

Ballarat and Queen's Anglican Grammar School

Our School takes great pride in its strong connection with our local Parishes and the Cathedral. We are honoured to have The Right Reverend Garry Weatherill, Bishop of Ballarat and many other members of the clergy from the Diocese frequently visit us to lead a wide range of services and school events, including our Founders' Day Eucharist and commissioning of student leaders, Ash Wednesday Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes, Easter celebrations and graduation events. Bishop Garry commissioned both student leaders and our new Chaplain, Rev Steve Morrison, during Term 1. Steve, known at Grammar simply as 'The Rev', has made a very positive start as Chaplain and is being embraced by students and staff alike.

One special event that would not be possible without the presence of (brave) local clergy is the blessing of the pets held to celebrate our connection with God's Creation on the Feast of St Francis of Assisi. It is a popular time for families to visit the School with their pets.

Our partnership with Anglicare is a testament to our commitment to community service. Our students actively participate in the Anglicare committee, creating positive change in the lives of those in need. Every year, we host the exciting "Can the Chapel" competition between schoolhouse groups, encouraging students to donate as many non-perishable food items as possible. With great enthusiasm, we contributed approximately 5,000 items to Anglicare, helping those in need as they braced for the cold Ballarat winter months.

A new initiative in building links between the School and the Anglican Church was the invitation extended for students to assist with the Cathedral preparations for Easter. Dr Alex Banks asked for students who were keen to give up their early evening on the last day of school to prepare the Garden of Repose for the Maundy Thursday service. Students jumped at the opportunity, some returning to the Cathedral after reading and leading prayers at the Harmony Week service a few weeks prior. The final product was a reflective, welcoming, beautiful space that attendees at the Maundy Thursday service thoroughly appreciated.



The School Production of Strictly Ballroom

We warmly welcome local clergy to attend, lead, and speak at our Chapel services and special events. These inspiring gatherings often involve celebrating the Eucharist, enriching our community and fostering a deeper connection with our faith. One highlight this year was when our Archdeacon, Fr Michael O'Brien, celebrated the Staff Easter Eucharist where in lieu of a sermon, he spoke through each movement of the service, explaining what we were doing and the meaning behind some of our liturgical patterns. His clear explanations were valued as reminders by long-term Anglicans and especially cherished by those new to our community who were made to feel involved in this significant experience in the life of our School.

During a Chapel session led by the Unit 3/4 VCE Religion and Society class, Elsie Shaw delivered a moving address. Her eloquent, candid, and resonant words engaged everyone present. Her personal narrative and insights encouraged everyone to contemplate their potential for making even a small yet significant impact.

The installation of Sanctuary windows, a massive endeavour, has been completed and the results are astounding. The elegance of the windows, the story they encapsulate, and the light they cast onto the sanctuary of our Chapel are breathtakingly beautiful.



We have been experimenting with more tailored liturgies and music for the Prep to Year 3 Chapel, aiming to establish a better connection, especially with our younger students who are in the early stages of learning to read. This interactive and dynamic approach is already showing promising results and we plan to continue this trial throughout the second semester.

Our Grandparents Day Chapel service for our boarders was a joyous occasion; heartening and uplifting for everyone who attended and the Mother's Day breakfast and Chapel service for the Junior School was one of the highlights of Term 2. The Wendouree Centre for Performing Arts was packed with mothers and grandmothers who were impressed with the students' excellent presentations.

The annual Mother Daughter Chapel Service for Boarders was once again a success, marked by heartfelt reflections from both students and mothers. It is a joyous occasion to see Mothers

and daughters sitting together and actively participating and enjoying the Sunday morning service.

This year, we introduced a new initiative, "Movie May," where we used films as themes and 'sermon illustrations' for our 6:30pm Boarders' Sunday Chapel services. The concept was well-received by the boarding community. The films used were: Yesterday, The Lion King, The Greatest Showman, Wonder, and Hidden Figures.

Our Reconciliation Week Chapel services were marked by a touching Acknowledgment of Country by students in all five Chapel services across the Junior, Middle, and Senior Schools. The entire service, from beginning to end, underscored the theme of Reconciliation Week, which was observed throughout the entire school with various initiatives across the week.

In Term 4, we are looking forward to the Year 12 Leavers' Eucharist being celebrated by the Bishop as we farewell the Year 12 students who head off to begin their VCAA examinations. We have been praying for them and the Chapel offers welcome respite from the rigors and inevitable anxiety that their preparations can bring.

The Chapel continues to be a place of reverence, stillness and respite in a busy school with our community navigating a busy world. The students have a deep understanding that we make a place special and sacred not through naming it so, but through our actions while we are there and the prayers that we offer.



Year 9 students visiting Timber Creek in the Northern Territory

Governance

At the Forty-eighth Annual General Meeting of Ballarat and Queen's Anglican Grammar School, the Board celebrated another positive year of progress for the School. The Board of Directors, led by Chair, Dr Shantini Deutscher, and Co-Deputy Chairs, Mr Tim Hovey and Mrs Sarah Lia, have been an extraordinary source of stability and wisdom. Mr Scott Andrews was recently appointed as a new Director whilst Mrs Catherine Hopper takes a 12 month leave of absence. We thank all the Board Directors for their tireless work to support our School community and for their ongoing wise decision-making and governance.

Enrolments

The total number of students attending the School has increased by approximately 4% to 1969 since last year. We continue to provide support to approximately one third of students

attending Ballarat Grammar, ensuring the School's educational offering is equitable and accessible. Importantly, this means that our students experience life amongst a cohort that reflects the diversity of community.

Strategic Plan Update

We continue to make very strong progress across all areas of the Strategic Plan.

- It is difficult to imagine how our year might have started more positively. Our staff returned reporting that they had enjoyed their first proper relaxing and restorative break since the pre-pandemic summer of 2019/ 20.
- The VCE Vocational Major, replacing the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) has been introduced across Victoria. In addition, the VCE Horizons Program, developed by Ms Brianne Cuthbert and the Senior School leadership team, will create a program where, in the place of sitting VCE exams, students will undertake additional work experience opportunities, a 'mini-internship' for which we will provide a micro-credential and additional service opportunities. We know that these experiences and opportunities are valued by our students but also prospective employees, as well as making an important contribution to local community.
- A project has commenced amongst the Heads of School examining the effective use of teaching time to achieve the greatest academic benefit. This has come about partly due to the very well-publicised pressure that appears to be affecting many teachers and causing higher than usual numbers of teachers to leave the profession. Simultaneously, we are also investigating the best approaches to professional learning for improving teaching practice, which, in turn, improve learning outcomes for students. Named the TAP (Time and Practice) Project, it has three clear focuses:
 - To create time for teachers to teach as well as practically possible.
 - To develop the proficiency of our teachers
 - To ensure that the continuum of learning experiences across the School provides the best preparation for our students and their future.
- We are investigating a coaching model, known as instructional coaching, to enhance our approaches to professional learning. This program has been used to positive effect at other schools. We are now investigating further background research and other schools that are like our own that have implemented this approach.
- A more comprehensive system of collecting pastoral care notes about our students has been introduced using a feature in the School's learning management system, NEXUS. This allows any teacher to record pastoral interactions with students such that their mentor, house head or other pastoral staff have ready access to a 'narrative' of the student's pastoral care journey. This is a centralisation of student records to provide higher levels of care for our students.
- Our agriculture program has expanded to include electives for students in Years 8 and 9. The School farm at Mt. Rowan continues to offer an incredible range of opportunities for our students. In addition to the Lowline cattle and Corriedale sheep, we have added Dorper sheep and pigs. The farm is also partnering with a horticultural company Rijk Zwaan, the third largest producer of agricultural seeds in the world, to grow spinach crops in a 20-metre poly tunnel. This uses drone technology and AI to scan the crops, monitoring nutrient needs and pest infestation. When the spinach crops are not being

grown, the hydroponic facilities are available for our students to grow vegetables, which they are selling as a small agribusiness venture.

