



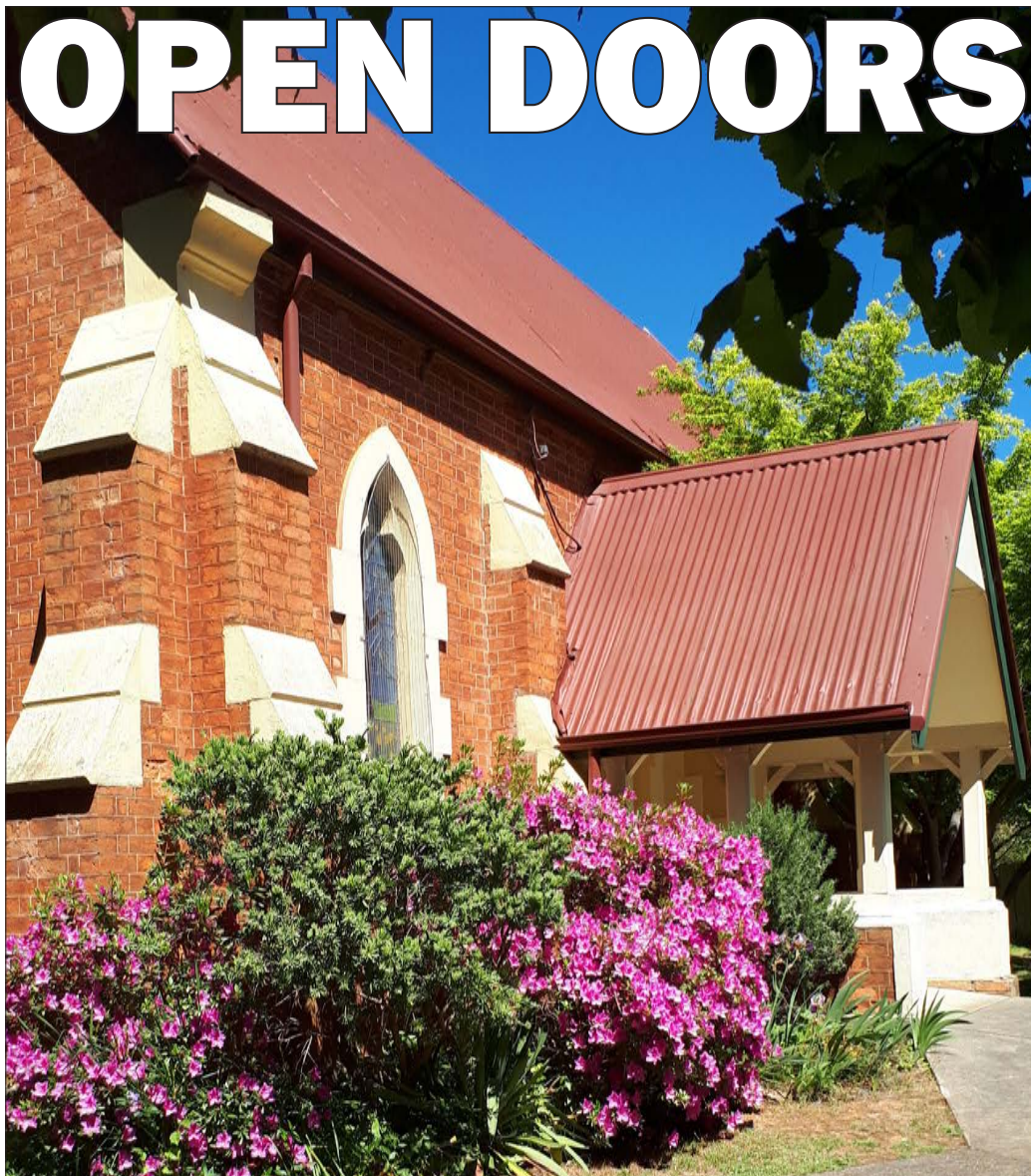
THE ADVOCATE

Inspired by God's love, through worship, prayer and scriptural reflection, we seek to live our Christ-centred values by meeting the needs of our communities through serving and accepting others.

Issue: 094

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June 2020



OPEN DOORS

Opening up to a Changed World

BY REV. HELEN MALCOLM

As the coming of the Holy Spirit breathed life into the disciples at Pentecost, our current situation feels as if we are hesitantly letting out a collectively held breath - and taking in a new deep breath to meet the future. Our church's physical doors have been closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic; now some restrictions are being lifted. Are things back to 'normal'?

For the disciples and those who heard them at Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit changed, invigorated, united their world. What will we take from the time of restrictions to invigorate, unite and change our world? Can we, like the disciples, take the best from what used to be 'normal', add to it what we have learned about 'being church', family, caring, worshipping together via technology, the essential basics of our faith - and use all this in a new way to change, unite and invigorate

our world? These questions are particularly apposite as I write this during National Reconciliation Week.

As our doors slowly open, as the Premier keeps reminding us, just because we can do things doesn't mean we have to. As we step back into the world, like the disciples at Pentecost, we can't leave anyone behind, closed in, cut off - those at particular risk, those worried about rejoining the outside world, those whose lives have been affected financially, mentally, physically, emotionally. We can now include everyone with our new technological experience.

We can rejoice at being able to join with each other in person and once again celebrate the Eucharist together. We can also open the doors to go out into the world, to weave the Gospel story into others' stories, in their languages and contexts - and invite the world to join us - just like the disciples did at Pentecost.

Rising to the challenges of COVID-19

BY JANE FREEMANTLE

Over the past months, the community of the Mansfield Anglican Parish has been enthusiastically embracing the challenges that the COVID-19 has placed upon us.

