



Anglican Diocese
of Bendigo

The Spirit

monthly

november/december 2019

issue 150



Ordained: Fiona Preston, Rob Edwards and Karen Reid

Ordained for God's service at St Paul's Cathedral

Sarah Crutch

Three ordinands will begin their new ministries as deacons and priest with Fiona Preston, Rob Edwards and Karen Reid being ordained by Bishop Matt Brain on Saturday, 30 November.

All three ordinands are from the Parish of South East Bendigo and were well supported with the Cathedral full to capacity with 300 people and 30 children as they committed themselves to their new ministries.

Throwing back to his days as a youth minister, Bishop Matt addressed the lively group of kids talking them through the special ordination service and giving them an activity that showed the special gifts the congregation prayed God will give the candidates.

Preaching from Matthew 4: 18-22, Archdeacon Anne McKenna highlighted the way the ordinands' lives are to be totally God focused.

"You have been called by God to be set apart – to not just 'do' certain jobs and tasks as set by the Church, but to be passionate persons called and loved by God, fed by God, and led by God to do the work of the kingdom."

Fiona, Rob and Karen are already in active ministry of some form, serving alongside each other in the Parish of South East Bendigo.

Fiona Preston will continue her ministry as a Pioneer Deacon and Community Chaplain seeking to connect with those outside the church. Fiona has already organised a successful Women's

Gathering in September in addition to beginning prison chaplaincy at Tarrengower Women's Prison.

Serving as the Youth and Children's Minister at Holy Trinity for over 14 years, Rob Edwards felt the call to ordination in obedience to God as a natural next step in his ministry and will continue in the parish as a deacon.

Karen Reid has had a busy first year in ordained ministry, serving as Curate following her deaconing in March and managing the various demands of the parish following the departure of Rector Greg Harris in June. Karen will continue as part of the ministry team, now as a priest and an embedded part of the ministry team.

The service was a wonderful celebration of Fiona, Rob and Karen.

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The Bishop writes

....and tweets  @MattBrain1

The Spirit

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February issue: Contributions due **Friday 24 January**

Reissue November/December 2019

Following the production of this edition of *The Spirit* information has come to hand that has meant that a new version has been prepared responsive to what has been learned. We commend this reissued edition to your attention.

I love journeys. It is the effort involved in making the journey that does something for me. It is as if there is a sense of satisfaction that comes from having achieved a milestone. In preparing for Christmas this year it came home for me that the Christmas story is one of journeys.

When we talk of notable journeys we will often think of explorers like Roald Amundsen or Robert Falcon Scott forging through Antarctica; or perhaps Sir Edmund Hillary and Tensing climbing Mt Everest. My imagination is captured by Mao's Long March. The equivalent of walking from here to Perth and back to Sydney, then down to Adelaide and then back home; all while being pursued by an army. But even more I find the way that our First People worked together through Songlines to be able to navigate the length and breadth of Australia awe inspiring.

There are many reasons why we make a journey, some are grand like those I have recounted, some less so. Perhaps it is adventure, or necessity, or curiosity, or the need for escape; whatever the reason it requires preparation and a commitment to the task.

The Christmas story involves three obvious journeys. There is the young couple who journey from their home to go to a place their ancestors lived all because a harsh ruler said so. The shepherds journeyed from their sheep, effectively leaving their

livelihood and income, to visit a tiny town already overflowing with people. A group of very important people from a foreign land left behind important duties and high positions to visit a backwater settlement.

But do you notice something about these journeys? Especially when we contrast to our usual imaginings?

Unlike so many famous journeys they involve the 'whole world' rather than simply a hero or single group. It was not just the rich, but also the poor. It was not simply the significant, but also the insignificant. It was not the educated alone, but also the uneducated. It was not one people group but involved all kinds of people. I love that there is a unifying power deep at the heart of Christmas.

Even more, those who travelled from 'the world' went to a nowhere place. This is quite unlike the famous journeys we tend to remember, and our familiarity with the Christmas story tends to hide this point. Bethlehem was a small village two hours walk from Jerusalem. Jerusalem was important in world terms simply because it was on the road between Syria and Egypt. Why did they go! Where was their ambition! Why choose *that* place!

