



Anglican Diocese
of Bendigo

The Spiri

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Line dancing: Members of the congregation participated in the line dancing at the Chinese New Year celebration dinner

Celebrations welcome in the Chinese New Year

Simon Chan

Christ's True Light Church celebrated the Chinese New Year with a dinner at New China Restaurant on 5 February, with over 70 people in attendance.

The evening began with joyful singing of Chinese New Year songs with a flavour of Christian blessings in Christ, and was followed by a sumptuous 6 course Chinese dinner. Guests swayed along with the lively cha cha music of line dance performance.

Our speaker from Melbourne gave a message of peace through the gift of Jesus Christ to the world. The night ended with the table draw prizes and a rousing final song to bless one another in Christ!



Fellowship: Members of the Christ True Light Church congregation enjoy the celebrations

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The Bishop writes

Dear Friends,

Across the Diocese of Bendigo we are in the Annual General Meeting season, where each parish in the diocese meets to receive reports for the last year on ministry, the audited financial statements and elect churchwardens, parish councils and other positions for the years ahead.

A big change for annual meetings this year is that all elections are for three years. Parishes may ask for temporary dispensation from this requirement, but as I write nearly 90% of parishes seemed to have accepted the change and transitioned to three year terms for parish councils.

Each year I attend a number of annual meetings and recently on a cool Sunday afternoon in late February I attended the annual meeting of the parish of Inglewood. As is the practice at annual meetings there is an opportunity to raise any matters and it is not uncommon for me to be asked by congregations - will we survive? I think this question is often generated as those attending the meetings look around amongst themselves and see they are aging, no one is joining them and they feel anxious about the future. Christianity in their eyes is slowly dying in many communities.

At Inglewood we had a talk about it and people made various comments. From the back of the meeting a senior member of the congregation said, "I think one of the reasons no young people want to come to church is because it's boring!" There was a silence after the comment and she was asked to repeat it and she

strengthened it by saying, "I often find church boring." I think many present were surprised, but I was not. The reality is that many people find our worship repetitive, the language difficult to understand and the hymns dreary. For an outsider what is there that is appealing about our worship?

For those of us who have been going to church for a long time in a topsy turvy world we like the repetition, the regularity of the pattern of worship and the enduring hymns. We come to church to find reassurance, a sense of security in a very stressed and insecure world. However, this means that we may not be where many others in our community live and move. The gap between church and community can be deep and wide.

However, let me assure you that all we do in church is not totally out of touch, nor is it not making sense to those who attend.

Australian theologian and social commentator Dr Philip Hughes believes some of the answer as to why people are not attending or interested in church is to do with a crisis of confidence in churches in Australia:

Confidence in the Churches has dropped significantly as a result of the sexual abuse scandals. A great external enemy of the churches has also been the rise of individualism, selfishness and greed that have been so effectively promoted by the corporate world, particularly through advertising, and also in the recent corporate and banking scandals. (The Melbourne Anglican September 2016)

He also believes the Church's perceived narrowness and lack of tolerance for diversity undermined its moral authority, something which has been further exacerbated by the Church's lack of leadership on other moral issues of the day, such as the sustainability of the environment.

What this means is that the Church is seen by many as out of touch, ultra conservative and trapped in a

historical straightjacket. Now we may want to disagree with his assessment, but if we are perceived by many in the community in this light, and by others who come through the door as boring, we have an enormous challenge on our hands to turn this situation around.

Some point to the success of Pentecostal churches, but I'm not sure that is the answer. They are usually ultra conservative, they do have often bright music, but the words of many songs I think are terrible, even if the music is attractive their worship is also very repetitive.

It will be a challenge, but churches of the future are going to have to do better and many are already trying to make worship a more engaging experience with better liturgy, attractive music and good preaching, but I think we have a long way to go!

Blessings,

The Spirit

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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.

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. Contributions for the next issue must be submitted by **Friday 17 March 2017**.

Back to school blessings

Samantha Bews

On the first Sunday in February the Anglican Church on Agitation Hill in Castlemaine held its annual 'Mixed Blessings' service for children starting school for the first time or starting high school.

