

MESSENGER

Anglican
Church
Diocese of Perth



A MAGAZINE FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIANS | JULY 2023



I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.
John 8:12

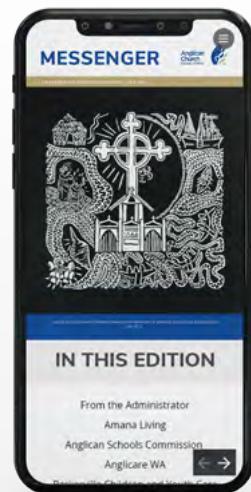
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What was 'The Coming of the Light'?

'I am the Light of the World.' Thank God for the first missionaries, who on July the first 1871, at Darnley Island, brought the light of Christ to the Torres Strait.

So reads the inscription outside the Anglican Church on Thursday Island. The following year, London Missionary Society pastors arrived at Mer; by 1900, virtually all Murray Islanders professed to be Christians, following Anglican ways. Torres Strait Islanders come together on 1 July to celebrate 'The Coming of the Light'. More Islanders live in Queensland than on the islands themselves these days, but the day is marked wherever they live. While most Islanders are Anglican, led by Islander clergy, the day is marked by all, of whatever Christian tradition. On Saturday evening 1 July 1871, the ship carrying the Revd Samuel MacFarlane of the London Missionary Society, together with South Sea Islander evangelists and teachers, anchored at Erub (Darnley Island). Dabad, a local clan elder, defied his tribal law and openly welcomed the party. A tradition existed in the Islands that when white men arrived on a large canoe carrying a sacred object (MacFarlane was holding a Bible), they were to be listened to. Asked by researcher David Salisbury about the day's significance, Father Elimo Tapin of St Stephen's Anglican Church, Townsville responded: *For us the celebration of the Coming of the Light is just like celebrating Christmas day. On Christmas day God came to us in the form of a baby and on July 1 God came to the Torres Strait in the form of a book.*

Church services and a re-enactment of the landing are central to the day's activities. Hymn singing, feasting and Ailan dans ('Island dance' — but contrasted with pre-1871 war dances) strengthen community and family ties. Torres Strait Islanders' acceptance of Christianity brought changes that profoundly affected every aspect of their lives. It ended inter-island conflict, bringing the Islanders into a wider culture together. Christian ideas were somewhat compatible with Islanders' traditional beliefs, and Anglican leaders allowed tribal cultural elements to continue in worship. Further, Islanders had been grossly exploited in the maritime industry: missionaries provided some protection and assistance in negotiations. Today Torres Strait Islanders live all over Australia, especially in Queensland, and TSI Anglicans have their own bishop. The Mabo case, handed down on 3 June 1992, led to the recognition of Native Title rights for all indigenous Australians. That date now marks the end of the Week of Prayer for Reconciliation, which opens on 27 May (Census Day 1967).

~ from 'Australian Anglicans Remember'



5 MARKS OF MISSION

- 1** To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- 2** To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- 3** To respond to human need by loving service
- 4** To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
- 5** To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

MISSION 2020+ PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit!

Give us new confidence in your grace,
new words for the mission we share,
new strength to go where you send us,
new spring in our step, as we set out
to spread our faith in changing times,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE RT REV'D KATE WILMOT *Assistant Bishop*



Meanwhile, back at the Areopagus...

St Paul's speech at the Areopagus unfolded in Acts 17:16-34 is a wonderful lesson in preaching and evangelism.

In the great city of Athens, surrounded by many shrines and idols, Paul is asked for a combination of teaching and a defence of his position at the site of the Athenian law courts.

His opening is unforgettable:

Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.

Acts 17:22-23 NRSV

Paul begins with the Creation and ends with the Resurrection. Though some reject his message, other hearers ask to know more. Paul's opening was very effective on a people who were renowned for being curious and entranced by new ideas.

The inscription on the altar may be a kind of museum label 'someone built this altar to worship a god but we don't know which one'; or the Athenians may be attempting to honour any gods they missed on the way past (in the same way that All Saints' Day came to be observed by Christians).

In our time, it would be unusual to meet someone saying 'I'm concerned that there may be divine beings that I've failed to worship properly' but we hear the people of our society saying something in a new way.

People used to respond to society's needs or suffering as a result of belonging to a philosophical movement or religion. Works of justice and mercy were done in integrity because people were Christians, or Jews or Socialists or Freemasons and the service was performed because it aligned with the values of the organisation.

In this part of our history there is less attachment to institutions but there are many people talking about 'giving back' or 'making a

difference'. Even supermarkets have entrance signs reminding us to 'be kind' – something that is a simplified version of 'love your neighbour as yourself.'

As a church community worship is very important to us because (rightly) God is very important to us, but our missionary works need to extend beyond of an invitation to come to church on Sunday.

Imagine St Paul's Areopagus sermon today:

People of Western Australia, I see how very community-minded you are. As I wandered through your Sunday gathering at Bunnings, I saw you supporting the Volunteer Fire Brigade at the Sausage Sizzle. This receptiveness towards those who serve is known by us and practised by our communities for generations. In this we are joined...

I can't preach this like Paul would, but I do know that the work of the church through generations has focused on responding to need and reducing suffering. We do this in the name of God and because of our Gospel values.

This means we have a natural affinity with people who are motivated towards this.

We approach the Areopagus from the other end. We have the opportunity to work alongside and in collaboration with people who care for the same things we care for. These works of justice and love are aligned with our Christian values but may proceed from a secular basis.

Then we have an outstanding opportunity – the possibility of sharing the Good News of Jesus and in time and with sensitivity showing all that a relationship with Father, Son and Holy Spirit can mean.

We are lucky in our times that people are generally motivated towards achieving good things, we can pray that we may have a part with God's Holy Spirit in opening a door for new people to believe.

Living our Marks of Mission

STEPHANIE BUCKLAND *Chief Executive Officer*

Amana Living has been a part of the Anglican community for more than six decades. Our Anglicanism runs deep, and it has always guided the care and support we provide to older people. In 2021 we took steps to fortify this bond by developing our own Mission Plan to ensure Amana Living's present and future work supports the Five Marks of Mission.

As an Anglican agency, we share the good news of the Kingdom by providing chaplaincy services to residents, clients, families and staff of many faiths and none. Our dedicated chaplaincy team, working closely with Parish priests, conduct weekly services for those who wish to participate and offers personalised ministry at our care centres and villages.

We open formal Amana Living meetings with prayer and reinforce our connections with the Church via the Annual Dedication of Service for Senior Staff and Amana Living Sunday. Senior Chaplain Reverend Jeni Goring leads a weekly staff prayer meeting, and supports the chaplains to provide worship services, prayer meetings and bible studies for residents.

The ability to respond to human need through loving service is crucial to providing quality aged care. One of our core values is compassion and we purposely recruit staff who show kindness, empathy, and deep respect for all those we serve.

This compassion extends to the care we provide for the marginalised whether it's through low cost accommodation in retirement villages, by providing the free McCusker Nurse Service to support carers of people living with dementia, or ensuring no Amana Living resident will die alone in residential aged care.

Since our inception, we have consistently sought to transform unjust social structures through our work. Building upon feedback from our staff, residents, and clients, we formalised this commitment by establishing a new vision to create a community where every older person



