



Anglican Diocese  
of Bendigo

# The Spirit

monthly



Reconciliation Week: 27 May - 4 June

may 2017

issue 129



**Deterrence:** An exhibition by the Revd John Tansey featured outside St Paul's Cathedral, Bendigo during Easter

## Confronting exhibition stirs political discussion during Easter

John Roundhill

Late last year the cathedral received an email that invited us to exhibit an art work by the Revd John Tansey called *Deterrence*.

It is a confronting sculpture imaging three people, a man, a pregnant woman and a child on crosses. Each cross is named as one of the offshore detention centres that Australia makes use of; Manus, Christmas Island and Nauru.

The description that accompanies the artwork provides an outline of the meaning behind the piece:

*The cross in the Christian tradition was used by the Roman imperial power as a tool of deterrence, and as a political weapon to reinforce their power over an occupied state.*

*Jesus was crucified due to his persistence in acting and speaking against an oppressive system and status quo. This points to a theology of the cross that*

*sees it not simply as a symbol of generalized suffering, or even of solidarity with those suffering but also as a symbol of political resistance against injustice.*

*This work reflects on the way the cross was used in the past as a tool for political expedience, fear and intimidation and the way Australian governments are continuing to treat men, women and children refugees in off shore detention centres.*

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# The Bishop writes

**A**s *The Spirit* goes to press for this month we have had, up until now, a very mild autumn, with a very warm March and a very wet April across the diocese.

For our farmers in cropping areas it has been an excellent start to the season and in the last couple of weeks as I drive around there is a flurry of activity in the dry land farming areas as paddocks are prepared for sowing.

Overall I think autumn is the loveliest time of the year with the leaves changing, the grass and paddocks greening and, although things are starting to prepare for winter, there is so much beauty with the colours, the sky and the gardens which have been invigorated with recent rain after the long dry summer. I was driving around Malmsbury recently and the country side seemed to be just bursting with goodness.

At a time where the media constantly bombards us with so much violence and terror that exists in the world, we are so blessed in this nation to be able to take in the beauty of creation in our midst.

This is not to deny the fury and unpredictability of nature as many in northern Australia have so recently experienced, but overall I give thanks to God for the many blessings we enjoy living in central, northern and north western Victoria. I am reminded of the hymn:

*For the beauty of the earth,  
for the beauty of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies,*

*Christ, our God, to you we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise.*

*For the beauty of each hour  
of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale, and tree and flower,  
sun and moon, and stars of light*

*For the joy of ear and eye,  
for the heart and mind's delight,  
for the mystic harmony  
linking sense to sound and sight,*

(Together in Song 137)

Dear Friends,

**T**he word is out: I have announced my resignation to lead to retirement. I will officially finish in the office on St. Andrew's day and lay up my staff on Saturday, 2 December in St Paul's Cathedral. Further details about the service will be available in October.

The laying up of the pastoral staff is the last official act that a bishop does before stepping down as bishop of a diocese. By early December I will be well into my 15th year as Bishop of Bendigo, my 24th year as a bishop and nearly 45 years since my ordination as a deacon in February in 1973 in what was then All Saints Cathedral in Bendigo.

I have had the remarkable experience of serving in this diocese as a deacon, priest and bishop and, except for a period overseas early in my ministry, all of it has been in Victoria.

Now is not the time to begin reminiscing, as there are still six months of being bishop to go and the work load is as heavy as ever. A lot of people have already been asking me what will I do in retirement, and it is a question I cannot answer in detail. Time will tell.

Under the Bishopric Act by which I was elected the retirement age was 65, but in 2013 under a new Bishopric Election Act I was granted a three year extension and that time runs out early in 2018.

The next bishop will be elected by a Bishopric Election Board and, as you will read elsewhere in *The Spirit*, the Board has started meeting. Please pray for them and for the task they will undertake.



**Admire:** The changing colours of autumn

The Church's season Easter to Pentecost nearly always falls in Australia in autumn and I would hope that during May you find time and space to take in the autumnal beauty around you and give thanks to God for the beauty of the earth.

