

Looking Back, Moving Forward



Stories from across
the Diocese of Ballarat
to commemorate and celebrate
our 150th Anniversary
(1875-2025)

This booklet celebrates the sesquicentenary of the Diocese of Ballarat, however we acknowledge the traditional owners of this land, the First Nations Peoples, and we pay our respects to their elders and recognise their spirituality that goes back over thousands of years.

OUR 150TH ANNIVERSARY DIOCESAN PRAYER

Creator God of love,

All time and every place is your gift.

We thank you that you have blessed our Diocese for the last 150 years, even when we have failed in our high calling to herald your kingdom.

Your forgiveness, love and peace sustained generations of our forebears,

And we rejoice that you still bless us and invite us to work with you to build justice, hope and love in Western Victoria.

Inspire us with a new vision and new energy as we face the future, and help us to trust and commit to the humble serving path of Jesus, guided by your Holy Spirit.

Amen.

THE FORMATION OF OUR DIOCESE

ARCHDEACON STRETCH



Theodore Carlos Benoni Stretch, is remembered as the founder of our diocese

Without Archdeacon Stretch's inspiration, dedication and zeal, the Diocese of Ballarat, as we know it today, would not exist.

T.C.B. Stretch was born in Worcester, England on 11th February 1817 and he and his family first arrived in Geelong in 1852 and was priest of St Paul's, Geelong.

In 1854 he was appointed Archdeacon of Geelong with responsibility for the Ballarat Goldfields.

A superb horseman, Stretch covered his vast archdeaconries. He visited every house and cabin he came to, held meetings and services in stations, schoolrooms, stores and inns, and collected donations. In 1872-73, he canvassed the colony to raise the endowment for the proposed bishopric of Ballarat.

He was well fitted for the position of Bishop, but declined lest he appeared to be working for his own advantage. Instead, in 1875, he installed Samuel Thornton as First Bishop of Ballarat.

THE RT REV'D SAMUEL THORNTON FIRST BISHOP OF BALLARAT



On 1 May 1875 at Westminster Abbey, Samuel Thornton was consecrated first bishop of Ballarat.

He arrived in Melbourne with his wife on 5 August in the Lord Warden and on the 11th was installed in Christ Church Pro-

Cathedral, Ballarat, at a service conducted by Archdeacon Theodore Carlos Stretch.

With 'conspicuous energy' and great organizing capacity, he tackled the task of bringing orderly administration to a diocese that extended to Mildura and the South Australian border.

He attracted men of high calibre, one of whom described him as 'probably the best scholar on the Australian Episcopal Bench of his day'. He was a brilliant extempore preacher and speaker.

A broad Churchman, Thornton welcomed both High and Low; encouraged the use of the revised version of the Bible and suggested changes, not doctrinal, to the Book of Common Prayer.

Above all he believed that the Church would stand or fall by her care for the people.

[Thornton] believed that the Church would stand or fall by her care for the people.

STORIES FROM AROUND OUR DIOCESE

ARARAT

*Thomas said to Jesus,
"Lord, we do not know where you are going.
How can we know the way?"
Jesus said to him,
"I am the way, and the truth and the life*

John 14.5,6a

It needs to be said from the very outset that life in a parish is filled with extraordinary people whose love and devotion for the risen Christ leads them into acts of self-sacrifice and dedication, who are humble and unseen in their practical devotions; gregarious and joyful, musical, quiet, patient, unassuming and steady, private and committed, wise and practical. Organists whose desire for a larger choir is not always realised. A woman running the church opportunity shop with volunteers, committed to a ministry of outreach to the wider community, a deep sense of care and dedication to meeting the needs of the poor and the missions. Sacristans caring for the sanctuary with love and devotion to Christ over many years, hospitable vergers warm and engaging.

There are inspired artists who transform naked Paschal candles into a thing of symbolic beauty in deep prayer-filled devotion. Woodworkers in whose hands prayerfully create treasured furniture for the sanctuary, the nave and narthex. Cushion makers whose handiwork keeps people warm in the depths of winter, comfortable on the wooden pews, whose kneelers impress old joints protecting them from hard wooden floors. Guardians who dedicate their practical hands, keen eyes, in their devotion to Christ upkeeping the house of the Lord. The generous contributors of funds to meet practical needs of the parish.

Those who donate land, who nurture a new congregation, or new parish with its own outer congregations such as All Saints, Willaura now a part of the Ararat parish.

Women, the resource and backbone of the parish who gift us with a unique vitality and steadfastness. A woman living a Single Consecrated Life. Dedicated Sunday school teachers and youth group leaders filled with love for Christ who open the hearts of youngsters filling their natural curiosity with the story and 'the Way' of Jesus Christ; leaders of bible study and quiet days gently bringing parishioners into the spiritual heart and mystery of the gospel in their daily life. Today, Solomon islanders, here in Australia on work visas whose harmonics breathe the profound pathos and joy of the Holy Spirit into the hearts of the congregation, part of a growing multi-cultural congregation.

A deacon, with an overflowing love for Christ, walking beside the homeless, the strugglers in the community, providing emergency relief, practical help, bringing the reserved sacrament to parishioners in aged care facilities, pastoral care for those in need of a quiet word of loving support, a coffee at the local chocolate shop, quiet unassuming acts of love and concern, a neighbourly love shared by the laity in their reaching out, witnessing to 'the Way' of Jesus Christ.

Reverend George Home who lived in a humble miner's hut during the gold mining rush to Mafeking at the foot of Gariwerd, bringing 'the gospel' of Christ to many of the thousands of miners seeking their good fortune. He was the first vicar of the newly created Parish of Willaura in 1909, previously part of the large parochial district of the Grampians which included many small communities and large

pastoral runs, extending as far as Mirranatwa Gap, Glenthompson, Lake Bolac, and Willaura. A dedicated, selfless priest, suffering much privation, travelling by horseback and buggy over his vast parish from his simple vicarage in Mafeking.

Reverend Dewhurst whose leadership in times of crisis was full met by the dedicated response of the congregation when the church burnt down and was rebuilt in six months. Rev Henry Mathews, priest at Christ Church Moyston who suffered a brutal martyrdom at the hands of the Japanese invaders in PNG during the Asia-Pacific war choosing not to desert his mission amongst the people nor recant his belief in Christ.

Our locum for seven years, a retired priest, who gifted us with a Christ centred humility, gentle compassion and deep wisdom, standing firm in Christian teaching, practical, always there in the background walking alongside parishioners, laying the foundation for new life in the parish while suffering terminal illness. A woman priest who was chaplain to the incarcerated in the local prison bringing men to Christ through baptism and confirmation, with patient, gentle, wise, down to earth compassion and witnessing to the 'gospel'.

ALL SAINTS WILLAURA

Christian witness has always been a vital, life-giving thread in the fabric of the farming district of Willaura. Its present weatherboard church and vicarage were built on land donated by the Millear Family, who continue to be a mainstay of our small community of worshippers today. During these years there was a parishioner, Betty Robinson, who, like many before her, expressed her devotion to Christ in practical ways. She was unassuming, humble and loyal. Her dedication and love for beauty, meant the church was prepared for every service, with fresh flowers, well ironed linen and brightly polished utensils for the sanctuary. Her exquisite linen handiwork shown in a lace altar cloth, reminds our

congregation of her generosity of spirit. Betty was always there in the background, serving the Lord in faith, believing in the love of Christ, looking forward in hope. When her three grandchildren had need of help from the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind (now Vision Australia) Betty's Christian witness was instrumental in the establishment of an Opportunity shop, which became her world later in life, annually raising thousands of dollars for the Blind Institute, continuing the work of The Willaura Auxiliary for the Blind initiated in 1929. Betty's selflessness informed her actions in all of her volunteer roles in the many community clubs of our town in the Baby Boom era of the 50s and 60s. Through her continuing dedication in the life of the church and the Opportunity shop, she made a difference to people's lives, and her three grandchildren now provide inspiration for others in the lives they lead.

CHRIST CHURCH, MOYSTON

The once thriving farming community of Moyston, largely made up of farm workers employed on Barton Station and other nearby pastoral runs, or working their own smaller holdings, had large families and were often found spilling out of the church on a Sunday for a lack of seating. In more recent years Joan Beglehole was its fierce guardian, a woman of great dedication to her task. As mentioned, during the Asia-Pacific war their priest Reverend Henry Mathews was martyred at the hands of the Japanese.

CHRIST CHURCH, GREAT WESTERN

Wine signifies the blood of Christ and with Great Western being famous for wine, families like the Bests and Thomsons' were at the forefront in not only the wine industry but also the Anglican Church. Services began in the gold rush days of the 1850's, being held in tents before moving to the former Common School and then the present Church building. Mary and Eric Thomson, shine in the outstanding service of many parishioners over

the years, upholding their Christian values and sharing their love with all in the Great Western community.

Although Eric held the position of Secretary of the Church for over 37 years, he often remarked Mary deserved the praise for reminding him of what needed to be done to ensure the Church was always ready for service and to serve the community. Mary's welcoming, lovable nature meant all newcomers were welcomed to the Church and she encouraged the sharing of her Christian values by teaching Sunday School each week and always had time to assist any of the community in need. Biscuits were made and shared at Christmas to celebrate with anyone that may not have otherwise received gifts or have someone to share celebrations with.

