



Anglican Diocese
of Bendigo

The Spirit

monthly

august 2017

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Ordained: Neil Fitzgerald, Simon Chan, Bishop Andrew Curnow, Margaret Wesley and Suzannah Daniels

Newly ordained commence ministries across the diocese

Sarah Crutch

Five new ordinands will begin their new ministries in the diocese after being ordained in services both locally in St Paul's Cathedral, Bendigo and in St Margaret's in Mildura.

Suzannah Daniels and Dr Margaret Wesley were both ordained deacons, with the Revds Simon Chan and Neil Fitzgerald priested in St Paul's Cathedral on 11 June.

Suzannah Daniels is working part time in the Parish of Bendigo North, with Margaret Wesley commencing one day in the Parish of Golden Square and another day as part of the Ministry Development Office in the Registry.

Simon Chan will continue his ministry at Christ's True Light Church in Bendigo East, with Neil Fitzgerald continuing in the Central Highlands Cluster at Kyneton and Woodend.

The Rev'd Andrew Gall, most recently a Uniting Church minister in the Parish of Central Mallee at Ouyen, was ordained a deacon in the Anglican Church in St Margaret's Mildura on Saturday 22 July.

Andrew will take up a position as Assistant Curate in the Parish of Northern Mallee working with Archdeacon Michael Hopkins.

Pictured right: Andrew Gall is presented as an ordained deacon to the congregation



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The Bishop writes

Dear Friends,

In the last month I have had a blitz on addressing vacancies across the diocese. At the beginning of July there were 11 vacancies which is a very high vacancy rate for a diocese with 33 parishes.

The vacancies were: Inglewood, Mooroopna, Maryborough, St. Arnaud, Kangaroo Flat, Bendigo North, Rochester-Lockington, Charlton-Donald, Daylesford, Central Mallee and Tongala-Stanhope.

As you will read elsewhere in *The Spirit*, I have filled some of the vacancies, although that sometimes creates a space elsewhere in the diocese. Over the past three weeks, Tongala-Stanhope has been filled along with Mooroopna, Maryborough and Daylesford. However, I now have a vacancy at Swan Hill.

So, it is like a chess board, although my blitz is to try and get the vacancy rate down to five parishes by the end of August. Time and prayer will tell! I will let you know in the next *Spirit* how I am going.

Recruiting clergy and filling parishes is the number one task of being a bishop and takes up a lot of time and energy. Finding clergy for rural Australia has always been a challenge given the capital city centric nature of Australia.

Although we are one of the largest countries in the world we are also the most urbanised, and the latest Census tells us that Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney, - just three cities - have nearly half the population of Australia living in them - 12 million people.

Ten years ago I introduced to the diocese the Ordained Local Ministry Programme as a means by which many of our parishes would be able to have ordained clergy and overall it has been a remarkable success, and will continue to be a key strategy in staffing parishes.

The diocese has also undertaken a major piece of research in recent months called the CARD project; Clergy Attraction, Retention and Development. A report from the CARD Committee is due to be given to Bishop-in-Council at its August meeting later this month. As the name suggests the CARD Committee has been looking into how do we attract, retain and develop our clergy with the long term aim of keeping clergy in the diocese longer.

One of the positives about the diocese is that we are continuing to ordain good numbers of clergy and in June and July five people were ordained either as deacons or priests. A recent study has shown that the Diocese of Bendigo is one of the few rural dioceses in Australia that is continuing to replenish its supply of clergy. This means that we are continuing to ordain a good number of candidates as clergy who can replace clergy who are moving or retiring.

We also have in place a very good Board of Ministry that oversees the selection and training of clergy. With Canon Heather Marten we are very fortunate to have a priest of Heather's knowledge and experience as the Ministry Development Officer.