Blessings,

**The Spirit**

Monthly newsmagazine  
of the Anglican Diocese  
of Bendigo

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**Contributions are welcome**, and will be edited. Email contributions are preferred. Anonymous articles will not be considered for publication.

**Photographs** should be sent in digital form to the general email address above. Full size, 'raw' files are necessary. Physical photos are normally not returned.

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Contributions for the next issue must be submitted by **Friday 19 May 2017**.





**Resignation:** Bishop Andrew Curnow will 'lay up his staff' on 2 December 2017

## Search for a new bishop begins

### From the Bishopric Electoral Board

**A**s you will have read or heard, Bishop Andrew has announced that he will be 'laying up his staff' and bringing his time as bishop to an end, on 30 November this year.

We give thanks to God for Bishop Andrew's leadership over the past 15 years, and in due course we will reflect on all that has been achieved over that time.

This announcement triggers the work of the Bishopric Electoral Board, a body elected by Synod under new legislation, to find and elect a new bishop for our diocese.

The Board held its first meeting on 10 April, electing Jenny Dawson, a member of the Diocesan Executive Committee, as chair of the Board.

The Board is very aware that the Act allows it only 12 months, until 2 April 2018, to come to a decision. So the Board is busy thinking about the qualities needed in our next bishop, and invites parishioners from around the diocese to attend an open meeting on Saturday 27 May at 1.45pm at St Mary's Kangaroo Flat.

This meeting will be a forum at which the Board will explain the process, invite nominations and initiate discussion about the qualities needed in our new bishop.

The Board wishes to engage with the diocese at large, and invites suggestions and other input. Regular updates of progress (without referring to the candidates being considered) will be made on the diocesan website.

### Bishopric Electoral Board

#### Open Meeting

The Bishopric Electoral Board invites parishioners from around the diocese to attend an open meeting to explain the process, invite nominations and initiate discussion about the qualities needed in our new bishop.

**Saturday 27 May  
1.45 pm**

**St Mary's Kangaroo Flat**

### Members of the Bishopric Electoral Board

#### Clerical

- Canon Dale Barclay
- Canon Heather Blackman
- Archdeacon Greg Harris
- Archdeacon Michael Hopkins
- Canon Ian Howarth
- Revd Simon Robinson

#### Laity

- Jenny Dawson (Chair)
- David Bruce
- Ian Dallas
- Julia Nutting
- Jenny Rainsford
- Derek Shepherd

A prayer for God's guidance in this process has been prepared and will be published shortly. Please hold the Board and their work in your prayers over the next 12 months.

## Confronting exhibition stirs political discussion

Continued from front cover...

**T**he cathedral council discussed displaying the artwork and the decision was made that we would host these crosses for a period around Easter.

They arrived up from Melbourne on the Wednesday before Holy Week and were put up by a team from St Paul's and Revd John Tansey.

Since then I have been contacted by our local media and then by the *Anglican Communion News Service* and the *British Church Times*.

What has taken me by surprise though is the number of people in Bendigo who have welcomed the crosses presence and commended me on an article in the *Bendigo Advertiser*.

Many of these people are not connected with St Paul's or any church at all, but this art work has made a connection for them between the celebrations going on in Bendigo around Easter and the detention practices of the Australian Government.

I have been stopped in shops, high-fived in car parks and thanked on Facebook for the work that the cathedral is doing to highlight this issue.

It is pleasing to hear people refer to the cathedral as "St Paul's" or "our Cathedral"; for a number of years St Paul's was almost forgotten.

Not everyone is a pleased of course, and there are a number of people who have expressed concern that a piece of political art should make use of an icon of faith (the cross).

Whatever your view I suggest that getting our message outdoors is something we should be doing more of - let's get people talking.

The crosses will stay up for a few more weeks, but sadly the issue of how we handle refugees is likely to be with us a lot longer.