Always showing generosity towards the Church, the beautiful pillars at the front gate of the Church were donated by the Thomson family. Descendants of Eric and Mary are still involved in our Church life today, upholding the values instilled in them by Eric and Mary. Through Mary's encouragement one of our present congregation, Dianne Radford OAM joined the community of the Church, following in Mary's footsteps to teach Sunday School, sharing the Christian message. Youth was always a focus and when Dianne saw an issue, she established a Youth Group in the town to further support young people on their life journey. Dianne remembers the warm welcome she was given to the Church encouraging her to be involved, which she still is today as Guardian for Great Western and playing an active role on Parish Council and right across the parish. We are pleased to say services are still enjoyed on a monthly basis in our town.

At Holy Trinity, Ararat, there was a farmer, a humble man with a dry wit not always understood by incumbents. His name is not recorded here out of respect for his wishes. Daily you could come across him attending to the grounds, helping out with repairs, a task here a task there. He did not like to waste time and called in help from able and willing

parishioners. He was a joyful chorister with a love for harmonics. A Eucharistic assistant, LLM, who thoughtfully wrote the weekly intercessions for many years with an emphasis on farming welfare. A warden for many years and able leader, who without exception, kept our council meetings and men's dinners to an hour, attending synod for many years. A generous man with a heart filled with love for the Lord, spending hours in the sanctuary in prayer and reading the bible, seeking to walk with Christ more closely as each week unfolded into another. He was and remains much loved in our congregation, his Christian witness held close in the hearts of those who knew him. The presence of his spirit in the church, during Sunday services, and at other times, is evident to some who knew him, and continues to be a source of joy and peace, hope and groundedness.

BUANGOR

St George's Anglican Church in Buangor began life in 1888 as the Anglican Church in Middle Creek, halfway between Ararat and Beaufort serving the local pastoral community until 1957 at which point the Church building was relocated to Buangor with the help of the Kneebone family and others. The Pickford family donated the land and local families donated leadlight windows, the font and other accoutrements, some of which have found their way to Holy Trinity Ararat. Mrs Dorothy Allender, a busy farmer's wife was a dedicated church organist in the St George's congregation for 30 years. When her children were young, and still in need of supervision, she brought them each Sunday to be beside her while she played the organ. Indeed, a 3pm Sunday service was a time when children were normally at play and farming families at work. Therefore, to attend a Sunday service was truly a dedication to the Lord. Her husband, Alec, was the representative on the Ararat Church Council for many years, and for a period of time Sunday School classes were given by Mrs. Clarice Shalders from Mt. Cole. When the church closed an icon celebrating its entity

and its parishioners was placed in Holy Trinity, Ararat.

The Christian witness of those mentioned here, and of so many others in the life of the parish reflects our 'Easter hope', the transforming gift of love of the risen Christ for a changing world. As Christians we are being called to step forward in faith to meet the radical changes now facing all humanity, artificial intelligence and its implications for humanity's definition of a human person, and human law. It is into this strange new world, further endangered by rapidly unfolding climate change threatening the very livelihood of our farming communities, we are called to build up the body of Christ. A witness which is not fearful, is loving and life-giving, discerning, wise, humble, self-sacrificing and practical, stepping forward in prophetic action without prejudice welcoming all people into 'the Way' of Jesus Christ, irrespective of 'where they are coming from' or 'where they are going to' on their journey through life. It is our steadfast hope that such Christian witness may continue to be so in the life of the Ararat parish.

*"And the Word became flesh
and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory,
the glory as of the father's only son,
full of grace and truth...
From his fullness we have all received,
grace upon grace." John 1.14,16*

BEAUFORT AND SKIPTON

HARRY FLEAY

The name Harry Fleay is synonymous with Beaufort Church. Harry dedicated himself in serving the local church community as well as participating in the Diocese. Harry served on the Vestry at St John the Baptist Beaufort as well as on Parish Council and as a Synod representative. He is fondly remembered for his good humour, and his faithful service. He was always willing to take on every maintenance job with good cheer. He took particular pride in keeping the gravel around the church in tip top condition. A true character of Christian love and service to God who was always first there and last out

GEORGE LINES

George was a stalwart of Christ Church Skipton. He is remembered for his vast vocabulary, ironic satire, quick wit and somewhat dubious humour. George had a great passion for the Sacrament and good liturgy. He was decidedly against taped music and women priests, though he reconciled to both in due course! He could be the bane of Bishops at Synod with his yen for correct punctuation and his insistence on proper order. He was very generous in support of the church and his donation of a stained glass window depicting the suffering of Job, which is in the entry to the church, is a constant reminder of his dedication and witness in the church and wider community.

THE BENEDICTINE ABBEY CAMPERDOWN

On 8th November 1975, Father Michael King and one other were clothed as novices and this began a journey which resulted in the establishment of the Benedictine Monastery. It was in the 1980's that they acquired the property at 280 Camperdown-Cobden Road and took up residence in the house overlooking the lake, using the double garage as the church.

In the years that followed, the monastery grew and a beautiful church was built and the monastic enclosure was established.

Benedictines are called to a life of prayer and the community supports itself financially through the work of the printery, which is still operating today, making incense, which is still happening today, creating beautiful icons to sell, which has now ceased, and offering hospitality in the guest house, which is still happening today. In more recent years a second guest house was added. The original Guest house is named Saint Joseph's and the newer guest house is named Subiaco. The community of monks and nuns grew over the years and welcomed guests who participated in the Daily Office (Opus Dei) and Eucharist in the church. In the early 1990's two nuns from Malling Abbey (UK) came to the Camperdown monastery for two years to assist with women's monastic formation. Sr Anastasia returned to Malling after her two years' stay. Sr Mary Philip transferred her Stability to Camperdown and remained as a much loved and valued member of the Community until her death in 2014.

In 2002, Fr Michael King, who was the Prior,

was elected to the position of Abbot, and this also meant that the monastery then became an Abbey. It is now known as the Benedictine Abbey in Camperdown. Abbot Michael died in 2014 and Sister Raphael was appointed as Superior.

Dom Placid transferred from Nashdom Abbey (UK) in the 1980's and was one of the first monks of the newly formed Camperdown monastery. He established the beautiful gardens and tended the orchards and

preserved fruits and made jams for the community and their guests. Dom Placid died in 2022 and Sister Raphael is now the last of the vowed religious living at the Abbey.

Many people ask about the future of the Abbey and Sister Raphael's response is that the Abbey is a community of not just vowed religious but oblates and friends of the Abbey. She is well

supported by the Abbey committee which helps her to maintain the administration and legal affairs pertaining to the running of the Abbey. Sister Raphael uses the passage from Isaiah as a guide for the future:

"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:19)

The future of the Abbey is hard to define at this stage and each day God is opening up new opportunities to explore. It is an exciting time for the Abbey, and Sister Raphael and those who support her look forward to discovering what God has in store for this very special place.

(Sr Raphael Stone OSB)



BUNINYONG

FR. ELLIS JONES 1987-1994

Fr. Ellis started a small Choir and also a Kid's Club on Fridays after school and held between Buninyong and Sebastopol Halls. Potato Cakes and Chips were ordered at Sebastopol Fish Shop and every child was fed. They played out door games, Craft Activities and Prayers.

There were a lot of kids from neighbouring areas and it was very popular.

We also had Mothers' Union, Sunday School and Ladies Guild.

Under Fr. Ellis' Guidance the new vicarage/rectory was built.

Spiritually I personally felt Fr. Ellis brought a lot more meaning to Easter.

He introduced us to - The Washing of feet on Maundy Thursday, stripping of the Altar and

Quiet Prayer Time or Reading after the Service to either stay or come and go until midnight.

Fr Ellis introduced Stations of the Cross every Friday morning during Lent and a Saturday Evening Service on Easter Eve.

FR. PERC. ROWLANDS

Fr Perc. was relieving Priest quite often. Fr. Perc spoke more casually and at our level, not from the Pulpit but from in front of the pews or up and down the aisle while relating the sermons to our everyday lives

All of the Priests have given their different Talents to our Congregations over the years.

Some significant events in our parish included the sale of the old Vicarage and a new Vicarage built on block behind Sebastopol Church. Much later New Vicarage built at Buninyong on old Croquet Lawn. Yendon Church shifted to Buninyong and used as a Tennis Club Hall. The old kitchen on side of Sunday School Hall was demolished and a

kitchen area and cupboards built in big hall and an Op shop opened in Tennis Club Hall

The Memorial Garden was established. Buninyong, Sebastopol, St. Lukes, St. Stephens, Corindhap formed as one parish - THE PARISH OF SOUTH BALLARAT.

Church Restorations or Renovations - The first one was mainly replastering and damp

roofing the walls. The Interior of the Church has changed at different times - One main aisle instead two aisles. Organ and choir stalls shifted from front to back of church and Font

moved from enclosed area at back of church to the front of the Church.

There were also many social activities held. Church Fairs/Fetes held in Church Grounds and Hall usually in November each year, Debutante Balls and Social Dances and many Coffee Mornings.

Over the years Buninyong Parish set up has changed from being with Sebastopol, St. Lukes St. Stephens and Corindhap to just being Buninyong on its own.

