

MAGAZINE OF THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF GRAFTON, NEW SOUTH WALES

NORTH COAST ANGLICAN

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We Will Rise

REFLECTING ON A SUMMER OF BUSHFIRES

FROM THE BISHOP

In Genesis human life begins as an intimate gift breathed from the mouth of God into the earth creature's nostrils, "and the human became a living being" (*Genesis 2:7*). God has an intimate relationship to his world and his people, and grieves over the death of his servants (*Psalms 116:15*). Many human lives were lost in the recent bushfire emergency, and I'm sure that God grieved as he saw our pain and suffering. There was also a great loss of wildlife and of forests. Thousands of homes and businesses were destroyed. In the midst of a disaster that seemed to go on for months, we would have been justified in using poet Emily Dickinson's prayer:

*At least – to pray – is left, is left –
Oh Jesus – in the Air –
I know not which thy chamber is –
I'm knocking everywhere –*

*Thou settest Earthquake in the South –
And Maelstrom in the Sea –
Say, Jesus Christ of Nazareth –
Hast thou no arm for me?*

I spend a lot of time on the road. On the Summerland Way between Grafton and Casino, and on the Pacific Highway north of Maclean, I've been encouraged and even surprised at the speed with which the grasses and trees have sprouted with new life. Broken lives and communities won't heal quite so quickly, yet our flora teaches us a spiritual lesson about resurrection. A truth that the Indigenous people of Australia have known for millennia is that in the forest and on the plains, the fire is not the end. A tree, which to me looks totally burnt out and finished, will quickly bring forth new life. As Sydney Rector, Michael Jensen, wrote in a newspaper article during the Sydney fires in December, "We may feel abandoned, but in Bethlehem long ago burst forth a green shoot, in whom is new life, even from the dead soil."

In some ways, new life even occurs while the fire still burns. I saw it in the self-giving sacrifice and service of so many volunteers and emergency workers who risked their lives to save others, their property and the wildlife. In our own communities in Grafton Diocese many volunteered through Anglicare, parishes and other organisations to assist evacuees and the homeless. While it seems that these kinds of extreme fire conditions may occur more frequently in the future, at least with recent rains the fire crisis is over for now. We can step back, evaluate and give thanks to God and to those through whom he worked to bring comfort and safety.

+Murray



NORTH COAST ANGLICAN

Transforming lives through Jesus Christ

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An Indian Adventure

BY BISHOP MURRAY HARVEY

In January, my son Lauchie and I travelled to Kolkata in the Indian state of West Bengal. While this was a personal holiday – Lauchie’s end of Year 12 trip – we had been invited to stay with the Bishop of Calcutta at Bishop’s House in the city of Kolkata. This Church of North India Diocese still uses the original name of the city and diocese: Calcutta. Under British rule, Calcutta was the capital so it has some beautiful old buildings from the time of the British Raj, including the Victoria Memorial (known affectionately as Kolkata’s Taj Mahal) and St Paul’s Cathedral. It is now a city of about 14.5 million people. As this was our first visit to India we were confronted by the sheer number of people, the crazy traffic, the smells, colours and noise.

In such a huge city, with many of its inhabitants living in poverty, it is not surprising that the church is actively involved in ministry amongst the disadvantaged. This is also true for the Roman Catholic Church, which still runs a significant ministry through Mother Theresa’s Missionaries of Charity. It was a privilege to visit Mother Theresa’s Mother House in Calcutta which thousands of pilgrims visit each year. Many stay for a few weeks at the Mother House in order to do voluntary work in different parts of the city.

The Bishop of Calcutta, The Right Rev’d Paritosh Canning, not only hosted us at Bishop’s House, but also arranged for us to visit many of the ministry units of the diocese. Nothing could have prepared us for our visit to the Arunima Hospice for children suffering from HIV/AIDS. Although it was an informal visit, we were warmly received with a concert by the children in our honour. Despite their sufferings, they were happy and grateful for the care they are receiving. To say that we were humbled by this visit is an understatement. We

also visited a hostel for poor children from rural areas, that allows them access to a Diocesan junior school on the same site and to a government secondary school nearby. We also visited two Diocesan K-12 schools. While we found the lack of resources and large class sizes to be confronting by our Australian standards, what the students didn’t lack was a true gratefulness for the gift of an education. Having both received a fairly privileged education in Australia we were suddenly conscious of what we had so far mostly taken for granted. The Diocese also runs the Sister Florence College of Nursing, which offers a three-year course training young women as Registered Nurses, accredited by the University of Calcutta. Mrs Bose, an experienced senior nurse of long standing who is currently the Principal, showed us around the college. They too struggle with limited funding and resources, but have a good reputation and their graduates are highly sought after. We were taken to one parish that runs a TB (tuberculosis) Clinic as an outreach. Once again, they are able to meet a high demand through the work of dedicated and faithful staff but with very limited resources.