- We have enjoyed exceptionally positive father son and father daughter weekends for our boarding community. Each of these were preceded by the Dart versus Wigan and Hayhoe/Larritt versus Woodbridge football matches on the Friday afternoon. In a new initiative, a group dinner booking was made for boarding parents on the Friday evenings, with more than 80 parents attending these. Parents commented that this provided an ideal opportunity for them to socialise with families who have children in the other houses.



- We are undertaking an audit of the literacy program in the CEE to Year 7 with the assistance of Karina Stocker. The success of the Hochman method was evidenced particularly in Year 9 NAPLAN writing results. This audit aims to build and expand on the Hochman approach. A second consultant, Kirsten Bourne, will undertake an audit of subject specific literacy approaches from Years 7 – 12. This secondary audit evaluates the effectiveness of teaching vocabulary, reading questions with accuracy and responding incisively to questions across all subject areas.
- The School underwent three simultaneous audits by the Victorian Registration and Qualification Authority (VRQA), encompassing boarding, the international student program and the whole school program. Once completed, the VRQA then completed a full day onsite visit, meeting with the Board Co-Deputy Chairs and other senior staff to contribute to the finalised audit process.

Capital Works

We have continued apace with capital works and refurbishments:

- The BGS Educational Services Board purchased a 560- acre property in the eastern Grampians to be utilised as an outdoor education property. Two architects were appointed recently to work in partnership to develop the master plan for the Grampians site. It is anticipated that the remainder of 2023 will be spent developing a Capital Works Master Plan and in 2024, detailed drawings will be developed and council planning and building permission sought. Ideally, construction of the eco- village will be completed throughout 2025.
- Detailed reviews of the plans and drawings of the Rintel Centre were undertaken with the Board of Directors in May to establish detailed and final costings for the build, with the builder and architect collaborating intensively with consultants and subcontractors to have finalised detailed drawings quoted. H. Troon were selected as the preferred builder and established their building site for the Rintel in the second week of July. They have commenced ground works in preparation for laying the foundations of the building and we have seen the first concrete being poured for the foundations in September.
- Work has commenced on refurbishing the first of three- bathroom areas in the existing Woodbridge area and two of the larger Larritt shared rooms with a number of the five- student rooms having a dividing wall added to them to create smaller rooms suitable for older students. This is a reflection of Larritt now accommodating students from Year 7 – 12 with the Year 12 student typically needing to be allocated a single room.
- Two new bike sheds have been constructed for the students of Hayhoe and Wigan.
- Construction will commence on the Assistant Head of Wigan residence early in 2024.
- A new office and meeting room will be added to the foyer of the Centennial building. The office will accommodate the Head of Senior School and her executive assistant enabling the Head of Senior School to be located amongst Year 11 and 12 students.
- The classrooms at the western end of the Heinz building have been reconfigured to create an additional learning space and to refurbish the bathrooms. The heating has been changed to electrical sources.



- Plans are being honed to build a media studio, which is much like a combination of a classroom and television studio. This will be located on the eastern side of the Beckworth building. The aim is to have this facility ready for use mid-2024.
- Plans continue for four additional classrooms to be added to the northeastern corner of the Queen's Building, with two upstairs and two downstairs.
- Five additional toilets will be added to the western end of the Queen's wing, with single cubicle configuration reflecting the contemporary approach to developing toilet facilities.
- Re-installation of the Chapel windows is now complete and looks spectacular. It is wonderful to have this complex and intricate project completed, which has significantly enhanced the aesthetic of the sanctuary in the Chapel.
- Landscaping of the Olston Quadrangle, including a formal garden, was completed in May and has greatly enhanced the quadrangle area and the entrance to the Chapel. The Middleton Bell has been moved from the middle of the quadrangle to the entrance of the Chapel of St Mark, with a new ritual of ringing the bell three times, reflective of the holy trinity, to commence each Chapel service.
- The area that was formerly a carpark between Woodbridge, Wigan, the Chapel and the Memorial Dining Hall has been prepared for re-landscaping and becoming a boarders' recreational area. This will include a half-basketball court, a fire pit seating area and a barbecue area.



Boarding

Our boarding community and its wholesome country values continues to be at the heart of the positive culture of our School. With boarding enrolments of over 260 students from across Australia and a small number of international students, we are the second largest boarding community in Victoria. We welcomed Mr Chris Van Styn back into boarding as Assistant Head – Residential and Boarding, following the resignation of Mr Chris Cook, Director of Boarding, at the end of Term 2, 2023.

Staff

We continue to attract and recruit very capable staff across all areas of the School, although there is a continuing shortage of teachers in Victoria amongst some specialist subject areas, which we continue to manage carefully. The School takes great pride in nurturing a caring, positive, supportive and inclusive culture amongst colleagues and this is proving to be a significant attraction to prospective teachers.

Teaching and Learning

Our holistic approach to the development of our students continues unabated. Whilst we are delighted by our academic results, as cited below, our greatest source of pride is the emergence of strong, positive character in each of our students. Our aspiration remains to develop the next generation of social and environmental stewards, whose values, service ethic and character is evident in their every community action.

The year commenced with great positivity as there were some very high achievers in our VCE 2022 cohort:

- Two students with an Australian Tertiary Admission Ranking (ATAR) above 99, with a top score of 99.30.
- One student with a perfect study score of 50
- 11% of students with ATAR's of 95 or above
- 20% of students with ATAR's of 90 or above
- 45% of students with ATAR's of 80 or above
- Six students entered trade-based apprenticeships.

Our CEEd educators continue to deliver outstanding care and programs of learning for our students from the age of six months to four years. Bush Kinder continues to be a highlight for our students and their families.

Wellbeing and Positive Education

Our wellbeing team continue to provide extraordinary support to staff, students and families with individual consultations and through the delivery of a range of existing, modified and newly developed wellbeing initiatives. They have been working to develop some invaluable resources for issues that are arising for students at our School and across Ballarat. The first is a vaping/ e-cigarette information booklet for parents, which was prepared for our own parents initially however, we have subsequently shared this with all other Ballarat schools.

An information video about anxiety and school refusal has also been produced for parents and this too has been shared with all other Ballarat schools.

City Cite

City Cite continues to provide outstanding experiential learning opportunities for our Year 9 students for three weeks in Term 4. Our students return from this experience with far greater confidence in managing themselves in Melbourne and a greater appreciation of the culture and diversity of this city. Ms Tania Deguara commenced as our new Director of City Cite in March, following Mr Harry Leather's retirement at the end of Term 1, 2023 after 20 years of outstanding service to the School.

Our Mission of Service

Our students have remained committed to service in the community. Their understanding of the reciprocity of community, the need to give without any expectation or reward, remains undiminished. Students have raised funds by cooking and serving pancakes on Shrove Tuesday; participated in the 2023 Red Shield Appeal, raising approximately \$5,000; donated non-perishable items as part of 'Can the Chapel' to support Anglicare in delivering vital food resources to those in need; raising awareness and funds for Pancreatic Cancer for research with the Pancare Foundation and the Fight MDN Ice Bucket Challenge raising over \$3,000 for Fight MND, just to name a few.

