

Anglican Diocese
of Bendigo

The Synod issue

The Spirit

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Reflection: Bishop Andrew Curnow delivers a reflective address on his years as Bishop of Bendigo to Synod

Bishop Andrew delivers final address to Synod

Sarah Crutch

“I believe I will leave the diocese in good heart and health.”

Those were Bishop Andrew Curnow's last words of his final address to Synod, which were followed by a standing ovation in acknowledgement and deep appreciation for his remarkable tenure as Bishop of Bendigo.

Vicar General John Roundhill then gave thanks to Bishop Andrew on behalf of the diocese for his 14 years of faithful ministry.

“We give thanks for the dedicated leadership of this diocese; for innovation in ministry, for the vision of a sustainable and happy diocese and for the costly love and care of both laity and clergy.”

Bishop Andrew noted he still has six months to serve as bishop and there is still work to be done, but acknowledged the transition to his retirement has commenced.

Continue reading for a summary of Bishop Andrew's address on page 3 and further Synod coverage...

**Strategic plan
endorsed**
page 4

**Reconciliation is our
responsibility**
page 5

**Cathedral funding
announced**
page 6

**Hallmarks of a
healthy church**
page 11



The Bishop writes



Caring: The Revd Terry Templer, Bishop Andrew and Karen Lunney

Dear Friends,

The other day I had a remarkable experience - I had a guided tour of the new Bendigo Hospital by the Director of Pastoral Care, Karen Lunney. Karen was accompanied by our two Anglican chaplains at Bendigo Health, the Revds Terry Templer and Geoff Chittenden. It was an uplifting and inspiring visit.

Some of you may have already visited the new Bendigo Hospital as a visitor or an inpatient. For some parts of the diocese it is not the hospital they would regularly relate with, but as the new hospital becomes fully operational and the helipad is completed, about 80% of the diocese will come within its reach of services.

Each level of the new hospital is named after a local government area of northern and north western Victoria; the Bendigo level, Mt Alexander, Buloke, Gannawarra, Campaspe and Loddon. However, just as it is with churches, the building is important but it's the quality of care provided that makes the distinctive difference.

As part of that care, public hospitals in Victoria are required, under the Act governing public hospitals, to provide for the spiritual and pastoral care of patients and this is where chaplaincy comes to the fore.

I was delighted to see that the new hospital provides a significant sacred space with office and interview space for chaplains. It is a bright, welcoming and spacious area where people can pray, reflect, see a chaplain or just find a quiet space to sit.

It has been a long journey for us as a diocese to find the funding to supply chaplaincy, but this has been achieved. Terry and Geoff between them provide a great chaplaincy service across the main campus of the hospital as well as a number of associated institutions.

This is how they cover Bendigo Health as outlined to me by Terry:

Geoff currently ministers at Golden Oaks and Carshalton House each Monday. I attend to Bendigo Health hospital ministry Monday and Wednesday mornings and all day each Tuesday and Thursday. I attend Stella Anderson and Joan Pinder and Simpkin House on a rotation basis each Monday and Wednesday afternoon. We are on call for end of life ministry at any time from those facilities.

Chaplaincy is about accompanying people through moments of great challenge and disturbance in their lives. It is also about offering a sympathetic ear to staff who are often working under great stress as people's lives are turned upside down. Chaplaincy is about being a friendly face when you are away from home, and at times family, often in pretty trying and painful circumstances.

I was greatly encouraged by the visit and by the way staff greeted Karen, Geoff and Terry. It showed they have a high level of acceptance

throughout the hospital and are totally integrated into the caring philosophy of Bendigo Health.

If you know of anyone coming into Bendigo Health and know they would appreciate a visit from a caring friendly team don't hesitate to contact Terry through Pastoral Care at the hospital.

With every blessing

The Spirit

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of Bendigo

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Synod taken on journey of reflection by Bishop Andrew

Sarah Crutch

In his address, Bishop Andrew outlined the challenges and accomplishments throughout his years in the diocese in the context of the ten viability criteria for dioceses.

Commencing as bishop in 2003, Bishop Andrew came to a diocese recovering from significant debts following the collapse of Girton College in 1992 and a long period without a bishop, which had left the diocese in a "parlous state".

