



Anglican Diocese
of Bendigo

The Spirit

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Inducted: Simon Robinson with Bishop Matt and parishioners of Mooroopna during the induction service

Mooroopna welcomes Simon Robinson as new rector

Ian Andrews

In 2003 Simon Robinson was an inquisitive visitor, and not very impressed or even interested in the Anglican tradition. Fast forward to 2019 and Simon has returned to us after 15 years in God's service and was inducted to Mooroopna Anglican Church as a changed man.

With great support from many ministers across the diocese and with Bishop Matt Brain presiding, Simon entered the 'Church @ the Canteen' with a famous Johnny Cash song *Ain't no Grave*.

This set the scene for an engaging night of celebration and worship as Simon shared his story of wrestling with God, hearing God's call to Mooroopna, and the transition from the Gannawarra Cluster.

As Simon spoke, he said he felt like he was returning to his spiritual home, but at the same time he was very conscious of the struggle to leave the Gannawarra people he had worked with and served for the last eight years.

During the service the singing and atmosphere was delightful as over 100 patrons joined together and worshiped the Lord with full voice and great cheer.

Simon and his wife Katrina were welcomed to Mooroopna by the Mayor, local clergy, and of course the people of Mooroopna Anglican Church. Bishop Matt then spoke of the wealth and well being we have here in Australia and of our need to be mindful of so many others less fortunate in this world, and in this great land of the Holy Spirit.

The supper after the service was a tremendous time of food and conversation, as people from across the diocese caught up with one another and were encouraged by everyone's enthusiasm for this next season in God.

Lots of prayer and lots of expectation is gathering to see what God might be calling us to be and do, in 2019 and beyond.

We give special thanks to Bishop Matt for being with us, and for looking out for us both practically and spiritually, over the last 12 months.

Thanks also to those who helped with preparations for the evening. It was one of those very inspiring nights that we all need, to remind us of the grace and goodness of God!

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The Bishop writes

....and tweets  @MattBrain1

The Spirit

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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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May issue: Contributions due by **Friday 19 April.**

Dear friends,

As 2019 has rolled on we have faced numerous challenges to how we view ourselves as Australians. We like to think of ourselves as relaxed folk who value equality and a fair go. Sometimes we manage to pull it off! Yet it seems that this year we have been constantly reminded that there are cracks in our world that we cannot just paper over.

Whether it be small and personal concerns like trolls abusing people over their social media feeds or photos, or the large and shocking shootings in Christchurch which resulted in the deaths of so many, we are struggling to reconcile what we think of ourselves with how we (and our fellows) are acting.

Easter gives us a time to ask difficult questions of ourselves, because it is a time when we see the dreadful reality of unjust and undeserved suffering being confronted and dispatched. It gives a chance for these questions to be asked of us as a nation, but also as individuals. We often see Easter through the lens of a holiday, time with family and friends, and indulgence in rich food. Yet, the naked abuse of strength and power lies at Easter's very heart.

Jesus' death was an unjust death. He did nothing to deserve to die, those charged with social responsibility to protect the vulnerable and innocent did nothing to help him (indeed they conspired to allow the abuse to progress), and he was forced into the worst of suffering. We are so familiar

with the crucifixion story that we miss the double horror it contains. First, the demeaning pain unto death endured by the sufferer. Second, the injustice of it all. Jesus had spent his adult life restoring life and giving an insight into God that only God-self could provide. This is hardly the warrant for a cruel execution.

But Jesus' suffering was not his alone. It confronted the unjust actions of the powerful, and even though I did not participate in the decisions leading to his death it also captured my culpability in this messed up world. It was not the governor Pontius Pilate alone who pronounced a sentence, but in doing so he became my figurehead. The one who gave action to my own participation in a world that does not consistently live up to all it is called to be, even if my own contribution was not so stark and visible as others.

Yet the opportunity in Easter, in owning my own part in Jesus' death is to contemplate God's confrontation of this evil. God both confronted evil and provided the step ahead, for this death was not ultimate. Easter includes a death, but it concludes with a resurrection. Jesus was raised from this unjust death; the tomb could only hold him for three meagre days.

Sometimes our inclination is to rush into times of celebration to gloss over the difficult and hurtful world we inhabit. Avoiding painful reflection is certainly attractive because who of us wants to be pained? However, avoiding the dreadful reality hidden at the heart of Easter actually short-changes us. It is like feeding children sugar (or Easter eggs) when they are hungry. It will stave off the pangs for a while but will not provide lasting satisfaction.

