



Anglican Diocese
of Bendigo

The Spirit

monthly

may 2019

issue 145



Dance: Simba Musvamhiri joins with the women's choir from the Zimbabwean Anglican Fellowship of Melbourne to celebrate

Ordination celebrated with drums and dance in Tatura

Sarah Crutch

Karen Reid and Simba Musvamhiri were ordained by Bishop Matt on Sunday, 7 April at an uplifting service held locally in All Saints, Tatura.

Karen was ordained a deacon having recently completed studies at Ridley College and will minister in the Parish of South East Bendigo, while Simba will continue in Tatura now as a priest, having been leading the local congregation since October 2018.

Elizabeth Dyke gave Karen and Simba three particular encouragements in her sermon as she preached to the congregation.

"Firstly, take Jesus as your pattern.... secondly, make sure you keep Jesus at the centre... thirdly, wait for the Lord of the harvest to bring fruit to your labours in his good time," she said.

"Remember that God, who began a good work in you, will faithfully bring it to completion."

A highlight of the service was a rousing dance performance by the women's choir from the Zimbabwean Anglican Fellowship of Melbourne who attended in support of Simba.

The group used the beat of traditional African drums to give the service a lively conclusion, with Simba proudly dancing along with them in a genuine expression of his joy at being ordained for God's service.

Read more about the ordinands on page three.

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The Bishop writes

....and tweets  @MattBrain1

The Spirit

Monthly newsmagazine
of the Anglican Diocese
of Bendigo

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June/July issue: Contributions due **Friday 24 May**.

There is a 'Brain family legend' from my pre-school days in which I had shut myself inside the rather large letterbox and greeted the postie through the slot for the letters. Needless to say, he was rather surprised. I cannot actually remember the occasion but am assured it did happen, and it seems that I rather enjoyed the experience.

However, being a fair bit larger now, my thoughts go immediately to the sense of confinement and constriction that being cooped up in a small space brings. Have you ever had the experience of being 'inside'?

Today there are many people kept 'inside' Victoria's prisons. Unlike the pre-school me they did not choose to be there but like the 'grown-up' me, whether they deserve to be there or not, being 'inside' comes with a profound sense of being constricted. This sense is not only physical, but it is also a constriction of the heart or soul. It is difficult to underestimate the vulnerability and isolation that a prisoner experiences. Sadly, this vulnerability will continue even after release. Even if it is just that a person is imprisoned, the reality is that it amplifies many of the weaknesses we all share.

This is why I am so glad that we are able to provide chaplains to help tend to the spiritual and pastoral needs of those inside the four adult prisons and one youth detention centre in our diocese. These are part

of the 16 adult prisons and two youth detention centres in Victoria, and we have the privilege of collaborating with Anglicare to place Anglican chaplains 'inside'. Numbers of adults incarcerated in prison reached an all time high in late 2018 with figures of sentenced and remanded prisoners moving beyond 8,000. Friends, that is quite a congregation!

In serving 'inside' our chaplains have baptised new Christians, prayed with many, distributed hundreds of bibles, conducted bible studies and worship services, held memorial services and done even more praying. In our diocese alone, our teams have spent between one and two thousand hours behind the walls with those who must be 'inside'. Oh, and did I say that they listen...and listen.

The nature of ministry in prisons is that it is hidden. The demands of being present within a highly secure and restricted space means that only a few of us can ever witness the day-to-day ministry our chaplains provide. Similarly the need to be very careful about the pastoral interactions with prisoners means that our chaplains cannot talk freely about the details of what they do when 'outside'. The sad reality is that this hidden ministry can also become a forgotten one.

We would be a poorer church without Anglican Criminal Justice Ministry, without the ministry provided by chaplains 'inside'. This is because their ministry is a direct reflection of God's concern for the vulnerable. In

scripture we are constantly reminded that God's heart is for those in dire need. We see God step in and save the Israelites from being under the thumb of slavery. The new nation that was to be formed and given freedom in the Promised Land was to be a just place where the strong and powerful used their position and capacity to lift up and honour the weak and vulnerable.