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# It's almost time for Nara Dreaming

## Contributed

**R**econciliation Week is shaping up to be bigger, better and busier than ever with the Diocesan Synod commencing at the start of Reconciliation Week, and our own Nara Dreaming Exhibition opening on Friday 19 May at Bill's Shed in Lockwood.

The *Nara Dreaming* exhibition is the culmination of a dream held by a group of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people to bring together a cross-cultural exhibition featuring various mediums including visual and performing arts. The exhibition has now grown to include handmade furniture, mosaics, jewellery, traditional Indigenous crafts and much more.

Significantly the exhibition runs through *Reconciliation Week*. This is how this small group of Dreamers see themselves as 'Reconciliation in Action'.

The Revd Robyn Davis, part of the Nara Dreaming group, will be familiar to readers of *The Spirit* as our Indigenous Pioneer Minister, NATSIAC representative and Diocesan Indigenous Advisor. Robyn is also an accomplished Indigenous artist and has exhibited in many local art shows as well as selling her work internationally.

Nara Dreaming is having two special Sundays this year titled *Sunday Arvo at Nara Dreaming*, with a sausage sizzle and baked potatoes available for lunch. For an educational and social afternoon on 28 May our friendly and beautiful dingoes will pay us a visit.

Everyone is welcome at any time, but you might like to come with a group of friends. Church or community groups are encouraged to take advantage of the special offer. (see advertisement)

A percentage of sales and the entire gold coin donation will go to New Horizons Welfare Services, a welfare organisation of the diocese.



**Opening night: Friday 19 May**

**For further information please contact:**

### Robyn Davis

robynjdavis@bigpond.com  
0431 155 456

### Anne Conway

naradreaming@impulse.net.au  
0418 579501

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Steve Geyer



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June Andrew





**Renewed:** Dale Barclay is ready to reopen *Renew*

Photo: Sunraysia Daily

## Renew repaired and ready to reopen

**Dale Barclay**

**I** am pleased to announce that *Renew* will be reopening on Wednesday April 26 at 10.00 am. The shop has been closed since November 11 2016 when the hail storm caused damage to the shop and left it in a condition that was unsafe for use.

*Renew* is an initiative of the Anglican Parish of Sunraysia South and aims to make a positive contribution to the physical, social and spiritual needs of people in the Sunraysia South area by providing an Op Shop, Food Bank, a place for chatting, and pastoral care.

It has been a real challenge being closed for five months. We love being involved in our community and the closure has really affected this. We have managed to continue with our Foodbank program which helps over 200 people per year.

The closure has meant community members who came in for a chat were unable to do this and it also made things financially challenging.

In the last two weeks, the shop has been repaired. Our volunteers have moved the contents of the shop out and back while the repairs occurred and there have been several working bees with some more work to go.

From next Wednesday, we will begin accepting donations of goods to sell. Our shop relies on donations and we have been blown away by the generosity of the community in the past and I know people will continue to do so. We are thankful to our landlord who has been very understanding and sought to move things along as fast as possible.

We hope to resume all our services when we open. There have been some adjustments to the layout of the shop. We will also offer a financial course to help people who are stressed out by finances.

This has been a fantastic way to share our love for Jesus in practical ways and in God's grace he will provide opportunities to share the amazing good news of the Easter story of Jesus' sacrificial death and new life he offers.

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# Celebrating Easter



**Eaglehawk:** Good Friday Service



**Swan Hill:** The Last Supper on Maundy Thursday



**True North (Bendigo North):** A Good Friday service conducted outside along the Midland Highway



**Swan Hill:** The Revd Jan Harper leads a walk to remember the 'Way of the Cross'



# Around the Diocese



**True North (Bendigo North):** A Good Friday service held outside



**Castlemaine:** The Revd Anne McKenna with the Easter flame



**Castlemaine:** Reflecting on Good Friday



**Sunraysia South:** Decorating the cross to represent the life Jesus offers



**True North:** Celebrating Easter



# Church bell still rings true

Dale Barclay

The church bell has been calling people to worship since around 400 AD. In times past when no one wore watches, or service times were unpredictable, the bell certainly was useful.