Early on the Parish included Morrisons Scotsburn Yendon Elaine and Buninyong.

ALAN AND SUELLEN CROUCH

have been with the church for almost 20 years. They came to us in their 50's, having been Christians for much of their lives and part of many churches over the years, most of which were non-Anglican. They have many gifts between them and have made many contributions to the life of this church over the years. Hospitality is one of their key gifts, constantly inviting people to their home after church as well as other times. They are also prayerful people, praying daily for the Minister as well as the people of the church and people who do not yet know Christ. They engage with people of all ages and have been an encouragement to many, including the Minister. They have led various groups and activities with humility and a passion for

helping people become and grow as disciples of Jesus. They are always willing to lend a hand and support people in various ways in their time of need. And Alan's quirky sense of humor and dad jokes have provided laughter, perspective and cringes at different times.

CLAIRE FORD

Claire was baptised at Ballan Anglican church in 1934 her family moved to Ballarat when she was 8 yrs old due to her mother's illness. She then attended St Peters Sunday school and then was confirmed at St Peters church.

She married at All Saints Ballarat then built a home in Buninyong on the Attwood farm therefore started attending Holy Trinity Church from 1957.

The Attwood clan have 6 generations attending the church and 5 generations of baptisms performed there commencing from 1874 including her own children and grandchildren.

Claire then joined the Guild because her mother-in-law was a member, she has been an office bearer for all positions. Also joined YMD (Young Members Dept) which led into MU (Mothers Union) where she has been Treasurer forever and recently received her 60 year service badge.

She has helped organise for the Guild, yearly Fete Fairs with hoopla, lucky dips and best decorated saucers, Strawberry Fairs with lots of scones, strawberries and cream, a Debutante Ball, sponge stalls on election day, held progressive dinners in homes including her own for one of the courses, which were all fundraisers for the church. She would be the first one to the Sunday school hall to light the open fire as there was no gas heating until many years later when she donated the existing gas heaters that are there today.

She was a Sunday school teacher when her four children were very young. Later became a Eucharistic Assistant at Holy Trinity Church which she felt very honoured to have been asked to do so.

Every year she, Dawn Whykes and Joan Grace would trim the hedges right around the church and would regularly mow the grass around the church including the croquet lawn which was where the rectory now stands today.

The existing Stations of the Cross were donated by her in memory of her late husband Frank Attwood. Her 2nd marriage to Lindsay Ford took place in this very church in 1986. From 1991 to 2005 Claire has made 54 tapestry kneelers by hand for the church pews and 3 communion rail kneelers at the Altar Rail. Some of these kneelers are now in at the Cathedral still being used today.

Holy Trinity Tennis Club was reformed from church parishioners. It was part of her life playing and coaching Juniors when Dawn Whykes needed a break.

Claire was also on the flower and cleaning rosters, she still provides her Easter Daisy and Dahlias from her garden at Easter time for decorations.

At the age of 90 Claire still drives out to Buninyong from Delacombe to attend services at Holy Trinity. Without volunteers like Claire things just don't happen you have to step up and make them happen whether it's quietly behind the scenes or out in full view.

Marg Harbour

OUR VISION OR HOPE FOR THE FUTURE.

Under God and with the presence of His Spirit, we will continue to live out the Great Commission of Jesus: to make and grow disciples of his in Buninyong and beyond.

CAMPERDOWN AND HOLY APOSTLES

FR ROBERT CAERNARVON-SMITH

Fr Robert Caernarvon-Smith's association with our Combined Parishes actually began over 33yrs ago. He was inducted as Priest-in-Charge of the Timboon/Simpson Parochial District in 1991. Shortly after arriving he was guiding us as we amalgamated with Terang/Cobden to form the Parish of Holy Apostles - St Jude's, Timboon, St Simon's, Simpson, All Saints, Terang and St Mary's, Cobden – helping us to realise and accept that neither 'half' was viable enough to have a full-time priest. He subsequently helped guide the Simpson Anglican community through the difficult decision to close St Simon's.

Though retired, he has returned at times to provide Locum cover during Priest holidays and absence to our Parishes of Camperdown and Holy Apostles.

He then supported us as we waited in anticipation for a permanent new Rector for our Combined Parishes – initially, the Locum position was expected to be 'a few weeks', then became 'til the end of the year' and then even longer! Fr Robert didn't waver and continued to travel down from Ararat to provide a priestly presence and gentle words of encouragement across all four centres according to the pre-existing rotation of Morning Prayer and Eucharist.

As demographics and congregations have changed, expanding, contracting then expanding again like breathing lungs, Fr Robert was there to lighten the mood and bring positivity.

Like a thread in a tapestry whose colour or texture appears then disappears only to reappear again in another area – maybe small in itself, but so important to the overall picture,

Fr Robert has woven himself into the evolving tapestry of the Anglican Churches and the people that now comprise the Combined Parishes of Camperdown and Holy Apostles by helping us move forward.

KATH TROTTER

Most across the combined Parishes of Camperdown and Holy Apostles, and many from the broader diocese, will know or have heard of "Mrs Trotter" (Kathleen 'Kath' Trotter, nee Boyle) from St Jude's Timboon. Having passed away just shy of 99 years old in 2017, Mrs Trotter's enduring legacy is one of faithfulness and dedication to the church and to her God.

To those of us who had the privilege of knowing her, our impression is that Mrs Trotter's life revolved around her family and her faith, and her life was shaped by these two things. She met her future husband Charlie in the church hall at St Mary's, Cobden, and at St Mary's they were subsequently married. Spending their later years living just across the road from St Jude's Timboon, Mrs Trotter attended daily mass while it was offered, or joined the resident priest for morning and evening prayer. Mrs Trotter would also host Lenten studies and the like in her own home.

As service offerings diminished, priests lived elsewhere, and age progressed, Mrs Trotter would still diligently cross the road – later aided by a wheelie-walker – to attend services. She would then take her position in the hall to the left of the heater for a cuppa and fellowship (a seat that is still known as "Mrs Trotter's chair" today).

In Mrs Trotter's own words, when asked by Fr David Oulton to write a paragraph about 'What daily mass means to me':

"In the recesses of one's learning is the phrase, 'God must come first.' Not easy, but the Lord's Table is laid, I am invited, how is one able to refuse, when all I possess comes from Him? This I firmly believe. We make time for God. God makes time for us to do all we could ever

wish to achieve. ...Whenever, however, I am able to enter God's house of St Jude, there I find strength and guidance in happy times, sad times, decisions and problem times. My refuge. My strength. One word, 'renewal'?"

MOVING FORWARD

Over the years there have been many changes to the geographical landscape of the Parishes of Camperdown and Holy Apostles. There are four centres including Camperdown, which is a parish in its own right, and Cobden, Terang and Timboon which form the Parish of Holy Apostles. We are also privileged that the Benedictine Abbey of St Mark lies on our doorstep, on the road between Camperdown and Cobden.

One of the principal goals from 2022 to 2024 was to clear the financial debt to the diocese. This was achieved in December 2024 and the Parishes of Camperdown and Holy Apostles are now moving forward and exploring how to be more missional.

Having focused on our own financial responsibilities, it is now time to look at being the best we can be in ministering within the four centres, and being missional in our support of others outside our own parishes, as well as maintaining our financial viability.

We remain committed to supporting the Benedictine Abbey, as well as Mission Agencies such as ABM, and we are constantly seeking new ways to be missional. A recent "Funny Friday" joke telling afternoon raised funds for the Starlight Foundation, an organisation that puts smiles on the faces of sick children.

We will continue to support "Operation Christmas Child" through our Terang community. The Anglican Church in Terang (Parish of Holy Apostles) has been involved in coordinating this project in Terang for many years. People from the wider community, local churches, businesses and schools all help in providing items which can be packed in special gift shoeboxes for delivery to children in other

countries. In 2024, 114 boxes were packed in Terang, and these were included in the 206,110 Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts that were packed by dedicated individuals and families around Australia.

Being missional shifts the focus from ourselves to others. We have much to thank God for as we look back over the past 150 years, and we remain committed to "moving forward" in mission into the future.

CHRIST THE KING CATHEDRAL, BALLARAT

DONALD IAN HUNTLEY

(Don) died on the 27th June 2005 aged 46. Don was a devoted servant of the Cathedral Church of Christ the King and community, leaving behind a legacy of faithful service and



dedication. He served with distinction on the Bishop in Council and demonstrated his commitment to education through his role as Chairman of Finance on the Grammar Board for over ten years. His deep faith was evident in his faithful service as an altar server at our Cathedral. Don was a beloved family man, a devoted husband to Joanne and a loving father to children Joseph and Jessica. His passion for music and the arts continues to be celebrated through the annual 'Don Huntley Piano Recital' held at the Wendouree Centre for Performing Arts, ensuring that his memory and love for musical excellence lives on in the community he served so faithfully.

CITY ON A HILL

At City on a Hill Ballarat our history will be shorter than all the other churches in our diocese! We began life as little more than an idea; a hope and a prayer that God would grow a new church for Ballarat. From the outset, Bishop Garry played a significant role in seeing the potential in these prayers. He saw that there was an opportunity to offer a different expression of Anglicanism to the people of our city, adding to the rich tapestry of churches with long histories in Ballarat.