Friends, as we struggle with what it means to be an active participant in this world may I encourage you to do three things as you munch your Easter eggs.

Be honest where you contribute to the broken world within which we live. It is easy to push responsibility for wrong onto others who have failed more spectacularly than one's self. However, the reality is that we each contribute, whether in small ways or large, and Jesus' confronting death places this before our very eyes.

Look to the consequence of this failure to love others and love God as seen in Jesus. While Jesus' death achieves the opportunity for peace in a way that my own or ours collectively cannot, his is emblematic of the effects of failure to love that is seen each day in small and large ways. To ponder the unjustness of Jesus' death should drive us to grieve over the effects of our smaller, more domesticated acts of lovelessness.

But to then embrace the opportunity for life in following the one who rose again because he came (in words of John 10:10) to bring 'life and life to the full'. We often view life and growth in personal and individual terms; what is good for me. For one who has embraced the redemption by God that Jesus' own death and resurrection achieved, 'life and life to the full' finds joy in seeing others become all that God created them to be. I wonder what our nation would be like if we embraced the freedom that comes from being swept up in the life won by Jesus at Easter. It would certainly be much less anxious!

Matt

Vigil held for Christchurch

Sarah Crutch

In the wake of the events in Christchurch, New Zealand the Bendigo community came together for a Vigil of Sorrow and Solidarity at St Paul's Cathedral.

Over 200 people gathered for prayer and silence in recognition of the pain inflicted on the Muslim community both in New Zealand and in Bendigo.

Dean Elizabeth Dyke led the vigil together with Mr Atalla of the Bendigo Islamic Association, Monsignor Frank Marriott of the Bendigo Interfaith Council and Mayor Marg O'Rourke.

"Jesus tells us to weep with those who weep, and mourn with those who mourn, and that's exactly what we'll be doing tonight," Dean Elizabeth said.

People of all faiths participated in the Vigil which used the Coventry Litany of Reconciliation.

A statement from the Bendigo Islamic Association encouraged the community to stay together and thanked the Bendigo community for its support.

"So let us stay united in peace at this difficult time and do all that we can to prevent this from happening again. It is not only a sad time for Muslims but for humanity."

"We sincerely thank all of the religious groups, organisations and individuals who have offered their prayers and support to Christchurch and the broader Muslim Community."



Photo: The Bendigo Advertiser



Lent: Students participate in the Ash Wednesday service

Students commemorate Ash Wednesday

Tim Bowles

After enjoying the edible tradition of pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, Moama Anglican Grammar began the season of Lent with a solemn commemoration of Ash Wednesday.

It was another step in our school community looking to the story of Jesus and learning what it means to be the people of God.

We were joined by the Revd George Hemmings from Christ Church Anglican Echuca for the 'giving of the Ashes'. Students received the sign of the cross as a commitment to change and to be better than we sometimes are. Come the end of the day and

these symbols were gone or merely a smudge, such is the pace of life when you are young and busy.

But, these modest marks were by no means simple, but represent an open response to self-reflection, confession and a reminder that God is kind, compassionate and welcomes us with forgiveness.

For young people our world is constantly casting shade and can be confusing, full of joy and then the next moment presenting another challenge. Through the rhythm of the church year our school community is constantly drawn back to Jesus helping us discover who we are made to be.



Shrove Tuesday: Moama Anglican Grammar's pancake day

Eddington Cottage

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The diocese is fortunate to have a modern holiday house in Point Lonsdale for use by clergy and parishioners.



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www.eddingtoncottage.com.au to find out more information, view the bookings calendar and plan your next weekend away.

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You can also read *The Spirit* on our website (www.bendigoanglican.org.au) or on issuu.com.

Just search for 'Anglican Diocese of Bendigo'.



Presentation: MU members presented with membership scrolls

Mothers Union celebrates Lady Day

Ronda Gault

Lady Day on Monday, 18 March was a fantastic day for Mothers Union and Caritas members as 110 of them gathered at Holy Trinity to celebrate the Annunciation to Mary.