Round Square

The Round Square program has continued with the Kurt Hahn sleepout recently illustrating how difficult it is for the homeless when sleeping rough. The group involved are awoken throughout the night and 'moved on' to mimic the plight of a homeless person. Ten students will attend the Round Square International Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, between 1 – 7 October. The group will undertake a service trip and tour in Kenya in the week prior to the conference. One of the ten students is attending the conference on a full scholarship provided by the disadvantaged student fund.

Co-Curricular Activities

Members of the Synod are warmly invited to follow the School's Facebook page where many of the activities and endeavours of our students are highlighted. A Facebook account is not required.

Below are some of the co-curricular activities that have taken place:

- Our Prep to Year 3's enjoyed a huge day of swimming at their swimming carnival.
- Our Year 7 students commenced the year on camp at Marysville, canoeing, rock climbing, abseiling and hiking amongst other team building activities.
- Our Junior School Tennis teams competed in the Division Tennis Championships with the Girls' and Boys' A teams winning to play in grand finals against Ballarat Clarendon College.
- There were several very encouraging results from the whole rowing squad at the Head of the Lake regatta. In the Division 1 races, our girls' first crew finished third to Loreto and Ballarat Clarendon College and our boys' first crew came third to Ballarat Clarendon

College and St Pats. Congratulations go to our Senior Girls Thirds and Year 9 Girls Fourths on their win.

- The Senior Girls Coxed Four and Senior Boys Coxed Quad Scull received bronze medals in their A finals at the Australian Rowing Championships in Perth.

- Robin/Cuthbert House won the Middle and Senior School Aquatics Carnival with Zoe Schnyder winning the Priscilla Herington Individual Medley for the second year in a row, and her brother Dane Schnyder winning the Max Stowe Individual Medley.
- Our swimmers competed at the ICCES Swimming Carnival in Melbourne in early March and took home the overall trophy, as well as the Junior, Intermediate, and Senior girls' shields.



- Our Agriculture and Horticulture students spent the day at Bingham Agriculture learning the safe application and handling of chemicals, workplace OH&S along with care towards machinery. The students were also provided with an overview of the multiple career pathways available in agriculture.
- Students in Years 5 – 12 took part in the Round Square Hunger Lunch, donating to Oxfam and better understanding the immense disparities in secure access to food.
- We congratulated Miriam Drinnan (Yr. 12), who was named Agricultural Secondary Student of the Year at the 2023 Ballarat Rural Achiever Awards, and Charlie Walton (Yr. 12), who also made the finals of the competition.
- Our students enjoyed a successful day at the recent Colac Shoot, with our team taking out equal third in the teams shooting event. Xavier Coutts (Yr. 9) won the junior boys, and Rhys Trigg (Yr. 9) took out second after a shoot-off against another competitor.
- Our Year 9 students spent time learning about sustainability and how simple changes can directly impact biodiversity. They shared this knowledge with our CEEd students which provided an opportunity for our CEEd students to learn with our Middle School students.

- The Boys' annual Heritage Football match between Ballarat Grammar and Ballarat High School displayed their talent and exceptional sportsmanship - Ballarat Grammar 49 defeating Ballarat High School 39.
- Year 9 students headed to camp as part of their Outdoor Education program where they canoed, hiked and enjoyed being in the outdoors.
- Our Treefrog and CEEd students in the Dove program joined some of our First Nations students to celebrate National Reconciliation Week together at Bush Kinder. The CEEd children introduced the Year 7 and 8 students to their bush space and spent time in nature together. The CEEdlings worked with the older students on their ideas to design their own Acknowledgement of Country that is relevant and appropriate for young children.
- The Girls' annual Heritage Football match between Ballarat Grammar and Ballarat and Clarendon College highlighted their incredible talent throughout the match. The Lionesses defeated Clarendon 2-8 to 1-1. The Girls' Reserve team also played a great match against Ballarat and Clarendon College, winning with a massive 8-4 to 3 points.
- Many Junior School students represented the School at division, regional, and state level cross country events, with our teams winning five out of six divisions in the competition. We congratulate Paige Tuddenham in Year 6 who won the girls' 12/13 regional cross-country championships.
- Our students competed in inter-house debating teams, debating topics such as "mobile phone use in schools should be banned", "peaceful protest has failed as a method of climate activism", and "we should embrace a cashless economy". The debates were of an impressively high standard and continue to engage students who may be less interested in the sporting carnivals.
- Our Year 6 students headed to Tasmania on the 2023 JEEP (Junior Educational Excursion Program) trip on 22 June for a full Tasmanian experience.

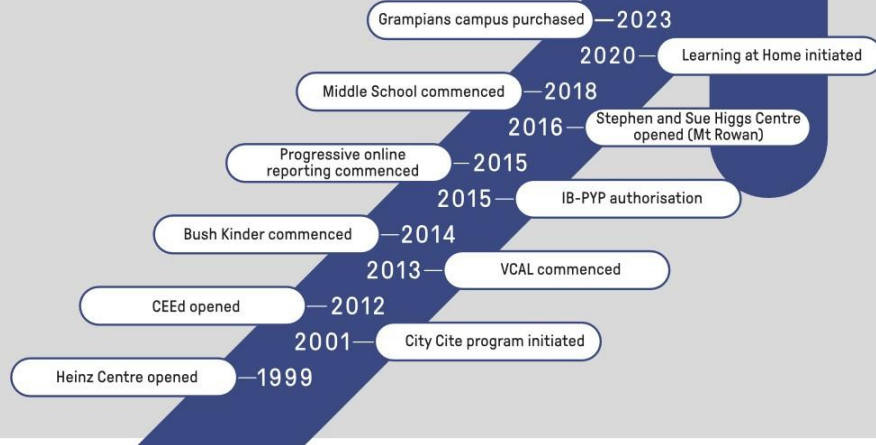
- Each of our Year 7 classes recently visited Saint Matthew's Anglican Church Wendouree as part of their Religion, Philosophy & Ethics class - their current unit examines Anglican worship spaces. The visit to Saint Matthew's was a great opportunity to explore differences and similarities with our Chapel of Saint Mark and forge connections with the



broader Anglican church.

- The recent Junior School Art Exhibition included work from across all levels of the Junior School, as well as the CEEd Kindergarten groups. It was a culmination of students' creativity in the Arts program throughout the year so far, comprising both individual and collaborative pieces.
- Students from Year 7 through to Year 12 have been rehearsing for house Chorals, and delivered outstanding performances, with Queens'/Beckworth taking home the Chorals trophy and Nevett/Macpherson securing a close second place.
- Our talented Junior School performers took to the stage at the Wakakirri Story-Dance Festival. Wakakirri is all about creativity, expression, and storytelling, where our students bring their thoughts, ideas, and aspirations to life through captivating Story-Dances.
- Our Intermediate Girls' Football team played against Carey Grammar in the Herald Sun Shield Semi Final with Carey defeating our Lionesses 56 to 29.
- Our Year 10s have embraced the adventurous program of the Alpine Camp, moving beyond their comfort zones and working together to achieve a common goal. The backcountry Alpine Camp has a long history, providing well over 1,000 students with the opportunity to experience a 'once in a lifetime' trip over its more than 20-year history.
- The School Production of Strictly Ballroom was a great success, with the cast and crew producing an incredibly polished performance of this complex show. The extensive choreography, overlaid with the musical production and acting performances of this show made it particularly complicated but the accomplished cast took this in their stride to bring delight to audiences.