And this leads us to our third interesting point. They all journeyed to visit a baby who had made his own journey. He had, of course, journeyed with his mum as she was pushed around by Caesar Augustus. He was part of her own displacement and vulnerability.

Yet this was not his first journey. It all began as he was sent from God. The Messiah – the one set apart – sent to restore the world to God's side. This prior journey starts to explain why the great and the small would travel to a nowhere town. They came because God had journeyed there.

But this is not the last journey pictured in our story. Both the shepherds and the VIP's (the Magi) returned to where they had come from. Yet their journeys were not wasted for in the words describing the shepherds they "... returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them (Lk 2:20)."

Our Christmas can get cluttered by comings and goings; excitement and weariness. It can feel like an overly long journey with many hills and much to carry. I find it easy to ask just why it is not more simple. So it is my prayer for you this Christmas that since Jesus has made the journey to visit, well more than that, to dwell with you (see John 1) that you will make a return journey to your every-day-life like that of the shepherds...who had a simply great Christmas.

thatt



Inducted: Bishop Matt Brain with Jeremy and Claire Morgan and Siotame Paletua

Jeremy and Claire Morgan to lead new Mallee ministry

Joy Poole

A buzz of excitement was heard as people gathered on Monday 11 November at All Saints, Ouyen for the induction of Jeremy Morgan as Priest in Charge of the Co-operative Parish of Central Mallee and Tyrell Parish of the Uniting Church.

All Saints Ouyen was filled with visitors, friends, relatives and local representatives as Jeremy and his wife Claire were welcomed to this new ministry.

Representatives from St Phillip's, Mount Waverly commended Jeremy to Bishop Matt for induction, with the Revd Siotame Paletuá from the Uniting Church – Presbytery of Loddon Mallee offering friendship and support on behalf of the Presbytery.

Various symbols of ministry including a Bible, books of common prayer,

parish map and agreements for the parishes to cooperate, wheat, bread, wine and grape juice were presented by members of each parish to Jeremy.

Following Jeremy's induction, his wife Claire was then commissioned as deacon to serve alongside Jeremy. As clergy and others laid hands on Jeremy and Claire, Bishop Matt prayed over them.

Following the service folk moved to the parish centre where a wonderful time of fellowship and an extensive, delicious spread of finger food was enjoyed before folk headed home, many with long distances to travel.

Central Mallee and Tyrell welcome Jeremy and Claire into their parishes and into the local communities and pray that their time amongst us will be enjoyable, fulfilling and a blessing to them and those among whom they live, work and minister.



Lead: Jeremy Morgan

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Open: Representatives of each group at the official ribbon cutting

Partnership with Lighthouse shines

Simon Robinson

St Alban's Mooroopna has partnered with Greater Shepparton Lighthouse Project to share in use of the facilities at the Canteen building for community outreach programs.

St Alban's Mooroopna took over the old Ardmona factory Canteen several years ago. Much was achieved in renovating one end of the building, but there was a long wish list of work still to be done and not enough resources. Above all, team St Alban's were praying, "Father, you've given us this facility. Use it, and us, to bless this community."

How would that happen? We couldn't see. An unexpected approach by a parishioner earlier this year saw us talking with the Greater Shepparton Lighthouse Project and Goulburn Valley Pregnancy Support (GVPS) about working together in Mooroopna to help build community and make connections. Lighthouse had been looking for a building to work out of, and we had been praying!

The space proposed to be the base of this joint effort needed a significant overhaul if it was to go from an unused space to a kitchen. For our part, team St Alban's are sharing the Canteen rent-free along with an enormous amount of volunteer labour.

The Lighthouse Project contributed \$20,000 and gathered pro-bono labour from local tradies and businesses. The Greater Shepparton Foundation also gave \$5,000 for a massive sliding door. Lighthouse also sourced funding for a full-time co-ordinator: former kinder teacher Courtney will host the space three days a week from January, with volunteers drawn from the community and team St Alban's.

