



Anglican Diocese
of Bendigo

The Spirit

monthly

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issue 139



Connect: Guests chat with Bishop Matt over a meal provided by Saltworks in Eaglehawk

Saltworks meal generates connections between strangers

Brendan McDonald

On a cold and wet Friday night the last place you might expect to find the Bishop of Bendigo is hanging out with the poor and marginalized, yet that is exactly what took place this month at the Saltworks community meal at St Peter's Eaglehawk.

As the team were preparing for the evening I made the comment that it was so wet and cold I wondered how many customers we might have. I was concerned that there would be only a few people for Bishop Matt to meet but I had made the mistake of assuming that the weather might keep them all away!

The reality was quite to the contrary as the people kept streaming through the

doors. That night I met two newcomers who had only recently moved to Eaglehawk and had heard about the community meal. One of them told me, "It's a good opportunity to meet new people as well as get a good feed in!"

What I've discovered with 'the meal' is that over time it's developed into a community of its own. It often attracts people who probably don't fit into the regular middle-class culture that many of us naturally feel comfortable in.

Encountering poverty first hand can be confronting as we're simply not used to it. Our volunteers often feel that initial discomfort but as they serve, those fears quickly fade and the possibility of meaningful connections begin to develop.

The people we serve are quite incredible and it never ceases to amaze me that I always leave 'the meal' having felt like I've met with Jesus. I honestly think that Jesus would enjoy hanging out with us.

Maybe that's why Bishop Matt looked like he was having a good time. I was very happy he came to visit, and he was quite intentional about connecting with the people. It reminded me what a special thing we have going as we take up the opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus, serving one another.

I find it encouraging that many of the regular volunteers have made good friends amongst the Saltworks community. We've even seen a few of the folk getting involved in other aspects of the church and Sunday worship.

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The Vicar General *writes*

The Spirit

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of Bendigo

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September issue: Contributions due by **Friday 24 August**.

I have discovered in recent years that going to the gym with some mates is my sanctuary. When I go the phone doesn't ring, there is no correspondence to deal with, and I basically don't have to think. The whole purpose of my tri-weekly retreats is to 'lift heavy things!' As you can imagine that isn't going to be intellectually taxing.

The benefit of going to the gym is of course time with mates and just keeping on top of things physically. However what I have also noticed is that 'lifting heavy things' makes my body hurt – particularly the next day. This may sound disconcerting to some and lead some of you to wonder if I am causing serious injury to myself. But rest assured – the hurt I feel the next day is 'good sore'.

'Good sore' is the sore you feel when you know that your body has been challenged and is responding by building strength. Without wanting to enter into a detailed and somewhat droll physiological discourse – what basically happens when you push heavy things around is you get micro-tears in your muscles. As the name suggests these tears are quite small and the body responds by repairing them making the whole muscle stronger. Before long, you are back at the gym pushing more heavy things, causing more micro-tears and getting stronger again. That is 'good sore'.

If you have read this far without rolling your eyes too much and wondering why I am sharing this – then congratulations – here is the answer. The pattern of challenging the body



and the body growing stronger is not just relevant for the gym but it is also a biblical pattern for how God nurtures us.

In Hebrews 12 we read;

Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as His children...No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

There are many promises of God in the bible but no promise to be protected from *all* hardship. The various stories of the saints is further evidence of this. Rather God promises to work with us to strengthen our faith and belief and more often than not this is achieved in times of hardship. The hardships are like the micro-tears to our 'spiritual muscles' which grow stronger when we further trust in the Lord and His goodness.

As the writer to the Hebrews correctly points out – this process of building our 'spiritual muscles' is often not pleasant at the time. Each of us can recall difficult relationships, times of sickness, periods of insecurity and the like.

Without minimising the very real pain we felt, in the Father's hands it can be a 'good sore' resulting in a harvest of righteousness and peace. Our role is to 'just keep lifting' (read that to mean trusting in the one who will never forsake us) because it will result in a stronger faith and trust.

No doubt there may have been times when we felt tested beyond what we can possibly bear. Nevertheless we need not fear for God knows our limits. In the gym I find out my limit by trial and error, which equates to putting more weight on a bar and seeing if I can lift it. Our gracious Lord knows us and will not allow us to be "tempted (or challenged) beyond what we can bear" (1 Cor 10:13).