At APOSS before most services we still ring our church bell. It may be more a country thing, but I think most people (even if they do not go to church) still like to hear it every Sunday morning and on other occasions. It is a reminder that there is still a group of Christians who meet to worship their living God.



**Ring out:** Do you ring the church bell?

This morning two of our youngest members (10 and 4) rang the bell before our Good Friday service. One person who is living close by heard the bell. They came outside to check it out and saw the front of the church was open and came in and joined us for our service despite not having a Christian back ground.

It was a delight to have this person in our church and chat to them after the service. All this was occurring as we proclaimed that the goodness of Good Friday is all about what Jesus had achieved by dying on the cross.

A couple of young children, a church bell and an open door all being used by God to help a person hear about Jesus!

# Christ has risen, he has risen indeed! Diverse worship celebrates Easter

## Harvey Town Cluster hosts cultural feast

The members of the Harvey Town Cluster with Team Leader, the Revd Brendan McDonald, celebrated Easter with both joy and solemnity.

On **Thursday evening**, about 90 members of Common Ground, Maiden Gully and Eaglehawk Anglican Church enjoyed a very meaningful Jewish Haggadah and Seder meal in the Maiden Gully Community Centre. This was accompanied by singing and lively Jewish dancing.

Eaglehawk Anglican Church was the venue on **Good Friday** when a large number from both congregations

and the community, reflected on the amazing grace and love of God as seen in the death and rising to new life of his son, Jesus. The combined voices of the church music group and 'The Minstrels' led the exuberant singing.

**Easter morning** commenced with a 6.00 am vigil around glowing coals in the church grounds, followed by a time of deep reflection in the church. As the sun rose, people gathered in the church hall to enjoy breakfast together. They were joined by some of those coming to the larger 9.00 am service of celebration.

## Swan Hill community celebrates together

On **Maundy Thursday** our foyer was beautifully set for a commemoration of the Last Supper.

Long tables decorated with vine leaves and grapes held the plates of roasted lamb, unleavened bread and 'bitter herbs' in salad, followed by a special almond cake and fruit.

Preparing for the Eucharist, the ceremony of washing the feet took place. Moving into the church in silence, those present quietly removed all the decorations from the altar and sanctuary while Psalm 22 and Matthew 26:36 were read. The final candles and lights were extinguished and we departed in silence.

On **Good Friday** the Grain Shed Church of Christ congregation hosted the ecumenical service with about 300 Christians attending.

The service was followed by a walk to remember the 'Way of the Cross', pausing for the relevant readings and singing *Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom* as we left each station. At our final station Fr Matthew Thomas, the new Catholic priest, said grace before hot cross buns.

On **Easter Day** the church was filled with flowers, joyful singing, and beautiful sunlight streaming through the stained glass windows. Many visitors joined the regular congregation celebrating the resurrection.

## True North marks presence on highway

As part of our goal to 'Be Seen in 17' we decided that this year's **Good Friday Service** would be held outside. Our location on the Midland Highway meant that a lot of passing traffic would witness and be reminded of Good Friday.

No music, just plain-song and congregational involvement through readings and reflections. After the service, described by Zan as similar in nature to a funeral service, we laid autumn leaves at the foot of the cross in silent homage.

Thanks to Zan and Paul Daniels who planned the service with Zan leading, and Paul and baby Lizzie looking on.

On **Easter Day** we celebrated with a well attended joint service at St Luke's, White Hills. The theme this year was 'Why does Easter Matter?'

Back on the Midland Highway a beautiful floral transformation by Leonie Strauch of the Good Friday cross (thank you Michael Totterdell) was there for all the passing traffic to see. A wonderful way to celebrate Easter.



# People in the pews



**P**aul Daniels worships in the True North congregation at Huntly in the Parish of Bendigo North, and also at St Paul's Cathedral, where he is writing and researching for his PhD.

Paul is the first to be interviewed for this new feature. The following 10 questions are the same 10 questions that will be asked of all those featured in *People in the Pews*.



