

NORTH COAST ANGLICAN

Embracing the spirit of Christ in Our Time

August September 2018 | Issue No 4



A senior Brisbane priest with international experience and a keen interest in family and children's ministry has been chosen as the spiritual leader of North Coast Anglicans.

It was announced in Christ Church Cathedral, Grafton by the Diocesan Administrator, the Venerable Gail Hagon, that the Bishop Appointment Board has elected The Reverend Canon Dr Murray Harvey to be the 12th Bishop of Grafton. Canon Harvey will be

consecrated and installed on September 29, 2018.

The installation, in Christ Church Cathedral, will be attended by most of the Anglican bishops of eastern Australia. His appointment follows the retirement earlier this year of the Rt Rev'd Dr Sarah Macneil, who had been bishop since 2014.

Canon Harvey, 54, is married to Leanne who has strong ties to the Far North Coast; they have two children, Chelsea,

a student at Queensland University of Technology and Lauchie, a Year 11 student in Brisbane.

Canon Harvey is currently Rector of St Mark's Bonney Avenue, Clayfield and Residentiary Canon of St John's Cathedral, Brisbane. Under his leadership at Clayfield there has been an increased engagement with children, families and the local community.

Administrator of Grafton

Diocese, Archdeacon Gail Hagon, said that Canon Harvey's excitement was reciprocated by staff and people of the Diocese.

"To obtain a bishop elect with such wide qualifications, experience and skills can only continue to strengthen our diocesan life and I am sure that we will all enjoy meeting and working with Canon Murray and Leanne," she said.

Canon Harvey shared the following message with

the readers of *North Coast Anglican* in the lead up to his consecration and installation:

"A few years ago on a family holiday we travelled to Vanuatu. When we visited a local village, we learnt that it is the custom there that visitors seeking to enter a village need to wait on the outskirts. A representative of the village goes out to greet the visitor, to discern whether they come in peace. If a relationship of

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COVER STORY

North Coast Anglicans Welcome a New Bishop

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trust can be established, the newcomer is invited in.

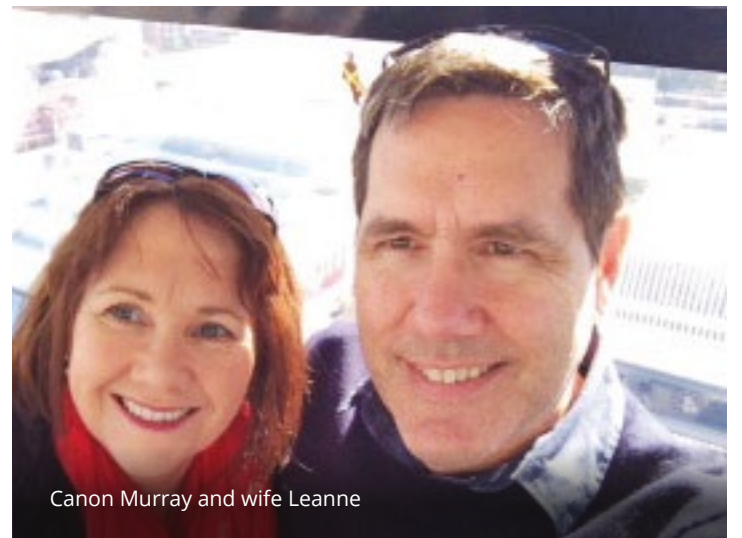
In many ways I stand on the outskirts of the community of North Coast Anglicans. I look forward to establishing relationships of trust so we can learn, grow and minister together. Lately I've been swotting up on what it means to be a bishop. One thing that has stood out for me is that a bishop's identity is received. It is not created or assumed by the individual bishop for herself or himself, but rather given in trust by the wider church and the Holy Spirit.

As I stand at the outskirts of this new community I naturally also look backwards to what has brought me to this point. My journey so far has involved my being a member

of several different Christian communities, each with its own identity and purpose under God. Currently I'm Rector of Clayfield in Brisbane Diocese. This is a lively parish with an active ministry to children, youth and families that has strong links to local schools, including St Margaret's Anglican Girls School which my daughter attended and where I have been on the School Council. I remember arriving in Clayfield seven years ago after a long journey from the UK. Everything seemed strange and different and as a family we wondered whether we'd ever settle in after leaving the security of our life in the UK. In England I had been Vicar of the Glen Group of Parishes in the Diocese of Lincoln. This is a group of three rural parishes, including two

medieval churches and two schools, each with a distinctive identity, history and mission. Here the children spent their early years and formed those important early friendships. In both of these settings, and in others before them, it has been a privilege to serve God and participate in his mission in these communities.

As I prepare to leave the "outskirts" and enter fully into the life of the diocese I hope I might always be conscious of the fringe. Every community has a fringe and people who dwell there. How can we make *Hebrews 13:1-2* a reality in each Christian community? Author Henri Nouwen says that our vocation as Christians is to convert hostis (the potential enemy, such as one who stands at the outskirts of the village) into hospes (a welcome



Canon Murray and wife Leanne

guest) thus creating an inclusive space where God can be honoured and glorified.

Together with my wife Leanne

and children Chelsea and Lauchlan I look forward to joining you on the North Coast and ministering with you there."

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Chamber Choir from SCAS to Sing at Carnegie Hall

The Chamber Choir of Saint Columba Anglican School (SCAS) has been offered the chance of a lifetime to perform at the world famous Carnegie Hall in New York as part of a massed choir.

This November, 28 SCAS students and four former students will perform in the premiere of a major composition by international composer, Paul Mealor.

The choir had performed Mr Mealor's music at one of their vocal showcases and had taped the performance and put it on YouTube. Unbeknownst to them, concert organisers in New York were searching for choirs that could sing Mr Mealor's challenging music and discovered the video of their performance.

Choir Director, Marie van Gend, recalls the bizarre moment when she received an email inviting the SCAS Chamber Choir to sing at Carnegie Hall.

"I thought it was a hoax so I actually deleted the email! Then they contacted me again and I began to realise this was real."

The students were elated to learn that they were going to perform an original composition by one of their heroes, in arguably the greatest concert hall in the world, and that he was going to teach it to them and conduct it.

The piece is Mr Mealor's *Requiem* which looks at "the beauty of sacrifice". It will be performed on November 11, Remembrance Day.



The Chamber Choir of Saint Columba Anglican School with Choir Director, Marie van Gend

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St Mary's plans a triple treat for anniversary

St Mary's in Ballina is planning a "triple treat" for the 20th anniversary celebrations of its consecration over three days in September, involving an Archbishop, a media celebrity and a cast of... well, hundreds.

Day one is Friday September 7, featuring a signature fun-raising dinner at Ballina RSL to aid the charity Beyond Blue, with sports commentator, broadcaster and author Craig Hamilton as guest speaker. Craig is promoted as one of the charity's ambassadors.

At the pinnacle of his career, Mr Hamilton was assigned to the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's Sydney 2000 Olympic Games coverage, in his words "as good as it gets." But on the eve of the opening he suffered a psychotic episode, spent two weeks in hospital and was diagnosed as bi-polar.

Mr Hamilton now manages the disorder and is a tireless worker for mental health issues, speaking at events and lobbying for funds to support people and their families experiencing depressive conditions.

Ticketing for the \$75-a-head dinner, labelled Beyond the Blue Horizon, is being handled by Ballina RSL: www.ballinsrsl.com.au and a link to the beyondblue website: www.bb.org.au/beyondthebluehorizon.

Day two of the celebrations is a good old-fashioned church fête, complete with sausage sizzles, jumping castle, stalls, plants, fruit and vegetables, fairy floss, popcorn, slices and sweets, face painting, books, tea, coffee and sandwiches and much more.

The Big Blue Fête, with proceeds again assisting Beyond Blue, will run from 9am-3pm on Saturday the September 8, including appearances by the Emmanuel Anglican College Senior Primary College Band, the Headliners Chorus and Xavier College Concert Band.

A highlight of the fête will be a Lego display and series of building competitions.

Day three brings Archbishop of Adelaide, the Most Rev'd Geoff Smith, and wife Lyn back to Ballina, where he served as Rector of St Mary's from 1993 to 2000. He is familiar

with the area, having served also at Sawtell, Lismore, Port Macquarie and the Gold Coast, becoming Archbishop in April last year.

There will be a combined Parish Service at 9am on Sunday the September 9 at which Archbishop Geoff will preach and celebrate. The Diocesan Administrator, the Venerable Gail Hagon will also attend, and former clergy have been invited to attend/participate in one or more events over the weekend.

A special occasions choir has been rehearsing the famous Vaughn Williams setting of *Old Hundredth (Psalm 100)* composed for the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II and *Be Thou My Vision* by Bob Chilcott among other hymns.

The service will be followed by a fish and chips lunch.

Archbishop Geoff and Lyn will also spend the morning of Monday September 10 at Emmanuel Anglican College before returning to Adelaide in the afternoon. The school is organising special activities for their visit.



News from Clarence Valley Anglican School

Grandparents Day

The warm winter sun was shining on Grandparents & Special Friends Day on Friday, June 29 at the Cathedral Campus. Along with a beautiful morning tea, our junior school students showcased their Grafton Eisteddfod performances to the delight of our special guests. The classrooms were on display and our students enjoyed showing off their work. The morning was a fitting end to such a busy term two.

