



Anglican Diocese  
of Bendigo

# The Spirit

september 2023

issue 162



Engage: Young people from the Parish of South East Bendigo attending the Victorian Christian Youth Convention

## Youth convention renews teen passion for God

Thomas Brain

**A** bunch of youth from Holy Trinity went to Belgrave Heights Convention Centre for the Victorian Christian Youth Convention (VCYC) on 19 May.

The convention drew around 500 youth from across Victoria and parts of New

South Wales to learn from the Bible and encourage each other in our worship of God. Although the weather was cold and wet, it didn't dampen our eagerness to praise God!

Andy May from Bundoora Presbyterian Church gave four talks from the Psalms around the theme of "On Repeat: Songs

for the Soul". His encouragement to us was to keep the Psalms 'on repeat' in our daily Bible reading so that we are equipped with God's words to approach him in various circumstances.

The event had many creative ways for us to engage with God and his word. There were collaborative response boards and a **continued on page 3...**

Youth Ministry road trip  
page 3

New Strategic Plan  
pages 6-7

Restoration Station  
brings holiday fun  
page 10

Youth & Families  
page 11

# The Bishop writes...

Dear Friends,

This issue of *The Spirit* has several articles highlighting activities engaging the younger end of our church. Indeed, one of the articles has been written by a young person! I hope you find this an encouragement, especially as we get a little insight into the future of the church through the eyes of youth.



We can make a mistake though if we think that children and youth are the 'future' of the church. It would be the same mistake as if we referred to the ministry of older people as the 'past'. Gladly *The Spirit* shows this up as we also have articles celebrating great things happening among more mature groups right now. The church certainly has a past, and it will have a future but the great thing about the church is that it is living and active now and it does this through both the young and the old.

When we think about how best to be God's church here and now we can sometimes address different groups of people as being 'our future'. This is often

for the future. Or to put it another way, how can we live into the future without dismissing the family of God as it is now. I suspect that it starts with one primary call: To value one another.

I was reminded of St Paul's own encouragement of the Thessalonian church, "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." (1 Thess 5:11) There are two key phrases in this short verse which help us live in the now while preparing for the future: "Encourage one another", and "as you are doing".

I love the way that the verse equates encouragement with building up. There

differently depending on our age. For those of us who are older encouragement of younger ones means looking for opportunities to promote them and give them real space and capacity to lead. Too often we take centre stage and relegate younger ones to the wings, and it befits us sharing the roles and applause.

A patient, listening ear is deeply nurturing. This is especially so if it is a young ear and an older voice. I am continually surprised at how flexible and willing to try new things I can be if I feel that I have been heard and given enough time to share whatever wisdom I might have.

One question we can ask ourselves (whether we are young or old) when we are tempted to be critical or demanding is, "when was the last time I said something encouraging to the person I am criticising?"

We are the real church now, whether young or old. I wonder where Paul would find us encouraging and building each other up?

Your servant in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "thatt". The letters are lowercase and have a cursive, slightly slanted appearance.

**“A patient, listening ear is deeply nurturing. This is especially so if it is a young ear and an older voice.”**

true when we come to our younger members. I suspect that more than a few of us will have even described children as 'the future of the church'. There is certainly more we can do to bring others into the church of the future, but it would be a trap to miss what God is doing right here and right now in the church of the present.

In reading the various stories making up this edition I was prompted to think about what we can be doing now in the valuable present to effectively prepare

is something very concrete in the image of a constructive builder, and something attractive in the sort of encouragement which is indiscriminate and given to all. Paul seems also to have a large vision for how much encouragement should be doled out. He recognises that this is what the Thessalonians are presently doing, and he urges them to keep on doing it. It should be their continual activity, their bridge between today and tomorrow.

I suspect that this continual encouragement is expressed slightly



New beginnings: Karen Reid inducted into the Parish of Kangaroo Flat

## Kangaroo Flat welcomes Karen Reid

Contributed

**K**aren Reid was formally inducted into her new ministry leading the Parish of Kangaroo Flat earlier in June.

Karen was warmly welcomed by a congregation of parishioners, friends and family who are excited to see what this new ministry partnership will bring.

Karen has been with the diocese since

2019, ministering with the Parish of South East Bendigo, but now leads a parish of her own.

Karen looks forward to getting to know the Kangaroo Flat congregation, and together reaching out with God's love and good news, eagerly anticipating what God might do through them to continue bringing hope and renewal in Jesus' name in this part of His world.