**Dad:** Paul Daniels with daughter Lizzie

*How would you describe yourself in one word (or two)?*

Faith grounds me while also allowing my head to be in the clouds.

*What is your favourite part of scripture?*

St Paul preaching in the Areopagus in Acts 17:28, quoting the Greek poets: "in him we live and move and have our being".

*What are you passionate about?*

Music: anything from Bach to Schoenberg will capture me. I'm currently addicted to the Bartók string quartets and have just discovered those of Grazyna Bacewicz.

*Where do you see yourself in the next 5 years?*

I am applying to be a candidate for ordination in the Bendigo Diocese and am also in the first year of my PhD. I'd love this to enable a combination of mission work and education. Who knows what this will look like, though? The adventure is seeing where it goes!

*Why are you a follower of Jesus?*

Jesus is our revelation of God's purpose for creation, while also showing us God as he is: as love. By connecting with Jesus in scripture, prayer and mission, we endeavour to love God and each other as he has loved us – and that's what keeps me going.

*Why does the Church still have relevance?*

I like to think of the Church as the broad Christian community rather than a building, parish or diocese. In that sense, the Church is relevant because it aims for a better world and a better humanity by realising our potential for unconditional love, since we are all made in the image of God.

*Which book or film have you most recently read/watched?*

The most recent read was Steinbeck's *Cannery Row* – it's rare to find a book that makes you laugh out loud and with such vivid, salt-of-the-earth characters as Steinbeck paints.

*What is the biggest challenge the world faces today?*

Affluence. The idea that a better life is a bigger TV, an upgraded car, a million-dollar house that one can't afford. By our love of money we can easily forget how to be human.

*What is your advice for a deeper faith?*

Seek out God in prayer and be alive to his Spirit moving in the world, and your place in it. Continually challenge yourself to achieve authenticity above ego (this is not an easy thing!).

*What is your greatest personal challenge?*

Looking after myself among the demands of academic life, church life and family life.

## Movie review:

### *Loving*

Angela Morrissey

**C**urrently showing in cinemas is *Loving*, which tells the true story of an interracial couple whose love sparked a revolution in civil rights.

Australian actor Joel Edgerton and Academy Award nominee Ruth Negga star as Richard and Mildred Loving, who married in 1958 and spent the next nine years exiled from their home state under Virginia's anti-miscegenation laws.

The police who arrested the couple said that it was "God's law." What rubbish. Interracial marriages have been happening since Bible times.

In the Book of Ruth, the story is about a woman from Moab, a non-Jewish area in which Ruth marries an Israelite man named Boaz (Ruth 4:13). They are also the ancestors of Jesus Christ (Matt 1:5).

Like the Book of Ruth, *Loving* is a story that tells of the power of love in dismal circumstances. Ruth found happiness and security again (after losing her first husband) through her marriage to Boaz, a kinsman of her mother-in-law Naomi's family (chapters 3-4).

Despite there being a law against interracial couple Richard and Mildred Loving the power of their love kept them together and kept them fighting to stay together all the way to the Supreme Court.

The Book of Ruth is truly an amazing book of the Bible for it's also a modern love story where the woman proposes to the man. In Ruth 3:9 Ruth asks Boaz to spread his cover over her and thus was asking him to marry her. This request for marriage is a custom that is still practised in some parts of the Middle East today.



**Loving:** Joel Edgerton and Ruth Negga



# Seasonal suggestions

## Children's ministry talk: Not just another Sunday!



**Engaged:** How much thought goes into your Children's Ministry talk?

**Rob Edwards, Youth and Children's Ministry, South East Bendigo**

**H**ave you ever been 'tapped on the shoulder' to give a children's talk or asked to lead the children's ministry on a Sunday morning? What an opportunity! But when you have had a crazy week, it might not feel so wonderful.

During the week, you might have been juggling work, running around after your children or your grandchildren, helping your neighbours and others who need assistance, going to appointments, cleaning the house and completing jobs on the 'to do'. After completing all these tasks, you have squeezed in some preparation time to prepare for the children's ministry lesson on Sunday morning!