"The beginning was not easy," he said. "The diocese faced many challenges if it was to survive".

"Every door I seemed to open presented me with another challenge".

Bishop Andrew then went on to outline a number of initiatives that have helped strengthen and grow the diocese in areas of ministry, governance, recruitment and compliance.

Those include establishing an ordained local ministry stream alongside pioneer ministers, a Diocesan Executive to strengthen diocesan governance, mission action plans at parish level and intentional recruiting to improve the age distribution and gender balance amongst clergy.

Other major initiatives include the incorporation of the diocese as a public company limited by guarantee and the establishment of an independent professional standards company.

"The old days of the churches and diocese just making decisions based on what might be 'good ideas' is long gone and now all levels of diocesan life must be subject to tough scrutiny and accountability," he said.

Bishop Andrew also spoke on how the diocese's financial situation has been considerably improved with the Bishopric Fund, previously lost following the collapse of Girton, re-established and continuing to grow to give significant security for the future of the diocese.

He went on to outline how he has made an effort to immerse himself amongst the people and places of the diocese throughout his time leading



Address: Bishop Andrew speaking to the Synod

I have therefore sought to know the various parishes of this diocese, the people of God who are in them and the communities in which they exist

the diocese, following a principle of both leading and caring.

"I have therefore sought to know the various parishes of this diocese, the people of God who are in them and the communities in which they exist. I have sought to know every road and highway across the diocese, rivers, creeks, mountains, parks and plains".

"This is because you cannot lead if you do not fully immerse yourself in the context you are to lead in," he said.

Although acknowledging that there are still issues that the diocese will need to address, such as the sustainability of parishes, the training of clergy and lay leadership along with strengthening the safe church culture, he expressed an overall feeling of encouragement having reflected on the various elements that make up the diocese today.

He also added several elements he felt important for the diocese to sustain going forward, including being innovative, collaborative, upholding the highest level of professional standards and being clear about its

vision, purpose and sense of direction.

Another strength of the diocese that Bishop Andrew felt must continue is inclusiveness.

"We are a diocese that is not theologically monochrome, but seeks to embrace the diversity of Anglicanism with good will and trust."

"I have endeavoured to build a strong collegiality amongst the clergy that accepts diversity and that Christianity is not a single track religion, but encompasses a wide range of views and understandings."

"I have always maintained that if we as clergy can't relate and get along, what hope is there for the rest of the Church."

Bishop Andrew concluded his address by thanking the many people who have supported him in his role as bishop over the years, but particularly his wife Jan for her patience and generosity.

A full copy of Bishop Andrew's address can be found on the diocesan website under News.



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- c) establishing and developing charitable work

If your parish or group has a project that meets the above criteria please contact Jackie Mullan - Manager on 5443 4711 to discuss your proposal. Obtain a Bencourt Application form from the diocesan website.

Applications for 2017 are due:

- Monday, 7 August 2017
- Monday, 23 October 2017

Synod sets future path for diocese



Vision: The sectors and segments of the strategic plan encapsulate the diocesan vision

Sarah Crutch

Synod moved to adopt a new Diocesan Strategic Plan to give the diocese direction and purpose for 2017-2019.

Archdeacon Greg Harris presented the plan, with its focus on three key areas; ministry, resources and safe church, each with several segments with strategies and goals listed under each.

He outlined that the development of the new plan has taken into consideration the upcoming change of leadership, with the current plan to run for just three years, to allow a new bishop to settle into the role and then have input into the next plan.

Bishop Andrew described the plan as "first rate" as it is usable, achievable and measurable, and shows that Bendigo is a diocese that knows where it's going.

Strategic Plan 2017 - 2019

Ministry

- 'Inside' the church
- 'Outside' the church
- Leadership (of the diocese)

Resources

- People
- Finances
- Property
- ICT

Safe Church

- Professional Standards
- Safe People
- Safe Leaders
- Safe Environment

A full copy of the Diocesan Strategic Plan is available from the diocesan website under About.

Synod establishes Rural Ministry Trust

Synod moved to establish a Rural Ministry Trust to assist parishes in remote and rural areas of the diocese in supporting ministry payments.

