

NEWSPAPER OF THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF GRAFTON, NEW SOUTH WALES

NORTH COAST ANGLICAN

Transforming lives through Jesus Christ

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HOLY ENDINGS NEW BEGINNINGS

FULL STORY PAGE 3

L -R: The Venerable Gail Hagon, Gail's parents Keith and Margaret Mellalieu,
and Gail's husband Mark Hagon. Photo by Mavren Predo



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MORE DETAILS PAGE 8

FROM THE BISHOP



In the interests of transparency, I need to confess that I like reading church bulletin bloopers. Amongst my favourites are

these ones: "Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It is a good chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands"; "Don't let worry kill you off – the church can help"; "Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones".

When I was a Rector, one of my jobs each week was to do the final proofread of the pew bulletin. Thankfully we never even came close to

any of the above clangers! I love parish life. Now I'm a bishop it's one of the things I miss the most. Sometimes the church at parish-level shines brightly reflecting God's light; at other times it's eccentric, frustrating and not-so-loveable. It brings out the best and the worst in people. The controversial former Bishop of Durham, David Jenkins, once wrote, "I often think that the glorious future will come when the Church of England is finally broken down and some of us will be able to break out". Maybe you are one of the

ones who wants to break out, but I'm going to stay. In a recent book exploring societal changes in Great Britain, most of which apply in Australia as well, Justin Welby writes about the important role churches and other faith groups play in their local communities and wider society. Churches promote community and offer stable, enduring values. In the face of increasingly fluid, unclear and elusive values that are often driven by mere optimism or simple self-interest, church

communities witness to hope, justice, dignity and other deep values of the kingdom. The Christian Scriptures charge the people of God to be a blessing to the communities in which they live, helping them to flourish (e.g. *Jeremiah 29:7*). What do you love about your church? In the communities in which it has been set, what is it called to be and to do? How can you support that mission? +Murray

Pastoral Staff Reflection

By Quinn Humphreys

Have you ever wondered what that staff is that the Bishop walks with during a procession in your parish church or the Cathedral? Have you wondered what the Bishop's staff symbolises? Properly called a pastoral staff or crosier, it represents the Bishop's role as Chief Pastor of a Diocese after the example of Jesus. After he was elected Bishop of Grafton and as preparations were being made for the consecration and installation service, Bishop-elect Murray asked me to make the crosier that would be presented to him at the service as one of the symbols of his Episcopal ministry.

In the Western Church, a crosier is traditionally carried by Roman-Catholic, Anglican, and some European Lutheran bishops. Crosiers in the Western Church are traditionally shaped like a shepherd's crook, in symbolic remembrance of Jesus the Good Shepherd. The bishop's ordinal in *A Prayer Book for Australia* (APBA) uses explicit sheep and shepherding imagery to describe a bishop's responsibilities.

Walking-sticks are undoubtedly as old as humanity, but the crosier has a quite different, symbolic role. The first mention of the presentation of a crosier at a bishop's consecration was in 633 CE at the 4th Council of Toledo, Spain. Initially a crosier was a simple shepherd's crook but by the late middle ages it was highly ornamented. Sheep were the most prolific domesticated animal of the Ancient Near East and consequently shepherding

is one of humanity's earliest occupations. The Bible contains prolific sheep and shepherd imagery. *Ezekiel 34* depicts God as a shepherd who will gather God's shattered sheep from amongst the nations. A good shepherd cares for the flock, provides them nourishment (*Ps. 23*), and guards them from predators (*1 Sam 17:34-35; Amos 3:12*) and thieves (*John 10:1*). A shepherd carries young lambs in his arms or on his shoulders (*Isa. 40:11*). In the Old Testament the Israelite leaders are shepherds of God's people (*Ezekiel 34*). In the New Testament, Jesus is the Good Shepherd (*John 10:1-21*). He is the Good Shepherd par excellence because he is willing to die for his sheep. The New Testament also depicts bishops as shepherds of God's people in the pattern of Jesus the Good Shepherd.

On presenting Bishop Murray Harvey with his crosier, I said the following words, "Murray, receive this staff as a sign of your pastoral office. Be to the flock of Christ a shepherd, not a wolf. Encourage the faithful, support the weak, heal the sick, bind up the broken, restore the outcast, seek the lost."

Murray was explicitly exhorted in this statement to shepherd Christ's flock, to gather, restore, and care for God's people, and not to destroy and scatter Christ's flock like a wolf. This statement picks up the prolific shepherd and wolf imagery throughout the Bible. Prior to this, Archbishop Glenn Davies as the Ordaining Bishop asked God to fill Murray's heart with the love of God and God's people, that as a bishop he

may feed and tend the flock of Christ.

When asked about the design of the crosier, the Bishop-elect said he preferred a simple design, preferably in silky oak. So, with this design brief, I set about researching construction methods. I came across Grant McMillian's blog post which details how he constructed a crosier, using walking stick joiners to join the staff. These joints proved prohibitively expensive in Australia, so I investigated a hardware store's plumbing section for brass fittings that would suffice. In researching the design of the top crook section, I found that simple timber crosiers mostly had a similar shape – a round top with the tip kicking outwards. In my research I identified two possible weak points in the crook, the top across the end grain, and the tip when they taper to a fine point. Archbishop Philip Aspinall had his crosier at the Provincial Clergy Conference at the Gold Coast in August, and he allowed me to inspect the construction of the crook section. It was constructed as a three-ply piece with alternating grain direction to brace the weak point across the end-grain, which I discovered in my research mentioned above. This construction method proved to add a beautiful aesthetic dimension to the finished crook.