A real sense of history came with our visit to St John’s Old Cathedral, from which the Church of England in Australia was once administered when Australia was an Archdeaconry of the Diocese of Calcutta. This was before the formation of the Diocese of Australia under Bishop Broughton in 1836. I remembered that the Grafton Bishop’s Cope has the coat of arms of Calcutta Diocese on the front to commemorate this link. On Sunday 12 January (the Baptism of Christ) I was invited to Preside and Preach at St Thomas’ Church, Mirza Ghalib Street, near Kolkata’s famous New Market. Here I was pleased to meet Fr Andrew Simick. In conversation we discovered that his daughter lives in Grafton Diocese and worships at Kempsey Parish. A small world!

We did quite a few “touristy” things as well both in Kolkata and beyond, but the lasting memories of the trip will be the generous hospitality we received at Bishop’s House as well as the ministries we witnessed around the city. Lauchie starts university in Brisbane this semester and I have returned to my responsibilities as Bishop, but our lives have been changed by our visit to India. I have been invited to return on an official visit sometime to foster meaningful connections between our Dioceses in areas such as professional development for clergy and parish ministry.



Bishop Murray with Mrs Bose, Principal of the Nursing School, Lauchie and Mr Francis, Director of the Oxford Mission.



It's a matter of life and death and life!

BY ARCHDEACON MATTHEW JONES

One of the great joys I experienced during my time of living in Germany was to celebrate Easter in Spring. The resurrection story had a different feeling when I was surrounded by signs of new life. I remember the median strip on the road near my flat had grass on it, and during the Spring season a whole lot of yellow flowers appeared all along the centre of this very busy road. The parks were filled with colour as the daffodils and many other flowers sprang up in the gardens and along the edges of the footpaths. The transformation from Winter to Spring was such that I had never experienced in Australia, and it spoke to me of resurrection and new life.

The other thing that I discovered was a whole new appreciation for Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*. I have always loved this piece of music, but I never fully appreciated it until I began living in a place where the four seasons were so clearly different. I began to feel the changing seasons as the music played and it gave me a new insight into something that I then realised I had only understood in a very small way.

Experiencing what it is like to live in a country where the four seasons are so different has had a profound

effect on my faith. It has shown me, through nature, that the cycles of life and death can be beautiful. Watching leaves change colour from green to brown and then watching them fall to the ground, leaving a bare tree with brown branches has a beauty of its own. The leaves died but I knew that the next year, new leaves would appear. Nature showed me that after life comes death and after death comes life.

The leaves died but I knew that the next year, new leaves would appear. Nature showed me that after life comes death and after death comes life.

Please don't misunderstand me. I already knew this on many levels, but I discovered something deeper and more inviting as I lived through this new experience. I discovered

that much of what I believed by faith was also being demonstrated in nature. The cycle of life and death and new life was all around me. The Easter story of death and resurrection unfolded in a richer way than I had experienced in all the previous Easter celebrations.

Finding something beautiful in death may seem strange to some people, but this is what I discovered. It was like God gave me a message to show me that death and life are joined as one in a natural, and dare I say it, sometimes beautiful way. Death can be scary and even ugly in some of its dimensions, but what follows is where the beauty is found. The joy of resurrection is something that we proclaim each Easter and I feel that



my European experience has highlighted that joy in a new way. The acclamation “Christ is risen, alleluia!” now has a new energy and a deeper meaning.

Many years ago, a very faithful member of my parish died suddenly. I went to see her in hospital just before she died and anointed her and prayed with her and her family. She died not long after we had prayed. The nursing staff asked us to leave the room for a few minutes so they could remove the breathing tubes and machines. When we came back into the room, the look on her face is something I will never forget. She had a huge smile and it was like she was saying to all of us, “The things we talked about Jesus and resurrection, and all that we hoped and prayed for in our services. It’s true!” This was such a moment of beauty in the midst of a very sad time, and as I reflect back on this, in the light of my new experience of Easter in Europe, I can sense much beauty in this death.

This Easter, as many of us will be singing hymns about resurrection, I invite us all to look for the beauty and joy that can be found in the lyrics. Lines such as “death has lost its sting”, and “now the green blade rises”, remind us that, by Jesus conquering death, we can find beauty and joy, even in the midst of death.

After life comes death and after death comes life. Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Easter Service Times

BALLINA

Shrove Tuesday: 6pm, Lennox Head A service to prepare the ashes, followed by a pancake feast

Ash Wednesday: 7am & 10am Ballina Imposition of ashes; 8.30am Lennox Head: Imposition of ashes

Weekly from 3 March: 9am and 5.30pm Ballina Fie Lenten contemplations

Palm Sunday: 7am & 10am Ballina Holy Communion; 8.30am Lennox Head: Holy Communion; 11.30am, Lennox Head Palm Sunday Refugee Rally, with Ballina Region For Refugees

Maundy Thursday: 7.30pm Ballina Tenebrae Service of Shadows with Holy Communion From 8.30pm Vigil watch through the night