Bishop Andrew explained that a gift of \$50,000 had been left to the diocese, for a purpose to be decided by Synod, by the late Rev'd Trevor Bulled who was deaconed in Bendigo in 1974 and priested in 1975.

He hopes to add a further \$50,000 to the fund to then allow it to grow and provide a substantial fund within the diocese to support parishes in rural areas that are financially struggling.

When asked what is considered to be a rural parish, Bishop Andrew indicated that anything west of the Loddon River he considers to be rural and remote and in need of support.

Age limit debate revisit

Representatives from the Parish of Kangaroo Flat moved to delete the clause in the Parish Administration Act, inserted in 2016, that requires parish council members to retire once they have reached 80 years of age.

Elaine Young urged that these people are still valued and able to faithfully serve in the Church, supporting her argument with studies that show how keeping an active lifestyle can help prevent diseases such as dementia.

Synod held a respectful discussion, noting that the clause assists long term members retire and encourages parishes to try and address new membership. The clause also allows members over the age of 80 to be retained if a majority of parish council agrees.

Following the discussion, the Synod voted to retain the clause.

Reconciliation is our responsibility

Sarah Crutch

Meeting at the commencement of Reconciliation Week, the Synod acknowledged the significant anniversaries occurring in 2017, being 50 years since the 1967 referendum and 25 years since the historic Mabo decision.

Synod also continued its commitment to reconciliation, with the adoption of the next stage of the diocesan Reconciliation Action Plan.

With the Rev'd Robyn Davis formally finishing in her role with indigenous ministry, she urged members of Synod to take on the responsibility of reconciliation themselves and to not be afraid to include indigenous people in their communities.

"You all need to replace me," she said. "You all need to take on the responsibility yourselves."

The next stage of the Reconciliation Action Plan is *Innovate* which outlines what people in the diocese can do to improve our efforts towards reconciliation. The Working Group will continue to support parishes and



Koori Ministry: Robyn Davis

share resources in *The Spirit* as they become available.

NAIDOC Week, 2-9 July, is a time to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture and achievements and is an opportunity to recognise the contributions that Indigenous Australians make to our country and society.

It's a great opportunity to participate in a range of activities - see *Seasonal Suggestions* on page 10 for ideas on how to include some indigenous celebrations in your parish.

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Reconciliation Action Plan INNOVATE

Respect

- The Working Group will continue to bring the RAP to the attention of Synod & parishes
- Encourage all parishes to recognise important events such as Sorry Day, Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week.
- Encourage parishes to show their respect to the first peoples by acknowledging the country on which our parishes stand.

Relationships

- The Working Group will seek opportunities in our diocese, and further afield, for advocacy, meeting with stakeholders, and for parishes to have cultural experiences
- We will encourage parishes to walk alongside the first peoples of the land and listen to their needs and wants.

Opportunities

- The Working Group will continue to look for ways to engage with indigenous groups
- Support our local indigenous people
- Offer friendship and prayer to our indigenous neighbours

Each of the elements of the INNOVATE part of the RAP can be actions that are taken now



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BENDIGO

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Around the Diocese

Cathedral funding announced by State Government



Vicky: Bishop Andrew and Dean John Roundhill explore the truck

St Paul's Cathedral will receive \$100,000 from the State Government to assist with its continuing restoration, particularly the front entrance and interface with Myers Street.

The funding was announced by the Minister for Multicultural Affairs prior to the launch of "Vicky" – an interactive truck set to travel around Victoria to promote shared values multiculturalism. The Victorian values include; one law for all, discrimination is never acceptable, freedom to be yourself, a fair go for all and it is up to all of us to contribute to a Victoria we can be proud of.

The funding will allow work to commence on establishing equal access into the Cathedral through an entry ramp, improvements to the front steps and enhancement of the landscaping and street front.

- Sarah Crutch

New members of the church welcomed in Woodend

In early May St Mary's Woodend celebrated the baptism and confirmation of Woodend locals Jenny Zimmerman and Bronwyn Neill, and the confirmation of Sophie Clune, who was baptised at St Mary's in 2008.

Bishop Andrew shared his thoughts about the specialness of being baptised on Good Shepherd Sunday before laying hands on the candidates and formally making them members of the Church.