The aim is to have family drop-in time in the mornings, homework support and cooking classes in the arvo for primary kids, and a youth gathering for teenagers one night a week. Marie from GVPS will provide resources for expectant mums one day a week.

So in answer to prayer, on a Tuesday night in November, over 140 people attended to enjoy the annual Lighthouse Showcase, participate in the blessing of the new facilities and leaders, and launch our joint project: the Mooroopna Family Haven!

Jesus said, "Whoever is not against us is for us." What allies might the Church find out there in the community, with a similar passion to transform society for good? We encourage you to be open to the weird and wonderful ways the Spirit may come knocking on your door with an opportunity, to take big risks, and above all, to not be afraid.



Dress up: Participants in the youth camp dress up for a Saturday night event

Youth camp encourages the faith of young people

Trevor Bell

Thirty-four high school aged young people have gathered from across the diocese for the Diocesan Youth Camp, held at Camp Kookaburra in Corop.

This camp was very successful in creating a space where young people from our parishes could gather together to share their Christian journey.

There was Christian input and teaching where we discussed the movie *Inside Out* and what Jesus might say about disgust, anger, sadness, fear and joy. We also shared together in worship, games, video making, canoeing, ropes courses and lots of other fun things.

The intended outcome of the camping ministry is peer formation with other Christians outside of their local church and providing a supportive role in the Christian growth of our young people.

At our camp we had young people from at least seven local churches and notably, significant numbers of youth from various multicultural backgrounds. We can't wait for the next camp which is planned for 27-29 March 2020.

Thank you so much to everyone who helped make this camp a success and to those who so generously enabled others to come by sponsoring a camper.



Teaching: Trev Bell



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Around the Diocese

St Mary's Woodend celebrates 160 years of worship



Celebrate: Norma Richardson, Melissa Clark and Joy Daymon

Since 1859 St Mary's Anglican Church has been a gathering place for the people of Woodend to celebrate and grieve, to sing songs and pray, to marvel in the beauty of the building and sit in the peace of the garden.

The people of St Mary's celebrated this great milestone with a special service on 10 November. The gathered people were treated to a special performance of an original song written by parishioner Kevin Davis in honour of our church and community.

We gave thanks for the people who, through generations, have called St Mary's home and we especially gave thanks for our Guild who have been a driving force for pastoral care community outreach, and fundraising over those years.

We continued our celebrations in the hall with a display put together by the Woodend and District Historical Society.

- Melissa Clark

Women's breakfast focuses on grieving for our animals

A women's breakfast was once again held at St Paul's in Kyneton recently in October.

This year Adele Mapperson spoke on the theme of 'Mourning for Animals' and how important it is to grieve for the animals we love and care for and that in so many ways are part of family.

Such grief needs to be more recognised and accepted in the community in order to allow space for dealing with such pain. In her moving talk Adele spoke of some of her experiences as the former Chaplain to the Lort Smith Animal Hospital. Her experiences resonated with many who attended the breakfast which was once again catered for by some of the men in the parish.

- Ian Howarth



Share: Adele Mapperson spoke on grieving for our pets

Parish comes together to celebrate St Luke



Celebrate: Zan Daniels and Linda Osmond lead a St Luke's Day service

On Sunday 20 October, St Luke's, White Hills and the Parish of Bendigo North combined with the community and invited special guests to publicly give thanks for St Luke, Evangelist and Physician, whose name we bear.

We were delighted to welcome the Canterbury Singers under the direction of Keith Fullard, who added an extra dimension to our praise. The Revd Peter Dyke was the perfect speaker, as his work in hospital chaplaincy enables him to have a broad understanding of the healing that goes on when we care for one another after the command of Christ.

Over a buffet lunch thanks were shared around to all our invited guests, but also to the Revd Linda Osmond who gave much to our parish and the community with her organisation of the day and her generous care of our parish during Revd Zan Daniels' leave.