CULTURE OF PIONEERING



Summary

I was asked recently how faith influences the leadership and governance of the School. I explained that it was the foundation, it provided the bedrock of the values through which we aspire to provide educational opportunities. It is our faith and the Christian ethos of the School that maintains our true north, particularly during times of challenge for our community. Amongst our students, one of the most popular awards has become the 'spirit stick'. In 2023, the Guardians introduced the 'spirit cape' to allow greater recognition beyond 'the spirit stick' alone. It is a cherished award that has taken on a life of its own. The Guardians, who award the spirit stick and cape, do not overtly connect these awards back to the faith base or Anglican foundations of the School. Yet, they are awarded based on the exemplification of the School's Anglican values. Through the spirit awards, we are gently introducing our students to the sense of being connected to a greater whole, a higher purpose and orienting them towards lived values. In this, the spirit stick might just be showing our students how to move towards a life of faith.

We once again thank the Bishop for the example that he provides for us all as an unerring supporter of all in the community and to all in the Diocese for their unwavering support of the School.

ADAM HEATH
Headmaster



The Cathedral Church of Christ the King, Ballarat

*I planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the growth.
1 Corinthians 3.6 (NRSV)*

It may seem odd to preface a report to Synod with a seemingly random verse of scripture. However, to me, these words of St Paul hold resonance with the mission of our Cathedral Church.

In its broader context, Paul addresses the problem of divisions within the Corinthian Church. However, this verse likewise reminds us that the fruit of our endeavours are not the work of our egos or anything accomplished under our own steam, but of God's inspiring us to do God's bidding for God's glory, and not our own.

The seeds we plant today will be watered by those who come after us, building on that which we've established, but it is God who brings spiritual and numerical growth respectively. We are but the earthly conduit through which the Holy Spirit lives, moves, and has being. It is imperative that we have the humility to recognise this, and an openness to the Spirit's prompting us to be as Christ in the world.

As such, we mustn't forget that every encounter with another, not of our number, is providential, and that as church we exist for the benefit of those who are not as yet of our membership. We are neither closed shop nor private club, but an open assembly with good news to share, not just within, but beyond the hallowed walls of Christ Church Cathedral. We are the legacy of an inherited gospel, a gospel whose bestowal upon others is dependant on us.

On the Cathedral website I state the following:

"Our Cathedral embraces the riches of our Anglican heritage that is at the same time catholic and reformed. The eucharist lies at the heart of our spiritual ethos with all activity, missional or otherwise, stemming from this sacramental act of Sunday worship".

The liturgical life of Christ Church Cathedral is alive and well supported by an able team of clergy who offer their services through eucharistic presidency and quality preaching. Sunday liturgies are complemented by the gifts of our Director of Music Lyndell Allen, our organist Leigh Askew, and our choristers, who give of their time each week to render our worship of God edifying and well-pleasing.

We are well-served by Lyndell, Leigh, and the choir whose efforts extend beyond Sunday mornings and our monthly evensong. Aside from the annual liturgies for Holy Week/Easter, All Souls Requiem, and Nine Lessons & Carols, the Cathedral played host to a couple of significant choral evensongs this year and last with the Coronation of Charles III, and the Commemoration of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Both liturgies were well-attended and uplifting, with a Last Night of the Proms atmosphere enjoyed by all.

During the course of the last twelve months the Cathedral hosted a number of splendid concerts including, most recently, the Australian Boys Choir and Vox Quartets, with the Ballarat Choral Society performing recently in August this year. First and foremost, Christ Church Cathedral is a place of worship in the heart of our city, it is likewise a public space that

should play host to the arts and entertainment from time to time. The offering of hospitality to the wider community is an important witness in and of itself.

The Cathedral Chapter hasn't met since the pandemic. The Pre-COVID pattern for the Chapter meeting was quarterly, off the back of Bishop in Council meetings. As it's the Bishop privilege to appoint both lay and clerical Canons to the Cathedral Chapter, and given the number of vacancies at present, I'm hoping that appointments be made at this year's Synod. The Chapter will meet once this has happened. The Chapter serves as a resource for the promotion of the preaching, teaching, and liturgical ministry of the cathedral and, as such, is an important entity.

Between synods, a variety of Bible Studies have been offered, not just to Cathedral parishioners but members of our wider Ballarat Anglican community. The author and facilitator of said studies - The Rev'd. Dr. Mark Garner - led us on a stimulating journey through themes in the Book of Amos, over several weeks last October/November.

Mark hosted a Sunday afternoon session in late January called Mark on Matthew, giving us an overview of this year's focal Gospel. This year's Lenten programme had an Old Testament focus aimed at developing a deeper appreciation of the ancient biblical view of spiritual disciplines, and a greater motivation to put them into practice during the season of Lent. Over the four consecutive Mondays in August, Mark focused our study on the Book of Proverbs. I'm grateful for Mark's ministry of teaching (and preaching) which is profound and insightful, yet readily accessible to all.

Last year saw the reintroduction of Conversations @ the Cathedral - the third Sunday of each month at 5pm. An array of speakers have presented on various topics including the Hon. Julianna Addison - State Member for Wendouree; our June meeting coincided with Refugee Week and it was our great privilege to hear the story of Deruka Dekuek from South Sudan. Deruka returned the following Thursday to speak at our annual Refugee Week interfaith prayer service. Our other annual interfaith and ecumenical observances included those for Harmony Week and the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity respectively. Last month we hosted Rev. Canon (Uncle) Glenn Loughrey, who spoke to us about The Voice to Parliament Referendum.

A vitally important aspect of witnessing to our wider community is that of ecumenism. Our inter-church events are a fitting reminder that there is more that unites than divides our differing expressions of the Christian faith. We have a particularly good relationship with both the Roman Catholics and the Uniting Church. On Palm Sunday this year, members of our three communities gathered at the Sturt Street Rotunda to herald Jesus' triumphal entry to Jerusalem and the commencement of our liturgical observances for Holy Week.

Given the ecumenical nature of Taize, the Cathedral and Ballarat Central Uniting Church agreed to a partnership in sharing the hosting of a Taize liturgy on the first Sunday of every month. We alternate the host venue each month, affording both centres opportunity to offer a hospitality of our spaces.

This year saw a continuation of our ABM Project in support of the Melanesian Brothers and their ministry and outreach to remote indigenous communities in the Diocese of North Queensland. The Cathedral Council hosted a mission dinner last October as a fundraiser for said project, which was well attended by Cathedral parishioners and the wider Ballarat

Anglican community. The Rev'd. Debra Saffrey-Collins from The Brotherhood of Saint Laurence proved a most enlightening guest speaker, and a good night was had by all.

We extend our thanks once again to Bron and Maria Sosanski for hosting our annual Trivia Night. This event is not only a great fundraiser for the Cathedral, but draws together several Ballarat Parishes for a night of fun, fellowship, and healthy rivalry. We were delighted that the St Aidan's Cup was retained by one of the Cathedral teams.

Earlier in the year, Bishop in Council approved the appointment of two new members to Cathedral Council, and it was our great pleasure to welcome Dr. Jill Francis and Mr. Adam Blackmore. Both Jill and Adam bring a wealth of experience and a fresh perspective to council meetings. Jill was part of a working group established to ascertain how we might better steward our assets. The Cathedral's assets include its worship space, the Synod Hall, and the Function Hall downstairs, the latter of which are shared with the Diocese.