Good Friday: 8.30am Lennox Head Good Friday service (no Holy Communion); 10am Ballina Good Friday service (no Holy Communion); 3pm Ballina A reflection on the Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday: 3.30-6pm Lennox Head Silent meditation and reflection on ‘Holy Darkness: between what is and what shall be’

Easter Day: 7am & 10am Ballina Holy Communion; 8.30am Lennox Head Holy Communion

BELLINGER

Maundy Thursday: 5pm St Margarets Bellingen

Good Friday: 9am St Barnabas Urunga

Easter Sunday: 7am Urunga on the Foreshore (If raining: St Barnabas Urunga); 10am St Margarets Bellingen

CLARENCE VALLEY ANGLICAN SCHOOL

April 9: 9.30am at Christ Church Cathedral

DORRIGO

April 6: 9am Morning Prayer

April 7: 9am Morning Prayer

April 8: 9am Morning Prayer followed by Lenten Bible Study 9.30am

Maundy Thursday: Roast Lamb Passover Supper in the Hall 6pm followed by informal Agape Communion

Good Friday: All Age Service 9am

Easter Day: 7.30am Holy Communion; 10am All Age Celebration with Communion

GRAFTON CATHEDRAL

Ash Wednesday: 7am, 10am, 6pm

Services During Lent: 9am Sundays, 10am Wednesdays
Chrism Mass (1 April)
Palm Sunday (5 April)
Maundy Thursday (9 April)
Good Friday (10 April)
Easter Eve (11 April)
Easter Day (12 April)

MACKSVILLE

Palm Sunday: Service 8:30am Holy Trinity, Macksville; 4pm All Saints, Stuarts Point

Maundy Thursday: 7pm Holy Trinity Macksville

Good Friday: 8:30am Holy Trinity Macksville

Easter Sunday: 8:30am Holy Trinity Macksville; 4pm All Saints Stuarts Point

MACLEAN

April 10: Good Friday 8am Yamba; 10am Maclean; 10am Iluka

April 12: Easter Day 8am Yamba; 10am Maclean; 3pm Iluka

MID RICHMOND

Good Friday: 8am Service St John’s Church Evans Head

NAMBUCCA HEADS

Maundy Thursday: 7pm Christ in the Passover

Good Friday: 9am Good Friday Liturgy

Easter Sunday: 6am Sunrise Liturgy at The Lookout; 8am Holy Communion - Nambucca Heads; 10am Holy Communion - Bowraville

PORT MACQUARIE

Good Friday: 8am Traditional St Thomas; 10am Contemporary St Thomas

Easter Sunday: 7:30 St Thomas; 9am St Thomas; 10:30 Trinity Family Service

TWEED HEADS

Maundy Thursday: 5:30pm Agape Meal followed by Service and Watch

Good Friday: 9am Stations of the Cross

Easter Sunday: 6am Easter Vigil; 9am Easter Celebration

From The Ashes We Will Rise

The summer of 2019 will forever be known as the year that Australia was devastated by the worst wildfires seen in decades. Photos of bushfires ravaging our states, satellite images of a sunburnt country and “fires near me” imagery overwhelmed our social feeds. Families tuned into the news day and night to find out what was happening both on a local and national scale.

Record-breaking temperatures and months of severe drought have fuelled a series of massive bushfires across Australia. Although recent cooler conditions and rain have brought some respite, many are still reeling in the aftermath.

We have lost lives, including fire fighters, and more than 11 million hectares (110,000 sq km or 27.2 million acres) of bush, forest and parks across Australia has burned.

But despite the devastation and constant battering, what we, and the rest of the world, saw was that true sense of the Australian comradery, community and compassion. *North Coast Anglican* shares some of the stories of our Diocesan churches, schools and agencies as we strive on in strength and rise from the ashes.

CLARENCE VALLEY ANGLICAN SCHOOL

Late last year when the bush fire emergency was declared in the Clarence Valley, CVAS swung into action to help bring some relief to our tireless RFS workers and those affected by the devastating fires.

Year 10 did a brilliant job at their annual Community Service Day, mulching, paving, cleaning and cooking up a storm. All food was donated to the Grafton Evacuation Centre and the Fire Incident Centre. The students worked tirelessly all day and felt a great sense of achievement.

Both campuses also held student “mufti” days in the last few weeks of term to raise funds for the bush fire appeal. The Clarenza Campus raised approximately \$800 and the Cathedral Campus donated food items to the Salvos Bushfire Appeal.





GRAFTON FIRE EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The bushfires came with a relentless ferocity in the northern parts of our state early this summer, and the Cathedral was there to help. How so, you may ask, given that most of the worst hit communities were quite a long way from Grafton?

The first thing that we did was free up our then Associate Minister for Children, Families and Youth, Roz Rogers, to play an active role in her capacity as a Disaster Recovery Chaplain. Within a handful of days after doing her training the fires got serious and she was deployed far and wide from Rappville and Ewingar in our north to Dundarrabin and Dorrigo to the south. Little did we realise this was just an introduction to the massive disaster which struck a community much closer to Grafton.