We have decided to ring the church bells at noon every day during the time in which we cannot physically meet together as a congregation. Rev'd. Dr. Paul Dalzell, our locum priest, explained in his weekly 'Reflection' "When we ring the bells of the Church tower, here in Mansfield, we are saying 'It is time to remember that although we cannot meet together as a Church....

we are still 'making a noise' What we are is the 'real thing' even though we cannot meet on a Sunday.' We are also saying to the rest of those in earshot 'Do not forget us! We are still here!'. And so the parish community has been enthusiastically engaged in implementing a roster to ensure the bell is rung every day at noon. As we have always done, we have been ringing the bell at 9:25 on the Sunday in the 'call to church'. Our rosters have involved many members of our congregation and our bell ringers have included our younger members of our congregation.

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We are re-opening at last!

BY ALAN GARSIDE

To coincide with the reopening of our churches on Sunday 7th June, I will walk from St Etheldreda's, Harrierville to St John's Whorouly as a public demonstration of unity within the parish and as a walk of witness in thanks for the commencement of church services in the parish.

I will leave St Etheldreda's at 9.00 am on Thursday, 4th June after receiving a blessing from Revd Ed Byford and will walk to All Saints, Bright, arriving at about 3.00 to 3.30pm. I hope that some of the All Saints congregation will be there to meet me and any other walkers who may chose to join

me for all or part of the walk to receive a blessing from the Area Dean of the North West, Canon Alan Kelb.

On Friday morning, 5th June, I will leave All Saints at 8.30am and walk along the rail trail to St Paul's Myrtleford, arriving at about 4.00pm. Again, I hope that some of the St Paul's congregation will join me for afternoon tea and a blessing from the previous Priest In Charge, Canon Scott Jessup.

On Saturday, 6th June, I will leave St Paul's at 9.00am and will walk to St John's Whorouly, arriving at about 1.00pm. There I/we will be met by Bishop Clarence, who will conduct a

brief open-air service of thanksgiving for the recommencement of services in the Diocese and especially our parish. We will then enjoy a "bring and share" open-air lunch (weather permitting).

Anyone who wishes to join me for all or part of the walk will be most welcome. You may chose to walk for a kilometre or so from or to one of the churches.

This is an opportunity to re-enliven our churches and to establish our renewed pater of Sunday and weekday services across the parish.

Inside the Advocate this month

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Numurkah-Nathalia goes online

BY ROB ELLIOTT

These times have certainly tested our resourcefulness.

However, the Parish of Numurkah-Nathalia, under the guidance of Revd Victor Adams, has introduced fresh ways of connecting with parishioners and the wider community.

Each week, during the lockdown there have been emails sent out to parishioners which consist of the Sunday's readings, Revd Victor's sermon and prayers for the week, perhaps some children's activities or cartoons, as well as general parish

information when required and a copy of the Advocate when it is published; and for those who do not have access to the internet these have all been hand-delivered to their letterboxes.

The feedback from parishioners indicates that they are very pleased to receive these and they look forward to them each week. It's another important way that many of them stay connected to their community when quite a few have been confined to their homes.

Since Mothers' Day Revd Victor has also conducted a Zoom Morning

Prayer service which has been well received and is gaining more participants as we go along.

Parish Council meetings have also been via Zoom – what would we all have done without this excellent resource?

Warden Lou Hamon has been busy developing a parish Facebook page, posting readings, the sermons and prayers, as well as a selection of youtube clips of hymns that we would have sung each Sunday. It has been interesting listening to the variety of treatments of our familiar hymns. If you are on Facebook you should 'like' our page – Anglican Parish of Numurkah-Nathalia – we would love to have your reactions to the posts.

Lou is also regularly updating the Parish Webpage with these same resources.

So, in fact, despite not seeing each other 'in the flesh', the parish is probably in regular weekly contact with more people than usual.

It's not all bad news!

Self Isolation in Corryong

BY FAYE WHITEHEAD

Well we are all self-isolating and here in the Corryong Upper Murray Area feel very isolated from the rest of the world. Some of us are still recovering from the impact of the bushfires that we survived. Life has certainly been different so far for 2020. Zoom meetings - Diocesan and committees and medical appointments, Bible Study via Chat on Messenger, Facebook Church, gospel and sermon/thoughts by our Revd Mitch and so the list goes on. Will our life return to what it was, or will we find that life has changed, when all the restrictions are lifted?

Where I live, we have Satellite Internet. The other house on the property has four children learning mostly by Internet. So, we must share our Internet usage in order that the children can do their schooling. Interesting fact was that the schools have had to adjust their learning programs as the kids were practically becoming square eyed and found it difficult to concentrate, for all the daily sessions. Then they had to do their assignments on top of that.

Our Church hall tables are currently full of wonderful items that have been collected for us by people who

wanted to help those who had been impacted by the bushfires. People in the district who lost their homes are still in some cases having their sites cleared. Caravans, rented houses and living with other family members are all still very necessary.

Currently we are planning our next Parish Council meeting under the strict Covid19 rules. We have finally opened our Corryong Browser's Bookshop, once again under our current virus rules. At the time of writing home visiting has recommenced, once again under the virus rules. This is a much better option than our telephone calls to various parishioners to see how they are, for there are still a large number of people in our district who are not connected to a computer.

So Corryong, the Upper Murray and the Anglican Community are all looking forward to the next stage of our isolation being lifted enabling us to attend our Church in a very different form over the rest of our 2020 year. We are hoping and praying that there is not another spike in this current virus and that life can get back to normal soon.



Rising to the challenges of COVID-19 - continued from front page

Our Parish community has not let COVID-19 deter us from our regular worship and we have taken to 'zooming' our Sunday Services. We have been delighted with the response to this initiative and have welcomed on average 48 'Sunday service zoomers'. We have also welcomed worshippers from outside our Parish community including interstate relatives who have been missing their own regular Sunday Service. We have been particularly pleased to welcome our Bishop the Right Reverend Clarence to our services. While we look forward to the day when we can all meet as one in our parish churches St Johns Mansfield, Christ Church Bonnie Doon and St Peters Jamieson, we have been really blessed, in the interim, to have been able to continue to meet and worship on a Sunday via technology.