We had even more to celebrate as Bishop Andrew prayed for us as he closed the church for a few months to enable restoration work on the floor. The floor has withstood 153 years of damp Woodend winters and pesky termites and now needs replacing. We hope to re-open by the end of September.

- Melissa Clark



Confirmed: The candidates with Bishop Andrew and Melissa Clark



The theme for this year's End of Financial Year Appeal comes from the parable of the mustard seed in Matthew 13. We are all familiar with the phrase 'from small things, big things grow', or the many variants of it.

This year we are celebrating the many ways in which the work of our partners overseas is like the mustard seed growing into something bigger than its beginnings. Over the years we have worked with Anglican and like-minded partners to provide the smallest of 'seed' investments in projects. We have continued to work with them in the belief that God's generosity will nurture these initiatives in unexpected ways.

The aim of our development programs at Anglican Overseas Aid is to work with communities to try to build them up. We are thankful for the generosity of people like you. This support really does make a difference. Your donation to our End of Financial Year Appeal will help us to continue to sow new seeds.

HOW TO DONATE

- 1 **Online:**
anglicanoverseasaid.org.au
- 2 **By phone:**
1800 249 880
- 3 **By post:**
2017 End of Financial Year Appeal
Anglican Overseas Aid
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Around the Parishes

Stepping out in style

Christ Church Echuca was splashed across the front page of the local paper last month, following a very successful Fashion Parade and High Tea.

The sold out event saw over a hundred people packed into the hall for an afternoon of fancy food, fun fashion and fine fellowship.

A brave band of parishioners paraded up and down the catwalk, wearing outfits supplied by a local clothing store.

As both a fundraiser and community outreach the afternoon was almost as bright and as colourful as the stand out suit of the day!

- George Hemmings



Raceday: Graham Peat and Jeanette Moore *Photo: The Riverine Herald*

A special baptism to celebrate Mother's Day



The Parish of Sunraysia South had a great Mother's Day.

Not only did we celebrate Mother's Day, we also celebrated the baptism of Octavia Collins – daughter of first time mum and dad Carrie and Nathan.

The sermon focused on Jesus caring for his mum while he was on the cross, and that God through his Holy Spirit can empower and equip us in the important task of raising children.

This was followed by an amazing lunch.

- Dale Barclay

Clerical leadership installed

A new Archdeacon and newly elected Rural Deans were installed during the Synod service on Saturday morning,

Anne McKenna, Rector of Castlemaine, was collated as Archdeacon of the Goldfields. The position has been vacant for some time but Anne's appointment is in recognition of the leadership of women in the diocese, with Anne the diocese's first female archdeacon.

The newly elected Rural Deans; Glenda Templer (Bendigo East), Jude Benton (Campaspe), Brendan McDonald (Bendigo West) and Ian Howarth (Mt Alexander) were also installed, with Simon Robinson (currently on leave) acknowledged as the Rural Dean of the now combined Loddon-Mallee deanery.

- Sarah Crutch



Installed: The Rural Deans with Archdeacon Anne McKenna

Locals farewell St David's Milloo

Stuart Winn

A full house, many of whom had made a journey of considerable distance, gathered at St David's Milloo on Sunday, 30 April for her final service and deconsecration.

St David's has been a part of the Milloo community since 1886 and many generations of local families have worshipped within her walls.

In his address, Bishop Andrew, himself a former Rector of Milloo, paid tribute to those who had pioneered the church, giving something of a potted history and sharing something of his own experiences of the St David's congregation.

He acknowledged the challenges facing parishes in a rural diocese such as ours. The gathered congregation were reassured that God has not abandoned us, and, from the words of Matthew 6, that he will continue to provide for the needs of his people, albeit in different ways.

After the short service of Evening Prayer, and the reading of the Certificate of Deconsecration, a resplendent afternoon tea was enjoyed in the Milloo Hall and many memories shared and old friendships re-kindled.

Although it was in many ways a difficult occasion, we continue to trust that Jesus is keeping his promise to build his church (Matthew 16.18), and the Parish of Rochester-Lockington presses on in faith.