Nymboida caught alight. Home to so many of our Cathedral community's family and friends, a place that so many of us have close connections to. Nymboida was evacuated to Grafton in the early hours a couple of months ago, and the people started pouring into the Grafton Evacuation Centre where Roz was doing her bit. Due to the shortage of properly trained disaster chaplains, she continued to do her bit almost around the clock for four days, all by herself, until relief chaplains could be brought in from Sydney.

When it gets right down to it, this has been a tough time, but it is also such a blessing to see how open-hearted our Cathedral and wider Grafton community is when the chips are down.

However, it is not just Roz who was putting in the hard yards at the Evacuation Centre. Our Cathedral community has so many people who volunteer with the likes of Red Cross and Anglicare. They too were doing their bit to help the evacuees and give as much comfort and support as they could. Our Op Shop also played an important part in helping those who had escaped with nothing. They were all welcomed in and given what they needed. The mobilisation was impressive! The care and concern was full of love and grace.

After the initial evacuation phase was over and people began returning to what was left in Nymboida (not much), we quickly realised that there was a pressing need for tools. So many sheds and workshops had burned down, and with them went also their contents. So, via our Cathedral Facebook page and other local community Facebook pages, we put the call out for tools. People responded so generously, and we are still receiving donations which are being ferried out to Nymboida to help in their recovery. When it gets right down to it, this has been a tough time, but it is also such a blessing to see how open-hearted our Cathedral and wider Grafton community is when the chips are down.



MACKSVILLE ANGLICAN CHURCH

With an official count of 68 dwellings lost, plus loss of grassland, water, fodder, fences, machinery and other buildings, the challenge has been how to help a maximum number of people in a meaningful way, ie. to get the “biggest bang for the buck”. To achieve this, Macksville Parish decided to focus on helping the children of bushfire impacted families, care of the animals, and supporting those who are in the field helping to rebuild fences, ie. Blaze Aid. A major concern of many of the people impacted by the fires is the welfare of their animals. Some were going hungry in order to feed their dogs and animals. Targeting the children, animals and helpers has supported needs otherwise not considered.

So far, a total of \$17,000 acquired from donations to Anglican Aid and from Bush Church Aid has been expended. Recipients of support include:

- A Bushfire Relief Scholarship Fund set up with the Local High School to assist students from impacted families with school fees, excursion costs, uniforms, etc;
- Funding for a Council administered Colouring Competition for children impacted by bushfires with all entrants receiving cinema tickets;
- Purchase of five battery operated STIHL chainsaws and six loppers presented to Blaze Aid;
- Vouchers redeemable at the local Rural Supplies for purchase of fodder, dog food, weed spray, and fencing materials; and
- Pallet of bottled water purchased as half share with Woolworths.

ANGLICARE NORTH COAST

Owen Gray, Anglicare North Coast Disaster Recovery Manager recently held a “Bushfires debrief meeting” with team leaders from Lismore, Casino, Murwillumbah.

The following points of interest came from the meeting: All teams agreed that this was an unprecedented activation period and that all teams were stretched to the maximum to provide volunteers to multiple Evacuation Centres. The lengthy duration of the Activations were very taxing on those available.

However, all of the teams expressed positive comments about their experiences, under trying conditions. The networking and information sharing between the different teams was very beneficial. All the Team Leaders were thankful for the support available to them 24/7.

We must all act on building up DR Teams, to meet future activations and the increasing frequency and duration experienced recently. Training has been scheduled for new recruits in late February to increase Team numbers.

Earlier in the day, volunteers from the Lower Clarence DR Team assisted in packaging up boxes of “care bags” and other resources. These supplies of donated items will enable Teams to have these resources on hand from the start of an activation.

Owen is preparing training for new people willing to join their local team to assist with future activations. Training is a necessary first step for any new volunteer. Please talk to your local team leader or contact Owen on 0429 329 777 to register your interest.



PORT MACQUARIE ANGLICAN CHURCH

St Thomas' Church opened its doors as a bushfire gathering hub over the summer. They welcomed people to stay, bring their pets, or just to get a coffee or tea and some food and chat if they're feeling a bit anxious where they were.

On one occasion they opened a soup kitchen fit to feed the whole town if they needed it.

"It's great to see this generous, "open doors" approach, with the soup kitchen, Orange Sky Laundry, youth engagement, op shop and sharing of facilities for community events/gatherings, Port Anglican has become an example of how a modern church should be part of a community. Well done. Pats on backs," Ven Stuart Webb said.

ORARA VALLEY ANGLICAN PARISH

The Orara Valley Anglican Parish area was affected by local bush fires from 11 to 13 November 2019. Various farm sheds, a few houses, fences and a lot of bush were burnt out and destroyed.

Orara Parish, comprising of three small churches Coramba, Nana Glen and Glenreagh, generously donated \$5000 for those affected people. Also \$1000 was donated in October 2019 towards the Dorrigo region that was fire affected.

