



Anglican Diocese
of Bendigo

The Spirit

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New ministry: The Revd Sue Allen with the Revd Peter Blundell and Bishop Matt Brain

New ministry for Gannawarra Cluster as Sue Allen inducted

Sarah Crutch

The Revd Sue Allen is the new Pastor to the Gannawarra Cluster, being formally inducted on Friday, 26 July surrounded by family, friends and colleagues at St John's, Kerang.

Parishioners from across the towns of the Gannawarra, including Kerang, Cohuna, Leitchville and Gunbower, joined together to welcome Sue into her new ministry, presenting her with various symbols of ministry.

Sue will lead the parishes of Kerang and Cohuna in worship and be mentored by the Revd Peter Blundell who will also help the parishes with their governance and administration.

Sue is already well known amongst the people of the two parishes and is familiar with the district, living nearby on a sheep and grain farm at Mitiamo with her husband Neil.

"She is passionate to see people nurtured in God's ways and the church reach out into the community," Bishop Matt said.

"Sue and Neil have the added gift of knowing the district into which Sue will pastor as locals. They have lived the life of the Gannawarra for many years," he added.

Sue was ordained in the diocese in 2009 as an Ordained Pioneer Minister. She has previously worked as a Community

Chaplain throughout times of drought and flood through the Dingee Bush Nursing Centre and most recently at East Loddon P-12 College for 12 years as chaplain to the students.

"The ministry the Lord has called me to is to the least, the lost and the lonely (Luke 4:17-21) and it continues to challenge and encourage me. It continues to inspire me on how to conduct myself, those I am called to work with and how I am to pray for, and with, those in our churches and communities."

"I come into the Gannawarra Cluster with excitement as your Pastor and look forward to working together in extending the kingdom of God in this community," Sue said.

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The Bishop writes

....and tweets  @MattBrain1

The Spirit

Monthly newsmagazine
of the Anglican Diocese
of Bendigo

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September issue: Contributions due **Friday 16 August**

There is a brand of sweets called 'Jelly Belly'. They have the most amazing array of flavoured jelly beans. The usual favourites are available, but they also have more exotic flavours like Birthday Cake and Toasted Marshmallow. The most fun Jelly Belly range is made up of pairs of beans; one tastes good, the other awful. Birthday Cake is paired with Dirty Dishwater, and Toasted Marshmallow is paired with Stink Bug. The fun comes because each pair looks the same; will you choose the sweet taste, or will you get a nasty surprise.

We live in a world where many things masquerade as another. They are like, but not equivalent. Or worse a good characteristic is aped but is actually distorted. This is fine when we are talking jelly beans. It can be fun to take the chance that you might be eating Dead Fish rather than Strawberry Banana Smoothie. It is not so much fun when the consequences of the masquerade matter. It seems that much of our disappointment with institutions and people can boil down to feeling like we selected Strawberry Banana Smoothie but got Dead Fish instead.

Faith in Jesus gives us many things. It strikes me that those whose faith runs deep have a sense of dependability, strength, self-assurance about them. These are all aspects that we crave but are easily distorted. How can we be bold without being brash? Courageous without being careless?

Assured without being abhorrent? We are all too aware of good qualities becoming distorted and falling into a travesty of itself.

One reason we have the stories of different people captured in scripture is that we get to see how they respond to a difficult or disappointing world. In a sense we get to 'go to school' on their responses, be they good or ill. One way that we can learn how to be bold, courageous and assured without having the promise of good tainted by a pretence is to go to school on the responses of Ruth, Mary and Paul.

Ruth is one of the most extraordinarily bold people I have ever come across. Even though young, lumbered with an embittered mother-in-law and vulnerable she acted with an astounding grace. Not the grace of a stem of wild grass swaying in the breeze, but that of an athletic dancer full of poise, muscle and balance. It seems to me that she avoided the distortion of brashness because she had such a clear and intuitive trust in the God of her mother-in-law that navigating life confidently was a given. This is astounding when we remember how bitter Naomi (the mother-in-law) had become. Ruth did not need to thrust forward because she was able to stand tall.

Mary's courage to work with God as Jesus' mother is similarly astounding. Some courage is really a mask for carelessness in the face of danger. I love the way that Mary gains strength for her call by pondering deeply what she knew of God from the past. Have

you ever noticed how the song she sang (we often call it the Magnificat) soon after becoming pregnant with Jesus sounds like the Old Testament? Mary was not coasting along blithely unaware of the danger ahead. Rather she was courageous because she had observed a God in her Bible who was faithful throughout danger.