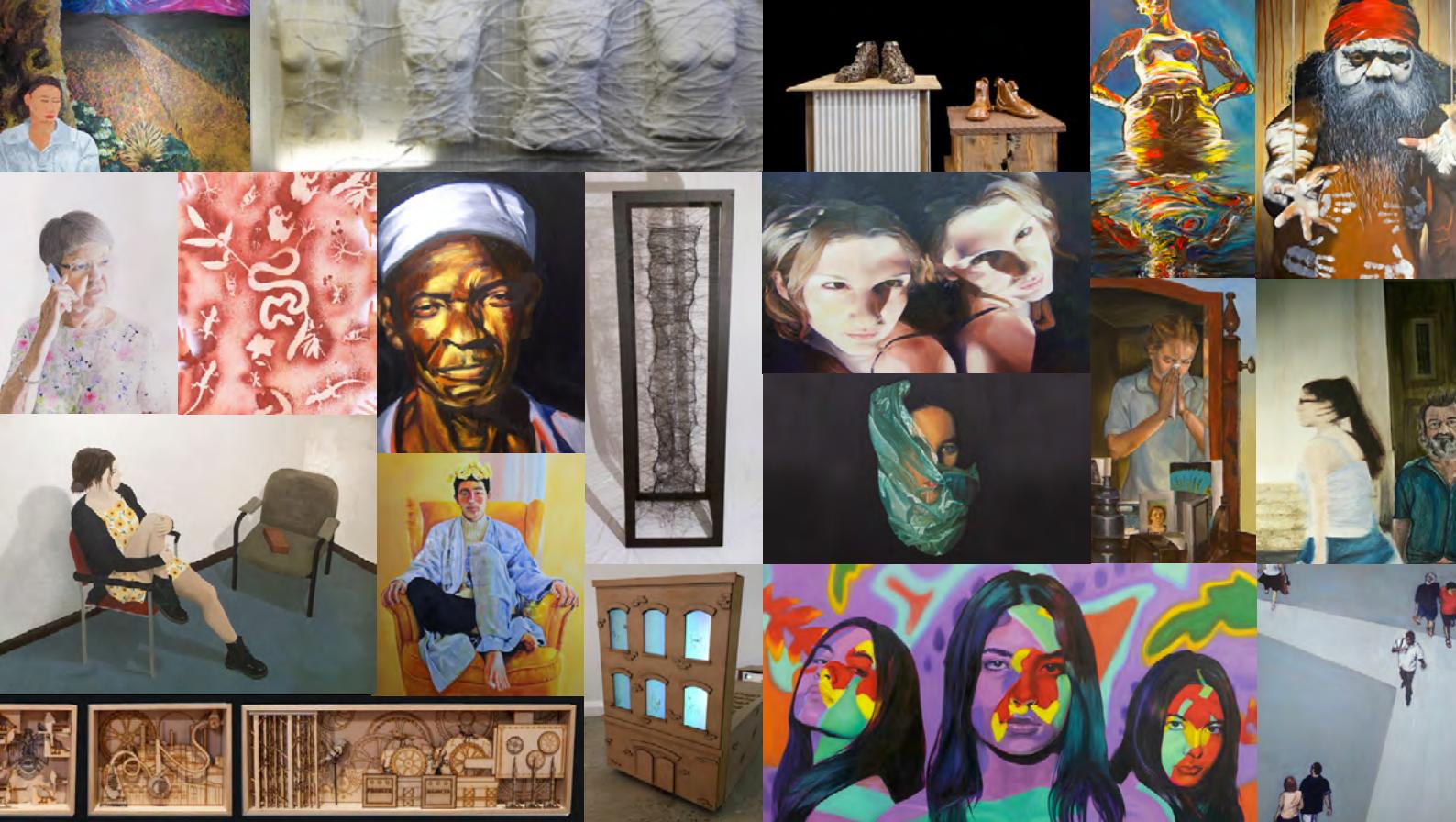
is honoured and valued. This is a vision not just for Amana Living but for the whole of Australia.

Our vision comes alive through our daily work, as well as through our engagement in policy discussions to positively influence aged care reform. We also tackle ageism by building intergenerational relationships via our partnerships with Anglican schools.

We provide employment conditions that address broader social issues, setting up the next generations for better outcomes. Initiatives such as the introduction of support for staff experiencing family and domestic violence contributes to a fairer and better future for our staff.

And finally, we strive to sustain and renew the life of earth, through environment initiatives such as incorporating environmentally sustainable design and solar power in our buildings.

Our dedication to our Anglican roots is unwavering. We continue to strive for excellence in our mission to make a positive difference in the lives of older people and society.



Images of the previous 19 winners

20TH ANNUAL ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL ART

An exhibition of works by senior art students from Western Australian schools

SAT 15 - SUN 23 JULY 2023
10am - 4pm daily
(12noon - 4pm Sundays)
Entry by GOLD COIN donation
Catalogues \$15
People's Choice voting & prize draw

GALA AWARDS NIGHT
Thursday 20 July 2023
6.30pm one night only
Gala tickets \$20/\$10
available via TryBooking

St George's Cathedral • 38 St Georges Terrace, Perth • (08) 9325 5766
art.perthcathedral.org • facebook.com/StGeorgesCathedral



ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL ART



Anglican Community Fund
An incorporated member of the Anglican Diocese of Perth



CATHEDRAL SQUARE

Learning to Listen

PENELOPE RUSSELL *Executive Officer, Western Australian Anglican Schools Association
Director of Teaching and Learning, Anglican Schools Commission*



What is aboriginal spirituality? What is the Voice to Parliament and is it necessary? Is there a positive story of Christian faith told by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people? What is 'truth telling'? What about reconciliation?

These were the questions being explored by Aboriginal Christian leader Brooke Prentis last month at a series of student and teacher seminars. The seminars were organised by the Western Australian Anglican Schools Association and hosted by the Anglican Schools Commission and Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School.

Brooke Prentis is a Wakka Wakka woman (an area north-west of Brisbane). She is an international speaker, writer, educator, Chartered Accountant, poet, church pastor and activist. Brooke is also the first Aboriginal person to be appointed CEO of a national Christian organisation in Australia, during her time at Common Grace.

Brooke spent time with students explaining concepts outlined in the Uluru Statement from the Heart - 'Voice, treaty and truth.' and why all three are needed for a truly reconciled Australia. Brooke spoke with a powerful sense of justice and hope. She expressed her desire for Aboriginal Christian leaders to be acknowledged for their contributions to Australian society and their relentless pursuit of justice; figures such as William Cooper. Cooper's remarkable legacy includes organising the historic Day of Mourning protest

on January 26, 1938. On the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the First Fleet in Australia, he and other Aboriginal activists protested the mistreatment and marginalisation of Aboriginal peoples. This powerful demonstration marked a pivotal moment in the struggle for Indigenous rights and recognition.

Brooke also conducted workshops for chaplains and educators, delving into Aboriginal perspectives in the curriculum, Aboriginal Spirituality, and the art of Deep Listening. She invited the attendees to become guests of ancient hosts on ancient lands, facilitating a deeper understanding and appreciation of Aboriginal culture. Through sharing her personal story of Christian faith, Brooke conveyed that despite facing disappointments and struggles, her journey is one of immense hope and joy. Moreover, her faith allows her to embrace her Aboriginal identity and Christianity.

Brooke Prentis's visit left an indelible impact on our community. Her message of reconciliation, friendship, and the power of listening with love resonated deeply with all who attended her seminars. As an association of Anglican schools we look forward to continuing our journey towards reconciliation with renewed passion and understanding.



A Good Life - Part 3

CHRIS THOMASON *Chaplain*



A quick recap of our exploration of A Good Life.

In part 1 I described my idea of a good life. In part 2 we looked at what a good life looked like for those who responded to my request and delved into some of the theories behind a good life, which pointed to the importance of relationships and community, our interaction with family, friends and others.

At Anglicare WA we ask how can we use this information to help those that are struggling to cope in a system that often sees a case number before the person? This gets much harder if you are trying to access numerous services, sometimes with multiple case numbers?

Anglicare WA in partnership with Ruah Community Services are trialling a self-funded action research project to see how participants can grow a good life through building relationships and community.

Known as the Sunshine Project, the project is working with a small group of families in the Rockingham and Kwinana area to learn from their experiences of hardship and to test ways for them to develop a good life.

At the start of 2021, the project brought together several local community groups, services, community members and local government to imagine what the good life could look like in Kwinana. Ideas generated that day have been refined into prototypes which are being tested out with new partners.

The Sunshine Project is 18 months into a 2-year trial and has been testing an idea with families around developing a plan with the whole family about how they want to progress to a good life which they hold and can take it to other services who can help them with aspects of their plan.

This is part of an effort for families to feel in control of their own plan and to reduce the duplication of having many plans with many service providers. The plans are already proving

useful, with some families putting them up on their lounge room wall or taking them along to multi-agency meetings.

Through the Sunshine Project, families told us that their number one motivator is to give their kids a good life.

But when all their income goes on essentials, they never get the chance to take their kids away for a weekend holiday to make memories together.



Similarly, many couples are working on their relationship, but can't justify the expense of a date night to recharge their batteries. Families running on empty emotionally aren't well placed to function well, which affects all areas of their lives. We also understand that funds are often limited, and prioritised for critical expenses such as food, rent or bills.

The team are testing two experiences for families who have been through tough times, to understand the impact of having a break:

1. The Camping experience includes a

voucher for 2 nights at a powered campsite, the loan of a fully stocked camping kit (complete with marshmallows) and if needed, a fuel voucher towards transport.