Since the OLM programme was established we have been using the Trinity Certificate of Ministry, sourced from Trinity College in Melbourne, as a basis for the theological education of candidates. I brought this Certificate to Trinity from the Diocese of Lichfield in the UK in 1997. It has since been through a number of revisions undertaken by our own Revd Dr Charles Sherlock.

Recently Trinity advised me that following a review, they had made the decision to withdraw from the Certificate programme and asked if the Diocese of Bendigo, a major user of the Certificate, would like to take it over. I am delighted to announce that this is in transition and I have appointed one of our recent ordinands, the Revd Dr Margaret Wesley, to oversee the Certificate. It will soon have a new name, so watch out for the official launch in the next month.

As you can read there is a lot happening, and the pages of *The Spirit* this month I believe are indicative of the energy and resourcefulness that exists in this diocese.

Please continue to pray for the Bishopric Election Board, and give thanks at the same time for all the good things happening across the diocese and in your parish!

With every blessing,

The Spirit

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of Bendigo

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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.

Contributions for the next issue must be submitted by **Friday 18 August 2017**.

Clergy movements

Ordinations

11 June 2017

- The Rev'd Zan Daniels (deacon)
- The Rev'd Dr Margaret Wesley (deacon)
- The Rev'd Simon Chan (priest)
- The Rev'd Neil Fitzgerald (priest)

22 July 2017

- The Rev'd Andrew Gall (deacon)

Inductions

- The Rev'd Stuart Winn to the Parish of Mooroopna on 13 July 2017
- The Rev'd Canon Heather Blackman to the Parish of Maryborough-Avoca on 19 July 2017

Resignations

- The Rev'd Gordon Lingard from the Parish of Bendigo North effective 25 June 2017
- The Rev'd Jeff O'Hare from the Parish of Daylesford effective 17 September 2017
- The Rev'd Jude Benton from the Parish of Tatura effective 17 September 2017

Appointments

- The Rev'd Roger Ross as Acting Rector of the Parish of Tongala-Stanhope until 31 July 2019
- The Rev'd Jan Harper to the Parish of St Arnaud, to commence 21 September 2017
- The Rev'd Neil Fitzgerald to the Parish of Daylesford, to commence 1 October 2017

Deconsecrations

- St Andrew's Manangatang, St John's Merbein & St Luke's Irymple on Sunday 4 June 2017
- St John the Baptist, Rheola on Sunday 25 June 2017
- St Paul's Koondrook on Sunday 2 July 2017



Inducted: Stuart Winn receives the symbols of ministry during the service

Parishes welcome new priests

Andrew Guyatt

On Thursday evening 13 July St Albans Anglican Church in Mooroopna celebrated a new beginning.

For the last 18 months Mooroopna was without a full time minister. For a year we had a wonderful part time locum and for the past six months we have had support through visiting clergy for the regular worship services. Many church members have also helped to conduct services and continue the groups and programs of the church.

It was with much joy that we were able to welcome Stuart and Alison

Winn and their 3 boys, to begin their life and work with us. Stuart was commissioned as full time rector of this parish and was warmly welcomed by members of the congregation, other churches in the area and by community leaders.

"I'm really excited to be here, God has got a great bunch of people here and I'm looking forward to getting to know them and seeing what the future brings," Stuart said.

We are now very excited to see how God will use us in the weeks and months ahead. We look forward to working together offering our services for the glory of our wonderful God.

Heather Blackman inducted

Canon Heather Blackman was inducted into the Parish of Maryborough-Avoca on Wednesday 19 July in a service at Christ the King, Maryborough.

Each of the eight centres of the parish were represented and took part in the presentation of ministry symbols, welcoming Heather to this new ministry.

Heather comes to the parish from the Parish of St Arnaud, and will be ably assisted by the Revds Malcolm Thomas and Sandra Field.

The parishioners are looking forward to having Heather with them and beginning this new chapter in the life of the parish.



Maryborough: Canon Heather Blackman

Decision made to close centres in Northern Mallee

Michael Hopkins

Much discussion around the future of the churches at Irymple, Merbein and Manangatang has been had by members of each congregation and the Northern Mallee Parish Council.