Titration Competition

Year 12 Chemistry students received notification that one of their teams had placed first in the NSW Schools Titration competition held at the University of New England. Georgia Campbell, Darcey Griffith and Tay-lah Bradford were suitably excited to have achieved highly in the competition run by the Royal Australian Chemical Institute. The students competed in a team of three and, in 90 minutes, completed a set of acid-base titrations to determine the unknown concentration of a weak acid. The students competed against students from Calrossy, New England Girls School, Presbyterian Ladies College and The Armidale School to come first overall. The team's score was dependent on the accuracy of the work of its members and the result indicates the level of skill that



these young chemists possess. This is the second time in three years that a team of students from Clarence Valley Anglican School has represented at the state level in this competition. We would like to wish the students well in the next round of the National Titles.

TSS Visit

The Cathedral Campus has had the pleasure of a visit from The Southport School (TSS) Queensland, as part of their Round Square program.

Round Square is a network of innovative schools across

the globe. As part of their service to community, eight TSS Year 6 students brought their art program to our Year 2 students. TSS students were able to encourage and mentor our younger students, not just in the classroom, but also during recess and lunch. Their visit linked service and leadership with their students being able to demonstrate positive behaviour strategies through respectful communication with our students.

The wonderful art pieces were based on birds that inhabit Grafton. They are on display

at our Cathedral Campus. Thank you to TSS teachers Ms Kerrie Anderson and Mr Fergus Trevethon, and of course the TSS students!

Athletics carnival

The annual athletics carnival was held in term two. This year the event was over one and a half days. Kallatina house won on the day. A special mention is to be made of the fine efforts of Year 8 student Madeline McKeown who broke three records in the 400m, 1500m and 3000m events. Well done Madeline!

Carrie's Beanie 4 Brain Cancer

Year 3 student, Taya Graham, was keen to raise funds for Carrie's Beanies 4 Brain Cancer. So as part of our Appreciation Afternoon at the Cathedral Campus students shared in a special fundraising lunch, followed by a movie afternoon. Students wore beanies for the day too. Taya is to be congratulated on helping raise awareness through promoting the event to her fellow students on campus. Together we raised over \$500 for Carrie's Beanies 4 Brain Cancer.

Bishop Cameron Venables speaks at Ballina ABM Lunch

By Jacqueline Draffan

The folk of the Anglican Parish of Ballina hosted the very successful “Lunch and Conversation with Bishop Cam” at St Mary’s Church in Ballina. Bishop Cameron Venables is a former missionary to Papua New Guinea and was Associate Priest at Lismore for some years. He and his wife Kate and their three children are also fondly remembered in Bellingen and other parishes in the Diocese of Grafton.

An early arrival at the Bring and Buy Table set up in the foyer of the church was a farmer from Georgica, bearing a box of freshly picked custard apples and another box of mandarins, which he donated. The delicious fruit was very popular, as were beautiful knitted and crocheted rugs and other craft items on the stall. Vicki Goulding and the Ballina Parish Catering Team provided a choice of favourite soups and sandwiches for the luncheon. About 70 people enjoyed lunch in the very comfortable meeting area, which adjoins the church in one large open plan building. Before we had dessert Fr Matthew Jones

invited us to move into the church where Bishop Cam was waiting with his guitar.

Bishop Cam’s wide ranging talk touched on his experiences with multi-cultural congregations in Australia and his time spent in a variety of different communities in Papua New Guinea. He told us of a visit with a Papua New Guinean priest to one of the many tiny isolated villages in PNG whose language is known only to themselves. He helped the people to compose a simple song about God in their language and then played and sang it for them. The words in their language then appeared on the screen in front of us and Bishop Cam played his guitar and sang as we sang-along as best we could.

After the enjoyable and thought-provoking talk we returned to our places at the tables to find tiered cake plates displaying a choice of dainty cakes and slices to have with our tea and coffee.

This year’s project for the Anglican Board of Mission Auxiliary is to help finance adult literacy classes being organised through the



Mothers Union in Papua New Guinea and Bishop Cam gave us a tiny glimpse into life in our nearest neighbouring country. This project resonates with many people, as lots of Australians have lived in

Papua New Guinea in the lead-up to Independence and beyond. Many of the now-adult children of that generation of Australian teachers, patrol officers, agriculture officers, nurses, missionaries, etc were

born in Papua New Guinea. Thanks to the generosity of the Parish of Ballina, our Auxiliary in this Diocese will be able to make a timely donation to this important appeal.

Advance Care Directives

By Gerri White, Social Issues and Action Coordinator

In June this year, a special information morning entitled *Advance Care Directives – Who Needs Them and Why* was held by the Alstonville Branch of Anglican Mothers Union Australia (AMUA) at St Bartholomew’s Church, Alstonville.

Earlier in the year Dr Paul Earner, a local GP and a member of our congregation, happened to ask two of our MU members if they had an Advance Care Directive. One did but wanted to know more, and the other said they didn’t know how to go about it. As a result of this conversation plans were put in place to hold a community information morning on this topic in June with Dr Earner as the presenter.

Invitations were extended to members of our own church community, other Mothers Union branches and people from the local community. On the day we were delighted that

our Diocesan AMUA President, Sandra Chambers, was able to attend and support us on this initiative. Goolmangar, Ballina and Casino MU Branches also joined us along with members of the public. By our start time our audience had grown to over 60.

Our rector, The Rev’d Dr Desiree Snyman, welcomed everyone and provided an informed introduction to our presenter, Dr Earner. His PowerPoint presentation commenced with a definition of an Advance Care Directive as a document that provided certainty concerning your future health care preferences and the sort of medical care you would want for yourself if you were unable to make that decision in such circumstances as being unconscious, unable to communicate or severely demented.

The presentation then provided clear explanations of the wording and intention of each section of the document which, he added, when properly completed was a legally



binding document. Despite the seriousness of the topic Dr Paul managed to add occasional light touches of humour which were much appreciated by the audience. A discussion time followed, concluding with each person being given a copy of an Advance Care Directive.

President Joyce Shepherd thanked Dr Earner for his excellent presentation and thanked our sound and computer system person, Mark Stuckey, for his time and assistance. The morning concluded with a morning tea supplied by MU members and

Dr Paul being available for further discussion. Comments received indicated that people had very much appreciated being given clear and detailed information and that for many it removed “the fear” from the whole process.

ZERO TOLERANCE FOR SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

Grafton Diocese has established formal procedures to deal with **sexual misconduct**. Persons aggrieved by the sexual misconduct of a church worker - whether they are an ordained or lay person - should report it. If you wish to speak to someone about sexual abuse by a church worker

please phone **1800 070 511**

at any time for recorded information of the names and telephone numbers of our contact persons.

The Bells Of St Mary’s Are Calling

The ancient musical art of hand bells, dating back to the early 18th century, has been enthusiastically revived at St Mary’s in Ballina.

Thought by some to have evolved from the bells attached to the harnesses of cart horses, hand bells were utilised by church bell ringers as a means of practicing without annoying entire villages.

“Learning complex bell “changes” from the tower of the Parish Church could become very tiring for those nearby,” said St Mary’s organist Ian Brown. “Hand bells provided the means of practicing without annoying the whole village.”

He said the tradition of hand bell ringing developed as its own art form and is common in

many churches in America, not so common in Australia.

“Our method of ringing is with each player having two, three or four bells in hand, using a normal music score with notes enhanced by highlighter pen to alert us to the notes we must play,” Ian said.

The group originally purchased a set of 13 bells but soon added another set of seven to extend the range and a further set is about to be delivered.

“We are novice players, having started only earlier this year, but with three practices a week our playing is improving. All the music we play has to be specially arranged for hand bells.”

Ian said much of his spare time is spent using music writing

software to rewrite hymn tunes into a suitable key for the range of the bells and to add his own variations, harmonies and embellishments (no pun intended).

“Eventually we hope to publish and sell this music to share with other hand bell choirs, using the title *The Bells of St Mary’s*.”

“We now have a range of music which can be played by two, three, four or five players – for our Pentecost service we had five players ringing 13 bells over a range of almost two octaves,” Ian said.

He said the hand bell choir was greatly encouraged by the number of people who have complimented them on the beauty of their efforts.



The St Mary’s hand bell choir hope to share their music with the world

Bangalow Parish give thanks with special eucharist

The Parish of Bangalow gathered at the home of Denzil Thomas on July 18 for a special eucharist to give thanks for all that God gives us.

For one parishioner, Emma, it was a very special day as together they celebrated her 40th birthday.

Emma’s mother, Tania, took time to recall the day of her birth, unsure of how long Emma would live.

The day was a great celebration, including a delightful moment when Emma blew out the candles on her cake as Jasper and Sienna watched on eager to help.



Emma blows out her birthday candles for her 40th birthday



The Parish of Bangalow celebrate the 40th birthday of Emma

Northern MMR visits the outcentres

The Northern MMR has met this year at two of the outcentres of the region, first at St Thomas’ Brunswick Heads, and second at St John’s Tyalgum.

The visits are a good opportunity for the region to visit the smaller centres and see their valuable contribution to ministry.

St Thomas’ have removed the pews and replaced them with chairs, enabling a more flexible and usable space, not only for worship but also for other users of the church.

St John’s Tyalgum have reinvigorated worship in a small village of 400 residents and as the only church left there, welcomes Baptist, Church of Christ and others to worship together twice a month.

Fr Lyndon says it is a joy to see around 20 adults and 15 children praising God together.

May we continue to share the good news of Jesus Christ, make disciples and grow faith communities in all places.



St John’s Tyalgum supplied by Fr Matthew Smedley

Presidential Address to the Second Session of the 36th Synod of the Diocese of Grafton



Administrator of Grafton Diocese, Archdeacon Gail Hagon, delivers the Presidential Address at the Second Session of the Thirty Sixth Synod eucharist

Wisdom & Courage

By The Venerable Gail Hagon

Welcome to the 2nd sitting of the 36th Synod. I am confident that this Synod will be far more daunting for me than it will be for you.