## Youth Ministry Road Trip

Andy Ellis

**W**hat is the collective noun for a group of children's and youth ministers? A party? A gaggle? An explosion? Whatever it is, I was invited to join a road trip visiting churches across Melbourne to observe and discuss what a range of churches are doing to reach and disciple young people.

This road trip was organised by the Ridley Centre for Children & Youth Ministry (RCCYM) and we visited a diverse range of churches from large, vibrant gatherings in a converted warehouse to small, intimate gatherings of faithful people. It was wonderful to see how the faith of the faithful is expressed in diverse ways that reach different communities.

We were encouraged to apply our own cultural lens before applying strategies that might work in our own context – what might work for them, may not work for us! But what appeared to be consistent in churches that had growing children's ministries was an eager desire, expressed through willingness to give things a try, to see young people in their area find the love and freedom found through Jesus.

Because of my time on this road trip, I have been inspired to invest further into training leaders in Children's and Youth Ministry, particularly parents, and have picked up a few ideas and skills to incorporate at my church, Holy Trinity. If you would like to know more about RCCYM, feel free to get in touch with me [andy@holytrinitybendigo.au](mailto:andy@holytrinitybendigo.au).

## Youth convention reignites faith

continued from front page...

prayer tent. There were also workshops where you could choose to interact with two of eleven amazing topics – the hard part was choosing which ones to go to!

One I went to was called 'Jesus shaped friendships' which helped us to think about how we look to Jesus' love for us in sharing that love with our friends.

Aside from the resourceful and inspiring teaching we had loads of fun! We sang loads of songs, played fun games, and even were treated to our youth minister Andy leading us in his annual tradition of aerobics on Saturday morning (in full lycra!).

The benefit of attending this convention was that I left full of praise for God and renewed zeal for Him. It

*You can find info regarding all things VCYC at [vcyc.org.au](http://vcyc.org.au)*

was so encouraging to see so many young people from across Victoria, which contrasts from my regular life where I can feel like I'm one of the few Christians in my school.

I encourage you to consider coming along (and invite a friend or two) next year on 17-19 May 2024. It will definitely be worth your while.

# Around the Diocese



Recognition: The newly installed Canon Shannon Smith (centre)

## New canons installed at St Paul's Cathedral

Jesse Sherwood

A special Choral Evensong was conducted on Sunday 23 July 2023 to celebrate the collation by Bishop Matt and installation by Dean Elizabeth Dyke of several new canons.

Newly appointed to the Cathedral Chapter are:

- Revd Tracey Wolsley as Clerical Canon (Goe);
- Revd Shannon Smith as Clerical Canon (Moorhouse);
- Mandy Stableford as Lay Canon (Guest), and;
- Revd Heather Marten as Canon Emeritus.

The Evensong also provided an opportunity to thank members of the Cathedral Chapter who are retiring from their canony service to the governance of the Cathedral, including Mr Greg McKerlie (Guest Lay Canon), Mr Derek Shepherd (Goldsbury Lay Canon), and Revd Heather Marten (Goe).

Dean Elizabeth commented: "The new canony appointments bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the corporate life of the Cathedral Parish and Diocese. I look forward to their participation in the ministry and mission of the Cathedral as we worship God and help people to know and follow Jesus Christ."



Lay Canon: Dean Elizabeth Dyke with Mandy Stableford



Clerical Canon: The Revd Tracey Wolsley

# Around the Parishes



Car wash: A group of young Karen adults give Dale Barclay's car a good wash

## Car wash raises funds for Karen youth activities

Dale Barclay

**O**n finding out about a fund-raising car wash at the cathedral I decided to have my car washed. It was being held by the Karen Youth.

While my car was being washed, I had a chat with the Revd Baw Mu Htoo, the Karen Community Worker, who was overseeing things on the day. The car wash was a fundraiser for a Karen youth event to be held in the coming months.

They will travel from all over Victoria to Bendigo for this event, which will include sporting activities and competitions like reciting the creed, along with a service. It is something they are really looking forward to.

My car was washed beautifully and as an added bonus I was able to purchase some Karen food for my lunch which delighted my taste buds. The youth were well supported by their families, and it was a very warm welcoming car wash! Well done Karen Youth team.



Together: The day saw many of the Karen community join in



Eat: Karen food was also available

# Diocesan Strategic Plan

The new Diocesan Strategic Plan is here!