St Andrew's Manangatang held its last service at Easter 2016, whilst St John's Merbein held their last service on 21 May 2017 and St Luke's Irymple the following week on 28 May 2017.

The 4 June 2017 (Pentecost) saw the St John's and St Luke's congregations join with the St Margaret's Mildura congregation, who had been worshipping in the parish hall for the previous past 6 months.

Following a parish breakfast, all three congregations became one and walked from the hall to the newly refurbished St Margaret's Church.



Farewell: The Burrundian group perform at the final service in St John's Merbein

During this service Bishop Andrew recognised the coming together of the three congregations as one. He then re-hallowed St Margaret's and formally deconsecrated St John's Merbein, St Luke's Irymple and St Andrew's Manangatang.

The final services were tinged with sadness, pain and joy as we gave thanks to God for the contribution each has played in their community. The parish comes together as one offering hope and vitality for the future.



Celebration: Janet Clark, Heather Vander Reest (Parish Locum), Libby Stone Bishop Ron Stone & Colin Clark (Rector's Warden)

Bishop Ron Stone celebrates 25 years as a bishop in the Church of God

Geoff Young

On Sunday 11 June, Trinity Sunday and St Barnabas Day, the congregation at the 9.00 am service at St Mary's Kangaroo Flat joined with Bishop Ron Stone in celebration of the 25th anniversary of his ordination as a Bishop.

Bishop Ron was ordained a bishop at St David's Cathedral in Hobart at a service conducted by the then Archbishop Keith Rayner.

Bishop Ron has gone on to serve as an Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Tasmania, Bishop of Rockhampton and more recently as Bishop Assisting in the Diocese of Bendigo.

Bishop Ron delivered the homily at his 25th anniversary celebrations and concluded with these words:

Today I think of my ministry, to date – 25 years a bishop, 54 years as a priest – ministry for which I am accountable. Have I helped people find real religion and helped them to look for and experience God's presence in all

the circumstances of their lives, in the celebratory days, and in the difficult days? Have I helped people find a knowledge and a sense of God's presence that they want to share with others? I hope with all my heart I have commended this.

Messages of blessing and congratulation from Bishop Andrew Curnow, other clergy and people whose lives have been touched by Bishop Ron were read.

Special mention was made of the important ministry provided over the years by his wife, Libby. Morning tea and an anniversary cake made by parishioner Janet Clark, rounded off a wonderful morning.



Steve Geyer



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June Andrew

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Signed up: Michael Shand (Chancellor of Melbourne), Anne Baker, Ian Dallas (Chancellor of Bendigo), Archbishop Philip Freier and Bishop Andrew Curnow

Kooyoora commences operations

Sarah Crutch

Kooyoora Ltd, the independent professional standards company, has commenced operations as the Office of Professional Standards for the Anglican Dioceses of Melbourne and Bendigo as of 1 July 2017.

Kooyoora Ltd will handle all complaints for the two dioceses, and will progress to handling safe ministry clearances in time.

Anne Baker, former Registrar of the Diocese of Bendigo has been appointed as the Executive Director, along with the appointment of three other staff members.

Uniform professional standards legislation was passed by the Synods of both Melbourne and Bendigo in 2016, which established the independent company to manage complaints and screening separate from the dioceses themselves.

It has been evident from the many survivor statements and learnings from the recent Victorian Parliamentary Enquiry and the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual abuse that a more independent Office of Professional Standards

can offer a greater assurance of effective handling of complaints and screening of clergy and lay people for the protection of the community. It offers a sound basis to seek to restore confidence and trust of the community in our institutions.

Kooyoora Ltd will charge on a fee for service basis for its services in relation to complaints, clearance and inquiries. Independent directors will be appointed to the board of Kooyoora by the end of the year.

