



Anglican Diocese  
of Bendigo

# The Spirit

monthly

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**Compassion:** St Mary's Kangaroo Flat decorated their front fence in daffodils in support of those affected by cancer

## Wall of sunshine provides ray of light for those affected by cancer

Tracey Wolsley

**I**t's a well known song, 'A little ray of sunshine'. You may remember it being sung by Brian Cadd and Glenn Shorrock in the 1970's. At St Mary's Kangaroo Flat, a little ray of sunshine was formed on the fences surrounding the church. It's a plain ordinary wire fence made of cold steel and yet it was transformed by love and compassion.

Hundreds of bright yellow daffodils adorned the fence to re-create it into a wall of sunshine to let those who have been affected by cancer know that we care, our hearts go out them and we are praying for them and all involved in the important research that is being undertaken to hopefully one day find a cure.

The word was sent out to the community and schools that we wanted to cover the fence with daffodils and their response was overwhelming. The people at St Mary's and the Kangaroo Flat community including students from Bendigo Special Development School, Kangaroo Flat Primary School, Big Hill Primary School, Lockwood South Primary School and, St Monica's Primary School made hundreds of daffodils of all shapes and sizes. Some of the daffodils had really heart moving messages on them and it was a poignant and special moment as they were hung on the fence.

At the service Bishop Ron gave a very moving address and shared his own family's journey with cancer. Prayers for the day were written by Sandra Davey, a cancer survivor, and although Sandra was

not able to be with us on the day, the intercessions were beautifully presented by Gayle Worthington, who is undergoing treatment, and Margaret Peach, another survivor. People were given the opportunity to light a candle and pray during the service. Afterwards, daffodils were added to the fence.

An email received later in the week read, "It is almost symbolic that the fence is the cross over point for newcomers to the church and the display of daffodils shows that the church is reaching out to others".

Reaching out with the love and grace of God is at the heart of the Daffodil Service and the transformation of the fence. We pray it brought hope and comfort to all who passed it and to those who contributed to making it.

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# The Bishop writes

....and tweets  @MattBrain1

The Spirit

Monthly newsmagazine  
of the Anglican Diocese  
of Bendigo

**Address:** The Spirit, PO Box 2, BENDIGO VIC 3552  
Member, Australian Religious Press Association

**Telephone:** 03 5443 4711

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

**Publishing Editor:** Sarah Crutch

**Consultant:** The Revd Dr Charles Sherlock

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**November issue:** Contributions due by Friday 19 October

**W**e have reached the awkward time of year for sports fans. The AFL grand final has been played and the competition is now over, but the cricket has not really gotten into stride. Suddenly there is nothing to talk about and the evenings are strangely free of required tv watching!

For those who do not like sport it probably feels like a blessed time of year! Finally attention can be given to other matters: things that *may* even be more important than people chasing a ball.

I will probably be roaming round the house trying to work out what chances my Big Bash (that's a cricket competition) team will have of winning the comp. However, even if sport is not your thing the notion of allegiance to a team is an interesting thing to ponder.

This year my AFL team has made the grand final. I am writing this before, but you will read this after, The Big Day. I do not yet know the outcome, but strangely enough you do. So, it has got me thinking about the nature of faith. Is faith a forward-looking affair always tenuous and hoping for an unrealised outcome, or is it backward looking? Simply stating what is? Or to put it in football terms, is faith me saying the Eagles *will* win, or you saying the Eagles *did/did not* (strike out that which does not apply) win.

Before I try and answer this little conundrum, I have enjoyed reading some of the press which tells stories of the different players and coaches. It has been pleasurable reading about the dedication and devotion to playing well that many from both clubs have shown.

The faith we are called on to exhibit as Christians has links with each of the three aspects I've been pondering this week. It arises out of a deep *affection* that then pervades everything else. It rests on a *secure* understanding of what has happened. Yet it also *yearns* for completion.

**Affection:** It takes passion to persevere in professional sport. Even the best players need to be so in love with what they do that the training and sacrifice pales into insignificance. Perseverance in faith is enabled by setting our affection on God. How do you remind yourself how beautiful, sufficient, good, capable and praiseworthy God is? As Thomas Cranmer (the architect of Anglicanism) said, what the heart desires, the mind justifies and the will enacts. How does your affection for God then influence everything else?