**Y**ou'll note it's not called a Registry Strategic Plan, it's not even a Bishop's Strategic Plan. It's a Diocesan Strategic Plan – that means it's for all of us, and we need you all to be involved to help take our diocese forward over the next five years.

Some of the initiatives are for the Registry to lead, but others belong to parishes and congregations, and will need your involvement if together we are to work towards our vision of transforming society through the gospel.

So, consider this your invitation to participate! It is our hope that as you read the strategic plan, you will see areas that resonate with you and your parish or ministry and that you feel you have a real desire to contribute to.



## Our Vision...

We will transform society by the gospel of Jesus Christ by building healthy, mission-shaped communities

## Our Values...

**C**

### CREATIVE

I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full

John 10:10

**H**

### HEALTHY

You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ

1 Peter 2:5

**R**

### REPRESENTATIVE

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!"

Revelations 5:13

**I**

### INNOVATIVE

He said to them, "Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old."

Matthew 13:52

**S**

### SAFE

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest

Matthew 11:28

**T**

### TRUSTFUL

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law

Romans 13:8

Where can you contribute?

This is just a snapshot of some of the initiatives from the strategic plan.

The full strategic plan is available to read on the diocesan website, along with a message from Bishop Matt.

What part will you play in the future of God's Kingdom here?

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1 RESPONSIVE PARISHES		STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2 ENGAGED PEOPLE		STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3 ADAPTABLE SPACES	
<b>OUR VISION FOR 2027</b> Vibrant and collaborative parishes representing community diversity Safe and innovative parishes honouring and serving our people		<b>OUR VISION FOR 2027</b> Engaged and empowered people transformed by Jesus with God's call in their lives.		<b>OUR VISION FOR 2027</b> Strong stewards of innovative spaces and places that are meeting current and future needs.	
As we follow Christ we will...		As we follow Christ we will...		As we follow Christ we will...	
CREATIVE	Pioneer practices and forms of worship that are attractive, vibrant and nurturing for all ages	CREATIVE	Be the leader in Rural Ministry Training	CREATIVE	Clear up time and space for creative projects
HEALTHY	Meet the rightful claims of those who have been wronged	HEALTHY	Empower lay witness and ministry	HEALTHY	Ensure that every building has a purpose
REPRESENTATIVE	Welcome and engage diverse groups within congregations, communities and ministries	REPRESENTATIVE	Design and implement activities of recognition and reconciliation	REPRESENTATIVE	Minimise the environmental impact of our activities
INNOVATIVE	Work to embed a congregational working style in every community	INNOVATIVE	Support and train our people on ICT solutions and opportunities	INNOVATIVE	Ensure that our places and spaces are fit for their community
SAFE	Continually build and develop safe ministry practices	SAFE	Work with Keepers to keep people safe	SAFE	Develop and embrace new forms of online ministry
TRUSTFUL	Work in collaboration to develop a technologically viable parishes	TRUSTFUL	We will promote a living relationship, across each part of the diocese	TRUSTFUL	Develop and adopt property and asset management plans
					Expand our ESM/CHS minister roles and training
					Value and invest property assets so that parish life may flourish

## Our Strategic Objectives...

## Our Initiatives...

### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1 RESPONSIVE PARISHES

#### OUR VISION FOR 2027

Vibrant and collaborative parishes representing community diversity and need.  
Safe and innovative parishes honouring and serving our people.

Vibrant forms of worship for all ages

Embracing children's ministry

Embedding a congregation in every community

Embedding the Aboriginal Communities Officer in diocesan life

Welcoming diverse groups into our congregations, communities and ministries

### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2 ENGAGED PEOPLE

#### OUR VISION FOR 2027

Engaged and empowered people transformed by Jesus with God's call in their lives.

Building up our rural ministry training through the Curnow Centre

Having a strategy for ministry wellbeing and development

Engaging in activities of reconciliation

Responding to family violence and abuse

### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3 ADAPTABLE SPACES

#### OUR VISION FOR 2027

Strong stewards of innovative spaces and places that are meeting current and future needs.

Minimising the environmental impact of our activities

Ensuring our places are fit for their community

Embracing new forms of online ministry

Opening up time for creative projects

# Around the Diocese

## Visit to Teen Challenge Rehabilitation Centre bring goodies and care



St Andrews Mothers' Union visited Teen Challenge Rehabilitation Centre in Kyabram. This is a Christian themed course for men aged 18 and over to help them overcome drug, alcohol and other addictions.