Given the Cathedral is governed in accordance with The Diocesan Centre Act 1989, we are currently devising a Rental Policy that is sensitive to our relationship with the diocese and our shared use of resources. We have met with the Diocesan Registrar as a matter of courtesy to appraise him of our intentions. The impetus for a Rental Policy is the need for responsible stewardship and utilisation of these resources entrusted to us. A well-wrought policy is of paramount importance if we are to let our spaces to various organisations to pay for the privilege of their use. Aside from an additional income stream, groups that make use of our spaces provide us opportunities to promote the Cathedral and its activities.

Despite the rise in the cost of living we are nonetheless reliant on material resources, and the generosity of our parishioners to aid the healthy functioning of our Cathedral Church. As with all organisations, we need our members to contribute via various media, including through the gifting of time, talents, and monetary resources. This is what good stewardship of that which God has entrusted us with is all about. As surely God has gifted us with our very lives, we are called to reciprocate through the medium of Christ's Church.

Over two consecutive Sundays in September we focused on stewardship in two parts:

- (1) Stewardship in the giving of our financial resources.
- (2) Stewardship in volunteering our time and talents.

In the main, our financial stewardship is by offertory, either through direct giving or envelopes. These monies ensure and enable our mission, outreach, and witness to the gospel. In addition to this is our financial giving to mission abroad, or mission beyond the cathedral, as in our ABM project.

Several months ago, the Cathedral Council resolved to switch from the MYOB accounting platform to XERO as adopted by the Diocese at the beginning of the year. Having the Cathedral's subscription on the diocesan account means that they (Diocese) will cover the costs and provide support in terms of expertise and access. It should make for a more streamlined process.

Finally, I conclude this report in gratitude to the Synod for the many and various capacities in which you support your Cathedral. To single out individuals is to risk overlooking others equally deserving of acknowledgement. It would, however, be remiss of me not to offer my heartfelt thanks for the Cathedral Council's support and encouragement of my ministry in

your midst as Dean. I am likewise grateful for services rendered by clergy assisting, for their collegiality and counsel, and for their friendship in ministry. My thanks also to Bishop Garry for his encouragement and entrusting the pastoral care of the Cathedral community to me.

The Very Rev'd. Michael Davies
Dean of Ballarat

The Ministry Development Committee

Theme for the Year

The *Communion Forest* has been our theme for 2023 and will continue into 2024. Our diocese took up the challenge laid down by the Archbishop of Canterbury at the Lambeth Conference, where he invited Anglicans from across the Communion to explore ways to care for our environment. Renate Peacock has been co-ordinating our responses, and it has been encouraging to see many of our parishes take up the challenge. Activities have included tree planting, providing plants for significant parish occasions, a visible mending workshop, picnic in Botanical gardens, and supporting local Landcare type activities. We are particularly grateful to the Grammar school and Sue Sedgewick and her students for printing Communion Forest logos which have been incorporated into bags, to reduce plastic waste. We have been selling these bags to raise money for the Anglicare Bishop's Appeal.



**Ministry
Development**

Workshops

- *Julian of Norwich 650th Anniversary*
May saw two inspiring sessions (Ararat and Warrnambool) exploring some insights into how we live our Christian lives from the writings of the Lady Julian Thanks to Fr Martin Nararajan and Robyn Shackell. Julian reminds us, "God loved us before he made us; and his love has never diminished and never shall."
- *Ministry Training Day Mortlake*
How wonderful to meet with over 50 people in Mortlake in June, as together we explored our individual ministries. Bishop Garry guided us through the meaning of various parts of the Eucharist, as it was celebrated by our Dean. Unfortunately, technology failed us and we do not have a tape of that session but hope it may be repeated by the bishop and the dean and taped by John Russell, so that it can be available on our website. Mortlake parish did a wonderful job of hosting the day. Thanks too, to our workshop leaders, Jill Parker, Mark Garner, Bishop Garry, Peter Jarvis and Robyn Shackell.

On-Line events

One of the good things to come out of the pandemic is our use of Zoom, both for some of our meeting, but also for enabling people from anywhere in the diocese to join study groups.

- *Theology in Action*
This group is exploring theological issues under the leadership of Mark Garner. It meets via Zoom on the last Monday of each month. There is space for others to join this stimulating group.
- *Bible Studies.*
We are fortunate to have The Revd Dr Mark Garner in our diocese. Mark is a skilled and experienced teacher and has run Bible study sessions both on line and in person, including studies on Amos and Proverbs.

Publications

- *Bible Reading Challenge Notes*

This year we offered the challenge of reading the whole of the book of 11 Corinthians during the month of June. Helpful notes for each day were beautifully prepared for us by Mark Garner, Jill Francis, Keith Romanis, Ben Hewitt and Bishop Garry. We are blessed to have so many gifted people in our diocese who are willing to inspire us.

- *Abundant Lives - A Book of Saints*

Thanks to those who submitted entries to our book of saints. This was well received and some people asked for a second edition. **We encourage every synod member to write about someone who has influenced their Christian journey to be included in book 2.**

- Advent Studies - a series on the Advent themes of Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell were provided last Advent, prepared for us by Kate Schnerring, Bishop Garry, Mark Garner and Kay Job. This year we are working on the idea of a simple Advent Calendar.

Quiet days

The Abbey in Camperdown hosted an Advent quiet day, ably led by Fr Matthew Jones. We are planning another day this year at the Abbey on 2nd December, led by the Revd Grant Bullen .

Quiet days in your parish. If you would like to host a quiet day in your parish, please contact a committee member.

Parish MDC reps

Thanks to those people from across our diocese who are promoting the work of the MDC in our parish as local MDC contacts. Thanks too to Geoff Ryan for co-ordinating this group.

Committee Members

Bishop Garry Weatherill, Michael Davies, Mark Garner, Hayden McKellar, Jill Parker, Renate Peacock, Keith Romanis, Geoff Ryan, Kate Schneering, Robyn Shackell (chair)

This year we farewelled Kay Job and we thank her for her contribution both through her written work and leadership in workshops. It was good to welcome our Dean to the committee.

Anglicare Victoria in the Diocese of Ballarat

“Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.” (Psalm 82:3-4)

Socks for Synod – Putting yourself in their shoes...

The 2023 Anglicare report has many fascinating, but heart-wrenching, statistics, facts and figures. These show the breadth and depth of the demographic of people accessing Anglicare services across the diocese. However – these numbers and statistics are more importantly *people*. They are sons, daughters, parents, siblings, friends and neighbours. One of our own dedicated volunteers was at risk of becoming homeless when her long-term unit was put on the market. The stress this caused to her was apparent. Through Anglicare, she was very quickly linked in with Wintringham (55+ provider) to get assistance. This unfortunately is not a one off. Many people are finding themselves in this precarious position. This year, more than ever, an increasing number of people are feeling the pressure of the rising cost of living. At Anglicare Victoria, we know that unexpected things can happen to anyone – so we encourage everyone to put yourself in their shoes...

Ballarat Community Breakfast

The Community breakfast has served 5425 breakfasts to 451 individuals over the year. This was made possible through the time given generously by 14 incredible volunteers providing 972 hours of service (approx. \$26,200 equivalent in wages) and the Diocese for supplying the venue.

A \$5000 fund provided by the Diocese assisted clients in the following ways; accommodation (5), Mobile phones/credit (20), medical expenses (6), food packs (6) clothing (6), car expenses (3) Public transport (2), Pet registration (1) and many essential toiletries.

