

Anglican Diocese of  
**BENDIGO**

# The **Spirit**

165 OCTOBER 2024



## **Set apart**

Richard Bath is ordained a priest with Bishop Matt and fellow clergy laying hands upon him at the ordination service in St Paul's Cathedral.

Photo: Jesse Sherwood

Read more on [page 4](#).

# The Bishop writes...

Dear Friends,

For those who are still at school, or who are helping school aged kids navigate school, the end of term three can never come quick enough. It is too far through the year to have anything new happen, and it is not close enough to the end to be anticipating a successful end. We can tend to collapse into the school holidays feeling flat and listless.

Church life can feel like this too. Easter is past, Pentecost has flown, Christmas is still some time away and the demands of everyday, ordinary time press in. Yet, there is something precious about the ordinary. Much like an athlete who craves the unbroken, straightforward days of the off-season to prepare for their races, the ordinary days give us a chance to focus and prepare for the next things God has in store for us.

I hope you have heard of HOPE25 – the season between Easter and Pentecost 2025 – when Anglican churches all over Australia are looking forward to reaching out to their communities to share the hope we have in Jesus in this uncertain world. It is a wonderful opportunity for each of us, as individuals and as part of our various churches, to intentionally offer hope to those around us.

Easter 2025 will arrive all too quickly, so we can be using these low days to prepare. Here are three things we can all do prepare for HOPE25:

1. *Think* of people you interact with each day or each week. They may be family member, friends, a neighbour or work colleague. They could be someone you play sport or share a hobby with. The point is that you have a relationship with them, your connection is already 'warm'. Then start *praying* for them regularly. You can pray for many things; for their well-being, their own cares and worries, for growing warmth and trust, for opportunities to chat and 'share life', and that you will eventually have opportunity to say something about the hope that you have through your faith in Jesus. I have found two very strange things happen when I pray for people. I listen better to what they are saying (and remember more of what they have

*I have found two very strange things happen when I pray for people. I listen better to what they are saying...and I will have some really nice opportunities to gently share what I think about life and the world in unthreatening ways*

said), and I will have some really nice opportunities to gently share what I think about life and the world in unthreatening ways.

2. *Chat* with others in your congregation about the people you are each praying for and the sorts of ways that each of the people you are praying for connect with life. What do they like to do? How much do they like conversation? Are they 'thinkers of ideas' or 'do-ers'? Allow these conversations to turn into thoughts about opportunities for the people you are all praying for to connect with the news of Hope. As these ideas start to flow continue chatting about who *you* are. What ways has God enabled you to show hospitality to others and to gently share your faith? You may find that there are some natural links...you may also discover that there are things you need help with. Start to draw up some plans and where you may need help.

3. *Read* something which can help you sharpen up the way you talk about your faith. Where have you found your faith in Jesus has given you hope? What passages in the Bible are encouraging to you? How has God been active in your life to build you up and grow you? My little book 'God is Enough' has some chapters (and a discussion guide) giving reasons to be hopeful. You might like to use this. Or you



## Bishop Matt Brain

can look at the HOPE25 website ([www.hope25.com/courses/](http://www.hope25.com/courses/)) to browse through a variety of courses which promote faith formation. You could also give one of them a dummy run with your congregation so you are confident in your invitation to others.

So let's pray!

*God of Hope,*

*You call on us to be your witnesses in this uncertain world;*

*By your Spirit awaken in us*

*a true vision of your kingdom,*

*a greater certainty of our salvation, and*

*a deeper dedication to your service:*

*that through our words and actions the same Spirit may*

*bring many who are lost to be found,*

*and for them to celebrate the hope*

*that we can only have in Jesus Christ,*

*in whose name we pray. Amen.*

*tlatt*



Maldon Kids Club



# Maldon Kids Olympic Achievement

*Darcy Vaughan*

**H**ow many laps could you run around the church?

This was the question put to the kids of Maldon Kids Club. They decided they would try and run 100 laps around Holy Trinity, Maldon (cumulatively, not each!) to raise money for the Special Olympics Club in Bendigo. The kids made posters to cheer one another on and donation tins to collect money if they achieved

their impressive athletic feat. On the day the almost thirty kids outdid themselves, running a total of 111 laps around the historic church to smash their goal!

The following and final week of term Maldon Kids Club met at the Bowls Club to have a go at some competitive sport. They also had the privilege of meeting real life Special Olympics athlete Tara and her coach Christine. The kids got to hear about Tara's impressive training regime and see some of her medals. They then presented Tara and

Chris with the money they had raised; a total of \$780.40!