Why 'Mixed Blessings'? The service recognises that starting school can be a time of mixed emotions for both children and parents! For children there can be excitement and nervousness, wonder and caution.

For the parents – well, it's pretty much the same! There is excitement for the child as they step into this new phase of their lives, and nervousness about all the unknowns ahead. There can be joy at seeing them flourish but also loss at letting them go.

We also bless teachers at the service, and this year had the added joy of blessing one of our parishioners who is returning to university to become a primary school teacher.

This year origami boats were used to symbolise this transition in their lives.

The Mixed Blessings Service is part of the Upsidedown Church, a creative, alternative form of worship for all ages.

Upsidedown Church takes place on the first Sunday of each month.



Symbolism: Georgia and Wilbur Bunting with the origami boats



Launched: A ribbon cutting and party poppers marked the launch of True North

True North launched in Huntly

Suzannah Daniels

The Parish of Bendigo North began 2017 with a bang by celebrating the launch of a new congregation called True North. Bishop Andrew presided over the service on Sunday 5 February at St Clement's, Huntly, where the congregation meet.

Bishop Andrew encouraged us to be inventive and bold in the way we live out our identities as 'light of the world'. Our hope is that the surrounding communities of Huntly and Epsom be drawn towards the light of Christ through the presence and actions of True North.

In order to reach these communities our style is relaxed, friendly and contemporary, with ancient traditions being expressed in fresh and meaningful ways.

The congregation's catch cry this year is 'Be Seen in '17'. We understand this in two parts, firstly that our hearts are seen by God and secondly, that the local community sees and comes to know us. Please join in praying for our new congregation as we seek to grow both spiritually and in membership.



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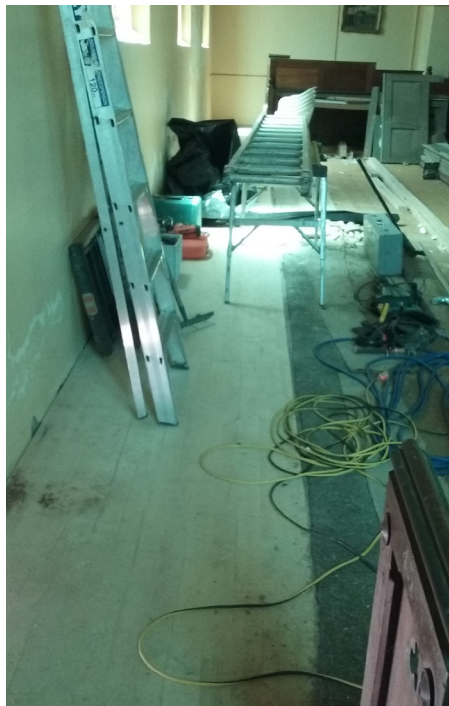
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In progress: Flooring works underway



Complete: A section of the new floor



Under construction: The framework for the access ramp

St John's Malmsbury restoration to facilitate community activity

Ian Howarth

For some years now it has been the aspiration of the St John's Malmsbury congregation and the parish to restore the church.

In 2015 an extensive building condition report was completed by Dr Gary Hill of Minerva Heritage which provided much food for thought and an on-going plan for restoration works.

Last year we celebrated the 150th anniversary of the church. Currently the floor inside the church is being levelled following the removal of some pews several years ago. This will create a much safer and usable space

for congregation and community activities. With the help of Fr Jeff O'Hare in terms of interior design, a more practical and multi-use purpose for the church is in the process of being developed.

St John's is the last remaining church in the community of Malmsbury and we see it not only as a place of worship on Sundays, but becoming a hub for a diversity of community activity. Whilst the church now may be on the periphery of community, our aim is to see it come more to the centre. This is but the beginning of what will be a hope-filled and longer story.



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Old: Building the new floor



New: The completed floor

St Margaret's Mildura receives new floor and lighting upgrade

Michael Hopkins

Works are almost complete on the new floor at St Margaret's Mildura.