Later we hear the prophets railing against the powerful leaders of the day who had ridden rough-shod over those in need. Indeed, this was one of the reasons given for Israel and Judah's eventual exile from the Promised Land. And in Jesus we see (and hear) God draw those in need to himself. To be a church that does not care for those 'inside' is to be a church which has lost its alignment with God's own heart.

This month we are celebrating 'Anglican Criminal Justice Ministry Sunday'. Many of our parishes will have planned particular ways of marking this on Sunday, 19 May. But can I encourage you to make this part of your regular prayers. For our chaplains – that they may minister with courage, grace, patience and Christ-like lives. For those 'inside' – that in spite of punishment they might find life and hope in Jesus. For our churches – that we will be ready to accept those who were once 'inside' but are now out into our midst...even if it may be a little messy.

tlatt



Ordained: Karen Reid and Simba Musvamhiri following their ordination with Bishop Matt surrounded by fellow clergy

Meet the newly ordained clergy beginning their ministry

Karen Reid

Karen Reid has been welcomed to the diocese in the Parish of South East Bendigo, commencing at the beginning of March.

Karen graduated from Ridley College in 2016 and after a long period of discernment and reflection she's really excited that God had opened this door for a move to Bendigo.

Karen's a proud country girl, growing up on a farm in the Snowy Mountains. She's been working for over a decade now as a physiotherapist, most recently in Echuca. Her interests include cricket, tennis, movies, reading and playing guitar.

Karen will have co-responsibility for the leadership and pastoral care of the Family and Evening services and will look to establish a women's ministry in the parish. Her hope is that the people of the parish will grow together in authenticity, faithfulness and confidence of God's goodness, and thus engage our lost neighbours in the light, love and life found only in Jesus.



Deaconed: Karen Reid



Priested: Simba Musvamhiri

Simba Musvamhiri

Simba was ordained a priest after being deaconed in December 2018, having moved to Tatura from Canberra in October.

Simba has had the privilege of sharing the gospel with many people in different countries, cities and cultures. Before entering Christian ministry, he trained and worked as a boiler maker.

He worked for the evangelism mission agency African Enterprise Kenya and Zimbabwe for several years. He was also an associate Pastor in a multi-cultural urban congregation in Namibia (southern Africa) before moving to Australia where he served as an Assistant minister at St Barnabas Anglican Church, West Leederville in Perth.

Before joining the Diocese of Bendigo, Simba was the lead pastor of Cornerstone Christian Church in Canberra for just over three years.

He is now enjoying living in beautiful Tatura, proclaiming the good news of Jesus at All Saints, Tatura.

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, 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



The Spirit online!

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Just search for 'Anglican Diocese of Bendigo'.



Blessing of Oils: The oils of catechumens, chrism and for the sick and dying

Clergy renew ordination vows

Sarah Crutch

Once again the clergy have gathered at the beginning of Holy Week to renew their ordination vows and participate in the blessing of oils.

Bishop Matt and Dean Elizabeth led the service, attended by current and retired clergy along with several lay people and a group of Karen parishioners of the Cathedral, with anointing with oil being of high importance in their culture.

Preaching on John 12: 1 – 11 where Mary pours a years' worth of wages in perfume onto Jesus' feet, Bishop Matt focused on the basic question that is embedded in this story, and in Jesus' life: "how do you respond to me?"



Music: Bishop Matt on guitar

"As we recommit ourselves to Christ... we are faced with that same question – how do you respond to me?"

"Friends we have a treasure that the world can only dream of and we are the only people who are able to hold that treasure out to a world that is lost in the love of itself."

"How will we be like Mary - who poured out so much, that seemed like such a waste - yet she's the one who's remembered wherever the gospel of Jesus Christ is proclaimed."



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Play space: The new playground will provide a place for new families to enjoy

New playground opened at Huntly to provide play space for families

Libby Alexander

A new playground at St Clement's, Huntly, dedicated in the name of toddler Ted Naylor, was officially opened on Sunday, 31 March.

The whole parish and local community celebrated the opening which not only creates a place for the community's children to play, but remembers young Ted Naylor.

Ted was a member of the True North community who died at 20 months of age. Prior to his unexpected death, Ted used to spend Monday mornings at the St Clement's playgroup with his grandmother Margaret Naylor.