My knowledge of Murray's gentle but firm nature colours my interpretation of his crosier. The crosier truly symbolises the nurturing nature of Murray's pastoral ministry, as a shepherd to Christ's flock



in Grafton. Yet the sheer size of his crosier casts a striking image, in contrast to the simple timber design. The simple design which emulates the shape of a shepherd's crook, brings to mind the caring, nurturing, and gentle guiding a bishop exercises over Christ's flock in his or her region. The crosier is collapsible (it unscrews into four pieces) so it is also practical and easily transportable as he moves around the diocese getting

to know the people and communities of the North Coast. **Quinn Humphrey, from St Mark's Anglican Church, Clayfield, works as a joiner/ timber machinist for a joinery manufacturer in the western suburbs of Brisbane. He is currently studying a Bachelor of Theology through Charles Sturt University and has extensive experience in lay ministry.**

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Holy Endings and New Beginnings

A seismic event has happened with the Venerable Gail Hagon stepping down from the twin roles of Diocesan Archdeacon and Ministry Development Officer (MDO).

A daughter of the Diocese, serving in lay roles and then being ordained in Grafton Cathedral in 1995, Archdeacon Gail has been an integral part of the fabric of the Diocese of Grafton with the past nine years in the influential roles of Diocesan Archdeacon and MDO, including almost five years as Commissary and seven intense months as Administrator of the Diocese.

Although Archdeacon Gail will still be living and serving among us, three special events were held to mark her service and say “thank you” for the positive influence that she has had on many throughout the Diocese.

Gatherings were held in Ballina (December 8) and Coffs Harbour (December 15), while a special service to celebrate Archdeacon Gail’s ministry was held at Christ Church Cathedral Grafton on December 14.

Bishop Murray Harvey, in speaking at the special service said, “Gail lives out that pastoral, caring ministry of healing and reconciliation - she



The Venerable Gail Hagon and her husband Mark Hagon. Photo by Mavren Predo

is a gifted listener, companion and guide for many. Yet she has many other gifts as well. She isn't afraid to take action and to advocate for individuals and communities. Here, Gail has often challenged us to move forward in mission.” In response, Archdeacon Gail acknowledged the many people who were valuable friends and supporters in her journey and service giving special mention to Rev'd Brian Hughes who has been a mentor since the early days of her ministry.

As Bishop Murray has said, “Thankfully we’re not saying goodbye as Gail will still have ministry among us...”

Nativity Comes to Life in Lismore

The true meaning of Christmas came to life at the Parish of Lismore on December 16 as parishioners took part in a special photobooth in the Chapel.

Parishioners were invited to get involved in the life-size nativity-themed photobooth by dressing up as one of the attendees at the birth of Jesus, including Mary and Joseph, the Three Wise Men, and a few opted for one of the sheep. Prior to the nativity photobooth, parishioners

were encouraged to bring their Nativity sets to church to be blessed.

A magnificent collection of nativities of all shapes and sizes were laid out in the Lady Chapel, which had been transformed into a contemporary crèche for the occasion.

“2019 has been declared the “Year of Belonging” for our parish and we look forward to where God leads us in the months ahead,” Rev'd Christian Ford added.



Riches Beyond Their Wildest Dreams

Ballina Anglican Op Shop founder Thelma Riches' retirement hit the headlines in local media, which recognised her 23 years of service to the popular charity store.

Journalist in Charge of *The Ballina Shire Advocate*, Graham Broadhead, wrote:

"Ballina's Thelma Riches isn't quite sure what drove her to set up the Ballina Anglican Op Shop 23 years ago. It took six years of lobbying to the parish - but she did it.

She now has been forced to stand down from her role as the op shop co-ordinator due to failing eyesight.

"I have no idea why I was so persistent (to set up the shop)," the 88-year-old said.

"I just felt as though it had to be."

One answer, she said, came from a recent sermon at the Ballina Anglican Church where the Venerable Matthew Jones spoke of "God tapping us on the shoulder - and he's probably right," she said.

While she feels sad she has to give up her post, she said maybe that was God tapping her on the shoulder again.

Mrs Riches came from a working background in offices and had never held a retail position when her and her

husband moved to Ballina and joined the local congregation in 1988. At the time, there was only one other op shop in town, and Mrs Riches saw the potential for another to make money to support not only church welfare work, but local charities, too.

"They're (op shops) wonderful things - you don't have to buy stock and you don't have to pay wages," she said.

When she finally swayed the parish to go ahead with her idea, an op shop opened at 111 Tamar St in July 1995. Eight years later, the church bought the property on the corner of Tamar and Grant streets where the op shop currently is located.

"We moved from 111 Tamar St to 112," she said. The most unusual donation Mrs Riches recalls is a small New Testament Bible signed by Queen Victoria at Windsor Castle in 1840 to mark a celebration of the Diocese of Brisbane. As to how that volume made it to Ballina - God knows."

St Mary's Anglican Church in Ballina also feted Thelma at a special morning tea following the 10am service on January 20, with many old friends wishing her a happy and healthy retirement.



Rector of St Mary's, Venerable Matthew Jones, said the Parish was always open to new ideas involving the wider community and Thelma's vision was a perfect example of taking action to help others.

"The Op Shop has provided good quality clothing and many other items for nearly a quarter century, and it is impossible to measure what that has meant for so many people in need," he said.

The Op Shop is now in its 24th year and in that time it has raised much needed funds for ministry in Ballina and Lennox Head, with some of the funds used for charities in the local communities.

Urunga Op Shop Receives Award

By Rev'd Canon Zoe Everingham

The Anglican Op Shop at Urunga is the proud recipient of the Ian J Cooper Award for Accessibility and Inclusion.

The award was presented by Bellingen Shire Council at a presentation ceremony in Urunga on December 3, 2018.

