



Anglican Diocese
of Bendigo

The Spirit

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Priested: Judi Bird with Archdeacon Anne McKenna and Bishop Matt as she is presented as a newly ordained priest *Photo: Jenny Pollard*

Judi Bird ordained a priest in hometown of Charlton

Sarah Crutch

The Revd Judi Bird was ordained a priest in the very same church she was baptised and confirmed in at a vibrant ordination service led by Bishop Matt Brain on 18 August.

With the excitement of hosting such a special occasion, the people of St Martin's Charlton and the parish of Charlton-Donald welcomed not just regular parishioners but friends from the local community and the wider diocese to join in the celebrations as Judi committed herself to serve as a priest.

Bishop Matt, carrying out his first ordination as Bishop of Bendigo, preached from Ephesians 4: 1-13 where he outlined the role of a priest and encouraged Judi and the congregation to be expectant of God's gifts for us.

"God is a gift-giving God, and if that is true, then we as God's people need to be expectant – we need to want what God is about to give," he said.

"Judi you are being gifted so that all of God's people can be engaged in His work".

Fellow diocesan clergy then joined together to lay hands upon Judi, with the

congregation responding in great applause as she was presented as a newly ordained priest in the Church of God.

"To also be ordained in the church in which I was baptised and confirmed is a source of joy for me," Judi said.

"Support and encouragement has come from everywhere and for this I am eternally grateful".

Judi will continue to minister as the Priest-in-Charge of the Parish of Charlton-Donald, caring for the people across the four rural centres.

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The Bishop writes

....and tweets @MattBrain1

The Spirit

Monthly newsmagazine
of the Anglican Diocese
of Bendigo

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October issue: Contributions due **Friday 21 October**.

Dear Friends,

Having spent most of my childhood, youth and early adulthood in Western Australia I discovered a number of new things when we moved to Canberra. One was how cold and wet snow actually is. The other was how autumn and spring work.

Now, you might think this sounds odd, but let me explain. I knew that autumn sits between the hot, dry summer and the cold, wet winter, and spring is the hinge between the wet, cold winter and the hot, dry summer. I also knew that in autumn leaves lost their green colour and dropped from the trees, and in spring the bare branches sprung to life with green buds and blossoms. I had learned this from picture books.

What I discovered was that I hadn't experienced an autumn or spring like those in the picture books because most of my life had been spent with two seasons – warm and dry, and hot and dry – with not much in between. In my lived experience autumn and spring were really just a way of labelling months. So to move to Canberra and discover a discernible cooling of the air which led to a drying and changing in the colour of the leaves, and then the slow creep of the warming sap in the trees giving rise to beautiful flashes of blossom was a delight. I can still remember my reaction when seeing a shrub in blossom for the first time on my way in to the office.

I am loving the blossoming of the trees here in Bendigo and the southern part of the diocese. And even if the blossoms may be absent, the green



and gold tips of the crops pushing their way out of hard ground further west is cheering for the soul. As I drive around the diocese and drink in the freshness of the blossoms and new growth I am constantly reminded of the difference between appearance and reality. What looks dead, given the right conditions, springs to life.

One of the great challenges for modern life is actually finding 'new' life each day. The pressures of our contemporary world are very tiring, even when they are a lot of fun. Ironically the demand to keep pace with our market driven world so that we can enjoy the many good fruits of being alive here and now means that we are often on a treadmill that is difficult to get off. We may be frenetically busy, but so often stuck in a rut. Additionally, our very nature as human beings means that we slip into energy saving routines (another way of saying ruts) even while craving new things to sink our teeth into. We are constantly needing to consider how it

is that we blossom and bloom into all that we can be.

One of the very attractive things for me about Christianity is the promise that God cares about new life and is in the business of making us flourish. Another way of putting this is that God delights in people suddenly springing alive (literally and metaphorically), or those in a rut coming 'back to life'.