DORRIGO ANGLICAN CHURCH

Blaze-Aid volunteers spent weeks repairing fences, properties and more after the Bees' Nest Fire of September, October and November which ravaged huge areas from Ebor to Bostobrick, Dundurrabin, Billy's Creek and beyond.

Dorrigo Anglicans supported numerous appeals for finance, food, accomodation, clothing and other goods, including a month-long fundraiser through direct church giving.

It is great to see various types of fundraising and practical support are contributing across the Plateau.

A major concern of many of the people impacted by the fires is the welfare of their animals. Some were going hungry in order to feed their dogs and animals.

Pictures L-R: Blaze-Aid volunteers repairing fences, Ven Stuart Webb sets up beds at Port Anglican, Anglicare volunteers, Rev'd Clyde Appleby presenting five chainsaws to Blaze Aid.



A Fresh Way To Tell The Christmas Story

And It Works!

BY VIVIAN HOSKINS

Have we run out of fresh ways to tell the Jesus story? Are we bogged down in repetition? The same old stuff.

Apparently not, according to a combined churches Christmas initiative at Dorrigo, a village of 1,000 people near the edge of the Great Dividing Range south west of Coffs Harbour.

Was it all by the Anglicans, all for the Anglicans? No, it wasn't actually. It was a combined affair with one small church community playing a major role.

Faced with the age old, forever recurring tradition of "Community Christmas Carols" the Children of Doz (better known as the Inter Church Council) came up with something ancient and something new.

The ancient, of course, was the carol singing; but that started much later, after dusk and under a strangely smoke free sky (and three months of bush fires). What happened earlier was the new and it was an eye opener.

Led by members of the Seventh Day Adventist Church, a Walk to Bethlehem was the feature presentation and 20 minute moveable teach-a-thon that lost no one.

Dotted around the church's grounds were small "live" scenes, vignettes, demonstrating each aspect or chapter of the story of the First Christmas, the Nativity.

Men, women and children, suitably dressed, were living, moving representations of Mary and Joseph on their way to Bethlehem. (The donkey actually was a horse, but donkeys are pretty rare on the Plateau).

Then there were the shepherds, the angels, the stable, animals, the Holy Family, the Magi... the whole Christmas story each fully alive, costumed and each telling another chapter of Jesus' birth and early life, right up to wicked King Herod and his 'orrible 'enchmen.

The scores of people attending what they thought would be stand alone carol singing, were led, by a narrator, from one scene to another stopping to hear the meaning of each vignette in simple, every day language.

The pilgrimage included some interesting "extras", a very shy shepherd boy, a highly unsuccessful beggar, and Bethlehem townspeople who offered their visitors (members of the crowd) a variety of tasty nibbles.

The scenes, which began with Mary and Joseph en-route to Bethlehem, ended with a very angry (though rather young and eye catching) King Herod realising that he had been out smarted.

The whole performance was a triumph; why? It was different, new; few people previously had witnessed the Christmas story as a "live" walk around. And it was simple, unsophisticated and it worked. The audience found itself drawn in to the whole drama. Actors offered

them food as they walked, a beggar pleaded with them for money.

And, at the stable scene, with Mary, Joseph, the baby in the manger and shepherds, animals, a small boy, barely three, uncoached, came forward

and presented the Christ Child with a toy he had been carrying.

It was the first time the pilgrimage had been included in the Dorrigo community Christmas celebrations and, if the response of the "pilgrims" was any guide, the "story walk" may become a regular event.

So... if your Christmas celebrations, Easter observance or Palm Sundays have become a touch monotonous; if you long to invite "the public" to something a little different... why don't you?

Get creative, get cracking, try new ways to tell the Old Story.

Have we run out of fresh ways to tell the Jesus story? Are we bogged down in repetition? The same old stuff.

World Day of Prayer

BY TERRY RYAN

An Ecumenical Christian service created by women 93 years ago will be celebrated in Ballina on March 6 with Emmanuel Anglican College at the centre of activities.

The World Day of Prayer is a global movement using prayer to seek peace and justice across the world.

This year's host country is Zimbabwe, and Ballina's Anglican Parish has a local connection in guest speaker Amkela Malaba, who serves and reads at St John the Baptist, Lennox Head.

The 2020 celebration will be held at 10am in EAC's Ezzy Centre, which has easy access from the centre carpark at the front of the school.

The college's Chaplain, the Rev'd Sally Miller, has recently returned from visiting the Holy Land and is enthusiastic about the Year 8 Cohort being involved in the day of prayer.

"They have been learning readings and rehearsing hymns for the service under the guidance of the college's leader in creative and performing arts, Mrs Rebecca Campbell," Rev'd Miller said.

"It should be uplifting to hear the 72 Year 8's singing with one voice during the service, which usually takes about an hour," she said.

The World Day of Prayer is a global movement using prayer to seek peace and justice across the world.