The playground project began following the establishment of a playgroup by the Revd Suzannah Daniels in an attempt to reach out

to the new families in the growing Huntly area.

To support this initiative the Parish of Bendigo North then embarked on an ambitious project to build a playground in an attempt to create a welcoming space for local families to enjoy.

Earlier in February the parish welcomed back the Revd Gordon Lingard to officiate at the baptism of Iris Naylor, the younger sister of Ted Naylor and the beloved granddaughter of Phil and Margaret Naylor who, from the onset, have been part of rejuvenating St Clement's.

It is our hope that the playgroup and playground enable us to reach out and share God's love with the many young families and children in the Huntly area.

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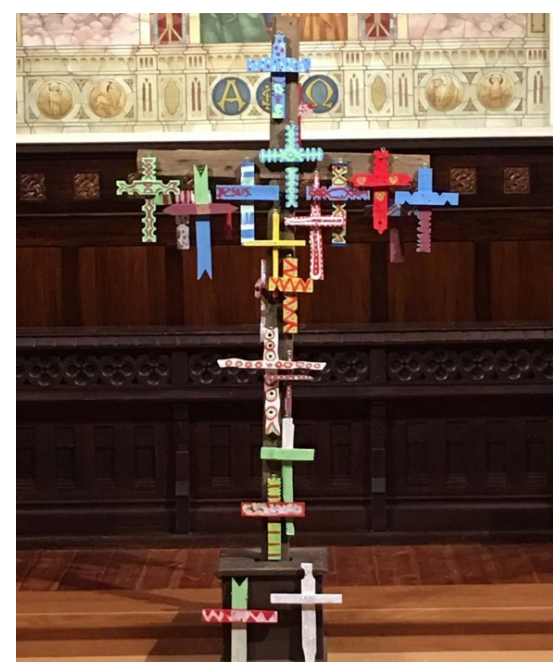
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Celebrating Easter...