**Security:** Just like you will be able to look back on the grand final and know with certainty who won, so we are able to see how God has persistently and deliberately worked in the world. We can see these actions reach their crescendo in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. We have the commentary on these activities in

scripture. These things cannot be unwound. We are the beneficiaries of events that cannot be undone – 'Christ has died, Christ is risen'.

**Yearning:** But what about 'Christ will come again'? Well, I am writing this on the Thursday before The Big Game. I do not yet know the outcome, yet I look forward to an Eagles win. Old victories are not enough, I want the new! The shape of the Christian faith is forward looking. We should yearn for Jesus' return and the recreation that he will bring. We do this because our hearts are already with God (affection), and because we stand on the steady ground of Jesus' completed work (security), but we must live our lives forward. This means taking what we know to be of God and the New Kingdom that Jesus will bring and putting it into practice now. We belong in this coming Kingdom, so it is only right that we mirror it now.

Friends, what God has in store is beautiful, sufficient, good, capable and praiseworthy because it truly reflects Godself. As together we put our yearning for this world into practice it will be a winsome and attractive witness to the communities within which we live.

Irrespective of who wins the grand final, one thing is for sure: both teams will be training as if they were the champions. Let us live so that we are fit to be residents of God's New Kingdom.

*tlatt*



# My faith is my choice: Parish of Kyabram celebrates youth confirmation

Rosalind Willsher

On Sunday 23 September, St Andrew's Kyabram welcomed Bishop Matt, Rachael and four of their children for their first visit to Kyabram.

St Andrew's two congregations joined together for a combined service at which Maddi Willsher was confirmed. This special occasion was enjoyed by a large gathering of members of the church as well as many of Maddi's family and friends. The Revd David Willsher, a very happy and proud father, led the service that was the first confirmation service held in the parish for some years.



**Confirmed:** Maddi Willsher

Maddi also mentioned the significant impact that youth camps with ESA

*"In coming to be confirmed I am saying that my faith is my choice, not just my parents"*

Maddi, who is an active member of the church and regularly volunteers at the parish's weekly community meal, shared her feelings as she came to be confirmed.

"There has never really been a time in my life when I haven't known God.... in coming to be confirmed I am saying that my faith is my choice, not just my parents, and today in front of Bishop Matt, my family and friends I am ready to confirm the promises made on my behalf at my baptism."

Country Ministries have had on her faith journey, as it can be difficult being a young person in a small, country church. It was a blessing to welcome Peter Geldart, (ESA staff worker) and his family to the service, recognising the importance of their ministry in country areas.

The service was followed by a generous lunch during which Bishop Matt and Rachel mingled with all those who attended. The friendly and casual atmosphere was enjoyed by all.

# Focus on school chaplaincy

Jenny Rainsford

The annual dinner for the Bendigo School Chaplaincy Committee was held on 13 September at Holy Trinity, South East Bendigo.

The CEO of ACCESS Ministries, Dawn Penney, announced their new name, 'Korus Connect'. In her address, Dawn outlined the good relationship they have with the Victorian Education Department, and went on to commend the School Chaplaincy Committee in Bendigo for its work as one of 41 support groups for the 149 chaplains in Victoria.

Dawn explained how much of a chaplain's work is intangible and how important chaplains are to supporting children's development.

She quoted the Principal of Kangaroo Flat Primary School who said, "We aim to build emotionally healthy and resilient students who can deal positively with life challenges, and experience a sense of connection with our school and others. Pivotal to this work is the role of our school chaplain."

Bishop Matt Brain, having been previously employed as a chaplain in Karratha School in Western Australia, shared his observations that young people today are vulnerable and are in a different age where they are hardwired to do things, but lack wisdom and a sense of security.

Bishop Matt went on to liken school chaplaincy ministry to a garden, where we are guests in the garden and the aim needs to be on helping the garden to flourish. School chaplains are to tend the soil, seek the welfare of the community and be patient.