The nave floor has been totally replaced and part of the platform area where the choir stalls were has been removed and lowered to the nave level. This has created a new communion point and a larger nave that will bring the congregation

seating forward, creating a new hospitality and gathering area at the entrance to the church.

Once carpeted, individual chairs will replace the first six rows of pews allowing flexibility in worship space design. In addition to these works, the church has been completely rewired and new lighting and power installed. The church will then be fitted out with the latest data and sound system.



New facility: The bobcat parked in the old kitchen at Holy Trinity, Flora Hill

South East Bendigo building works

Greg Harris

Meanwhile at Holy Trinity, Flora Hill, building works have commenced on a significant upgrade to the facilities.

The building project involves building across the present driveway to link

the two current buildings. In doing so, this will create two large new rooms, an inviting foyer along with upgraded airconditioning and a newly refurbished and upgraded kitchen.

The works are expected to be completed by mid 2017.

Ron Stone has joined Mount Alexander Funerals



After many years of leadership, service and ministry in the Anglican Church of Australia, Ron decided on a change of career.

Ron is well known in Bendigo and the surrounding region. He brings with him much experience in caring for people at critical periods in their lives, and has a particular interest in post bereavement follow-up and support.

If you would like Ron to assist at your time of need, or you wish to have him visit after a bereavement, please call our office on 5447 0927.



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Around the Diocese

Rabbi Fred Morgan visits for Candlemas



Guest: Rabbi Fred Morgan recently visited Woodend-Trentham

On Sunday 5 February Woodend-Trentham welcomed Rabbi Fred Morgan of Temple Beth Israel to speak as we celebrated Candlemas, the Presentation of the Christ child in the temple and the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Rabbi Fred shared the details of his own children's early life rituals as well as his reflections on the importance of rituals that continue throughout the life of Jewish people. Our shared heritage meant that the congregation was able to relate to many of these rituals but view them in a new light from a Jewish perspective.

Rabbi Fred also spoke about the importance of showing hospitality to neighbours and encouraged us to look at our own 'mitvahs' (or obligations) as Christians as we work for the poor, the imprisoned and the refugee.

- Melissa Clark

Worship at Cohuna takes an industrial feel

Bishop Andrew, in a recent visit to the Anglican Church in Cohuna, was able to see for the first time significant improvements that had been undertaken to the worship space used for major services and events in the Cohuna Parish Centre.

Recently two parishioners, Geoff Bruns and Ken Adams undertook the laying of a huge amount of new carpet that had been obtained from an organisation in Sydney without charge (except for transport). Along with some other renovations undertaken, it has transformed this large space into a magnificent area for services and parish occasions.

Further work is planned to enhance the space over time and it will continue to strengthen the Church's vision for the future.

- Contributed



Improved: The worship space in an industrial workshop

Knitted rugs support women fleeing domestic violence



Care: Lois Morrissey with one of the rugs

The Mothers' Union and Caritas ladies of the Anglican Diocese of Bendigo are always busy knitting squares for rugs.

The rugs that have recently been put together, thanks to the busy knitting hands of many volunteers, will go to women fleeing domestic violence.

Lois Morrissey is pictured with a rug that she assembled from squares knitted by Glad Biles.

- Lois Morrissey

Around the Parishes

Andrew Eaton farewelled from congregations of Maryborough-Avoca

The Parish of Maryborough-Avoca farewelled the Revd Andrew Eaton from the parish with a combined parish service on Sunday 29 January at Talbot.

Andrew has accepted a position as the rector of Wallsend in the Diocese of Newcastle and has moved, along with his family, during the middle of February.

Andrew was assisting in Daylesford and Castlemaine before his move to Maryborough, and has been more recently involved at a diocesan level in developing a Reconciliation Action Plan along with being Chair and Editor of *The Spirit*.

We wish Andrew and his family all the best as they settle into their new life in the Diocese of Newcastle.