Businesses and community organisations in Bellingen Shire were nominated for their efforts to provide access and inclusion for people with a disability.

The Urunga Op Shop has relocated to St Barnabas Hall and is accessed by a wide ramp which was recently coated with a non-slip finish. A disabled parking space has been constructed adjacent to the ramp.

The timber doors were replaced with retail quality glass doors flush to the floor. The shop is on one level with easy access to kitchen and toilet facilities.

The award is named after Bellingen Shire resident Ian Cooper who was disabled and lobbied hard for better access and therefore social inclusion across the shire.

Coincidentally, Ian's grandmother, Margaret Cooper, volunteers in the Bellingen Op Shop.

Op Shop Supervisor, Charlotte Reah, was proud to show the award to volunteers at a Christmas Morning Tea held at Anchor's Wharf by the river at Urunga.



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 370 757** or email dps@graftondiocese.org.au

to reach our Director of Professional Standards who can receive your report with confidentiality.

SCAS Chamber Choir Tour New York

At the end of 2018 a group of 28 very excited SCAS students from the St Columba Chamber Choir along with four alumni students and four teaching staff touched down in New York for a trip of a lifetime.

The Chamber Choir had been invited to travel to New York and form part of a massed choir to perform at Carnegie Hall on November 11, 2018 which in the United States is Veteran's Day, or Remembrance Day in Australia.

The SCAS singers joined with other choirs from around the world to form the Distinguished Concerts International New York (DCINY), known as a choir of distinction, under the baton of composer and conductor Paul Mealor.

Composed to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War, Professor Mealor has spent more than two years working with poet Dr Grahame Davies to create



a "reflective and poignant tribute to peace". Davies – who has a successful track record in writing for distinguished composers – has provided the words, while Professor Mealor

has written the music for the 40 minute long requiem for orchestra and choir. *Requiem: The Souls of The Righteous* was performed for the first time at St Mary's Cathedral in

Edinburgh on September 22 by the National Youth Choir of Scotland and Royal Scottish National Orchestra, and then again on November 11 at Carnegie Hall.

The group arrived a few days prior to the concert and had two chorus rehearsals and one full dress rehearsal before the performance at Carnegie Hall on Sunday. Following the performance, performers and VIPs were invited to a post concert reception, where the SCAS students presented Professor Mealor with an Aussie Akubra hat.

Students and staff also had the opportunity during their visit to explore the Big Apple, visiting all the iconic New York locations including Central Park, Times Square, the 9/11 Memorial and Museum, the new World Trade Centre and the Statue of Liberty.

Some students also attended performances of *Phantom of the Opera* at the Majestic Theatre, *Wicked* at the Gershwin Theatre, and even a service at the First Corinthian Baptist Church.

Anglicare Christmas Hamper Appeal

During Term 4 Clarence Valley Anglican School collated hamper items and new toys to donate to Anglicare North Coast for their Christmas Appeal.

All students in PK through to Year 12 were invited to donate items for those less fortunate than themselves and they put a lot of effort into collecting items they thought would be most useful and exciting for those in need.

The Appeal has been running at CVAS for the past three years now and has been growing in size each year.

The basis of being Anglican is all about caring for others and assisting those in need. This was a chance for students to put this into practice. It wasn't about the money spent, it was about donating an item to help someone else.

Over 1,000 items were donated to Anglicare at the CVAS Christmas Service at the Christ Church Cathedral on 7 December, 2018.

On 10 December, 2018 six Stage 3 Captains, along with Stage Co-ordinator, Mrs Samantha Miller assisted at the Anglicare Office.

They enthusiastically selected toys and allocated them to hampers being prepared for families in need.

The students remarked on how great they felt to be able to help in this way and are

keen to assist again in years to come.

Year 2V were presented with the Charity Shield this year from the Principal, Mr Oates, for collecting the most items as a class.

164 items were collated. Every item makes a difference and we thank the school community for the role they played in making this appeal possible.

THE GRINCH STEALS CHRISTMAS

Year 2 have fallen in with the Grinch this year! They read the story, watched two versions of the movie, wrote a character profile on him, painted portraits of the Grinch and made cute little Grinch pop stick puppets!

Year 2 also learned how to make paper snowflakes and how no two snowflakes are ever the same. We also had fun with glitter-making decorations!

CHRISTMAS-THEMED MUFTI DAY

Clarenza Campus students were able to wear mufti on the last Monday of school, the theme being of course "Christmas"! Together with the SRC BBQ \$125 was raised for Anglicare.



CHRISTMAS AROUND THE DIOCESE



Byron Bay

St Paul's Church, Byron Bay kicked-off their 2018 Christmas celebration at the fabulous resort of byron@byron. Each year the resort has hosted Christmas Carols and also provided food and drinks for the occasion. Guests and neighbours of the resort were also invited to this well-loved event. The choir was led by choir master, Marius Mulder, and accompanied by Brian Pamphilon. The guest enjoyed singing along to carols and the children were excited by a visit from Santa on a golf buggy.



Dorrigo

Advent Sunday saw a new approach at St Stephen's, Torrigo following on from John Roberto's challenge earlier on in the year to use the seasons of the year as opportunities for intergenerational worship. After opening songs and a bit of input on advent courtesy of YouTube, various craft activities were on offer including making an advent calendar, preparing an advent wreath and learning about the Jesse tree.



Bowraville

St James', Bowraville (part of the Nambucca Heads Parish) has an outreach ministry in conjunction with several members of the community called St Jimmy's Kitchen. They provide a meal once a month for anyone from the community and it relies on donations to keep this ministry happening. For the past four years the ministry has held a Christmas Day Lunch for anyone who wants to attend, supported generously by the community. 108 people attended the Christmas dinner.