Paul often gets a bad rap. Some read his letters and feel that they are opinionated and overly forceful. I suspect that hearing this voice misses two things. The first is that Paul wrote into particular situations and graded his language to fit the circumstance. We know this because of the variety of tones he used across his many letters. We can also forget that Paul wrote to people he had been with in sustained relationship for more than a decade. In other words, he may sound a bit grumpy, but it was the exasperation of a long fellow-traveller rather than a fly-by-night heckler. This is a long way of saying that Paul was assured, willing to patiently chip away at relationship with folk who very often did not share his views. That he was able to do so for so long showed that the relationship was reciprocated.

Friends, as we go about on our 'mission from God', do not be disheartened by a world that may not live up to its promise. You have the tools to practise a winsome approach to life. Be bold like Ruth, courageous like Mary and assured like Paul.

Matt



Ministry: The Revd Christine Kimpton, Bishop Andrew Curnow, Bishop Matt Brain and the Revd Malcolm Thomas

St Augustine's Inglewood reopened and glowing

Bishop Andrew Curnow

At a grand service led by the Anglican Bishop of Bendigo, Dr Matt Brain, St Augustine's Inglewood was rededicated to the Glory of God on Sunday, 16 June, the 155th anniversary of the opening of the church to the day in 1864.

St Augustine's had been closed for nearly the past two years following a storm that passed through Inglewood in 2017 that caused a large cypress tree to fall onto the north side of the church. Fortunately it wasn't extensively damaged, but the tree did cut the power line to the church which rendered it unusable.

However, a simple consideration of applying to Powercor for reconnection led to some soul searching and concerns about other areas of the building that needed attention. The question was even raised that due to the small congregation should the church close? The congregation decided to relocate worship to the hall and consult about the future. The bishop at the time, Bishop Andrew Curnow AM, strongly encouraged the congregation to restore St



Lead: Bishop Andrew & Malcolm Thomas

Augustine's. There was another matter as well that favoured the church being reopened - it contains the oldest continuously in use pipe organ in its original condition in Victoria and is listed on the Victorian Heritage Register.

Bishop Andrew retired in February 2018, but was able persuade the diocese to advance some funds for the restoration of the church and he was appointed project manager. A full works program was prepared and included: roof repairs, rewiring, new LED lighting, connection to the town

sewer and water system, installation of a toilet into a side room at the back of the church, provision of a hospitality area in the church, repainting, white ant treatment, major repairs to the floor and new floor coverings. As well as all this work, repairs were made to the church furniture (aided enormously by work undertaken by the Inglewood Men's Shed), new chairs were purchased for some more comfortable seating and the church candlesticks restored by a master craftsman in Melbourne.

At the rededication service, Bishop Andrew preached and thanked all involved in the restoration including the tradespeople, many of whom were local.

For the past eighteen months ministry has been led by the Revd Christine Kimpton who has overseen much of the day to day working of the church and prepared the reopening service. She has now finished and been replaced as locum by the Revd Malcolm Thomas who is already well known to the congregation.

The congregation, and it is hoped the town, are excited that St Augustine's is open and looks magnificent.

St Martin's Anglican Church, Charlton

1889 to 2019

130th Anniversary Service
with
Bishop Matt Brain

11.00am
Sunday, 29 September 2019
All welcome

Enquiries: Reverend Judi Bird
0435 593 359

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Just search for 'Anglican Diocese of Bendigo'.

Caring at a time of need



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A tradition that continues...



Celebrate: Joan Harman cuts the cake to mark 150 years of worship

The Pebble Church closes its doors

Jan Harper

On Monday, 31 May 1869, the foundation stone of St Peter's Anglican Church, Carapooee was laid by trustees Mr V N Mogg of Swanwater, assisted by the Revd J B Stair, one of the pioneer clergy of the Parish of St Arnaud to which St Peter's Carapooee has always been attached.

150 years and two days later (Sunday 2 June) it was our sad task to close and deconsecrate this beautiful little church. With only 30-40 people supporting the parish we can no longer maintain four church buildings and two halls.