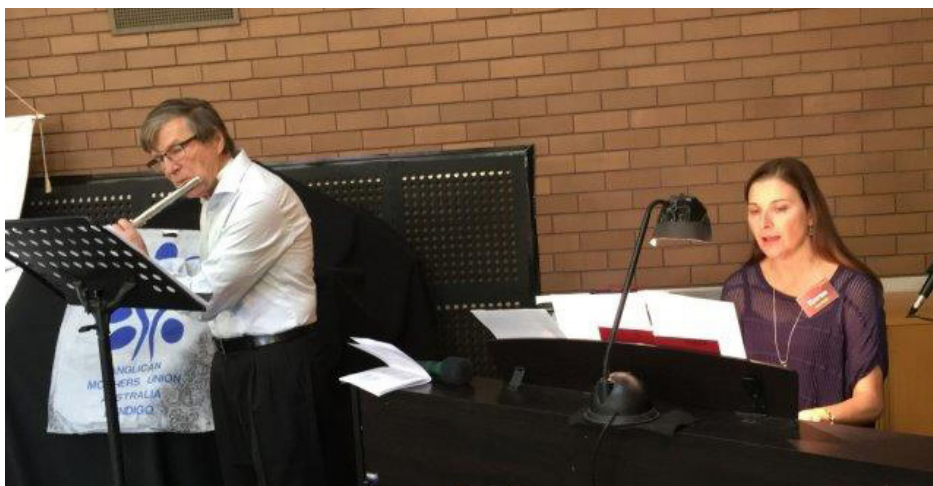
The beautiful service was prepared by our chaplain the Revd Linda Osmond with Karen Harris on piano and Peter Monsbrough on the flute sharing their musical talents with us for the hymn singing.

We were delighted to have Bishop Matt and Rachael Brain join us for the day. Bishop Matt preached during the service and after lunch they both shared their perspectives on the world wide theme for Mothers Union: listens observes and acts, known as 'MULOA'. It was encouraging for Mothers Union to be reminded to listen, observe and act as individuals, and as a diocese.

One special highlight of the service was the presentation of five 60 years membership scrolls and two 50 years membership scrolls. These were presented by Bishop Matt and President Leone Tress. Another highlight was the buzz of fellowship in the air, with much catching up prior to the service and again during the lunch break, at the publications stall and again before we headed for home.

A retiring collection over lunch raised over \$200 which is to go towards replenishing Mothers Union Australia's Disaster Fund from which North Queensland dioceses have required much support in this early part of the year.

We give thanks to the people of Holy Trinity South East Bendigo, and of course Archdeacon Greg Harris, for facilitating Lady Day at Holy Trinity and also for his participation in our service.



Music: Peter Monsbrough and Karen Harris

Echuca's Psalms project brings out creativity in parishioners

George Hemmings

The Parish of Christ Church Echuca recently launched the Psalms Project - an invitation for everyone to read one Psalm per day.

Along with reading the Psalms as part of their individual time with God, the invitation has been for people to read all or just part of the Psalm for the day whenever they gather together, formally or informally.

To deepen reflection on the Psalms members of the Parish have been contributing artworks and even songs to go with some of the Psalms. There has been more than one creative talent that has been unearthed in the process!

The project has been warmly embraced by the people of Christ Church, with lots of conversations happening over morning tea on a Sunday as people share how they've been going with the Psalms.



Art: Psalm One by Sarah Hemmings

The group aspect has also been well adopted, with the Psalms being read at Bible studies, with children at mainly music, Parish Council meetings and even when folk just get together for coffee.

Some members of the parish have even been bold in sharing the Psalms with clients, neighbours and the wider community!

Safe Church Awareness Workshops

Refresher Workshops

9.30am - 12.30pm

- Saturday, 11 May at Christ Church, Echuca
- Saturday, 15 June at Holy Trinity, Flora Hill
- Saturday 21 September at Holy Trinity, Flora Hill

Full Workshops

9.30am - 4.00pm

- Saturday, 6 April at Holy Trinity, Flora Hill
- Saturday, 15 June at Holy Trinity, Flora Hill
- Saturday, 3 August at Holy Trinity, Flora Hill
- Saturday, 9 November at Holy Trinity, Flora Hill

Registration is through the diocesan website:

www.bendigoanglican.org.au
Safe Church > Workshops

In depth: Holy Week Blessing of Oils & Renewal of Vows

Dean Elizabeth Dyke

The Renewal of Vows and Blessing of Oils will take place at St Paul's Cathedral on Monday, 15 April at 11.00am. Clergy and laity are invited to participate in this service.