For information on how you can support school chaplaincy, contact Jenny Rainsford on 5448 3912 or [bjrains@bigpond.com](mailto:bjrains@bigpond.com).



**Support:** Craig Clifton & Dawn Penny

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*In Loving Memory...*



**Bencourt Care** approves funding for projects within the area of the Bendigo Diocese that provide for the relief of need, suffering, sickness, helplessness or poverty of people in the community. The types of projects funded are:

- a diverse range of community care services eg aged, palliative and respite care, outreach programs, chaplaincy etc;
- seeking out and serving children, young people and adults who are financially, emotionally or socially disadvantaged or marginalised;
- establishing and developing charitable work

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  
Monday, 22 October.**

## The Spirit online!

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If you'd like a full colour pdf of 'The Spirit' emailed to you each month, let us know!

Just email [thespirit@bendigoanglican.org.au](mailto:thespirit@bendigoanglican.org.au) and we'll add you to our e-mailing list!

### Read online

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Just search for 'Anglican Diocese of Bendigo'.



**Chat:** The Strathfieldsaye Community Church Men's Breakfast

## Strathfieldsaye Community Church hosts monthly men's breakfast

**John Watson & John Davis**

Following a discussion of a need for a men's group in our church, the Revd Steve Weickhardt of Strathfieldsaye and Archdeacon Greg Harris of South East Bendigo gave their support for a men's breakfast.

On a cold morning on 2 June 2012 our first breakfast was held – 24 men attended. It was a simple format; meet at the Strathfieldsaye Community Church at 7.30am on the first Saturday of the month to enjoy a breakfast of fruit juice, cereal, toast and spreads.

At 8.00 am an invited speaker gives a 30 minute talk on a topic of their choice with the breakfast usually finishing by around 8.45am. We've had a wide range of topics delivered by a variety of speakers. Many from within our group have told of their journey through life and the influences that have enabled them to reach this stage of their lives, with speakers including ministers, bishops, missionaries sharing personal witness, work, history and life experiences to mention just a few.

A donation of a gold coin is asked and this was given to Bush Church Aid until 2014, with funds now donated to Access Our Shed at Eaglehawk.



**Speaker:** Mark Polsen from Our Shed

We have now given more than \$700 to this group who provide learning services for people with disabilities. Their CEO, Mark Polsen, spoke at our September breakfast.

Our main objective is fellowship and the time to have a chat. We have an average attendance of 18 people, with not all men who attend being church goers. We do give thanks to the Lord for this opportunity to meet each month and share each other's company.

All men are welcome so if you would like to join us, please do!





**Support:** Lisa Chesters MP, Cr O'Rourke and Cr Fyffe were among the guests

## Bendigo comes together to raise funds for Saltworks community meal

**Brendan McDonald**

Recently the interior of St Peter's Eaglehawk could have been mistaken for a great banquet hall as organisations and individuals from across the City of Greater Bendigo gathered in support of the Saltworks community meal.

It was quite an auspicious event, organised by Bendigo's local member of parliament, Lisa Chesters, attended by the Mayor, councillor Margaret O'Rourke, councillor Rod Fyfe, our own Bishop Matt Brain and a host of other dignitaries.

Other organisations including, St. John of God hospital, the Bendigo Bank and the Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst were also represented. There were over one hundred guests and the event raised over \$6,000 which will go to securing the sustainability of the Friday night community meal.

Throughout the evening the crowd was entertained by a local blues artist, Steph Bitter, and they were served food prepared by St John of God hospital, who regularly supply the Friday night meal. Bishop Matt gave a reflection on 'salt' and highlighted the practical support and ongoing presence of the program as a sign of Christ's mission to Eaglehawk.



**Volunteers:** St John of God hospital

The Revd Brendan McDonald also spoke in honour of Eva Seymour, one of the volunteers on the night who had a passion 23 years ago to start a regular meal and call it 'Saltworks'. Who could have thought that it would evolve into one of Eaglehawk's prominent community support activities?

The night would not have happened without the generous support of Lisa Chesters and her team. We at St Peter's Eaglehawk are very grateful for her generosity and enthusiasm.

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## Malmsbury & Kyneton pitching in to help drought affected farmers



Members of the St John's Malmsbury congregation met recently to put together care packages for farmers.