Mr Malaba, who is a teacher at EAC, will speak about growing up in Zimbabwe when it was still called Rhodesia, the son of a Methodist Minister and the youngest of five children.

Mr Malaba came to Australia in 1999 and has been active in the Parish for 20 years, taking on the roles of parish councillor, Licensed Lay Minister and Parish representative at Grafton Diocese Synod.

At the service he will expand on his experiences, give his view on the current state of his homeland and express his hopes for the country's future, as well as identifying areas in need of prayer.

The Rev'd Miller said the World Day of Prayer service would present something different to the students and EAC was looking forward to welcoming members of the wider public.

In Brief

COMMISSIONING

The Rev'd Anne Goode was commissioned as the next Priest of The Bellinger Parish at St Margaret's Bellingen on Tuesday 11 February.

APPOINTMENT

Mr Aaron Coates has been appointed as Stipendiary Lay Minister with responsibility for Casino. He will work under the supervision of The Rev'd Christian Ford.

RESIGNATION

The Rev'd Canon Matthew Smedley has resigned as Rector of the Parish of Bangalow. Fr Matthew has accepted the position of Rector of the Parish of Mosman Park in WA. His last day in the Parish will be Wednesday 12 February.

DEATH

Donald Shearman, a former Bishop of Grafton, died late last year.



New Performance Centre For Clarence Valley Anglican School “Jewel in the Crown”

Clarence Valley Anglican School Principal, Martin Oates, is pleased to announce that a new Performance Centre will be constructed at its Clarenza Campus in 2020.

The Performance Centre forms an integral part of Stage 1 of the School's Clarenza Campus Master Plan, launched in June 2019.

The project has particularly been made possible by a very generous donation from an anonymous benefactor, a significant grant from the Australian Government and Building Fund donations from parents.

The School publicly expresses its appreciation to the anonymous donor; the Australian Government and Kevin Hogan MP, Federal Member for Page; and parents for their support of this exciting project.

Raunik Design Group, a multi-disciplinary design group based on the Gold Coast, was commissioned to create the Master Plan and design a modern, flexible, creative arts facility to serve the School well into the future.

Although there have been other facilities built in recent years, the last major construction project in the history of the School was the development of Clarenza Campus in 2006.

Mr Oates says, “The Performance Centre will be the “jewel in the crown” of Clarenza Campus and will comprise music and drama teaching spaces, visual art gallery, tutor rooms, instrumental music and music recording rooms, main stage, large spectator area, sunken stage, tiered lecture theatre, servery and toilet facilities. With enrolments stretching from Iluka in the north and Woolgoolga in the south, it is envisaged that the Performance Centre will offer students from these areas, Grafton and the wider Clarence Valley wonderful opportunities to develop and showcase their creative abilities.”

A completion date for the Performance Centre is yet to be determined but the School hopes to start using it in Term 1 2021 with an official opening to be announced in due course.

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.



St Mary's Musical Invitation to the Community

Feeding off its Mission Statement to be "an inclusive, Christ-centred community, growing in our relationship with God and the wider community," St Mary's at Ballina recently launched an ongoing music program which invites talented artists to showcase their work within the stylish surroundings of the church.

Announcing upcoming events, Parliamentary Secretary for the Arts, MLC Ben Franklin said the music program was "a serious addition to the vibrant cultural life of the Northern Rivers."

He congratulated the Parish on its initiative, which includes an organ recital on March 22 by internationally acclaimed performer David Reccia Chynoweth, who was born in Canberra and is the grandson of the late Bishop Neville Chynoweth.

Other events for the first half of the year are:

- April 5 – Vox Caldera Chamber Choir
- 10 May – Bart Stenhouse Flamenco Trio
- 14 June – Amatori Choir with conductor Ian Knowles presenting Vivaldi's Magnificat.

Music Director Hamsa Arnold, himself a celebrated organist, said the concept of inviting the wider community into the church to share exhilarating experiences had been well received.

"Generally there is a modest charge or just a donation for performances by world-class musicians and singers," he said.

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.*"



THREADS LAID BARE BY REV'D CAMELLIA FLANAGAN

Apocalypse and Ashes of Consequence

The headlines in the daily news read, "Apocalypse Now: Bushfire threat prediction was right, and it is not going away," "Australia's apocalyptic fires are a warning to the world," "In Australia this summer, talking about the weather inevitably leads to talking about the apocalypse," "Apocalyptic scenes near Port Macquarie as bushfires turn sky red."

What does apocalypse mean? The Greek word apokalupsis means "revelation". A revelation of the end of the world and the triumph of good over evil, a genre of prophetic writing found in both ancient Jewish and Christian literature. In Old Testament writings, Ezekiel and Daniel had apocalyptic visions and in The New Testament the apocalyptic genre is represented by The Revelation of St John the Divine, or The Book of Revelation. This was written when Christians were suffering persecution toward the end of the first century of the Christian Era and many of its images are no longer clearly understood. However, the symbolism of apocalypse is clearly understood in its use in modern journalism to describe the mess our world is in and clearly points us to the consequences of wilfully ignoring the signs.