2. Date Night experience

includes a voucher for an evening's babysitting through babysitting agency **Sittr**, and a movie voucher for two.



The weather hasn't been the best for camping, but families are showing a keen interest to try it out once we get some fine weather. The date night experiences are very popular.

The project has also been testing out approaches that combine time and money in different ways to add momentum and encouragement to families' efforts to move forwards.

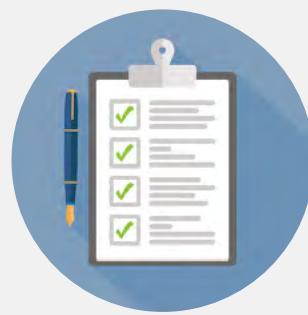
Access to food is a huge priority right now, and there was also an aspiration for a community good life in which there was a sense of plenty and sharing around food (rather than scarcity and fighting over scraps) - Kwinana Early Years Services (KEYS) offered their Medina site to test out some ideas which include:

- Growing food - installing wicking beds so parents can help their kids learn about growing food.
- Cooking together - Batch cooking meals in bulk to freeze, food preserving, and options for parents to co-facilitate sessions and decide what they want to learn.



- Partnership with a local farm **Glavocich Produce** to create a value veggie box for families on low incomes.
- Connecting food sources - mapping the local community gardens and fruiting trees on public land.

Several of the Sunshine participants have been attending a series of workshops with the **Centre for Stories** to learn skills in effective storytelling to be able to share selected stories from their lives. This is part of their recovery journey and thinking about how they might use their lived experiences to advocate for change or to help others going through similar experiences.



If you'd like to contribute to the project, if you'd like a copy of any of the Insights Report or if you'd like more information, please contact:
joni.sercombe@anglicarewa.org.au or
amy.deklerk@ruah.org.au

Empowering Success

O'Brien Electrical and Plumbing's Partnership Transforms Parkerville's Rosemary Cottage for Future-Ready Students

O'Brien Electrical and Plumbing together with its charitable taskforce comprised of 60 skilled electricians, plumbers, glaziers and dedicated volunteers, selflessly utilised their valuable skills to give Parkerville's Rosemary Cottage a much-needed make-over. Their renovation efforts were truly remarkable, revamping the building for a meaningful cause.

In addition to their volunteering efforts, they graciously contributed a generous donation of \$10,000 to Parkerville Children and Youth Care's Education, Employment and Training (EET) program. This program, which operates five days a week from the renovated cottage, provides vital support to young individuals who face various challenges that put them at risk of leaving the education system before the compulsory school leaving age.

The Taskforce set out on a remarkable mission, completely revitalising Rosemary Cottage from top to bottom. They gave the cottage a lick of paint, breathing new life into both the interior and exterior and installed state-of-the-art air conditioning and fans to ensure a comfortable environment for staff and students. With utmost attention to safety, they replumbed the building replacing old and deteriorating pipes with a brand-new system and updated the electrical system and lighting; ensuring compliance met the highest of standards.

But it didn't stop there! The team also donated a shiny new BBQ for the EET program and contributed a range of brand-new ladders and paints, ensuring future building maintenance is a total breeze.

Education, Employment & Training Program: EET!

The Education, Employment and Training program thrives in the beautiful therapeutic environment of Parkerville, fostering a conducive atmosphere for learning and personal development. Led by a dedicated team of experienced teachers and youth workers, the EET program has been making a difference in the lives of young people for over 30 years, providing an alternative path to success for 14 to 17-year-olds who are at risk of failing school.

Unlike the conventional education system, the EET program is a comprehensive blend of education, employment, and training, tailored to equip young individuals for a brighter future.

"We take immense pride in the program's success rate, with 95% of our young graduates moving on to traineeships, apprenticeships, jobs, or further education," said Anna Ellis, Parkerville's Education, Employment and Training Program Manager.



Ms Ellis continues "these young individuals often begin their EET journey with less than 30% attendance in regular schools. However, during their six months with us, their attendance dramatically improves to a remarkable 70-90%. This increased commitment and determination paves the way for their future success".

Through this unique program, students are not only enrolled in their Certificate II in General Education, a nationally accredited course equivalent to year 10, but they are also employed by Parkerville and receive a wage for their work. The program's primary objective is to provide students with valuable skills and equip them with the necessary tools that will effectively prepare them for entering the workforce or move on to further studies.

Under the guidance and support of teachers and youth workers, students successfully complete the program with clear goals, a career plan and a renewed purpose in life. Not only do they gain valuable work experience, but they also receive references and develop a resume that positions them for success in the real world.

Parkerville Children and Youth Care's CEO, Kim Brooklyn said "Witnessing the transformation of these young people is truly inspiring. They walk through our doors weighed down by labels and lacking confidence, but at graduation they step out in confidence knowing who they are, their future goals and a sense of where they want to go and what they want to do".

The program's comprehensive approach ensures that students are equipped with the necessary skills and resources to thrive and pursue their chosen paths with confidence.

Uniting Forces: Empowering Youth through Key Partnerships

The incredible renovation of Rosemary Cottage stands as a testament to the powerful results that can be achieved through robust collaborations between corporate businesses and community organisations. It highlights the significant impact such partnerships can have in improving the lives of young individuals.

Parkerville Children and Youth Care extends its heartfelt appreciation to the dedicated team at O'Brien Electrical and Plumbing, their remarkable volunteer taskforce, and the generous suppliers who generously contributed to this project. The renovations have had a profound impact that goes beyond mere physical upgrades. They have created a space where EET students can concentrate, learn, and flourish in their educational pursuits.

"Throughout the six-month duration of our students' journey with us, we have been privileged to witness remarkable transformations. Our young graduates emerge with heightened self-esteem, an enhanced sense of self-worth, and a newfound sense of purpose," said Anna Ellis.

Ms Ellis continues "The young people come to their initial interviews with their hoodies up, all very shy and nervous. Six months later at graduation, we see just how far these young people have come, as they stand tall, smiling and proud of who they are and what they've achieved here at the EET program".

With these vital partnerships, we can continue to empower and uplift the next generation, ensuring a brighter future for all.



To explore corporate volunteering opportunities with Parkerville Children and Youth Care, kindly reach out via email together@parkerville.org.au or call (08) 9235 7099

Holding out the light of hope...

SASKIA SCOTT *Lay Chaplain*

June 21 was the winter solstice, the longest night of the year. Sleeping rough on long winter nights is the reality for many people experiencing homelessness, and so St Bart's together with St George's Cathedral chose this time to remember those who have lost their lives while, or shortly after, experiencing homelessness. In a memorial service the bell was tolled a total of 107 times – once for each person who has passed away over the last year. It was a solemn moment and one which brought home the harsh reality for those sleeping rough.

As St Bart's new chaplain, I was privileged to be able to attend this meaningful ceremony. I find myself reflecting on the spiritual symbolism of the solstice – of darkness giving way to light, and hope arising out of times of great grief, distress and hardship.

Although the solstice is the longest night of the year, it is also the point at which the light begins to return.

The days will begin to lengthen, and the time of cold and darkness will give way to refreshment, life and warmth. It brings to mind for me Isaiah 9 verse 2:

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned."

Hope is a tricky concept. Some think of hope as a Pollyanna-ish propensity to turn a blind eye to suffering and hold onto unrealistic expectations for the future. However, the vision of hope given in Isaiah is borne out of an acknowledgement of suffering – of looking suffering full in the face and choosing to keep walking forward rather than giving in to despair.

At St Bart's we know we cannot erase suffering nor bring back the lives of those who have been lost. But we can treat people with dignity and give them the basic security of a roof over their heads. We can hold out the light of hope and unconditional love even in times of darkness.



God-Talk: Baptisms

THE REV'D DR ELIZABETH J SMITH AM *Mission Priest, Parish of The Goldfields*



It is a more than usually dynamic Sunday morning at St John's Kalgoorlie. One of the boys to be baptised is still young enough to snuggle in his mother's arms. The other is two-and-a-half. He lives in a small unit, with little room for burning off excess energy. It is universally recognised that such children cannot be required to sit still for long, so his delight in exploring the vast expanses of St John's Old Cathedral building is entirely understandable.