Simple household items such as shampoo, soap, moisturizing cream, sunscreen, lip balm and even socks were collected by St John's Malmsbury and St Paul's Kyneton parishioners to help out in a little way for some folk doing it tough in drought affected Rural Australia.

Women's items were packaged into pre-loved and still pristine handbags and the men's into show boxes. Week by week also our thoughts and prayers go out to those parts of our land in the grip of drought and for continued resilience as they face such hardship

- Ian Howarth

**Help:** Parishioners prepare care packages for drought affected farmers

## Table tennis and tofu night a success

Recently the Parish of South East Bendigo held a men's night called 'table tennis and tofu'. Fifteen of us put on an exhibition of skill, style and athleticism (as we walked in the door), but to be fair our table tennis prowess was not too bad either. Obviously, tofu was the main attraction!

During our refreshment break an hour in, out came the tofu and some deep fried chicken. We still can't work out why there was lots of tofu left but no chicken - that may just remain a mystery.

We had a fantastic night and will look to run this again in a few months time, although we are going to try table tennis and t-bones instead of tofu.

- Trevor Bell



**Ping pong:** Healthy competition at the table tennis men's night

## Sunraysia South claims back to back 'Basketball for Bibles' titles



**Winners:** The Sunraysia South 'Basketball for Bibles' team

The Anglican Parish of Sunraysia South (APOSS) recently participated in the 'Basketball for Bibles' competition which was hosted by the Sunraysia Bible Society Committee.

APOSS came out on top winning every game and then the grand final to go back to back winners.

More importantly a great night was held with money raised going towards the work of the Bible society.

- Dale Barclay



# Around the Parishes

## Homework club supports students' learning and engagement

Every Tuesday during school term St Margaret's Mildura provides free one-on-one tutoring in Maths, English and other subject areas to primary and secondary students. Students are encouraged to bring their own homework and reading books and can read with one of our tutors or try our worksheets. During the last 20-30 minutes the students play a board game together or play learning apps on the ipads.

During August and September Graham Thompson has been teaching wood work and the young people have enjoyed making pencil cases, noughts and crosses and other things out of wood. We normally have 5-6 tutors with around 10-12 students attending each week. Most of the current students who regularly attend are from a non-english speaking background.

- Andrew Gall



**Engage:** Students interact at the Homework Club

## Daylesford welcomes visit from Bishop Matt



**Together:** Bishop Matt with Neil Fitzgerald

Christ Church, Daylesford and Fr Neil Fitzgerald were pleased to have Bishop Matt join them for worship on Sunday 9 September.

The relaxed and affable Bishop was an engaging preacher, commencing with a celebration of the West Coast Eagles victory over Collingwood earlier in the AFL season.

Fr Neil welcomed Bishop Matt and presented him with a gift to remember his visit. The parish excelled with a superb and diverse luncheon spread.

Thank you to everyone for making this such a joyous occasion and thank you to Bishop Matt.

- Contributed

## Anglican craft group produces blankets for distribution

One of the Anglican Craft Group projects this last year has been knitting or crocheting blankets to keep people warm in winter. Word got around, so people who have been knitting squares but had never got around to putting them together to make a blanket started delivering them to members of our craft group.

Glenis Wharton got to work with needle and thread and sewed the squares together. Ruth Butler crocheted a neat edge around them, and this wonderful community project produced around 30 beautiful colourful blankets. The blankets have gone to Anglicare in Swan Hill, the side chapel at Swan Hill Anglican Church, the Dandenong Refugee Centre, a Melbourne psychiatric centre, people in St Arnaud Nursing Home and in our community.

- Jan Harper



**Knit:** Members of the craft group show the fruits of their work

# New Executive Director for Kooyoora appointed

Sarah Crutch

**F**iona Boyle has been appointed as the new Executive Director of Kooyoora Ltd, the independent company that handles professional standards matters for the Dioceses of Bendigo and Melbourne.

Fiona is a qualified psychologist, and holds a Diploma in Business Management, BA (Social Welfare), BA (Psychology and Humanities) and a Post Graduate Diploma in Psychology. She was previously the CEO of the Gippsland Centre Against Sexual Assault, which she led over the last 10 years.