As all plants do, we started life small and in need of support. We began by meeting in a living room: for many months this was all the space we needed. We met to pray, to seek the Lord in His word and to develop plans for what this church might look like. Slowly but surely, God gathered more people excited by the prospect of planting a new church and playing a part in it. He provided the people we needed at just the right time! One faithful lady raised her hand to lead our kids ministry, just when we needed her. Another said she'd lead us in music. One couple said they would take on hosting and leading a mid-week bible study group when we needed to multiply. We are where we are today, just a couple of years later thriving as a church community meeting in Ballarat North, because of God's grace and the faithful service of His willing servants.

This short history fills us with confidence for the future. Our mission as a church is a simple yet profound one: we want to know Jesus and make Jesus known. Though we are young, we share a history with churches down through history and across our diocese, convinced that the gospel is good news, beautiful and true. We're eager to share that with the people around us. Hope burns bright that God would use us to play our part in the life of the diocese, seeing lives changed by Jesus for another 150 years and more!

Ben Hewitt

COLAC

JEAN TANN

Jean Tann joined the Anglican Parish of Colac in 1998 and had already served in her previous Parish of the Otways.

In the past 27 years with our parish, Jean has assisted as parish councillor, synod representative, offering pastoral care and confirmation preparation, as well as hospitality and in a variety of liturgical roles.

Jean's skills and wisdom have also been recognised at a diocesan level when in 1983 she became a lay canon at Christ Church Cathedral in Ballarat, in recognition of her service in the parish and the diocese, including on Bishop in Council.



Jean's participation at a diocesan level really grew in 1994 when Bishop David Silk contacted Jean and asked her to chair a task force as part of the Decade of Evangelisation program named Pilgrimage 2001. The program involved organising four residential conferences and had two priorities – formation in worship, and passing on the faith to the young. This program was described in Bishop Silk's 2001 Address to Synod as "the engine of the diocese." He further offered Jean high and fitting praise saying, "Lay Canon Jean Tann who has chaired it for the whole of its life – six years – as Chief Engineer, or better Chief Stoker. She has discharged a noble task with distinction and imagination."

Until 2024 Jean served on the serving team and as rector's warden at the Parish of Colac. Jean and Cliff were recently honoured with an icon and special prayer in our Sunday Parish Eucharist at Ss Johns' Colac on Mothering Sunday 2025.

Speaking of her service in such a variety of roles over many years, Jean stated, "I feel this is my way of giving back to God, for the many blessings he's given me."

Together with her husband Cliff, Jean continues to be a wise and stabilising presence in our parish, and we thank them both for their life among us.

CAPTION: Lay Canons of Christ Church Cathedral, Ballarat

L-R: Bishop David Silk, Beverley Pepper, Vern Robson, Jean Tann and Keith Haines

THE REVEREND TOM MORGAN



The Rev. Tom Morgan is a priest who had a long and valued ministry in Colac-Otway region.

Fr Tom was accepted as a candidate for Bush Church Aid in 1949, commenced at Ridley College in 1950, and was ordained deacon in 1953.

After being ordained into the priesthood, BCA sent Tom, Doreen, and their three-month old baby to Beech Forest.

In an interview with New Life Magazine in 1981, Fr Tom recounted that many times he

needed to chop up fallen trees that blocked the road and haul them out of the way so that he could get home to his family.

Speaking of his time ministering the area, Fr Tom once said, "I was always accepted without exception when I visited sheep and cattle properties. They would offer me hospitality and I would talk to them about Christian things. Out of that came baptisms and marriages. It really was a privilege to serve."

BCA Victorian Regional Officer, Adrian Lane recently commented, "On a deputation at Colac, I kept meeting people who remembered with great affection Tom's commitment to preaching Christ to all and any, wherever, using every opportunity."

Fr Tom Morgan is remembered fondly in our parish and he baptised a number of significant parishioners. Fr Tom was never parish priest of the Anglican Parish of Colac, but his life and ministry had an impressive impact on many parishioners who received his ministry in Colac and the Ottways area.

Following his time in Beech Forest, Fr Tom worked in the Melbourne Diocese and also with the Australian Military Forces. Until his passing in March 2024, Fr Tom was Vice President Emeritus & the only Life Member of the Bush Church Aid Society.

STRETCH SUNDAY SHARED LUNCH

On 'Stretch Sunday' (August 10), the day we remember the founder of our Diocese Archdeacon TCB Stretch, Bishop Garry encouraged every parish to celebrate our diocesan anniversary with a shared lunch. To facilitate a feeling of togetherness, it was suggested that each parish offers a similar menu - food that may have been eaten 150 years ago.



Shared Lunch Suggestions

Sit-down menu

Starters

Vegetable Soup
Chicken Broth
Split Pea Soup

Main Course

Lamb/Mutton Stew
Veggie Stew
Shepherds Pie

Dessert

Eureka Pudding*
Jam Roly Poly



Picnic Food

Bacon & Egg Roll
Cold Roast Lamb/Mutton
Jellied Fruit



Recipe for *Eureka Pudding

Preparation

10 mins Cook: 1½ - 2 hours Serves 6-8

Ingredients

1 teaspoon mixed spice
½ teaspoon cinnamon
1 cup milk
60gms butter
1 cup mixed fruit
½ cup sugar
1 teaspoon bi-carb soda,
dissolved in a little water
1 cup Self Raising flour, sifted

Method

Place a large pot of water onto boil.
Grease a pudding basin.
Place the first 6 ingredients into a saucepan
and bring slowly to the almost boil.
Remove from the heat.
Add bi-carb which has been
dissolved in a little water.
Add sifted Self Raising Flour and mix well.
Place in prepared pudding basin
and seal with a lid.
Place in the boiling pot of water.
Steam for 1½ - 2 hours.
Serve hot with Custard, cream or ice cream.

*Sourced from Early Settlers Household Lore Compiled by
Mrs. N. Prescott 4th Edition Ralphael Arts Pty Ltd
Text ©1977 Ballarat Historical Park Association*

STRETCH SUNDAY SHARED LUNCH



GLENELG WANNON

FREDA AND IAN TROETH HOLY TRINITY CHURCH COLERAINE.

Freda and Ian Troeth met in Coleraine through their involvement in a small musical band in about 1963. This little band just played for socialisation in private homes.

Ian asked if he could marry Freda and she replied Yes...if you can build us a house! Which he did.

They married in 1965 at Holy Trinity Church Coleraine. Ian was raised as a Methodist, but since marrying Freda they have worshipped together at Holy Trinity for the past 60 years and have had a very strong involvement in parish Life.

Ian had been Guardian for many, many years, and Freda was a Guild member, Parish treasurer, and also played the organ.

Ian worked in the Soil Conservation program in the Coleraine area, as well as a small farm. He is a terrific vegetable gardener and says he is deeply connected by his love of the land, to acknowledge God as the Creator.

Freda worked for many years as the Medical Clinic receptionist and bookkeeper and was loved for her kindness and care in that role.

Together they raised 4 children.

They have been fully immersed in the life of the Church community as well as Coleraine community, and as they are now in their 90s, we acknowledge their faithful Christian witness, and support for their community, as well as just being very endearing people who we love very much.

Coralie Coulson

HAMILTON

This story is about no specific person but rather a collective collage of faithful people who I have had the privilege of serving in the parish of Hamilton.

Sunday by Sunday, day by day, they come and sit on hard wooden pews and in blithering, biting cold and stinking unforgiving heat, mutter their prayers and sing hymns to the unseen God.

Each person is richly endowed with enviable talents. From the chorister, to the handyman, to the flower arranger, to the statesman, to the gardener. From those who quietly visit and listen, to those who light and extinguish candles, set up and pack up.

Their work is largely imperceptible, but their laughter and conversation is often audible and their countenance is always welcoming. Their giggling is contagious and their prayers are like an all encompassing doona that is comforting and consoling.

There are those who challenge me to think and pray. They stretch me in all sorts of ways and help me to aspire to giddy new heights of wisdom and discernment. I owe them a particular debt for they teach me the invaluable lesson that 'You can't unsay things.'

And there are those who have suffered piercing, ferocious heartbreak and rather than bow down to the insatiable Gods of anger and bitterness, have risen from the ashes, understanding that their tears and their bruises are actually the marks of their magnificence.

To be immersed in such wildness and wit in the western districts is a privilege I did not seek and one I certainly do not deserve.

Month by flitting month, in all my encounters, they selflessly show forth a faith that is courageous and rapturous. In smashing good times and in the despair of drought, their faith is the one thing that I have come to rely on and enjoy.

And if they can do it... why can't I?

Fr David Oulton

LOWER GLENELG

REVEREND CANON JOHN BEDFORD

Father John was inspirational, encouraging, and a man of his people. Big occasions didn't faze him and he took us all along with him. Yet he still had time for the little ones, the new ones, the ones like me finding their way. He believed in us, and gave us the courage to stretch ourselves and learn.

Father John and the Council of 1974 decided it was time the church was completed as per the original plans, and so the 'Narthex' was planned, built, and celebrated.

Led by John Miles, builder and parishioner, the Narthex was built by the men of the Parish. Ably backed up by the women with food and fundraising, it was completed and dedicated by Bishop Hazelwood in May 1976.