I can remember attending my first Synod here some 25 years ago, it was held over there in the Hunt Hall. It was there that I discovered that Synod had its own language. There were things like Standing Orders (something that you didn't have to stand in order to present), and there was moving into committee, without physically moving anywhere. There were legalities (that seemed to have multiple interpretations until the Chancellor spoke), Bills (that had no money attached to them) and motions (moved on the floor) all of which we were expected to understand and navigate our way through.

I am sure that I have learnt something since that first Synod, but the idea of chairing a synod has never really been on my radar, nor is it something that has filled me with a great deal of excitement, but it is nevertheless where I find myself at this point of time in my ministry.

Over the years of attending Synod, I have come to greatly appreciate that our Synod Eucharist is actually the first item of business that we attend to as members of Synod. During this Eucharist we come together as Church, to honour God, to be with God, to listen to God, to be fed and nurtured by God, and then we are sent out

“enriched” by God so that we can do God's business.

Synod is really about us as Disciples of Jesus Christ coming together to engage in God's business in the life of this Diocese. It is where we are invited to exercise good stewardship of all that has been committed to us by God and by the Church. Our task is to address that which is before us with wisdom, and from that point of wisdom, determine the appropriate action, and then to live out that action with courage. With this in mind, it is obvious why there is such a focus on the Holy Spirit during every Synod Eucharist. It is my hope and prayer that throughout this gathering of Synod we will call upon the Spirit to guide us, to inspire us, and to stir us into action so that we may truly be God's people in this time and place.

Over the past few months I have found myself pondering and praying repeatedly for wisdom and courage. Wisdom to know what it is that God is calling me, and us as a diocese, to do. Courage to do what it is that I believe God is asking of me, and of us as a diocese. These two words, Courage and Wisdom have appeared in our Discernment Synod discussions, our Diocesan Strategic planning days and in our life of faith more generally.

Discernment Synod & Bishop Appointment Board.

It was at our Discernment Synod in early February, 2018

that we elected the members of the Bishop Appointment Board to take responsibility for engaging in the work of discerning and electing the next Bishop of Grafton. The Bishop Appointment Board has been earnestly seeking the wisdom of God throughout the process to date. Please continue to pray for the Board as the process of discernment continues.

Diocesan Strategic Planning.

During the past year, a variety of people across the diocese have had the opportunity to engage with the process of reviewing our Diocesan Strategic Plan. Whilst there was some initial shock that we didn't use the traditional model of using butchers paper to record our findings, most people quickly embraced the Mentimeter app. It seems that we, as a diocese, had taken a step forward in embracing digital technology! We enjoyed being able to see instant results, and the common threads in our hopes and dreams for the future.

Perhaps our engagement with the Mentimeter app has reminded us that, as a Church, we need to be more tech savvy and to engage (wisely of course) with the vast array of digital social media tools that are available to us. The reality is that social media is now our first line of engagement with the current generation, and its use will be crucial for us if we are genuinely trying to connect and communicate

with those who are younger than most of us. It may well be a million miles away from what you and I grew up with, but it is the world here and now, and will be well into the foreseeable future. So do we have the courage to grasp this nettle and learn a new way of evangelism and pastoral care, a new way of connecting with thousands of people who are currently beyond our reach? Can we commit to using social media in a wise and Godly way, and are we prepared to put resources into making effective communications with the wider community? That's a question for all of us to answer.

So what did this review reveal? Well, it resulted in the diocese identifying five main areas of priorities for us as we move forward towards 2020. Those priorities are to:

- Strengthen our mission focus;
- Equip and resource people for Mission and Ministry;
- Support local initiatives/partnerships;
- Attend to our Governance and Culture;
- Restructure the Diocese.

Strengthen Our Mission Focus.

Wow, to strengthen our mission focus is both exciting and reassuring isn't it?

There is no doubt that over the past few years we have strengthened our relationship with our Schools recognising

the significant part that they have in mission across the diocese. Much work has been done, and is still being done to ensure that our schools with their chaplains are recognised as faith communities in their own right. This is good news!

We have strengthened, and are continuing to strengthen, regional opportunities for mission. That is, missional activities beyond our parish boundaries. This too is good news!

However, in the review we have just undertaken we have said that we want to do more. We have named and owned the fact that we want to be disciples out there in the world, committing to and engaged in the transforming work of God. Whilst it is true that this has always been at the heart of our calling as people of God, it would seem that we have not always made it a priority. Now in 2018 we, as a diocese, are saying that we are ready to reclaim this as a priority.

We have identified the fact that we want to be a Church that serves the poor, welcomes the outcast, shares the Gospel and grows communities of faith. We are acknowledging that we want to be a Church that speaks God's word of hope, joy and justice into the concerns and challenges of our local communities. There was also desire expressed by many that we stop talking about this and get on and do it! So how will you act to strengthen your mission focus in your

patch during the next three years? Will you engage in the prophetic role of the church, giving voice to such issues as: the plight of the homeless, the refugee, the poor, those who have a disability, and those who are living with violence? Will you commit to encouraging existing disciples, and building up new ones? Will you look for links with local schools both Anglican schools and our public schools? Whatever you do may you seek God's wisdom first, and may that wisdom give you the courage to act.

Equipping and Resourcing people for Mission and Ministry

Not only have we said that as a Diocese we want to strengthen our mission focus, but we have also expressed a strong desire that every Christian should be encouraged and equipped to live a distinctive Christian life in the world and for the world. However, the review also revealed that many across the diocese feel that they are not equipped or resourced adequately for mission and ministry.

Firstly, can I just remind each of us here today that we have been called, chosen, equipped and blessed by God. Each of us here has been given the gift of the Spirit. Each of us has been assured by God that we have all that we need to be God's people in the world. So, perhaps all we need to do is to embrace the Spirit of God within us and use the gifts we have been given!

Secondly, over the past 10 years there have been a number of courses, speakers, workshops and formation days that have all had an emphasis on equipping and resourcing people for ministry. At the conclusion of these days participants are often asked: What is it that you need to feel equipped and resourced for ministry? So often there is little or no feedback. If we are to take this priority seriously, then can I please encourage you to contact the MDO so as to assure that the appropriate opportunities to equip the people of God are available throughout the Diocese?

Inclusively Supporting Local Initiatives/Partnerships

During the past three years there have been conversations and explorations that have strengthened our ecumenical bonds across parish ministries. These conversations and explorations have usually arisen out of need, more than out of a genuine desire to be in partnership with our brothers and sisters in Christ from other parishes or denominations. However, our recent review has revealed that there are a number of parishes that genuinely want to be in partnership with other Christians so as to increase our opportunities of making God's presence and love known in the world. We have also said that we want to initiate new partnerships with existing

community groups, rather than reinventing the wheel. Will you commit to explore, with courage and wisdom, this priority in your patch?

Attend To Governance and Culture.

We have undertaken much work to ensure that our diocese is now a much safer, sustainable and compliant diocese, and I would want to honour and give thanks to everyone involved in this aspect of our diocesan life. There is, however, still much to do. The Royal Commission released an extensive list of recommendations for the National Church in December 2017. These recommendations were put in place in an attempt to make our Churches safer places for children, safer places for the vulnerable; safer places for everyone.

As a diocese we have been consistently working at, and are committed to, doing all that we can to ensure that our diocese is embracing the recommendations from the Royal Commission and recommendations from our General Synod.

At the February Synod we unanimously adopted a group of General Synod Canons. Canons that revolved around Safe Ministry to Children, Child Protection, and Vulnerable persons. Our unanimous endorsement of these canons shows our commitment to child protection and the protection of vulnerable people. This legislation also adds to, and honours, the work that has been done over many years.

Ensuring that our ministry units are safe is not just the work of the Bishop, the Registrar or the Professional Standards Committee; it is the work of us all because it is a Gospel imperative and central to our calling as Christians. Keeping people safe, holding them in high esteem and treating them with dignity and respect are all hallmarks of Christian love. It demands of us all vigilance, wisdom, respect and the courage to change a culture that has previously existed.

Restructure the Diocese.

The last priority that was named in the MMO review was that of restructuring the Diocese. Did I just see you wriggle in your seat, or fold your arms, or even close your eyes? So what image came into your mind when you heard those words restructure? Do you see restructure as a negative priority? Do you panic? Do you think of selling centres? Do you think of ministry across a region, or centralised ministry? Do you see it as a must, a positive thing? Do you think about Pioneer Ministry, Church Plants, Fresh Expressions, or really exploring what it means to be a good steward of all that has been entrusted to our care, for the sake of growing the kingdom of God?

During her episcopacy, Bishop

Sarah began the conversation around restructuring by challenging us to think about: what is lead in the saddle bag and what is bread for the journey? It was an invitation for us to think about those structures or ministries that weigh us down, or bind us up, as opposed to those structures or ministries that give us life and enable us to move into the future God has planned for us. This challenge was (is) only the first step of a journey. A journey which will require us to exercise wisdom and courage as we move into the Church of the 21st century.

As a Diocese, it would appear that we want to be a church that knows where it has come from (to honour and celebrate our past) but we also want to be a church of the future as well, sustainable, viable and relevant. With this in mind, it is imperative that we give time and effort into re-shaping our church structures so that they will enable us to bear witness to the compelling love of Christ. This will not just magically happen, we will need to be proactively exploring opportunities of new growth; and courageously committed to looking at the sort of structures that are needed for the type of ministry and mission that God is calling us to in the 21st century. We can no longer afford to resist this kind of exploration SO, are we really open to listening deeply to God and to one another so as to determine how we can be smarter and wiser stewards of the resources that have been entrusted to our care? And after the listening is done, will we have the courage to act on the collective wisdom and be ready to faithfully live out what God is saying to us now?