Heritage Victoria describes 'The Pebble Church' as an important landmark and a fine example of architect Leonard Terry's work. The structure, standing on a granite plinth, is faced with quartz rubble, set in pink mortar. Opening surrounds are face brickwork. The steep roof is clad in iron. Features include lancet windows and corner buttresses.

It has been at least 40 years since regular services have been taken at

this church, but in that time there have been many weddings and occasional services.

A lovely bonfire was built for those who braved the cold weather to gather early for lunch. Bishop Matt Brain led the service with the church filled to overflowing. Each part of the church was remembered and farewelled – the pews where so many had sat, the lectern where the word was read and sermons preached, the font where many were baptised, the altar where the Eucharist Feast was set Sunday by Sunday and the Memorial Plaques remembering brave soldiers from WW1 among others.

The Revd David Thompson, our Uniting Church minister, played the old pedal organ beautifully and the hymns were sung enthusiastically.

There was laughter and tears as stories were recalled by the many families whose lives were once bound up with this church as the centre of their small community. Long-time guardian of the church Joan Harman cut the cake with just enough time to distribute a piece to everyone before tears rained down from the heavens.

Faith affirmed in Sunraysia South

Dale Barclay

The Parish of Sunraysia South held a great celebration service which included confirmation, a baptism and a reception into the Anglican Church.

The candidates had undergone a preparation course including 'two ways to live gospel presentation', explanation of questions asked during the service, being part of God's church, Holy Communion amongst other topics. Bishop Matt led the celebration and joined with the APOSS community for their weekly



Congratulations: Michael Castleman

Sunday lunch. We thank God for not only a wonderful day, but for grace of God to enable us to have an eternal relationship with Jesus.



Celebrate: The candidates with Bishop Matt



Happy: The candidates who were confirmed and received with Bishop Matt



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Around the Diocese

Creative spirit comes out to mark Pentecost



Create: Pentecost celebrated with festive hats

The parish of Bendigo North became quite inspired in preparations for Pentecost this year. Our locum priest, Revd Linda Osmond, had challenged the creative spirits at St Clements, Huntly, by presenting each with a shopping bag to be fashioned into a suitable hat. Much fun was had by all! Prize winners were presented with a gold statuette wearing a red hat.

At St Luke's, thanks to Linda's artistic flair, the sanctuary looked a picture with much colour and movement in the décor. A dozen helium filled balloons inspired the celebratory atmosphere.

- Carolyn Senter

Christmas in July at St John's Dunolly

On Monday, 15 July, 50 parishioners and friends from Dunolly, Maryborough and Talbot gathered in the church hall at Dunolly to share friendship and celebrate Christmas in July.

All present enjoyed a traditional three course winter Christmas feast. Fun door prizes were awarded and Christmas raffles were drawn. Those present enjoyed Christmas carols sung by Rachel Buckley accompanied by Esme Flett on the organ.

A successful parish fundraiser hosted by the congregation, and their friends, at Dunolly.

- Heather Blackman



Feast: A traditional Christmas lunch

Sailor shares stories for Sea Sunday



Share: Ian Kimpton shared stories from his time in the navy

St Arnaud celebrated Sea Sunday on 14 August with a lunch after the service. Ian Kimpton was our guest speaker who shared with us his nine years spent in the British merchant navy before he migrated to Australia in 1962. He worked his way from Writer (the writer prepares paperwork for passengers and crew) to Purser/Chief Steward. He worked on many different ships of the Ellerman line...the City ships.

Christine Kimpton then talked about the Mission to Sea Farers and the work they do caring for sailors on leave in ports. There are chaplains to take care of spiritual needs as well as volunteers to help with more practical matters such as phone cards, internet access, library, beanies and scarves in the cold and special mittens that leave the thumb free to manage handling ropes in the cold.

- Jan Harper

Around the Parishes

Karen ministry extends friendships

The Revd Neesher, who leads the Karen-only congregation of St Stephen's in Werribee, recently visited Bendigo to meet with Bishop Matt, Dean Elizabeth and Revd Baw Mu.

The Cathedral has a sizeable number of ethnic Karen among its members cared for by Baw Mu. Meeting with Revd Neesher was a good opportunity to talk through how to best meet their spiritual needs, given the diversity in language and varying age groups amongst the regular Cathedral congregation.

The Karen in Bendigo have many personal, cultural and ministry connections in Werribee, Canberra and Horsham. It was helpful to establish a relationship with a fellow Karen congregation and we hope that as we expand our ministry to the Karen we're able to continue in friendship.