- Contributed



Thanks: Andrew says a few words at his farewell service

Kooyoora Ltd established to handle church complaints



Sacred: The company name is derived from Kooyoora State Park

Kooyoora is the name of a new company that the Dioceses of Bendigo and Melbourne are in the process of forming to handle professional standards matters from mid 2017. The name is derived from Kooyoora State Park outside Inglewood and means a sacred space. This is a major change to the way in which dioceses have handled complaints, which over the past decade have gone directly to the Director of Professional Standards.

The company has been formed to reflect the view coming from the Royal Commission that there needs to be a separation between the organisation being complained about and the organisation that should do the investigation and redress.

It is hoped that the other Victorian dioceses will join the scheme as well and it will mean a one stop process for all people in Victoria that have concerns or complaints in relation to church workers, clergy and laity.

- Contributed

The Spirit spotted in Sydney

On a recent visit to the General Synod office in Sydney, Bishop Andrew noticed our diocesan publication, *The Spirit*, featured on display.

The Spirit has now been part of our diocesan life for the past 12 years and has been very well received. It continues to be an important part of our diocesan communication. When it was launched in magazine format the intention was for it to be handed out as widely as possible, not only to parishioners but to the wider community. Bishop Andrew has noticed more recently some parishes cutting back on their monthly number and has been wondering if parishes are distributing *The Spirit* as widely as they possibly could.

Please use *The Spirit* as an avenue to communicate with your community about the Church.



Spotted: *The Spirit* at the General Synod office in Sydney

MU ready to celebrate Lady Day in Cathedral

Ronda Gault

Members of MU/Caritas and their friends are looking forward to celebrating the Feast of the Annunciation on Saturday 25 March. It will take place in St Paul's Cathedral after an absence of nearly eight years.

Lady Day is considered a very special time for Mothers' Union members around the world, who gather at their cathedrals, their churches or in their villages to celebrate this day.

This year we are hopeful of having a parade of banners from various branches of MU/Caritas gathering outside the Cathedral and then parading in. But for this we may need some assistance - our banner carriers may be challenged with walking and carrying their banners after several years. We are hopeful that we may have some younger, fitter helpers just for the 20 minutes or so at the opening of the service.

If you can help, or know someone who may be free on that Saturday around 11.00 am we would be most grateful if you could contact Gail: 0430 761 574 or Ronda: 5461 4576 to learn more.

We are honoured to have the recently elected MU Australia Provincial President, Revd Anne Kennedy, as our guest speaker. Anne will also participate in our service alongside Dean John Roundhill and MU Chaplain Revd Linda Osmond.

Several members who have had continuing membership of MU for 50 or 60 years will be presented with a commemorative scroll and badge.

All who may like to attend this celebration are most welcome to share in the day. Please bring your own lunch.



MU Provincial President: Anne Kennedy

What is the point of prayer anyway?

Peggy Coates, Parish of Charlton-Donald, Ministry Formation Program

The year was 1996. A new young Canadian bride moved to start her new life on the farm with her Australian husband. It was a great year; a bumper harvest, a healthy bank balance and the promise of a prosperous future.

But then the rain stopped. The cycle of weather in the past suggested that out of 10 years, two would be bumper, two would be drought, and six would be average - obviously we had entered into one of the dry ones. However the worry was still there so into the prayer time of the faithful crept the line "Lord, please bring us some rain."

Years came and went. One dry year became two, two turned into three, and so on. The prayers became louder now - "Lord, you know our circumstances, we really need rain now; please water your earth." Yet circumstances still did not change and the seemingly unanswered prayer for rain became the concern; one had to start to wonder - what is the point of prayer anyway?

James Mulholland, in *Praying Like Jesus*, writes, "Prayer is a window to the human heart and mind. The prayers we recite reveal more about us than about God. They often expose our selfishness and our misconceptions about God." As the years went by and the rains never came, was this perhaps the problem?

Is it wrong to pray for specific requests? I don't think so, but the danger of this approach is if your faith in God is based on the outcomes of your prayers and God fails to grant your wishes, your relationship with God will be a rocky one.

As I became more aware of this I tried not to presume that I knew the answer. My prayers then changed to "Lord, if it's in your will and the timing is right, please send us rain". Surely this is more appropriate. However, the dry years dragged on and farm life became tougher.