Closed: The final service



Friendship: Dean John Roundhill with Heri Febriyanto at the end of the walk

Autumn stroll shows solidarity

John Roundhill

On a beautiful cool autumn morning, a little over 20 people from various backgrounds walked from the proposed site of the Bendigo Islamic Community Centre (BICC) to St Paul's Cathedral. The 6km walk was first done in 2016 and takes in a lovely section of the O'Keefe Trail and then Lake Weeroona.

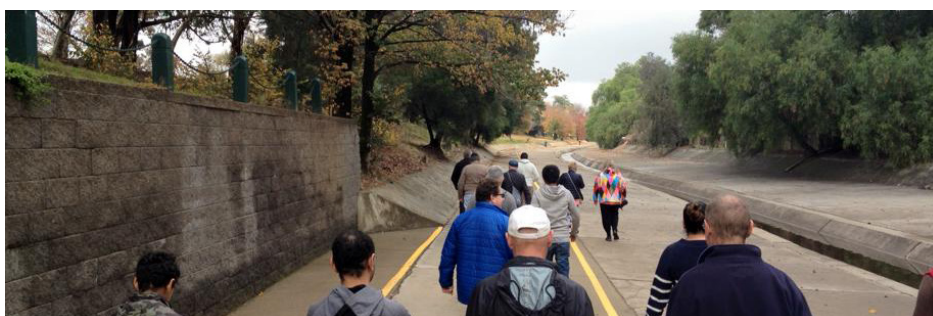
The reason for the first walk was to show solidarity with the Islamic Community in Bendigo when there was strident opposition to the proposed Mosque. Members of St Paul's Cathedral wished to show support and a walk between two religious sites was proposed; from

an unbuilt mosque to a then closed cathedral. The Cathedral is now open and plans for the BICC are moving ahead.

The experience of walking 6km with strangers and friends is wonderful. There is a chance to learn, laugh, share and at the end of the walk there was a delicious but simple lunch at St Paul's.

Conversations seem more fluid when walking - quite a bit of biblical action takes place as the disciples walk around with Jesus. A journey itself is as significant as both the starting point and the destination.

The hope is that an annual walk will foster true friendship between members of these two great faiths.



Stroll: The walkers make their way into Bendigo along the Bendigo Creek.



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Electoral Board progress continues

From the Bishopric Electoral Board

The Electoral Board met weekly in May and is establishing the process required to select a bishop to succeed Bishop Andrew on his retirement in December.

The Board conducted an open meeting at the conclusion of Synod, and have organised a range of consultations with parishes, clergy and other stakeholders to be held in June.

Importantly, we have met with our independent consultant, the Revd Sandy Jones, a position designated in the Bishopric Act. She has participated in three of our meetings and given valuable advice from her wealth of experience.

The open meeting on 27 May was a significant opportunity for parishioners to learn how they can be part of the process the Bishopric Act requires, and for board members to hear from various members of the diocese.

We thank those who were able to attend for their participation and readiness to share their questions and comments, which were both practical and thoughtful and will assist us in our process.

If you couldn't attend the consultation, information from the Electoral Board

is updated on the diocesan website under *News & Events*. This page also provides an opportunity for individuals to contribute to the process, in person and in writing.

The consultations during June represent the next opportunity to be part of the selection process. For parishes and deanery clergy, these will be local and accessible. Please look out for details of when yours will be held.

We encourage your participation in these consultations to give board members an insight into your 'parish mind', as well as any individual comments and suggestions.

When we've considered this varied and valued contribution, we'll be better equipped to list the qualities, skills and experience specific to the Diocese of Bendigo that will lead us to the person of God's choice. Then we can advertise and call for nominations.

At both Synod and the open meeting the proactive leadership of Bishop Andrew was acknowledged with appreciation. We pray for him and we seek your constant prayers for the consultations, for the Electoral Board members, for our consultant and for all who will indicate an interest in the vital leadership role of Bishop of Bendigo.