Furthermore, our other parish children are entranced by these two new brothers-through-the-font. They all want to cuddle little Michael, and they are keen to entertain bigger Jayden. Every new gathering around the font is a chance to remind these children of their own baptism, its meaning, means, and how they are responsible, along with the rest of the congregation, for living as the friends and followers of Jesus Christ in ways that will help Jayden and Michael grow into a living faith of their own.

Ours is a multi-racial, multi-lingual congregation. Highly skilled migrants come to the Goldfields with just a single suitcase, an experience of being Anglican somewhere else around the Communion, and high hopes for the adventure of a new life here. Our version of Anglican Sunday morning must be almost unrecognisable to most of them: different languages, different music styles, different ways of interacting and moving in prayer, a much smaller congregation. Still recognisable, though, will be the gift of the Bible read and preached, and the blessing of the body and blood of Christ offered and received.

Imagine the astonishment, theirs and mine, when the fathers of two recently-arrived families discovered that they are uncle and nephew! They had never met, and did not know about each other, back in their home country. Yet far away, in this parish, they have found actual family.

The mothers of the two boys we are baptising this day have already become friends. They will

support each other through the practical and spiritual challenges of immigration. They are being embraced by the other, more experienced, mothers and fathers of the congregation who have also come to Australia and found a home here.

It seems that the Holy Spirit is hard at work here, connecting people, changing the church in ways that I could hardly dream of. I have a prayer that goes: 'Dear God, make us ready to receive the people you want to belong with us.' When people come, and stay, it tells me that our general health as a congregation is good enough for God to trust us with these precious people who are looking for a spiritual home. An important part of my role as a priest is tending to the spiritual health of the community so that God will trust us more and more with babies and toddlers, immigrants and locals, questioning seekers and staunch believers.

After the baptism, one of the mothers says to me: 'We belong here!' My heart overflows with joy and gratitude.



YOKAI YARNING TIME

**WALKING TOGETHER:
HEALING OUR SPIRIT**

SATURDAY 29 JULY 2023

2.00 – 5.00pm

**Wollaston Theological College
5 Wollaston Road Mount Claremont**



**Join Aboriginal Elders to explore
the cultural and spiritual impacts
of European colonisation and find pathways
into healing.**

**Includes a screening of Yokai's Australia Day
documentary.**

**By Donation, suggested \$5. Afternoon tea provided.
rsvp: src@perth.anglican.org 9425 7276**

**Workshop hosted by SRC and Saint Lukes Anglican Parish
Mosman Park.**

Anglican
Social
Responsibilities
Diocese of Perth



A Mission Possible

IAN CARTER AM *Director, Advocacy Commissions*



When we look at the Anglican Church, or more specifically the Anglican Diocese of Perth, you see so much going on in every direction!

We see over a hundred parishes with churches and church halls in local communities, and we have the "Mother Church" at St George's Cathedral, the Deanery next door and Church House behind this. But we also have a huge number of Anglican Independent Schools and ASC Schools; and community service agencies; and then there's Mothers Union, and the Social Responsibilities Commission and EcoCare Commission, and much more!

We are all driven by our Christian faith and mission, summarised so well in Micah 6:8 'This is what Yahweh asks of you, only this: that you act justly, that you love tenderly, that you walk humbly with your God'. It has also been played out in a more modern setting with the Anglican Communion's Five Marks of Mission:

1. Proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. Teach, nurture, and baptize new believers
3. Respond to human need by loving service
4. Seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind, and to pursue peace and reconciliation
5. Strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

So, we know what we need to do, and it's not Mission Impossible it's Mission Possible. The many components of the Anglican family in our Diocese do amazing work every hour and every day of the week. Sometimes I don't think we appreciate all that is done in the communities in which we live. We also don't realize that the Five Marks are not separate but connected. Parishes are not just about Marks 1 and 2, and agencies and schools are not just about Marks 3, 4 and 5. They are called to respond to all the Marks of Mission. Each in their own way.

In practice that means some parishes operating literally within and in partnership with ASC schools; fundraising by parishes to support

the work of our community service agencies; Anglicare WA providing a small grants scheme to help parishes undertake local community projects; chaplains in agencies, schools and prisons and hospitals; the SRC running a wide range of community education/social justice workshops in parishes, and now EcoCare is asking parishes what help they need to respond to climate change and the challenges of net zero!

At the moment, the SRC is providing opportunities for workshops to be run on issues such as LGBTIQ+, Yokai Yarning sessions on understanding the Stolen Generation impacts on Aboriginal individuals and families, and The Voice Yarning Sessions exploring the upcoming Referendum. In the future, and in partnership with the Diocesan Family and Domestic Violence Working Group, we will be running workshops on explaining and understanding the impact of family and domestic violence in our communities and families.

We all need to reflect on our own journey across the Five Marks of Mission, and then commit to doing something for the future whether it be in your own life, or in your parish or school or agency. We touch tens of thousands of lives every year and we need to live out our calls to Mission, each in our own way.



A church with no kids

EMMA GRANT *Member of the Anglican Children and Youth Ministries Commission (ACYMC)*



How do we support children and youth ministry when we have no young people in our church?

Like a pub with no beer, a church with no kids sounds outrageous, yet for so many parishes around our Diocese this is the reality. Perhaps someone brings their grandkids along, or families might attend at Christmas and Easter, but there is no regular contact between the church and young people. In this sort of situation it may seem that children's and youth ministry is no on the to-do list, not something to even think about. How can we disciple and care for young people on their faith journeys when they don't come to church?

I think we need to reconsider and adjust the boundaries of children's and youth ministry as being not tied to our church buildings and services that occur at church, but something we live out in all our lives as Christians. We don't stop being a Christian when we leave the church building, we are Christians every moment of our lives, whether we are at the local shops, with our extended families, at the sports club or with friends. In our lives there are moments for us to engage in ministry with young people, to care for them, offer a listening ear and thoughtful word of advice. We each connect with young people in our lives in various location and times, and these are just as valid as Sunday morning for engaging in ministry.

We also need to expand our ideas about what ministering to young people looks like. It is Sunday school lessons, youth services and camps, but also so much more. It is listening to young people, considering and thoughtfully answering their questions, and encouraging them on their faith journeys. I understand the difficulties in relating to children and young adults, it can seem like they are just so different than the way we were as kids. The world may have changed, and they may seem to be another species, but actually young people today have the same timeless quests

of belonging and acceptance, discovering their identity, and finding their path that have plagued them through the ages. Some things about young people are timeless, and therein lies the opportunities to connect with them and minister to them in the ups and downs of growing up.

If your church isn't packed with children, young adults and their families please do not despair. The future of the church is our young people, they might just not be in our church buildings just yet. In the meantime, we still have a job to do in caring for them as they develop their own personal faith, learn what it means to be a person of God, and find themselves in the moments that shape us. They need us to be a witness in a world that is increasingly lacking in Christian witness, to open our hearts and homes when individualism and self-centredness is on the rise, and try to love them as Christ loves us.

If you're interested in learning more about children's and youth ministry why not attend the ACYM Breakfast on Saturday 9 September?

It is a chance to meet like-minded people from churches across the Diocese as we come together for a morning of learning, fellowship and encouragement.

Saturday 9 September 2023
8am - 12 noon
Swan Valley Adventure Centre
Registration information to come.



What in the world is MU up to?

CHRISTINE BRAIN *Communication Officer, MU Perth*

How did you mark the coronation of King Charles III? For the members of Mothers Union at Carine-Duncraig it was an opportunity to glam up, enjoy a High Tea and raise funds in support of the AMUA Overseas Project for 2023.

This project, which aims to develop disaster resilience in communities in Tonga and Fiji, is a joint enterprise between AMUA and Anglican Overseas Aid. Over the past six months, AMUA's financial support has resulted in the selection and training of a team of three national staff, meetings have been held with church wardens from each of the four pilot parishes to discuss the project and its implementation and plans for the pre-positioning of sea-containers equipped with emergency supplies in these parishes have been finalised. The halls at each parish were visited and plans have been made to assess their suitability as evacuation centres and, where necessary, repair and install outstanding requirements. Project officers are particularly keen to ensure the participation of women and those in the community who are not members of the church.



Engagement by MU members in providing funds for projects such as this is to fulfil two of our 'Objectives' - 'to maintain a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service' and 'to help those whose family life has met with adversity.'

What's coming up?

Mothers Union in WA is 125 years old and we are celebrating!