Thankfully God is indeed loving, and in hindsight, he was not prepared to leave me in such a disheartened state. Now the rains came - but in a flood! Sheep were marooned in paddocks, fly strike was terrible and crops were flooded. However the regular rains failed to resume and what appeared to be a turning point was nothing more

than a cruel teaser as we watched the excess moisture turn into dust.

As I reflected it seemed like a downward spiral. But was it? Sure, times had been hard, but no one was starving. People still managed to put a crop in, my family was healthy, my kids were growing into honourable people and our marriage remained strong. So then why was it so hard?

It was the spiritual strain. My cynical attitude had all but destroyed our quiet time. Prayer time had become a discipline of duty and I realised I was trying to do it all on my own and I wasn't strong enough.

That's when I realised prayer was not about outcomes - it was about relationships. Prayer was about getting to know God. All relationships suffer and become distant without communication, so why should a relationship with God be any different?

Our prayers are not about us trying to contact God - rather they are a response to God first reaching out to us. Instead of wondering, "what is the right way to pray" or "is my faith too weak?", the quest now became, "how do I get to know God better through my prayers?"

In the years after the flood we planted into parched soil and all of a sudden after the crops went in it started to rain steadily. It re-hydrated the earth; crops grew, dams filled, creeks ran, abundance almost beyond description yet one thing was missing - the rejoicing!

Years of prayer finally answered - so why weren't all the Christians out singing praises to God? Surely if the point of prayer was to get our attitude toward God right and receive His blessing, then wouldn't the blessing of this year stir up more response?

And here is where I sit now. I haven't worked out prayer, nor do I expect to, but what I have discovered is this - prayer is a journey. To try to answer "What is the point of prayer?" is like trying to answer "How long is a piece of string?" There is no exact answer.

Maybe we've had it backwards; our farming circumstances dictated our response to prayer when instead prayer should be dictating our response to farming. It's a journey and my most helpful approach is just understanding that.



Church gets messy: Children participate in one of the messy activities

Taking a splash into *Messy Church*

Jude Benton

How do we get families to go beyond something fun like 'mainly music' to experience something of faith? It's a question probably every church running any form of pre-school playgroup event has asked.

At All Saints' Tatura, we've taken the step of developing a *Messy Church* service that is designed for the families we've come to know at *mainly music*, particularly those who can no longer attend because of going to school or a care-giver returning to work.

It began with Revd Jude's parents running a successful sample night in July 2016, using a *Messy Church* service they'd run for Wairau Valley Anglican Parish in Marlborough, New Zealand.

The feedback was so positive we ran another *Messy Church* later in 2016, and our Christmas Eve service was structured in the same interactive way. For 2017 Parish Council has agreed to prioritise the development of *Messy Church*, and to support Revd Jude and the team to run a *Messy Church* every second month.

Our first *Messy Church* for 2017 was held at 5pm on Sunday 12 February with the theme of Jesus and the woman at the well. Beginning with group games involving water bombs, including watery songs from both mainly music and general church sources, moving onto writing prayers on rice-paper and dissolving them in a pond, and then concluding with a variety of art and crafts depicting the story, the hour long service was interactive and fun for all ages who attended.



Demonstrate: Jillian Earl

We then finished the evening with a shared meal together, after which the adults and teens chatted while the younger children exhausted themselves playing in the hall.

While growth of an additional service such as *Messy Church* may not ever grow the normal church congregation, when you see the joy and wonder on the faces of families for whom this is their only Christian input, it's an encouraging reminder that the Kingdom of Heaven can be grown this way.



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Easter

A special season of outreach

For the large percentage of people bunnies, chocolates and hidden eggs will be foremost in the mind when the word 'Easter' is mentioned.

We were warned of the approach of this season not too long after Christmas when the first hot cross buns appeared helping us to once again realise that the Christian

message of Easter, like Christmas, is largely an afterthought hidden behind more commercial goals.

A man executed on a cross only to rise back to life three days later is, for many, hard to relate to or find relevant 2,000 years later.

How do we, the community of faith, for whom Easter means so much, respond to this?