Maryborough: Easter vigil



Cathedral: Woodwork crosses for Good Friday



Bealiba: Ian Lovel cooks a hot breakfast following the dawn service



Bealiba: Christ was risen indeed and so was the sun



Woodend: Mel Clark with Alice Van Dam

...around the Diocese



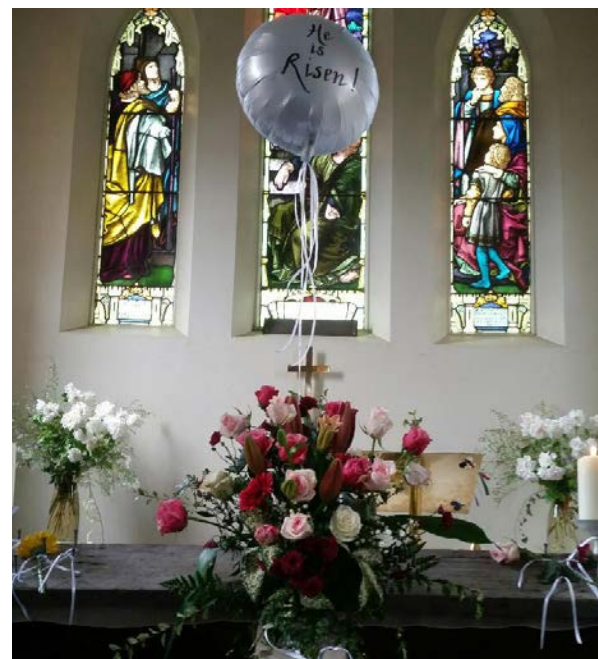
Bealiba: Light of Christ



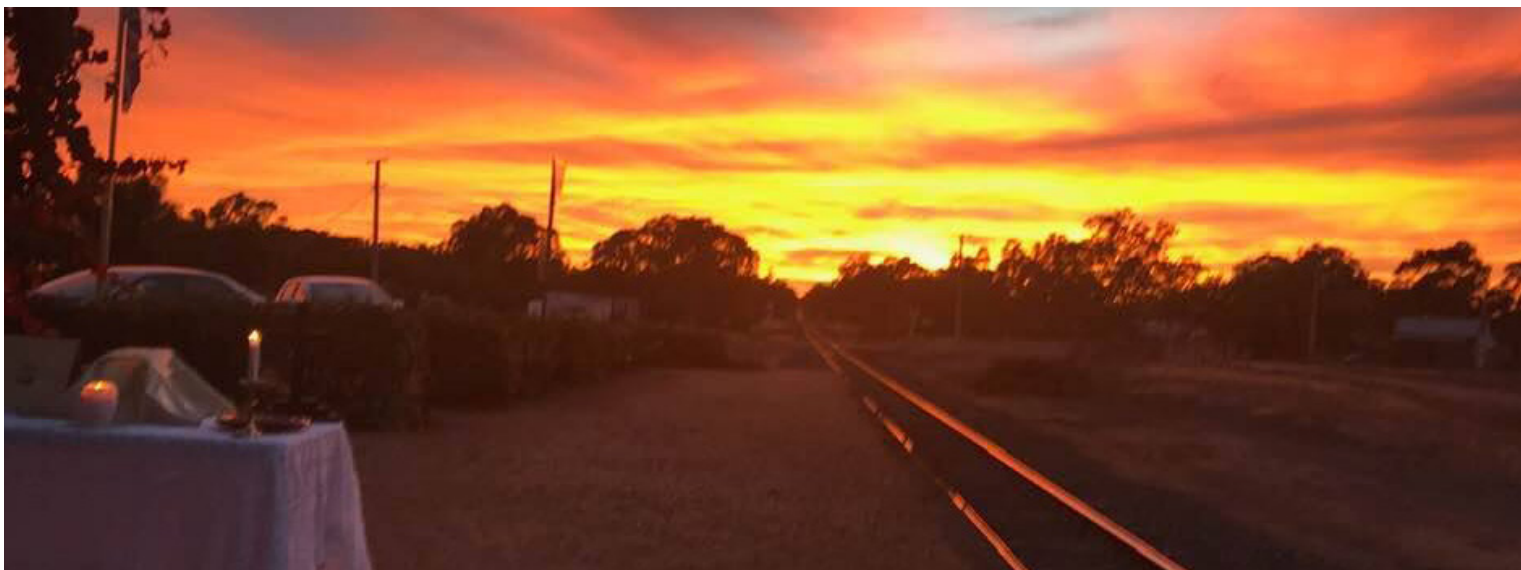
Woodend: The kid's club gathered to hear the story of Jesus in the garden



Huntly: Red ribbons placed on the cross as symbols for sin



White Hills: He is Risen



Bealiba: The dawn service at Bealiba Station was reinstated in 2019 after an eight year hiatus

Archdeacon Michael retires

Bishop Matt Brain

After 10 years as Rector of the Parish of Northern Mallee and Archdeacon, Michael Hopkins has decided that now is the time to retire, attend to family and discover new avenues of ministry.

Together with wife Kris, Michael has gathered diverse communities and parishes together to reinvigorate and enable ministry in Mildura and the northern Mallee.

Michael and a team of fine wardens and parish councilors have turned the parish's financial situation around so that the physical resources are being used wisely. Michael has also built a team of clergy to equip and encourage individual ministries. The creation of strong ties with the South Sudanese, Burundi and Tongan church communities has been a continuing highlight of Michael and Kris' ministry.

Michael has also held a range of diverse community ministries involving Mallee Family Care, Mildura RSL and the Anglican Board of Mission.

Michael's last Sunday will be 1 September 2019.

"It is a privilege to have played a part, in each of the communities that make up the life of the Northern Mallee," Michael said.

Greg Harris appointed new National Director of Bush Church Aid Society

Fred Chilton - Chairman BCA

Archdeacon Greg Harris, the current rector of South East Bendigo and Vicar General, has been appointed the new National Director of the Bush Church Aid Society (BCA).

Greg has a heart for the bush even though he was born a 'city boy'. Since graduating from Moore College in 1996 with a Bachelor of Theology (Hons), he has served in Collarenebri, Guyra and for the past 12 years has been the Rector of South East Bendigo. Greg has been Archdeacon of Bendigo since 2011, is also the Vicar General and a member of the General Synod Standing Committee.