Diocesan Life To Aspire To.

There is a feeling of tension that exists in the life of the diocese, and I am sure it's not just because I am chairing Synod! Let me name just a few of the tensions that I see (and hear). Tensions between the world view and the churches view. Tension between honouring the traditional way of being and doing church, and exploring something new and creative. Tension between singing those good old hymns, and introducing new ones. Tension around using page 119 in the prayer book or using liturgies from across the Anglican Communion. Tensions between the ministry in our Schools and the ministry in our Parishes. Tensions in our Theological differences. . Tensions around change.

Tension or fear is a normal part of life and as such should not paralyse us, or disempower us. Rather, can I encourage you to embrace that sense of tension as a positive feeling, as an energy that can move us forward, stretch us, and cause us to think and rethink about who we are and what we have been called to do and be as Church. As a church it would be wise for us, firstly,

to name our tensions to God. Secondly, it would be wise for us to talk about our tensions with one another, listening carefully to one another and to the world. Thirdly, we need to have the courage to ask what the Spirit is saying to us about the tensions that we are experiencing and allow the Spirit to work in us. As a diocese, it could be extremely beneficial for us to create spaces, debates, discussions where we talk openly and honestly about the critical matters that we are facing. Spaces where we can name our tensions, our diversity and honour them as we seek ways forward together. Do we have the courage to be open to such conversations? Conversations where we are truly listening to God and the voice of God in the other?

The Gospel reading that I chose for today is the ending of Mark's account of the Gospel in which we hear these words: "So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them: and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid."

I chose this reading because it reminds me that love overcomes the fear that those first disciples experienced. And that love propelled those early followers into a new future. Their fear turned into energy and excitement as they courageously became God's people in the world. They were transformed by their experience of the power of the risen Christ and became agents of transformation, followers became leaders, listeners became preachers, converts became missionaries. The disciples became apostles, and nothing was the same. Their focus became the mission that God had called them to, and in being true to that calling they found themselves equipped for the tasks that confronted them. Surely this is what we are aspiring to as God's people today?

Isn't this the kind of transformation we are seeking? Isn't this what we are looking for in our diocese as we seek to strengthen our mission focus and to live lives as Confident Christians in the world? We may not know all answers now but that should not paralyse and cause us to be afraid, for we know that God is with us, and it is God's love that will empower us to be God's people in the world, and to grow communities of faith.

As a diocese we engage in our Diocesan dreaming, our response to professional standard matters, and our daily lives as communities of faith, in the face of financial challenges, declining numbers and struggling parishes. We do this knowing that we are engaged in God's Mission, and as such we will never lose sight of the bigger picture of God's transforming grace, God's call to keep moving - with him – being faithful to God and to each other.

And In Giving Thanks.

There is much to give thanks for in the life of the Diocese. We have been blessed by the episcopacy of Bishop Sarah and for the ministry that Ian offered us all. There has been growth in our schools, and in their relationships with our ministry units. There are new expressions of church that are taking root and bubbling away. There are numerous ways in which our worship is undergirding all that we are and all that we do. We have indeed been steadily growing our leadership capabilities, and I personally give thanks to those who have stepped up and ministered alongside me during this interregnum. There has been no lull in the activity in the diocese since +Sarah laid up her pastoral staff. This is a sign of good episcopal ministry, recognizing that we have all been given both the guidance and the freedom to use the gifts that we have for ministry. For all this and much more we give thanks to God.

My sincere thanks go to the Registrar, a prayer partner, friend and a colleague whose heart (and mind) seeks only the best for the diocese. To the Registry staff who really are an amazing group of people. To Canon Zoe Everingham for her work on reviewing our Diocesan Priorities and to the countless people who pray for me regularly. I sincerely appreciate your prayers and your ministry.

Just one more person to thank and to do that I want to take you back to that first synod that I attended some 25 years or more ago. Mark and I decided to take our two children, Clare and Matthew, to a Synod Eucharist to give them an experience of a more formal gathering, and it was in those days. The procession started to process in, the Deacons, the Priests, the Registrar, the Advocate When suddenly Matthew yelled out! Dad, Dad, look that man has a fox on his head! It was the chancellor of the day wearing his distinctive robes! Richard Cogswell, our Chancellor, does not wear a fox on his head, and I can't imagine him wearing one either. He is not that kind of person. But it would be remiss of me if I did not draw attention to Richard and to thank him personally for his generosity of spirit, his wisdom, advice and friendship. You are indeed serving this diocese well and I thank you.

And so we continue our journey as a Diocese living into the future. We do so giving thanks to God for his faithfulness. We do so seeking God's wisdom in all that we do and we do so courageously put God's plan for us into action. May we all continue to be faithful to the mission before us, and in setting the scene for a new bishop to minister with us here in the Diocese of Grafton.

Major Resolutions Of 2018 Synod

R14/18: Cathedral Chapter Mission and Ministry Objectives

That Synod welcomes the recent development of a Mission and Ministry plan for the Cathedral Chapter, and encourages the new Chapter in its desire to develop the Cathedral as a strategic ministry unit with a focus on serving and supporting the ministry of other agencies, parishes and schools within the Diocese.

R15/18: Diocesan Mission and Ministry Overview Statement

That this Synod endorses the Diocesan Mission and Ministry Overview Statement as approved by the Bishop-in-

Council, looks forward to this statement guiding mission and ministry efforts across the Diocese in the next three years, and encourages each parish, school, and diocesan organisation to consider how they will use this statement to guide and encourage ministry in their context.

R29/18: Refugees and Asylum Seekers

That this Synod:

a) reaffirms that this Diocese does not ignore the plight of asylum seekers, but that it continually advocates and insists on compliance with Australia's legal obligations to grant protection in accordance with the 1951 Refugee Convention;

b) strongly encourages the Working Group on Refugees and Asylum Seekers to continue to formulate further specific strategies which will assist Ministry Units and this Synod to be effective advocates for refugee and asylum seekers; and

c) requests that each Ministry Unit assess its responses so far regarding advocacy in this area and work to engage with the Working Group on Refugee and Asylum Seekers over the next year.

R30/18: Appreciation of the ministry of Dr Billy Graham

That this Synod:

a) notes the passing of "evangelist to the world", Dr

Billy Graham, on February 21, 2018 at the great age of 99;

b) notes that he was the first religious leader in the United States to be given the honour of lying in state at the state capitol rotunda in Washington DC; and

c) acknowledges the worldwide impact of his faithful preaching of the gospel and message of personal salvation to literally millions of people including the mover of this motion; and

d) is grateful to God for his impact on the Church of Australia following his successful missions in 1959, 1968 and 1969 including preaching to capacity crowds at the MCG, their highest attendance at any event.

R32/18: National Redress Scheme

That Synod strongly supports the Diocese of Grafton joining the National Redress Scheme and authorises Bishop-in-Council to consider the involvement of the Diocese of Grafton and associated entities in the National Redress Scheme and that consideration includes the potential of participating as part of the foreshadowed Anglican Church of Australia company, how to include associated entities in the Scheme, administrative arrangements for participation in the Scheme and strategies for meeting the monetary impacts of the Scheme.



Second Session of the Thirty Sixth Synod



The Rev'd Canon Zoe Everingham



The Rev'd Michael Ridge



The Rev'd Cathy Ridd

Election Results In 2018 Synod

R3/18: Elections and Qualifications Committee

That this Synod appoints Mrs Cilla Boyd to the Elections and Qualifications Committee replacing Mrs Deb Duncan who has ceased to be a member of Synod.

R4/18: Timekeeper

That this Synod appoints Mrs Susan Lollback as Timekeeper for the Second Session of the Thirty Sixth Synod in place of Mr Greg Miller who has been granted leave of absence.

Election Results

The following persons were declared elected.

- **Corporate Trustees:**
Dr Gordon Burch (Dr Burch stood for re-election and was unopposed).
- **General Synod Representatives:**
Lay: Canon Lee Archinal (Canon Archinal was elected to fill a casual vacancy)

Answers To Questions In 2018 Synod

Notice of Motions to Synod

Given the propensity for ad hoc "Notice of Motions" to come to Synod at the last minute, could the President advise members of Synod how they make determination of accepting late motions onto the business paper in accordance with 37.1 of the Standing Orders. – *Canon Terry Shorten*.

On behalf of the President, the Registrar gave a verbal response confirming that the Synod may choose not to allow a proposed motion onto that day's business papers.

Lismore Parish Centre Pre-School

With regard to the Lismore Parish Centre Pre-School, could the Synod be informed as to whether the Schools Commission has oversight of the Pre-School and whether this extends to matters such as compliance with current rules and regulations and appraisals for staff? – *Mrs Ann Helmrich, Lismore*.

The President's Answer:

The Lismore Parish Centre Pre-School is a body corporate created by the Anglican Diocese of Grafton in 1989 using the powers provided to the Diocese by the Anglican Church of Australia (Bodies Corporate) Act 1938.

The current constitution of the Pre-School was established by ordinance in 2014. That constitution provides for the Pre-School to be accountable to the Grafton Anglican Schools Commission in a manner similar to the five schools of

the Diocese.