But what is this service all about and why do we do it? I found an answer on the Church of England website:

When Peter acknowledged Jesus as 'the Christ' (Mark 8.29), he was recognising him as the 'Anointed One' of God: Christos in Greek, Messiah in Hebrew. The title that had once belonged to the anointed kings of Israel is now conferred on Jesus, who was anointed by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at his baptism in the river Jordan (cf Acts 10.38). As Jesus received baptism at John's hands, his true identity was revealed.



Our own baptism is the sacramental sign of our union with Christ, and of God's gift to us of his Holy Spirit, to make us God's children by adoption and grace, and to equip us for the share that all Christians have in Christ's own ministry. The New Testament speaks of this gift of the Holy Spirit as an anointing (1 John 2.20-27; 2 Corinthians 1.21-22).

From an early date, it became customary to trace the sign of the cross in oil on the

heads of candidates for baptism, and to anoint them again after baptism with the perfumed oil of chrism - a sign of incorporation into the prophetic, priestly and royal life of Jesus Christ. At the same time, the Letter of James urges its recipients to anoint the sick with oil (James 5.15), as a sign of the healing and forgiveness that are also given through the Holy Spirit (cf Mark 6.13).

These are the biblical roots of the ancient custom of using oils in the life of the Church, and of the three particular oils - of catechumens, of the sick, and of chrism - that are prepared in the Chrism Eucharist. The Chrism Eucharist is also an occasion for the renewal of commitment to ministry. As the priests gathered around their bishop to receive the oils to take back to their parishes they should renew their commitment to serve Christ.

I look forward to sharing this liturgy with laity and clergy in my first Holy Week in Bendigo.

Around the Diocese

English Conversation Workshop at the Cathedral



We have been trialing an English conversation course on Saturday mornings at the Cathedral this year and have found it to be of great benefit and encouragement to our Dinka and Karen people.

If you have similar needs in your parish and would like to know more about this course, a workshop is being held with the author of the course Mrs Cheryl Reid on Wednesday 10 April 2019 from 1.00pm – 3.00pm in the Anderson Room in the Cathedral hall.

The course is called the Beacon Media Literacy Program and has been used extensively overseas. Cheryl has kindly made this course available free.

- Roger Rich

Learn: Cathedral parishioners assist with English courses

Golden Square asks: What will you take on for Lent?

As part of Lent, the Parish of Golden Square have asked the pertinent question: what will you take on for Lent?

As part of this, the parish has started adding contributions to a banner that hangs on the church fence facing the passing traffic. The messages of love, peace and hope are on display to capture the attention of any passers by and welcome them to join in the celebrations at Easter time.

The banner will be completed once Easter arrives - can you guess what it will say?

- Glenda Templer



ESTATE PLANNING & WILLS INFORMATION SESSION

With guest presenter, lawyer Russell Robertson of O'Farrell Robertson McMahon Lawyers; this information session will cover estate and inheritance planning, wills, probate and gifting. Russell will answer your questions to help prepare you for future transitions.

Wednesday 8 May, registration from 10.00am, start at 10.30am

Find out more/register now:

Phone Peter Burt on 9412 6197 or Elaine Boyle on 9412 6198 or

email: eps@anglicarevic.org.au. Morning tea provided. Registrations close 1 May, 2019



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Russell Robertson

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Around the Parishes

Shrove Tuesday in St Arnaud

For our pancake meal we had savoury pancakes along with some pancakes with maple syrup or sugar and lemon juice.

What better way to finish off a pancake meal for Shrove Tuesday than chocolate cake followed by fruit salad and ice-cream.

All that is behind us now and no one is allowed to offer the rector cake or biscuits until Easter!

- Jan Harper



Delicious: Cake for dessert enjoyed by St Arnaud parishioners

Cathedral Kids Holiday Club



Fun: the Cathedral Kids Holiday Club a success

As we gear ourselves up for another holiday club event, we would like to extend an invitation to other parishes who might not be able to run a similar program during Holy Week.

The Holiday Club will run from:

Tuesday 16 - Thursday 18 April from 9.00 am – 12noon

Children between the ages of 6 and 15 are welcome to attend. The program will be looking at some of the ways God speaks to us and will include DVD's, music, games and food.

Younger siblings are welcome to attend as long as they are accompanied by an adult.

For more information contact the Cathedral Parish Office.