For those who have not had access to the Zoom service, pew sheets and Revd Paul's Reflections have been delivered by hand. However, we are so very

pleased that this group of parishioners (number =10) who have hitherto not been able to join us via zoom, will be able to attend St John's in person at 11am for a 'said' Mass from Sunday 22nd May. We have named this group: 'the'10' at '11'!! We have taken great pains to ensure that we strictly adhere to the protocols contained in the Diocesan COVIDSAFE Plan. We are looking forward to increasing the numbers able to personally attend St John's when the Victorian Government eases the current restrictions.

At a time of physical distancing, as a worship community we have been keen to keep our community together. Our parish members have responded to the impact of the isolation on members of our Mansfield community. We have introduced a community response support team who have been regularly contacting members of our wider community, to 'check in', have a chat, or to determine if any assistance is

needed.

The original contact list grew over the weeks as others in our community were referred to this initiative. Trish Gilson has continued to keep our ever-widening Parish list informed through her weekly 'Snippets', which is always warmly welcomed by the community. Embracing the new social media platforms for communication, Gilli Bruce has taken our FaceBook page to another level and we are getting some very positive engagement with the wider community. We have received such positive responses from Rev'd. Dr Paul Dalzell's weekly sermon on-line. We have experienced a five-times increase in followers over the past four weeks.

We are currently working on introducing a 'kids zoom service' and have welcomed the advice and enthusiasm provided by our parish parents and the Rev'd. Colleen Clayton who has been a previous contributor to our Parish worship....

watch this space.

This year, Reconciliation Week includes the Feast of Pentecost and we are really thrilled to have the Rev'd. Helen Dwyer deliver our sermon on Sunday 31st May. The Rev'd. Dwyer is a Ngarrindjeri woman, Chaplain at Overnewton Anglican Community College in Keilor and a friend of our parish who has previously visited our community in 2018 delivering a sermon during the Seasons of Creation.

The Mansfield Anglican Parish is a vibrant, energetic and committed rural community who has more than risen to the task of exploring new and innovative ways to continue our worship and ministry. We have been very blessed with the ministry and pastoral guidance provided by our locum priest Rev'd. Dr. Paul Dalzell and for the counsel and dedication of our Parish Council. As we face the 'new' normal, whatever that might be, we will continue to grow our faith and expand our

ministry being assured of God's presence in our lives. And so in these times we are reminded of the words of Psalm 46: 1-4
God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be moved, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though its waters roar and be troubled, Though the mountains shake with its swelling. Selah



Maisie Commons ringing the bells

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Front Page Photo: All Saints', Bright. Photo courtesy of Revd Ed Byford.

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 Contributions and photos are welcome (please limit to approximately 300 words) for consideration for publication dependent on space and content with the understanding that they may be edited. Pictures should be provided as a high resolution JPEG (200dpi) or Tiff if possible



Collation of Archdeacon Hicks

On Thursday April 16th Neil Hicks was collated as the latest Archdeacon of Wangaratta. This simple service was planned for the Chrism Mass in Holy Week but due to the 'lockdown' that service did not happen in the Cathedral, so at the first possible opportunity and in the freshly cleaned Chapel at Bishop's Lodge the service of Collation took place. Social distancing was duly observed between the Bishop, the Dean, the Registrar, Sue Hicks, and Neil. Sue managed to take a video and some photos which are now in the annals of the Diocese!

Several years ago, when visiting a parish in Sydney Neil was introduced by the Rector to the visiting bishop

and the bishop responded by asking him which bishop it was that he made look good. Neil was surprised by the question until the bishop explained that in a classic definition of the role of an archdeacon in the Anglican Church there were 2 things an Archdeacon had to do: 1) make your bishop look good and 2) keep the drains clear!

There's not much Neil has to do in terms of making the bishop look good, Bishop Clarence doesn't need any help on that score! So that leaves the drains! The ministry of an Archdeacon is much involved with matters of administration and maintenance of our physical structures but, as a priest (and always a Deacon) Neil tries to

remember that these tasks ought to be carried out in the spirit of our Lord who came to be the servant of all, it is in giving (serving) that we receive. And at the end of the day this ministry is to support the ministry of the Diocese in all its parts.

Collation. *The word is used in several senses, secular and ecclesiastical. Among the latter are the institution to an ecclesiastical office when the Bishop is the person who both presents and institutes a person to that office.*

PHOTO ABOVE: Archdeacon Neil Hicks and wife Suzanne.



New Vicar-General Commissioned

BY VEN DR JOHN DAVIS

The first Bishop in Council meeting at the new Registry in Armstrong House in the Cathedral Close saw the Dean, the Very Revd Ken Goodger, formally

commissioned as Vicar General and Commissary by Bishop Clarence. This means that he looks after things in the absence of the Bishop from the diocese.

The short ceremony on

Tuesday 26th May 2020 involved Council members both online and connected by Zoom.

PHOTO ABOVE: Bishop Clarence Bester and the Very Reverend Ken Goodger. Photo taken by Ven Dr John Davis.

from the Bishop



Dear People and Friends of the Diocese

The Season of COVID-19, Autumn & Winter

I often refer to winter as my special season because I simply love the rain, cold and sometimes miserable weather. It is a time when you can add an extra layer of clothing, light a fire or put the heater on and just relax and enjoy the indoors and outdoors at the same time. The splattering of rain against the roof and windows is a sound and a sight that intrigues me and, like some animals that go into hibernation, I find it a better time to snuggle up, to read and to sleep.

This winter will be different for us as, during autumn and with the spread of COVID-19 when we had to temporarily close our Churches, we now have the opportunity to re-open our Churches and restart our worship with up to 20 people with effect 1 June. Some of our Parish Leadership Teams have agreed to do so and are now required to present a COVIDSafe and Seating Plan, as the social distancing rules with quite a few additional restrictions will now be in place for the next few months. Those with larger congregations have decided to wait until stage 3 when more will be able to worship but under the same conditions. Statistically speaking and with the social distancing requirements in place, not many of our churches (except for Holy Trinity Cathedral) will be able to accommodate more than 50 worshippers at any given time. This means that some might have to consider an additional service in order to accommodate all worshippers within a Parish.