Maldon Kids Club meets every week of term in the church hall of Holy Trinity. Our theme last term was inspired by the Olympics as we studied those wonderful Bible passages about running the race, getting the crown and spurring one another on. Next term we will imagine the Christmas story from the perspective of robot invaders and prepare for our end of term Christmas concert!



Christine McWilliams, Samuel Kelly, Josephine Snowdon, Lauren Porter and Richard Bath

# Ordained and ready

*Sarah Crutch*

“I believe I am called to this ministry,” was the response of Christine McWilliams, Josephine Snowdon and Samuel Kelly when asked about their call to minister as deacons, declaring in front of a full Cathedral that they commit themselves to this new ministry, with God’s help.

It is the first ordination service in some time to feature five candidates, with both deacons and priests being ordained to serve in various parts of the diocese.

Alongside the three deacons, Lauren Porter and Richard Bath were surrounded by their ministry colleagues for the laying on of hands as they were set apart for the ministry of a priest.

Kids talks are becoming a highlight of diocesan ordinations. Archdeacon George used an Olympic theme, seeing three youngsters standing on the podium as an analogy for the ministry of deacon, priest and bishop. Archdeacon George emphasised that while it may seem that in ordaining people they are being promoted higher than others, he reminded everyone that in fact they are bringing themselves down to serve God.

Former Archdeacon Anne McKenna, a close friend of Christine McWilliams, made a return to the diocese to preach, sharing a story of a blackbird that visits her garden. Anne likened the white mark on the back of his head to the clerical collar.

“If only the clergy collar was something we wore on the back of our head as something for people to follow rather than something to be confronted by,” Anne commented.

The five ordinands all began their new ministries the very next Sunday in Elmore, Rochester, Daylesford, Eaglehawk and Heathcote.



Lauren Porter and Bishop Matt



Archdeacon Peter Blundell, Julie Worrall and Bishop Matt

# New beginning for Parish of Swan Hill

*Helen Gell*

With great thanks, joy and anticipation the Parish of Swan Hill welcomed Julie Worrall during her induction service on 8 August. Julie and her husband Peter come to us from the Diocese of Adelaide.

Parishioners, family and visitors from afar, community members and visiting clergy participated in the service led by Bishop Matt. The occasion was one of light-handed formality, with symbols of ministry being presented to Julie and welcomes given by Parish Councillor Robin Poole and Swan Hill Ministers' Fellowship member Mark Boyce.

After the early evening service, a generous supper was provided, which allowed people to mingle and get to meet Julie and Peter.

We are delighted to have Julie ministering to us and thank God that Julie felt called to our parish.

Thanks be to God.



Elizabeth Dyke

# Dean Elizabeth celebrates 30 years ordained

*St Paul's Cathedral Congregation*

On Sunday 30 June our congregations gathered at St Paul's Cathedral to mark the 30th anniversary of ordination for Dean Elizabeth.

The event was a surprise for her and featured a sponge cake with chocolate icing. The photograph was taken by Jesse Sherwood. There was a speech from our Warden Gail Bragg as well as an award, gifts and cards.

Dean Elizabeth thanked everyone for her surprises and reminded us all that the mission and ministry of the Cathedral is about us all working together.



Ladies from the St Mary's Fellowship Group

# St Mary's Fellowship Group turns 20!

*Margaret Peach*

An enduring example of a community of faith is to be found in the St Mary's Fellowship Group at Kangaroo Flat, established in July 2004. The Tuesday Fellowship celebrated its 20th anniversary this July.

Meeting on the third Tuesday of each month, the Fellowship Group was formed after seeing a need to keep our people connected during a difficult period when our older generation had not long retired from Guild meetings and with the next generation having taken over the catering. On our first Tuesday we commenced with a lunch, a guest speaker and we donated \$60.00 to chaplaincy from the group on that day.

The Fellowship Group has continued to meet monthly over lunch or afternoon tea, hearing from a guest speaker and donating to

many worthwhile causes, including the re-build of our own church after it burnt down in 2008. Being together and chatting over lunch was a very important part of our healing after the loss of our church. We were able to support each other as our focus was on rebuilding.

As we celebrated 20 years in July 2024, we reflected on how we have been blessed with new parishioners joining our group. Caring, offering friendship and support, welcoming newcomers, celebrating milestones, birthdays and special occasions, and supporting others in their time of loss is a very important part of our ministry at St Mary's.

God calls us to be a welcoming, gracious and caring community in which all people can have a sense of belonging. Thank you to all for participation, friendship and support.