The duties of the Commission relevant to this question are:

(a) develop for consideration by the Bishop-in-Council policies that:

(i) uphold the Christian ethos of Schools and their function as ministries of the Diocese; and
(ii) address other matters arising from the Commission's objectives;

(b) monitor and advise Schools on the consistency of their policies and procedures with Diocesan Policies and the requirements of Governments and provide regular reports on such matters to the Bishop-in-Council;

(i) monitor the performance of Schools through the regular receipt from the Schools of information which addresses specified criteria and provide regular reports to the Bishop-in-Council and recommendations to Schools and to the Bishop-in-Council;
(ii) monitor Schools' strategic plans, master plans, capital works plans and risk management plans;
(iii) assess Schools' capacity to fund and manage proposed capital works projects;

(c) review and make recommendations to Bishop-in-Council on any proposed acquisition (by

purchase, lease, licence, exchange or otherwise) or disposal (by way of sale, mortgage, exchange, lease or otherwise) by a School of rights or interests in real property;

(d) assess and make recommendations to the Bishop-in-Council concerning membership of School Councils.

Staff appraisals mentioned in the question would not usually be an area for the involvement of the Grafton Anglican Schools Commission.

The Grafton Anglican Schools Commission has been working on developing policies and dealing with issues with regard to the five schools of the Diocese. The Commission is yet to put a special focus on the Lismore Parish Centre Pre-School and will include this issue on the agenda of its next meeting.

Diocesan Youth Ministry Trust

In the Synod Report Book, I note that there is a Diocesan Youth Ministry Trust. Could the Synod be informed as to:

- the origin of this trust?
- the source of its funds?
- the amount of funds set aside for this trust? And
- the guidelines for the use of these trust funds?

Furthermore, as these details are not included in the financial reports presented to the Synod, could you please advise how Synod members can find out the amounts in trust funds

and the purpose for which those funds are held? – *Mrs Ann Helmrich, Lismore*

The President's Answer:

The Youth Ministry Trust came into being on 19th January 2017. It was created by the merging of two trusts the YACC – Woorabinda Youth Trust and the YACC – Woorabinda Trust (Income).

The Woorabinda trusts date from about 1989 when the Woorabinda Camp Site near Kempsey was sold and net proceeds from that sale created one trust and income from those funds became another trust.

The purpose of the Youth Ministry Trust is "the support of youth ministry in the Diocese of Grafton as determined by the Youth and Children's Ministry Commission. Where a Youth and Children's Ministry Commission is not operating the use of funds will be as determined by Bishop-in-Council."

In February 2018, the Corporate Trustees received advice that the Diocesan Youth Committee had disbanded. The Corporate Trustees accepted the recommendation of the retiring members of the Diocesan Youth Committee and transferred the Committee's remaining funds into the Youth Ministry Trust.

In accordance with a recommendation of Bishop-in-Council, the Corporate Trustees have allocated \$15,000 per annum for 3 years from the Youth Ministry Trust for the engagement of The Rev'd

Simon Reeve. This is because Rev'd Reeve's role includes some work for the diocese on youth ministry initiatives.

With regard to the more general issue about the availability of information about trusts, I can advise that the Diocese's website now includes a section in which copies of each declaration of trust is available. Visitors to the Diocese's website, can click on the 'Documents' menu and select the option "Declarations of Trust".

Selection of 'Declarations of Trust' opens a page in which parishes are listed alphabetically and clicking on a particular parish gives access to the Declarations of Trust relevant to that parish. There is also an option called 'Diocese' which gives access to trusts that relate generally to the Diocese and not an individual parish.

The current balances of each trust is not made available in this way. There are two reasons for that. One reason is that the balance will need regular updating and the Registry is not set up to make constant changes on the website.

The other reason is that most trusts relate to a single parish and it is not a policy to provide parish based financial information generally. The treasurer of each parish receives annual reports, which will become quarterly reports, on the balance of each trust that is relevant to their parish. Parish leaders can also request updates on trust balances.



Second Session of the Thirty Sixth Synod



Second Session of the Thirty Sixth Synod - L-R: Canon Terry Shorten, Mr Chris Nelson, Archdeacon Gail Hagon,

Ordinances Passed At Synod 2018

Following the six Bills passed in the February 2018 special session to adopt or assent to Canons passed by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia in September 2017, one such Bill was passed by this Synod. These Bills required adoption or assent by dioceses to take effect.

Ordinance No. 10 of 2018

Special Tribunal (Limitation Period) Canon 2017 Adopting Ordinance 2018 – passed without amendment

A full copy of these new ordinances of the Diocese of Grafton is now available on the Diocesan website at www.graftondiocese.org.au

News From St Matthew's Church, Dunoon

By Ian Murray

Winnie Davidson and John Laws

At 90 years of age Winnie Davidson is one of Dunoon's identities, often spotted driving her little yellow buzzer about the village. And her ride-on mower!

Winnie has a great love of history and can tell many local stories of Dunoon and district including farming, she can recall the Rocky Creek Dam as farmland for example, the locals of the time and many other historical facts.

Recently Winnie was listening to the John Laws radio program in which he was discussing history and was asking if anyone had any information or was witness to past history. Winnie rang Mr Laws and told him her story, and he apparently was quite impressed.

Winnie also told him that she recently celebrated her 90th birthday. John Laws sent her a special "John Laws" clock that she proudly showed to the Sunday congregation of St Matthew's Anglican Church, Dunoon.

On her recent 90th birthday Winnie received a phone call from The Rev'd Alan Shaw of Lismore Parish who sang *Happy Birthday* over the phone. She was extremely excited and proud of this, and told anyone who would listen about it.

Winnie's passion for local history has been highlighted in a recent publication of *Dunoon 2480*, a history of the Dunoon district authored by Dennis Matthews.

Technology

One of our members loves her gadgets. She has one of those remote control robot vacuum cleaners, you know the sort,

turn it on and it vacuums the house all by itself, and may even wash the dishes and hang out the washing for all we know.

It does have its limits, if not told to stay within its boundaries will just keep on going.

Recently while it was doing its vacuuming duty, a visitor came to the house and left the front door open. Free of its boundaries the vacuum cleaner went for a spin in the outside world. By the time that it was discovered that vacuum was missing it could not be found anywhere.

After much searching, it was discovered under a clump of bromeliads some distance from the house covered in mud. It was duly returned to its charger dock inside after a good bristle wash and a stern talking to.

Our intrepid gadget person now has one of those talking



Winnie and the John Laws Clock

information givers, you know, ask it any question and it will answer it for you. We wait to see how it will disgrace itself.

For all we know it may be conspiring with the vacuum cleaner for another escape.

VALE: MARGARET TAIT

Who or What is Your Church Heartbeat?

By Jan Fryer

We are all called to be the "Body of Christ". Do you ever question which part of the body you represent within the church?

Recently, with the passing of our beautiful pianist and organist, Margaret Tait, in Ballina Parish it made me think about who represents the church to me. We are all called to be like Christ to others and that He is counting on us.

Who is someone you can point to who represents Jesus lifeblood? For me it was Margaret Tait. She was the epitome of hope and joy of Christ.

If I visited the church office midweek she would be there. When I came to a service she was playing the organ. If the choir was practising she was leading. If another church group was meeting she would be there to help, be involved or run it. She wore many hats (literally and metaphorically). We also often shared a coffee and conversation when we met out shopping.

She was like the heartbeat of the church body to me. She seemed indestructible as she was surely "angelic", so her passing was not possible! To imagine our church without her smile, her encouraging words, her presence, and particularly her music seemed unreal. Now she is gone and my church is changed irrevocably with her absence. More than 30 years of friendship has ended.

That she also touched deeply into the lives of many people she met was clearly evidenced by the number of people who

attended her funeral on May 22.

So who was Margaret Tait?

Margaret Lillian Tait – Margaret, Margie, Marg, Midge. Mum of Wayne, Jo and Daren and stepmum to Rob, David and Kay. Nanny to grandsons: Nathan, Brodie, Jake, Liam, and Nic.

She was born in Darwin on April 7, 1941. She was registered in the Evacuation of Darwin records as "Baby Miller".

Musical Life – Her musical career started when she first tinkled the ivories at about five years old. Later, in Sydney she attended Kambala Girls School, Rose Bay where she continued learning and passing examinations for the NSW Conservatorium of Music.

In 1961 at age 20, she was living in the Campbelltown area of NSW learning the organ under the tutelage of Noel Eve (he was the partner of her oldest and dearest friend Gwen). Noel and Gwen became Godparents to Wayne and Jo.

In 1962 she met a handsome soldier, Peter Tait, marrying him a year later becoming stepmother of Rob, David, and Kay. A son Wayne, daughter Jo and son Daren soon followed.

Her son Wayne remembers, "We always had a piano in the house, and her pride and joy was a Beale upright piano."

She willingly played at any opportunity - church services, concerts, choirs, bands, and Cursillo. She had a gift, a beautiful gift that she shared gracefully. She also ensured that all the church music was

used with permission as Ballina Parish Copyright Person for many years. Her most recent effort was playing for the *Memories of Anzac* Concert on April 29.

Concert Director, Joan Pickup, said, "Dame Marg, as Peter Hewett (Musical Director) and I called her, was a pocket sized dynamo. God had given her so many gifts which she readily used to His glory. The most significant of which, was her music. I have lost my trusted accompanist and a dear friend. Heavenly concerts there from now on. Rest in peace Dame Marg."

Working Life – As well as her music she had quite a resume: bank officer, pig farmer, chicken plucker, tomato grower, school bus driver, book keeper, health food and surgical supplies shop owner and Bible School Student.

Sporting Life - She was also an exceptional tennis player sporting her Billie Jean King cat-eye glasses, winning numerous singles trophies and a handful of mixed doubles trophies with her husband, Peter.