During his time in Bendigo, Greg has been involved in recruiting and developing ministers, setting and implementing strategic direction and working with people across the wider Anglican Church. In his role of Archdeacon Greg has contributed to the development and implementation of a number of strategic plans. But most of all Greg is passionate about preaching the good news of Jesus.

Greg's links with BCA date back to his first ministry position as every parish he has worked in has supported BCA. Greg also played a key role in



establishing and nurturing the BCA supported ministry in Strathfieldsaye.

As National Director Greg will encourage and lead the team across the country and look for new opportunities to spread the good news of Jesus in remote, regional and rural Australia. 100 years on, Greg walks in the footsteps of our founder SJ Kirkby who hailed from Bendigo.

"How gracious is our Lord? Two strong passions of mine, country ministry and my support of BCA's vision, have now come together in a new way," said Greg. "I only pray that God may grant me the 'grace, grit and gumption' to serve like all those who have heeded God's calling and faithfully served BCA."

Greg and his wife Karen will conclude in Bendigo at the end of June before taking leave and commencing in the BCA Office in Sydney during August.

Cathedral Kids Holiday Club

A big thank you to all who supported the recent Cathedral Kids Holiday Club experience. There was lots of laughter, dancing, art and woodworked crosses which became part of our Good Friday Service.



Dance: Luke Molineux



Good time: The group involved in the Cathedral Kids Holiday Club



Welcome: Three siblings of a Sudanese family were recently baptised by the Revd Linda Osmond at St Clement's, Huntly

Cultural diversity embraced by True North congregation

Libby Alexander

The warmth of the community and its willingness to embrace change has resulted in the unexpected growth of the congregation at True North church at St Clement's, Huntly.

Late last year two of Huntly's newest residents, Sudanese refugees Abuk and Kotnyin, found their way to St Clement's whilst looking for a community with whom they could pray. This brief encounter has led to the True North community embarking on a journey to becoming the first English-Dinka dual-language service to meet in the diocese.

During the holiday period in January, three South-Sudanese refugee families also began attending True North at St Clement's and have since made True North their Christian community.

Since January, True North has sought to be a community that embraces diversity. Initially the church experimented with introducing Dinka Gospel music during services and the use of the Dinka language has now grown to include Bible readings and an interpreter during parts of the service.

Original members of the True North community regularly talk about the

joy they have experienced because of the new life that the South Sudanese families have brought to the church. A particular source of joy has been the growth in the number of children now attending this church.

Previously, True North at St Clement's had struggled to cater to the small number of children who regularly attended. Now, True North is experiencing the happy dilemma of how to cater to a community filled with children!

For many at True North, one of the greatest privileges this year was celebrating the baptisms of siblings Dual, Luel and Nyanriak. Conducted in both Dinka and English, the community was deeply reminded of how we are all part of the body of Christ through participating in this moving sacrament.

True North acknowledges that being a small community with two cultures is not without challenges, however every member of the community is committed to reflecting the heart of Jesus to each other.

Starting this month, True North has launched the Study Group at St Clement's – an all age and culture time of educational learning held on



Baptised: Faith community

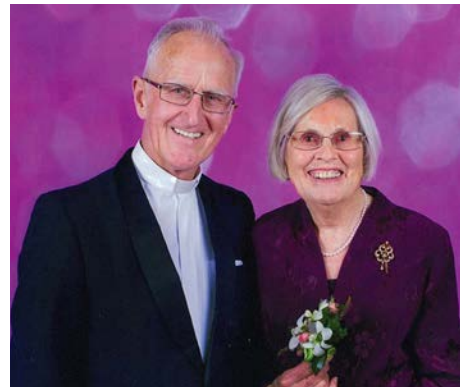
the second and fourth Sunday every month. Study Group provides a time for the whole community to come together to do school work, practice English and support each other in cross cultural issues.

It's an exciting time to be part of this Christian community in Huntly.



50 years as a priest

A reflection by John Geldart



Together: John and Marj Geldart

John Geldart celebrated 50 years of being a priest this May, having been ordained in the Diocese of Bendigo at All Saints Cathedral on 1 May 1969. John will be well known to many as he has served in many places across the diocese throughout his ministry. John has shared some reflections on his 50th anniversary of being a priest.