St Arnaud Alpha course participants

## Alpha inspires

*Penny Lakey*

Dedicated saints in St Arnaud have undertaken the Alpha course facilitated by Penny Lakey and Bev Vermolen. Participants were asked "what has been your greatest discovery attending Alpha?":

- we can't see Jesus, but we can feel Him!
- a lightbulb moment, very uplifting!
- watching a video and seeing billions of Christian's sharing their faith throughout the world... not just a handful in St Arnaud
- a posy held by a child reminds me of the sweet smell of Jesus
- I stand at the door and knock...if anyone hears my voice. The group is a joy to behold! Thank you Jesus.



# Building Hope and Community: Habitat for Humanity Service Trip

*Cara Haley*

Armed with chisels, shovels and enthusiasm, eleven Moama Anglican Grammar students and three teachers can claim they built a house in Cambodia during their winter school holidays, leaving their mark halfway across the globe. As part of the International Habitat for Humanity (HFH) program, they immersed themselves in a two-week adventure that combined hands-on building with cultural exploration, impacting both themselves and the communities they served.

Habitat for Humanity is a global non-profit organisation that seeks to eliminate poverty housing by providing affordable shelter. The student's service journey began at home, with weeks of fundraising for the building's resources. The experience went beyond just building homes, as the students witnessed firsthand the power of community and the difference that can be made when people come together for a common cause.

Upon arriving in Cambodia, the students were greeted with vibrant local culture and immediate contrasts from their familiar surroundings. They spent their initial days exploring local temples, navigating bustling markets, and learning about traditional Cambodian life. Riding

in tuk-tuks offered a glimpse into daily commute, Cambodian style, while visits to sites like the Angkor Wat and Bayon Temple provided historical context.

The real work began as the students collaborated with local families to build a home from the ground up. Working with locals of Siam Reap and the homeowners, students learnt valuable life skills that cannot always be taught in a classroom, building hope, teamwork, compassion and commitment to serve others.

"The work was challenging, but immensely rewarding," said student Cara Haley. "We mixed cement, laid bricks and saw the physical results of our efforts come to life. More importantly, we built relationships with the local community and gained a deeper appreciation for the resilience and warmth of the Cambodian people."

The final days of the trip were spent exploring more of Cambodia's cultural heritage. The students also contributed to the local community by volunteering in the kitchens on the building site preparing traditional high-protein meals made from frogs and crickets.

The two-week experience concluded with a house 'hand over' ceremony, smearing baby powder over their faces as part of Khmer traditional celebrations, a gesture

of goodwill and friendship as well as showering the partnering family with lotus flower petals.

The trip was not just about building homes but also about building connections and hope. The ceremony was filled with laughter and joy, with students' interactions with the community extending beyond construction, including playing a friendly game of tug-of-war, soccer and exchange of traditional dance steps, including the Australian classic the "Nutbush".

Student Alex Hehir reflected on, "how humbling it was to see the gratitude of the community and to connect with local children through games and shared experiences".

Returning to Australia, the students carried with them a renewed sense of purpose and a deepened commitment to service. The experience has inspired them to continue their involvement in service projects, both locally and globally, reinforcing the idea that every act of kindness contributes to a larger movement of positive change.

By sharing their experiences, the students hope to inspire others to engage in similar service initiatives, whether in their own communities or beyond. Together, we can build a better world, one act of kindness and service at a time.

# Farewell Barry Phillips

## *Bishop Ron Stone*

A congregation of many people gathered in St Paul's Cathedral, Bendigo on 12 June 2024 for a Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Barry Phillips. Those present included members of the legal profession and academia, being two work areas in which Barry had served with distinction and commitment. Also present were people from across a number of Anglican parishes and members of the Cathedral congregation, as well as people from the wider community.

Barry's daughter, Naomi, and his sons, Brett and Rohan, delivered the eulogy, with three grandchildren, Lucy, Ed and Christopher, reading lessons from the Old and New Testaments, and with Bishop John Noble reading the Gospel. Bishop Ron Stone, whose long association with Barry went back to 1958, at a Vocations Day held at St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne, gave the occasional address.

Barry was one of three sons, and with his brothers Alan and Dennis, was raised in a Christian home by his parents Doug and Robin Phillips. He was baptised in St Mary's Church, Waverley in the Diocese of Sydney. Wherever the Phillip's family moved, they and Barry, practiced their Christian faith. Barry taught Sunday school, served on parish councils and led services of worship.