- Dean Elizabeth Dyke



Community: Revd Neesher, Bishop Matt, Baw Mu and Elizabeth Dyke

Art Show puts artistic talent on display



Admire: Over 200 artworks were on show at Kangaroo Flat

The Anglican Parish of Kangaroo Flat held their Twelfth Annual Winter Art Show over the last weekend in July. Over 200 people escaped the winter chill by coming along and viewing an amazing variety of over 200 artworks by almost 70 artists.

Guest Speaker John Deeks (television, radio and voice-over artist) entertained the opening night audience before this year's judge Patrick Verdon announced the four winners. Robert Milton won Best Oil for 'Easter Parade', Col Brown won Best Acrylic for 'The Choir', Helen Lunt won Best Watercolour for 'Mount Buffalo' and Geraldine Stills won Best Other for 'Larrie'.

It takes an amazing effort by volunteers from our congregation, over eight days to set, show and then dismantle the show and for that, all at St Mary's are very grateful.

- Alison Niven

Maryborough Community celebrates NAIDOC week

Over 300 people attended a successful NAIDOC event held at Princes Park, Maryborough. This event was coordinated by Michelle Rafferty and the team from Maryborough Anglicare.

Activities conducted during the day included live music, a football match, fun activities for children, information stands. There was also a smoking ceremony and welcome to country from Aunty Kerri Douglas, representing Dja Dja Wurrung, and art works which created the 'Treaty Tree'.

The Mothers' Union group from Christ the King Anglican Church provided all day cuppa's, homemade slices and biscuits throughout the day.

- Heather Blackman



Hospitality: The all day cuppa team

Book review:

Autopsy of a Deceased Church - Thom S. Rainer

David Willsher

In the cold days of winter many head north and our numbers in church decrease. Unfortunately many people also get sick at this time of year; some retreat and try to recover themselves, and some go to the doctor for a diagnosis and treatment. Yet once the treatment is prescribed it still needs to be taken as often and as long as prescribed. There are so many choices on our way to the health we long for.

Church life and health can be even more complex and it can be difficult to get a diagnosis and prescription on how to return it to health. It's often difficult to diagnose poor health - all can look and feel good on the outside while there's an underlying condition edging us ever closer to death or poor health as a church or congregation.

This book is, as it says, an autopsy report based on 14 churches that have actually died and no longer exist. It's based in America but is entirely relevant to life in the Diocese of Bendigo. The findings are grim (it is an autopsy) but if followed, the lessons (or prescription) can, with God, lead us to the path of restored health and life.

There are 14 short chapters each ending with a prayer commitment you may like to pray and seek God's leading along with questions for prayerful thought. It's a small easy read and only takes a few hours to finish. It may cause some distress and a desire to have another look at our church health. I suggest it's for clergy and active members of any congregation.

If you can have a positive influence, have a read and work with others, under God, to pursue health where you are. Try and have as many people in your church read this and journey with God together. If it's too late, the last chapter has some interesting thoughts on organ donation (not musical organs) to bless others.

I found it challenging and helpful personally and I pray it will be for the parishes and ministries I'm a part of.



Trading table: Leone Tress, Elizabeth Renney and Dawn Keath

ABM supports adult literacy in PNG

Barry Rainsford

Productive trading tables were held at the four ABMA Auxiliary Gatherings in June at White Hills, Kyneton, Lockington and Swan Hill. But, even more productive was the news shared about the special project being undertaken by the national ABM Auxiliary.

Adult literacy in Papua New Guinea (PNG) is the project being supported for the next four years. To understand the challenges facing adults who are learning to read and write, those attending the gatherings watched a relevant video.

They also took part in an informative game in which fifteen topics were available for consideration, such as drugs, family violence and no money. Those who won parts of the game were presented with samples of ABM souvenirs such as a pen or refrigerator magnet.

A total of \$770 raised from the four gatherings has been forwarded to the national ABM Auxiliary towards the adult literacy PNG project.

At Kyneton, the Revd Ian Howarth, was congratulated on his recent appointment as Bendigo Diocesan Representative for ABM. Ian has taken over as diocesan representative from Michael Hopkins, who is concluding his ministry in Mildura at the beginning of September.

