easter treat and message of love to those away from their families at this time.

Our next major activity with the Prison Fellowship is in November for the 'Angel Tree' drive, where inmates can nominate their child to receive a gift or voucher from them, to the value of \$30. It would be great if we can support this program.



**Mallee Missioner:** Bishop Matt Brain with the Revd Steve Weickhardt, Vanessa Weickhardt, Adrian Lane and Greg Harris

## Mallee Missioner Steve begins

**T**he Revd Steve Weickhardt has made the move back to the Diocese of Bendigo to take up a new ministry as Mallee Missioner.

Steve will be based in Red Cliffs, but will serve the wider Mallee region

throughout Ouyen, Mildura and neighbouring districts. Steve's role is to maintain a Christian presence amongst the faithful people of the vast rural areas, working alongside Revd Joe Varghese in Mildura and Archdeacon Peter Blundell.

## New beginning for Pyramid Hill

**T**he Revd Sue Allen has started a new ministry in the Parish of Pyramid Hill-Boort, being inducted in a worship service in March.

Sue is continuing her ministry in the Parish of Cohuna, which she will undertake alongside her new role in Pyramid Hill, Boort and Bear's Lagoon.

Sue has laid down her ministry with the Parish of Kerang, where she had been serving since 2019.

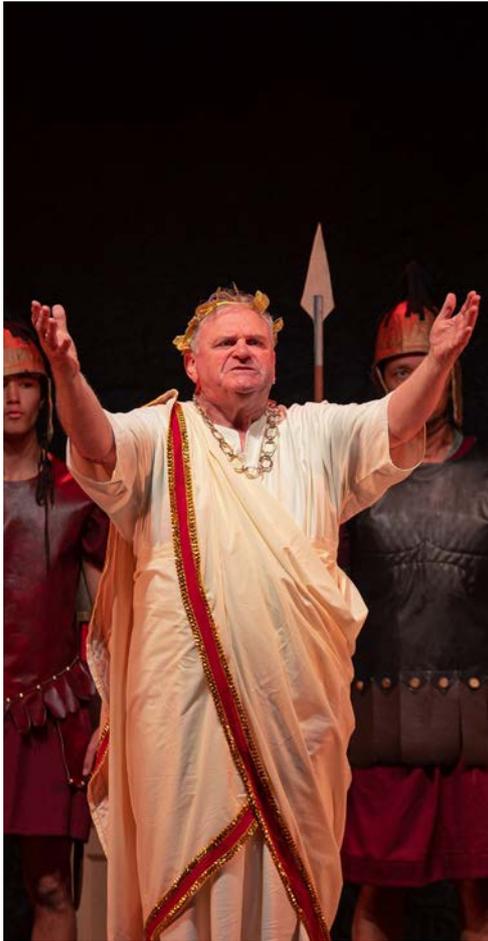
The people of Pyramid Hill, Boort and Bear's Lagoon were excited to welcome Sue as their pastor, as she is already well known to them being a long-time local living in the area.

We look forward to hearing stories of God's work in this part of the diocese through Sue's ministry.



**New ministry:** The Revd Sue Allen with Bishop Matt Brain

# Way of the Cross



# Easter 2023



# Easter Day at Walpeup Lake

Steve Weickhardt

On Easter Day, an ecumenical group of worshippers with a few locals and extended family members joined together to worship and celebrate Christ's resurrection at Walpeup Lake, near Ouyen.



The service was planned to cater for several congregations of different denominations who no longer had a church building to worship in across the district, and to gather the Church for this special day.

We enjoyed a kid's talk, Holy Communion, some songs and Steve preached to those gathered – and to those camping nearby! The service was followed by a picnic lunch and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.



Learning: The Parish of Eaglehawk undertaking Safe Church Training

## What does gospel kindness look like?

Suzannah Daniels

We had an interesting group discussion at a recent Safe Church Training workshop the crux of which was “Is the right answer always to be ‘kind’ and what does gospel kindness actually look like?”

Does being kind look like giving others what they want? What happens if what they want crosses a boundary? Maybe not your personal boundary, but somebody else's. How do we respond in kindness? How do we let them know that what

they've said or suggested has crossed a line? Who decides where the lines are anyway? And who's responsibility is it to point out the likely accidental, but sometimes not, boundary crossing?

Essentially this is the difference between 'kind' being synonymous with 'people pleasing' versus kindness looking like someone who respectfully maintains healthy boundaries. Holding healthy boundaries for yourself and on behalf of vulnerable people is a foundational aspect of the Safe Church Training and of building healthy communities.



## Charlton-Donald says thank you

Judi Bird

At our service at St Martin's, Charlton on 5 March 2023, the congregation representing the Parish of Charlton-Donald joined in giving thanks and praise for our long-time parishioner and friend, Janet Richardson.

We gave thanks for Janet's untiring work as a parish treasurer and a beloved member of the parish. Janet has provided encouragement, assistance and guidance to the clergy and the congregation with finances, governance, catering, and worship

services. A special memory for many was Janet at the ticket booth at the Agricultural Show for the St Martin's afternoon tea.