The legislation and code of conduct under which Kooyoora will operate in the Diocese of Bendigo is available from the diocesan website under *Safe Church – complaints*.

A full ad clerum announcing the commencement of Kooyoora Ltd can also be found under the *complaints* section of the diocesan website.



THE OFFICE OF
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

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Elmore celebrates confirmation of young candidates



A wonderful celebration was held at St Peter's Elmore for the confirmation of Nathan and Josephine Brown.

It was a service of firsts and lasts – Revd Tracey Wosley's first confirmation service and Bishop Andrew's final service at the parish before his retirement at the end of the year.

Bishop Andrew gave an uplifting sermon talking about journey and stable foundations. Tracey had prepared the two candidates wonderfully and the service was beautiful, followed by a delicious morning tea in the parish centre where parishioners were able to wish Bishop Andrew and Jan a fond farewell.

- Dea Brown

Confirmed: Josephine & Nathan Brown

St Paul's Cathedral receives community grant

St Paul's Cathedral was one of the successful recipients of a community grant from the Fosterville Gold Mine in Bendigo.

The award was presented by Mr Ian Holland, General Manager Victorian Operations. The grant will contribute to a new stove for St Pauls' Cathedral kitchen, which is currently an important resource for training people with disability to be able to live independently. John Humphreys (churchwarden), accepted the award on behalf of St Paul's Cathedral at a presentation at the Fosterville Mine.

St Paul's acknowledges the significant work of Rhonda Jewell in applying for this grant, and is very grateful for the generosity of Fosterville Gold Mine in supporting community groups in the Bendigo region.

- John Humphreys



Funding: Mr Ian Holland General Manager Victorian Operations (shown top left), John Humphreys (second right)

Mothers' Union Winter Gathering held in Elmore



Inducted: Ken Adams being inducted by the Revd Linda Osmond

The Mother's Union Bendigo Diocese Winter Gathering was held at St Peter's in Elmore.

Revd Barry Rainsford led the service and Revd Linda Osmond gave a homily whilst Revd Tracey Wolsley welcomed everyone. Ken Adams from Cohuna was inducted into the Mother's Union.

The MU ladies put on a delicious soup for everyone to enjoy. About forty people attended the service including ten members of Caritas South East Bendigo.

In the afternoon everyone made ribbon stars. Small gifts to the value of \$5 were exchanged and a range of MU Publications, including cards and gifts, were available for purchase.

- Angela Morrissey

Around the Parishes

Sunraysia South celebrates ten years as a parish

During July APOSS celebrated their 10th birthday of being a parish in the diocese.

In the lead up to the day the parish had been looking at using the times, treasures and talents God has given us wisely for his glory. This culminated in congregation members, with God's help, committing themselves to thoughtfully, regularly, prayerfully, and generously using the time, treasures and talents God has blessed them with for the building up of the saints of APOSS and the extension of God's kingdom for the glory of Jesus!

We were joined for this special event by the Reverend Adrian Lane who is the Victorian Field Officer with Bush Church Aid.

- Dale Barclay



Guest: Sean Huggan with Adrian Lane (Bush Church Aid)

Christ's True Light Church celebrates baptism



Baptised: Mao Guo Ping is baptised by Simon Chan

On 2 July, Christ's True Light Church (CTLC) witnessed the baptism of our brother, Mao Guo Ping and sisters, Jenny Yan and Lily Li.

They publicly declared their faith in Christ on a cold and chilly morning. As a family in CTLC, we received them into the family of God.

Together as the light of the world, we will let our light shine before men that many may also come to the saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Simon Chan

Church community serves warming casseroles in Charlton

During July the Anglican and Uniting churches in Charlton joined together to host a very successful casserole lunch.

As both congregations are smaller in number, for the past two years we have banded together to help each other with raising funds for our churches.

The casserole lunch was held in the shire hall with around 70 people from Charlton enjoying casseroles and desserts. Although it was a cold day it was warm in the hall with the heaters on and everyone enjoying the company of friends during lunch.