Ballina

The Parish of Ballina welcomed a new addition to their Christmas scene last year with the arrival of a life-size camel. Rector of the parish, Archdeacon Matthew Jones, said the animals added to the reality of the Bethlehem stable scene, "We had a lot of fun trying to give the animals names. Jack is the favourite for the donkey and Molly for the cow, but we are still divided between Clyde and Clarissa for the camel." The challenge is now on as to how we can add to this exciting visual display in 2019.



Kingscliff

On December 23, leading into Christmas, 'KICK' - Kids in Church Kingscliff held a combined parish celebration with families. It was wonderful to see so many people attend, which included visitors holidaying to the area. The Nativity was acted out with great joy by children and adults.



Macksville

155 adults and children attended the Macksville Parish Annual Christmas Hymnfest, a service of Nine Lessons and Carols. Guests included the Member for Oxley, Melinda Pavey, Bishop Murray Harvey, and Mayor of the Nambucca Shire Council, Cr Rhonda Hoban. Music was provided by the Nambucca District Band.

Rev'd Zoe Everingham Retires



It was with love and blessings that the Parish of the Bellinger and the Bellinger Shire community farewelled Rev'd Zoe Everingham.

Rev'd Zoe announced in late November that she was retiring from full-time ministry and her last services would be on Christmas Day.

The parish and the wider community gathered for a service at St Margaret's Church, Bellinger on December 23 to thank God for Rev'd Zoe's ministry among us.

The church was full with well wishers from across the parish and the community.

After the service a Pot Luck luncheon was held. At this function Mrs Lesley Edwards, Rectors Warden, spoke on behalf of the parish and thanked Rev'd Zoe for her many gifts and talents she brought to the parish. The parish is all the richer for her ministry.

Mrs Leonie Sills, parish warden, presented Rev'd Zoe with gifts from the parish.

Several people from the community who gathered at the service spoke about the impact that Rev'd Zoe's ministry had on their organisation or personally.

It is with love and blessings that we say farewell to Rev'd Zoe and wish her all the best in her retirement.



Fourth Generation Wedding at Tyalgum

A special wedding was held in Tyalgum last year with Cathy marrying Alan Sinclair. Cathy is the fourth generation of girls married at Saint Johns in Tyalgum. First was Lloyd and Grace Johnson in 1945; second Ray and Marj Tagget in 1966; third Matthew and Joanne Blissett in 1987 and Fourth Alan and Cathy Sinclair 2018.

Farewell Rev'd Rachel Rynehart

By Yvonne Turner

150 parishioners and friends took part in a Service of Holy Communion to mark the end of Rev'd Rachel's Ministry at St Cuthbert's, Tweed Heads and the Diocese.

With the luxury of both Betty and Ross Johnson to provide the music, together with Rev'd Chad Rynehart and daughter Abigail singing during communion, the service was inspirational.

All emotions were experienced as our Rector celebrated the Eucharist with us for the final time and then returned each of the symbols back to the parish for safe keeping, including the Water of Baptism, Bread and Wine, The Bible, Holding Cross and Holy Oil, and the Strategic Plan. Each symbol was passed by Rev'd Rachel to one of the retired clergy, who are an integral part of the parish. They were then placed on the altar.

The Rector's Warden, Desley

Ryan, spoke of the wonderful services that all members of the parish had received from the Rector. In the good times and the difficult she was always available with her gentle and caring love. Her liturgical knowledge seemed to have no bounds, and with her guidance, we have all grown in our love of God.

The "Ritual of Release" was the final part of the ceremony with Archdeacon Gail Hagon giving the Rynehart family a blessing. On conclusion Rev'd Rachel Rynehart removed her stole and placed it on the altar before departing for the last time.

A wonderful luncheon for 150 people followed. To seat everyone, the help of Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar School was needed with extra tables, chairs and a large marquee.

Fr Matthew Smedley, from Bangalow Parish, spoke in glowing terms of how



Rev'd Rachel had influenced and challenged him with discussions about liturgical and dogma issues. It was wonderful to hear such accolades.

Rev'd Rachel plans to be a full time "mum" to Abigail, Isaac and Noah for the next few years. We do know however, that she will be back in some

way to continue to share the wonderful knowledge and skill she has. God Bless. We will miss you and your family.