Winter is also known as the 'flu season' and many of our older congregation members are in a vulnerable stage of their lives. While churches may be open, I would like to express my sincere wish that each person should please take care of themselves and not feel pressured at all to attend services at any time if they feel unsure or unsafe. A COVIDSafe and Seating Plan does not mean a COVID-Free plan, so please look after your own interests first (including getting a 'flu vaccination!'). I am grateful for the kind generosity of our people in supporting their churches financially and encourage them to continue to do so.

Learning together

If we have learnt anything from this period it is that the church has never been closed as we continued to worship and do things differently. In fact, this will be a new normal and for me, business 'unusual'. It will be sad if we just go back to the normal way in how we conducted our 'business' before. What has developed over these past three months is a wonderful way of connecting using the different technological methods available to us, but also a church community in which we have re-developed being the 'carers' of our brothers and sisters. It was wonderful to hear from many how people stayed in contact with others by phone and how leaflets and service booklets were put into the letterboxes of parishioners.

Moving forward as we shape the future together

I pray that we will continue to build on this ministry of connecting and reaching out as we re-create, re-develop, re-define, re-establish and re-furbish the shape of our ministry together. I hope to start discussions as soon as next month with Bishop-In-Council and soon after with the Clergy and the people of the Diocese, which will lead up to Synod at the end of September. At my enthronement/installation service, I had as my theme the concept of mission and evangelism and our need to move to what we are called to do as a Church. We have not had much time to consider this together because of the restrictions, but soon we will have intentional conversations within parishes as we shape this ministry action plan for the Diocese. We will not rush anything, because we want to do it slowly and steadily, keeping it simple and real.

Please continue to pray for God's guidance as we navigate this together as a Diocese and for us to remain faithful to God's call to each one of us as we continue making a difference wherever we find ourselves.

Every blessing and please stay safe, stay at home and save lives!

Clarence E Bester
Bishop of Wangaratta

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Parish Partnerships

BY CATHY NESBITT



"You don't have to have it all figured out to move forward. Just take the next step"
(Sam Waterson)

As the restrictions slowly start to ease, we will start to move forward again. It will be different, but I personally cannot wait to start seeing people again, even if it is one on one.

In some instances things will be the same, but it is also a wonderful opportunity to explore new ways of doing things and learning about things that were not around say 3 or 6 months ago.

At Anglicare Victoria in Wangaratta we have managed to keep the Emergency Relief Program open every day via a telephone interview process that has worked well.

Our Emergency Relief programs in Euroa, Bright and Mt Beauty have also been able to operate to assist those in need. Thank you to the wonderful volunteers that have assisted in making

sure client needs are not unmet needs. On the subject of volunteers, this week is National Volunteer Week and we are not able to celebrate our volunteers in normal style but I would like to say a big THANK YOU to all the wonderful volunteers who, without hesitation, give their time to assist others.

Our region in 2020 has experienced, drought, fires, floods and pandemics and there are people who will be struggling.

It is our role to identify these people and offer assistance in a non-judgemental, private and safe environment. Anglicare will be doing their best to get out in our communities and identify the gaps, those in need and either assisting or advocating on their behalf.

If you know of any communities or individuals that could use a hand up, please let us know. Or if you have a great idea and feel that now is an opportune time to express it, let us know.

Take care, stay safe and stay connected with family and friends.

Maintaining a sense of community during COVID

BY DIANE GRANT

DURING this difficult time our churches around our district and the world are facing ministry challenges of how to support their flocks, their communities, their aid agencies.

It was very hard for our local churches to close the doors of their church buildings in March, but the church is the people not the buildings.

I gained some insight into what's happening across the world when I read a report from a young priest Rev Luke John in the Vanni region of Sri Lanka.

"All churches are closed. On Easter day, my church members called, wished, and said 'it is so sad there is no Easter service and to see that the church is empty.'"

"I told them to experience the risen Christ in seeing the empty church as the disciples experienced seeing the empty tomb. There is hope and faith in emptiness," Rev Luke said. Some churches are doing on line services, zoom conferencing, or live streaming for those with computers and smart phones.

Others, like local Anglican minister Rev Richard Pennington are sending

emails twice a week with relevant Bible reading and reflections, phoning folk, or posting or delivering booklets to keep his parish folk's spirits up.

We need to support the vulnerable in our community, maybe not in person, like we are used to doing by pastoral, home, hospital and hostel visits, but we need to remember we are in the prayer and spirituality business.

So if every everyone said a small prayer for what is happening, along with the many acts of selflessness, kindness, and compassion, it would show support for one another in this time of need and give to others the love of Christ.

Prayer is a great power used by all faiths. It goes hand in hand with science and faith. I'd like to share some of Rev Richard's recent prayers to give hope, courage and love to all.

"Lord we come before you at this time and we pray; 'For the governments who are doing their best to support their people; for the health workers tending the seriously ill and scientists working on a vaccination, 'Researchers analysing data and identifying trends; for media outlets working to communicate reality; for supermarket workers,

hygiene and sanitation providers; for good news stories of recoveries and effective planning, for the singing from balconies by locked-down communities, 'For the recognition that isolation doesn't need to mean loneliness; for those who are lonelier than they've ever been; those afraid to be at home, the bereaved and grieving.

"For the unwell and those concerned for loved ones, for those vulnerable because of underlying conditions, and 'most at risk to coronavirus' categories, For notes in letterboxes offering support; for internet and telephones and technology that connect most people; for awakened appreciation of what is truly important.

"For those watching their entire income stream dry up; who have lost their jobs, have closed their businesses; those who have no choice but to go out to work,

"For our schools and families learning at home; for our farmers who need seasonable weather, for crops and stock growth.

"God raise up your Church, to be present to the pain, to respond with love in action, even if from a safe distance. Amen."



A forest full of God's messages

BY PHILIPPE PEREZ
(Courtesy of the Euroa Gazette)

PAUL Hobby finally feels he is back home.

But the new priest at St Paul's Euroa has taken a route almost as circuitous as the apostles themselves.