The gym analogy can be pushed even further when you consider the need for a 'spotter'. A spotter helps you with handling the weight and keeping your form; especially when it seems too much to bear. I am sure you can see where I might go with that but it may be a whole other reflection for another time.

Let me conclude by asking - are you experiencing 'good sore' in a spiritual sense at the moment? Are there events or relationships that are causing micro-tears in your 'spiritual muscles'? Then I pray that our loving Father, our very own almighty Personal Trainer, will be gracious unto you and strengthen you for His good purposes. As you endure hardship may the peace that passes all understanding be yours.

Keep praying. Keep trusting. Keep lifting. Repeat.

Bishop Jeremy finishes as service relief coordinator

Sarah Crutch

Bishop Jeremy Ashton has finished as service relief coordinator for the diocese after eight years in the role.

The diocese is deeply thankful to Bishop Jeremy for serving in this way. It is not always an easy task, juggling the various needs for service relief across the diocese with the availability of our dedicated team of retired clergy, but Bishop Jeremy has always handled the many and varied requests with ease and with great cooperation and commitment.

Christine Kimpton will be the new Service Relief coordinator effective from August. We thank her for taking on this important role and have every confidence that the needs of the parishes across the diocese will be in safe hands.

There won't be any changes to current processes, with all requests for service relief coming through the Registry Office for processing before being passed to Christine for preparation of service rosters.

Parishes shouldn't notice any impact of the change over - only that notification to parishes of the clergy appointed for service relief will now come from Christine.

Having concluded as service relief coordinator, Bishop Matt has asked Bishop Jeremy to take on a new role in the diocese. Bishop Jeremy will now be coordinating retired clergy gatherings about four times a year.

These are intended to give Bishop Matt the opportunity to encourage the spiritual life of our retired clergy and suggest ways of enabling their ministry as priests in retirement.

Please pray that this new initiative is fruitful and strengthens the collegiality of our retired clergy.



Rural: Parishioners at St George's Donald participate in the Blessing of the Plough

Parish prepares for cropping season

Judi Bird

We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land but it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand

The above are the first lines from hymn number 59 in the *Australian Hymn Book*. This hymn was sung by the four congregations in the parish as each worshipped the 'Blessing of the Plough' service.

At St Paul's Birchip a traditional plough was donated and placed in the church for the service. The plough was surrounded by local produce, including homemade bread and grains of wheat. The produce was shared with the congregation with the rhubarb proving particularly popular – to go with apple crumble, perhaps?

At St George's Donald two farmers participated in leading the service beside the traditional plough which took pride of place.

At Holy Trinity Wedderburn, we blessed the traditional plough which was donated and located beside the church on the green grass. The sun shone brightly on all who gathered around.

At St Martin's Charlton a table of produce was complimented by an array of seeds which are sown in the region. The diversity in size and colour was amazing to see – canola, barley, oats, wheat and many others.

This display proved to be so popular that the seeds did another circuit of the parish the following fortnight, fitting well with the parable of the mustard seed;

The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it is grown it is the greatest of shrubs... (Matthew 13:31-32)

Following on from the blessing of the plough, congregation members of St Pauls Birchip, planted the wheat seeds along the footpath to the entrance. You can see how it is already making good progress and growing well.



Growth: Pathway with growing wheat

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Clergy news from across the diocese

Parish of Swan Hill

Bishop Matt has announced that the **Revd Peter Blundell** has accepted an offer to become the Rector of the Parish of Swan Hill.

Originally from Melbourne, Peter and his wife Jeanette have ministered in a variety of settings and come to Swan Hill with a wealth of experience. Bishop Matt has known them both for almost a decade and loves their focus on Jesus, their desire to see all the people of God take part in ministry and their willingness to serve rural, regional and remote Australia.

"They will both be a great addition to our diocesan family," he said.

Bishop Matt has extended his thanks to the **Revd Denis Gell** for his selfless and dedicated ministry as locum during the interregnum.