The Community breakfast has seen an increase in demand with people wanting to access NDIS and other financial supports (URGS, Nils loans) to pay for ongoing costs and emergency assistance. The increased cost of living has seen more people access this service and request urgent help.

Thank you to the parish op shops who have very generously donated 100s of clothing items for our breakfast clients.

Christmas Program

In total, 1470 people in our community were supported to have a cheerier Christmas in 2022. The program is provided solely from donations from people and organisations across our community – nearly \$39,000 (Christmas 2022). We supported 755 households from Bacchus Marsh through to Ararat with supermarket vouchers, food parcels, toys (608 children) and for our older isolated folk, a gift pack of toiletries (120).

Emergency Relief Ballarat

Through the Ballarat emergency relief centre 503 households were supplied with food parcels and supermarket vouchers – 164 of them were new to the Ballarat Relief Centre. Over 96% of these households rely on Centrelink income as their main source of income.

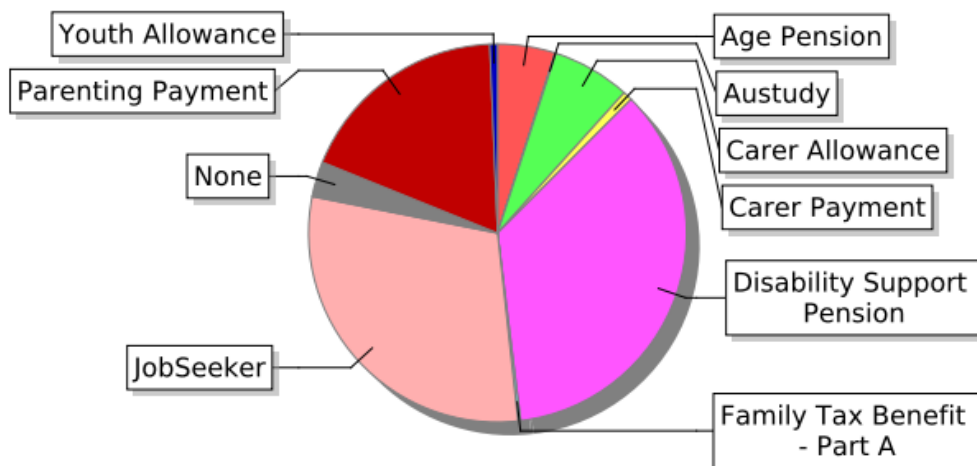
Total support given in 2022/23 was approx. \$81,000.

In addition, many clients were referred to other supports. Including, Foodbank market, Power saver bonus, Op shop, financial counselling, domestic violence support and housing.

The graphs below show a breakdown of Age and Centrelink payment type of clients presenting at the Ballarat and Creswick Emergency Relief sites.

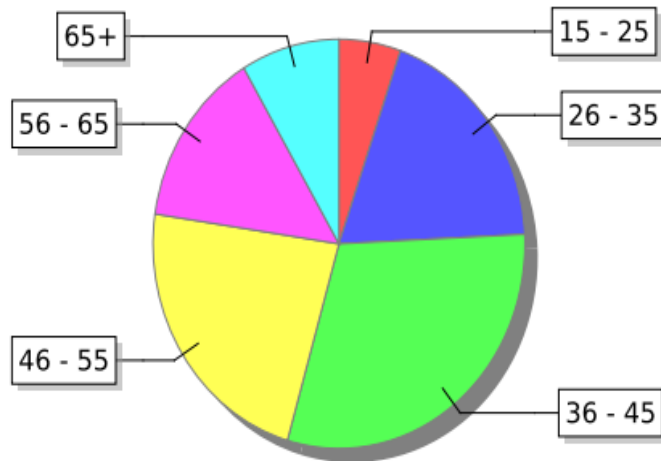
Centrelink Payment Type

| Centrelink Payment Type | Total |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Age Pension | 67 |
| Austudy | 1 |
| Carer Allowance | 91 |
| Carer Payment | 11 |
| Disability Support Pension | 484 |
| Family Tax Benefit - Part A | 3 |
| JobSeeker | 406 |
| None | 41 |
| Parenting Payment | 248 |
| Youth Allowance | 9 |
| Total: | 1361 |



Client Age

| Client Age | Total |
|---------------|------------|
| 15 - 25 | 27 |
| 26 - 35 | 95 |
| 36 - 45 | 152 |
| 46 - 55 | 115 |
| 56 - 65 | 71 |
| 65+ | 43 |
| Total: | 503 |



Creswick Emergency Relief

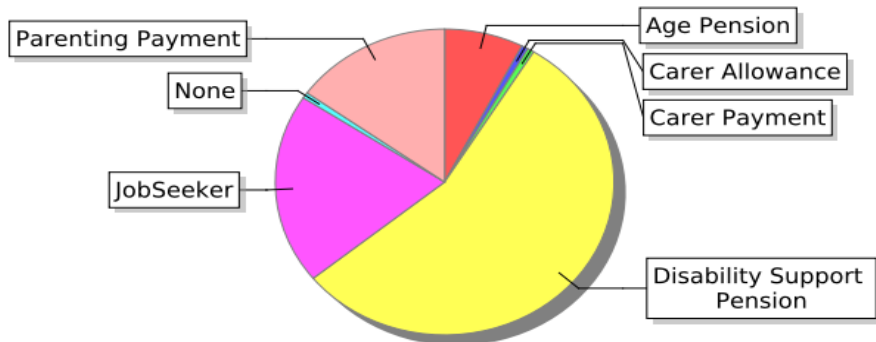
This year, the Creswick emergency relief program moved to the local Neighbourhood House. This provided an inclusive experience for those who attend, since many of them attend this venue for other community engagements. Around 25 individuals will present in person for assistance on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Within these numbers we are seeing a number of new families/individuals attend. We have noticed an increase demand of support services making enquiries on behalf of clients to access our services.

Through the Creswick Emergency Relief programme 37 households were supplied with food parcels and supermarket vouchers – 15 of them were new to the Creswick Relief Centre.

Total support given in 2022/23 was approx. \$8000.

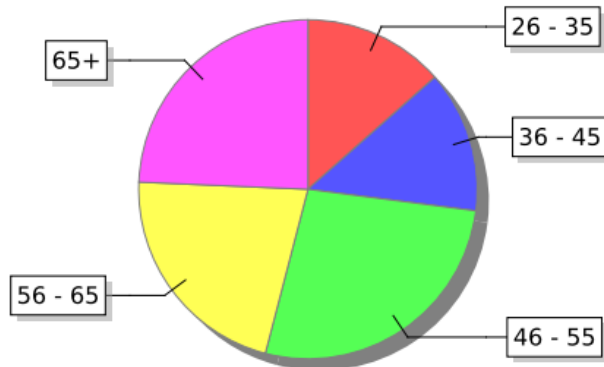
Centrelink Payment Type

| Centrelink Payment Type | Total |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Age Pension | 12 |
| Carer Allowance | 1 |
| Carer Payment | 1 |
| Disability Support Pension | 88 |
| JobSeeker | 32 |
| None | 1 |
| Parenting Payment | 24 |
| Total: | 159 |



Client Age

| Client Age | Total |
|---------------|-----------|
| 26 - 35 | 5 |
| 36 - 45 | 5 |
| 46 - 55 | 10 |
| 56 - 65 | 8 |
| 65+ | 9 |
| Total: | 37 |



Ararat

The parish of Ararat has been doing wonderful things for many years now. It is a pleasure for Anglicare this year to enter a formal partnership with them. Their emergency relief has, until this year, been funded solely from parish donations. Due to the current economic climate and increased need, their supplies dwindled. Anglicare were thrilled to support and assist. Along with a donation from the Bishop's Appeal, we were able to secure regular ongoing donations from the local Woolworths for staple food supplies. The Ararat Parish also host various community meals, supply scholarships and run fundraising activities to support the local community.