- Beth Crutch



Lunch: Visitors enjoying the warm casserole lunch

Melissa Clark makes history

The Melbourne Anglican, July 2017

The 'stained glass ceiling' was again shattered at St Peter's Eastern Hill on 18 June when the Revd Melissa Clark presided at the morning services.

"Melissa was the first woman in our 171 year history to celebrate from the high altar at the High Mass, and also the first woman to celebrate at all three morning services," the Vicar, the Revd Dr Hugh Kempster, told TMA.

Revd Clark, who was priested in the Bendigo Diocese and now serves in the Parish of Woodend, is well known to St Peter's because she had a placement there in 2014 while training as an Ordinand at Trinity Theological School.

Dr Kempster warmly welcomed her back to the parish, noting in the pew sheet that during her placement, "She worked tirelessly in the parish, well beyond the required hours, and won the friendship and respect of numerous parishioners... It was a time in the life of our parish when we were considering the question of ordained women's ministry at St Peter's, and a number of those who were hesitant about this new direction have since told me that it was Mel's integrity and friendship that changed their minds".

Queen Victoria helps celebrate Gilbert and Sullivan festival

Sandra Field

The long weekend in June saw the township of Dunolly celebrate with a Gilbert and Sullivan Festival.

A programme of music, drama and operettas was organised by Rachel Buckley whose skills at performance productions as well as her beautiful singing voice was greatly appreciated.

The weekend included 'Trial by Jury' at the Courthouse with local people as cast members and two Operettas; Tales of Hoffman in the Town Hall by the Savoy Company and Iolanthe.

The highlight on Sunday was the ecumenical eucharist at St John's Dunolly with many visitors coming from Melbourne and Ballarat.

Rachel, also known as Queen Victoria at these biennial events, regally welcomed Bishop Andrew who presided and preached about the connection between Gilbert and Sullivan and the church and faith. We were delighted to have organist David Scutt play music by Sullivan which included four hymns, sung with great joy.

Excitement and energy filled the church and as David said, "It was a great event, a great act of worship and it spoke powerfully to people".

Queen Victoria asks, "Bishop Andrew, is this my church or your church?"

Bishop Andrew replied, "Your Majesty, this is God's Church"



Her Majesty: Queen Victoria

Communities farewell local churches

St John's Rheola

The final service at St John the Baptist in Rheola was marked on Sunday 25 June with an afternoon parish eucharist led by Bishop Andrew Curnow.

A full church of around 60 people gathered to celebrate the history of the church in the community.

The origins of Anglican worship in the Rheola district go back to the ministry of the famous Parson Hall who was widely known as the "Apostle of the Loddon".



Closure: Revd Neale Sommersby, Bishop Rob Gillion, Bishop Andrew Curnow and the Revd Robyn Davis

St Paul's Koondrook

Although not belonging to a parish in the diocese, Koondrook has been pastorally cared for by the Parish of Barham in the Diocese of the Riverina, yet the building is owned by the Diocese of Bendigo.

After some concerns over roofing repairs, and the condition of the church following storm damage in 2016, the decision was jointly made to close the church, with the remaining congregation joining St Paul's Barham.

The final service was held on Sunday 2 July, with Bishop Rob Gillion and Revd Neale Sommersby of the Diocese of the Riverina taking part.



Activities: The messy church service underway

Thy Kingdom Come prayer movement embraced at Mooroopna

Faye Guyatt

During the days before Pentecost, Mooroopna Anglican Church joined in the *Thy Kingdom Come* prayer movement.

As described on the website, "*Thy Kingdom Come* is a global prayer movement, which invites Christians around the world to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus Christ. What started out as an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York in 2016 to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer."

We planned different prayer activities so people could participate in ways that were appropriate for them. A *Messy church* service with a focus on prayer activities began our involvement. Prayers suggested by the movement organisers were incorporated into morning and evening worship services. People could choose to use five small stones or tie five knots in a leather band to represent five people that they felt God was encouraging them to pray for.