Anyone interested in the strategic work of ABM is invited to the next quarterly executive meeting at the Diocesan Registry on Tuesday, 13 August at 11.00am. You are invited to bring any mission news from your parish, and if you have time to stay after 12 noon to bring your lunch.

For further details about ABM and how you can get involved contact Barry Rainsford on 5448 3912 or bvrains@gmail.com.

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In Loving Memory...



Gift: Revd Neil Fitzgerald presenting a gift to the Sambong Co-operative Farm Kindergarten on a previous visit.

Local parishes provide aid to North Korean project cooperative farm

Neil Fitzgerald

InterAid North Korea is a mission based at the Parish of Daylesford and works with the *Australia-DPRK Friendship & Cultural Society* in providing humanitarian aid to a project co-operative farm just outside the North Korean capital, Pyongyang.

For the past five years, parishes in the southern area of the diocese have provided aid to the farm's kindergarten and medical centre in the form of school supplies, computers, musical instruments and warm knitted clothing.

In co-operation with the *New Zealand-DPRK Friendship Society*, funds were also raised for six brand new tractors for the farm which houses around 5,000 people in a town-like setting.

Recent UN sanctions have greatly reduced the aid options to the farm prohibiting farming equipment and school supplies with only concrete and clothing still acceptable.

Although being officially an atheist state, Pyongyang does have a Catholic

Church and ancient Tao-based monasteries are found throughout the country. They also welcome aid from church-based organisations from around the world and both the New Zealand and Australian Friendship Societies have involvement from local faith based organisations.

In August of 2020 a delegation will visit North Korea (DPRK) and hand deliver clothing to the children in preparation for their winter season as well as see how the farm works and learn about life in the DPRK.

The visit will co-incide with the 75th Anniversary of Liberation – a festival celebrated by both North and South Korea and will see many formal and festive events to which we will be invited.

If you would like to join our Friendship Visit, please email Revd Neil Fitzgerald: vicar@daylesfordanglican.com for more information.

Information afternoons will be held around the diocese in the year leading up to our departure with a PowerPoint presentation and plenty of time to ask as many questions as you like.



SOMA celebrates 40th anniversary

Sarah Crutch

Sharing of Ministries Abroad (SOMA) International will celebrate its 40th anniversary in October, with a regional mission to be held at St Paul's Cathedral Bendigo from 25 – 27 October.

National Director Liz Rankin and a team of six guests from Nigeria and Southern Africa, led by Bishop Christian Ugwuzor and the Revd Chris Viljeon, will be in Bendigo for the weekend to conduct a full conference program centred around the theme 'Come Holy Spirit'.

The weekend will conclude with worship services at St Paul's, Bendigo on Sunday 27 October.

Four concurrent weekends are being held across the state, with other mission teams being hosted in Geelong, Dingley and Mornington. The mission will end with a thanksgiving service held at St Paul's Cathedral in Melbourne at 5pm on Sunday, 2 November, followed by a celebratory dinner at St Peter's Eastern Hill.

"I encourage you to come join us at one of the regional missions or for the thanksgiving service & dinner, as we expectantly await a timely outpouring of the Spirit and God's grace, power and wisdom among our churches," National Director Liz Rankin said.

You can register to attend the events on EventBrite by searching for SOMA International 40th Anniversary.

For more information visit www.somaau.org or email contact@somaau.org.



Singing our stories

Fay Magee

It's interesting to think about our personal life stories and how they are often connected to music. Some of us hope that when it's our turn for senior citizens' singalongs there'll be plenty of songs from the 60s, 70s, 80s.

Similarly, the songs we have sung through our faith journey, be it long or short, have been a significant part of our formation. There may be songs we have learnt and sung in other places – these are important to our story and it is good to share them. What we sing at Sunday services creates the story of our congregation.

But as well as enjoying singing on Sundays, hymn-writer Brian Wren encourages us to sing in other settings, for example when we meet for a pot-luck dinner, or a study group. This might be achieved by singing unaccompanied which should not deter us. It is also an opportunity to learn and use short songs.

It's a great way to share our stories through the songs we select to sing in these settings. It can be worth arranging a special Festival, maybe a session of favourites on a Sunday afternoon, perhaps once or twice a year. This can be done by selecting a theme and asking members of the congregation to submit lists of their favourite songs/hymns. It can be good to limit this to two or three per person to help focus on the theme.