"I have been impressed at Denis' care for the parish and his wise work. I know that Peter and Denis look forward to working together," Bishop Matt said.

Peter will be inducted as the Rector of Swan Hill on Friday, 10 August at Christ Church Swan Hill, with the service commencing at 7.30pm.



Ordination to the Priesthood

The Revd Judi Bird will be ordained a priest by Bishop Matt in her hometown of Charlton in mid-August. This is a wonderful affirmation of Judi's gifts and will be a special occasion for Judi and her family, but also the Parish of Charlton-Donald who have been with Judi throughout her faith journey.

Judi will be priested by Bishop Matt on Saturday 18 August in St Martin's Charlton, with the service beginning at 10.30am. It would be wonderful to see as many diocesan friends as possible gather in Charlton to support Judi and the parish on this special day.

Judi has shown immense dedication to her ministry since being deaconed by Bishop Andrew Curnow in



November 2017, travelling between the four centres of Charlton, Donald, Wedderburn and Birchip to care for their people and communities.

All are welcome to attend Judi's ordination.

Parish of Mooroopna

The diocese has been blessed to have been able to welcome two new clergy to our diocese in recent times who have generously assisted in caring for the Parish of Mooroopna following the sad loss of our dear friend the Revd Stuart Winn.

The Revd Dr Chris Simon, a friend and skilled colleague of Bishop Matt's, is a priest but also an experienced counsellor and was able to take on an intentional interim ministry for a six week period until the end of July. From August, the **Revd Ken Holt**, a recently retired priest from the Diocese of Melbourne, will be locum in the parish for three months until the end of October.

We are grateful to both Chris and Ken for being willing to share their gifts and minister with us in this time of need.



Learn: Butchers showing how to prepare the lamb

Cooking lessons on show at South East Bendigo

Greg Harris

We all know that good food is a good way of bringing people together, so recently the Parish of South East Bendigo held a lamb night.

In a combined effort between the parish, *Secret Gardens Catering* and *Meat Matters Butchers* from Eaglehawk, eleven participants enjoyed a variety of lamb dishes cooked by our resident chef Adrian Hensley.

Before tucking into the lamb, Dylan and Ethan from *Meat Matters Eaglehawk* showed each person how to prepare various cuts and roasts,

with each person given their own side of lamb to try for themselves, along with a boning knife and apron to keep.

Later in the year we are planning on having a chicken night and possibly another lamb night in October. We are also running three weeks of men's cooking classes to help the blokes navigate their way around the kitchen at home.

Each of these activities has attracted a good number of people from outside the church and provided an excellent way to engage with the community and bless people with the church facilities.

St Paul's August Promenade Series

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Featuring choirs, flute & piano players, guitarists, harpist & solo voices

Sunday afternoons
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Faith into the Future

This year sees the 150th Anniversary of the dedication of St Paul's Church in Bendigo, which is now our Cathedral church. To mark the occasion, the Cathedral community and Dean Elizabeth are planning a week of celebrations from Sunday 11 November through to the following Sunday 18 November.

Activities will include:

- Displays in the Cathedral: historical archives, Cathedral's treasures, floral display and souvenirs,
- Singalong hymns followed by afternoon tea
- Worship 1868-style: 1662 Prayer Book Morning Prayer, Holy Communion and Evening Prayer
- Sausage sizzle for the wider community
- Celebration dinner in the Cathedral
- Parish Celebration Eucharist with Bishop Matt

Watch out for more details nearer the time. In the meanwhile, put the dates in your diary and plan to join in with one or more activities. If you are yet to visit the renewed Cathedral interior, this is your opportunity for a visit!