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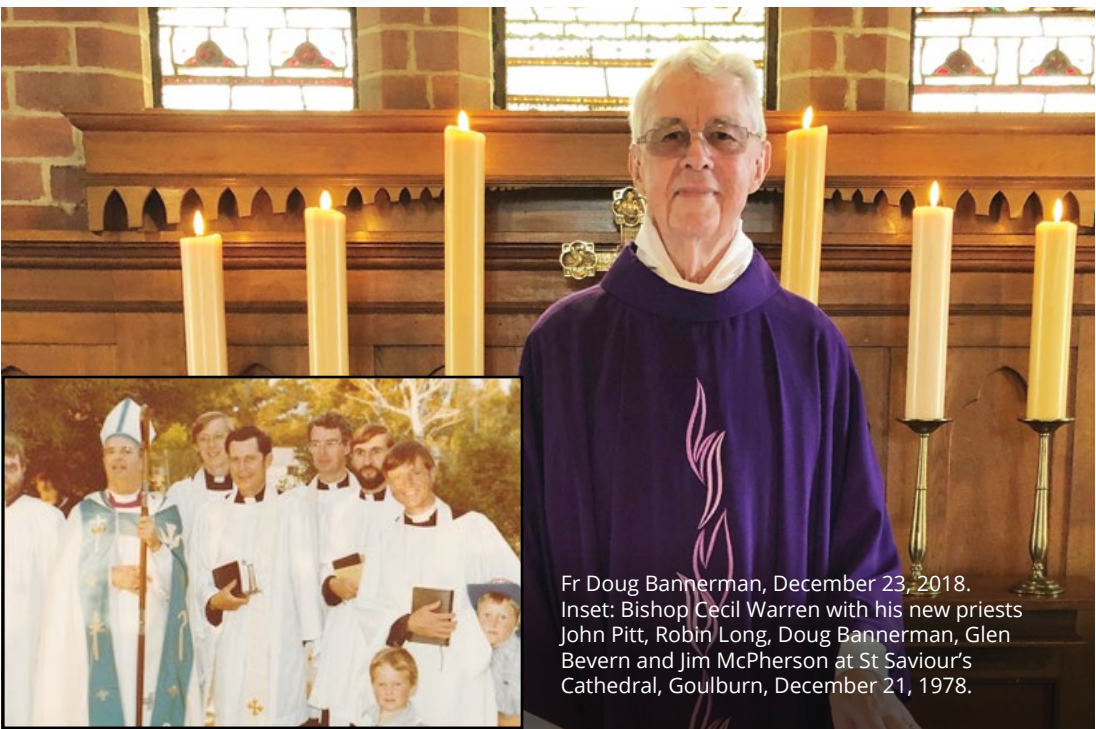
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Fr Doug Bannerman Celebrates 40 Years of Ordination

Fr Doug Bannerman was ordained for the Feast of St Thomas on December 21, 1978 by Bishop Cecil Warren at St Saviour's Cathedral, Goulburn. The Parish of Bangalow joined with Fr Doug in celebrating his 40th Anniversary with a joint Fourth Sunday of Advent and Feast of Thomas Eucharist on December 23, 2018 at which Fr Doug presided and preached. For Fr Doug, the apostle Thomas has greatly influenced and challenged his ordained life, particularly with the pursuit of truth (or belief), often reached by the way of doubt, and reflects his former life as an engineer. For Fr Doug, "faith, belief, trust and doubt are all words that legitimately belong to the quest of quests, that is to say, the search for God."

Fr Doug's ministry has been in the Dioceses of Canberra & Goulburn, Gippsland, and Grafton, and in the communities of Canberra, Gunning, Orbost and now Bangalow. Fr Doug as Honorary Associate Priest to the Parish of Bangalow presides and preaches on average once a month, with challenging homilies illuminated by literature (his Anniversary homily included the writings of Rabindranath Tagore, Les Murray, Markus Zusak, Mark Oakley, Richard Baxter, Rowan Williams and RS Thomas) and his enquiring engineering mind. We give thanks for his faithful and dedicated life as man and priest.



Fr Doug Bannerman, December 23, 2018. Inset: Bishop Cecil Warren with his new priests John Pitt, Robin Long, Doug Bannerman, Glen Bevern and Jim McPherson at St Saviour's Cathedral, Goulburn, December 21, 1978.


St Matthew's Op Shop Celebrates 25 Years

St Matthew's Anglican Op Shop, South Grafton has just celebrated its 25th birthday. The venture started off in a very tiny shop in November 1993 where they traded for approximately three years before moving to a much larger shop at 42 Skinner Street, South Grafton.

The Op Shop has been a wonderful blessing for the Parish both financially and being community connected. The parish expressed thanks and praise to God for the many blessings they have received through the volunteers and the generosity and support of the community.

Fr Don Ford was present at the Op Shop following the Christmas break to give the shop a blessing for the year ahead and for all that they have achieved over the past 25 years. Following the blessing birthday cake was served.





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SNAPSHOT



From left – Vicki Goulding, Chris Ryan, Rev'd Margaret Davis, Carol Brown, Meg Pickup, Chris Yardy, Joan Pickup, Gay Warburton, Fran Bourne, Judy McIntosh

The Cooking Group from St Mary's Ballina sat down to be waited on at a luncheon to celebrate the start of 2019. This will be the fourth year the group has been coming together on the second Friday of each month to cook and package around 70 nutritious meals for women and children who seek the services of the Hope Haven refuge.



The Lismore Parish Girls Night In held in October prompted the call for the men to do something. As a result it was decided for the men to do a pub crawl! This was no ordinary pub crawl for the 12 guys who practised singing carols for two weeks before embarking on a tour of Lismore pubs and restaurants holding donation buckets for the Winsome Hotel Christmas Dinner for the homeless.



Coffs Harbour Anglicans welcomed the Bishop on his first visit to the parish.



Service for Clarence Valley Anglican School at Grafton Cathedral.

IN BRIEF

APPOINTMENTS

The Rev'd Greg March has been appointed as Rector of the Parish of Kingscliff. His commissioning date is Friday 8 March at 6pm in Kingscliff.

RESIGNATION

The Rev'd Canon Judy Edwards has announced her resignation as Rector of the Parish of Casino. Judy's final services in the Parish will be on 24 February. Please pray for Judy and John and the Parish of Casino.

ANNIVERSARY

The Very Rev'd Dr Greg Jenks will celebrate the 40th anniversary of his ordination as a Priest on 11 February. To celebrate this milestone a service is being held at the Cathedral on that day at 5pm followed by refreshments. All are welcome.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

11 February – The Very Rev'd Dr Greg Jenks' anniversary celebration service at the Cathedral at 5pm.

22 February – Clergy Conference at South Grafton Ex-Servicemen's Club.

8 March – Commissioning Service for the Rev'd Greg March in Kingscliff.

9 March - Auction of Promises: Alstonville Anglicans are holding a charity auction on Saturday 9 March, to the benefit of Heartfelt House. The main event is an auction of promises - anything from a few hours help in the garden to a holiday overseas, and everything in between. A full supper will be provided (BYO refreshments) and light entertainment of various sorts. The event will be held on Saturday 9th March at 6.30pm at St Bartholomew's Ministry Hall, 6 The Avenue, Alstonville. Tickets are \$15 and obtainable at the Parish Office from the beginning of January. Come along and join the fun.