At the Vocations Day in 1958, those who attended were asked to answer a question ... "What does the Lord require of you?" Barry heard God's call to serve in the legal profession rather than in ordained ministry. After graduating from university with a degree in law, and as a married man, married to Val, he practised law in Maryborough and Bendigo. During the Maryborough years Barry served the then Diocese of St Arnaud as the Diocesan Advocate during the episcopate of two bishops of that diocese.

When the Diocese of St Arnaud was unable to continue, due to lack of resources, and a brave decision of the then bishop, Bishop David Shand, an



Barry Phillips

amalgamation of that diocese with the Diocese of Bendigo took place. Barry played an important role in the legalities that accompanied the amalgamation. The amalgamation took place on 1 January 1977 and at that time Barry became the Chancellor of the Diocese of Bendigo, a position he held for twenty-six years, and during the ministries of three bishops, until retiring from the office in 2003. During his address Bishop Ron spoke of Barry's work as Chancellor. He said:

"Barry made a great contribution to the life of this diocese as Chancellor... drafting legislation, reforming legislation, interpreting Canon Law and often travelling to parishes to help sort through problems. A major task he undertook, early on, was the drafting of the Parish Administration Act, or the rules by which parishes are governed. He prepared a number of the Synods for debating and deciding important legislation including, what were at the time, really controversial and potentially divisive issues, such as the Marriage of Divorced Persons, the Early Admission of Children to the Holy Communion, and the Ordination of Women to the priesthood. He also provided some of the important legal advice required in the darkest years in the

history of this diocese that followed the demise of Girton College as the diocesan school."

Bishop Stone also spoke of the role Val Phillips played with regard to Barry's work as Chancellor saying "Behind Barry, enabling him to do what he did for the diocese, loving him, supporting him, has been a most wonderful woman, Val Phillips, whom we all hold in the highest regard. Val has been a rock for Barry, a tower of strength for him, throughout all the years of his service to the Church and throughout their marriage...and right to the end of Barry's life."

The Service of Thanksgiving was memorable for many reasons, including the strong congregational singing of the hymns Barry had earlier chosen and for a particularly special piece of music. The Cathedral Choir conducted, by Rohan Phillips, sang an anthem composed by son Rohan "Judge not according to appearance" ...an anthem based on a text by Christina Rossetti (1830-1894). The service concluded with "Nimrod" from Edward Elgar's "Enigma" variations and played by Cathedral organist, Stan Jackson.

Vale Barry Phillips.



# Youth and Families: The Book of Hebrews



**Archdeacon  
George**

In October and November the lectionary takes a journey through the book of Hebrews.

One of the things this letter does is uncover how Jesus is the fulfilment of many Old Testament themes and images.

Can you find all the ideas in the puzzle? Words can be found in any direction (including diagonals) and can overlap each other.

H R H T I F E P H M U P E R F E C T X M  
 G F I T B P R U O I V A S U G X A P L E  
 X P N O I T A V L A S A E G A R U O C L  
 E S R X E A L Q F B E X S P I R I T L C  
 N T F O A C F H E O Q U A P R I E S T H  
 Z O S G P C E T N V S A C R I F I C E I  
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 S A P N R I P T Y N B G R I A G B R E D  
 I P N G E N A R S W K C A T N B D A N E  
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- |              |                |                  |              |
|--------------|----------------|------------------|--------------|
| 1 Angels     | 10 Faith       | 19 Once          | 28 Sacrifice |
| 2 Better     | 11 Glory       | 20 Perfect       | 29 Saints    |
| 3 Christ     | 12 Greater     | 21 Prayer        | 30 Salvation |
| 4 Church     | 13 Holy        | 22 Priest        | 31 Saviour   |
| 5 Comparison | 14 Inheritance | 23 Promise       | 32 Son       |
| 6 Confidence | 15 Jesus       | 24 Prophets      | 33 Spirit    |
| 7 Courage    | 16 Melchizedek | 25 Rest          | 34 Superior  |
| 8 Covenant   | 17 Moses       | 26 Redemption    | 35 Witnesses |
| 9 Eternal    | 18 Obedience   | 27 Righteousness | 36 Word      |



# Canon Shannon

*“Your greatest desires for the community may not be the needs or wants of the community”*

Tracey Wolsley and Shannon Smith

## Dharrangdharrang Messagestick

So, what’s been going on around the Straps in the Bendigo Diocese you may be wondering when it comes to our Aboriginal Ministry.

### **Gone Walkabout**

It’s been quite a busy year starting off with our 2025 Walkabout trip to the Northern Territory. Ken Hutton and I took a group on a 10 day adventure with visits to the Nungalinga College where we spent three half days participating in the college NICE program (Nungalinga Indigenous Cultural Experience). The subjects included Introduction to Culture, Kinship, Faith and Culture, Bush Tucker and Art and Faith. A very emotional and life-changing experience.