Bishop Election Prayer

*Eternal God, shepherd and guide,
in your mercy give your Church in
this diocese of Bendigo
a shepherd after your own heart
who will walk in your ways,
and with loving care
watch over your people.
Give us a leader of vision and a
teacher of your truth.
So may your Church be built up
and your name glorified;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

Prayer for the Bishop Election Board

*Almighty and everliving God,
Grant your grace and
understanding to the members
and meetings
of the Bishop Election Board.
Give them vision and energy
for their work together.
Sustain their faith and
enrich their prayer.
Guide them in their task
so that their labour
bears good fruit for us all;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

Time apart in the Parish of Eaglehawk

Jenny Rainsford

How would you feel driving 3,000km from Adelaide to Darwin, on your own, with no radio contact for most of the journey and not even CDs to listen to?

This was the dilemma faced by the Rev'd Wendy Pullin several years ago, after the death of her husband, Christopher, and the need to deliver a car 'up north'.



Guest: Janet Everitt and Wendy Pullin

Wendy was the leader of 'A Time Apart' organised by the Eaglehawk Mothers Union in May. She shared how she was able to use her long journey as a personal retreat. Prompted by both the beauty and desolation of the Inland, she re-lived the many periods of her life from early childhood, giving thanks to God for the many blessings even in times of great emptiness and sadness, as well as occasions of great joy.

Wendy developed the experiences of this journey for the 'Time Apart' using as her theme: 'A Traveller's Tale – Gratitude and Thanksgiving'. Through her life story she encouraged all present to pause, often, and recall the various periods of their life's journey, seeing God's hand at work in their life, and to 'give thanks'.

Wendy also recalled that she was deaconed in the Diocese of Bendigo nineteen years ago having ministered in the Parish of Swan Hill.

In 2018, Wendy's next challenge is to attempt the Comino de Santiago pilgrim's walk through northern Spain over several weeks.

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Contributed by Robyn Davis

Learn

- > Who are the Traditional Owners?
- > What is the language group?
- > Who are the local elders?
- > What are your local organisations and service providers?
- > Learn about the people and services in your neighbourhood
- > Find out about your local history and cultural practices
- > Read the Commitment of Affirmation and Faith passed at General Synod
- > Do a cultural awareness workshop

Connect

- > Attend local events and happenings
- > Could you volunteer at a local organisation?
- > Befriend a local family
- > Show interest and be aware of local matters
- > Ask local community members how you can help
- > Include Aboriginal people in the service as readers, speakers, musicians or dancers
- > Acknowledge celebrations; Reconciliation Week, NAIDOC Week, Mabo day, James Noble Day (First Indigenous deacon on 25 November), Coming of the Light

Act

- > Acknowledge the traditional owners of the land
- > Have a red, black and yellow Sunday
- > Use Australian elements in the service such as Eucalyptus oil, tea tree oil, gum leaves and Indigenous symbols
- > Invite a local elder to have a smoking ceremony
- > Use an Indigenous prayer during service
- > Use a local Aboriginal story as a reading for the day
- > Use the Commitment of Affirmation and Faith document as a reflection during the service
- > Raise the Aboriginal Flag to show your support

Speaking in tongues – literally!

Angela Morrissey

A friend and I went to Melbourne recently and decided to visit St Paul's Anglican Cathedral to admire the interior artwork and architecture. We didn't realise but the Mandarin service had already started.

We sat down behind this small congregation of Chinese parishioners. It was time for Holy Communion and I thought of joining in but was worried about doing the wrong thing. Imagine how it must feel for foreigners coming to this country and joining in. I wonder if they have similar fears.

This is why it's important for us to welcome people from other countries. It is written in Exodus 23:9, "You must never do wrong things to a foreigner. Remember, you know what it is like to be a foreigner because at one time you were foreigners in the land of Egypt."

I did take part in other aspects of the service, including the Lord's Prayer, which I said in English whilst everyone else said it in Mandarin. Truly, this is speaking in tongues as St Paul spoke about in 1 Corinthians Chapter Twelve! I could also respond in English to certain parts of the service, which was the same as the service I attend in Bendigo. Truly, it was a wonderful experience.

It is vital that we welcome people from all different cultures into the church. Services such as this one are important because they give foreign speaking parishioners an opportunity to take part in their native tongue.

This congregation was only small in number but Christians are "the salt of the earth" (Matt 5:13). Only a small amount is needed - just like a teaspoon of salt in the dough to make it rise and make tasty bread.