All gathered gave thanks for Janet's dedication, and extended our best wishes as she enters a new chapter of her life.

We expressed our gratitude to Janet, for sharing so much of herself with us.

Thank you Janet and all the best.

# Mildura hosts Clergy Conference

The annual Clergy Conference was held in Mildura in early May. Around 40 clergy came together for worship, learning, sharing and fellowship.



Baw Mu Htoo Bleh Dah Moo and Sue Allen



Trevor Bell and Peter Blundell



Lauren Porter and Fiona Preston



Katy Lambert and Karen Reid

# Holy Week and Easter at Castlemaine

Ian Howarth

The greatest of weeks in the Christian Calendar was celebrated with both solemnity and vibrancy in Holy Week as people gathered to journey with our Lord Jesus to the cross and the empty tomb.

The choir at Christ Church led in song for five of these occasions from Palm Sunday morning to Tenebrae that night, a celebration of Footwashing and Eucharist Maundy Thursday to the solemnity of the Passion and Reproaches on Good Friday. The joy of Easter then awaited and was celebrated with great gusto. Features on Easter Day

and through the Easter Season remain: the Paschal light with its hand-painted candle (artwork by Allison Howarth), the empty tomb which remains under the nave altar in the church and some amazing floral arrangements by Helen McEwen and Denise.

The church being open each day for prayer is a space where people can come to find renewed hope and new life, even in the midst of all the struggles and strains of life. I offer great thanks to the choir and faith communities of Castlemaine and Chewton for helping to point the way to Jesus at such a pivotal time.



# Dharrangdharrang

## Messagestick

Welcome to the first edition of the dharrangdharrang. The word *dharrangdharrang* comes from the Wiradjuri language meaning *message stick*.

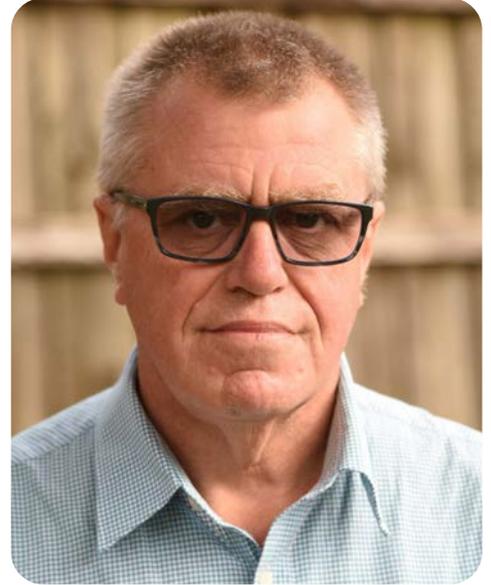
This month of the dharrangdharrang I would like to introduce you to the Associate Professor Canon Reverend Glenn Loughrey.

When I first met Glenn in 2016 we were both living very different lives and ministries in dioceses far from where we find ourselves today, although Glenn was much further than I, living and working in the Diocese of Grafton. As it turns out though, we weren't that different from each other. Glenn originated from a small

regional NSW town just as I did and we belonged to the same tribe 'Wiradjuri'.

Wiradjuri Country makes up the greater part of New South Wales and is therefore the largest Aboriginal clan group across the state. Wiradjuri people are also known as the people of the three rivers, Murrumbidgee, Karlari (the Lachlan, and Wambool (the Macquarie).

The boundary spans from the eastern boundary of the Great Dividing Range. Drawing a line from the present towns of Hay and Nyngan approximates the western boundary. While Gunnedah and Albury mark the northern and southern boundaries of Wiradjuri country.



**Revd Shannon Smith**

Diocesan Aboriginal  
Community Support

shannonsmith11@gmail.com  
0476 067 048

*Tell me about where you grew up and what was it like?*

I grew up on the northern edge of Wiradjuri country bordered by Mudgee, Gulgong, Dunedoo and Cassilis in a little place called Cooks Gap, so named because it was said Cook could see it from the sea! I doubt that was so. It was an area where all traditional people had been wiped out by 1875, so to have Aboriginal heritage was something to hide.

*How have your parents influenced you?*

My father was the son of an Irish father and an Aboriginal mother and one of ten. His father swore all in the family not to speak of grandmother's heritage so it was a secret we did not talk about but everybody around knew. My father struggled with this but despite his problems he taught me culture in his own way. Each day on the farm with him was a learning experience although much of what he taught I have only more recently began to uncover in myself. I now know that is how Aboriginal pedagogy works. My mother was a devout Anglican and was insistent in her gentle way that her boys gain an understanding of God, church and faith. Her prayers kept me alive in my wildest moments!

*What made you join the Anglican Church?*

I became Anglican and Christian because I had no other church. When my Aboriginality began to blossom as a pre-teen boy, I had no cultural place to put it. The only option was the church. It became my surrogate mob. Interestingly I was confirmed in 1967 and I suspect psychologically it was a form of assimilation into white culture, something I am still extracting myself from.