Sunday School camps were held annually at Rocklands and up to 150 children attended these camps. Group discussions, hikes, games, and the concert where every child took part, made for great weekends of love and fellowship.

Father John invited me to Lenten Mission, culminating with Bishop Hazelwood for Holy week, leading nightly discussions. Powerful stuff. From that Mission, a Bible Study group commenced and I was part of that, listening and learning.

Around this time the AAPB was introduced, which included the 'Greeting of Peace'. It took us a long time to be comfortable with this, but I believe it helped break down the Anglican 'reserve'. It included lay people reading the lessons for the first time and I was pretty chuffed when Father John asked me to be on the roster.

In 1978 we hosted a Diocesan Thanksgiving Service in a local wool store. Some 4500 people came, Bishops, Priest, Deacons and people. Organised by Father John and

the people of Portland, we fed them and celebrated with them. We were Blessed with his love and leadership.

MISS BETTY VIVIAN

A Legacy of Generosity and Inspiration

Miss Betty Vivian's extraordinary generosity has left a lasting imprint on our Church and community. As a devoted benefactor, she enabled the complete re-slating of St Stephen's Church roof in 2020, making a significant financial and heritage investment in preserving our place of worship for generations to come. Yet, her gift extends far beyond bluestone and slate; it continues to provide funding for mission projects, ensuring her kindness keeps giving.

A local woman from a respected Portland family, Miss Vivian dedicated her life to education as a schoolteacher. She had a deep passion for history and a heartfelt commitment to the wellbeing and learning of children. Her love for both her Church and the wider community was evident in all she did.

In recognition of Miss Vivian's generosity, a new artwork is being created for the Lady Chapel at St Stephen's as a tribute to her enduring legacy. Looking ahead, we may also refurbish the former Sunday School into a parish history centre, celebrating Portland's heritage as Victoria's birthplace and honouring Miss Vivian's love for history and education.

May Miss Betty Vivian's unwavering spirit of giving inspire us all to serve our communities with generosity and care. Through her example, we are reminded that acts of kindness - whether in education, history, or faith - create ripples that reach far beyond our own time.

Vicki Goyen

RUBY AND ARTHUR BULL

Heywood Parish was blessed by the extraordinary generosity of Ruby and Arthur Bull, who gifted their farm to the Parish which is now Lower Glenelg. With no descendants, they chose to ensure their land would continue to serve the parish after Arthur's passing and probate settlement.

Ruby (née Jarrad) was deeply devoted to her faith. As a child, she travelled miles to attend Sunday School, crossing the Glenelg River—on a log in summer and by boat in winter. She remained a dedicated church leader throughout her life, serving in the Ladies' Guild and on the Central Council.

Her generosity was evident not only in her service to the church but also in her care for her family. She looked after her three brothers on their family property, "Red Hill," until the youngest, John, was the last to marry in early 1945. Only then did she feel free to begin her own married life, wedding Arthur Bull on April 5, 1945, and moving to his farm, "Shingle Hut" in Puralka.

After Arthur's passing in 1960, Ruby gifted their farm to the church in 1962, ensuring its future. She later moved to Dartmoor and spent her final years at the Heywood Hostel, passing away in 1994 at age 89. Their legacy of generosity continues to bless the church today.

Joy Savill

FR HAYDEN MCKELLAR

Fr Hayden was a shining light during our last interregnum of nearly 4 years. His care and support for the parish was undeniable, especially as we all struggled with lockdowns and the uncertainty of the pandemic. Hayden travelled from Warrnambool every week and sent newsletters to parishioners when we were unable to attend services.

Hayden kept our spirits up through his love of God and his desire to serve. Some found him quirky and different to what we were used to, especially the beautiful and colourful

clergy shirts, but the warmth and humility was evident at every service.

Throughout his life Hayden has served God and his community wherever that may have been. Health problems Hayden was dealing with were pushed back as he took on the role of locum.

Family life has always been front and centre, the support to and from Vivienne and children Heather and Crawford has helped them all to get through the tough times. Faith and love have always been at the base of Hayden's life, his faith journey, like many others has been a winding road, of travelling with parents to church and parishes in remote places, and then continuing on to his own ordination and service to the church in many locations. Our diocese has been fortunate to have such a faithful servant of the Lord.

I feel fortunate to call Hayden a true friend and mentor, always willing to listen and show genuine care.

Jan L

HORSHAM

This parish found it difficult to choose just a few people to write about, so have decided to produce a booklet for their parish including everyone. We look forward to hearing more about this project.

LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD

The Looking Back, Moving Forward project has been a catalyst for discussion within our Horsham parish with a wealth of memories and material covering our various histories.

If we were to mention the individuals who have shaped our present community of faith we would far exceed 300 words and invariably leave someone out.

The church we call St. John's Horsham encompasses the church of St. Aidans Natimuk and St. Phillips Rupanyup. In the past Holy Trinity Murtoa and St. Oswalds Marnoo were part of the greater Horsham parish.

The histories that have come to us from so many willing to share their stories reminds us that the church is essentially the people.

A new history is formed every day as we make decisions based on our daily communion with God. If history has taught us anything it is surely that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit have walked with us as our clergy and lay people collaborated in the formation of our parish as it exists today.

In moving forward we put our trust in God and we pray that the spirit which guided those who formed our church, will continue to bless us as we face the future with hearts and minds open to the love of God.

The people of the Horsham Parish

MORTLAKE

It's interesting to look back and imagine being a church attendee 125+ years ago.

The St James Anglican Church building at Mortlake was opened on February 15, 1865. However services had been held periodically in various locations in Mortlake since the Rev T.P Beamish was appointed incumbent of the Parish of Warrnambool in 1850.

One of the early incumbents at Mortlake was the Rev. J Wagg, and some extracts from the 'Remarks' column in his church register make interesting reading.

Some of his weather observations recorded in 1898 informs us that 7th August was *very wet*, 11th November was *oppressive and stormy* and the 4th and 14th of December were *very hot days*. 1899 appeared to be no better. On 1st January there was *rain after intense heat*. The Sunday School picnic on Saturday February 12th was *very hot*. February 26th experienced *a great change and stormy*. But September 1899 was *cold, wet and stormy*.

The annual report for 1898 showed that there had been 4 marriages and 6 funerals; a Masonic service; and the total number of services for the year was 114 – 84 on Sundays and festivals, and 30 on other days. Attendance across the year for Holy Communion was 317, and average attendance at services was 65 (morning) and 74 (evening).

In 1902 there was one marriage, 2 funerals, 15 baptisms and 11 churchings. The total number of services was 147: 118 conducted by the vicar, 5 by the curate, 19 by Mr Archer and 5 by Mr Wood. Total attendance at Holy Communions was 300. Average attendance at services was 65 in the morning and 50 in the evening.

Oh how things have changed in our parish over the years.

BOB MCKENZIE

Bob was one of our loved parishioners, who was very strong in his faith and dedicated to our church and the community. He did many things for the church without fuss or bother, and many of these were unspoken of and unknown to most. One of his gifts was a lovely printed copy of the Lord's Prayer that every parishioner received.

He spent some time as editor of the Parish Review, was a Parish Councillor and Synod member.

Bob managed to organise sponsorship from various companies to boost our Parish Fair, including Warrnambool Cheese and Butter and Blue Pyrenees Wines – both of which were much appreciated but the attendees.

Apart from his work in the parish, Bob was a Rotarian and Churchill Fellow, and was a self-published author of his walking journey down the Hopkins River from its source to the sea.

PORT FAIRY

KEVIN HARRIS

1941-

Kevin, a current member of St John's, first involvement with the parish was as a member of St Peter's Yambuk, and then St John's, where at both, he was always a willing member of working bees and church activities. A man with a great voice, he joined the choir, now disbanded, but is still a much welcome voice at St John's. Kevin served on Parish council and as a member of Synod, for many years. He was respected as a lay reader, the congregation enjoying his relevant sermons. Though retired from these positions, he still remains an active member of St John's and puts much time into keeping the church garden, neat and tidy. Kevin quietly demonstrates his faith by action, and is well respected in both the church and community.

It should be noted that there several parishioners who fit this profile!

CANON LEWIS LANGDON

*Parish Priest of St. John's Port Fairy
& St. Peter's Yambuk 1954 – 1963*

Canon Langdon, a well-travelled Welshman and an engineer. Was inducted by Bishop WH Johnson in June 1954. He was a great pastor and very hospitable, regularly inviting parishioners to supper. He also led by example as a man of action. Before the 1956 centenary of the dedication of St Johns, the interior walls of the church were renovated, the wall-to-wall carpet was installed in the chancel and the churchyard beautified. His engineering skills were tested when he undertook the completion of the bluestone tower, which was dedicated by Bp. Johnson 25/8/1957. The next challenge was the conversion in 1959, of the South Transept into St. Mark's Memorial chapel. He and his wife Grace had no children. Following a holiday in Alice Springs where they visited St. Mary's Mission. The parish then began for several years, to host girls in pairs, during the summer. The Langdon's adopted Peggy who later trained as a nurse.

Rev. and later Canon Langdon was Bishop Johnson's Chaplain and was also on Bishop-in-Council and other committees in Ballarat.