We see this described throughout scripture in the stories told of different people who were called on to do business with God. Three that come to my mind are the remarkable 'springing back to life' of the widow of Zarephath (1 Kings 17), the beautiful blossoming of Ruth (she has her own book!), and St Paul's confrontation by and reorientation to Christ (Acts 9). Each of these stories shows the two sides of embracing life.

The first common theme as I see it is that God is at work to initiate contact with the people; through Elijah, the 'coincidental' events of Ruth's choices, and the dramatic confrontation on the Damascus road. It is both significant and comforting that God should so initiate contact. Having to reinvent myself is not only tiring, but pulling one's self up by the bootstraps is an exercise in futility! The flip side to God's initiation is that each of the heroes responded by embracing God at work. The widow was persistent in pursuing Elijah. Ruth was bold in holding Boaz to account, and Paul was humble when broken and laid bare. Each then saw buds form and blossoms bloom on dry branches and bare twigs.

Spring has come. Where has God been initiating contact with you? What are you doing to embrace it?

tlatt



Happy: The Revd Suzannah Daniels with daughter Lizzie, Paul Daniels, Camren Downing-Mooney and Bishop Matt

Committed to following God

Contributed

Camren Downing-Mooney made a strong commitment to follow God as he was confirmed by Bishop Matt at the 5pm evening service at True North, Huntly.

Fourteen year old Camren was confirmed into the Anglican Church surrounded by love and the support

of his parents, sisters, godparents, sponsors and the congregation at True North, Huntly.

Before his confirmation Camren spoke of what being confirmed meant to him, and gave thanks to all those who had been with him in his faith journey so far.

Camren's address can be read below.

Hi, I'm Camren and I am so happy that I'm being confirmed today because it means I can follow God more at home, at school, at BBC youth group and in my life more.

Confirmation means 'yes' so in a way you are saying yes to God. My favourite bible verse is Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me". This verse is special because it shows what God can do in our lives and that even through the tough times, whoever you are, no matter what you have done, or no matter what you did, God will still help you in your life.

I would like to thank everyone who came today to share this occasion with me. I would like to thank Phil and Paul who I hope will guide me on this amazing journey and my Mum, Dad, sisters and Godparents who have guided me so far.

New in the Keith Cole Library - *Paul: a biography* by Tom Wright

Heather Marten

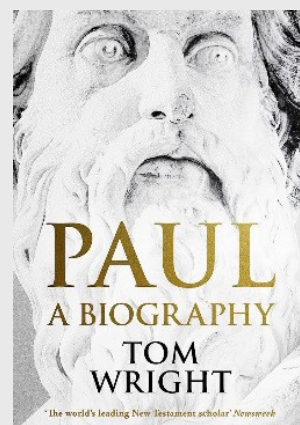
In 2013, former Bishop of Durham, Professor NT Wright published *Paul and the faithfulness of God*, all 1800 pages of it. Early this year he published *Paul: A biography* which draws on this earlier academic work but is aimed much more at a general readership, hence 'Tom' not NT Wright.

The book is in three parts. In *Beginnings*, Wright explores the zeal of the young Saul and the narratives that shaped him, the encounter with the risen Christ on the Damascus road, Paul's 'hidden years' in Tarsus and Arabia, and the beginnings of his ministry in Antioch. The second part, *Herald of the King* covers the missionary journeys and Part three, *The Seas, the Sea* is a retelling of Paul's final voyage to Rome.

For the most part, the emphasis of the book is on the meaning and significance of Paul's life and ministry, and some themes are repeatedly mentioned, such as Wright's concerns to rebut suggestions that his subject created a new 'religion', and that Paul remained a deeply Jewish thinker.

There are some areas of controversy around Paul that you may wish were covered but are not. It does however remain a compelling and very worthwhile read.

You can purchase your own copy for around \$40, but it's available in the Keith Cole Library at the Registry so why not borrow it and make the most of this wonderful resource.



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- seeking out and serving children, young people and adults who are financially, emotionally or socially disadvantaged or marginalised;
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If your parish or group has a project that meets the above criteria please contact Jackie Mullan - Manager on 5443 4711 to discuss your proposal and obtain a Bencourt Application form.