*Where were you ordained and by whom?*

I was ordained as a Deacon in Brisbane in 2007 in Brisbane by Archbishop Aspinall and as a priest in Grafton in 2009 by Bishop Slater.

*Who has been your biggest influence in the Church?*

On an international scale, Archbishop Tutu and locally the elders within NATSIAC who have been beside me since 2012 when I experienced a cultural breakthrough in my life. Particularly Aunty Lenore, Aunty Di. I also have been deeply influenced by Aunty Rosie Kunoth-Monks, Aunty Elaine Peckham and Uncle Shane Charles.

*What do you think are obstacles in the church?*

The major obstacle in the church is its structure which remains firmly entrenched in its colonial roots thus making it, at times, an unsafe place for First People. Well-meaning as many attempts to include us may be our voice is not heard on organisational, ministry and liturgical matters. NATSIAC and its members are working hard in this space, but we are still on the outside for most discussions.

*What drives you as NATSIAC Chairperson?*

To get the First People's Voice heard and respected. To ensure that the mainstream church's liturgies and processes begin to authentically reflect the place of the church on stolen land which remains unceded First Peoples country. To get us representation at the highest level, including a full time Torres Strait Islander Bishop and a full time Aboriginal Bishop. I'll stop there.

# 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, for Sunday School or an activity to do with the grandkids when they come up to visit.

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



## The Lego Challenge is back!

After a bit of a break, the Diocesan Lego Challenge is back on! This time we're looking for any scene from the book of Daniel. For those who want to extend themselves here are a few other ways to get into the story as a family or church community.

Get into the theme of food by having a vegetarian meal (Daniel 1), toasted marshmallows (Daniel 3), a giant feast with fancy plates (Daniel 5) or cupcakes decorated like lions (Daniel 6). Create the biggest statue out of cardboard boxes and then have fun knocking it down, or just play a game of skittles (Daniel 2). Have a go at making your own word puzzle (Daniel 5), or spend some time outside in the garden (Daniel 4).

As you create your Lego masterpieces or have a go at these activities, talk about what it would have been like for Daniel and his friends living as followers of God in a foreign land. How did they remain faithful? Follow their example of reading God's Word and praying to God.



Bendigo Anglican Diocese

Recreate any scene from

## DANIEL

Diorama, Model, Stop-motion video or other creation

Open to children of all ages  
(even adults if supervised by a child!)

Entries Close: 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Submit entries (or ask questions):  
Archdeacon George

[archdeacon@bendigoanglican.org.au](mailto:archdeacon@bendigoanglican.org.au)

Lego  
prizes to  
be won!



**bca**  
bush church aid  
*Going the distance*

# The Curnow Centre for Rural Ministry Training

## Upcoming Workshops and Courses via Zoom

### Parish Governance

For Parish Councils, Wardens,  
and Incumbents

This workshop will look at the Parish Administration Act, roles and responsibilities and ways of operating and working together.

If you have particular questions or scenarios that you would like to be explored please send them through to Archdeacon George ([archdeacon@bendigoanglican.org.au](mailto:archdeacon@bendigoanglican.org.au)).

**Friday 2 June**  
12.00 – 1.30pm

**Monday 5 June**  
7.00 – 8.30pm  
(repeat session)

#### Register:

<https://anglicandioceseofbendigo.snapforms.com.au/form/curnow-centre-registration>

### Australis Course

Unit 3: User's Guide to  
the New Testament

The theme for this unit is 'Learning from the beginnings of Christianity about believing, Worshipping and living as God's people today.' It is open to anyone interested in extending their understanding of the New Testament and can be undertaken as a stand-alone Unit or as part of the full Australis Certificate of Ministry. Those currently enrolled in Unit 2 have commented on how their faith is deepening not only as a result of the study, but also the relationships and authentic sharing from those within the group.

**Tuesday 11 July**  
1.30 – 3.00pm: Session 0

**Tuesday 25 July**  
1.30 – 3.00pm: Session 1

Cost: \$25

Continues fortnightly until  
the end of November.

#### Register:

<https://www.bendigoanglican.org.au/australis-certificate-of-ministry/>

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**August issue:** Contributions due by  
Friday 21 July.

*Photo of Bishop Matt on page two  
credit of Bendigo Advertiser.*

## PLEASE REPORT ABUSE CALL 1800 135 246

The Anglican Diocese of Bendigo does not tolerate abuse, harassment or other misconduct within our communities. If any person has concerns about the behaviour of a church worker, past or present, they can contact Kooyoora Ltd.

We are deeply distressed that there have been occasions when abuse and misconduct have occurred in our communities. Kooyoora Ltd is independent of the Diocese and receives and manages complaints about abuse and misconduct by members of the clergy and church workers.

## KOYOORA

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The Diocese of Bendigo is committed to doing all that is possible to ensure that abuse does not occur. All complaints of abuse are taken very seriously and we do all we can to lessen harm. We offer respect, pastoral care and ongoing long-term support to anyone who makes a complaint.

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