"We look forward to Fiona bringing her skills in business development, understanding of trauma and focus on staff support to the next stage of Kooyoora's development," the board said.

"She will bring her experience and ability to connect to other agencies and forums to Kooyoora as she works with the board to expand Kooyoora's services".

Fiona commenced in the role on 4 September, replacing Anne Baker, the former Registrar of the Diocese of Bendigo, who had filled the role since the establishment of the company in July 2017.

Kooyoora's Board of Directors acknowledged with gratitude the efforts of Anne to manage the many challenges of setting a new organisation in place in a challenging environment.

"Anne has swiftly established a strong, collaborative small team at Kooyoora, and the work Kooyoora performs is already admired and respected in the not for profit environment," they said.



**Experience:** A visit to the UN reinforces how we can each make a difference

## Visit to UN ignites desire to help

Rachael Mavromoustakakis

**I**n the first week of August, I attended the 9th Official University Scholars Leadership Symposium in Bangkok, Thailand hosted by the United Nations (UN). It was a week of presentations about different people who are going about their lives, seeing a need in the world, and trying their best to help meet that need.

We had speakers from the UN, speakers who started their own foundation, professors and presidents of colleges. Each gave their own unique messages to take away, but each also kept saying ordinary people can make a difference.

founders have raised and sourced for those who need it, and then paint a section of the outside play area.

I had a really good time going in the wading pool with the kids, playing soccer, and serving lunch to each other. It was really important for the founders that the kids all played together, whether they had a disability or not.

They also had a kid's church that ran each week, and a playgroup each week for kids who don't have disabilities. It was so encouraging to hear that even in the primarily Buddhist community, parents were happy for their kids to go to a Christian Centre, and happy for them to learn bible stories and sing Christian songs.

**"We all have resources of time, money, and a voice to spread awareness of different causes that God might have placed on your heart"**

Throughout the entire conference, we met so many different people from so many different backgrounds. While we were all university students, we were all doing a real mix of degrees, from exercise physiology to law to business to ministry and theology, from universities from across the world. It was so interesting to listen to everyone's stories over meal times, and get to know people from across the world.

On the fourth day, we did a Community Service Learning Day, where we all went out to different parts of Bangkok. I had the privilege of going to the Christian Care Foundation for Children with Disabilities in Thailand, where we got to play with kids in the centre, get a tour of the amazing facilities that the

I've been home for nearly a month now, and after being inspired by the likes of David Begbie and John Wood, I feel the same message being reaffirmed that we can all make a difference. There are so many programs out there that no one really knows about until they do research, like programs that supply playgrounds for kids in third world countries.

We all have resources of time, money, and a voice to spread awareness of different causes that God might have placed on your heart. If we all work together and do a little bit, we can make this world a little bit better for the generations to come.

*Rachael Mavromoustakakis is a parishioner and youth leader at the Parish of South East Bendigo.*



## Bible in the Bush Weekend 2 - 4 November

The Anglican Parish of Sunraysia South is looking forward to their 10th edition of 'Bible in the Bush' conference. After a one year break due to storm damage and insurance work, the parish is really looking forward to this year's event.

Bishop Matt will be speaking from the book of Job, and joining him will be the Revd Peter Dyke who will be leading a workshop on *What to say when you don't know what to say - Exploring the way we care for Christians who are depressed or going through struggles.*

The input about Bush Church Aid will be provided the Revd Neil Bach reflecting on *Leon Morris - The BCA Years.*

For information and registration: [www.bibleinthebush.org.au](http://www.bibleinthebush.org.au)



**Gift:** Susan Turner and Rodger O'Hara will represent Bendigo Cursillo in Hong Kong

# Bendigo Cursillo representatives head to St Paul's Cathedral Hong Kong

## Susan Turner & Rodger O'Hara

In 1979, almost 40 years ago, Cursillo was 'gifted' to Australia from Canada. It first came to the Diocese of Canberra-Goulburn, and then spread to almost every other diocese across Australia. Cursillo came to the Diocese of Bendigo in July 1990, 'gifted' from the Diocese of Riverina.