**Applications are due
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Just search for 'Anglican Diocese of Bendigo'.



New ministry: Bishop Matt with Peter and Jeanette Blundell

Swan Hill welcomes new rector

Contributed

The new rector of the Parish of Swan Hill, the Revd Peter Blundell and his wife Jeannette, have hit the ground running since Peter's induction into the parish on Friday 10 August.

A large attendance of visiting clergy included local representatives from the Roman Catholic and Uniting Church as well as Swan Hill's Mayor, Councillor Les McPhee, all extended a warm welcome to Peter and Jeannette.

The parish family were there in good numbers to celebrate the occasion, even if the visitors from Peter's previous parish of Tumut in New South Wales were a little reluctant to say goodbye to the Blundells.

Peter was presented to Bishop Matt by the three churchwardens from Tumut in the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn where Peter has served for the last nine years. With Bishop Matt being familiar with Tumut from his previous role, there was a red-faced moment for the him when we weren't sure if we were in Swan Hill or Tumut!

Peter has had extensive ministry in three dioceses, including more than seven years with Bush Church Aid and was originally ordained in the Diocese of Melbourne.

During the service, Bishop Matt also took the opportunity to thank the Revd Denis Gell for his ministry in caring for the parish during the omit period.



Acknowledged: Bishop Matt thanks Denis Gell



Family church: Hand puppets joined in the singing at the family service

Family church proclaims: God is awesome and amazing!

Tracey Wolsley

That was the message at the Kangaroo Flat Family Service on Sunday, 19 August. Over 60 people came along including Cr Rod Fyffe who unveiled some art work that was done by some of the families and will be hung in the garden area at the front of the church.

Young and old (older!) enjoyed the songs, puppets, fellowship and lunch that followed. St Mary's holds a family service every Sunday at 11am.

"It is a very informal and often, interactive service where we get the kids and young people up front as much as possible," the Revd Tracey Wolsley said.

"It is not unusual to have little bodies sitting under the altar during communion and I am absolutely fine with that" Tracey added. "In fact, the greatest feedback I have had was from one boy who said, "this isn't even like church" as we sat and shared bread and even a tin of sardines whilst talking about the story of Jesus feeding the multitude."

Since arriving at the Parish of Kangaroo Flat almost a year ago the 11am service has undergone some changes with the addition of new families with very young children. This



Fun: The congregation join in

has meant redesigning what we do in order to provide appropriate and relevant ministry to those who come along. Some are just brand new to the church and faith and it's important that we nurture them in their journey and provide something that all people can understand and feel a part of.

We are having great fun and it's such a joy to work with a great team of people who are passionate and committed to children's ministry.

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Around the Diocese

Curries, casseroles and community



Games: Kids enjoy some novelty games

That was the combination at St Mary's Kangaroo Flat on Friday 10 August. The parish held a 'Curry and Casserole' night and had a great turn out of people coming not only from our congregations but also people from the wider community.

It was terrific to hold something that brought together such a great mix of people. Evenings like this provide opportunities for people to catch up with one another and enjoy some good fun and food. We have families from Sri Lanka who provided traditional curry food including dahl, beans and rice that were amazing.

Bishop Ron Stone provided some entertainment and had people blowing up balloons to see whose balloon could travel the furthest when let go. Rather than a set price for the evening, envelopes were provided for people to give whatever they liked and \$400 was raised for the Farmers Appeal.

- Tracey Wolsley

Bush luncheon enjoyed at Bears Lagoon

The congregations of Pyramid Hill, Boort and Bears Lagoon combined for a parish service on Sunday, 12 August to welcome Bishop Matt to his first visit to the parish.

Bears Lagoon is a little church right on the Loddon Valley Highway halfway between Bendigo and Kerang.

Revd Pam Lawry led the service with Bishop Matt giving the sermon. Following the service everyone joined in a bush luncheon in the surrounding bush setting. Although the weather was a bit on the chilly side members gathered around the campfire for warmth and a hot cup of soup and toast.