- Roger Rich

Divinely Scattered
CMS Victoria Mission Focus Dinner
Bendigo

Saturday 11th May 2019 @ 6:00pm
Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Flora Hill
\$15 for Individuals // \$35 for Families
Register: cms.org.au/BendigoDinner2019

God is moving university students around His world, and as He does many are hearing the good news. Join us as we hear from CMS workers about how God is at work in Asia.

CMS

Park to Park tour for Make a Wish

Edward Barkla

On Friday, 13 January 2012, Roger and Andrea Fuller together with their son Zac lost their son Bailey who was just eight years old. Bailey would have had a wish with Make-A-Wish but never got the chance.

A fundraising ride named 'Bay's Wish - Park to Park Tour' for the Make a Wish Foundation in honour of Bailey (known as 'Bay') was held starting on 2 March. The ride was 1200kms over six days from Bendigo to Ballarat, Halls Gap to Port Fairy, Apollo Bay to Torquay, Geelong and Benalla to Bright, with an aim to raise \$20,000.

I was blessed to be invited to ride in the team as the cycling pastor. On past occasions we usually asked the Lord for a word from His Scriptures and felt that Jude 1: 20 - 25 was for this time.

It wasn't long out of Bendigo before we were in a steep climb getting over the North Harcourt Gap and some team members were placed under duress. One informed me that he usually had to get off and walk at some point. A key part in climbing is being able to keep your breathing, as once your breathing is lost so are your legs - not unlike the quote of Oswald Chambers and prayer; "Prayer is the breath of God returning from whence it came".

God allowed us to come beside our team members to gently speak encouragement to still their breathing. The breath of God was at work for the many prayers we had prayed in preparation to be "implicit in our trust that it was God who was at work in us". The rider didn't have to get off the bike and walk, riding with increasing confidence over the crest.

The good Lord continued to be gentle across the week. We could see His hand over the safety to the group, the timing of being at the right place all in God's time and providence as the team raised around \$60,000. The ride continued to be the testimony of God's amazing grace and mercy in all ways.

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



Commemorate: Kangaroo Flat marks the first Anglican service

St Mary's Kangaroo Flat celebrates the first Anglican service

Tracey Wolsley

The people at St Mary's Kangaroo Flat recently celebrated the anniversary of the first Anglican church service on 3 February 1788 in the Colony of New South Wales.

At the 9.00 am Sunday service parishioners came dressed in period costume and brought along an amazing collection of old Bibles, prayer books, hymn books and wedding certificates. The oldest Bible was from 1782, there was a wedding certificate from 1765, a hymn book for 1863 and a prayer book from 1846.

The Revd Tracey Wolsley led the service using the 1662 Order of Service for Holy Communion from The Book of Common Prayer with Bible passages on the day read from the Authorised King James Version and some good old classic hymns were sung.

During the service Tracey spoke about the ministry of Richard Johnson, a chaplain who was handpicked to come to Australia on the First Fleet.

Richard became the pioneer of education in New South Wales and was concerned for the education of all children - whether they belong to convicts or to freemen. By 1792, he had set up schools.



Display: A collection of historic items

He set up a fund to care for orphans, and when the Second Fleet arrived with hundreds of sick and dying convicts on board, he went on to provide care for those in need. Richard worked tirelessly to do all within his power to present the news of Jesus to every man, woman and child.

At the first service he conducted in Sydney Cove Johnson preached from Psalm 116; "What shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits to me?"

Two centuries later, it is still pertinent that we be asked the same question: "What shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits to me?"

Wise: Bishop launches new book

Sarah Crutch

Wise is the latest book written by Bishop Matt Brain which aims to assist those in pastoral ministry make good decisions when they find themselves in unfamiliar situations.

The book was launched by Archbishop Philip Freier at St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne in early March following Evensong.

"We get wise by learning from others" Archbishop Philip said. "I'm sure this is going to be very accessible and useful for many people," he added.