We're having a party at St Lawrence's, Dalkeith, on Wednesday 9 August beginning with a service of thanksgiving at 10.30am, followed by a finger-food lunch. Mrs Elizabeth Parker, mother of four young-adult children and the wife of the Bishop of North West Australia, will speak on the topic, 'Issues Facing Families Today'.

All are welcome, and we would love to see current and former members of Mothers Union and anyone interested in what we do to join us in celebrating the work of MU past, present and future.

Further information can be obtained from the Secretary on 0428 954 427.



Here in Perth, we have known the blessings of having women ordained as deacons, priests and bishops for many decades. We have had local women leading as deacons since 1986, priests since 1992, and bishops since 2008.

Around Australia, though, there are a few dioceses that have been slower to receive the gifts of women for the work of ministry. Historically, there were two families of arguments 'against' women priests and bishops. One was an argument from scripture, the other from tradition.

There are three Australian dioceses, one large and two small, whose interpretation of some New Testament passages still disallows women from leading and teaching with full spiritual authority alongside men. Some women may be serving in those dioceses as deacons. The response to this interpretation is to note that the Bible presents Mary Magdalene as the authoritative witness of Jesus' resurrection, and that St Paul (despite some of the other comments attributed to him!) recognises that through baptism, 'there is no longer male and female ... you are all one in Christ Jesus' (Galatians 3.28).

Another strand of opposition to women, particularly as priests, has appealed to 'tradition.' In that strand, there was an argument that since Jesus and all of his 'twelve disciples' were male, so only men could represent Christ in the sacramental roles of the Church. Only men had ever been priests, so only men could ever be priests, the argument went.

The counter-argument to this strand is that Jesus had many more than just 'twelve disciples,' and that many of them were women, with names like Martha and Joanna and Susanna and a whole host of Marys! And we consider that it's not the maleness of Jesus Christ that is the most important thing about him. It is his being 'truly human', as well as 'God from God', as we say in the Nicene Creed. So women, who are also truly human, can wonderfully stand alongside men to represent Christ to the Church, and

to represent the Church to God whenever the sacraments are celebrated.

The last of the Australian dioceses that had been holding to this latter reason for restricting priesthood to males was the Diocese of The Murray, in South Australia. But that changed, at last, at The Murray's synod. The way is now open for women to serve and lead in that diocese, too.

For decades, the Movement for the Ordination of Women has been keeping an eye on developments in women's ordination around Australia. MOW President, Dr Elaine Lindsay, writes as follows:

MOW congratulates Bishop Keith Dalby on his leadership in bringing forward consideration of this matter. In his 2022 Advent letter he noted that a Synod some ten years earlier had requested that the incoming Bishop allow discussion on the Ordination of Women. This was not honoured by Bishop John Ford (2013-19), but Bishop Keith set up mechanisms to foster informed debate over the last twelve months, promising to support the Synod's decision. The strength of the vote for ordination at the 2023 Synod (57 for and 4 against) is proof of the burning desire amongst clergy and laity for the ministry of women. The vote also represents a wish that women be represented at all levels of church leadership - priest in charge, rector, dean, archdeacon and bishop.

MOW looks forward to the first ordination of a woman priest in The Murray. We urge the Dioceses of Sydney, Armidale and North West Australia to follow Bishop Keith's openminded and open-hearted leadership and seriously examine Scripture, free of patriarchal bias. They will find that there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for all are one in Christ Jesus.



Nor'West Postcard

JOCELYN ROSS OAM

On a recent Saturday in June, 26 women from St James' Church Kununurra watched the Equip Women's Conference which is streamed out of Sydney each year. Those attending heard four talks from the book of Haggai and learned to be women who have the right priorities, and to do our part in building God's church. They enjoyed fellowship over dinner and it was a truly uplifting day. St James' families had conducted their church camp earlier in the month led by



their Minister Daniel Faricy, a time of great encouragement, especially enjoying the Sunday Service with a Kimberley view.



Daniel, only recently returned from Karamoja (Uganda) said: "I was challenged by how, in Australia, our material comfort so often stops us from proclaiming the gospel. Meeting people in Karamoja who have so little, who minister with so little, yet serve with so much joy was very challenging".

Our link with the Karamoja Diocese in Uganda has grown after this recent mission trip. The team ran training to help equip ministers to preach the Bible and train evangelists to share the gospel. It was great to see how the workers improved in sharing God's word.



Karamoja Mothers' Union members were delighted to receive a gift of 46kg of clothing for women and children from Geraldton MU members. The hand-knitted baby clothing will be given to mothers who give birth in the hospital. This aims to reduce maternal death in childbirth by providing an incentive to give birth with medical care, rather than in the village.

Mission to Seafarers Chaplain Garry Hamersley and his wife Joyce work as a team to bring the love of Jesus to thousands of seafarers who visit Port Hedland each year. They provide bibles and Christian literature in the visitors' languages. Joyce recently witnessed the gratitude of a Russian seafarer who received a Bible in his heart language, and Garry distributed Bibles to happy Filipino seafarers while ship visiting to the delight of the Captain and crew. Garry and Joyce are currently leading a push for much-needed woollen beanies - a vital piece of kit to beat the freezing cold while at sea as they need at least 2000 beanies a year to meet demand. Joyce is inviting visiting grey nomads, Postcard Readers and other crafty supporters to knit a beanie as a gift of love for seafarers.



Carnarvon Mothers' Union members took the opportunity of Archdeacon Bill Ross being in the town for the weekend to joyfully celebrate and welcome new member Fay Smith into membership. The service was conducted in St George's Church, followed by a cuppa and a short talk by Jocelyn Ross entitled "Where R U Going?"



A Scripture Union 2023 Outback Adventure Camp is being held in the Exmouth region for Pilbara Residents in School Years 5-8 from Sunday 9 July to Thursday 13 July 2023. Such a wonderful opportunity for Students living regional and remote to meet and make new friends. There will be Pick Up and Drop Off from Port Hedland, Karratha or Exmouth! Contact: +61 8 9371 9100.

FAITH: Forsaking all I trust him.



Bunbury Bulletin

THE VEN GEOFFREY CHADWICK *Archdeacon*

What's The Point of Being A Christian?

I wonder if you've ever had a crisis of faith? Have you ever thought:

- Christianity does not make any difference in the world so why bother with it?
- Maybe I'll sleep in on Sunday mornings like normal people and not go to church.
- God's not real, so why bother?
- All the people in church hate me and I hate them!
- Why bother eating a tiny morsel of bread and drinking a tiny drop of wine when I can have a bigger party at home.
- The church has done so many evil things, why be a part of it?

Recently I found a book by Timothy Radcliffe¹ that addresses some of these thoughts. He was at one time the Master of the Order of Dominicans and teacher of Theology at Oxford University and spoke of his own struggles to make Christianity relevant. He writes:

What is the point of being a Christian? One is pointed to God who is the point of everything. If one thinks of religion as just 'useful' then one has reduced it to another consumer product. But if we are pointed to God, then this should make a difference to how we live. This is not a moral superiority. Christians are usually no better than anyone else. But the lives of Christians should be marked by some form of hope, freedom, happiness and courage. If they are not then why should anyone believe a word we say?

He develops eight reasons for being a Christian. He says Christianity enables us to:

- have hope in mystery of something more than ourselves.
- be a person of mercy, delight, joy and freedom.
- have meaning found in God.
- be at home in our physical bodies by virtue of the incarnation. And so, the sacraments express the dramas of being in the body.
- be at home in the Kingdom of God by virtue of the resurrection. In this Kingdom no-one is excluded and so we are at ease.
- live a life of courageous giving.
- know the power of silence, patience and rest.
- be in a community of truth.

What a list!

So, if you happen to find yourself in a crisis of faith, remembering these eight reasons for being a Christian might just encourage you.

Then again, if someone says to you "why are you a Christian" you might just have some well thought out ideas to assist your answer!

Blessing from Bunbury.

¹ Timothy Radcliffe OP, 2006, *What is the Point of Being a Christian*, Burns and Oates: London

Our Rich Liturgical Heritage: Martyrs are worth emulating

THE RT REV'D DR PETER BRAIN



On 25 July our Prayer Book bids us to remember the example of James, the brother of John, that we might emulate his commitment to our Lord and Saviour.