15 May – Anglicare 20th birthday celebration service in the Cathedral at 10am.



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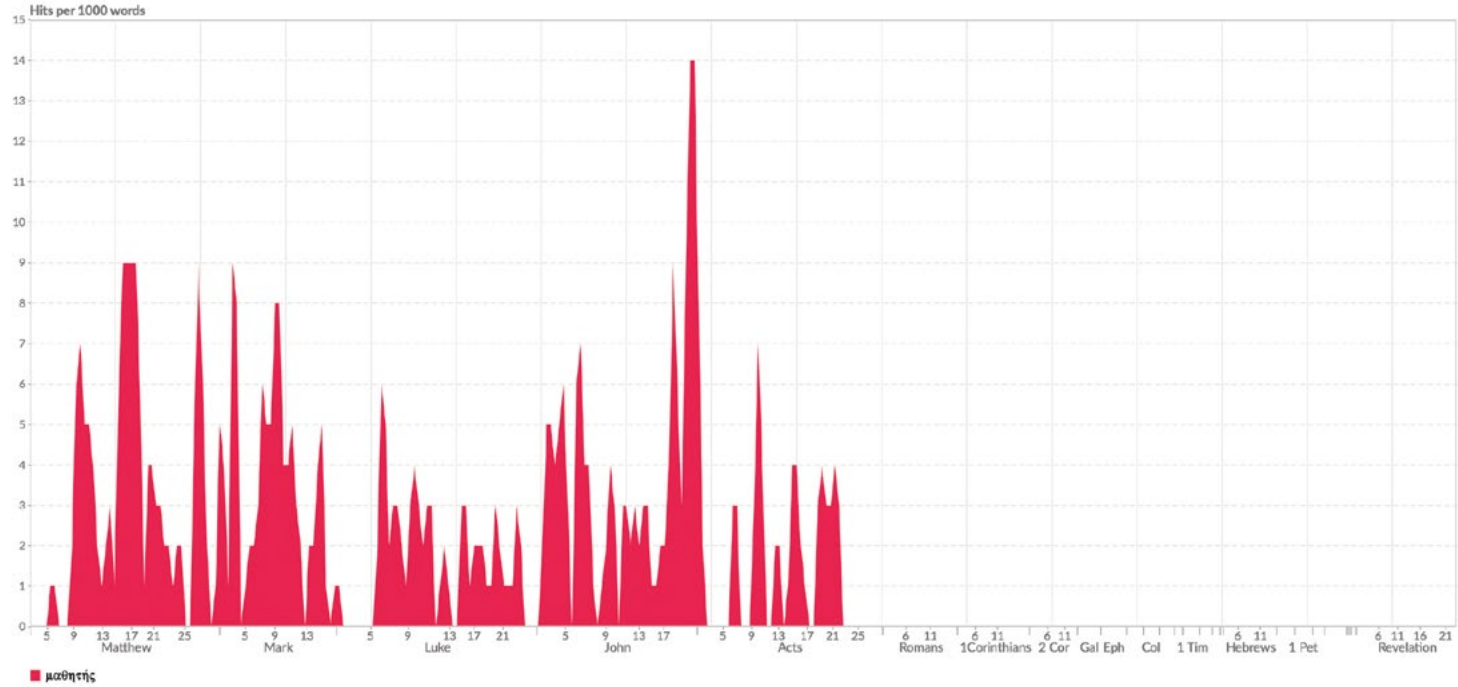
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Intentional Discipleship

By The Very Rev'd Dr Gregory C Jenks

In the liturgical afterglow of Advent and Christmas with all those special services and all that wonderful music, we pause and catch our breath. The season of Epiphany, like its more rigorous cousin Lent, invites us to reflect on the many ways that we encounter the God who reaches out to us and then to fashion our response to Emmanuel, God with us. We are invited into intentional discipleship, as distinct from an inherited religious identity. Discipleship is a word that is closely associated with Jesus and the responses people made to him on the other side of Calvary, before the Easter triumph transformed their views of his significance.

To my surprise when doing a recent word study in preparation for one of the Dean's Forums at the Cathedral, I discovered that this is not a word ever used by Paul. It is a term only found in the four NT gospels and in the Acts of the Apostles, written originally as part two of the Gospel of Luke (see graphic). The difference between the Gospels and the Epistles is stark. So to be a disciple is to be someone with an intentional relationship with Jesus. To have beliefs and opinions about Jesus is not the essence of discipleship, even though disciples will have beliefs and opinions that matter deeply to us. An intentional relationship with Jesus? That would be a continuous Epiphany experience as we discover more and more about God's loving and compassionate purposes for



the universe, including our own selves. That would be a lifelong commitment to shape our lives around the beliefs and practices that mattered to Jesus. That would be to engage in compassionate action to bring the effective reign of God into the lived experience of our families, friends and local communities. An intentional relationship with Jesus is going to be about practice (what we do and how we treat people) more than with ideas (what we believe and how we explain our faith to others). As the practical Christian wisdom found in the Letter of James puts it, "Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith." (*James 2:18*) As Anglicans we are blessed with a rich heritage of spiritual practices that can be embraced as we commit to intentional