A card with simple prayer suggestions relating to people and organisations in our community was prepared and distributed. A new Friday lunchtime prayer group commenced and on Pentecost Day we celebrated with our own small beacon event; a fire and a prayer and worship service in the church car park.

People have been encouraged in their prayers and seen God working through them. The lunchtime prayer group has continued to meet and the stones and leather bands are still being used as a prompt to pray each day for people to know God and His love.

It has been a joy and a delight to be connected with our brothers and sisters around the world and with our God in this way and we plan to take part again next year.

The *Thy Kingdom Come* website provides many resources to help churches plan prayer activities. I encourage you all to consider joining in with what God is doing through this movement.

Finding Refreshment - Seeking Depth

Wendy Hudson, Angela Lorrigan and Margaret Wesley have been discussing ways to develop the ministry of spiritual accompaniment within the diocese and invite everyone to join them on the morning of **Saturday, 19 August from 10am-12noon at St Mark's Golden Square.**

We will demonstrate and discuss ways we can seek greater clarity, depth and compassion in our walk with God.

Further details and information on how to register are available from Margaret on australiscm@bendigoanglican.org.au. There will be a charge of \$10 to cover morning tea and handouts. Your friends and family are welcome.

Update from the Bishopric Electoral Board

The Bishopric Electoral Board is continuing its work to elect a new bishop for the diocese following the retirement of Bishop Andrew at the end of the year.

The Board would like to thank all the parishes, congregations and individuals for their contributions and participation in the consultation process held throughout June. The Board is very impressed with the number of responses received, and the quality of the contributions. The effort that has gone into these contributions is greatly appreciated.

These contributions will be considered by the Board and will assist in determining the 'qualities and requirements' for the next bishop.

Nominations for the position of Bishop of Bendigo will open on **Monday 7 August.**

The details regarding this process can be found on the diocesan website under *News – Bishopric Electoral Board.*

Nominations can be sent to:

Email:

bishopricelectoralboard@bendigoanglican.org.au

Mail:

Attn: Bishopric Electoral Board
PO Box 2
BENDIGO VIC 3552

All nominations received will be kept confidential and will only be reviewed by the Bishopric Electoral Board.

MU Christmas Cards

New Christmas cards from Mother's Union Publications are available

Contact:

Lois Morrissey 54493314
Gwen Nener 54411569

They are also available from the St Paul's Christmas Shop

Creative worship - in the shape of God's mission

Charles Sherlock

Our post-modern, creativity-loving culture encourages imaginative and flexible approaches to Christian worship. So how is 'common prayer' – and what matters about the gospel – sustained?

Scholars have identified 'common structure' as a key resource, and this shape in particular: *gather, listen, pray, do, go*. And not just because it 'works', but since it reflects the 'shape' of God's mission.

Consider the First Testament/covenant. Having rescued Israel from slavery in Egypt, the Lord gathered them at Mount Sinai to hear the word of God (Exodus 19.1-20.17; cf Deuteronomy 5.1-22; 6.1-9). The people responded as Moses spoke and then wrote down God's words: "All that the Lord has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient" (Exodus 24.3, 7 – but note Deuteronomy 5.23-29!). Moses sprinkled them with the sacrificial blood of the covenant, before setting off with Aaron and elders up the mountain, where "they beheld God, and they ate and drank" (Exodus 24.11).

In sum, being **gathered** by God to **listen** to the words of the covenant, to offer the three-dimensional **prayers** of dedication and well-being ('peace') offerings (Exodus 20.18-26; 23.14-19), to **celebrate** the covenant and **live it out** in fairness (Exodus 21.1-22.27; 23.1-9) and in harmony with the land (Exodus 23.10) – this was Israel's calling, their 'worship' of God as "a people consecrated to the Lord" (Exodus 23.31).