I was born in Numurkah, then my family moved to Merrigum and then to Kyabram. In Kyabram I became a plumber - a trade that I enjoyed very much.

I was converted at a CMS Youth camp after being softened up by the ministry of the Revd Colin Scheumack, who later became a bishop. I could not believe that there was a God who loved me and who would forgive my sins. That Jesus on the cross would die for me brought me to my knees and I gave my life to him.

It was Mr Sheumack, as we called him, who encouraged me and gave me every opportunity to develop ministry skills from leading a youth group, leading worship, preaching and other aspects of ministry. Over the years he gave me hours of his time for which I have been thankful.

I asked Mr Sheumack about being ordained and within a week I was talking to Bishop Richards. Bishop Richards was a godly, gentle, caring and loving man who showed those aspects of his life up until his death. I commenced in Ridley College the next year.

In 1968 I was ordained a deacon in St Andrew's, Kyabram and was priested in 1969 at All Saints Cathedral. Following my ordination I was appointed to be the Curate at All Saints Cathedral under Canon Halls, a godly man.

My first parish was Maldon. It was a difficult first appointment as the rectory was condemned. We lived in three other houses over the next two years while there was a fight to allow us to build a new rectory. That in itself is a story of how God provides.

We didn't move into the new rectory as I had accepted a move to Tatura - a parish that taught me so much about ministry. As a family we all enjoyed the love and care shown to us in Tatura. I had been a priest fighting for a new rectory in Maldon but in Tatura there was a deep spiritual aspect to ministry that I had not experienced.

After six years we were called to Echuca, a town where I had gone

and active not only in the church itself but in the wider community with a strong ministry to the university.

I became Archdeacon and Vicar General, serving under two bishops - that in itself was a privilege and allowed me to exercise a wider ministry. In the early part of that time with the difficulties that the diocese faced I doubt if I could have survived if it had not been for the strength of Holy Trinity and the support of my wife and family.

Over the years I had the opportunity to prepare twelve curates for ministry. That was a privilege and they taught me much as we shared to witness to the truth of the good news of Jesus

“The most exciting thing in all those years was to see people repent of their sins and to commit their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ”

to school. Again, I had come to a parish that wanted to grow. On my first Sunday in my sermon, I preached from John 15:1-17 and informed the congregation that I would visit every home in Echuca.

It took me eight years to achieve what I said I would do, but from that visiting the church began to grow. We had two missions in those eight years and both helped to bring people to personal relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ.

Holy Trinity, Flora Hill became my final parish, ministering there for 20 years mainly due to events that overtook the diocese. Here was a thriving ministry and a thriving church, alive

together. The most exciting thing in all those years was to see people repent of their sins and to commit their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Since retiring twelve years ago, I have filled in where parishes have a need. This year I've been assisting the Revd Anthony Stones in Rochester, Lockington and Elmore and have found this to be a real joy. I continue to be blessed by God and by the Christian people to whom I minister.

I thank God for his faithfulness to me and I hope that I have been faithful to him who called me all those years ago. Now I am looking forward to the next 50 years!



More songs from John Bell

Fay Magee

John Bell's forthcoming visit to Australia in May is focusing on conversations and reflections on peace-making, justice and inclusion. These are themes we have been able to sing through the songs from Wild Goose Publications over past decades. These songs have been insightful as well as challenging, mostly written by John Bell and Graham Maule.

Now we have a new collection, *Known Unknowns, 100 contemporary texts to common tunes*, published in 2018. Since the 1960s we have become aware of and used new texts to known tunes as well as new tunes for known texts. These have been important ways in which we have expanded our song repertoire and, more importantly, have explored new ways of singing and new insights into our faith.

The focus here is of new texts, 'in 21st-century idioms', including fifteen new psalm paraphrases. "This book amounts to a modest proposal ... on how to make the most of minimal congregational song resources in an accessible and resilient way." Some tunes are used several times – *O Waly Waly* and *Personent Hodie* for example. Also *Noel Nouvelet* which we have sung at Easter time now has another text, with some hints of the other one, *Now the green blade rises*.

One text I have enjoyed singing over several years is included, *We rejoice to be God's chosen* using the tune 'Nettleton' and its use will hopefully spread! As well as tune and metrical indexes, there is a helpful index by subject and theme, covering many aspects of the liturgical calendar as well as special occasions such as baptisms, weddings, and funerals.