Now it is our turn - Fr Will Newman from St Paul's Cathedral in Hong Kong requested we in Australia 'gift' Cursillo to them. So, a team of 14 Cursillistas (lay and clergy) from all over Australia will travel to Hong Kong in October.

Bendigo Cursillo will be represented by Rodger O'Hara, our retired National Director (and the coordinator), who will be speaking on the fourth day and Susan Turner, the Lay Director for Bendigo and assistant Proctor, who will be speaking on faith.

The theme of the weekend is 'Fan into flame the gift that God has given you'. As a special welcome gift to Hong Kong Bendigo Cursillo will offer them a banner with FROG (Fully Rely On God) and lots of welcoming letters from our own Cursillistas (called palanca).

The venue for the Cursillo is on the island of Cheng Chaur in a Salesian Monastery. It's a 45 minute ferry ride from Hong Kong and a 20 minute walk (uphill) from the shore - there are no motorised vehicles on the island.

As something very different we will begin each day with Tai-Chi, led by Bishop Ian Palmer's wife, Liz. It may be something we can trial at our next three-day weekend.

Please keep us all in your thoughts and prayers and we look forward to sharing this amazing experience when we get back.

*St John's, Anglican Church, Heathcote  
invite you to join us for a*

**Quiet Day**  
*exploring Celtic Christian  
spirituality with celtic harpist and  
spiritual director Cath Conolly*

**Saturday, 10 November 2018  
10am - 4pm**

Drawing on connections to nature, a passion for learning, prayer, soul friends, music, art, poetry and pilgrimage, Celtic spirituality offers a deeply engaging way of relating to God. Spiritual director, retreat leader and professional Celtic harpist, Cath Connelly, will lead us as we explore the major themes of this form of Christian spirituality. The day will be reflective, experiential and informative. It will include harp music, meditation, input sessions and time for personal reflection.

**Cost:**  
\$25 (includes lunch and refreshments)

**For more information:**  
Contact the Revd Margaret Wesley:  
[heathcoteanglican@gmail.com](mailto:heathcoteanglican@gmail.com)  
Ph: 0424 214 924.

The day will be held on the property of Susan & Andrew Turner, on the Bendigo side of Heathcote. Directions will be sent when you book.

**Bookings:**  
<https://www.trybooking.com/YDEL>  
or by emailing Margaret.

You are also very welcome to join us in the evening at St John's, Heathcote, when Cath will entertain us with a Celtic Harp concert. Email us for more information.

Cath will stay on to give a Celtic harp concert in the church at 7pm. The concert will be a fund raiser for Bunbunarik Heathcote Children's Services Hub. \$20 early bird, then \$25 in November. Kids under 16 free.



# Singing around the world

Fay Magee

A few months ago we considered how we can join in the songs of previous generations, in fact over millennia, singing with the saints! The collection of songs in *Together in Song* also includes ones from parts of the Christian Church other than what we might call 'Anglo-European'. This is a way of reminding us of our 'global church' and even the multi-cultural nature of Anglicanism in Australia.

One way to search for these is to look for countries of origin in an index of *Authors, Translators and Sources of Words*. From Puerto Rico we have a short folk hymn (740) with text provided in English and the local Spanish, "O how good is Christ the Lord!" Three short songs from Argentina (723, 728, 775) provide a chance to sing a simple text in Spanish as well as English.

Songs from the African – American Spiritual tradition are probably more accessible and familiar (345, 511) but can still allow us to reflect on the spiritual journey of the slaves. Other songs from Africa have come to us in various ways. Tom Colvin and the people he knew in Ghana provide us with two great songs, "God sends us his Spirit" (412) and "Kneels at the feet of his friends" (640). Another song from Ghana (734) is a simple setting of the text *Kyrie eleison*. Many of these are easy to sing and best sung unaccompanied.

It may seem surprising that there are only two songs from the Australian indigenous communities (241, 253) which may sound strange to our 'Western ears' but which are worth learning. Alongside this is a text translated for a traditional Torres Strait melody (383) which is a celebration of Easter.