Steve Geyer



Napier Park Funerals, Bendigo

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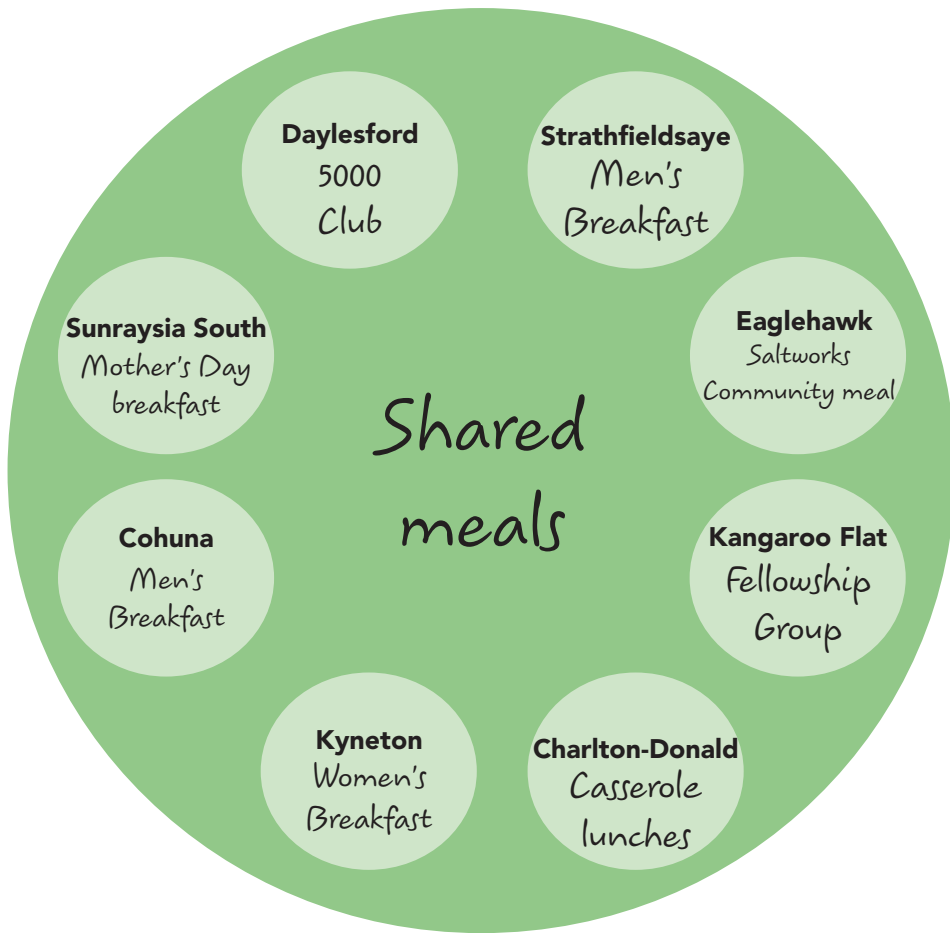