Other components to a special Song Festival can be readings of short scripture selections or poems which connect to the program. If your congregation has a singing group or choir then they can be invited to make a contribution too. In small regional towns the event might be organised ecumenically as there is usually plenty of repertoire in common and likely to suit other settings.



Guest: Dr Paula Gooder

UK theologian to visit Bendigo

Dr Paula Gooder will visit Bendigo in August to present a series of sessions on the parables and what they teach us about teaching and preaching.

Dr Paula is a well known British theologian specialising in the New Testament. She has previously taught at two theological colleges in the UK and has written numerous books.

Visiting Australia with her family, Paula graciously accepted Bishop Matt Brain's invitation to conduct a teaching day for the clergy and other interested lay people.

Dr Paula will be at St Paul's Cathedral, Bendigo on Tuesday, 6 August with three sessions to run over the course of the day from 9.30am - 3.00pm.

All are welcome to attend. Participants will need to bring their own lunch.



Women's Conference

You're invited...

You are invited to take some time out for yourself, to meet with God and be restored in your faith.

Come and participate in spacious times of worship and prayer and hear from the Revd Heather Cetrangolo as she encourages us from God's word.

It is our desire that no matter your age - or where you are at on your journey - that in this place you will be nurtured and refreshed in your relationship with God.

Morning tea and lunch included. Childcare not available.

Details

When: Saturday 7 September 2019

Time: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Where:

Holy Trinity South East Bendigo
14 Keck Street, Flora Hill

Register:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/restore-womens-gathering-2019-tickets-64526882643>

Cost: \$30 waged
\$20 unwaged/concession

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fiona@southeastbendigo.com

Religious freedom in Australia

Angela Lorrigan

The March 2019 edition of the *St Mark's Review* features seven authors and six articles on the topic of religious freedom in Australia. Each author is highly accredited and qualified to speak on the outcomes of the Rudd and Ruddock reviews, the many possible threats to religious freedom in Australia and the potential implications.

The volume opens with an article by Revd Andrew Cameron, Director of St Mark's Theological Centre. This serves primarily as an introduction but he also provides a convincing challenge to the notion that Church and State are completely inseparable. He effects this challenge by pointing to the historical roots of the idea and how, in practice, it is undesirable and unattainable. He also quotes section 116 of the Australian Constitution to demonstrate that a "wall of separation" cannot be found there.

In the following paper, Patrick Parkinson AM, Dean of Law at The University of Queensland, expresses a firm view that freedom of religion is being eroded in Australia. Whilst he acknowledges that the situation is not dire, he cites the increasing introduction of anti-discrimination legislation; the recent public animosity to exemptions to this legislation for religious organisations; and what he believes is an increasing "hatred" of religion in Australia to make a case that religious freedom is under an advancing threat.

The last point is probably over-stated. He asserts that "this kind of violence against Christians is hitherto unknown in Australia". However the final section of the preceding article relates the story of the burning, by convicts, of the first church in Sydney! Churches have been being vandalised and burnt down in Australia at a fairly regular rate since that first incineration in the early days of the colony.

Father Frank Brennan is the author of the third paper. He chaired the Rudd review into human rights in Australia and was a member of the Ruddock review panel. His paper affords valuable insights into both of these processes and their outcomes which have been reported with much

confusion all over the media. Brennan is a strong advocate for a national Human Rights Act and also for the acknowledgement of freedom of religion as a fundamental human right.

He argues for the right for religious schools to hire staff who "are with their program". He does not support discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identification. He argues for the right of religious schools to be "counter-cultural" and offer moral views that do not necessarily accord with societal views. However he doesn't address the issue of the effect that this teaching may have on young people who find themselves at odds

“These are tough issues for our times and it's important that Christians are well-informed and able to see them from a broad perspective”

with the teachings in which they are immersed. This may include kids who are discovering their sexual orientation or those whose parents are divorced.

The fourth paper is from Dr Alex Deagon, Senior Lecturer in law at the Queensland University of Technology. Deagon argues against removal of the exemptions under the Sex Discrimination Act, at least without replacing them with positive religious freedom legislation. Like Brennan, he argues that freedom of religion is a basic human right. He also critiques the Wong bill, highlighting the potential for an unrestrained Anti-Discrimination Act to allow the State to dictate policy to religious entities. He also flags a potential conflict with section 116 of the Constitution.