- Carolyn Senter

Around the Parishes

Bible in the Bush weekend feeds faith

The Anglican Parish of Sunraysia South recently ran one of its largest Bible in the Bush weekends with over 80 people attending. People came from across the diocese and beyond to hear Bishop Paul Barnett lead the studies based from Luke's gospel on "Jesus' Journey to Jerusalem". Bishop Paul and Anita's ministry was greatly appreciated with both of them engaging and encouraging people throughout the weekend.

Canon Greg Harris and wife Karen led our worship with Greg also leading a session on the "Past, Present and Future ministry of Bush Church Aid (BCA)" in his role as National Director. We also had Bishop Matt present "Building a Discipleship Culture" and Melissa and Warwick from the Officer Anglican Church led the children's & youth program. We are looking forward to hearing some good quality Bible teaching in rural Victoria next year.

- Dale Barclay



Together: People from different backgrounds joining together

Emergency services blessing ahead of bushfire season



Blessed: SES emergency services blessed ahead of fire season

With a particularly worrying fire season approaching a good Emergency Services Blessing couldn't go astray.

Cr Tony Driscoll explained how members of the Municipal Emergency Response Group meets quarterly to update plans and communication for managing and evacuating people in emergencies. Wayne Rourke then explained how it works from the CFA's point of view. They assess the situation and give ongoing information to emergency response co-ordinators who put their plans into action and leave the CFA free to concentrate on what they do best - fighting the fire.

Now that the fire danger season is upon us we all need to have our plans ready. After the emergency vehicles and teams were blessed, Rotary members cooked an excellent sausage sizzle and fellowship continued.

- Jan Harper

Lay training workshops help refresh knowledge of service to church

As a church, we at the Cathedral recognise and value the ministry of every believer who brings their unique contribution to the worship and work of the church.

On two weekends in October, parishioners gathered for a series of workshops where they refreshed their knowledge of the ministries and tasks that are carried out within the Sunday services and at other times throughout the week.

All acts of loving service were included; every volunteer being of equal worth. For two Saturday mornings the Cathedral was a hive of activity for three hours as groups were led through 'cheat sheets' prepared for the various roles, with a break for refreshments and the opportunity to attend a second workshop. Each volunteer was then commissioned during the three Sunday services on 10 November.

- Diana Smith



Learning: The 11am congregation who participated in the lay training



Gathering songs

Fay Magee

Musicians and clergy are usually involved in selecting songs to work for the liturgy and the people as we gather for worship. I wonder how the songs you sing help you connect with each other and with God's story being enacted through the liturgy?

'Gathering' songs encourage us to shift our minds and bodies to 'the work' of worship – sometimes there might be a few songs, often just the one. Our Christian history – and present - brings us many hundreds of such songs, reminding us of the God we worship, all the wondrous things done throughout God's story. Many of the Psalms provide us with texts of expansive reminders!

Our recent hymn collections are organised with extensive and helpful indices, while many modern hymn writers bring us new and fresh insights – John L Bell, Marty Haugen, Robin Mann, Bernadette Farrell to start with. There's a new Haugen song in *Songs of Grace* supplement to *Together in Song*. The refrain is "All are welcome...in this place" and it is an energetic affirmation as we gather in our diversity.

Many gathering songs are strongly Trinitarian as we acknowledge the God we worship. "Praise with joy the world's creation" (TiS 179) is a new text easy to slot in to a known tune. Brian Wren, with "Let all creation dance" (TiS 187) encourages us to praise God's action in the cosmos centred in Christ.

Not all welcoming songs need to be lively and up-beat: there will be times when a calm and quiet mood will be appropriate. "Father in heaven" (465) is set to a gentle Philippino folk melody which is worth learning.

Just as important as *what* we sing is *how* we sing it, how we let our minds and bodies begin to focus on this sometimes strange-seeming act of communal and public worship.



Worship: the new St Martin's built in 1963 after the previous building collapsed

130 years of praise and worship celebrated at St Martin's Charlton

Judi Bird

St Martin's Anglican Church was filled with over 75 people attending the special 130th anniversary service of Holy Communion.

Prayers of thanksgiving were offered for the vision and tenacity of the pioneers, previous clergy and past congregational members. Their sacrifice and dedication is a continuing source of inspiration for us all.