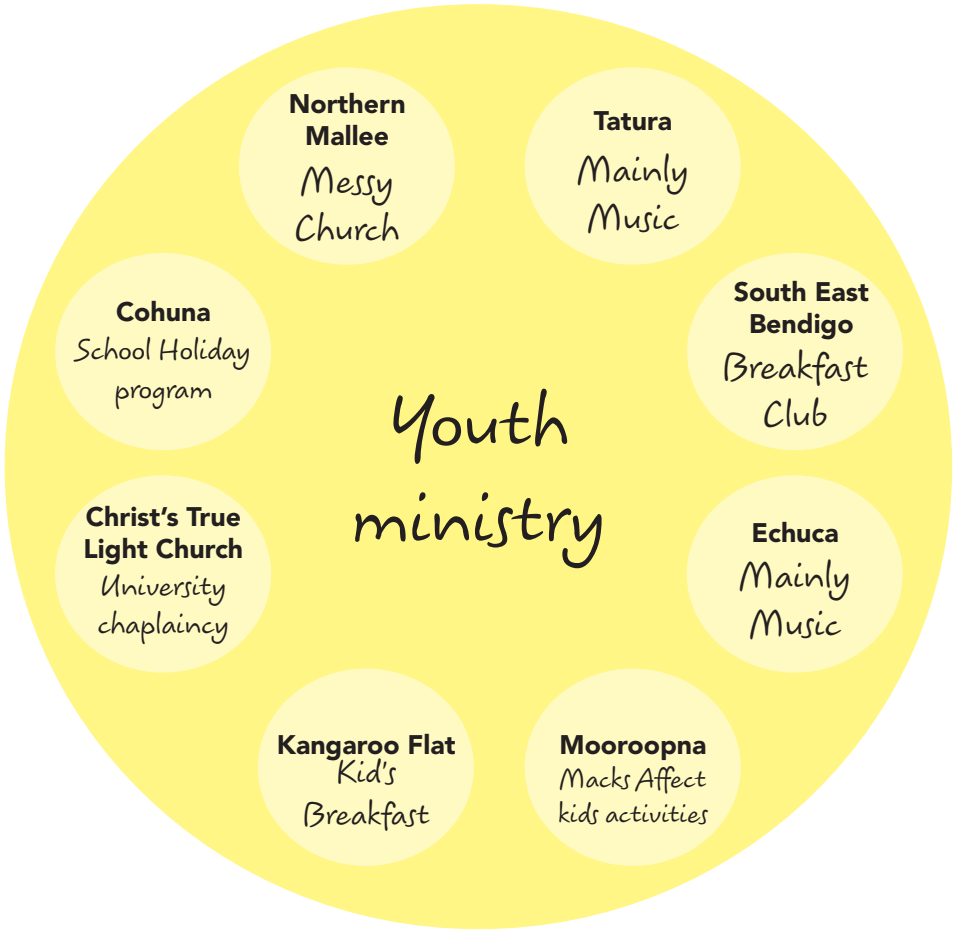
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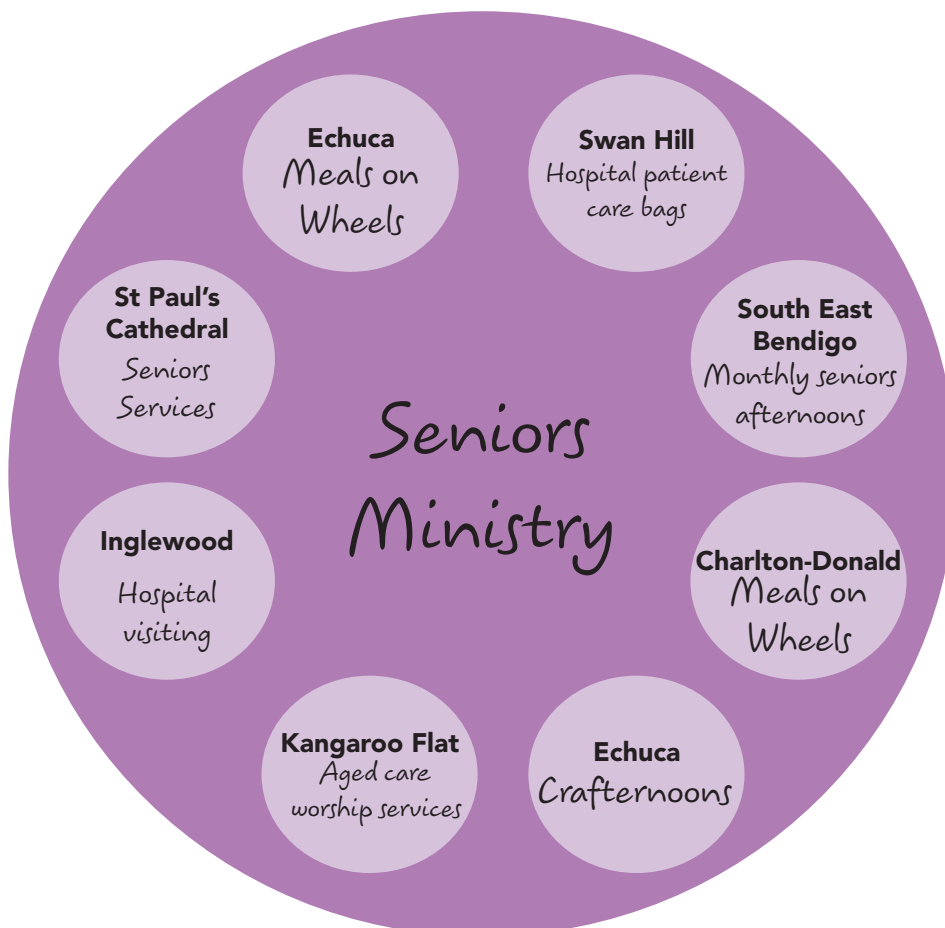