- Bill Boyd



Visit: Bishop Matt with Pam Lawry

MU winter gathering hears of support for single parents



Support: Sammy Lysaght with donations from MU

This year we were warmly welcomed at St. Luke's, White Hills for our Gathering together and Council meeting. It is always a great time for Branch members to share news and learn new ideas.

Our Guest Speaker was Sammy Lysaght who organizes the "Mums 4 Mums" group in Bendigo. This group of volunteers help young families to be part of the community by providing support with everyday issues, which a lot of people take for granted.

Their free "Pop-Up" Op Shops are only one of the tasks they undertake, and to help them out with storage the Mothers' Union Executive in Bendigo purchased plastic tubs to make things a little easier for them. Sammy and Joshua are pictured with the tubs.

- Leone Tress

Around the Parishes

Bendigo Health chaplaincy team welcome Bishop Matt

The Pastoral Care team at Bendigo Health were pleased to welcome Bishop Matt for a visit and tour of the new Bendigo Hospital earlier in August.

Having attended the official opening of the new hospital only a few weeks beforehand, Bishop Matt was keen to see what the new facility has to offer.

The Revds Terry Templer and Geoff Chittenden, who are chaplains at Bendigo Health, showed Bishop Matt where the chaplains are based, the Sacred Space that is used for services and prayer as well as the impressive AV equipment the chaplains use to record and play services for patients.

The Pastoral Care Coordinator Karen Lunney, along with Terry and Geoff, was glad Bishop Matt was able to have an insight into this important ministry.



Visit: The Pastoral Care team at Bendigo Health with Bishop Matt

St Arnaud celebrates Saint Arnold



Celebrations: St Arnaud parishioners enjoy a parish lunch

Our town of St Arnaud is named after French Crimean War hero Jacques Leroy de Saint Arnaud. He was championed by the local people who rejected the authorities' choice of 'New Bendigo' as the name for the new Goldfields town. Further investigation reveals that St Arnaud is the French form of St Arnold, the patron saint of Brewers, so we decided it was appropriate to celebrate.

The Sunday Gospel Reading was on Jesus as the bread of life, a good link as the process for bread making and beer making are similar and the drinking of beer in the Middle East was very widespread. Although beer doesn't appear in the NRSV Bible translation the word translated as strong drink could arguably mean beer. St Arnold ministered mostly in Belgium so our feast included Brussels sprouts followed by Belgium waffles with ice-cream and chocolate sauce along with beer, kombucha and ginger beer.

- Jan Harper

Nyah West Op Shop hosts fashion parade

A Nyah District Anglican Op Shop recently held a Fashion Parade to show off the range of clothing available.

Held in Swan Hill this community event was enjoyed by all present and opened people's eyes in Swan Hill to our hidden treasure in Nyah West. All garments being worn were from our Op Shop collection, with even Dorothy, Toto and the Lion from the Wizard of Oz making an appearance!

Nine volunteers modelled both ladies' and men's clothing while Bernard van Kesteren entertained the audience with his ukulele, enjoyed by all present.

A big thank you to all involved in bringing the day together.

- Marg Crilly



Model: Evelyn Mortimer shows off some of the fashion

Chapel linked to Lockwood

Tracey Wolsley

St Mary's Anglican Church at Kangaroo Flat is seeking contact with the families of former parishioners of St Stephen's, Lockwood, prior to the naming of a chapel at Kangaroo Flat after St Stephen, the first Christian martyr.

In 1860 the early settlers around Lockwood southwest of Bendigo – while still prospecting for gold or carving out a living on the land – decided to show their Christian faith by building a rough brick church which took about 12 years to eventually complete, but is still standing today.

Through the 19th and 20th centuries the church – part of the Anglican Parish of Kangaroo Flat – was supported by pioneer families and their descendants as well as the 'newcomers' who gradually occupied the pastoral land around Lockwood and commuted to Bendigo.