The Langdon's left Port Fairy for Ballarat in 1963

SEBASTOPOL

KEVIN ALLEN

Kevin was a warden and faithful parishioner of nearly 96 years of Holy Trinity, Sebastopol. He was also the former bursar of Ballarat and Queens Grammar School. He was a good Christian man who was faithful to the end. During my tenure at Holy Trinity, despite the usual church related challenges, he was not only wise in his approach but always hopeful about the future and the role of the church in society. Rain or shine, he is at church for services with his singing voice, sometimes drowning many. He was a generous man, witty and always respected my vocation as a priest. Until the last time I saw him, he never failed to call me "Vicar"! Sadly, he succumbed to a heart attack on 19th Dec 2021 where he was pronounced dead within 30 minutes. A death that I am sure Kevin would have asked for as he was longing to be with his love of his life, his wife of many years.

SPRINGMOUNT

ILMA BRIDGEWATER



Reliable, committed, hard-working, just what every church needs. Ilma Bridgewater has worshiped at All Saints Anglican Church Learmonth for many years. As church organist she prepares for every service held

at All Saints and chooses hymns appropriate to the readings week in week out, and cooperates easily with whoever is leading the worship.

Ilma fits her commitments to the church around her other community activities, and even when she hasn't been 100% well she still turns up and plays. She also opens up the church doors, sets up the church and it's very involved in any other activities that the Learmonth congregation runs. In addition to her dependability, Ilma is always calm even when things don't go quite right. She smiles and keeps going. She's always thinking ahead and quietly and calmly plans and encourages others to be prepared as well.

Ilma grew up in Addington and went to Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Waubra. Her music teacher was the organist there and showed Ilma how to play the pedal organ. When the teacher got married, Ilma was the organist there until her marriage. There was a service every Sunday back then.

Ilma attended All Saints Learmonth after her marriage. Later on Ilma would play one Sunday a month to give the then organist, Shirley Loader, a break. On the passing of Shirley in 2006, Ilma has been the organist since. There are only two services a month now.

More recently other members of her family have joined her at the Learmonth church and helped with reading and singing. Ilma doesn't fuss, she just gets organised and gets on with the job.

ST JOHN'S SOLDIERS HILL

UNSUNG HEROES

Have you ever thought about what it's like to run an opportunity shop?

In 1985, the then-parish priest of St John's Ballarat, Fr Denys Tonks, had the bold and faithful idea to start one. From that seed of inspiration grew a ministry that has served the community for decades—not just as a fundraising venture, but as a place of care, service, and hospitality.

Forty years on, a devoted team of volunteers continues to keep the op shop open three days a week, welcoming a steady stream of customers: students setting up flats, families on tight budgets, collectors, and curious browsers. Some are in need. Some are looking for a bargain. All are met with care and respect.

Behind the shopfront is a hive of activity—sorting, folding, mending, lifting, cleaning. Items come in constantly: clothing, shoes, bric-a-brac, furniture, books, and more. Everything is checked with care. Clothes needing repair are sent for refurbishment and passed on to people in need overseas. Torn sheets become rags. What cannot be salvaged is respectfully disposed of.

The work continues beyond the shop: furniture is picked up and delivered, often in and out of tight doorways and awkward corners, requiring creative manoeuvres and strong backs.

And like any place of honest labour, the op shop has had its moments of challenge—attempted thefts, unexpected messes, and days when the sheer volume of donations feels overwhelming. Yet the volunteers press on. With humour, grace, and a deep sense of purpose, they quietly tend this ministry, week after week.

Working alongside Anglicare, the shop also provides practical support for people in crisis, with goods distributed through a referral process marked by discretion and dignity.

Today, with more than twenty op shops in Ballarat, this one stands out not just for what it sells, but for what it offers: a quiet witness to the love of God through faithful, unseen service.

Those who keep it going may not seek the spotlight. But in their diligence, compassion, and perseverance, they embody the Gospel—unsung heroes of the Church's everyday grace.

ST MATTHEW'S WENDOUREE

SIGNS OF HOPE

St Matthew's Wendouree is blessed to have an Op Shop. St Matthew's is also blessed to have Volunteers who give up their time to run this important parish initiative.

One of the purposes of the Op Shop is to raise funds, so as Ministry can take place in the wider community as well as church services where the Gospel is proclaimed to emerging generations.

It's important to note, as a sign of hope, that the Op Shop provides clothing at a very reasonable price at a time where the cost of living is placing increasing financial demands upon people.

Customers often share how wonderful it is to come into a friendly place where prices are great and the volunteers warm, welcoming and friendly. Every Wednesday Warden Alison and Volunteer Lynne have an afternoon tea and coffee outreach to customers and those seeking fellowship.

This is an important initiative as it gives an opportunity for non-church people to have a free cup of tea and coffee and slice and share their stories and be affirmed for who they are.

St Matthew's Parish Council, when all Diocesan costs have been met, seeks to donate 7.5% of the Op Shop profits towards a charitable cause. In April this year Parish Council donated \$1,270 to Ballarat Anglicare.

We would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank the people of Wendouree who generously donate to our Op Shop so as clothing and items of note can be repurposed and raise the funds required for ministry and outreach.

We would also like to acknowledge those faithful parishioners who kept the light of faith alive and who have gone to God. We pray that we will be able to continue keeping alive our community of faith at St Matthew's Wendouree guided by the Holy Spirit and your prayers are appreciated.

Yours in Christ,

Fr Denis and parishioners at St. Matthew's Wendouree

ST PAUL'S BALLARAT

I attended St Paul's as a child where my mother was a member of MU and the Guild, my father was Vestry treasurer and a Synod rep, my brother was a scout and I was in GFS. Mrs Burgess, the vicar's wife asked me to help set up a Junior Missionary Guild. I can remember Sister Bacon from the Church Army came to help in the parish, possibly when Canon Burgess was chaplain in the AirForce. I can remember Canon Burgess conducting hymn singing before Sunday School. Children from the Orphanage took part too. In church they sat quietly in the two front rows. About this time the big hall was extended to add two new classrooms. I can remember, as a child, running up the front steps of the church, to be greeted in the porch by Mr Tolliday, the Verger, in his academic gown.

I remember Canon Fettell when he was vicar of St Paul's Ballarat. After evensong on the day

war was declared (3rd September, 1939) I was with my parents and the Canon at the top of the church steps. I still remember how serious and concerned the adults were. I know know that they had memories of the first World War and the loss of life it caused.

About this time there was a missionary function at the cathedral. Canon Fettell had been a missionary in PNG and he taught several of us youngsters to count in this language and for the cathedral event he taught us a PNG song. Then in order to better represent the children of PNG our fair skins were smeared with Vaseline and sprinkled with cocoa. Certainly unacceptable today!!

Mary Davies

SIGNS OF HOPE

St Paul's Bakery Hill plant sale May 2025.

Each year St Paul's hold two plant sales – amongst a variety of other fund-raising and social activities. The Spring plant sale is held on the first weekend of November and the Autumn plant sale is held on the first weekend in May. Over the years these plant sales have evolved into a very anticipated event for the surrounding communities. The basic idea of the plant sale is to have plants priced at bargain prices so that people can fill their gardens without paying too much. We grow most of our own hardy plants ourselves and collect from folks on the move or perhaps deceased estates. Also, many community members who love gardening bring us plants they've grown.

So, the sales are advertised as \$2 plant sales – but we have a rider in the promo material "unless otherwise priced". We do this because we have so many enthusiastic contributors often supplying very special or valuable plants that we think deserve special 'consideration'.

When we run the plant sales we also offer a sausage sizzle, trash 'n' treasure and book stall – and sometime various other odds and ends. As it's all about gardening we also have bags

of sheep poo (at \$3 per bag) that have been collected by some of our enthusiastic crew courtesy of an obliging farmer who is happy to have the underneath of the shearing shed cleaned. One of our members has a worm farm and the worm 'tea' from this is bottled and proves popular.

It takes quite a bit of time in organization, and we are grateful to be able to use the Anglicare yard and adjacent room. On Thursday it's all hands on deck to bring out and set up the trestles, tables and pallets on which the plants will be set out. On Friday the plants start coming in and the experts sort them into their various groups and undertake the task of putting price tags on things that they deem are worth more than the standard \$2. This takes up most of Friday! At the end of the day all the plants are on their allotted table/trestle and the bigger plants are on their allotted pallet, all stored in the yard which is then locked up for the Saturday morning rush.

As the sun rises on Saturday, or actually before it rises when it's the Autumn plant sale, the crews arrive and start moving everything into place. The sale is scheduled to start at 8 AM but invariably the eager buyers are lining up around 7:30 and we have to somehow entertain them as we finalise setting up. Finally, we open up – and stand back! Before we know it the ladies on the cash registers are being run off their feet – although, actually they are sitting down, but you get the drift.

This most recent sale in May coincided with the federal election so we think our sausage sizzle folks had to compete with the numerous democracy sausage sizzles going on around the town. We decided this would be our last book sale as it takes a lot of work and our friends at the Uniting Church are the experts when it comes to organising book sales so we donated the last of our books to them.

However, we had a very successful day and made a profit of over \$4,200 on the day. Since then we have sold some remaining plants and the remainder of the sheep poo (which seems to be a very popular item among gardeners)

and our total is just over \$4,700. A great effort and we know the people of Ballarat East and surrounds look forward to these events each time they are on.