June Andrew

Beyond the church doors...



...a snapshot of regular parish activities



Renovation of St Augustine's church Inglewood progresses



Works: Scaffolding up inside St Augustine's Inglewood

Built in 1864, the church was in great need of renovation and repair to the interior, especially after the storm damage of 2017. A large pine tree came down in the front garden destroying the electrical supply to the church and necessitating the move to the church hall late in 2017.

Bishop Andrew is the Project Manager and has overseen the roofing repairs and organised the large electrical and plumbing works. It is hoped that when these works are complete the congregation will be back in the church in November.

The completed works will see a toilet installed in the Vestry, and an enlarged hospitality area near the front doors. The floor levels will be simplified and chairs will replace some of the pews leading to better flexibility for worship and social events.

- Christine Kimpton

Kangaroo Flat hosts successful Winter Art Show

The Anglican Parish of Kangaroo Flat recently held their 11th Winter Art Show which ran over three consecutive days.

Over 190 artworks were on display and showcased the talent of over 60 artists. Prizes were awarded for four categories; 'Oil', 'Acrylic', 'Watercolour' and 'Other Media' and were judged by local teacher and artist Amber Samson with each of the winners receiving a prize of \$250.

At the official opening Amber Sansom gave an informative speech on her career as an artist and then spoke on each of the winning entries. Guest speaker, Military Artist Robert Milton also shared his story.

The art show proved a great opportunity for lovers of art to share their amazing talent and see the works produced by many talented people from our local community.

- Tracey Wolsley



Talented: Artworks on display at St Mary's Kangaroo Flat

Naidoc Week celebrated at St Arnaud



Colour: Indigenous artwork and flowers decorated the church

Red and cream flowering gum blossom decorated the church as well as Indigenous art and artifacts as we celebrated Naidoc Week earlier in July.

Hymns included 'O Lord Jesus Markapmir, and 'Where wide sky rolls down'. The sermon for the day included the inspiring story of Uncle Ossie Cruse, an Aboriginal Christian who battled with heavy drinking since age 12, but has since turned his life around after listening to a sermon from evangelist David Kirk.

After service bush tucker. We had macadamia jam drops with Kakadu plum and chillie jam, as well as johnny cakes with cheese and saltbush served with wild lime, chilli and ginger cream cheese dip.

- Jan Harper

Around the Parishes

Dunolly celebrates Queen's Birthday festival

This is the second year that St John's Anglican Church Dunolly has hosted a service to celebrate hymns by Sir Arthur Sullivan, of the well-known duo Gilbert and Sullivan. This year we had Queen Victoria (Rachael Buckley) and our new Bishop Matt Brain attend the service.

The service was from the Church of England Book of Common Prayer; which would have been the service used when Gilbert and Sullivan were producing their musicals and when Sir Arthur Sullivan was composing his hymns, some of which were sung at the service.

It was pleasing to welcome 114 worshipers to the service. Congratulations to all who attended and to all who helped with the service and behind the scenes.

- Contributed



Her Majesty: Queen Victoria and Bishop Matt

'Study Sesh' makes homework more enjoyable



Heads down: Students doing their homework at Holy Trinity

We all know how excited teenagers get about doing their homework, so Holy Trinity decided to start a study group.

Completing homework alone can be a challenge sometimes, so getting together gives students an opportunity to do their homework, study for exams and also encourage one another.

Study Sesh runs on a Wednesday afternoon with students coming in after school to do their homework while hanging out together, along with providing some fruit and other healthy snacks to keep them going.

While we've only had one session so far, we look forward to seeing this continue weekly.

- Rob Edwards

New products feature at St Paul's Kyneton

Bishop Matt was presented with some local produce from the Kyneton Farmers Market on his recent visit to Kyneton.

Included amongst the gifts was a jar of St Paul's Restoration Fund bees wax polish. Parishioners Michael and Gail Bloxsome have been producing the polish from left over bees-wax candle stubs. The quality is excellent for furniture and it also does wonders for your hands in the process!