discipleship. Some of them (like Baptism) are a once in a lifetime event, while others are practices that we can use regularly in our own spiritual disciplines. Gathering with other believers for the Lord's Supper is perhaps the first and greatest spiritual discipline for anyone who is serious about intentional discipleship. We need to ensure that our weekly Eucharistic gatherings are engaging and transformative, and not simply a case of going through the motions. What we celebrate in the Eucharist is the saving presence of God in Jesus and among us. Our liturgies should express that dynamic reality. Prayer is at the heart of intentional discipleship. At its most basic level, this means we cultivate mindfulness: we are attentive to the presence of Christ within us, in others, and around us. Our personal and collective rituals can help us develop and sustain our

mindfulness, and from that will flow a deeper experience of prayer in all its forms: contemplation, thanksgiving, protest, and intercession. Deep engagement with the Scriptures is another of the core spiritual disciplines for anyone who is serious about intentional discipleship. The church already offers many patterns for daily and weekly attention to Scripture, and there is no shortage of Bible reading plans online and in your local Christian bookstore. As the fitness gear retailers constantly remind us: just do it. Eucharist, prayer and Bible reading are the big three spiritual disciplines for intentional discipleship, but there are many more. These include cell groups, compassionate action for justice and environmental stewardship, fasting, labyrinth, pilgrimage, preparing a rule of life, sacrificial distribution of our own resources for mission, spiritual direction,

and volunteering our time for church and community projects. Which of these spiritual disciplines we embrace depends on our circumstances and perhaps our personalities, but the call to intentional discipleship is universal. Imagine the transformation in our mission as a Diocese and in the communities we serve if every North Coast Anglican was actively engaged in intentional discipleship.

MORE...

A video of the Dean presenting a session on intentional discipleship as part of the My Faith My Life My Church program at Grafton Cathedral is available on the Cathedral website www.graftoncathedral.org.au/my-faith-my-life-my-church

THREADS LAID BARE

Trees – Guardians of Ancestral Knowledge

By Rev'd Camellia Flanagan

Our ancestors depended on trees for existence, for nourishment in berries and fruit, timber for dwellings and firewood for light and warmth. They also relied on precious distillations for remedies to cure diseases. To ancient civilisations, trees were mysterious, silent sentinels and perhaps guardians of ancestral knowledge. Because of their long life, people considered them as ancient people and since the dawn

of time trees have been revered and given powers of communication between various levels of existence. Now of course recent discoveries have indicated webs of communicating fungi in ancient forests actually do communicate with linked herbage. Trees feature prominently in religious art and often in the background of stained glass pictorial windows and many are mentioned in the Bible. The cedar of Lebanon Cedrus libani was used in the building of the

temple in Jerusalem. Abraham pitched his tent under an oak or terebinth trees both of which provide dense shade near Hebron and met with two angels under the shade of this tree. Trees are large woody plants with their roots firmly established in the ground with lush tops soaring towards the sky seemingly to the clouds. In the minds of our ancestors, trees possessed mystery and had a way to connect to the underworld below the earth and to the Gods above. Many

religions of the past include myths about trees. Ancient Egyptians believed that the goddess nut shed water of immortality on the soul of the dead from a Sycamore tree. The tree of life is a universal image that even today is a popular jewellery design as a symbol of a fresh start and immortality. Greek myths are rich in references to trees; the golden apples in the garden of Hesperides which gave immortality, the olive tree sacred to Athena, the laurel

and cypress dear to Apollo. The cypress, born from the metamorphosis of the young Cypris by Apollo has always been a symbol of mourning and eternity and cypress trees are found growing around graveyards and sometimes in church grounds. As we look at great trees near us can we rejoice the work of our Creator and oppose unnecessary destruction of great trees.

Passing of the baton at St Cuthbert's Retirement Living?

Negotiations have begun for a transfer of ownership of St Cuthbert's Retirement Living Complexes Inc, Tweed Heads, from the Anglican Church to Adventist Senior Living (ASL). ASL is a not-for-profit community outreach by the Seventh Day Adventist Church of Australia. It operates extensive not-for-profit self and residential care facilities for older people at four locations in NSW. These include a 51 bed residential care for the aged facility and 84 self-care units at Alstonville. Negotiations for a possible change of ownership have been confirmed by Chair of St Cuthbert's Board of Directors, Mr Lindsay Walker. "The suitability of ASL is quite obvious. ASL is a large, professionally run, not-for-profit, Christian organisation with a long-term, proven record in providing self and residential care for older people," Mr Walker said. "We have been both encouraged and satisfied with the personal responses and assessments which we have received when I made enquiries of the ASL Alstonville facility." "The Board believes that a transfer of ownership to ASL will provide a continuity of services, facilities and

conditions comparable to that which our residents have received for many years." "The possible change of ownership has been discussed with all St Cuthbert's residents and conveyed to members of the Anglican Parish of Tweed Heads, Mr Walker said. "There are several reasons the board has decided to seek a transfer of ownership of St Cuthbert's to ASL:

- Strategic planning required for facilities such as St Cuthbert's has becoming an increasingly lengthy and difficult process;
- The regulatory nature of such an undertaking calls for extensive expertise, professional skills and a great deal of time;
- Board members, with whom these responsibilities rest, are unpaid and the workload upon them is heavy and increasing;
- Many board members are of senior years and finding replacements for them in what would be an arduous role is virtually impossible.

"Our decision to consider a possible change of ownership was taken only after months of serious thought, information gathering and discussion.