The great gift of Easter is hope - Christian hope which makes us have that confidence in God, in his ultimate triumph, and in his goodness and love, which nothing can shake.

- Basil Hume

Four suggestions...

1. Respond

For the Church Easter can tend towards being more introverted than its more extrovert precursor, Christmas.

Instead let us celebrate the season, explain the season in culture current language and means, both in the sad and glad part of Easter.

Everyone is able to relate to Easter. It is relevant.

2. Be creative

The brutality and starkness of the cross needs to be unapologetically centre stage.

An outdoor Good Friday service in the church grounds, or a silent walk with the cross leading the way, is a powerful reminder of

the deep sadness and sacrifice of Good Friday.

At some point in the service have those who are able to hammer nails into the cross. Leave notes on the nails expressing what it means for you.

Early on Easter morning (after the vigil if this is taking place) adorn the nails with flowers and the palm branches from the previous Sunday. Let it stand in the church grounds celebrating Christ's resurrection. Perhaps this service might also take place outside the church building.

If the focus is on eggs then let's make use of the humble egg, a wonderful metaphor for the empty tomb, by advertising an Easter egg hunt.

Start the Easter day service with an Easter Sunday breakfast of - you guessed it - boiled eggs and toast, culminating in an egg hunt.

3. Be invitational

Easter's message is for absolutely everyone and so let us be very invitational, to an Easter breakfast, movie, service, Passover meal, or whatever we have intentionally decided to do. Hand out invitation cards to Easter worship services to the church with a direction to pray for at least one person to invite. Make it known that something is happening through parish websites, Facebook or personal invitations.

The week before Easter, host a garage sale and sausage sizzle, the proceeds going to a local charity or cause. Make fliers promoting Easter week activities.

4. Be real

Creating a mega super duper service can raise the bar too high to match during the following weeks. Whilst it is a special season requiring special attention, returning visitors may wonder what happened if the contrast is too great. Be real, be yourselves. Let the teaching be real and applicable to everyday life.

Let the very real and life changing message of the cross be explained simply, with a film clip or personal testimonies alongside the sermon.

Why did Jesus need to die? What does the resurrection of Jesus mean for us now so long after it happened?



Steve Geyer



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Signs of hope amid horror

The Tablet, 28 January 2017

Just under one month after the Russian-backed forces of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad reclaimed Aleppo, two Franciscan friars drove from Lebanon to Syria's capital Damascus. Here is Fr Luke's account of their visit.

It was with great satisfaction that we saw how our friars were taking care of the local people, Christians and Muslims alike. One of our friars has set up a home to receive cancer patients from all over Syria and they have also opened a creche for children. It was very edifying to see these works of mercy.

Then we drove to Aleppo. So much destruction: whole suburbs completely wiped out; spent missiles littering the streets; only a few hours of water and electricity each day.

Yet despite all this, there is a sense of hope. The friars and sisters remained faithful to their missions during the bombings. The Catholic hospitals remained open and the friars continue to distribute food, water and medicines.

The Church is like a beacon in the darkness. We were the only foreigners but we were treated with the utmost respect. Everyone was so happy to see us. No one complained to us - they just told us that they were happy that the shelling had stopped and they were able to begin to rebuild.

Now that the city is in the hands of government troops, there is some kind of order and some of the streets have been cleared. In some of the partly destroyed buildings people have returned to their dwellings. It was quite surreal, and yet it's the hope of a lasting peace which allows the people to at least try to return to normality.

I was quite humbled by their quiet determination and their friendliness amid the devastation. There is hope now the shelling has stopped. It looks awful but there is hope.

Whilst we were there, I could not help but note the resilience of the Syrian people and the sense of hope that is emerging. The phrase from the Psalms ran many times through my mind: "let us give thanks to the Lord for He is good, for His Mercy endureth for ever."

clergycontemplations

Stuart Winn | Parish of Rochester-Lockington

Challenging changes help build the Church

Jesus promised "I will build my church, and that the gates of Hades will not prevail against it" (Mt 16.18, NIV).