The service was presided over by Bishop Matt Brain. Many travelled from near and far to attend the service to share their memories of church, Sunday School, Youth Group, worship, fellowship, Sunday School picnics, garden fetes and catering events.

At the conclusion of this uplifting service, the final hymn sung was "O God, you called St Martin", a fitting tribute to the Saint after which the church is named.

Those who gathered, continued to renew acquaintances and share



memories over refreshments and fine fare equal to the high catering standard set by the legendary catering ladies of previous times. Names were recorded in the visitor's book and personal memories shared well into the afternoon.

A wonderful tribute to those that have gone before us and have shown faith, dedication and tenacity in continuing to shine out into the world with God's love.

"O God, you gave St Martin the gift of faithfulness, you gave him loving Wisdom, to make our faith more sure, and grace to serve all people, to know and love you more."

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In Loving Memory...



Portrayed: One of the larger murals at St James' Tongala features Moses parting the Red Sea

Street art project brings biblical scenes to life

Ian Campbell

Three new murals now hang from the walls of the church and hall at St James' Tongala, with a formal opening and blessing led by Bishop Matt Brain in mid-October.

The artworks are amongst 50 murals around the town of Tongala, painted by local Murray Ross with the support of the Lions Club through the project "Tongala Street Art".

The murals depict well known biblical scenes including Moses parting the

waters, Jesus walking on water and a montage of four scenes of Noah's Ark.

Bishop Matt said he was blown away by the commitment and skill of the artists and the Tongala community.

"The heart of our church belongs with local congregations, and it is clear that this town and congregation has great humour and great gifts to share," he said.

"My hope for all our churches both large and small is that they are finding

ways to support and uplift the local community they are in, and this is a wonderful example of that."

The murals are well worth a visit if you are ever in Tongala, and if you look closely you might find a few oddities including a shark, an elephant rabbit and classic Aussie dunny!

As for the dunny — Bishop Matt is in full support. "Life is too serious as it is. It is great to be able to see the lighter side of life," he said.

Students encouraged to focus on talents through I CAN

Simon Robinson

A Friday in November saw St Alban's proudly hosting the inaugural expo of the Goulburn-Murray I CAN network.

Network Leader and St Alban's Mooroopna member Kate Andrews explained the focus of the network.

"The I CAN Network is a movement dedicated to driving a rethink of the Autism Spectrum among young people and the community, away from 'I Can't' to 'I CAN'".

"We focus on the strengths of being on the spectrum, and are predominantly run by people on the

spectrum for people on the spectrum. We have a long-term intention to inspire environments that enable and empower every young person on the Autism Spectrum to say 'I CAN' to life's opportunities."

Students were bussed in from all over the region, joined by a large contingent of parents, teachers and community members. Talents, passions, and a good portion of delicious food were shared. It was clear I CAN is making a real difference in the lives of these great kids.

We thank God for Kate and her dedicated team.



I CAN: Encouraging students

Being present this Christmas

Elizabeth Dyke

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. John 1:14 (NRSV)

This is one of my favourite verses and I love hearing it read at the carol service each year. It reminds me that in all the busyness of the season, there is one fundamental fact beyond the froth and bubble of secular celebration: Christmas is about **presence**.

That first Christmas over two thousand years ago, God saw that we needed someone, so God came to be present with us in the person of Jesus, the best present of all. Christians believe that He is still with us and his presence changes everything.

With God, even the biggest challenges we face will look smaller when we face them together.

God is here! So don't worry about where you are but who you are with.

God cares. There are people who need us; will you find time to care with him?

You are worth it! So don't just spend money; spend time, with God and with others.

God came to dwell with us. Don't just go to the shops – visit the people you love.

God came himself – he didn't send an envoy on his behalf. Someone you know needs you – will you find time to be with them in person?

God values relationships and he wants a personal relationship with you through the person of Jesus. He wants you to value relationships too. His Christmas present to YOU is his presence. Make your **presence** the **present** YOU give this Christmas.