A change of tone comes in the fifth paper from Dr Bernard Doherty (School

of Theology at Charles Sturt University) and James T Richardson (University of Nevada). This is an account of the legal pathway taken by the Church of Scientology in their successful effort to be identified as a religion. The paper is thought-provoking in the way it casts light onto the characteristics that define religion.

Finally, the Rt Revd Professor Stephen Pickard looks at the issue from a slightly different angle. He argues for the positive contribution that religion can make to the wider community and goes on to identify a series of critical questions that crystallise the points that need to be addressed if we are



going to balance religious freedom, equality and individual rights in a country that is increasingly diverse.

This book is intensely academic. It's not a "dummies guide". However it is a good resource for those who wish to argue for the maintenance of the exemptions to the Sex Discrimination Act or for positive legislation supporting religious freedom.

It is disappointing that a volume of this nature doesn't see the topic through a wider Christian aperture or host a wider range of views, such as those expressed recently by Bishop Peter Stuart. These are tough issues for our times and it's important that Christians are well-informed and able to see them from a broad perspective. It is easy to feel embattled when the only views we entertain are similar to or the same as our own.

restore

WOMEN'S GATHERING

7 SEPT 2019 | 9 AM - 2 PM

Holy Trinity South East Bendigo

Details page 10

what's on

events calendar

Diocesan Executive

Monday, 5 August

Dr Paula Gooder in Bendigo

Tuesday, 6 August

Bishop in Council

Tuesday, 13 August

Senior Staff

Tuesday, 20 August

Parish Leaders Workshop - Swan Hill

Saturday, 31 August

Restore - Women's Conference

Saturday, 7 September

Rural Ministry Conference

12 - 15 September



Steve Geyer



Napier Park Funerals, Bendigo

Dignity and respect, when it matters most

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June Andrew

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE REMEMBERED?

Very few of us give much thought to how we wish to be remembered when we pass. How we choose to have our lives celebrated and the legacy we leave for future generations are two things we rarely think about in today's busy world.

Yet, while we plan for travel, finances, retirement and other important events – even consulting our families and solicitors if we plan to leave a Gift in our Will to a worthy organisation like Anglicare Victoria – so few of us realise how easily we can relieve the emotional stress, chaos and demands on those we leave behind.

Ensuring Peace of Mind; My Personal Wishes for Remembrance is a practical booklet, produced with compliments of Anglicare Victoria, which allows you the space and guidance to record today how you'd like your funeral or memorial service to be.



Jenny Disney, mother of two, grandmother of four and parishioner at St Margaret's, Eltham, explains: "Once you start going to funerals on a regular basis, I think that's the time to think about how you'd like to be remembered."

"I've given away dozens of copies

of Ensuring Peace of Mind; My Personal Wishes for

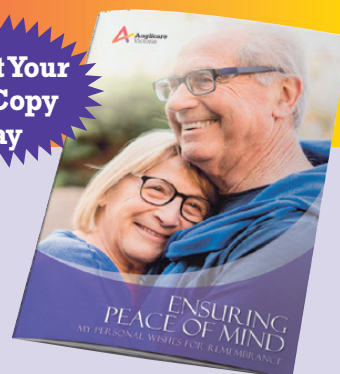
Remembrance to other parishioners at St Margaret's. It's so

well-presented and useful and is the most wonderful 'organiser of ideas' in the one place. It's also very inclusive: It's not giving me information and then asking me to make up my mind or telling me what to think; it allows me to simply write down my ideas and express what I would like to see happen.

"Having this documented will make things so much easier for family and friends who are grieving, and yet needing to make quick decisions, as it lets them see that this is who and what their loved one wanted."

Ensuring Peace of Mind; My Personal Wishes for Remembrance is a 40-page booklet which allows you to record your wishes, key details and important personal information in an organised way in your own time. Importantly, it could save some difficult conversations and minimise your loved ones' distress when they most need it – thus, giving you real peace of mind today.

Request Your
FREE Copy
Today



☐ YES, please send me my FREE copy of Anglicare Victoria's **Ensuring Peace of Mind; My Personal Wishes for Remembrance** today.

☐ Please also send me further information about leaving a Gift in my Will to Anglicare Victoria.

Full Name: Address: Postcode:

Daytime Phone: Email:

Please cut off and mail to: Anglicare Victoria, Mr Peter Burt, Relationship Manager, P.O. Box 45, ABBOTSFORD VIC 3067



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