Your week might have been crazy, but as a children's leader you don't know everything that's been happening in the world of the children that you're leading.

- One of the children that attends on a Sunday morning might have had an argument with one of their parents or their sibling
- Another child who attends, could be convinced that they are the reason as to why their parents have split up
- Another child might come mourning the loss of a grandparent
- Another child might come with a broken limb
- Another child might be afraid that someone will discover their secret

- Another child might attend worrying that they will be bullied at school the next day.
- Another child might not know where their next meal will come from

As leaders, we have the opportunity to show these children God's unconditional love and introduce them to their Heavenly Father.

God can work through we leaders to bring a child into God's kingdom and the good news is, "we are not on our own". As we set time aside to prepare, God gives us the words to say!

Each Sunday is "not just another Sunday". Every Sunday is an opportunity where those of us who are children's leaders can serve God's kids and teach them about God. It is an opportunity where children can come to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour and grow in their faith.

God uses the children's ministry leaders to grow His family and this Sunday could be the Sunday that changes a child's life for eternity!

Are you ready to make sure this Sunday is "not just another Sunday?"

## Celebrating National Reconciliation Week: 27 May - 4 June

**Sarah Crutch**

**N**ational Reconciliation Week is run annually from 27 May to 4 June to recognise the significant 1967 referendum and the Mabo decision in 1992.

National Sorry Day is also observed on 26 May each year to remember the mistreatment of Australia's indigenous population, with the 'Bringing Them Home' report about the Stolen Generations being tabled in Parliament on 26 May 1997.

This year National Reconciliation Week marks two significant anniversaries. It will be 50 years since the 1967 referendum that amended the Australian constitution to include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the census and allowed the Commonwealth government to make laws for them.

It will also be 25 years since the historic Mabo decision in Australia's High Court on 3 June 1992. This decision gave legal recognition to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the traditional owners of the land.

There are a range of resources and activities that parishes and community groups can do to mark Reconciliation Week. These activities help to continue to strengthen the relationship between the Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Suggestions include:

- coordinating a Welcome to Country
- displaying Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags
- visiting a town, city or national park with cultural significance
- watching an Indigenous film or TV program
- viewing some Aboriginal art (such as the Nara Dreaming exhibition)
- gathering for a shared meal using native Australian ingredients

The National Reconciliation Week website has a range of resources available to help you: [www.reconciliation.org.au](http://www.reconciliation.org.au)



## Cycling by faith: Can you ride backwards?

Eddie Barkla

*I have not yet reached my goal, and I am not perfect. But Christ has taken hold of me. So I keep on running and struggling to take hold of the prize. My friends, I don't feel that I have already arrived. But I forget what is behind, and I struggle for what is ahead. I run toward the goal, to win the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus... (Philippians 3:12ff)*

The Australian Coat of Arms, cycling, and faith in Christ Jesus. What do these have in common? There is quite a history on the development of the Australian Coat of Arms, but the one thing that has not changed is the kangaroo and emu on either side of the shield.

Some claim these animals were chosen because neither can move backward, only forward – symbolising progress. In reality both animals can move backwards, although only infrequently.

In cycling, the bike is designed to be propelled forward and is most stable when being ridden in a straight line. Occasionally the bike might move backwards, but it has limited stability. Not many riders have the skill to remain upright, and will fall over.

Our faith in Christ Jesus is not dissimilar. He resolutely faced the cross, not turning to the left or right or going backwards. He knew that the will of God was for him to be the first born from the dead, to bring many daughters and sons to glory.

Once we are in the grip of the love of God in Christ Jesus, there is no turning back. Our faces are set towards our heavenly home, waiting for the return of our Saviour and Redeemer. We may have occasions in our faith journey where we deviate, come to a standstill and even go backwards and fall over.

So let us be encouraged by the final words of Jude's letter:

*Now to the one who is able to keep you from falling, and to make you stand without blemish in the presence of his glory with rejoicing, to the only God our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.*

Looking forward to seeing you on the road soon, God willing.