Tragically, they had failed already (Exodus 16-17; Deuteronomy 1.19-45), and would do so again. But God continued faithful, and the prophets looked to a 'new covenant' (Jeremiah 31.31-34), enabled by the 'servant of God' whose costly witness and suffering would fulfil its promise (Isaiah 42.1-8; 49.1-7; 50.4-9; 52.13-53.12).

The common structure to worship



A similar 'shape' undergirds the New Testament/covenant. The Lord Jesus, as God's obedient servant (Matthew 12.17-21; Acts 8.26-35) empowered believers to become "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people" (1 Peter 2.9, echoing Exodus 19.6). Jesus called people to **gather** around him as disciples, to **listen** to his teaching, and to follow his example of **prayer** and holy living. He assured them of his living presence as they obeyed his command to "**do this** for my remembrance", and commissioned them to **go out** into all the world.

This 'gather / listen / pray / do / go' structure is reflected in Christian corporate worship. It begins with God's call, attends to God's word, responds in prayer and action (especially in the eucharist) and sees believers sent out to perform the gospel in daily living. It is the shape of God's mission – and of Sunday services in APBA:

- Gathering in God's Name
- The Ministry of the Word
- The Ministry of Prayer/Prayers of the People

- Doing (whether eucharistic or otherwise – cf APBA page 24 #16)
- The Sending out of God's people

This structure matters more than the book used: it allows flexibility within a sound framework. Each part matters – but trying to be creative about all five in any one service leads to spiritual ingestion!

Each occasion calls for varying emphasis on different parts. At a baptism, for example, the gathering can include introducing the candidate and sponsors, while the 'doing' will be a natural focus. But the prayers can be minimal (cf APBA page 56), and the sermon crafted with visitors in mind. And as regards Sending, Notes 3 and 4 on APBA page 33 could be better known!

An image that captures this flexibility is playing a concertina or accordion: it only works by being expanded and contracted. So it is with performing the gospel in Christian worship. When each part in the shape of God's mission is expanded and contracted in relation to the context of a service, the Spirit will breathe all the more fully in all present.



Eddie Barkla

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. (Colossians 3:12-13)

Horn toots can be many varied – and all are invaluable to the cyclist with a keen ear and open mind.

There is the friendly or concerned toot, short and sharp like a “hello, I am glad to see you on the road, enjoy the ride”. There is the toot that might be repeated – “take care, keep your line, I will be passing you and want to keep you all safe”. Most cyclists will respond with a friendly wave that acknowledges such an intent.

A group of horn tootings can indicate frustration, and even anger. It could be multiple short sharp blasts, as if to say “hurry up, make way, you’re slowing me down and time is of the essence!”

Then there is the less than friendly horn blast that has no break – continual, long and hard, and as close to the rider as possible. Sometimes it can feel just like sport. But sometimes it reflects a prejudice in the mind of the horn blaster towards cyclists – “you should not be on the road!”.

Thank you to the many horn sharing drivers – you all play a part in our cycling experience. Because horn tooting quite often reflects how well we are doing in our Christian witness.

How do we handle the horn tooters in our lives? Those who challenge us to respond in the spirit of the good news? Those who remind us of the forgiving heart of Christ Jesus? Francis of Assisi once said, “Seek to understand before you seek to be understood.”

The horn tooter who shakes us up, who challenges our faith, can be a godly reminder to keep close to Christ, the son of God who has redeemed us to witness to the new life of the Spirit that is God’s gift.

Looking forward to seeing you on the road soon God willing.

clergycontemplations

Jeff O’Hare | Parish of Daylesford

A reflection...

I have said little as a priest of this wonderful diocese, but on the eve of my departure to Canada and a new and wonderful challenge, I offer this reflection with a deep gratitude for our partnership together as god’s people in this great place.

St. Paul utters the words in his letter to the Philippians; “I thank my god in every way, in your partnership in the gospel from the very beginning until now....”.