Together: sharing Christmas with others



Prayer: Casting away darkness and putting on an armour of light

Casting away...putting on

Peter Dyke

The special prayer set for the first Sunday of the year is always a turning point for me. It comes at the beginning of Advent when I look forward to Jesus' second and final coming to this earth and when I will be collected up and transported to heaven.

It was composed by Archbishop Cranmer for the 1549 Prayer Book. Like other Reformation Collects it is based on the scripture readings for the day: Romans 13:8-14 and Matthew 21: 1-13

Here is the text, which is lengthy and is best appreciated if you read it slowly:

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost now and forever. Amen.

This prayer is complex in structure but it achieves an astonishing feat. It ties together not only the first and second comings of Christ, but also, it binds

together our earthly present with our heavenly future.

So unpacking it a little...we address Almighty God, reminding us of his great power to do life changing things. Our petition is simple: please give me grace to be and behave differently. So my new year's resolution is to stop doing the old behaviours and habits of last year and live as if I am wearing 'armour of light'. I am choosing a different way of being me – protected from the tricks of the devil with God's armour. And I am choosing to allow God's white light to reveal my inner being to me so that it can be cleansed, healed, forgiven and re-invigorated. I suggest that you don't pray this prayer if you don't want God to change you!

Next comes the aspiration: 'that we may rise to the life immortal'. Our lives are very short and so the future is rushing towards us in all its 'glorious majesty'. We will be spending a lot more time there, in eternity, than here. Just as Jesus came 'in great humility' to be wholly human and wholly God for a short while and then rejoined his heavenly Father, so we too are here for a short while longing and yearning to be with the Father for ever.

I wish you an uncomfortable but profitable Advent and pray that you will cast away some big heavy stuff – a bit like household waste collection last week – and put on the weightless armour of light.

Connecting with others

Over the coming months I will be continuing to share a few ideas on how we as individuals and congregations can ensure that we are connecting well with others, both those who are new to our communities and those who are long term members, those who are young, old and in between.

The first idea to keep in mind, that was written about last edition, is that **while church is for you, it is not about you**. This helps us to look past our own needs and begin to see others.

Once we see other people, the next thing to do is simple, even if scary for some of us. **Use those facial muscles and generate a smile**. Follow that smile by a genuine "hello" or "good morning". You cannot underestimate the power that these simple actions have to make new and established people at church feel welcomed, cared for, valued and seen. Without a smile and a hello, it is actually possible that negative feelings may emerge.

This was highlighted to me on one trip to Adelaide, where I was visiting an Anglican church. The welcomers on the door said hello, but that didn't count as much in my mind - it's their role to say hello. As I went into the church, I didn't want to sit alone, so I picked a pew that had someone in it up the other end.

The person there who I wanted to see me, just ignored me, they for the next minute made no effort to acknowledge that I was even there. Next thing they leaned forward and started talking with the person in front of them, who was clearly another regular. Then after talking with that person for a few minutes they got up and went and sat in another row by themselves. I was devastated.

I went to church to worship together with others, yet I felt I was there by myself, unwanted, unwelcome, uncared for. Oh, what a simple smile and hello from the people around me would have done - it would have changed my experience from one remembered only in infamy, to a great time of fellowship shared together with other members of the body of Christ.

Let's work on this together: notice others, smile and say hello. Do it every week and over time notice the difference it will make.



The Rev'd Trev Bell

*Youth & Family
Development Officer*

Supported by Bush Church Aid

Trev's here to grow ministry with young people in our parishes.

If you'd like to speak with Trev about things you can do to engage children in your church, email him!

yym@bendigoanglican.org.au



Welcoming: See someone without a smile? Give them yours



All creatures great and small

St Mary's Woodend welcomed all creatures great and small on 6 October to celebrate the ministry of St Francis and bless some of our much loved pets.

We had lots of dogs, a few cats, a couple of chickens, and even a representative of the local bees!

It was a chance for us to thank God for our animals and our planet, and to commit ourselves anew to the care of our pets and our environment.

All special visitors behaved beautifully and listened attentively to the sermon.



Steve Geyer



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June Andrew



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Wednesday, 25 December

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Wednesday, 1 January

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