Michael has also recently taken to making small crosses from left over old floor joists taken out of the vestry floor when it was replaced earlier this year. The sales profits are going towards helping to restore the church to much of its original condition and beauty. If you would be interested in knowing anything further about the polish or crosses contact the parish.

- Ian Howarth



Gift: Michael Bloxsome, Bishop Matt and Ian Howarth

Singing away the winter blues!

Fay Magee

When winter weather arrives and regular members of our Sunday congregations can't make it or have headed north, we might be thinking let's not bother with singing!

I have certainly been part of many small congregations and as the keyboard player, smaller means accompanying specifically to the size of the group! I've been encouraged to read what neuroscience tells us about music-making and particularly singing.

To start with, singing is a great activity for enhancing our sense of personal well-being. And don't be wary of how you think you sound for the best bit is that singing together is how we lose our sound amidst the group sound and start to actively make community. All this happens because of the way our brains work with those feel-good chemicals. So, singing together makes a statement about being community – non-verbal theology!

Singing is what we instinctively do as humans, it has become embedded in most of our human rituals, including Christian worship. There are particular patterns of singing on Sundays we tend to think are the way to do it. But one of the most productive ways to enjoy our singing sound together is actually to sing in a circle, no matter how small. The sound then focuses in the circle rather than being lost in a larger space.

If your worship space can be modified, even temporarily during the cooler weather, this can make not just for focused singing but a sense of solidarity and fellowship amongst those who are present. I have been privileged to worship in different places where a circle (or horse-shoe-shape) of chairs has made for this obvious way of embodying our coming together. And the singing has been great, be there 8, 10 or 20 people present.

And a special commendation for those who soldier on even when the keyboard player (or other instrumentalists) can't be there. Singing unaccompanied is possible and often fun as we let go of those inhibitions about singing together and focus on why we are there.



Care: The diocese has committed to joining the National Redress Scheme

Anglican Diocese of Bendigo to join Commonwealth Redress Scheme

Sarah Crutch

The Anglican Diocese of Bendigo will join the Commonwealth Government's National Redress Scheme as part of a 'three-doorway' approach to providing redress to those who have been abused in the care of the Church.

Bishop in Council, the diocese's key governing body, has resolved to participate in the scheme through a new national Anglican redress corporation being established by the General Synod office.

It is hoped that all 23 Anglican dioceses will agree to join the scheme along with other Anglican entities such as schools and welfare agencies. The administrative work to join the scheme is currently being undertaken by dioceses and the General Synod office.

needs of survivors at heart if engaged in the process of civil litigation.

"This will give survivors discretion in the process based around what level of willingness they have to deal with the church as the institution which harmed them," Bishop Matt said.

Bishop Matt further outlined the need to be prepared to meet the needs of survivors in three ways; financial assistance, counselling care and direct personal apology.

"It is my view that to be part of the people who can face up to the unspeakable evil that is abuse and act justly is a blessing from God. It may be difficult and challenge us in many ways, but it is part of our calling as people who 'act justly and love mercy and walk humbly with our God'" (Micah 6:8).

“It is my view that to be part of the people who can face up to the unspeakable evil that is abuse and act justly is a blessing from God”

- Bishop Matt

Participation in the National Redress Scheme forms one part of the dioceses 'three-doorway' approach to redress. The second involves a diocesan scheme to be managed independently by Kooyoora and thirdly, to be a 'model litigant' with the

Further information about the Anglican Church's participation in the National Redress Scheme is available from the General Synod website www.anglican.org.au or you can visit the website for the National Redress Scheme www.nationalredress.gov.au.



Living mirrors

Edward Barkla

One Christmas, my wife gave me a cycling rear vision mirror. It straps to your wrist, like a large wrist watch dial that can be lifted up when needed.

At the time I didn't think much of it, but I wanted to honour my wife's desire for me to be safe on the road. So I decided to wear it for a few weeks, then retire it. Here I am, one and half years later, still using the wrist mirror as a commuter to and from work. It's invaluable, and has become as much a part of me as the bike is.