"Expressions of interest were sought from any party interested in assuming the management and ownership of St Cuthbert's. "This took months of planning with some offers not being suitable. "The Board is not prepared to allow any change of ownership which might cause

St Cuthbert's to become a completely different place in which to live. "Should an offer by ASL be accepted, it will mean St Cuthbert's will remain a not-for-profit, Christian undertaking and will maintain the ministry initiated by the Anglican Church. "We have excellent staff here

at St Cuthbert's and the Board understands they will be retained should ownership be transferred. "I have spoken personally with residents, answered their questions, and assured them that life under ASL management will be similar to that which they have enjoyed with us."

PRAYING WITH THE SAINTS

John of God – Working Among the Sick and Poor

By Rev'd Camellia Flanagan
DIED SPAIN 1550
FEAST DAY 8 MARCH
John was born in Portugal and lived for a time in Spain and Hungary. He was separated from his parents at age eight and lived in poverty, later working as a poor shepherd. For years he lived a life of sin and suffering until a spiritual experience led him to embrace humility, poverty and charity. He gave up Christian life and worked as a soldier, but at age 40 the consequences of his sin persuaded him to change. He decided to give the rest of his life to God's service and became what would today be

described as a fanatic. He went to Africa hoping to free captive Christians and looked forward to martyrdom. He was advised that this desire was not spiritually well-founded and returned to Spain finding work in a religious goods store. He embarked on a period of public penance beating himself and claiming repentance after he had heard a sermon of St John of Avila. In consequence, he was committed to a mental hospital and was visited by St John who suggested he be more actively involved in tending to the needs of others. He returned to Portugal and searched for

his parents, discovering that his mother had died, broken-hearted after the loss of her son, and his father had become a Franciscan monk. John gained peace of heart and began to work among the poor. He established a house and tended to the needs of the sick poor, doing his own begging to cover costs. People began to donate money and provisions after being inspired by John's devotion and work. Among his supporters were the Archbishop and Marquis of Tarfia. John's outward acts of total concern came from a deep interior prayer life which

was reflected in his spirit of humility. His work and genuine concern attracted helpers who 20 years after John's death formed the Brothers Hospitallers, which is now a world-wide religious order often called the Brothers of Saint John of God. He became ill after 10 years of service, began to organise the hospital's administration and appointed a leader for his helpers. He died when he was 55-years-old. St John of God's life is impressive. He considered his insignificance in the face of God and the Lord blessed him with the gifts of prudence,

patience, courage, enthusiasm and the ability to influence and inspire others. He realised that his early life had rejected the Lord, and receiving his mercy and forgiveness he began a new life following the footsteps of Christ in his commitment to love others in openness and acceptance just as he had experienced Christ's acceptance in his own life. "If we stop to think – how great is the mercy of God, we would never cease doing all the good we can, for while we, on our side, for the love of Him, give to the poor what he gives us." (LD.12) from *The Thoughts of St John of God.* – David Toohey)

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."

ANGLICARE NORTH COAST CONNECTION

Anglicare North Coast To Celebrate 20 Years

In May this year, Anglicare North Coast will celebrate 20 years of service to the community of the Diocese of Grafton. This is a significant milestone and definitely worthy of a celebration.

There will be opportunity for everyone in the Diocese to join in with our celebration. Over the month of May, all parishes and schools will be invited to host an Anglicare Celebration Service. All resources will be provided to assist you in this service and, where possible, we will send one of our team to your service. We are planning to have a short video produced to highlight our history and dreams for the future. This video will be available to play during the celebration services.

A special service will be held at the Cathedral at 10am on Wednesday May 15 and all are invited to attend. The service will be followed by cutting

of the birthday cake and refreshments.

Invitations to host an Anglicare Celebration Service will shortly be sent out to all Ministry Units, but meanwhile, please choose a suitable day in May and reserve it for a special Anglicare service.

Further details will be provided direct to each parish and school. We look forward to your participation in celebrating this important milestone.

LOOKING BACK

Some of you will remember our 10th birthday dinner, held during Synod of 2009. It was a great celebration and it's hard to believe it happened almost 10 years ago. Many people have been assisted since then and we look forward to continuing to assist those in need.



Pictured below are Rev'd George Markotsis, inaugural Executive Officer of Anglicare North Coast, and his wife Jane, cutting the 10th birthday cake.

Schools generosity leads to a brighter Christmas for many families

Another Christmas season has been and gone and, for the Emergency Relief team at Anglicare North Coast, that means the annual Christmas Hamper drive was upon us.

Thanks to the ongoing hard work and generosity of the families of the Clarence Valley Anglican School and Emmanuel College Ballina, the team were able to make up hampers, crammed full of festive food, pantry items and brand new toys, for distribution to families in the region who are facing disadvantage.

This year the team were assisted by our regular Christmas volunteers and, for the first time, by a team of highly motivated students from the Clarence Valley Anglican College. It made a huge difference to what is a fairly daunting task of packing the hampers up for our families.



The newly minted school volunteer team

We were also lucky to receive a substantial donation of toys from Big W, passed on to us by On Track Community Programs. With those toys, we were able to participate in the Christmas party in

the Jubullum community, ensuring 75 goody-bags were made up for the children there. The Acting CEO of Jubullum said it was the best party they have ever had. When we first were



distributing hampers 10 years ago, we handed out around 10 or 12. This year, because of all the donations, 76 families, including 140 children woke up on Christmas morning to something extra just for

them. It was an extraordinary effort from all those involved and we feel privileged to be part of that effort. We now need the next 12 months off to recover and prepare for Christmas Hampers 2019!



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AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOUNDATION

AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOUNDATION DONATIONS

Our mission is to provide appropriate, affordable accommodation to disadvantaged persons throughout the North Coast of NSW. To donate or for further information please view our website or contact our office.

ALL DONATIONS TO ANGLICARE NORTH COAST OVER \$2.00 ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE AND ARE USED TO HELP US FULFIL OUR MISSION