Closer to home, I wonder about how we can tap into and join in the songs which various migrant communities have brought to our country, particularly thinking of recent arrivals from South Sudan and the Karen people. Perhaps if you have representatives in your communities there could be songs we can learn for our mutual expressions of worshipping our God together.

# Giving thanks

*Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Alison Winn

It's so easy to give thanks to God when things are going well and life seems easy. The real challenge is remembering to thank God when we find ourselves in difficult circumstances.

I have been amazed at how God has allowed me and my family many opportunities to be able to give thanks to him since the passing of Stu. We don't know how many days, weeks or years God has planned for each of our lives and our family did not expect Stu to be called home to be with his heavenly father at the end of May.

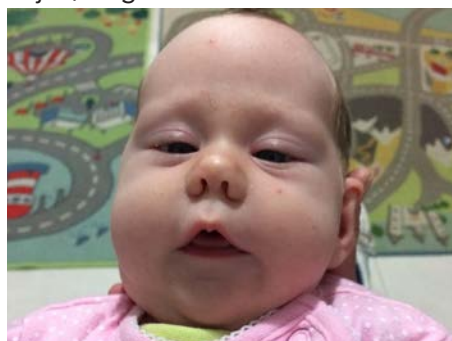
We are so thankful that we know Stu had a sure hope in Jesus' death on the cross and the promise of an eternal resting place with our heavenly father. We know that Stu's death is not final and that we will be reunited in God's timing.

We have been very thankful for the support we have received from our church family here in Mooropna and throughout the Diocese of Bendigo. I know that the last few months have been made easier for our family because of the many people who have been upholding our family in prayer. This has been especially apparent in our everyday lives and also as we have faced big changes, not only having Stu leave us, but also welcoming Norah into our family, and also as we seek God's guidance for the next chapter in our family's life.

We have also been overwhelmed by God's provision for us in the future through the generosity of gifts given by our church family in the diocese and



**Winn Family:** Alison and Stu with Elijah, Hugh and Jonathan



**Baby girl:** Norah Winn

further afield through the Winn Family Support Fund that has been set up by the diocese. We are so thankful to everyone who felt prompted by God to make a donation to assist our family.

We have also been greatly encouraged by the many cards and letters we received from people, to let us know they have been praying for us and also to share with us what Stu had meant to them.

We know that everything happens in God's timing, but we don't always understand why. Over the last few months we've been trying to understand God's timing for why he called Stu home. Although we may never fully understand on this side of heaven, our family will continue to thank God for his generous provision in our lives and the blessing Stu was in our lives.



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## Head to heart

Edward Barkla

**W**inter training often finds me in the shed on the stationary bike: it's not nice to be outside in unsavoury weather! This style of training is a great way to find out how well you have mastered the techniques and mental discipline to remain focused, because pedalling circles constantly is all you can do!

In the middle of one session, I realised I can have all the head knowledge of what's required to pedal smoothly with full rotations, but this has to be transferred to my feet consistently. The journey of transferring head information into body action in unity reminded me of the covenant God promised would be made in time to come:

*This is the covenant I will establish  
with the people of Israel  
after that time, declares the Lord.  
I will put my laws in their minds  
and write them on their hearts.  
I will be their God, and  
they will be my people.*

(Hebrews 8:10, citing Jeremiah 31.33)

Faith exercised in Christ sees this journey from the head to the heart open out. It's the application of Christ's cross, and sees us dying to self and made alive in Christ.

In my experience on the trainer, I came to appreciate that distractions come and go. They can cause us to waiver off tempo, even if just a little. We can lose the focus of the journey and often try too hard to think of the goal. How much longer before I reach my set target of time? Can I sustain the desired cadence of completing an effort fully?

By faith in Christ, we can trust in the moment, using this to move into the next moment with confidence that we are on a journey being made complete in Christ. "Now is the day of salvation now is the time of God's favour" (2 Corinthians 6.2).

Christ is our destiny, our ever present journey. In Christ we are never alone: never will the Lord leave us, never forsake us – even while doing those seemingly aimless cycles in the shed!