Christian Life - Her church roles were many and varied and her Christian witness was formidable. Volunteering within the church and the community was her forte. Her Music Ministry took many forms too as her style was so versatile. She modelled her Christianity. She was a loving, giving, patient, tolerant, accepting, understanding and encouraging woman of God. She knew how to give and get the best from life. She did not know how to say, "No!" and she didn't want to. If she was



Margaret Tait

free to attend an event she was there.

In 2004, she suffered a massive heart attack. The heart attack left her with a heart that was only 50% functioning, but this did not slow her down or stop her from giving. On May 16, 2018, 14 years on her heart gave its final beat.

Wayne spoke of his final memory of Marg, "It was not of my Mum in a home somewhere or hooked up to

some machine, but of dancing with her as she shook her bootie and boogied away at Daren's wedding only three weeks ago." He concluded by saying, "The world is now a lesser place, heaven now has a rainbow."

We can know all the facts about someone but do we really know them. In this case our Margaret was an enigma, a chameleon, someone different and special to everyone she met.

There's an app for that


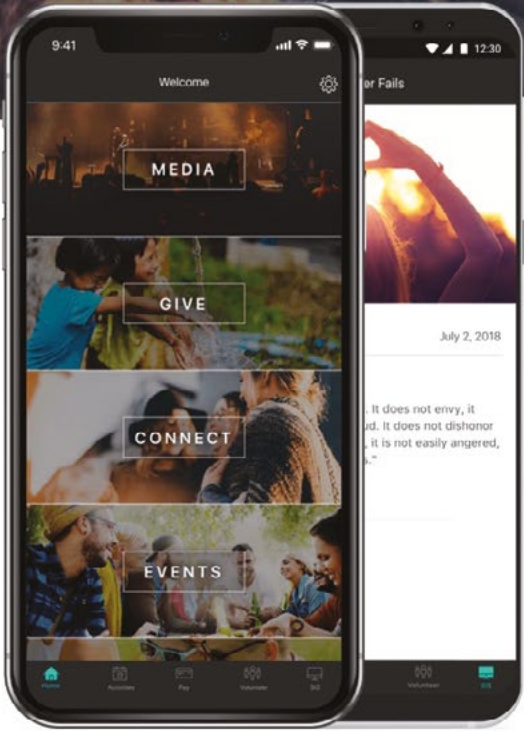
Christ Church Cathedral has embraced the latest social media tools as it looks for new ways to engage with people. The most recent step has been the launch of a mobile app for the Cathedral.

The app can be downloaded to your smart phone so you can stay in touch with the latest information from the Cathedral, watch videos of sermons and seminars, sign up for a daily inspirational message from the Dean, and much more.

Dean Greg Jenks sees this as a natural next step as the Cathedral invites everyday people to take time for God in their busy lives. It will also allow the wider diocesan community to stay informed of developments at the Cathedral.


To get the Grafton Cathedral app just follow the simple steps pictured.

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Future Focused Learning at Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar School

Life after school has changed. According to the Foundation for Young Australians, “Three global forces are rapidly changing the way we work: automation, globalisation and collaboration. Career pathways aren’t as linear as they used to be with young people expected to have 17 jobs across five careers in their lifetime”.

Although this sounds daunting, it is also an exciting opportunity to rethink the way we educate students. Schools have a dual responsibility, to prepare students for their future and to instil a love of learning.

Lindisfarne has been working closely with internationally recognised experts Lee Watanabe Crockett, from the Global Digital Citizen Foundation, and Lane Clark to inspire and train our teachers to ensure we are at the forefront of this new era of education.

Lee has identified 10 Shifts

of Practice needed for deep learning that goes well beyond the memorisation of facts for exams. These concepts help students to develop the cognitive skills necessary for problem solving and success in life beyond school. This work also has a strong focus on environmental sustainability, active citizenship and wellbeing, encouraging students and teachers to be curious, thoughtful and optimistic about their interactions with others and the world around us.

One of the strategies currently being used at Lindisfarne to embed these concepts of deep learning is Solution Fluency, which involves the steps of Define, Discover, Dream, Design, Deliver, Debrief. Too often, students rush through the initial stages of this process to create a deliverable item of work, be that an essay, a TAS project, a computer program or something else. The Solution



Fluency process helps students to take a more considered approach and understand the problem-solving process rather than rush straight to a solution.

Junior School teachers have been working with Lane Clark to embed a number of structured frameworks for students to follow to ensure deep learning takes place. These frameworks

help students understand and articulate their learning and thinking processes. The students are building confidence in a wide variety of thinking tools they can use in new situations when different types of thinking are required, somewhat like a plumber knowing which tool to use for a particular purpose. Through these frameworks, students

are also challenged to use new learning to make a difference to their lives and the lives of others.

The aim of these initiatives is to encourage our students to develop a growth mindset and become independent and confident learners, recognising that the ability to learn is learnable. Through the process, students will build a repertoire of helpful strategies to enable them to confidently tackle unknown challenges, take risks and be well-prepared for life after school.

The aim of these initiatives is to encourage our students to develop a growth mindset and become independent and confident learners, recognising that the ability to learn is learnable. Through the process, students will build a repertoire of helpful strategies to enable them to confidently tackle unknown challenges, take risks and be well prepared for life after school.

Gospel at Bellingen Winter Music Festival

Bellingen was abuzz with music lovers as the third Winter Music Festival took place from July 13-15. Thousands of music lovers attended events across the town in numerous venues including the Anglican Centre.

On Sunday morning, St Margaret of Scotland Church hosted a Gospel service with guest choir the Bowraville Theatre Singers, conducted by Lissa Argue.

The 34 strong voices took us on a “good news” journey through several genres of gospel music including classical, jazz, country and southern blues. Guests learnt of the biblical stories behind Leonard Cohen’s *Hallelujah* (Samson and Delilah; David and Bathsheba) and discovered a struggle between human desire and spiritual wisdom.

A message of hope from The Rev’d

Canon Zoe Everingham was woven through the songs and enhanced by film clips on the big screen.

Afterwards, attendees enjoyed a luscious home-made morning tea in the hall and in the grounds bathed in sunshine, while watching the street parade.



Marie’s Sacred Music

By Jan Fryer

For two months shy of 30 years, congregations of St Mary’s Ballina and St John the Baptist, Lennox Head have enjoyed the dulcet tones of Marie Ferguson on the organ. Arriving in the North Coast in 1987 from Sydney after their youngest son Warwick, 21, had built their new retirement home in Lennox Head, Marie and late husband, Barry soon became fully immersed in the life of the church. They were new to Christianity having been converted in their 50’s and enthusiastic ally embraced the life of the church in Ballina. Barry became involved in Youth work and Marie started Music Ministry. Marie had learned to play the piano from her cousin at just five years of age, but over the years her interest waned as she became very busy with

life raising two sons, Leon and Warwick, and working in Local and State Government politics as a secretary in the Liberal Party. A tiny keyboard in her home was the only sign of her hidden musical talents. In Lennox Head Marie met Warren Whitney, a well known local organist, socially. She credits him with firing up her passion for music again. He volunteered to teach her to play the organ and she began free classical lessons at St Mary’s every Saturday. She said, “He was always so encouraging. He taught me to feel the music which inspired me. I did not want to stop and I practised every day and I just loved the Sacred Music as its words and messages spoke to me.” Along with the encouragement of former parishioner, Merle

Rand, she accepted the challenge to learn again in order to play the organ for worship services at St Mary’s in Ballina. And so began a 30 year musical enchantment journey with the Parish of Ballina. Marie was disappointed to end her musical career. Her failing eyesight with macular dystrophy had made reading the complex music too difficult, forcing her to stop playing the pipe organ at St Mary’s. She still continued at St John the Baptist in Lennox Head until she once again had to face the fact that reading the music was too difficult. In amongst this she was also the first organist for the Ballina Women’s Christian Choir - the choir which now includes men still continues to this day. In 2004, at age 75, Marie met her partner, Alan Gibson, after

she went on an Emmaus Walk, similar to Cursillo. Marie says, “Alan has an unbelievable and unshakeable faith and is always encouraging because he is such a positive person.” When asked about a highlight of church life, one of her best memories was when The Rev’d Robert Draffin was Rector and preached at Lennox Head with his down-to-earth sermons in the old wooden church. She loved the building’s atmosphere and his sermons using props like salt, a mower and 44-gallon drum, which were hard to forget. She stated other highlights have been learning to play the organ classically with Warren, her resultant musical career and her Emmaus Walk. Despite her 88 years, she still drives, enjoys sewing, scrapbooking and patchwork




and tries to keep the communication lines open by picking up the phone and emailing friends to keep in contact. Marie was thanked for her faithful service and her own inspirational playing of the organ after a worship service at Lennox Head in May.

Do you have an inactive account? Have you changed your contact details and not let us know?


AFGD has several accounts that are sitting dormant because we have not heard from the account holder.

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Term Investment Accounts

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90 days	2.50% p.a.
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*Interest paid at maturity

Note: Special Interest Rates on Term Investments are available on request for funds \$100,000 & over

Saver Accounts

Balance	Interest Rate
Balances up to \$4,999	0.10% p.a.
\$5,000 to \$49,999	0.25% p.a.
\$50,000 and over	0.50% p.a.

Cheque Accounts (Parishes, Ministry Units & Anglican Affiliate Entities Only)

Entity	Interest Rate
Parish	1.00% p.a.
Anglican Affiliate	0.25% p.a.

*Interest paid monthly

Cash Management Accounts (Parishes, Ministry Units & Anglican Affiliate Entities Only)

Entity	Interest Rate
Parish	1.75% p.a.
Anglican Affiliate	1.50% p.a.