Andrew, Peter, James and John worked as fishermen before committing themselves to Christ.

Matthew was a tax collector for the Roman government while Simon, known as the Zealot, was working overtime to bring that government down.

None of the books of the bible explain what backgrounds produced Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas and Thaddaeus.

Paul, who became an apostle after the Resurrection, was a Pharisee before.

And of course, poor old Judas, the treasurer for Christ and his merry band, also had an unexplained history but in every book of the bible is labelled a thief, embezzler and, ultimately, traitor.

Before turning to the cloth, Paul had answered the call of the outdoors, working in the timber and forestry industries throughout the state's north east.

He is also no stranger

to the Strathbogie region, having grown up in Gobur while attending Ruffy Primary School.

"It's certainly been a huge transition for me," Reverend Hobby conceded.

"I had been thinking of a career change for a while and had a meeting right here at St Paul's with Reverend Norm Hart and Reverend Patti, who were ministers in this parish a few years ago," he said.

"We talked about all kinds of things, from school chaplaincy to doing something for God in another capacity, but Revd Norm suggested I look at becoming a priest."

Paul's appointment to the role at St Paul's has been a logical progression after four years serving the church and God at Wangaratta as a lay minister and then deacon.

He became assistant priest for the parish of Wangaratta West, and while he has had some academic training, he is still working towards his Bachelor of Theology at the University of Melbourne's theology school in Trinity College.

"The wonders of the internet and wi-fi mean I can drop the kids off at school in the morning here and come back to the office to hook into

a live online lecture that goes toward my qualifications," Rev Hobby said.

He described his career change as 'a steep learning curve' and agreed with few similarities between the church and the forestry industry the transition had been far from seamless.

"Even things such as writing and submitting essays at university was a challenge and all these things have not come easy to me."

But while theory is a challenge, Rev Hobby said he was 'relishing' the opportunity to be immersed in church activities at St Paul's, with good community support backing him in his first few weeks in the role.

"It was very pleasing and wonderful to have people from the other churches come for my licensing in January," Rev Hobby said.

"We had people from the Baptist Church, the Euroa Christian Fellowship, the Catholic and the

Uniting Churches, and that was a wonderful, wonderful feeling to be welcomed like that by the community."

While holding services in Euroa, Longwood and Violet Town are all a big part of Rev Hobby's remit - he is also keen to get amongst the community and have a hand in activities outside the church's services, including the local parish open shop and FoodShare initiatives.

And if people miss him when he's out and about, he has encouraged them to come and say hello after a service.

"I am looking forward to serving the community, being a friendly parish, and welcoming anyone who comes by," he added.

[Note: Currently services are not being held in Euroa (during the pandemic) but you are welcome to join other parishioners via Zoom, you just need to contact Rev Paul and he will explain how.]

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News from Mothers' Union

BY MARY MUNTZ

Mothers' Union is probably the largest charitable organisation in the world with almost 4 million members. Worldwide President, Mrs Sherrin Harper, wrote to all Provincial presidents recently asking for our help, stating that the impacts of the Covid 19 Pandemic leave them no choice. "The Mothers' Union Central Charity, Mary Sumner House, is facing a significant shortfall of income from fundraising, events and from the shop sales. The loss is expected to be over one million pounds this year alone. This is threatening the very existence of Mothers' Union and we urgently need to raise this amount to help protect our future. Staff at MSH have taken pay cuts and suspended other expenditure where possible. Without help now we will not be able to meet the costs of keeping Mothers' Union at Mary Sumner House. It will be a tragedy if Mothers' Union is not able to serve the people during and beyond this crisis and Covid 19 will have torn the heart out of the organisation. The funding includes governance, staffing and safeguarding fundraising and development. Financial support is necessary to rebuild our income and ensure the spiritual, practical and emotional support Mothers' Union has given for almost 150 years."

In her history of Mothers Union, Violet Lancaster states: "The idea that there should be a Mary Sumner House came about gradually as Mothers' Union grew in numbers and importance at home and abroad. It became necessary for members to have a Constitution and Central Council. This happened in 1896 and Headquarters, consisting of a locker in the basement of the Church House at Westminster, became a reality". During 1917 MU Headquarters was moved to No. 8 Dean's Yard and was known as "the Mary Sumner House". In 1925 a large solid red brick building at the Junction of Great Peter St and Tufton St. Westminster became the headquarters of the Mothers' Union: built, furnished and maintained by the members themselves." This Mary Sumner House is the centre of all Mothers' Union activities and is visited by many members from around the world. At the Dedication Service in 1925 the Bishop of Winchester stated that "This house is the outward and visible sign of that great fellowship of mothers; here in the chapel will be its centre, and from here will radiate all the strength and power of prayer"

Licensing of Rev'd Maryann Leonard into the Parish of Benalla

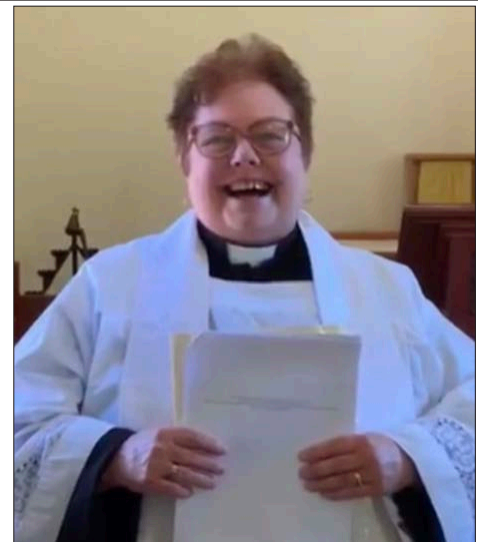
BY REV MARYANN LEONARD

On Wednesday the 15th April 2020, I was blessed to be licensed as Priest Assisting in the Anglican Parish of Benalla. Being licensed to a Parish is always a time of great rejoicing, both for the parish and the priest. However this licensing was very different in a COVID19 world.