The program managed to take some of us to a place we have been and caused what we thought things to be, to be turned upside down. If you’re ever thinking about doing the Nungalinga NICE program I highly recommend it, you will return a changed person.

One of our Walkabout’s core objectives was to experience how Aboriginal Ministry was carried out across many different Aboriginal communities. As you will be aware our own diocesan boundary holds several Aboriginal clan groups who all come with many different needs. Sitting with Bishop Greg Anderson we learnt one of the most important things to keep in mind when ministering out in the different communities. “Your greatest desires for the community may not be the needs or wants of the community”. Each community is very different, so sitting down with the Elders and listening very carefully is important, so that we don’t get it wrong.

Finishing up in Darwin our group headed off to Katherine for the Katherine Christian Convention (KCC). The KCC was the main reason for us making the trip. The KCC is an ecumenical Christian convention that is held annually with mob gathering from many communities throughout the Northern Territory. A highlight of the event was seeing up on the



Gone Walkabout participants

board 'The Victorian Anglican Mob' - this was us. We had the opportunity as a group along the way to learn two songs in Kriol and then perform them at the convention on the second night.

Other highlights of the trip were a trip to the Tiwi Islands, swimming in Buley Rockhole in Litchfield National Park and the Hot Springs in Katherine - even though there was a croc sighting there the week before.

### Robinvale

With all that amazing insight we were able to gather from our Walkabout I have had the opportunity to venture out to further parts of our diocese. With the support of Bishop Matt and the wisdom and experienced words of Bishop Greg, I have been heading out to Robinvale each fortnight to sit at the table and share a meal with the local Elders group and listen to their needs.

Two things I have heard from our Elders is they want our young people to be grounded in culture and to be brought back to God. They ask questions of us as we do of them "what's happened to the church? It was once a joyful place with lots of singing and happy people". "The church doesn't have Sunday school or anything like that for our kids anymore". Even the younger workers who help at the Elders lunch have memories of their

parents talking to them about attending Sunday School.

One of the highlights for me personally was discovering that many of the Elders in Robinvale are descendants from Warangesda Mission, the same Mission my family originated from in Darlington Point. Making connections is a very important part of our journey in connecting our song lines as we travel this very important part of Victoria and the Murray River/Milli (the traditional name of place).

How exciting it was to discover so many of the local Aboriginal Community were married or baptised at our Anglican church in Robinvale. I cannot encourage you enough to sit and listen to your Elders. Your greatest desires from the purest of places may simply not be what the people need or want.

While out in Robinvale I have also had the opportunity to enjoy coffee and lunch with congregation members of St Peter's Robinvale. I must take this opportunity to let them know how much I have enjoyed meeting them and developing this new relationship. I am looking forward to sharing the fourth Sunday of every month with them as the Aboriginal Ministry starts to take shape in their gorgeous little town of Robinvale.

### Golden Square

As a part of our Aboriginal Ministry here

in Bendigo we have engaged with a local artist to design an Aboriginal painting that could be made into a glass panel to be placed in St Mark's Golden Square. I am more than excited to say the panel is in the last stages of being fired and will soon be ready for delivery. Once the panel is secured, we will be inviting the artist to join us for the unveiling.

### NATSIAC gathering

Recently I have been in Cairns with the National Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council. NATSIAC is a safe place for Aboriginal and Torres Strait clergy and lay people come together share our different ministries, good or bad. For the first time this year we invited the Metropolitan Archbishops to join our discussions.

Bishop Matt Brain joined the Gathering to give an update to NATSIAC on the newly formed Aboriginal Clergy of the Anglican Province of Victoria (ACAPV). We are looking forward to moving forward with this new pilot program across Victoria knowing that the eyes of the national church are on us, especially Bendigo as we lead the project. Please keep in your prayers Bishop Matt and the members of our ACAPV team from Gippsland, Melbourne, Ballarat and Bendigo. Don't be shy about putting your hand up and inviting one of our team out the have a yarn with.



Fiona Preston and Tracey Wolsley

## Editor's Notes

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*Photo of Bishop Matt on page 2 credit of Bendigo Advertiser.*

## Donations delight!

Fiona Preston and Tracey Wolsley gratefully received food donations from the Parishes of Inglewood and Maldon. The Tim Tams are for the Bible Study group Fiona leads at Tarrengower Women's Prison and the breakfast bars and water were some of the items donated to support MinisTree.

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