*All Interest Rates are current as at 28 May 2018 and are subject to change

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Farewell to Retiring Chair

By David Miller

In November 1999 I received a letter from Arthur Bale, Secretary of St Cuthbert's Retirement Living Complexes Inc. Board of Management advising that the previous Chairman had resigned and the Deputy Chairman had indicated he was taking similar action. Arthur said, "After talking to our mutual friend, Bill Bedser, Bill had indicated that you could be the person to replace the Chairman".

(Bill and I had served together for many years as members of the Grafton Diocese Investment Fund (GDIF) and Corporate Trustees).

After discussion with Arthur I attended my first Board meeting on March 30, 2000 and was elected Chairman that afternoon. The only thing I knew about retirement villages was that they were exempt from payment of Council rates so I had to become familiar with the legislation without delay.

Also at the same meeting the Board's accountant resigned with none of the previous year's management account work completed. At the time I was doing some casual work for a Tweed Heads South accountant, RJ (John) Kirkland, so the Board asked me to ascertain if he would accept appointment. He did so and he asked me to undertake the work. As a consequence I became fully involved in the Board's finances.

It has been a very real privilege



to lead the Board for the last 18 years and 3 months. There have been a number of difficult issues that required the Board's determination but overall the experience has been enjoyable and rewarding. The relationships with Board members and staff have been exceptional and I am grateful for the skills of other Board

members which increased my knowledge of fields with which I was not familiar. My retiring colleague, John Gandey, with his real life experience in the banking industry, was meticulous in his scrutiny of the Board's finances with the result that the previous manager, Des Wicks, was always alert to John's probing.



In 2017 Bishop-in-Council inflicted the Board with a new constitution. One of the constitution's provisions restricted membership of the Board to a maximum of 9 years, three terms each of three years. As a consequence, John Gandey (15 years) and I (18 years) became victims of "statutory senility". (I thank

John Robertson, retired Queensland judge for this terminology.)

John and I leave the Board with a mammoth task of completing a strategic plan and we pray that God will guide members in making decisions that have the welfare of the residents as their first priority.

IN BRIEF

IN MEMORIAM

The Rev'd Kenneth Munns died on July 26, 2018. Fr Ken served faithfully in the Parishes of Port Macquarie, Lismore and the Upper Richmond Regional Coordinator. Fr Ken also served as Assistant State secretary of ABM and National Director of SOMA.

LLM CONFERENCE 4-5 AUGUST 2018

The Licenced Lay Ministers Conference this year is being held at St Matthew's in South Grafton.

MINISTRY SCHOOL 6-8 AUGUST 2018

The keynote speaker this year is John Roberto who is also speaking at the Queensland Provincial Clergy Gathering on the Gold Coast.

EVENTS

12 August: 2pm Ballina Christian Choir concert at St Mary's in support of BCEC

16 August: Corporate Trustees Meeting

16 August: MMR South Meeting - Macksville

5 September: MMR Central Meeting - Coffs Harbour

6 September: Bishop in Council

7 September: 6pm - Fundraising dinner supporting Beyond Blue at Ballina RSL

8 September: 9am to 3pm St Mary's Big Blue Fete in support of Beyond Blue

9 September: 9am combined service with Archbishop Geoff Smith celebrating 20 years since St Mary's consecration

9 September: 20th Birthday Celebrations in the Parish of Ballina

29 September: Consecration and Installation of Bishop Elect The Reverend Canon Dr Murray Harvey



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REFLECTIONS

You will know them by their fruit

By Archdeacon Stuart Webb

As part of our ministry to the homeless and marginalised we operate a soup kitchen. Over the last six months I've watched a renaissance of a kind occur within this ministry. We have seen a fresh influx of chefs, health professionals, a clothes washing van (Orange Sky), and an assortment of volunteers from all walks of life. Some are from within our congregation, but the great majority have come from outside our congregation and many are not people who express faith. What motivates them to give their time in service to others?

The reasons are varied but there are some common themes. Most express a desire to do something good or to be part of something that makes them feel good about themselves and their contribution to our little blue planet. Some find themselves unable to articulate any reason they know they just love coming.

In connecting with these volunteers I discovered a people with hugely differing values and beliefs but still choosing to gather around a higher truth even if they weren't aware of it. This is the

powerful nature of truth found in love.

In our innermost being we all desire to love and to be loved. A person who feels loved is more likely to love, and a person mired in hate is more likely to hate. People who build walls create "us and them" ideologies often hiding behind their version of truth. People who build bridges to others tend to hold on to truth but realise we all come to know truth uniquely. I do not believe truth is relative but I do believe we cannot see what we cannot see. This should cause us to hold truth with humility particularly when our truth as Christians is held by God's revelation through Jesus Christ. This brings me to "you will know them by their fruit".

In the book of Matthew chapter 7 Jesus uses a confronting allegory comparing a healthy tree bearing good fruit and an unhealthy tree bearing the unhealthy fruit with the take home message being, "You will know them by their fruit".

As human beings we are tempted to distance ourselves from this accusation and point the finger at others. In truth we should all view this passage with humility because without grace in our hearts we are all

capable of bearing bad fruit. As Anglicans we hold to some powerful truths centred around our God breathed scriptures, creeds, liturgies and our personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ. These truths do not prevent us from bearing bad fruit when we use them for our own agenda.

As a pastor and teacher I am constantly confronted by my own frailties and the temptation to use my role and authority to propagate "my" truth. Instead my calling is to propagate the kingdom of God and God's truth. How do we do this? How do we become bridge builders rather than wall builders? How do we live humbly and graciously with our powerful truths with those who hold conflicting powerful truths?

I guess that's part of our journey and Jesus sets us the perfect example. Jesus built bridges to the broken and the sinful and used love and healing to show them his truth. Jesus always said, "follow me" not "do it my way". Jesus declared his truth with conviction and viewed his enemies as powerless in the face of it. Jesus spoke against those who bear bad fruit but he never produced any



of his own in doing it. Jesus spoke and acted his truth with courage but always gave the other the freedom to reject it.

Jesus always left the choice to us.

PRAYING WITH THE SAINTS

John Baptist Vianney, parish priest. Died 1895 Feast Day 4 August.

By Rev'd Camellia Flanagan

DIED 1895 , FEAST DAY 4 AUGUST

Jean-Baptiste-Marie Vianney, was a priest belonging to the Order of Saint Francis. His Anglicised name is John Baptist Vianney and he was born May 8, 1786 in Dardilly France and baptised the same day. He was raised in a Catholic home where the poor were often helped and housed. During the French Revolution in 1786 when priests were persecuted, John Vianney thought them heroes. He prepared for his first

communion in secret at age 13 and when he was 20 began to study. His education was disrupted by the Revolution but in 1802 the Church was re-established in France. He was drafted into Napoleon's army in 1802 with no protection as an ecclesiastical student. He fell ill after being only two days in the service and as he was praying in a nearby church he met a young deserter who persuaded him to join them in the mountains. He admired the many priests who consistently took the sacraments to the people in spite of being forbidden to in the Terror phase of the French

Revolution. In just over a year he was there, he opened a school for local children in a nearby village, hid when deserters were being searched for and later returned to Écully and his studies after 1810 when deserters were granted amnesty. He was ordained a deacon in June 1815 and was ordained priest in August 1815 and three years later appointed Parish Priest of the Ars parish. He realised that many of his parish were either ignorant of indifferent to the gospel after the French Revolution. He devoted time to teaching his people the way to live and if they did not conform, he

refused them absolution. His fame grew as he worked long hours and many pilgrims came to visit him to seek his wisdom. He was especially revered for the spiritual transformation of his community of faith and the area in which they lived and worked.

Several times he thought of becoming a monk but eventually stayed in his parish at Ars, teaching faith and caring for the poor. He would sometimes say, "Private prayer is like straw scattered here and there. If you set it on fire, it makes a lot of little flames. But gather these straws into

a bundle and light them, and you get a mighty fire, rising like a column into the sky, public prayer is like that".

A prayer of St John Vainney:

I love you O my God, and my only desire is to love You until the last breath of my life. I love You, O my infinitely lovable God, and I would rather die loving You, than living without You. I love You, Lord and the only grace I ask is to love You eternally.

My God, if my tongue cannot say in every moment that I love You, I want my heart of repeat it to You as often as I draw breath.

Anglican Diocese of Grafton

Do you have an up-to-date will? Please consider giving to the work of the Church in your will.

Our diocese has been blessed by the generosity of benefactors in times past. As we seek to expand Christ's Mission in the 21st century, please consider how you might contribute. You should get legal advice before making your will. You may wish to consider the activities of the Anglican Diocese of Grafton as the recipient of either a specific gift or the residue of your estate.

The following wording may be useful for you and your legal advisor when making your will: "I bequeath to the Corporate Trustees of the Diocese of Grafton in the State of New South Wales the sum of to be used for the general purposes of the Diocese of Grafton in such manner as the said Trustees may approve."



Messages from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse: What can we learn?

By Dr Liz Reimer

A few years ago I was privileged to work as a researcher for the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. This research yielded profoundly distressing details about what abusers did to the children and young people they were supposed to be caring for. One counsellor even said workers at the Commission were “marinading” in abuse.

The research shows there is no definitive formula for what an abuser looks like. We can’t just hold a list of features up to someone and say this person is an abuser. However, we do have some guidance about how abusers create conditions that make it possible for them to abuse others, so there are key lessons to learn to make sure this never happens again.