The Lockwood Primary School adjacent to the church grew over the years, with the Education Department showing an interest in purchasing the church and land, although the historic building could not be demolished. By the 1990's the congregation had shrunk to a few families and eventually in March 1998 the church was de-commissioned and sold to the Education Department.

Many historical records of St Stephen's did not survive, but available records indicate the families which supported St Stephen's over the years, include the families Astill, Boromeo, Chennell, Dawson, Pearce, Thomson, Whatley, Wells and Wingrave. It's believed there are other families or their descendants who may not be aware that the Parish Council intends to name the Kangaroo Flat chapel after St Stephen's, to continue the link with Lockwood.

Bishop Ron Stone will dedicate the chapel at a 9.00am service on Sunday, 21 October. People with links to the Lockwood church can contribute to the event by providing memorabilia for display and contact details of residents who may be interested in being invited to the dedication service. Contact Tracey Wolsley on (03) 54477427 or 0423267405 or email anglicankf@tpg.com.au.

Anthony Stones to lead new parish cooperation

Bishop Matt recently announced the appointment of the Revd Anthony Stones to the Parishes of Elmore and Rochester-Lockington.

Anthony grew up on a dairy farm outside of Geelong and knows the joys and struggles of farming life. From there he worked as a fitter and turner before following a call into ministry. Anthony is married to Jo and together they have three sons; Harvey (16), Kaleb (14) and Tristan (12).

Anthony comes to us following a curacy at All Saints Clayton in Melbourne's east. He has said that, "We are loved by God and saved by Jesus, so guided by his Spirit we are to; pray, love, live like, tell others about, make disciples of and rest in Jesus. Knowing Jesus through his word has changed our lives, and we are very excited about making our home and life among you, getting to know you all and continuing to grow in faith



Appointed: Anthony Stones & family

and love together. And we feel very privileged to be given this opportunity to go forward in faith together with you."

This appointment acknowledges the cooperation of two parishes. Anthony is appointed to intentionally assist the different congregations to continue in worship given the changing nature of their communities, to identify and grow locally embedded ministry and provide pastoral care and nurture across the various communities.

Anthony will take up this ministry on Friday, 7 December 2018.

Parish of Tatura to welcome Simba Musvamhiri

Bishop Matt has also announced that Simba Musvamhiri will be appointed to the pastoral care and leadership of the Parish of Tatura.

Simba was born in Harare, Zimbabwe but now calls Australia home. Simba met Helen (an Australian) on the mission field in Kenya. They have been married for 10 years and together have 2 beautiful children, a daughter, Thembi (pronounced Tem-bee) who is 8 years old and a son, Vusa (pronounced Voo-sar) who is 3 years old.

For the last 15 years Simba has had the privilege of sharing the gospel with many people in different countries, cultures and spheres of life. Before entering Christian ministry, he worked as a boiler maker. He was an associate Pastor in a multi-cultural congregation in Namibia (southern Africa) before moving to Australia where he served as an assistant minister at St Barnabas Anglican Church, in Perth. Simba is currently the Pastor of Cornerstone Christian Church in



Welcome: Simba Musvamhiri

Canberra and a hospital chaplain. He has a BTh from the Namibia Evangelical Theological Seminary (NETS) and an MA (Th.) from Trinity Theological College Perth.

Simba has a passion for sharing the gospel in Australian communities, preaching God's word, discipling people and providing pastoral care. Simba loves God, his family and people and is looking forward to serving in the Diocese of Bendigo.

Simba will take up this ministry as a lay person on Monday, 8 October, but will be ordained as a deacon on Saturday, 1 December.



Holy baptism: Brody Giles is baptised by the Revd Judi Bird

Family trio baptised in Charlton

Judi Bird

At St Martin's, Charlton, on the morning of Sunday 1 July 2018, it was our great pleasure to celebrate a service of Holy Baptism for the three children of the Giles family.

Supported by their parents Tim and Jess, and sponsors - Phillip, Sarah, Nathan and Sarah - Taylah, Brody and Ivy were baptised in response to God's all-embracing love.