MU have been visiting for over 10 years now and take morning tea to share with staff and students and also supply homemade biscuits for their ongoing morning teas. We also delivered hand knitted rugs and beanies for the men as the cold weather is not far away. There are currently 17 students doing the course and this year we called on other MU branches to help supply rugs. A big thank you to all who helped out. The students are very appreciative and openly share their stories over morning tea.

- Val McKenzie

## 50 years of ministry celebrated at St Clement's Huntly

St Clement's Church Huntly, in the Parish of Bendigo North, was honoured to have Bishop Matt Brain officiating at our service to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the consecration of the brick building, which replaced the original 1904 weatherboard church.

Many former parishioners, Young Anglican Fellowship members and former clergy came together for the afternoon tea and chat time with Bishop Matt. This was followed with an inspiring service of prayer, praise, and the message: "We are still the builders...with God's grace we keep on building His church."

- Leonie Strauch



## MU Winter Gathering hears of MinisTree work on the streets



Fiona Preston was the guest speaker at Mothers' Union Winter Gathering, sharing about her ministry amongst those sleeping rough. In an emotionally moving time, Fiona reminded all present that everybody is made in the image of God and is special.

Clean or dirty, housed or homeless, criminal or innocent Fiona encouraged all to listen to their stories which will often help one to understand why they are in the situation in which they find themselves.

The Winter Gathering was part of the 120 year anniversary of the beginning of Mothers Union in the Diocese of Bendigo, formed just one year after the Diocese itself.

- Jenny Rainsford

# Around the Parishes

## Restoration Station kid's program brings holiday fun

Peter Downes

**D**uring the first week of the recent school holidays a kid's program called Restoration Station was held by the Anglican Parish of Elmore at St. Peter's, Elmore.

Seventeen primary school aged children from St. Peter's, Elmore and St. John's, Colbinabbin had an action-packed three days. It was a great time of fun, music, stories and daily trips to local sites such as the Miniature Railway, Campaspe Run H.V. McKay museum and the Elmore Vintage Emporium. We were pleased to have nine kids for the first day, and even more pleased when they went home and told their friends and family what a great time they had and so eight more kids signed up the next day!

The program was run in conjunction with Scripture Union Victoria using their brand new Restoration Station material. Alongside restoration activities of restoring items such as the Elmore Primary School bell, an old wooden carpenter's box and a copper weather vane, the kids learnt about how Jesus can restore the broken bits that are



**Games:** The holiday program saw kids participate in a range of outdoor games

inside us. It was inspiring to see the way they responded to the message and offered Jesus their broken bits to heal! (Almost half the children in attendance were from single-parent families).

Thanks to everyone who helped out and for our local venues that hosted

us so wonderfully. A big thanks to Di Duursma (Northern Region Scripture Union Overseer) and her team for the wonderful job they did.

We heartily recommend Scripture Union to other parishes to use for activities with children and teenagers.



**Ride:** All aboard the miniature railway in Elmore!



**Fun:** Adults and kids join in the activities

# Winter Worship Workshops



The Curnow Centre for Rural Ministry Training's first series of free national Zoom workshops have been a wonderful success.

In collaboration with the Revd Dr Charles Sherlock and Broughton Publishing, *The Curnow Centre* hosted three workshops attracting 80 registrations from 16 different dioceses. The workshop topics were taken from Charles' book *Australian Anglicans Worship: Performing APBA*.

We received very encouraging feedback from participants who were excited about the opportunity to learn in this way and engage directly with Charles, who is

an Australian authority in Anglican liturgy. A couple of parishes chose to participate in the workshop as a group and then have a cuppa afterwards to discuss how the content applied in their setting.

The Curnow Centre aims to equip clergy and lay people to minister in rural contexts. To receive news of upcoming workshops you can join our mailing list - just follow the links to The Curnow Centre on the diocesan website.

*If you have ideas about future workshop topics contact:*  
*Suzannah Daniels*  
*mdo@bendigoanglican.org.au*

*Catch-up online*

The Winter Worship Workshop recordings are available on YouTube.

Search for  
**@bendigoanglican**

The workshops are free to access and can be circulated amongst your networks.

*Winter Worship Workshop #1:  
Shapes & Seasons*

Why is the shape of APBA Sunday services important and how does it help inform creativity for seasonal celebrations?