Antarctica's north-west sees high temperatures of 18.3°C, a new record. December in Australia 2019 was the hottest on record, 3.21°C above average and 2019 was the driest year on record. The ACT Government, Environment, Planning and Sustainable development Directorate – Environment looking at strategies to adopt, has told us that Global warming is already changing the world before our eyes.

Monash Climate Communication Research Hub (ABC December 2019) reported that, "What we are experiencing this summer is just the beginning of how climate change will hurt us" and it appears that the consequences we can expect are - bushfires will become more frequent and severe as rainfall is reduced and temperatures increase. Heatwaves will become hotter (day and night), longer and more frequent. Drought will become more frequent and prolonged as rainfall is seasonally more variable. Storms will become more frequent and severe over a longer summer season, with flash flooding and violent winds.

Can we ask ourselves "What am I doing?"



Term Investment Accounts

Term	Interest Rate
90 days	1.45% p.a.
180 days	1.60% p.a.
365 days	1.55% p.a.

*Interest paid at maturity

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

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

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

*Interest paid monthly

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.

*Interest paid six monthly

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

Entity	Interest Rate
Parish	1.25% p.a.
Anglican Affiliate	1.25% p.a.

*Interest paid monthly

*All Interest Rates are current as at 6th November 2019 and are subject to change

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The Rev'd Michael Bain Reaches 50 Years Ordained Ministry

On Australia day at a combined service, Sawtell congratulated Michael Bain on his attaining before the end of January the 50th anniversary of his first ordination as a Deacon in the Church of God.

Australia Day was also Michael's last Sunday with us after five months as our Locum. Michael and Donna were more concerned to make the day a celebration towards our future.

Michael in that period had pastorally led the parish to work towards the future God has in store for Sawtell Parish. We are so thankful to God for giving him to us for that time.

Important to his tenure was his biblical teaching and his care for individual parishioners.



Rev'd Anne Goode Becomes Priest in Charge at Bellingen

It was a case of "nearly coming home" when The Rev'd Anne Goode was inducted as Priest in Charge of the Parish of the Bellinger.

Rev'd Anne and husband, Peter, have spent much of their adult lives "up the mountain" from Bellingen, at Dorrigo.

During this time, Rev'd Anne was hugely active in every area of Dorrigo Anglican Church and community as a muso, children and youth leader, worship assistant and, later, as a lay reader, theological student, deacon and, finally priest.

Her first appointment was as priest assistant at St John's Anglican Church, Coffs Harbour. She has been Chaplain to Coffs Harbour Base Hospital throughout that time and will continue in her role.

Clergy and laity from across the diocese were in St Margaret of Scotland's Church, Bellingen for the induction by Bishop Murray Harvey. Among these was a large number of women clergy.



Anne is especially known for her chaplaincy work and as a Diocesan youth leader. For some 20 years she organised, staffed and directed week-long intensive camps for young people aged 13 to 18 years. These camps were part of the wider Ichthus Movement within the Diocese attended by thousands of primary and secondary aged children during a period of more than 30 years.

Anglicare Program Scoops Up Awards

Women who arrive in Australia from a refugee background tend to be a very resilient group of people. Many, however, struggle with how to deal with the different cultural expectations and lifestyles that they suddenly find themselves a part of. Many of the things that Australian “born and bred” women take for granted, such as riding a bike, going for a swim and achieving educational and employment goals, are foreign concepts to them. This can have a negative impact on their settlement into Australian life.



Anglicare North Coast CEO Estelle Graham pictured with the Hon Mark Dreyfus (Shadow Attorney General) and program participant, Arezoo Fathi, at the awards ceremony at Parliament House in Canberra in October.

Anglicare North Coast staff recognised several years ago that there was a need for a program that specifically assisted women from refugee and migrant backgrounds. Our experience demonstrated that economic and financial independence positively impacted other areas of women's lives, such as increased confidence and self-esteem, wider work / career choices and reduced dependence on potentially abusive relationships.

Thus, the 3Es to Freedom program – Education, Employment and Empowerment – was born. The program was developed by Anglicare staff and commenced in 2016 as a pilot program in Coffs Harbour. It was very successful and as a result the Federal Government requested us to expand the program to two additional locations, Richmond-Tweed and the Gold Coast, providing additional funding to enable this. The program offers a range of activities designed to empower women and help them achieve their goals, whether that be social inclusion, a university

education or their dream job.

Given the many great outcomes that have been achieved for program participants, we decided to enter the program in the 2019 Australian Migration and Settlement Awards, for the category of “Empowering Women”. We were delighted to be finalists for this award, meaning that we were in the top three contenders for this national award.

The program has partnered with Southern Cross University since its inception and thus was entered by the academic staff involved – Professor Barbara Rugendyke, Dr Louise Whittaker and Dr Mandy Hughes – in the 2019 Southern Cross University Impact Awards. It was very exciting when it was announced that these ladies had won the Social Justice award for their work with our program.