Our choice of songs fitted the occasion, including, "Thank you for giving me the morning", "All things bright and beautiful" and "The Butterfly Song".

The service commenced with Brody ringing the church bell with his Poppy (Stuart Giles) beside him. Everyone knew where to stand because of the stars on the floor marking the spots to stand around the font. (Taylah and Brody had put everyone's name on the stars.)

Newcomers were welcomed to church with each member of the congregation bringing to life a sock puppet which had been lovingly



Engage: Sock puppets

decorated by a talented member of the congregation. The sock puppets were soon singing and praying out loud along with us all.

What a happy day it was to welcome Taylah, Brody and Ivy as members with us of the body of Christ.

For you gave me a heart and you gave me a smile. You gave me Jesus and you made me your child. And I just thank you Father, for making me 'me'.

- The Butterfly Song



Baptised: Parents Jess and Tim with Ivy, Taylah and Brody

Newstead to celebrate 150th anniversary

The people of All Saints', Newstead will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of their little church building on **Sunday, 11 November**, beginning with a street procession from the pub corner led by the Maldon Brass Band.

The celebrations will be a whole community event with groups within the small community taking part. All Saints' is very much a part of the social fabric of the area and its history reflects the ups and downs of this small town.

At 3.00pm the 150th Anniversary Eucharist will be celebrated by Bishop Matt in the church grounds, assisted by former clergy.

By 4.30pm people will enjoy an afternoon tea and a sausage sizzle.

If you aren't able walk the distance from the pub, you will be able to hitch a ride with the local Clydesdale tram, or a vintage car or two, or ride a bike!

Invite your friends to come along.
Enquiries to 0407 569 739.

WORKSHOP Preventing Sexual Violence, Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment

Maryborough Mothers' Union are following on from their very successful *Think Prevent* two-hour workshop in 2017 with a four-hour workshop this year.

Saturday 13 October
Anglican Hall, Clarendon Street
Maryborough

10.00 am - 3.00 pm

Registration - \$10
light lunch included

We are hopeful that many of our 24 participants last year will attend but would welcome inquiries from all interested.

We look forward to welcoming Dr Ree Bodde' back to Maryborough

For details contact
Ronda - 0428544874 or
Esther - 0407952572

Singing new songs

Fay Magee

Several psalms invite us to “sing a new song to the Lord” and usually follow this with a reminder about who God is and God’s gracious gifts to us. It might be easy to take this ‘new-ness’ as a reason to go for the novelty numbers and ditch the old.

In fact, it’s more about a challenge to be growing in our faith and understanding of God, to see how our own individual and community story is continuing. Then we can be finding new ways to express these evolving experiences and insights.

There are of course times when we might find ‘new’ insights in an ‘old’ song. The important songs we’ve sung will continue to be part of our story, not just who we are but also who we are becoming.

When looking at new songs it’s important to plan ahead. First up, maybe select one new song that can be used for three to four weeks, perhaps as a sending-out or as a post-sermon reflection. That way there will be a chance to get to know it rather than waiting for it to come around again in several months’ time!

Secondly, decide how to introduce the song in terms of who may have written the text and composed the music and more importantly why it suits the context of the liturgy and its function at this particular point. It’s important to remind everyone you are not just choosing the songs you like!

What to choose? It’s worth noting that approximately 50% of the songs in *Together in Song* were written in the past 50-60 years. So there’s a wide range of text and musical possibilities - you might like to select a new composer/writer each month to expand everyone’s knowledge of who is contributing to our new songs. One worth knowing is “Feed us now”, a folk-type song written by Robin Mann, Adelaide-based Lutheran composer (#538), an obvious song to lead into communion. The hymnbook arrangement is simple for keyboard and/or guitar.

Others to consider: John Bell (259), Shirley Murray (473), Brian Wren (414), Graham Kendrick (690) - and remember Youtube and iTunes!