I have been reflecting on this promise recently as the Parishes of Lockington and Rochester have gone through a process of amalgamation. It has not been easy - we've had to make some tough decisions and come to terms with the reality that things cannot continue the way they've been as long as anyone can remember.

Initially, the process came out of what we might call negative circumstances (i.e. financial constraints, declining population, ageing congregations and so on). But what if the process we are going through is one way that Jesus is seeking to fulfil his promise to build his church?

The New Testament has much to say about the church, and it is primarily to do with God's people relating to him and to one another rightly, and bearing faithful witness to the world around them (e.g. 1 Cor 12-14; Eph 4; 1 Pet 2.1-14). What if our experience were the Lord's way of strengthening these things?

As humans, we're very good at becoming 'attached', often to the wrong things. We love our traditions, our beautiful buildings, our established ways of doing things. None of these things in and of themselves of course are wrong, but when they become the focus, rather than the Saviour they ought to point us to, problems arise.

2017 marks the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformations in Europe. On 31 October 1517 Martin Luther gave voice to rising concerns about the traditions and practices of the church when he nailed his 'Ninety-five Theses' to the door of the Castle Church at Wittenburg. In the following years, reformation movements sprang up all over Europe.

The Church of England, from which we descend, and remain in communion with to this day, is a product of these reformation movements. Reading through the Thirty-Nine Articles of



1562, you will notice immediately, like Luther's Theses, they are primarily concerned with correcting what was seen at the time to be error within the church. Without the protestant reformations, the Anglican Communion would not exist.

A great achievement of the reformation was to take a Christian faith heavily mediated by the clergy and give it back to the common people. The Bible and liturgies (particularly the Eucharist) were translated into the common tongue, effectively making God accessible to all, without a mediator (save for Jesus Christ himself, our one true mediator - 1 Tim 2.5).

God's church has come a long way in 500 years. It occurs to me, there was much good that came out of the reformations. The period serves as an example of something that began as a seemingly negative process that was used by God toward fulfilling Jesus' promise to build his church.

It's true, our church faces many challenges in our own day, at the grass-roots level in parishes and across the global Anglican Communion as we seek to figure out whether we can continue to exist in unity with such a diversity of conviction on many key issues.

What I do know is that I worship a God who keeps his promises. Jesus promised to build his church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

Let's keep trusting in that promise, even if its fulfilment comes in ways we might not choose or expect!

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Parish Leaders Workshop

To assist Parish Councils transition to the new three year cycle and have a better understanding of the role of churchwardens and parish councillors, the Registry has organised two special training days for parish councils. Clergy, as part of Parish Council, are also welcome to attend. In this interactive workshop we will explore the role of parish lay leaders, as well as give you an opportunity to meet with other parish leaders.

Training Day 1

Wednesday 29 March
Christ Church, Swan Hill
10.00am – 2.30pm
Morning tea, lunch and
afternoon tea provided.

Training Day 2

Saturday 1 April
St Mary's Kangaroo Flat
10.00am – 2.30pm
Morning tea, lunch and
afternoon tea provided.

All attending will need to have a Churchwardens pack or Parish Councillors pack, which are available from the clergy. Please register for the workshop by sending an email to reception@bendigoanglican.org.au.

Saturday 18 March

Safe Church Workshop, Mildura

Wednesday 29 March

Parish leaders workshop, Swan Hill

Saturday 1 April

Parish leaders workshop, Flora Hill

Monday 10 April

Blessing of Oils, St Paul's Cathedral

Friday 14 April

Good Friday

Sunday 16 April

Easter Day

Tuesday 25 April

Anzac Day

Got an event coming up?

Send the details to
thespirit@bendigoanglican.org.au

Safe Church Awareness Workshops

Saturday 18 March

St Margaret's, Mildura

Saturday 29 April

Holy Trinity, Flora Hill

Saturday 17 June

Christ Church, Echuca

RSVP

Bookings close Wednesday prior to workshop date.

Pre-registration is required
Places are limited

Registration

reception@bendigoanglican.org.au or
(03) 5443 4711

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