He is described as Saint James, not because he was closer to God than us, nor because the church canonised him, but simply because he was a committed follower of Jesus. This is the way the word saint is used in the New Testament where it describes ordinary believers, often in tandem with the words the faithful in Christ Jesus. It is a status word not a performance word, that reminds us that we are saved only because of God's grace. However, we are saved to serve and obey our Lord, as the Collect reminds us to pray.

Grant, O merciful God, that as thine holy Apostle Saint James, leaving his father and all that he had, without delay was obedient unto the calling of thy Son Jesus Christ, and followed him; so we, forsaking all worldly and carnal affections, may be ever more ready to follow thy holy commandments; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We know from the set reading that James was not perfect. Matthew 20:20-28 records the time when, along with his brother and mother, they jockeyed for the best places in the Kingdom. For this they received a rebuke from our Lord along with an admonition that true greatness in God's kingdom was to be the servant of all, after the pattern of Jesus own humble self-giving sacrifice of himself on the Cross.

The Collect reminds us that the way of Christ is the way of grace. No servant of Christ is anything other than a forgiven and redeemed sinner. A recent book by John Piper called '27 Servants of Sovereign Grace' has this healthy reminder in its sub-title 'Faithful, Flawed and Fruitful'. James, the other apostles, and we, are all flawed. This truth drives us to our knees in repentance, to Christ for pardon and to the Holy Spirit for daily strength to remain faithful and obedient in fruitful in service.

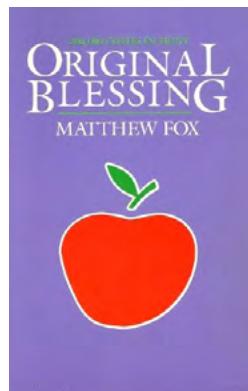
Having obeyed our Lord's call to become a follower of Jesus and fisher of people, James did not look back to find security in the family business. He was called to the Father's family business of winning people for Christ. That he did this without delay becomes a constant example not to procrastinate in serving discipleship.

The request in the Collect, so we, forsaking all worldly and carnal affections, is the kind of prayer we do well to pray regularly since the pull of the world, which we promised to forsake in our baptism and confirmation, has the habit of diluting our zeal, diverting our focus, dividing our loyalties, darkening our vision and discrediting our witness. Carnal affections are those that reveal our allegiance to self and the world above our commitment to our holy God. They can easily become the focus of our life when we are no longer committed to God's holy commandments.

James' allegiance, fortified by obedience led to his death at Herod's hands in AD 44. Likewise, we should not be surprised, indeed we ought to expect that Godly discipleship will regularly put us out of step with the world. And this is why this prayer is so apposite for us. Only by living out of step with the world and our own feelings will we be of any use to the world. Saints are called to be different. God's grace demands that we are. But God's grace will always strengthen us to fulfill this calling. Believers need not fear death since as for James it meant his welcome into glory.

Mercifully the grace that James received to follow Jesus, then experienced in Jesus' rebuke that led to his obedient following of his Saviour even unto death, is the same for all disciples. Our calling to forsake all carnal and worldly affections, in the interests of joyful fellowship with him, is for our witness to the world.

THE REV'D ROSS JONES *Team member of the Tree of Life Programme*



In 1983 Matthew Fox, the American Dominican spiritual theologian, he brought forth a ground-breaking modern classic in the book *Original Blessings* - part 1.

Matthew Fox focused on God's creative energy and communication in the Bible as designated by the Hebrew word Dabhar and its equivalent in Greek as Logos. This divine creative energy is ever present in all of creation all the time as witnesses down through the ages have testified.

"The Word is living ... all verdant greening, all creativity. This word manifests itself in every creature," said Hildegard of Bingen (d. 1179).

"Every creature is a word of God and is a book about God," said Meister Eckhart (d. 1328).

"When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe," said the American environmentalist John Muir (d. 1914).

"The universe is the primary revelation of the divine, the primary scripture, the primary locus of divine-human communication," said theologian Thomas Berry (d. 2009).

"Human participates by nature in all cosmic events and is inwardly as well as outwardly interwoven with them," said the German Sinologist Richard Wilhelm (d. 1930)

The dynamic creative energy of God is always communicating with us as it loves us. As the French author Baudelaire (d. 1867) wrote, "A walk through a forest is all it takes for us to be aware that it looks on us with affection and pours truth upon us."

Our spiritual journey begins with this listening attentiveness to the flow of divine creative energy that is present, generating life. This is why Meister Eckhart said that "Isness is God." In the opening chapter of the book of Genesis, God speaks creative energy that forms life orientated to its own conscious, reflective awareness, as seen in humans.

The awesome wonder is too great to be ignored. A single rye plant in four months will grow 608 kilograms of roots with 4 billion root hairs. In

16 cubic centimetres of soil, the length of those root hairs totals 9,6000 kilometres. Creation abounds in extravagant fruitfulness.

The prophets speak this creative energy in calling for new creation through people letting go of death-filled ways of living. The breakthrough of blockages of the divine creative flow that are established through greed and corruption, boredom and injustice, and entrenched through biased structures of domination. Yet, the divine creative energy cannot be denied; as Meister Eckhart says, "God is a great underground river that no one can dam, and no one can stop."

As the popular theologian in his time, Honorius of Autun (d. 1125), said, "All of God's creation gives great delight to anyone looking upon it, with the beauty of flowers, healing through herbs, food produced, meaning in snakes and birds, strings that produce a variety of sounds in a harmonious cord."

This harmonising cosmos is balance expressed at the human level in justice. Humans objectify creation when we act out of this harmonising balance in our daily living. Hildegard says, "Human injustice causes the elements of the creation to cry out to their Creator in a scream of agony, for humankind's disharmony has altered them."

To be out of the flow of the divine creative energy harmonious flow leaves people sick and prone to violence and aggression in life. These desperate people seek refuge in smaller and unsatisfying allegiances to consumerism, family, career, religious, corporate and government institutions and structures.

French Existential philosopher Gabriel Marcel (d. 19173) wrote, "The order to be established in life is in no way separable from the cosmic order." Only with cosmic spiritual awareness

can the human person love wisely, sanely, and gently. Hence for Marcel, "The true aim of knowledge and of life is to be integrated in the universal order."



Tree of Life

Centre for Christian Belief,
Spirituality and Australian Culture
Wollaston College



Further enquiries may be directed to the Programme Director:
Archdeacon Michael Pennington
9332 7221 or 0409 372 029
or e-mail michael@mpenn.net

SYNOD 2023

Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 October

Saturday 7 October

Eucharist at HBF Stadium

Main Arena, Stephenson Avenue, Mt Claremont

commencing at 8.10am

followed by the

First Sitting of the Second Session of the Fifty-First Synod
including the President's Address

Sunday 8 October

Second Sitting of the Second Session of the Fifty-First Synod
commencing at 12.30pm

HBF Stadium, Main Arena, Stephenson Avenue, Mt Claremont

DEADLINES for SYNOD BUSINESS

EARLY MOTIONS

(50 days)

to be received by the Registrar at
Diocesan Office
by 5.00pm on

Thursday 17 August 2023

EARLY QUESTIONS

(40 days)

to be received by the Registrar at
Diocesan Office
by 5.00pm on

Friday 25 August 2023

NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTIONS (10 days)

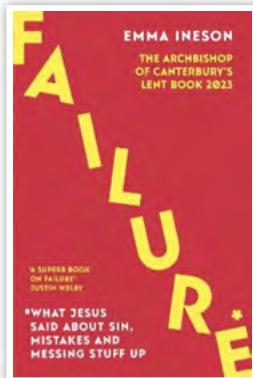
to be received by the Registrar at
Diocesan Office
by 5.00pm on

Tuesday 26 September 2023

DISTRIBUTION OF SYNOD PAPERS (28 days) - 4 September 2023

For further information, please contact Susan Harvey, Synod Co-ordinator
9425 7200 or synod@perth.anglican.org

REVIEWED BY SHIRLEY CLAUGHTON



FAILURE, What Jesus said about sin, mistakes and messing stuff up

by Emma Ineson, \$23.00

I mentioned this remarkable book earlier this year, and now, finally, the book has made it into bookshops. In the foreword, the Archbishop of Canterbury says: "it will disturb us when we are too comfortable, and comfort us when we are too disturbed".

As we are just starting to feel comfortable, and even complacent about resuming the world which stopped in 2020, it will be useful to read Emma's words on the lockdowns in the context of the first chapter "Why I wrote this book".