Southwest Region

Warrnambool Drop-in Centre

Operating Monday to Friday mornings for cuppas, toasties, showers and provides a safe space to sit, chat, read, etc. In 2022-23 we recorded over 5,390 toasties, 3,147 visits and 162 showers.

Warrnambool and Mortlake Emergency Relief Centres

Warrnambool ERC operates at the same time as the Drop-in Centre, while Mortlake is open the third Thursday of the month. Material assistance is offered via food, prescription and petrol vouchers and our team can also suggest other agency services in the region for further assistance. In 2022-23 2,765 assists were provided to singles, couples and families, equating to approx. \$144,703.

A new community project commenced so that we could also offer clients access to a laundromat at our local community centre, Archie Graham.

Christmas in Warrnambool with Anglicare

Fox FM – 'Do it for the Kids Christmas Appeal' saw Anglicare Victoria in Warrnambool access a \$25 Kmart voucher for every child in the families we supported during 2022,

Southwest Brick Club

The Brick clubs operate in schools in Warrnambool, Terang and Mortlake. Anywhere between 5 and 20 students per session spend time creating colourful masterpieces. We were also involved in school holiday programs in Cobden.

Get Out for Good Program (G4G)

G4G offers phone and in person support for people recently released from prison. The team offer support and encouragement as participants re-adjust to life in the community, connecting them in with services and offering a safe/non-judgemental space to talk.

Steering Committee/BGS

The steering committee, guided and led by Assoc. Professor Robyn Pierce, has spent much of the year exploring the needs of the marginalised in the diocese. Among the projects they have supported and funded (either part or in full) are the Stawell children's choir, the homelessness support worker and Ararat emergency relief. Their efforts have ensured that the money

raised by the Bishop's Appeal, as well as those bequests and monies held by the diocese are spent where they are most needed.

We are also every fortunate to have student representatives from Ballarat Grammar join us on the committee, with full voting rights. Leila, Ned and Hannah have been a great asset to the committee – keeping all members up to date, working incredibly hard on tasks given to them and contributing many valuable ideas.

In partnership with Ballarat Grammar, the annual “Canning of the Chapel” again boosted the Ballarat emergency relief supplies for a difficult winter. The Grammar community rallied to donate over 4600 non-perishable food items for the shelves – all of which will go to those experiencing food insecurity in the Ballarat diocese.

Thank you!

Of course, all of this would be impossible without the support of many many people. I must begin by thanking the real powerhouse behind the Ballarat office, Kim – whose hard work and energy knows no bounds! The office staff, Andrea, Naomi, Mel – and the wonderful Sam for keeping me in check (and caffeinated)!

To the dedicated team in Warrnambool, with special thanks to Ondrea for her assistance with the report.

To Fr Chris and the people of the Creswick Anglican parish.

To Fr Martin, Deacon Cheryl and the parish of Ararat for their hard work and warm welcome!

To Chris De Pavia – State manager of Parish Partnerships, for all his innovation and support

And mostly to the amazing Robyn and the Steering committee- Kaye, Lynette, Marilyn, Bill, Rachael, Ned, Leila and Hannah – thank you for your dedication and hard work. But especially to Peter Jarvis – whose patience and understanding knows no bounds when explaining financial things to me!!

Below is a small example of a few people we have assisted in the Ballarat Emergency Relief Centre:

Cost of living

It is no surprise that a high volume of clients’ comments on their struggles with the cost of living. We are seeing people have to make really tough choices between food, bills, petrol etc. For many, food has had to fall on their list of priority to ensure rent and bills are paid.

Cathy 58 - “I can’t think about buying new clothes! I can’t afford food half the time I certainly can’t buy anything extra I just can’t afford it...this coat is the first new clothing item I’ve had in 3 years Cathy has accessed emergency food 3 times this year - during her last visit we were able to provide her with a blanket and a warm coat thanks to the Ballarat Winter Appeal.

Lisa 34 (Single mum of 4) “We haven’t used the heater this year. I can’t risk a scary power bill because I know I won’t be able to pay it. The kids complain but I make them put on another jumper or grab a blanket. I feel bad but there’s nothing I can do we hardly have enough for groceries”. Lisa has accessed emergency relief 4 times this year – at her last visit we were able to provide the children with a coat and a blanket each.

Rachel has 2 small children and is a single mum, they are all on necessary medication. The pharmacy has allowed her an account as long as she makes regular payments. When several

bills arrived, Rachel found herself not being able to make her regular payments for 3 weeks in a row -Rachel felt it was impossible to catch up. In consultation we formulated a plan – she would make regular payments on her power, gas and phone and Anglicare paid the \$240 outstanding pharmacy account. Since then, Rachel has not needed further assistance but has dropped in to tell us that she’s managing her finances and that the plan has made a huge difference.

Rental increases

We are often being told people’s rents have suddenly increased by significant and uncomfortable amounts. This is forcing situations where people are having to be creative with their living arrangements. Sadly, it is leaving some people without accommodation or forcing them to sleep in their cars.

Jane 32- “We had to leave our rental; we’d been there 4 years, but the landlord put the rent up by \$80 a week. That gave us no choice but to move back home with my parents, the kids (6, 9, 11) sleep in the house and I sleep in the caravan in the backyard with my baby. I just hope we don’t wear out our welcome because what will we do then? I don’t want to lose my kids.” Jane has accessed emergency relief 2 times this year.

*Diocese of Ballarat Community Development Manager
Kate Schnerring*

Mothers' Union

Firstly, let me start my report by saying what a privilege it was to represent Ballarat Diocese as the President elect of the Mothers' Union at the Australian Conference at Templestowe in November 2022. It was a wonderful time of prayer and thanksgiving.

The Ballarat Diocese covers the south western region of Victoria, 24 Parishes with 81 churches.

At present we have 88 members - 6 branches, 3 groups who meet regularly and 7 Diocesan members. All branches, although struggling with declining numbers, remain faithful and committed to the Aims and Objectives of MU.

MU thought for the week is reprinted every week in the diocesan dNews, which is distributed through the Diocese and beyond, by mail and email.

As a promotion of MU in the Ballarat Diocese we have sourced scarves in MU colours for members to purchase and wear at functions.

As a diocese, we held our annual Quiet Day at the Benedictine Abbey in Camperdown led by Rev. Ann McKenna on the theme of *Silence – It's Struggle, Source and Surprises*.

Lady Day was celebrated with a Eucharist at Christ Church Cathedral Ballarat. It was great to welcome members, clergy and visitors, including the Karen congregation from Horsham who sang the post communion hymn. Bishop Garry celebrated and preached with the theme, *"How do we say yes to God"*? After lunch in our synod hall, our Guest Speaker, Rev. Wendy Morecroft, spoke to us of her life journey.

In May several members travelled to Hamilton for our May council meeting. We were warmly welcomed by their members and priest Father David, our MU chaplain. We acknowledged the Communion Forest Project with a eucalyptus burner and a display of gum leaves. After lunch Father David spoke to us of his trip to New York to visit with family.