John, myself, Bishop Clarence, the Registrar Tim, and Michelle the videographer, were the only ones present in

the quaint chapel at Bishop's Lodge with the correct social distancing. Morning Prayer preceded the licensing. You would expect this usually public event would be somewhat disappointing not having the usual large gathering with a reception of epic proportions provided.

It wasn't disappointing at all. It was 'intimate'. I could feel the Holy Spirit 'spresence. Even though we were socially distanced I felt closer to Jesus more than ever. My thoughts of being in the Parish of Benalla and beginning



ministry there were, at times, overwhelming but exciting.

After the formalities, we had a cup of coffee, a quick chat with social distancing, and made our way back to Cobram, to get ready

for the removalists. The Benalla Parish was able to see the service via Facebook, later in the day. God has me where God wants me. I have hit the ground running, now to continue to race.

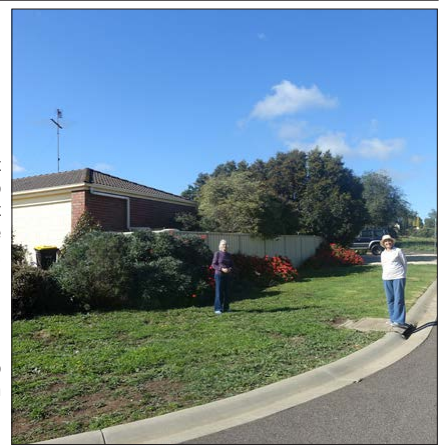
Caring and Isolation during COVID19

BY CAROLINE BURGE

In a non pre-planned or pre set-up photo, it was wonderful to come across two parishioners in Kilmore during safe isolation time. With streets bare and empty of cars or people, Kilmore parishioner Sherine Copland was "found" checking up (in a safe distance way) on parishioner Betty Daly when

isolation became so important to us all. The same scenario will have been played out across the Diocese, the country and indeed the world, but how lovely to see such an impromptu show of care and friendship.

With thanks to the many who care for our elderly or infirm - Mission indeed in our own back yards.



Let's Talk Media!

BY DIANE GRANT

Bishop John Parkes asked me a few years ago to give a talk on how churches can use the media for God's ministry.

Hi everyone, my name is Diane Grant, and I am writing here today to encourage you to communicate better with your communities.

Some background. I worked in Melbourne in the 1960's for Moores of Prahran general office and then for Brash's Music store as an accounts payable clerk.

I married a soldier in 1967 and travelled around parts of Australia to live and was in Singapore for 2 years. I attended many churches and local group activities in those 25 years I was married to Ian.

I started writing for the Seymour Telegraph newspaper as a correspondent from Avenel in 1984 when the little old lady I cleaned for as a home helper asked me to take over her column.

Sad to say Ian and I parted ways in 1992. I took a leap of faith that God would catch me. So I moved back to Seymour while I had two kids at Uni and one doing his apprenticeship.

I was left with a small part time home help job cleaning homes and two surgeries, when an opportunity for a social writer and photographer job came up with the Seymour Telegraph. The editor took a punt on me in 1992 and hired me on the spot and said if I could write for Seymour like I did for Avenel Activities that would be great. I received \$50 a week for doing this for 14 years then \$75 for 10 years.

I went to night school at the new TAFE and got my admin and writing skills upgraded whilst cleaning by day. I bought a little house the month I started a job at the army camp for 3 months, which turned into a 12 year full time job. I became a contributor to the army monthly Boomerang magazine from 1992. So God still had a plan for me.

I took some photography

courses and learnt what I needed to know about my own Canon and Pentax cameras.

When I retired from the army public service in late 2004, I became editor of the 64 page booklet called the Boomerang. I loved going out to Pucka twice a week to get stories and pics of soldiers, army exercises, PM visits and MP's, family news.

In 1999 Fr Norm Hart said in a sermon that year that you should be careful for what you pray for, or wish for, as it might come true. I had prayed for a new partner, and along came John Grant

In 2000 I married my truckie John Grant and we've travelled the world twice and been to China, New Zealand, Canada, USA, Europe as well as many parts of Australia. The camera and computer keys go mad when we travel.

I have interviewed many prominent people from the Prime Minister John Howard, Brigadiers and other big wigs during my 36 years as a writer for local papers.

In 2001, I was asked by

the Euroa Gazette to write Nagambie news for them, and when I semi-retired in 2004 I completed a Marriage and Funeral celebrants course that I had been studying for two years.

I learnt that God had a sense of humour. Just two days after finishing work, I received a call from Shirley Steele, MU President from Wangaratta Diocese. She said, seeing that I had extra time on my hands now, would I mind becoming the editor of the Diocesan MU Pelican Magazine. What could I say? God knew I had some spare time.

At the same time I was asked to send articles and photos into the Nagambie Voice fortnightly, Seymour Nagambie Advertiser and The Telegraph. I also sent articles and photos to the MU national magazine the Mia Mia and to the Anglican Advocate in Wangaratta. Thank God for emails.

So, after being a country newspaper writer for over 36 years, here I am today to encourage you to take up the pen, or computer and a camera to be one of God's writers. It can become a good ministry if

taken on board properly. All you need is a pen, notepad, maybe a camera, and a willingness to be a scribe for Christ and a good rapport with the local editor of the paper, magazine, newsletter etc. You also need to hone your communication skills - verbal and written.

There are two ways of writing for your church for newspapers.

1. Providing advance articles for events coming up (and a picture if possible) Introduce yourself to the local editor and ask if you can contribute some church articles on a regular basis?

2. Providing articles and pics after the event. (follow up)

The first one is to provide the community with notice of what is going to happen.

THE SECOND IS TO LET PEOPLE WHO WERE NOT THERE KNOW WHAT HAPPENED.

Churches are not to be insular anymore. They are part of the wider community, especially here in the country, where many people know the church folk personally. They depend

on their local church for their support in many ways even if they don't attend themselves.

You have to make Christianity sound more attractive. You have to compete with the sports events, community groups for that little bit of local newspaper space. The same with the church papers etc.