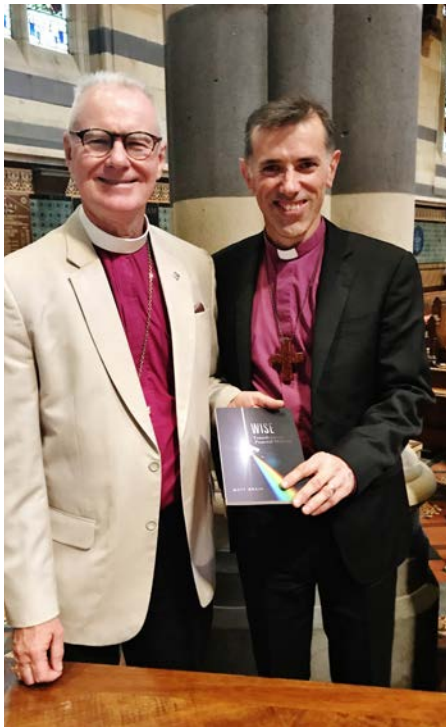
Bishop Matt shared some of the experiences that informed his writing, which began several years ago while lecturing at St Mark's Theological College.

"The motivation for writing this was when, having gone a couple of laps around the block and learning a few skills in trying to help people minister, I suddenly realised there are things that you can never get taught at college," he said.

"The process behind making a decision becomes important: what's a good way of making reliable decisions that reflect not only the mind of God but the reality that I find myself in, given that I couldn't learn this at college?"

Narelle Barbarino of the publishing company Morning Star was also in attendance and was pleased to support Bishop Matt in his Christian writing.

"We seek to nurture Australian Christian writers...so that important stories are told and resources that build the Church are given voice," Narelle said.



Launched: Archbishop Philip Freier with Bishop Matt Brain

The book is available online from Morning Star publishing and Koorong bookstore.

Wise: Transforming Pastoral Ministry
Even the best college cannot prepare their students for the full range of challenges a pastor is called upon to navigate in the course of their ministry. As we experience more of what it means to be a pastor, we need to keep honing our pastoral skill so that we do not become dull. Wise will help to raise the capacity of experienced ministers and ministry academics to make fitting (wise) pastoral decisions across any context. It is intended to be a primer or handbook introducing a decision-making process that is attentive to the various pastoral contexts we minister in and an expression of authentic Christianity.

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More about today's music

Fay Magee

What are the features of the best of the new songs for congregational singing? Well, this question can go back a long way but for the moment it is useful to consider the beginnings of the 'hymn explosion' in the middle of the last century.

This was a broad term for several pockets of activity, some looking at newer more popular musical settings, others looking at the texts, according to their skills and interests. This was happening at a time when liturgical experimentation was beginning, amid new ecumenical activity and the charismatic movement, and topped off with the outcomes of Vatican II.

Now, many decades later, when we look at the songs that each one of us knows, we might be surprised how different they can be in your group, particularly where they have come from and how they have been part of our individual faith experience. For our Sunday worship we can choose almost any sort of song – pop, folk, rock, short chant, classic hymn text to an older tune or a newer tune.

One important feature of recent compositions is new settings of the psalms. These ancient texts were meant to be sung and they have inspired many musicians. Being translated from the Hebrew means the structures require special attention to rhythm and melody. So, this is how we end up with the older Anglican chant and now similar types of chants and settings. For most psalms there is a response which is usually straightforward for all to sing.

If your congregation doesn't have a singer trained to be a cantor and sing the verses, it's still possible to enjoy singing the response while the rest of the psalm may be read. One great setting for Psalm 23 is by Joseph Gelineau, a French Catholic Jesuit priest and composer, mainly of modern Christian liturgical music.

Melbourne's own Christopher Willcock continues to compose and there are fine examples in *Together in Song* including Number 22, a setting of Psalm 34.



Community Connections

Karen Community welcomes new chaplain to serve at St Paul's Cathedral

Elizabeth Dyke

The Cathedral is blessed to have a significant number of Karen Christians in our 11am congregation. They bring a richness and diversity to the worship and fellowship that we share, despite some difficulties with the language and culture of Australian Anglicanism.

Since the beginning of December, with assistance from a Trust grant, the Cathedral has been able to employ a Community Worker for the Karen community. The Revd Baw Mu Htoo has come to us from Melbourne Diocese, a new priest and known to many in the Karen community here already. He, along with his wife Bee and their five children, have relocated to Bendigo and are making themselves part of the wider community.

Baw Mu Htoo brings many gifts to this role: his Karen culture, deep faith and gentle nature, enabling him to come alongside people and share their journey. He is currently engaged three days per week, focussing on building relationships, encouraging individuals, assisting with navigating the secular agencies and providing a link between the Karen congregational members and the Cathedral leadership. He



Welcome: The Revd Baw Mu Htoo

assists with the children's Saturday programme and with new English-speaking classes. Baw Mu Htoo is also gathering a group for Confirmation later this year.