1. Abusers target those who are vulnerable. They notice, for example, when someone is alone or isolated. Abusers also “prepare” adults in the victim’s life – building relationships and establishing themselves as a good, caring and trustworthy person (“He wouldn’t do that. He is such a good bloke”). They might also meet a family member’s needs, thus becoming a bit of a “saint” or hero.
2. Abuse takes many forms and covers a wide range of acts. It doesn’t even always have to cause physical or emotional pain. This can make it difficult to discern as abuse. During the Commission we heard of many obvious acts of abuse that really amounted to torture. But we also heard many accounts of sexual abuse that reasonable people – including the victim – might struggle to consider abusive.
3. The Commission has taught us that abusers rarely perform extreme



- acts as a starting point. They test the water to see how much they can get away with. Often they increase the level of abuse gradually – “grooming” or preparing victims and others in their lives for what will come later.
- In many ways it is the same as someone trying to pursue an intimate relationship with another person, but here the “relationship” is usually from someone in a position of authority or power. The victim may be unsuspecting, may initially feel special through the attention, or might be too scared to respond appropriately.
4. Another environment that enables abuse is the “closed” institution, which has limited or no contact with the outside world – thus holding power over those both inside and outside.
- A closed institution might also be one that is highly regarded as ethical and competent. Workers might dismiss attempts by family and friends to see the victim, or dismiss concerns they might

- have, or make excuses for why family can’t see the victim (e.g. they are too sick to use the phone). In such situations there is no accountability or transparency, and victims’ lives become controlled by the institution or abuser.
5. The final key message is that abusers create an environment of fear, disbelief and abuse as “normal”. Being from an esteemed profession or position creates doubt in the minds of outsiders whom victims might tell about the abuse. Or, abusers undermine them by establishing the idea that no one cares for them because they were sent away to be looked after. Often if victims do tell they are not believed, or they may feel compelled to not speak out or challenge the abuser.
- One of the biggest lessons we can learn from all this is about how complicit people have been in the past, and how this has led to abuse. I have come to realise there is no such thing as an innocent bystander (where a bystander is a person with some level of awareness of the abuse). I’m not talking about family, friends or others

in the institutional environment that had no idea of what was occurring. I’m talking about those who knew something not quite right was going on but did nothing to stop it.

We can use the parable of the Good Samaritan as an analogy, and think about it as Dr Martin Luther King, jr did: “And so the first question that the priest asked, the first question that the Levite asked, was, ‘If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?’... But then the Good Samaritan came by, and he reversed the question: ‘If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?’”

Abuse happened in our church schools, our church care homes, and even in our churches – in youth groups, Sunday schools and congregations. It happened right under our noses. Many survivors talk about how other adults knew the abuse was happening but they were ignored, disbelieved or dismissed. “Innocent bystanders” walked by, ignoring victims’ cries for help (which can include difficult behaviour such as trying to escape the situation). The Commission showed repeatedly that there were opportunities for abuse to be stopped soon after it had begun.

We should not think this kind of thing cannot happen again. I believe there are basic things we can all do to stop abusers now and in the future, and they are things Jesus taught us.

First, we need to be attentive to others and active in our care for them. This means building caring relationships with neighbours and strangers. Get to know people, become friends, be active in their lives and let them be active in yours. This way you will help ensure they are not targeted as vulnerable, and you may also learn about people who may be getting hurt.

This is important because if you know people well it is more likely you will notice a change in behaviour, or get a “gut” feeling when someone is too afraid to speak about something. It might also mean they will trust you enough to tell you that how someone acts towards them makes them feel scared or uncomfortable.

The second thing we can do is to share our network of friends and caring people with them. Abusers target those who are isolated. If we connect people around us with our networks then they are less isolated. Encourage people to be involved in activities, and build relationships with people, outside the institution.

Finally, I think we should challenge people who we hear are acting in ways that are making others feel scared or uncomfortable. If you can’t do this yourself, tell someone you trust outside the institution about your concerns.

Dr Liz Reimer is a senior lecturer at Southern Cross University, a member of the Professional Standards Committee of the Diocese of Grafton, and grew up as a “preacher’s kid” in the Sydney Diocese. This is an edited version of a talk she gave at her local Anglican church, St Cuthbert’s, Tweed Heads.

Originally published in Southern Cross. Published with permission.

THREADS LAID BARE Words, Listening and Holy Dreaming

By Rev’d Camellia Flanagan

In our church calendar on June 3, we were praying for National Reconciliation and from July 8, with the National Aboriginal and Islanders Day Observance Committee we celebrated the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with the theme “Because of her, we can”. We are reminded of the stories of women of faith who

refused to give up what they believed was the right way. The gathering for Abundant Justice and Prophetic Imagination has drawn to a close in Brisbane and the questions are still in the words. How do we understand our world as it is? How do we discern God in the here and now? Where do we find a prophetic vision for now and how might it be? How do we re-imagine and enliven our communities so

that abundant justice is found by all, reconciled, healed and together as one. What are the symbols of reconciliation? A pale face will look into the eyes of dark and see, not fear of the unreadable, but the peace and beauty borne of thousands of years of knowing love and Holy dreaming. Male and female and in between, ears of dark and pale will hear the stories, the alternate narratives of pleasure, pain,

shame and hope and will begin to understand each other. Righteousness and peace are blessed with Her holy kiss. When we know that all of creation is loved by the Creator, we will also know that no one is ever abandoned and no matter how complex a situation or a relationship is, everything belongs to God. We will recognise the symbols of reconciliation in the words of the narrative, the listening

to the pregnant, thoughtful and empathetic pause, and the gentle touch of the finger on the scar or the hand in the wound. The plant will live and grow, break the pot, and the roots will penetrate the earth and the next generation will all own the Holy Dreaming. We will walk the ancient song lines together and dreaming hear the question, “What is possible?” and we all care about it.

DIOCESAN MISSION AND MINISTRY OVERVIEW (MMO)

God’s work equipped by God’s Spirit

By Rev’d Canon Zoe Everingham
Rector, Parish of the Bellinger

At the Second Session of the Thirty-Sixth Synod of the Diocese of Grafton, Synod endorsed the new Diocesan Mission and Ministry Overview (MMO). The content of the MMO was the culmination of five strategic planning sessions conducted across the Diocese between March 2017 and February 2018, at which a total of 152 people participated. Together we listened to God’s Spirit speaking in the hearts of God’s people across this diocese.

While collating the Mentimeter data and scribed notes gathered at each session, it became obvious that there was a passion across the Diocese for mission and innovative ministry, a thirst to be trained and equipped for both, a hunger for more regional and ecumenical collaboration, and the courage to make necessary changes.

Suggested modifications to the existing Diocesan MMO adopted in 2012, included: restructuring the Diocese; greater focus on mission; resourcing and equipping for ministry; regional collaboration and partnerships; more emphasis on Jesus Christ; proactive disciple-making. The identified dominant barriers to mission (lead in our saddle bags) highlighted opportunities for capacity building, prayer, permission giving for innovation, training and resource sharing.

While collating all this material in order to provide a summarised MMO, Bishop in Council over several meetings, sought to honour the corporate discernments expressed in the feedback.

When designing the MMO document, the five top priorities were arranged in a circle (all of equal value) around the central focus of God’s Mission.

Each priority was elaborated by dot points which indicate the kind of activities that may be included under that heading. These details are to guide the business of Synod and Bishop-in-Council. Once the priorities were set, Bishop-in-Council wrote short Vision and Mission Statements that can



be remembered easily. The diocese exists as part of the Anglican Church in Australia, which is a member of the global Anglican Communion. All are connected. Therefore, we thought it appropriate to include the Five Marks of Mission on the back page of the folded document and to ensure our local MMO relates to the global vision of the Anglican Church.

For more information on the data collected during the strategic planning sessions, a link is provided to the presentation made at the discernment synod on 4th March this year. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b21ifG9Fr8&feature=youtu.be> Laminated copies of the Diocesan MMO will be provided to all Ministry Units for display on their notice boards.

What next?

A ministry unit does not exist in isolation, but as a “member” of the “whole body”, the Grafton Diocese. Although the content of the Diocesan MMO was derived by listening to the discernment of God’s Spirit in the hearts of God’s people across the diocese, the appropriate interpretation and use within the specific context of individual parishes must also be discerned. Therefore Ministry units and Anglican organisations are encouraged to develop or revise their own dot points that relate to

their individual contexts. We hope that Parish Councils and organisations will ask questions of their participation in God’s mission in order to review their activities, relinquishing some that may no longer be effective and adopting others that may be more relevant in current local climates. Questions such as:

- How do we build up new disciples?
- How can we collaborate better with local schools or agencies or neighbouring parishes?
- What extra training might be useful to equip our people for Mission and Ministry? What help do we need from the MDO (Mission Development Officer)?
- What local partnerships might we develop?
- What aspects of our governance need attention?
- How might we be more innovative in our ministry and relevant in engaging with our local communities?

Once a ministry unit MMO has been revised or created, the next step is to maintain focus on those priorities. Firstly, ensure that every parish/MU participant has received a

copy of the new local MMO. Then, to ensure focus, one suggestion might be for Parish Council to re-order its business papers under priority headings. When new initiatives are suggested, the question “What MMO priority does this initiative come under?” could be asked. Conversations will hopefully continue in MMR groups (Mission and Ministry Regions) to discern effective collaboration across parish boundaries, sharing resources and ideas. Nothing stands still in God’s world! God’s Spirit continues to breathe new life and renewal

into our communities of faith. Rather than fearing change, we should expect it and embrace it, trusting in God that we are both called and equipped for our journey.

Diocesan Prayer

God in whom we live and move and have our being, we thank you for Jesus Christ who is the good news. By the power of your Holy Spirit, enable us to be people who transform lives, make disciples and grow communities, that your glory may be revealed in all creation. We pray this through your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.





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