This is one of the greatest ways to OUTREACH to your community.

For photos in newspapers, the Advocate etc., send them as jpgs, at least in 600 pixels. Send them in large size, not condensed and that will allow the paper to make the size photo they want for their issue.

Thank you very much for reading my rambles on a subject about which I am passionate.

If you need any help call me, email me, or talk to your local editors.

Cheers Di Grant
Parish of Central Goulburn & St John's Nagambie.
email. Stardust2011@bigpond.com Tel. 57 94 1720



ANZAC Day with a difference

BY CAROLINE BURGE

Whilst Australia has always held dear those who have given their lives in service to our country, sadly 2020 was not a year when hundreds of people gathered to pay their respects to the fallen.

It was a very bleak ANZAC Day at the southern end of the Diocese (even by Kilmore standards), as the streets were bare at dawn and our church buildings closed. The thick rolling fog and the chilly air didn't dampen the spirits of

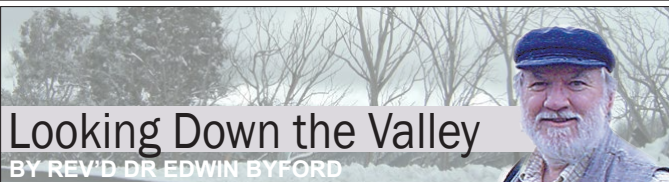
many in our communities who braved the cold to stand in their driveways with a lighted candle to remember those who fought for our country.

At 5.58am in the pitch dark, the church bell at Christ Church was rung 33 times by Parish Priest Revd André DuPlooy - one for each year of our Lord's life, the one who made the ultimate sacrifice for us all.

There weren't hundreds gathered, but simple small family

groups who then heard the Last Post playing through the silence of the streets. Many people played their own recordings, so this lone bugle played echoed throughout the streets - a truly moving experience.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old; age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.



Looking Down the Valley

BY REV'D DR EDWIN BYFORD

When I started writing these columns two years ago I thought that a catchy title would be "Looking down the Valley". I did not think that I would find myself confined to the upper parts of the Ovens River Valley for several months. But here I am, looking down the valley, wondering when I can legitimately venture as far as Wangaratta or Albury or gather with a number of other like-minded Christians to give glory to God.

to the sacred ministry? With the help of friends in the Australian Student Christian Movement, the authorities at Trinity College, new friends and colleagues at Trinity and the United Faculty of Theology, and I suspect, sheer stubbornness on my part, I completed those theological studies and was made Deacon at the beginning of 1973.

Normality disappeared for those of us in the valleys in December. The fires came and then we were ordered from our homes. Scarcely had we returned but rumours and rumours of rumours about some deadly form of flu began to appear in the news and then there was the shut down.

As a nation, a state and as local communities we will respond with ways of limiting the danger of fire and disease. As a Church we also need to respond. I suspect that many of us have been asking questions of ourselves about what it means to be the Church as a result of our confinement. In many ways we have had to rely on our own resources and perhaps guidance from emails and the internet.

After the fires there were dozens of calls for inquiries and even Royal Commissions into what went wrong that there was so much death and destruction. Now we have calls for an international inquiry into how COVID 19 started and spread. The impression that I have from the various news reports is that many of those calling for these inquiries want somebody to blame for what has occurred. It seems to be an enduring human characteristic that we want simple answers to great problems and that that will involve finding somebody to blame.

For people without computers, or those like us in the upper reaches of the Ovens River Valley with slow ADSL, our Prayer Books and Bibles have been our resources. I suspect that many have discovered that there is a lot more in our Prayer Book than the service of the Holy Communion. It is also probably the case that many will have discovered that the leaders (minsters) of many of the worship services set out in our Prayer Books do not necessarily need to be Priests. Adaptation is a natural companion of being Anglican.

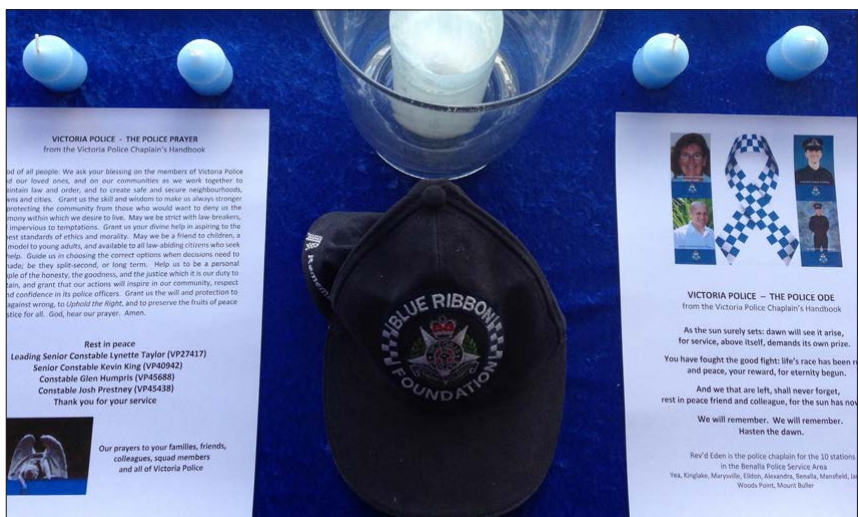
The last Sunday we worshipped together before the shut down was Mothering Sunday, the Fourth Sunday in Lent. That day the Gospel was the story of the man born blind in chapter nine of the Gospel according to Saint John. The story starts with the disciples asking Jesus who is to blame that this man was born blind — his parents or himself? Jesus tells them that neither his parents nor the man himself are to blame, but the consequence is that the works of God can be made manifest in him. Jesus changed the question from one of blame to one of "How do we respond?" We know our Lord's response. For the first time in his life, the man can see.

In 1969 my family moved from Cooma to Dampier in the Pilbara of Western Australia. My first visit there was after I was released from hospital following my accident. The Anglican Priest in Dampier and Mount Tom Price and everywhere in between commented to me that the Book of Common Prayer was the greatest of spiritual resources because it gave those isolated on their properties a way of maintaining a spiritual and prayer life. Many properties he could visit only once or perhaps twice a year. With a Book of Common Prayer and a Bible, isolated families could grow and develop their faith and spiritual commitment.