Son of God: the BBC series

Review by Charles Sherlock

Every few years Ridley College arranges an ‘Israel Study Tour’. I’ve been part of two life-changing experiences. But a tour takes three weeks and a costs a fair bit. Is there an easier way?

The BBC Son of God series would make an excellent start! Its three hour-long programmes feature Jeremy Bowen, former BBC Middle East Correspondent. He whizzes viewers around the Holy Land in a bright red jeep - symbolic of the style of the series - with occasional side-trips to New York forensic laboratories and English libraries.

The series is magnificently filmed, using current shots of Jerusalem (with all the ambiguity which that city represents then and now), re-enactments of first-century events, and interviews with a good range of scholars (Christian, Jewish and secular). Visually, it is notable for the first-rate computer graphic reconstructions of the Temple area.

So what does the series say about the ‘Son of God’? Surprisingly, this title is not discussed. Yet Jesus as ‘Messiah/Christ’, worshipped as divine, is given fair treatment, and the engagement of background information with scriptural evidence is outstanding.

The opening session focusses on Jesus’ birth and childhood. Intelligent, responsible use is made of Josephus, archaeology (notably Caesarea and Sephoris), astronomy / astrology, and the gospels (which “got the essentials of Jesus’ story right”). Myriads of details are touched on, with useful debunking of ‘popular’ views of the Christmas events. Above all, the ‘feel’ of complex first-century Palestine under the Romans seems just right.

Session two, ‘The Mission’, moves from Jesus’ baptism through to the Last Supper. It conveys well the role of the Temple, Galilee and healings in Jesus’ ministry, though it fails to examine Jesus’ proclamation of the ‘kingdom/reign of God’. Too much is made of ‘purity’ and ‘anti-establishment’ theories to interpret his mission (though there is truth in them). That said, it is a first-rate hour: the challenge of Jesus comes through well.



The final session takes up the Last Supper (usefully set in context), trials (sensitively handled), crucifixion (with flashes to gory re-enactments in the Phillippines) and resurrection. The cross is seen in redemptive terms: “Jesus saw evil in the Jewish scriptures as being overcome through suffering, and he died to exhaust the force of evil”. The evidence for the resurrection is treated seriously, and helpfully distinguished from revivification and resuscitation. The series ends with fascinating speculation about what Jesus looked like (to me, a cross between Telly Savalas and Dobie Gillies!).

This is not one of those ‘let’s see how much we can shock the Vatican/Billy Graham’ shows. It’s a well-researched, accessible examination of the evidence about Jesus. The two ‘reference’ scholars are doyens of the field: Tom Wright (Canon-theologian, Westminster Cathedral) and Jerome Murphy-O’Connor (Ecole Biblique, Jerusalem, and author of the best guide book to the Holy Land), backed up by well-focussed interviews with others.

This outstanding series would make an excellent resource for study groups and confirmation classes, and would do a lot of good for Jack Spong fans. It is the best visual treatment of Jesus I have encountered. A fourth hour which traced the story through to Acts would be wonderful. Go and order the DVD or download the series online, and use it!

A notable citizen honoured: Bishop's grave rededicated

In 2017, Remembrance Parks Central Victoria (RPCV), the Trust that administers Bendigo Cemetery, honoured Bishop Henry Archdall Langley, the first Bishop of Bendigo, as a Notable Citizen and pioneer of Bendigo. Bishop Henry was one of 25 people so commemorated in a self-guided historic tour of the cemetery.

Bishop Henry's grave had fallen into disrepair and urgently required restoration, which was taken up by Mark Gibson of RPCV and Bishop Ron Stone. In August 2018, Bishop Matt Brain, the tenth Bishop of Bendigo, rededicated Bishop Langley's restored grave at a ceremony attended by a small group of invited guests.

Bishop Ron, speaking at the ceremony, told something of the story of the remarkable ministry of Bishop Henry Langley.