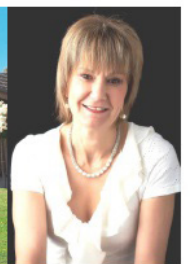
I am looking forward to the day when the Cathedral can employ Baw Mu Htoo full time, for ordained ministry alongside his community worker role. To do this, we need the support of others to partner in funding him. If you would like to join with us in this, please contact the Dean or Cathedral office for details.



Steve Geyer



Napier Park Funerals, Bendigo



June Andrew

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Meet Simba: Simba Musvamhiri, his wife Helen and daughter Thembi and son Vusa.

Beginning ministry in Tatura: reflections from Simba

Simba Musvamhiri

My family and I would like to thank God for making it possible to move to Tatura. Although it was emotionally difficult to leave the church in Canberra, God has given us a wonderful new spiritual family in Tatura.

Each Sunday, I continue to lead services, and preach the word of God. It's been a privilege to listen to people's stories and journeys and to learn about their families, relationships, faith, joys and sicknesses whilst seeing their love for God.

All Saints Tatura has a special place in many people's hearts among the community. I have been moved by people's faithfulness and commitment to the parish life despite the challenges of age and for some health and mobility.

There is a strong desire among the congregation to attract young families and to see more people in the community come to faith in Jesus. I have also been blessed by joining with other clergy for advice, encouragement and prayer in the Campaspe Deanery.

I have visited many parishioners and non-parishioners in hospital and nursing homes and appreciated the opportunity to share the gospel with those who do not yet know Jesus.

A beautiful encounter...

I was visiting a parishioner regularly in hospital and was introduced to another patient, Milton (not his real name) who rarely had visitors. Milton was a robust man, polite and respectful but didn't want a conversation beyond 60 seconds. I kept waving and smiling at him every time I visited. I didn't know God was working in his heart.

A few weeks later I received an urgent phone call that Milton wanted to see "that Anglican minister." When I walked in, he burst into tears and told me that he was so glad I came. He revealed to me all the things he had done wrong to other people from the time he was a little boy, and repeatedly told me that he had disobeyed God all his life. He was fearful of going to hell. It was the longest confession I had ever heard - the Holy Spirit himself had indeed convicted this man. He said it all, in tears and believing his time on this earth was up.

I took that opportunity to present the simple gospel message, that if he simply believed in Jesus' finished work on the cross, God would accept him right away. Milton's heart was ready. I guided and led him in a prayer of repentance. That afternoon Milton trusted in Jesus and became a Christian. It was a Thursday afternoon, as I left I committed to bring holy communion to him on Sunday and he was looking forward to it.

Alas, our meeting did not happen. Milton passed away on the Saturday – but he did not leave this earth in fear, he left with the assurance of God's love having put his trust in Jesus as his Lord and Saviour. What a joy to witness God's saving grace and the beautiful encounter of the Holy Spirit.

In these past four months, I have introduced myself to community groups in the town, participated in prayer at the local Australia Day Community Event and am a regular volunteer at the Blue Light Disco.

I have officiated at three funerals for the community and have ministered to many non-parishioners about the hope we have in Jesus during their time of grief.

I look forward to preaching God's Word and seeing the Holy Spirit move powerfully in Tatura in the coming months and years. I believe that God is opening doors for new ministry opportunities in the town and humbly ask for your prayers in this.

As we seek to love Jesus and our community, may we honour God and be guided by the Holy Spirit in all that we do.

Cruising to St Mary's Woodend



Scenic drive: Members of the SS Owners Club of Victoria visited St Mary's in Woodend as part of their day cruise around the Macedon Ranges. The group couldn't resist taking advantage of the great photo opportunity that the sweeping driveway and historic church building provides.



Ordination

2.00 pm, 7 April at Tatura

Blessing of Oils service

11.00 am, 15 April at St Paul's Cathedral

Good Friday

19 April

Easter Day

21 April

Clergy Conference

29 April - 1 May, Echuca

Diocesan Executive

Monday, 6 May

Bishop in Council

Tuesday, 14 May

Got an event coming up?

Send the details to
thespirit@bendigoanglican.org.au

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More details to come

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