When every service for the foreseeable future was cancelled, "I offered to send them my sermon notes to read at home instead. Very quickly an impressive effort was mounted to take church services online and once we discovered Zoom, there was no stopping us ... lockdowns came and went ... and the Church learnt how to be the virtual Church. Ambition and success began to look very different".

In her role as a Bishop, she admits she sometimes witnesses what happens when things go badly wrong. Very badly wrong ... and there are times when the Church has failed. Internationally, the Archbishop of Canterbury has apologised on several occasions on behalf of the Church of England which failed a whole generation of Indigenous peoples.

"What is to be our stance in relation to the failings of our Church, our society, humanity as a whole? ... sometimes it seems as though we do failure well. We acknowledge, we apologise, we repent, we learn. Other times we do not."

The past few years have caused us to shift our views on what constitutes success and failure, "at one point during the pandemic, the people viewed as really successful were not bankers and stockbrokers, but key workers – bin collectors, delivery drivers, front-line health care workers..."

Desmond Tutu is quoted reflecting on how we tend to give kudos to people who have succeeded: "we don't care in what they succeed as long as they succeed. The worst thing that can happen to anybody in this cultural environment is to fail". Emma looks at different writers' approaches. She looks at fear of failure in a social media age, quoting Matthew Syed (Black Box Thinking) advocating redefining failure as "a learning opportunity; when you trust in the power of practice to help you grow through difficulties, your motivation and self-belief are not threatened in anything like the same way".

Emma then looks at one of the greatest issues for today's world, for our Church and anyone in leadership – Anxiety. "As I write, on this particular day, the UK is still reeling from the effects of the Covid pandemic (and I have tested positive myself) ... The war in Ukraine continues with such an impact, hottest temperatures on records, fires even in the usually green and lush suburbs, soaring cost of energy, health issues and a fear of what the future will hold."

Another writer, Margaret Heffernan, asserts that one of the failures of the UK government "was that they too often peddled certainty and predictable outcomes where there were none ... we knew there had been failure – we saw and experienced it all around ... in closed churches, overwhelmed emergency services, small weddings. We needed then and need now ... the frank admission that no one can predict accurately what the future holds ... and failure is something we all need to learn to live with, not cover up with platitudes and slogans."

We join Emma in the Chapel at Lambeth Palace with the community of around 35 who start their day with quiet prayer. The daily focus today is on the lives of the Saints. While the lives of Saints, leaders and heroes are fascinating; remember the failures: "How many buildings have had to be renamed, statues removed, paintings taken down", when the people we thought we admired (and put on pedestals) were found guilty of crimes?

The African American poet Amanda Gorman in her wonderful poem read at the inauguration of the President of the USA, Joe Biden, titled: The Hill We Climb is worth a search (easy to find) and it makes sense when Gorman spoke of being not "broken but simply unfinished".

Each of the six chapters, finishes with useful discussion questions. A QR code in the book leads to much more or visit www.thebigchurchread.co.uk.

The premise of the book is that failure is an intrinsic part of everyday human experience, not something to be fearful of, embarrassed about or ashamed of, but owned, confronted and learned from.

The Last Word is a story recalling "the Benedictine monk who found that, due to cold, damp weather, his carefully stored wine had begun to ferment a second time, creating within it bubbles of carbon dioxide. What a failure! Discovering that mistake must have been a very bad day for him. The name of the monk: Dom Perignon. Cheers, you lovely failures! God bless you."

Limited copies of this very readable book are currently available at St Johns Books
books@stjohnsbooks.com.au

SEA SUNDAY

9 July 2023



Sea Sunday is a special day each year when we give thanks for the world-wide Seafaring community

Many parish churches focus on seafarers and the work of the Flying Angel Club on this day.

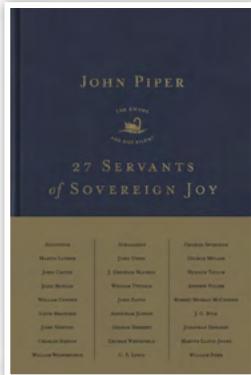
On Sunday 9 July 2023 the Flying Angel Club invites everyone to a special service at 11.00am which commemorates all who serve on ships and those who work for the welfare of seafarers at home.

This year we will especially remember a much-loved volunteer Raggai Wanis who died recently. Raggai was a valued driver for the Flying Angel, and also a talented prize-winning artist and a respected member of the Coptic Christian Church

The service will be held in the beautiful warm and welcoming chapel at the **Flying Angel Club, 76 Queen Victoria Street, Fremantle**, followed by refreshments.

All Welcome. Enquiries 9335 5000

REVIEWED BY THE RT REV'D DR PETER BRAIN



27 Servants of Sovereign Joy: Faithful, flawed and fruitful

John Piper. Crossway 2022. \$54.95

This book has been my welcome companion since early May. Piper shares the fruit of the annual Bethlehem Pastor's conferences held each January at the church he pastored in Minneapolis for over 30 years.

It is full of challenge and encouragement as he gives us 27 cameos of people like Augustine, Athanasius, Calvin, Luther, Newton, Bunyan, Simeon, Wilberforce, Tyndale, Muller and the like. I had heard many of the presentations on audio, but finding great refreshment as he groups these well-known church leaders in nine groups of three around a common theme.

The themes are timeless and pastoral. The section called *The Hidden Smile of God* deals with trusting God in every circumstance from the lives of John Bunyan, William Cowper and David Brainerd which keeps this theme earthed in the lives of real suffering of real people. In *Contending for Our All* he shows why differences have to be addressed openly and honestly for the sake of the church, our joy and the supremacy of Christ in all things. This is illustrated in the lives of pastors and teachers like Athanasius, John Owen and J Gresham Machen.

Filling Up the Afflictions of Christ provides an answer to what this verse from Colossians 1:24 means through the extraordinary sacrifices of William Tyndale, John Paton and Adoniram Judson. If ever there was a call not to settle for safety-first and costless discipleship, this is it. *Seeing Beauty and Saying Beautifully* sets forth the responsibility and blessings of honing every God given gift whether poetry in George Herbert, oratory in George Whitfield and truth and joy, logic and longing in C S Lewis for the sake of our knowing God and communicating him as well as we can.

Though expensive, the book is value for money with the insights provided by these 27 servants (\$2 per person!). On top of that the nine introduction and conclusions to each section are gems in helping us stand in awe of God's matchless sovereignty and the joy it brings to all of his *faithful, flawed and fruitful servants*.

ANTHONY HOWES

Anthony presents more news of arts and entertainment every Saturday from 10.00am till 12.00noon on Capital Radio 101.7 FM and Capital Digital



Those who know me well suggest I am an optimist: and I believe that to be true - most of the time! Just recently, however, something has given rise in me, to more than a little pessimism.

Let me make some admissions before detailing the reason for this sad mood. Also, I must balance this against the brief of this column which is to illustrate the arts' place in a healthy creative community, given clarity for the Messenger in T S Eliot's dictum that God, the Creator, made us all, in our turn, to be Creators.

My career in the arts and broadcasting began some 50 or more decades ago. During this period, I spent a great majority of my time in what I consider was probably 'the Golden Days' of the Australian Broadcasting Commission and then Corporation. The Perth studios, both radio and television, but particularly the former, were commissioning and casting plays, book readings, variety, concerts, dramatic education series; it was covering arts events from galleries, religious events of all types, festivals in city and country. The reflection of the creativity of the

people of this state was sizable and exciting. And this was the similar experience nationwide.

To do all this, there were specialist heads of departments and access through these men and women to similar 'creators at large'. This was all part of what was known as 'the two pillars' that supported the ABC Charter. The pillars? - one had the name - News and Information; the other - Arts and Entertainment. There is not the space here to delineate how this creative set up was dismantled. Suffice it to say, that it was not (I suggest) any 'capital P' politics which was the culprit, but the 'small p politics' which was the major cause. Simply, middle management infighting, the Sydney centric syndrome and the increasing journalistic approach to creativity that became the driving force in most decision-making.

Some images from the ABC Archives



Lucky Colour Blue. Faith C, Willy Akers, Leslie Wright, Bevan Lee, Caroline McKenzie





There is, of course, more which should and could be analysed in all this, and, perhaps such a proper discussion is now called for, following the lamentable decision and widely condemned ABC re-structure announced late last month.