The following history is taken from his address at the service:

Until 1901, what is now the Diocese of Bendigo was part of the Diocese of Melbourne. How the Diocese of Bendigo came into being, and how Henry Langley became the first Bishop of Bendigo, is a tale like a chapter out of Anthony Trollope's 'Barchester Chronicles' – a tale of politics, intrigue, challenges, controversy and colour. Thankfully, humans are not the only players in the election of a bishop.

Prior to his nomination for the office of bishop, Henry Langley held the office of Archdeacon of Melbourne. A rival candidate was the then fearsome, powerful, popular, local Archdeacon of Bendigo, JC MacCullagh. But it was Henry Langley who was elected as the first Bishop of Bendigo at a meeting presided over by the then Archbishop of Melbourne, who had the interesting name of Field Flowers Goe. A name with a story behind it.

Henry Langley laid the foundations of the Diocese of Bendigo – something that should never be forgotten – a reminder that we build on the work of those who have gone before us.

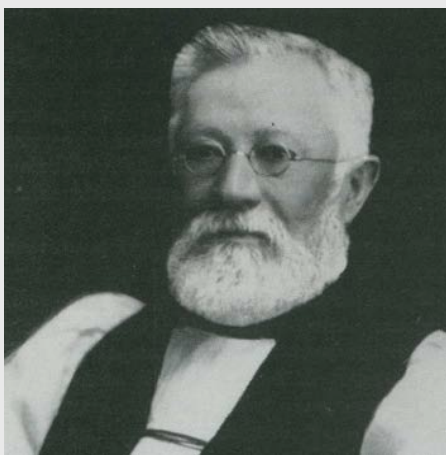
Bishop Henry had to grapple with the many challenges of building a



Rededicated: Bishop Matt and Bishop Ron leading the service
Photograph courtesy of the Bendigo Advertiser 16 August 2018

“We are here to save people...first to bring them the ministry of reconciliation; when reconciled to God to build them up in faith, hope and love to God”

- Bishop Henry Langley speaking at the first Synod of the Diocese of Bendigo



First Bishop: Bishop Henry Langley

diocese; how to fund the mission of the church, how to call and train clergy, how to staff the parishes, how to create the policies, structures and organisations of the diocese, how to secure the future of the diocese, how to fund the mission of the church at home and abroad, how and where to establish schools in the diocese.

High schools, led by deaconesses, were established by Bishop Henry in Echuca, Kyabram, Tatura and Rochester along with a college at Castlemaine. Bendigo's Church of England Girls School had the words Girton College added to the title.

Bishop Henry achieved ever so much in just four and a half years. He said in his address at the first Synod of the new diocese; “We are here to save people...first to bring them the ministry of reconciliation; when reconciled to God to build them up in faith, hope and love to God.”

As for the one time rival, JC MacCullagh, he became the Dean of Bendigo. Dean MacCullagh, graciously speaking at the public service for the laying of the foundation stone of the house for the Bishop of Bendigo, Langley Hall, said that he considered in the election of Bishop Henry Langley, “...that the best person had been elected to the office of bishop.”

We continue to thank God for Henry Archdall Langley, for Henry's ministry and for the foundations he laid upon which the diocese is built.

Bishop Henry died at the age of 65, when a severe stroke took his life. He was God's faithful servant, a person of unfaltering faith. He loved God, served his Lord, and shepherded the people and parishes committed to his care. He worked tirelessly and sacrificially.

Captured on camera...



Glistening: The Revd Melissa Clark took this photo on a cold morning before worship at St George's Trentham - however she assures us the worship was warm!

Have you taken a great shot of the landscape where you live lately? Send it to us to share! Contributions welcome to thespirit@bendigoanglican.org.au



Senior Leadership Team meeting
Thursday, 13 September

Bendigo School Chaplaincy Dinner
Thursday, 13 September

Bishop visiting Tongala-Stanhope
Sunday, 16 September

Finance Committee
Thursday, 27 September

Diocesan Executive
Monday, 1 October

Clergy Retreat
Monday 8 - Thursday 11 October

Provincial Council
Friday, 12 October

Got an event coming up?
Send the details to
thespirit@bendigoanglican.org.au

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