‘Until now’ qualifies our continuing journey from the day Paul wrote his letter, to now and beyond. We are the continuing fifth gospel and daily we meet God in our purpose, activity and relationships, discovering and re-discovering Jesus in the new awareness we find daily in our faith, and yes to the ministries we are called to as the baptised in him who has saved us.

As priest and human, my life in faith is the place where I can offer unconditional love, hospitality and generosity, no matter who comes through my door and the door of the church.

I can freely celebrate the mystery to which the resurrected Christ calls me, which requires me to believe in something as humanly impossible as the Jesus who is raised from the dead and his continued presence in the Holy Spirit, who gives me strength through her presence in this complex world and through the very real signs in God’s abundant grace.

For each of us, there is nothing more important in our walk as the immediate context in which we minister, for the labourer deserves his wages and the true servant can only be a friend to those he serves.

...My life in faith is the place where I can offer unconditional love, hospitality and generosity

I speak often of life and faith as a journey, inexplicably linked. My best friend from childhood, Jesus, was made real to me by a loving and faithful mother, a great Sunday school teacher and the community, the church.

This began in my home village of Keilor and grew and broadened in my growing up at Geelong Grammar, my travels, my singing, and my ordained ministry; from parishes, schools, welfare organisations and continued education and learning. All couched in relationships and pastoral encounters, prayer and reflection, doing and being.

I have gathered thousands of friends, and a few unreconciled relationships too. I have learned new things both positively and negatively, and grown in discernment and wisdom.

I have dipped my toe back into the chaos of ungodliness and secularism and gladly returned to my family in the faith and understood the deep value of the simplicity to love without material gain or selfish expectation or agenda.

In the sacraments, we receive God. In the taking of bread and wine, we take God into us, and there can be no greater intimacy to do this than together as we approach the altar every time we gather together. God is good and better than we can imagine.

I am reminded every day that life is sacramental...it’s a sacrament and bound together with the unending presence of God and the daily challenges which can only be met by opening our hearts to God’s grace, abundant and waiting for our yes, rather than our reticence.

I thank my God for all the partnerships to which I’ve been led and in which I’ve been given purpose which the challenge to love has helped me to become more human and understand the deep privilege and joy of humility.

I thank God for the ministry to which I was called in Daylesford and look forward to what my best friend has in store for me as I continue my ‘until now’ journey, from the very beginning.

Caption this...



What are the ordinands laughing at?

Send us your captions to thespirit@bendigoanglican.org.au

From June/July issue - what was Greg Harris thinking?

"I'm sure that I could be the next Dr Who if only I could operate this TARDIS"

- John Humphreys, St Paul's Cathedral



An introduction to Access Skills Training

We would like to inform you of some Accredited courses we can offer your church or organisation.

- First Aid Level 1 and 2
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- Food Safety

Knowing what to do in those critical moments before professional help arrives may save a life. When you are trained in First Aid or Food safety you may directly contribute to a safer church, workplace, family or community.

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Greg Harris – Senior Minister of South East Anglican church and Archdeacon of Bendigo writes...

*"Colin is a highly professional and passionate presenter.
His integrity and care is undeniable"*

For further information contact Colin Flitton
5445 9880 | email colin.flitton@ast.org.au | www.accessaustralia.org.au

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In Loving Memory...

what's on

events calendar

Anglican Dean's Conference

3 - 8 August, Bendigo

Parish Leaders Workshop

Saturday 5 August, Kangaroo Flat

Bishop-in-Council

Tuesday, 8 August

Senior Staff Meeting

Tuesday, 15 August

Diocesan Executive

Monday, 21 August

General Synod

3 - 7 September, Maroochydore

Induction - Jan Harper to St Arnaud

Thursday 21 September

Got an event coming up?

Send the details to
thespirit@bendigoanglican.org.au

Caring at a time of need



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The Spirit

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