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

# clergycontemplations

The Revd Tracey Wolsley | Parish of Kangaroo Flat

## Spring is in the air

**S**pring is in the air. The blossom is beautiful, the wattle is spectacular and sunshine has appeared following a long period of seemingly cold, grey and dreary weather. Bring it on I say! Although, I really do give thanks for the seasons. Each arrives with welcome. After months of heat, I am glad for cooler weather and, after months of cooler weather, I am glad for the warmth.

Spring however, comes with great delight. The new buds on the plants emerge, flowers bloom and the bees buzz. It is such a beautiful time of flowers and growth. Just now, I

dormant wisteria will once again burst with leaves and send its tender new shoots out to coil around the posts.

Be patient. I need to heed the gentle reminders from nature that it is okay if I am not spectacular sometimes. Everyone needs time to re-coil, to lay low, to refrain from being on show or looking the best. I'm not sure how well we embrace those not so illustrious times though. Rather, too often I think we add pressure to ourselves and find ourselves sinking under the weight of unrealistic expectations loaded with 'you should' and, 'you must'.

In my own life I know there have definitely been times where I felt like Spring and revelled in the excitement of new life and ventures but, there

*"I need to heed the gentle reminders from nature  
that it is okay if I am not spectacular sometimes"*

passed by Rosalind Park in Bendigo this morning and saw the mass of tulips planted near the conservatory. At present they are just a few inches tall and consist of nothing but green leaves but I know, soon they will be masses of stunning flowers.

Within weeks however, I also know the flowers will have wilted and died and the Bendigo Council will be advertising a date for the bulbs to be dug up and interested persons to come along with bags in hand to collect and, for the mere price of \$5 take home a coveted collection of what will be next year's blooms.

Such is life and the cycle of life. If only I could remember in the winter, that spring will come again and, nothing blossoms all year round. Nature heralds valuable lessons just by its being. No wonder Jesus often referred to the birds of the air, the flowers of the fields and the seed that is sown.

Life itself teaches us, or seeks to teach us, important truths, like; be patient the sun will shine again, a new day will dawn, the blue wrens will return, the

have been as many times when I felt cocooned in darkness and afraid I'd never see the light again. To my surprise however, and by the grace of God, in His time, he brought me out a different person.

A new creation and, in hindsight, I see the wisdom even of the struggle to come out from what had then become a familiar, comfortable hiding place. I have to say it again - it is the circle of life.

The pattern of death and resurrection - it's etched into this journey called life and the challenge is to embrace it. To embrace the dark times and the times filled with glorious light, to embrace the dormant times and, the times bursting with new life, to embrace the relinquishing and, the taking up again. 'Tis the seasons of the Spirit.

All is included and God is in all and over all. Thanks be to God! May we each know God's presence in whatever season we are wandering through and may we each trust with each season that this is not the end. There always awaits us a glorious ending (which is our new beginning, and so it goes on!).

Captured on camera...



**Bloom:** The Revd Canon Dale Barclay snapped this photo of the roses beaming in the sunshine in the surrounds of St Mark's, Red Cliffs.

*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](mailto:thespirit@bendigoanglican.org.au)*

**R**ecent photographs of All Saints, Newstead, reveal that the large gum tree on the north side of the church has always been there and would predate the building. It's estimated that it's at least 300 years old, and probably predates white settlement of the area.

This is a salutary reminder to the people of Newstead that they are but custodians and are a part of the wider catholic church that reaches back to Christ - the cornerstone of our faith. It also thrusts us forward to the future with hope and joy.

Preparations are underway for the 150th anniversary celebrations on Sunday 11 November. The celebrations begin at 2.30pm with a street parade before Bishop Matt leads us all in the 150th anniversary Eucharist, celebrating the past, the present and the future of this tiny community of faith.



Steve Geyer



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June Andrew



#### Provincial Council

Friday, 12 October

#### Leitchville - 150th anniversary

Sunday, 21 October

#### St Paul's Cathedral Art Show

Friday, 26 October

#### Bible in the Bush Weekend

2 - 4 November, Red Cliffs

#### Diocesan Executive

Monday, 5 November

#### Newstead - 150th anniversary

Sunday, 11 November

#### St Paul's Cathedral - 150th anniversary

Celebrations from 11 - 18 November

#### Bishop in Council

Tuesday, 13 November

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