These are great achievements, of which we are very proud. We look forward to continuing to assist these amazing women.



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anglicarenorthcoast.org.au

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



Festive season welcomed with Nine Lessons and Carols service at St Columba Anglican School

All Schools understand the chaos and beauty that is Term 4. School communities rarely pause amongst the countless end of year events and demands, and for this reason, Nine Lessons and Carols has become an integral part of the St Columba Anglican School calendar, allowing the school community to come together and celebrate the importance of beauty, stillness and music.

Nine Lessons and Carols has been held at St Columba Anglican School since 2012, and is a ceremony inspired by the centuries-old service of the same name at King's College Cambridge.

The traditional festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is performed every Christmas Eve in the Chapel of King's College and marks the beginning of Christmas. For staff, families and friends of St Columba, it is a wonderful way to gain strength for the last few weeks of Term.

The popularity of the service in Cambridge sees people queuing the night before as demand for seats always exceeds the number available. Likewise, at St Columba,

we found that the service had outgrown its humble beginnings in our Trinity Chapel, and in 2019 the service was held in our new Iona Performing Arts Centre Theatre for the first time.

The service is based around nine Christmas lessons mixed with a selection of secular poetry and prose. Readings are interspersed with several congregational carols performed by the 100 voice St Columba Senior Choir in four-part harmony, along with our various smaller senior school choirs and our Primary Iona Voices choir. All of this takes place to the backdrop of beautiful art projections and a "passing of the light" candle ceremony.

2019 provided a testing festive season for our community at St Columba. Our campus was closed for two days as a result of catastrophic fires and many of our families had their livelihoods threatened by the bushfires that devastated our nation. Nine Lessons and Carols was an opportunity to come together with the strength of community and unwind in the peace of God in a time when we needed it most.

Did you know NCA has gone digital?

In 2020 NCA is going digital! The Diocesan community has the option of not only receiving NCA in their inbox, but also receive electronic newsletters and updates each month. Sign up today to make sure you are kept in the loop.

Please send your details to Kaytrina in the Registry on admin@graftondiocese.org.au and remember: It's free!



PRAYING WITH THE SAINTS BY REV'D CAMELLIA FLANAGAN

Thomas Cranmer

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY, MARTYR AND LITURGIST. DIED 1556. FEAST DAY 21 MARCH.

Thomas was born in Nottinghamshire on 2 July 1489. He went to Jesus College, Cambridge in 1503, took a considerable time to earn his BA degree in 1511, and was a fellow of Jesus College Cambridge. Although neither deacon or priest, he had to forfeit his fellowship of Jesus College when he married. He became a teacher at Buckingham College, but his wife Joan died in childbirth and he returned to Cambridge University.

He took holy orders in 1520 and the university named him one of the preachers whom they were entitled by papal grant to license for preaching throughout the British Isles. At this time Thomas Cranmer was loyal to the authority of the Pope but later he began with others to investigate the writings of Protestants and Martin Luther.

Cranmer's relationship with King Henry VIII began inadvertently with his friendship with Edward Lee, the Archbishop of York possibly on a diplomatic mission to emperor Charles V of Spain. When he returned, he had a meeting with Henry VIII to discuss the possible annulment of the King's marriage to Catherine of Aragon. The macerations of his relationships and life can be read elsewhere. Eventually Cranmer became the first Protestant archbishop in England. Cranmer married a second time but kept it secret for some time. As archbishop he did much to make possible the reading



As archbishop he did much to make possible the reading of the Bible in English by encouraging Coverdale's 1539 translation of the Bible into English and making it more accessible to the common people.

of the Bible in English by encouraging Coverdale's 1539 translation of the Bible into English and making it more accessible to the common people. Coverdale's edition (sometimes called Cranmer's Bible) contains a preface written by Cranmer. Cranmer opposed the "Six Articles" of the religion of the church which reasserted most points of Catholic Doctrine, including celibacy of the clergy and transubstantiation. It was under Henry VIII's son, Edward VI, that Cranmer was able to put into practice his reforming Protestant beliefs and began the transformation of the Church of England into a Protestant church.

The Litany of the English Book of Common Prayer issued in 1545 bears Cranmer's name. It is substantially the prayer book still used in the Anglican Communion today. Cranmer shared in the preparation of the prayer books of 1549 and 1552 and the later known *Thirty-nine Articles of the Church*. His translation of the liturgy into the English of the 16th century is a masterly achievement.

The intrigues at court especially related to Henry VIII's marriages and his Protestant leanings caught up with Cranmer and he was tried by an ecclesiastical court which convicted him of heresy, disregarded his role as archbishop, and he suffered a particularly gruesome execution.

Can we pray with others the prayer of the week between 28 January and 3 February, in APBA written by Cranmer based on 1 Corinthians 13?

"O Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are worth nothing: send your Holy Spirit, and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you; Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake. Amen."

He is
Risen!

MATTHEW 28:6