Responses are adaptations. Among everything else we have to adapt to the new circumstances in which we find ourselves. In late November 1969 I was run over in Toorak. I remember stopping my car. I do not remember getting out of it. The next thing I remember is nearly a week later. I know what happened because witnesses told me. In one sense I knew who to blame, but that did not solve my problem of being in hospital, in traction, with a very smashed right leg and masses of stitches across my head. I soon found that saying to myself, "How can God have let this happen to me?" got me nowhere. I had come from Canberra to Melbourne to arrange to begin my theological studies, surely God would look after me! Asking why God had not got me there a second earlier or later did not change the fact that I had been smashed up. I had to discover new questions — How do I adapt to my new circumstances and continue to respond to my conviction that somehow God was calling me

Over these last couple of months, many have discovered that there is a great reservoir of Anglican spiritual resources. Every great development in the life of the church has involved a significant mining of our past. Saint Augustine of Hippo, at the end of the fourth century, when Rome was collapsing, wonderfully reapplied the insights of Saint Paul. At the Reformation Luther, Calvin and Cranmer found the keys to the new time in Paul and Augustine. Now may be a time for rediscovering Cranmer and, perhaps even more importantly, the great theologian of the end of the Elizabethan age, Richard Hooker. Hooker lived through the turmoil of the reign of Elizabeth I with all the threats of rebellion, foreign invasion, and constant argument about what it meant to be an English Christian.

We will be different in six months time from what we were six months ago. We will still be Christian and we still be Anglican, but the way that we are will be different.



Tribute to Victorian Police Officers

BY MOTHER EDEN NICHOLLS

On Wednesday 22nd April 2020, Victoria Police lost four members in a horrific accident. This affected not only VicPol members and families, but the entire nation with thousands registering messages of support, and memorials with flowers, cards and balloons outside many Victorian police stations.

Mother Eden is a Police Chaplain for the 10 stations in the Benalla Police Service Area. COVID-19 requirements meant visiting of stations by chaplains has ceased for the time being. Mother Eden was given special permission to visit one station, after it was believed that a member had been a squad mate of one of the deceased. She also made phone calls and sent

cards to each of the stations.

St.Luke's Op Shop (located in the main street of Yea) had a memorial display in its window for 18 days, and received many positive comments from locals and visitors, who made the time to ring, email or facebook appreciation.

EXPLORING FAITH MATTERS

Education for Ministry

Rev. Greg Davies, Director of EFM Australia, is planning to run a virtual EFM course starting later this year. If anyone would like further information as it becomes available, please email Rev. Helen Malcolm hmalcolm@bigpond.com.

Leadership, Stewardship & Love Reflected in 60 Years Together

BY ARCHDEACON NEIL HICKS

If leadership and good Christian citizenship is a dedication to demonstrating your values and love, then it is reflected in both faith and personal milestones. So it is with great joy and gratitude that we celebrate a significant milestone in the lives of two couples in our Diocese. Both couples have been fully committed and active members of their parishes since they married, Jim and Dawne Judd of St. Cuthbert's Yarrowonga and Trevor and Erryl Noonan of St. Margaret's Cobram. Married in Yarrowonga's St Cuthbert's Church on 23 April in 1960, Jim and Dawne Judd have contributed to both the Yarrowonga community and church through consistent acts of dedication, stewardship and going above and beyond merely living life. Dawne was a member of the Young Wives group at St Cuthbert's and this helped her in the creating of a loving family and together with Jim the expansion of a sustainable and long running family business. Dawne was also deeply involved in Girl Guides in the region over many years including in leadership at the Regional level. Dawne speaks of their involvement in Marriage Encounter several years ago as being significant

in the strengthening of their marriage and faith. Through their business the Judd Family have assisted many groups and individuals in the communities of Yarrowonga-Mulwala, often through in-kind support and/or participation in governing bodies and fund raising. Jim and Dawne's faith motivated them again and again to give their time and efforts in gratitude and service to the church and community. Jim and Dawne have celebrated week after week their faith and love through their participation in the regular worship at St Cuthbert's and its various groups which includes participation in Ladies Auxiliary, as Church Warden, Parochial Nominator, Parish Councillor, Synod representative. In the Queen's Birthday 2009 Honours List, Jim was awarded an OAM "For service to the communities of Yarrowonga and Mulwala"

Married in the Shepparton Presbyterian Church on 14th May 1960 and very soon after making St Margaret's Church Cobram their spiritual home, Trevor and Erryl Noonan established their family of two and their successful business in the town that both have served extensively over the past 60 years. Trevor soon became a vestryman at St Margaret's from 1962 and went on to serve both parish and Diocese in several

leadership capacities until quite recently. Trevor has said that arguably his biggest passion was Cobram Anglican Grammar School (originally Christ the King Grammar) of which he was a founding member in 2000 and of which he served as School Council Chair until the end of 2019. Trevor was also a Cobram Shire Councillor in the 1970's and was one of the four Commissioners who worked to form Moira Shire in 1994. Trevor and Erryl's involvement in the church community also includes being choristers from the early 1980's until a few years ago. Erryl has also served the wider community as a tireless member of the hospital committee.

In the Queen's Birthday 2018 Honours List Trevor was awarded an OAM "For service to the community of Cobram" and at that time he said 'without the support of my wife and family none of this would have been possible and they have always been right beside me supporting me. Others have said of them that they "have been such an influence in our church and wider community as a couple."

Marriage within the Church is a beginning of a relationship that can engender a lifetime of blessings. To these two couples we say Thank you and Congratulations.



Photo Above: Jim and Dawne Judd Photo Below: Trevor and Erryl Noonan



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Communities Combatting COVID-19

2020 EOFY Appeal

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ANGLICORD

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Please donate to help communities **prevent** and **overcome** coronavirus