A mirror is typically used to look at yourself where you are right in front. But it can also be used to look at what is behind you. Whichever way, it helps us face the next moment of life before we forget what we see reflected. That brought James 1:23-25 to mind:

If anyone only listens to the word without obeying it, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror, and on going away immediately forget what they were like.

But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act - they will be blessed in their doing.

As we look at Jesus and follow his example, God transforms us, bit by bit, into his image and likeness – to be clearer and clearer mirrors of Christ (see 2 Corinthians 3.18). Christ is the reason that we can give thanks to God in all circumstances. Our own witness is to the transforming, rescuing power of Christ's cross, where his blood was spilt so that all sins might be forgiven.

Our witness is like that cycling mirror: it shows what's behind us, the washing away of past sins, with their shame and guilt feelings. But mirrors don't only look back – they reflect who we are. What a joy to reflect our relationship with the Lord in our daily lives, as we walk in obedience to God's living word! And it may well be that, as people caught up in darkness look into our lives, they see the light and glory of God mirrored in us.

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

clergy contemplations

Faith, hope and love

Trevor Bell

At a camp ground near Trentham, after a day of camp fires, collecting wood, talking and eating, I rustled my bible out of the swag as my friend retired to sleep. I was just sitting with embers glowing, smoke wafting and the crackling of the wood and the voice of God captured me in the scriptures.

I read 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 (NIV84):

We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ

I read this over and over in the chair, then again over and over in the swag as I dozed off to sleep. I was gripped by the source of the early Christians outward actions, which flowed from the inner transformation wrought by God. That is our faith in him and



In Colossians; "the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven" and again in 1 Corinthians; "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love". It seems that these three things really do go together.

The more I thought about it, the more it made sense. That as we put our trust in God's work in Jesus and receive the unmerited gift of grace in the gospel of his cross and resurrection, our impulsive response is to love God back and then fully set our hope on and look forward to the day of his return.

Each of these elements is a spring board to want to serve and love those around us. Faith, because we want

“It is these three things - faith, love and hope - that fuelled the actions of the early Christians and I pray that it too will be a fuel for our actions as God's church”

his work, the love for God that is generated by his first loving us, and the unbridled hope (expectation) of his return. It is these three things - faith, love and hope - that fuelled the actions of the early Christians and I pray that it too will be a fuel for our actions as God's church.

When my friend woke in the morning, I read him this passage and he reminded me that this triplet of faith, hope and love is found elsewhere in the New Testament and with a little digging I found him to be right. Paul also mentions it again in 1 Thessalonians 5:8-9, Colossians 1:3-6 and 1 Corinthians 13:13.

In Thessalonians he says, "putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet".

others to experience the saving work of the cross, resurrection and life in the Spirit too. Love, because he first loved us and so we look to love him, and one of the best ways to love God is by us loving others. Hope, because we want as many people to share in the glory that God has in store for us, his set apart people.

This hope of glory is mixed with the tragedy of those who choose not to receive the hope of glory in the good news of Jesus. For this reason we have endurance in our efforts because there is much at stake. May our faith in Jesus' work, love of God in response to his love, and our hope of Glory truly propel us to work, labour and endure for the good of God's kingdom and for the life of the world.

Captured on camera...



Beauty: Stuart Giles from the Parish of Charlton-Donald took this stunning photo recently on his farm near Charlton capturing a magnificent rainbow

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| Wed 5 Sept | 12-2pm All Souls' Anglican, Sandringham, Spring Lunch* |
| Wed 5 Sept | 7pm St James' Ivanhoe, Youth & Young Adults Dessert Night |
| Thurs 6 Sept | 12-2pm St Paul's Anglican Church, Warragul, Spring Lunch* |

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what's on

events calendar

Diocesan Executive

Monday, 6 August

Senior Staff meeting in Charlton

Tuesday, 7 August

Senior Leadership Team meeting

Thursday, 9 August

Induction of Peter Blundell

7.30pm, 10 August in Swan Hill

Bishop in Council

Tuesday, 14 August

St Paul's Cathedral - Proms Series

Sundays 12, 19 & 26 August

Ordination of Judi Bird

10.30am, 18 August in Charlton

Hymn Sing-a-Long in Charlton

2.00pm Sunday, 9 September

Caring at a time of need



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