*Winter Worship Workshop #2:  
Holy Communion*

Rules, rubrics and recommendations, with a 'commentated' Eucharist.

*Winter Worship Workshop #3:  
Services of the Word*

The ins and outs of Services of the Word, including engaging with children and lay led services.



Teach: George Hemmings with Charles Sherlock leading the online workshops

# 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 book of Exodus

In the lectionary we have just started the book of Exodus, which tells the story of God's miraculous rescue of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and the beginning of their transformation into his people. Below are ideas for how your church or family can engage with the story of God's rescue mission.

### ..... Nibbles

While it does take some artistic license, the animated movie *Prince of Egypt* can be a good way to jump into Exodus, particularly for those with young children. Crack out the popcorn and settle in for a movie night, but along the way hit pause and ask, "what does this scene tell us about God?" (Don't forget the movie is not the Bible!)

Those with older children might like to watch the movie and then read key passages from the start of Exodus and discuss what the movie got right and what it got wrong. Or watch the Bible Project explanation of Exodus ([Search Bible Project - Exodus on YouTube](#)).

### ..... Bites

A central event in the story of Exodus is the celebration of the Passover, a special meal which God's people were to share every year in remembrance of his salvation. The Passover meal included roast lamb, unleavened (flat) bread and herbs.

Share a meal of roast lamb, make some bread together and spend some time as a church or family remembering all that God has done for you.

### ..... Chomps

Create a plan to read through all of Exodus. At one chapter a day this will take just over a month.

After each reading, spend time reflecting on what the passage reveals of God's character, his purposes and his promises. As a creative way of engaging with the book you could try creating drawings or dioramas of the ten plagues, the ten commandments and the tabernacle.



## Child Safe Standards in action

**A**s part of St Paul's Cathedral's commitment to supporting children to celebrate their unique cultural backgrounds, the Sunday School program made bunting.

Children chose to either draw a flag representing their own family background, or another culture that

we wanted to ensure felt especially welcome in our church.

One young girl who is not First Nations, immediately chose to draw the Aboriginal flag, whereas a Karen boy chose Brazil in the hope that their soccer team might feel welcome if they visit St Paul's Cathedral one day!

**Address:** The Spirit, PO Box 2,  
BENDIGO VIC 3552

Member, Australian Religious Press  
Association

**Telephone:** 03 5443 4711

**Email:** thespirit@bendigoanglican.org.au

**Publishing Editor:** Sarah Crutch

The Spirit is published bi-  
monthly (excluding January).

**Advertising rates** are available from  
the Editor. All advertisements are  
accepted at the Editor's discretion;  
acceptance does not imply  
endorsement of the product or  
service.

**Contributions are welcome**, and will  
be edited. Email contributions are  
preferred. Anonymous articles will not  
be considered for publication.

**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.

The Anglican Diocese of Bendigo  
and the Editor are not responsible for  
opinions expressed by contributors,  
nor do these necessarily reflect the  
policy of the diocese.

November issue: Contributions due by  
27 October.

*Photo of Bishop Matt on page 2 credit  
of Bendigo Advertiser.*

## 16 Days of Activism - start planning now!

As part of our diocesan  
commitment to preventing  
and responding to domestic  
and family violence,  
parishioners and parishes are  
invited to engage with the 16  
Days of Activism campaign.

It starts on 25 November,  
International Day for the  
Elimination of Violence  
against Women and ends  
on 10 December, Human  
Rights Day. As well as the  
diocesan resources and  
events that follow, consider  
getting involved with local  
council events in your area.

**Prayer Diary**  
produced by Mothers' Union for  
personal use or for intercessions at  
local services during the 16 Days.

**Facebook Campaign**  
let the wider community know that  
we care about this important topic  
by liking and sharing our posts  
during the campaign via the St Paul's  
Anglican Cathedral Bendigo page.

**Healing & Wholeness Service**  
10.00am on Tuesday 28 November  
at St Paul's Cathedral Bendigo with  
guest preacher Revd Tracy Lauersen.  
Tracey is the National Anglican Program  
Manager for Families & Culture.

**PLEASE REPORT ABUSE  
CALL 1800 135 246**

**KOOYOORA** | OFFICE OF  
PROFESSIONAL  
STANDARDS

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.

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.

You can contact Kooyoora Ltd by calling 1800 135 246  
For further information: [www.kooyoora.org.au](http://www.kooyoora.org.au)