## clergycontemplations

Charles Sherlock | Parish of Woodend-Trentham

### Cruising worship

Peta and I delight in reflecting on life around us – doing theology – not least on a cruise. This year we were on board for Good Friday, Easter and Anzac Day (that this always falls in Easter is one of God's providences.) About a quarter of the passengers were from 'down under', but most came from North America.

That services happened on Good Friday – not a holiday in the USA – and Easter Day (when we were in port) was itself a gift. We had come prepared, but an American couple had contacted Matt, the Entertainment Director, who accepted their offer for Dr Pamela to lead services (and daily Bible addresses). But an Anzac Day dawn service was up to me, with the Captain leading one later in the day, and the services on the two Sundays after Easter Day, when we were at sea.

So what did we gather from our reflections on these varied (and helpful) services (to which hundreds came)? Quite a few things come to mind, but three were clear enough to write down.

First, one-man-band leading has its limits. One voice up front when performing the gospel is sometimes necessary (as for the 15-minute Anzac dawn service). But 45 minutes of the same voice, even with good content and a couple of hymns, turns the congregation into an audience.

The Captain took us through Morning Prayer from the *Book of Common Prayer* – on the surface, seemingly old-fashioned, but he understood the importance of several voices, bringing us into being participants, not just watchers, in performing the gospel.

Secondly, we realised afresh how the tone of public worship has changed over the past 50 or so years. The focus of BCP Morning Prayer (and modern rites such as those in APBA) is on what the living God has done, does and will do, for us. But in our more feeling-oriented culture, this shifts to our response to what God has done for



“Things keep being added to services. So what remains essential?”

us – or worse, being told how I should feel about Jesus. Likewise, the stark objectivity of Anzac dawn was not assisted by sentimental poems being added in the later Anzac service.

Which leads to a third notion. Things keep being added to services. So what remains essential? For Anzac Day, we figured it is the Ode, Last Post/Reveille/Rouse and national anthems (and hopefully, continued use of the Lord's prayer). For church? It is hard to beat the opening words of BCP Morning Prayer:

*We assemble and meet together to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at [God's] hands, to set forth [God's] most worthy praise, to hear [God's] most holy Word, and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as the soul.*

Thanks/praise/scripture/intercession – God-focussed gospel performance. I'd want to include singing ("psalms, hymns and spiritual songs") which bring out our emotions – about the mystery of God.

"Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so." Amen! But we concluded Easter Day with "He lives! He lives! He lives within my heart!" Easter faith is far, far bigger.



# What's all the *hoopla* about God?



**Dale Barclay**

**A**t Sunraysia South young congregation member Gem shared a hoopla dance with the congregation.

The song was about the Lord's Prayer and surrendering ourselves to God, with the words in both Polynesian and English. The congregation found it very encouraging and thought it was great to see people using their gifts to build up and encourage God's people.

**Hoopla:** Gem performing



## Synod

Friday 26 - 27 May

## Bishopric Open Consultation

1.45 pm, 27 May, Kangaroo Flat

## Ordination

2.30 pm, St Paul's Cathedral

## Deconsecration of Rheola

2.00 pm, Sunday 25 June

## Parish Leaders Workshop

Saturday 1 July, Kangaroo Flat

## Deconsecration - St Paul's Koondrook

3.00 pm, Sunday 2 July

## Induction of Stuart Winn

Thursday 13 July, Mooropna

## Got an event coming up?

Send the details to  
thespirit@bendigoanglican.org.au

## Nara Dreaming Exhibition

Exhibition to be officially opened by  
Cr. Rod Fyffe (City of Greater Bendigo)

Friday 19 May at 6.30 pm

Bill's Shed

1023 Calder Alternative Highway, Lockwood 3551

### Exhibition Hours

10.00am - 4.00 pm Saturday and Sunday

from 20 May - 4 June 2017

(weekdays by arrangement - please contact us to book)

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