Mark Stewart

ST PETER'S BALLARAT

SUE WOOD



When you visit or worship at St. Peter's, you are likely to see Sue Wood's smiling face, helping with the morning teas or doing the prayers during the Sunday morning service. Sue

and her husband Bill, who married in 1969, have worshipped at St. Peter's for 24 years. After previously having lived in Ballarat and then moved to Singapore with Bill's work, they returned to Ballarat where they purchased a house within walking distance of St. Peter's, their local parish church.

Before moving to Singapore, Sue worked as a Family Therapist. Her obvious love of people has carried over into her church involvement and her community interests. At St. Peter's, she was integral in setting up the Playgroup, the children's play area in the church and in continuing Bible study meetings while the parish was without a rector. She has also been an important member of the Mission group at St. Peter's which runs an annual Spring Garden Festival and raises funds throughout the year for various causes. On a community level, Sue has visited patients in hospitals for over 20 years at both St. John of God and currently Ballarat Base hospital. She has worked as a Lifeline counsellor and trainer. She and Bill also sing in the Sing Australia Choir, a choir which believes in the value of singing for the betterment of the human spirit, good health

and social wellbeing. She and Bill even visited Gallipoli with the choir several years ago to perform!

Sue is kept busy with 4 children and 11 grandchildren. She loves to spend time with her family in Lorne and play board games with her grandchildren. She also loves to read, garden and listen to all types of music, from opera to Jimmy Barnes as well as travel both within Australia and overseas. Sue is very much an integral part of St. Peter's church and we thank God for her ministry among us.

Renate Peacock

FATHER BARRY WELLS



It has been a privilege for me to learn a little more about the life of Father Barry Wells, his contribution to St Peter's, Ballarat and the wider Diocese of Ballarat.

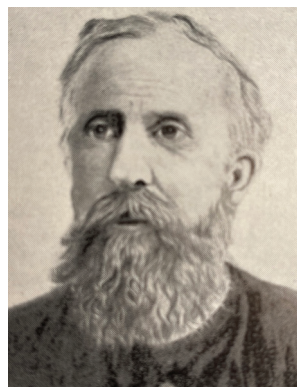
Father Barry grew up in Hamilton. In his professional life, he worked as a hospital administrator in various regional towns such as Ouyen and Bendigo before becoming CEO of a hospital in Dimboola. He was deaconed in 1991 and priested in 1993 at the Cathedral in Ballarat. Following appointments as associate priest in Warrnambool and Dimboola, Father Barry was licensed as honorary priest at St Peter's in 1994. While in Ballarat, he has worked with 10 bishops, has carried out numerous locums in Western Victoria, including three locums at St Peter's. Over many years, Father Barry has also taken a number of services and has ministered at St John of God Hospital, Nazareth House and the Queen Elizabeth Centre in Ballarat.

Father Barry is 95 years old, often rides his motorbike to church and is an inspiration to others, be they young or old. He has inspired many in their Christian walk and continues to fulfil priestly duties at St Peter's with a smile and a wry sense of humour. Sadly his beloved

wife Joan passed away 3 years ago. The people at St Peter's are all the richer for Father Barry (and Joan's) contribution to the life the parish. Thanks be to God!

Renate Peacock

THE REVEREND H. W. ADENEY



As is the case with many church buildings in Ballarat, the history of St. Peter's and its establishment is a fascinating one. In January 1863, the Reverend Henry William Howells Adeney was appointed first Rector of the

parish of St. Peter's. According to records, the congregation originally met in a schoolhouse on the corner of Pleasant and Mair Street. But, after much consideration, it was decided to build a new church in the main thoroughfare of the city, hence the current position in Sturt Street. The foundation stone was laid on 16th November, 1864. On Trinity Sunday, 11th June, 1865, the church was opened for services and, in less than five years from the opening day, the debt of £1,200 was paid. All this was overseen by the Reverend H. W. Adeney and his faithful committee of helpers.

The Reverend H. W. Adeney came from a Shropshire family. He originally lived in St. Kilda in Melbourne and had intended to take up land in Melbourne. However, after being influenced by Archdeacon T.C.B Stretch to join the ministry of the Church of England, he was ordained by Bishop Perry and served his first curacy in Geelong. He was appointed minister of St. Peter's where he remained for 25 years before being transferred to St. John's, Latrobe Street, Melbourne and subsequently to St. Clement's, Elsternwick. He retired in 1904 and passed away in his 90's. He was married for 67 years and he and his wife had five sons, 12 grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

SCENES FROM OUR 150TH CELEBRATION AT HAMILTON



OUR 150TH ANNIVERSARY HYMN

1. In this, our anniversary,
We praise God's glorious name
For blessings to our Diocese
Across this rich domain.
Amidst the golden goodness of
God's past and present care
We look for future days to find
God's full endowment there.
2. We stand with all First People who
Have walked this land so well,
Custodians of truths divine
Through stories which they tell,
And side by side with all who've come
From other lands to be
United with us in our quest
To sing God's majesty.
3. For laity, whose faithfulness,
Through hardship, toil and tears
Has built foundations for our church
Sure and sound throughout the years
For bishops, priest and deacons who
Have served, in all they do,
The welfare of God's people here:
The many and the few
4. We gaze into the future, yet
The Future is unknown
And still, we're sure of one thing: God
Will lead us safely home.
And so we pray for people, called
as ministers of grace,
Who'll lead our Diocese into
Its future in this place.
5. So may we all be faithful in
The challenge of these days:
In prayer, in mission, as we meet
To offer thanks and praise.
Until we come at last to know
The glory you have won –
The everlasting perfect reign
Of Jesus Christ, your Son.

Tune: Kingsfold

Words: Fr Peter Treloar

His friends declared that he owed his life and excellent health to the fact that he always lived cheerfully and particularly made a point of cheering others. He never smoked and was practically a teetotaler all his life and loved outdoor exercise. His spirit of service was a feature of his ministry and the folk of St. Peter's are grateful for the vision, faith and contribution of the Reverend H. W. Adeney, the first Rector of St. Peters, Ballarat.

Renate Peacock

THE OTWAYS

ROGER TOWERS

This Article was submitted by Andrea Towers daughter of Roger Towers, Warden of St. Anselm Beech Forest, The Otways Parish, in 2025 shortly before Roger's untimely death in a Farm accident in 2026.

Roger has lived in Beech forest for his entire life and alongside him, Julie his wife has lived in this small community town for over 40 years. They have both dedicated years of maintenance and cleaning of the church for Sunday services for the time and a significant amount of their own money donations to assist restoring the old church, determined to make it a welcoming space once again. The building had suffered decades of wear and tear, with a leaky roof leading to damaged carpet that threatened to cause further deterioration and a broken bell. They took it upon themselves to hire skilled workers to carry out the repairs, ensuring the floors were safe and the roof properly sealed. Every detail was carefully planned, making sure to honor the church's historic beauty while restoring its functionality. Their dedication went beyond just fixing the structure—they wanted to create a space that truly meant something to the community. To bring new life to the church, they encouraged the approval for the transformation of the old rectory, unused for years, to be renovated into a stunning art

gallery called 'the art reach gallery and cafe', providing a place for local artists to showcase their work run by two successful community locals. Their contributions alongside fundraising from the art gallery was done out of pride, believing the church was worth every dollar spent. Thanks to their efforts, the once-deteriorating building is now a restored place of worship and a warm gathering spot for both the local community and passersby.

WARRACKNABEAL

FATHER TONY TAMBLYN

Parish Priest from 1978-1983

Tony Tamblyn arrived in Warracknabeal as the Parish Priest in 1978. He had a young family of three and along with wife, Julie, settled quickly into life in a rural parish. He was an ex- teacher and was full of enthusiasm to leave his mark in Warracknabeal.

As a healthy Sunday School was in existence at the time, he attended several Sunday school camps and participated actively in activities. He established a 'Parish Life ' group which were encouraged to organize activities such as fellowship get togethers and discussions and a range of activities such as picnics, car trials etc.

He also encouraged several adults in the community to undertake confirmation classes. One of Tony's major achievements in the Parish of Warracknabeal was the building of our Parish Centre which still exists today as the focal social point of the Parish, with its regular use for funerals, Parish progressive dinners, and evening services. In the past, It has also been used for after-school craft classes, youth group and it is also hired out to the community. Tony took a large leap to convince the Parish Council to run a fundraising project to fund the hall. It was very successful and resulted in the erection of the hall with the official opening in 1982 at a cost of \$110,000.

Father Tony moved back to Adelaide and served in the Parish of Glenelg for several

years where he was much loved. He retired and sadly passed away in 2021.

MARGARET KENNEDY

Margaret Kennedy served the Parish of Warracknabeal through her devotion to music. Margaret, a former primary school teacher, took over as the regular organist of Christ's Church in the 1970's after several years of also being an assistant organist. Overall she spent almost 50 years contributing to the church through her music. Her love of choral music also meant that she organized both junior and senior choirs in the church over many years and ensured that they represented the church on every possible occasion. One highlight was in 1981 when 12 members sang in a choir of 500 voices in St. Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne. The choir also sang in a variety of churches and attended various choral festivals.

Margaret's love of history and involvement in the local Historical Society also meant that she took an interest in the archival aspects of the church. Margaret passed away in 2019 leaving a great musical legacy in the church.