He highlighted the contrast between the rich and the poor, the anger and fear that people still experience from 9/11, and the lack of space; everything goes up. The apartments are very small, and marijuana is banned in New York, but it is available in neighbouring areas. His observations and experiences were a joy to listen to.

As a diocese we have continued to support MSH, the Overseas and Outreach funds, Northern Outreach and Australian Disaster Assistance Fund. Locally we were able to support St John's play group and the Camperdown Brick Club.

Midday prayers are said every Wednesday in the Lady Chapel of the Cathedral and candles lit for branches that are being prayed for on that particular day. MU members also support their local clergy by assisting with church (communion) services in several of our Aged Care facilities.

Deaneries continue to support their local areas with hospital toiletry packs and visiting those unable to attend services. These services have recommenced after the easing of COVID19 restrictions and is very much appreciated by all. Each Deanery held their own services for Wave of Prayer Day and Mary Sumner Day.

I sincerely thank all our members for their assistance throughout the year. I am honoured to be their President.

God Bless
Jillian Gale

Anglican Criminal Justice Ministry (Prison Chaplaincy)

Once again it has been an eventful year within the prison chaplaincy ministry of the diocese. Unfortunately, due to Fr. Constantine's departure last year and the unavailability of others to join me, I have been the sole chaplain within the two prisons in our diocese. Just today I received indication though that Rev. Cheryl Haines has completed her induction at Hopkins Correctional Centre, and I'm looking forward to the day when she steps back into the prison precinct with me!

This year we have been exploring the story of the gospels in our Christian discipleship group by way of viewing that most excellent resource "The Chosen". If you have not had opportunity to check it out online, may I recommend that you do so at the earliest opportunity! It is free to view on The Chosen website, and while it is a dramatized version of the gospel story (to run over seven seasons once it is complete), the men and I are finding it both encouraging and challenging. In the same way that the "fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil" was represented as an apple by painters in Renaissance Europe - they did not know what the fruit looked like and so had to make an artistic decision - so too the writers of this series have had to make artistic decisions as they have moved Jesus and the disciples from one gospel vignette to the other. Lots of discussion has ensued after watching episodes, and I'm happy to report that the quality of the discussion is always of a most pleasing and edifying standard!

Confidentiality, of course, forbids me from giving any detail, however I am able to report that God has been working in the lives of the men who attend discipleship group and services within Hopkins Correctional Centre and Langi Kal Kal. There are times when people on the outside have questioned whether people in prison simply use religious faith as a way of calming their own consciences regarding their offending. This may be true for some, but the men to whom I minister and with whom I've travelled- some of whom for more than a decade now-demonstrate to me regularly through new decisions they're making because of their developing faith (at times involving great personal cost) that their faith is sincere and the grace of God has not been without effect in their lives!

We were fortunate this year at our annual conference to have Rev Scott Harrower from Ridley College as our guest speaker. Scott spoke to us about the reality of trauma in peoples' lives - and focused helpfully on the aspects of chaplaincy that can contribute to the healing that people need. Why is this important for prison chaplains? Many people who are in prison are well acquainted with trauma-they carry trauma from the past, they have been responsible for (and sometimes even experience) trauma through their offending and experience it often in the context of their present living conditions. Chaplains affirm that all people are created in the image of God, and the grace of God is extended to all people regardless of their past. I would suggest that there is no more effective remedy for either the behaviour that leads people into prisons or the trauma that is all too often underneath such decisions than the grace of God. The question that needs to be asked is: how do we want people to emerge from our correctional centres? Do we really want people to continue to make the same sorts of decisions that led them to prison initially? Or do we look for healing that will create the context of better decisions that honour God, others, and themselves as people made in his image?

As always, I thank all who have supported this ministry through their financial gifts, through prayer, and through inviting me to come and speak to your congregations about our ministry, which by its nature is mostly hidden from view! And as always, I pay tribute to Kate

Schnerring, who shares my task of leading the prison chaplaincy team throughout Victoria - without her commitment and dedication our ministry would be so much the poorer. Together, we seek to work for the glory of God and the service of his Kingdom.

Rev Robert Ferguson

Senior Chaplain: Anglican Criminal Justice Ministry

GFS - an Anglican Ministry

GFS is a Diocesan organisation operating with a Governing Council of 15 members with our Chaplain Fr. Chris Keast and a Townsend Group of 50 members.

We were saddened by the deaths of Lin Anne Caldwell, Dorothy St. Clair and Fr. Denys Tonks during the year. Fr. Denys was a great supporter of GFS for over 45 years.

Our very active group with support from parishioners, families and friends have donated many items made with love and care:

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|---------|-----------|
| hand knitted jumpers clothes | twiddle muffs | beanies | baby |
| capas items | scarves | socks | prem baby |
| rugs | patchwork quilts | bears | bibs. |

All donated to Residential care clients, Base Hospital, St John of God Hospital and gift shop, Anglicare, Salvations Army, Uniting care and other organisations such as WRISC.

Many bags of toiletries were delivered to Anglicare and Uniting care. Toiletry kits to the Shower bus as well as socks and jumpers. Sanitary items to Salvation Army and Hailey House.

Thankyou to members who visit and deliver these items.

Boxes of beanies, playing cards and stamps posted to Mission to Seafarer's.

A large donation of 32 hand made rugs, 34 beanies, 50 cotton bags, 5 bought fleecy rugs and four tea towels posted to Lismore Anglican Church following the floods.

We collect plastic lids 2 and 4, bread tags, stamps and small change for Very special kids's and Cops and kid's.

Financial donations have been made to-

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|-------|
| GFS World project | RFDS | Very special Kid's | |
| Bishop's Anglicare appeal Connect. | Act for Peace | Cop's and Kid's | Korus |

Four chasubles were purchased for Fr Nay Htoo Khin.

We have a working account and three investments with the Diocese.

- Many cards sent at Christmas and Easter time and to those in Residential care. Thankyou, get well and thinking of you as well as bereavement cards.
- Members attended Melbourne's 140th and Blackburn's 60th birthday celebrations.
- We met on Zoom with National members for "Father and Father figures" "World Day of Prayer"
- "Mother's Day" and "Orange days" symposiums.

- World Council held this year in Africa. Ballarat has provided items for gifts.

TOWNSEND DAYS have included-

- Snr. Constable Larinda Klein speaking on “Domestic Violence” and “Keeping safe in the home”.
- Dr. Alexandra Banks PhD. Feminist, Theologian and Glass artist.
- Mr. Stephen Barbary from ILS (Independent Living Specialist).
- End of year Christmas celebration held at the Art Gallery.

The GFS World Day of Prayer service (adapted from service arranged by GFS Sri Lanka) was held at St. John’s in conjunction with the celebration of the 140th Anniversary of GFS in the Ballarat Diocese. Guest Preacher Bishop Garry Weatherill, Fr. Chris - Chaplain, John Stuchbery - Server and Howard Terrill - Organist. Members did the readings and psalm.

A luncheon was held in the Parish Centre. Cake made by Tina Troughton. Display of history and photo albums and past uniforms. 101 year old member Mrs. Yvonne Bown cut the cake.

The Annual meeting was held in February, chaired by Fr. Chris. All members nominated for a further year. Ms Katie Le Roy was invited to join Council.

We thank Chaplain Fr. Chris Keast for his guidance and support.

We continue to carry out our Motto *“To bear one another’s burdens”*

Nathalie Stevens SECRETARY

Wendy Veal CHAIRMAN.