This collection will be a great addition to those you already refer to and copyright is secured for congregational use under the CCLI licencing scheme.

Book Review

A faith to live by: edited by Roland Ashby

Melissa Clark

Roland Ashby has put together over thirty interviews that have appeared in *The Melbourne Anglican* between 2001 and 2018 in a very readable way.

This book is a great way to present multiple faith, theological, and societal ideas about how our relationship with God influences our everyday life. It offers the reader a variety of voices of wisdom and hope as it reflects on some of Australia's more challenging moral issues, such as poverty, the plight of Indigenous Australians, and ways of engaging with people of different faiths.

The foreword is offered by Archbishop Dr Philip Freier and in it he reminds us that Christians can learn from

“This book also allows those of us who may have only experienced our own religious tradition, to investigate how other people live their Christian lives”

one another and so deepen their faith through conversations. The variety of voices, both of interviewer and interviewee, offers the reader very different insights into religious practices and perspectives and the opportunity of learning is there on every page.

For example, the first chapter includes the interview by Roland Ashby of Professor Alasdair Vance, Head of Child Psychiatry at Melbourne University, in which Professor Vance discusses his calling as a contemplative and how that influenced his work in teaching children the benefits of meditation.

A few chapters along we read Emma Halgren's interview of Archbishop Kay Goldsworthy, in which Archbishop Kay speaks about the challenges facing the church in a post Royal Commission Australia, and what this



'season of repentance' can look like for Christians in Australia and around the world.

Further along Stan Grant speaks about the positive impact that Christianity has had for him as an Indigenous man; how the message of equality in God's eyes encouraged him to help his people overcome the oppression of colonialism.

There is serious theological exploration by Reverend Professor Dorothy Lee as she explores the use of the Paraclete in the Gospel of John and the part that women play in that telling of the Jesus story; Professor Stanley Hauerwas talks about a post-Christendom western world; as well as an entire section dedicated

to Christian engagement with Islam through interviews with Dave Andrews, Professor John Azumah, and Professor Miroslav Volf. The final chapter of the book is a reflection on Pope Francis' spirituality as a Jesuit.

It can be a daunting task to find a theological book that is easily accessible to most members of a congregation, but this is one such book. Roland Ashby has given us snippets of ideas that encourage us to explore further. This book also allows those of us who may have only experienced our own religious tradition, to investigate how other people live their Christian lives.

This book would provide the basis for a great Lenten study for people who have been long time church goers, or as an introduction to faith to those who are seeking a relationship with God and working out how that relationship informs their lives.

Parish Leaders Workshops

For clergy, treasurers and wardens

Workshop dates:

- Saturday, 1 June Kangaroo Flat
- Saturday, 31 August Swan Hill
- Saturday, 19 October Woodend

Following from the success of the first Parish Leaders Workshops, these sessions are to assist, encourage and guide local leaders in the administration of a parish in today's world.

Topics to be covered include property, safe church and parish budgeting tools

Registrations are open online via the diocesan website
News & Events > Events > Parish Leaders Workshop



Diocesan Executive

Monday, 6 May

Bishop in Council

Tuesday, 14 May

Synod

Friday, 24 & Saturday 25 May

Reconciliation Week

27 May - 2 June

Senior Staff

Tuesday, 11 June

Finance Committee

Monday, 24 June

Bible in the Bush

1 - 3 November, Red Cliffs

Got an event coming up?

Send the details to
thespirit@bendigoanglican.org.au

Bush Church Aid Centenary Event

Celebrating a centenary of rural ministry

Sunday, 26 May at Christ Church, Swan Hill

- 9.30am Holy Communion** (retiring offertory for BCA)
Guest Preacher: Dale Barclay, BCA Field Staff, Sunraysia South
- 11.30am Informal Interview Panel**
Dale Barclay – Sunraysia South, VIC (Current)
Kerrie Brownscombe – Tennant Creek, NT (1986-92)
Faye Donaldson – BCA Nomad (Current)
Jeannette Blundell – Blackwater/Winton, QLD (1992-99)



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