Who knows? Perhaps they will pass the Christian message on to other Mandarin speaking people who will start coming to worship. And word might get back to relatives and friends in China where the church is controlled heavily by the state.

How lucky we are to have services like this in Australia! And who knows? Next time, if I happen to be at St Paul's again I will take part in Holy Communion with my Chinese brothers and sisters.

clergy contemplations

Gordon Lingard | Parish of Bendigo North

Hallmarks of a radiant church

Robert Louis Stevenson (the author of *Treasure Island*) once wrote in his journal, "I've been to church today, and am not depressed."

Whilst my early recollection of Church is very positive, later in my teens and early adulthood I could easily concur with Mr Stevenson that not being bored was a rare event.

I might also add that I increasingly found Church to be an irrelevance and largely out of touch with the surrounding culture of the day. I therefore joined the growing throng who simply erased Church from their schedule.

You may be happy to note that I no longer feel the same way - in fact much the opposite. However the 'throng' of those who do not have church on their radar is ever growing.

I sometimes wonder why God ever invented Church...it's so hard to do at times. So unwieldy, unruly and almost impossible to fathom. Nevertheless, it is the Church like a bride, that Jesus loves, has given Himself to and is coming back for. (Eph. 5:25)

What kind of Bride is it that will please Jesus? For the purposes of this short contemplation I'd like to suggest three hallmarks (lots more of course) of a radiant Church bride.

1. A Church which is focused on the first two commandments

No real need for new mission statements, it's the same as it ever was: love God, love your neighbour, which as Jesus remarked, sums up the whole law. Jesus is wonderfully neighbourly and especially drawn to emptiness and need. Passionate about God immersed in the culture and people.

2. A Church that majors on mission

The last thing that Jesus told us to do was to go and make disciples:

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.



Or as one wag put it. If there's no 'go', there's no reason for 'lo.'

I sometimes like to ask myself as a church leader whether (in business terms) we would still be solvent with regard to profit seen in terms of disciples, let alone converts.

Discipleship is vital, crucial, essential and the litmus test as to how we're doing. It's a non-negotiable and should be at the top of our agenda. If not, we'll quite simply be a well run ship that will eventually sink (the ensemble still playing) unnoticed or missed by the community around us.

3. A Church of organic and authentic relationships

Church not as a place or an event held on a special and exclusive day... but as a people who love one another (there are 59 one another's in the NT) and who love being together.

Just looking around Bendigo, people love being together for all kinds of reasons - some even dress in lycra and travel for mile after mile together. The three R's of a kingdom lifestyle? Relationship. Relationship. Relationship...with God and absolutely everybody.

Our distinctive, our point of difference as Body of Christ, is significant. His Spirit, the Advocate, the Helper is with us. Do we have these hallmarks in our diocese? Of course and in many and varied and creative ways.

May we continue to bring into sharper focus the things that really matter, providing a spring board for healthy growth and the return of a happy bride groom eager to meet a bride focused on pleasing her groom.

Caption this...



What is Greg Harris thinking?

If you have a great caption, quote or description to go with this photo, let us know! The winning caption will be published in next month's issue and a prize will be forwarded to you.

Send us your captions to thespirit@bendigoanglican.org.au



Play: The Revd Roger Ross

Singing and strumming

On the Sunday nearest to Anzac Day, the Stanhope RSL held their annual Anzac Day March from the Memorial Hall to their cenotaph.

It was fitting that our locum minister Roger Ross of the Parish of Tongala-Stanhope marched with the RSL before leading the service. Roger added to the normal laid down service by singing and playing on his guitar ... and the band played *Waltzing Matilda*.

- Ian Campbell



Steve Geyer



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June Andrew



Deconsecration of Rheola

Sunday, 25 June, 2.00 pm

Parish Leaders Workshop

Saturday 1 July, Kangaroo Flat

Deconsecration of Koondrook

Sunday 2 July, 3.00 pm

Induction of Stuart Winn

Thursday 13 July, Mooroopna

Induction of Heather Blackman

Wednesday 19 July, Maryborough

Opening of new renovations

Sunday 30 July, Holy Trinity, Flora Hill

Anglican Dean's Conference

3 - 8 August, Bendigo

Got an event coming up?

Send the details to
thespirit@bendigoanglican.org.au

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