Jason Blake in *Limelight* Magazine reported:

- Overall, the ABC has flagged 120 redundancies across the organisation. The cuts will land heavily on arts coverage with two of the Corporation's senior arts editors made redundant and the reporting team distributed among news and a newly created Arts, Music and Events department. It marks the end of an online editorial dedicated solely to arts coverage.
- Guardian Australia's Arts Editor Steph Harmon in a Twitter post 'This is a huge loss to the ABC and a huge gain to whoever pounces'.
- Michaela Boland, a former national arts, culture and entertainment reporter for ABC, and former national arts reporter with The Australian wrote: 'ABC management's degradation of the arts continues'.

- Jane Howard, arts and culture editor at The Conversation described the cuts as 'a slap in the face to every artist and arts worker in Australia'.
- Media commentator Ben Eltham wrote: 'A dark day for Australian culture'.

I strongly suggest reading Jason Blake's complete article in the current issue of *Limelight* Magazine for his penetrating comments and analyses.

It may well be, too, there is a failure in some of our arts organisation as they disregard the importance of providing arts information and coverage to every type of media; only concentrating on social media for public contact. Perhaps, organisations such as the ABC and our own WA newspapers see justification in ignoring these organisations?

I promise you more positivity next issue!

Anglican Food Relief Finds Support Across Perth

THE REV'D PEREGRIN CAMPBELL-OSGOOD

Ascension Connection is a Community Hub and Food Relief Program operating out of the Ascension Church in Midland. Volunteers and community members gather on Friday mornings to share life, coffee and cake, a sausage sizzle and food parcels.

The past year has seen a huge growth in our community. This growth has been across the board: the number of people attending; the number of food parcels shared; the number of volunteers; and an increase in the incredible range of support throughout the Diocese and across Perth.

The number of people has almost doubled in the last year. This correlates to the dramatic increase in homelessness in the Swan area – an increase of 175% in the period of 2016-2022, compared with an average increase of 8% across the State. Swan is the Local Government Area with the highest number of homeless people aside from the Central Business District in Perth.

Fortunately, this increase in demand has also been accompanied by an increase in support, both locally and far and wide. We continue to receive a generous grant from the Diocese to purchase the food we need. Recently, we have also had significant direct financial donations. We were blessed with \$4,800 from the estate of the late Judith Blair-Hall, arranged through the love and work of Carmel and Barbara from St Nicholas', Floreat. A kind, and anonymous, benefactor from St Andrew's, Subiaco, also donated \$1,000.

Aside from these two parishes, we also receive support from several others, particularly the Parishes of Swan, Guilford, Darlington-Bellevue, and St Christopher's in City Beach which will be donating Christmas Hampers for us this year. And we continue to be supported by a range of non-church individuals and groups, such as the Hills Symphony Orchestra. The Sexual Health

Quarters donated a large supply of feminine hygiene products, and a private person is collecting feminine hygiene products and food from her yoga clients in Hamilton Hill. If you would like to collect goods for our community, please download a flyer. bit.ly/AC23flyer

Even with all these wonderful people, our greatest strength is always the Body of Christ, which is constituted each Friday morning when we all come together as one. Ascension Connection is church, and we are all, volunteers and community, one Body on the day. Throughout the morning we all receive 'something', some enrichment we will take home with us. For some this will be service, for others conversation, companionship and care. We are all touched, and we are all changed each Friday; we all leave with a precious gift, and some of us will leave with food, because that is what we need.

www.midanglican.org/ascensionconnection



Carmel and Barbara handing on the cheque from the estate of the late Judith Blair-Hall

Walk for Reconciliation

2 June 2023, Kaarta Koomba (Kings Park)



CLERGY NEWS

Appointment

The Revd Toby Sherring	Chaplain, Swan Valley Anglican Community School	01.09.23
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Locum Tenens

The Ven Jack Thomson	Woodlands-Wembley Downs	01.06.23-31.12.23
The Revd Rob Healy	Forrestfield-Wattle Grove	12.06.23-31.12.23
The Revd Bill Hawley	Scarborough	03.07.23-31.07.23
The Revd Canon Tom Sutton	Carine-Duncraig	19.06.23-06.08.23
The Very Revd Dr John Shepherd AM	Fremantle	01.07.23-30.09.23

Permission to Officiate

The Revd Lyn Harwood		30.06.23
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Resignations

The Revd James Stephenson	Chaplain, Guildford Grammar School	30.06.23
The Revd Matthew Madul	Priest-in-Charge, East Victoria Park-Bentley Area Dean, Marli Deanery	14.07.23

Relinquishment

The Revd Tony Drayton	Archdeacon of the North	31.05.23
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King's Birthday Honours 2023 - Clergy

The Ven Kathy Barrett-Lennard OAM

King's Birthday Honours 2023 - Lay

Cr Karen Chappel AM
Mr Tony Howes OAM

RIP - Clergy

The Revd Graham Boyle	06.06.23
The Revd John Bowyer	09.06.23

RIP - Lay

Mr Mike Horgan	Parish of Shenton Park	03.06.23
Mr Ian Flack	Former Trustee	06.23



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CROSSWORD SETTER REQUIRED

**After more than 15 years,
Fr Ted Witham is no longer able to
serve as the *Messenger*
Crossword Setter.**

Is there anyone out there who might be interested in putting up their hand to take on this task? If so, please contact the *Messenger* Team at messenger@perth.anglican.org.

MESSENGER

Get in touch with the *Messenger* team

Phone: **08 9425 7200**
Email: messenger@perth.anglican.org

DEADLINE:

Around the 24th or 25th of every month prior to publication. Articles must be under 400 words and may be edited without notice, images to accompany articles are encouraged

PHOTOGRAPHS:

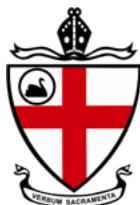
Permission needs to be sought from parents/guardians/carers for photographs with children. Digital photos should be a high quality.



St George's Cathedral

Information about our services and events can be found on the website at www.perthcathedral.org

Everyone is very welcome to all services and events at the Mother Church of the Diocese.



SUNDAY SERVICES

8.00am Holy Eucharist (BCP)	10.00am Choral Eucharist	5.00pm Choral Evensong
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MONDAY TO SATURDAY SERVICES

Monday - Saturday	8.00am	Morning Prayer and 8.15am Holy Eucharist
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday	12.15pm	Holy Eucharist
Wednesday	10.15am	Holy Eucharist
Monday - Saturday	4.00pm	Evening Prayer

SPECIAL SERVICES

Sunday 2 July	5.00pm	Choral Evensong and Farewell to The Reverend Matthew Madul, Priest-in-Charge, Parish of East Victoria Park-Bentley and Bishop-elect, Diocese of Akot, Episcopal Church of South Sudan
Tuesday 4 July	10.00am	Service for Healing and Wholeness - a special celebration of Holy Communion that includes prayer for healing and wholeness This service is held on the first Tuesday of every month
Sunday 9 July	5.00pm	Choral Evensong for St Benedict
Sunday 23 July	5.00pm	Choral Evensong for Art, and Installation of Cathedral Pastor and Cathedral Canons
Sunday 30 July	5.00pm	Choral Evensong for Cursillo

SPIRITUALITY SERIES

Enrolments to spirituality@perthcathedral.org or phone 9325 5766 by the Monday before the presentation

Saturday 8 July, 9.00am-12.00 noon (Cost: \$20.00)

The Way of Holiness of the Oxford Movement - Presented by The Revd Professor Rowan Strong, Professor of Church History, Murdoch University, and lecturer at Wollaston Theological College

Wednesday 12 July, 9.30am-12.30pm (Cost: \$15 per person and includes a light lunch)

Spirituality in Visual Art - Presented by Julianne Mackay, Curator for St George's Cathedral Art Exhibition

Wednesday 26 July, 9.30am-12.30pm (Cost: \$10 per person)

Love: Desire and the Trinity - Presented by Dr Peter Sellick, Anglican deacon

ART

Saturday 15 July to Sunday 23 July

20th Annual St George's Cathedral Art Exhibition

The Cathedral's annual exhibition of works by senior art students from Western Australian schools is a wonderful celebration of the creativity of young artists.

Entry by gold coin donation; catalogues \$15

The exhibition is open from 10.00am-4.00pm daily and from 12.00noon-4.00pm on Sundays

CONCERTS

Wednesday 19 July, 1:00pm Concerts at One series

Lunchtime concerts in the Cathedral - Methodist Ladies' College