Written by J. Taylor

THE FUTURE OF OUR CHURCH

Where two or three are gathered, the Lord will be also. We need to continue to remain faithful and committed to living a life of purpose. Our future church will need to keep the faith while continuing to be flexible and adaptable.

Regional, rural and remote communities will each need to develop different strategies that suit their location (place in the world).

The current traditional view of buildings needs to change because to continue to maintain a church, a hall and a rectory is unsustainable.

Whilst the Eucharist may be at the heart of many who are currently attending Sunday Services, this generation is gradually dying out. I would not like to see this tradition go

entirely but with seemingly less interest and less resources the church will need to deliver things differently.

Perhaps it will be in Home Groups (studying the Word in small groups in peoples homes), perhaps it will not always meet on Sundays, perhaps resources will need to be shared not duplicated with other traditions (lets face it most church buildings are only used once a week for an hour or two) and perhaps we will need to take more courage to speak out and be seen to defend our faith more publicly.

I'm optimistic about the church's future and I think things will change whether we want them to or not. It's really up to us to see if we are willing to drive and embrace change or simply let it happen.

David Holland

CHURCH LIFE

Returning to church in my early 20s with friends meant that the services I attended were vibrant and full whilst still retaining traditional liturgical structure. I would like to think that the future of the church has room for diverse worship styles while still maintaining the essential liturgical structure of worship. A strong liturgical structure not only acknowledges the past history of the church, but also allows the faithful to prepare worship with confidence. It seems that ordained priests and ministers in the country are becoming fewer and fewer, therefore an alternative to a structured church setting led by an ordained priest needs to not only be explored, but accepted by the wider church. Lay ministry needs to be encouraged and developed so that worship in some form can still happen in smaller communities.

CONGREGATIONAL HERO

One of my congregational heroes over my time in Warracknabeal has been Reverend James Wood. Since arriving in Warracknabeal, Rev. James has thrown himself into the community whilst still maintaining his integrity as an Anglican minister. Rev. James is not afraid of a challenge and has gently led the congregation to a number of beneficial changes within the church. This includes introducing cafe church, a 5pm service, using alternative sources of music other than live music when none is available and reaching out to schools and groups outside with a number of wellbeing programs. The Shed Project has been a particularly valuable initiative where students of primary and secondary age can not only come and learn woodworking skills in a safe, supported environment, but be witness to positive adult role models. Rev. James is a great role model to all in the way he approaches people and situations, demonstrating the ability to 'tell it how it is' with respect and dignity for all.

Fiona Holland

'THE SHED PROJECT'

The Shed Project was instigated in 2018 by the Parish to provide a space for young people to develop practical and social skills, address local issues of disadvantage and isolation and provide an constructive alternative to sport in the region. It started initially with four members, and has grown to over fifteen.

"The participants are what make the project a success!" Rev comments. "They have been the main reason why the community has been so faithful to us with their support over the last five years of fundraising, designing and building. Without our local community and the many, many people who have been so generous in finances, moral support and also their patience I may add, it would have been impossible to achieve."

The Parish Council will be exploring opportunities for mixed-gender participation

and potentially other ways that community members can benefit from this amazing resource.

LOOKING FORWARD

I go to the evening service, more laid back than the morning, more focussed on discussion and reflection than on following the traditional format. I like this kind of service, as it gives me the opportunity to express my ideas on faith in a different way than the regular service. As it is, I enjoy my connection to my church community. I am unsure as to the specifics of the future of it, but I hope to keep that connection strong. I believe we give a safe space for people new to faith, but could do more within the wider community. Possibly through more outreach as a whole church community, or different types of services every once in a while. Like cafe church and Mission lunches. Still, currently I find the church community to be close knit, somewhere to go to talk openly about what faith means to me and how to further develop that meaning.

A Holland

WARRNAMBOOL

THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON PETER BEAMISH

Peter Beamish was vicar of Warrnambool and the surrounding districts from 1850-1895, having ridden his horse from Geelong to take up ministry in the area. When he arrived in Warrnambool there were less than 250 people living in the town, and only three members of the Church of England. Peter Beamish travelled the countryside holding services across the region, in settlements and homesteads. His area covered Warrnambool, Koroit, Panmure, Mortlake, Camperdown, Cobden, Colac, Birregurra, Apollo Bay, Beech Forest and Princetown. By the time Archdeacon Beamish left the parish there was a substantial rectory, a beautiful Stone church (opened just six years after he arrived) and a large congregation. (Over 35 thousand people attended worship during 1896.) One extract from Peter's own writing tells of the difficulties he faced during his travels "On my return journey from Melbourne I contracted Typhoid Fever..... having conducted service and preached I became violently ill and a messenger was dispatched to Belfast to summon Doctor Hume, who immediately on his arrival bled me from the temporal artery and salivated me." Failing health and impaired eyesight forced Peter Beamish to resign in 1895, but he returned to preach at the Jubilee services at Christ Church in 1900. He died in 1914, aged 91.

Canon Robyn Shackell

DEL CLAPP

Del and Tom Clapp moved from Melbourne to Warrnambool with a young family of 4. Del became very involved in the Warrnambool Community. Del was a teacher at St Anns in Warrnambool for a number of years. She faithfully served as a City Councillor from 1975 – 1979. Del provided a most effective voice including caring for our less fortunate

and most disadvantaged citizens and support for those children and adults with special disabilities. She was associated with the West Warrnambool Kindergarten. She helped establish Emma House a Warrnambool Women's Refuge and secured Government funding. As a communicant member of the Anglican Church Del regularly attended the 8.00am service. After that service Del would go down to the Kindergarten rooms and with the help of others organise Sunday School for the children while the parents went to Church. At those times we looked after babies and toddlers, kindergarten children as well as primary school children. They had two separate rooms and a lot of children at that time to look after. Del was a Parish Council member for a number of years and supported all activities of the various organisations and annual events. She was an active member of Mother's Union and served as President. Del became involved with the Heatherlie Homes project and was a member of the special Steering Committee that delivered a unique partnership between the Uniting and Anglican Churches for the development of eleven independent living units at Christ Church Close. In 2000 Anglicare Warrnambool was formed to provide emergency food parcels to assist the less fortunate members of the community. In July 2012 Del was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from Anglicare Warrnambool. Del was very community minded and her service to Christ Church Warrnambool was very much appreciated.

Lois McKenzie

REV CANON JOHN RAYMOND WARNER

John Warner and his wife Bronwen arrived in Warrnambool in 1974 with their three children Megan, Tom and Sarah aged 8, 6 and 3 respectively. These South Australian's previous parish was Port Lincoln and prior to that they had served in a number of parishes across that state.

John's bright effervescent personality was a great encouragement to many – nothing was a problem, and as someone once said, if the roof fell in during a service John had the ability to calmly carry on as if it was a planned part of the service. During his time in Warrnambool John ran services at East Warrnambool, Allansford, Dennington, Panmure, the house church at West Warrnambool and for a while at South Warrnambool. He was without doubt a very busy man. The basic weekly commitment for staff at this time included 5 or 6 Sunday Eucharists, one Evensong, 5 midweek Eucharists, the Daily offices, 12 periods of Religious Education, a full day each in hospital visiting, and home communions. There were 4 Vestries and a parish council, 7 women's groups, three Sunday Schools, 3 Bible Study groups, Youth Club, GFS and Servers' Guild to oversee. Generally, John was assisted by another priest and a curate employed by the parish, plus some non-stipendiary priests. During this time John encouraged the parish to employ Robyn Shackell, as Children's worker for 12 hours per week. At Christ Church Warrnambool John was assisted by a number of Lay Readers who would begin the 10.00am Eucharist until such time as he would arrive from one of the other centres and smoothly take over the service. Then two lay readers would assist with the chalice.

John loved working with children and adolescents and many remember his dramatic and lively story-telling, while others remember the large weekend camps that marked the end of their preparation for Confirmation.

John also took the parish through the trial services and discussions leading up to the introduction of An Australian Prayer Book in 1978.

In 1978 the then Bishop of Ballarat the Right Reverend John Hazelwood, asked Rev Canon John Warner to set up a Commission of Enquiry into the parish of Warrnambool:-

1. To enquire into the real purpose of the Church in the present, with reference to its origins in the past;

2. To report and make recommendations concerning the Anglican Church in the greater Warrnambool area, to ensure it fulfils its purpose in the future.

The Commission was set up under the chairmanship of Mr Vern Robson and comprised of 5 lay people including Sue Henry (nee s Vedmore) and three clergy including Canon John Warner. They presented a large and very comprehensive report to the Bishop in November 1979. The report was a frequently referred to guide for much of the activities of the parish over the ensuing years.

One of the things that marked the ministry of John Warner with us was that despite all the demands on him he would always find the time to sit patiently with anyone who needed his listening ear. John was also well known in the local community, particularly through his involvement with amateur dramatics.

John went to Claremont in Perth in 1982 and from there, some years later, to Kangaroo Point in Brisbane eventually retiring to live in Claremont. Throughout his ministry with us John was ably and graciously supported by Bronwen who exercised a significant ministry in the parish and to the people of Warrnambool in her own right.

Denis Shackell

SIGNS OF HOPE

A gentle stream of new people regularly attending church is always encouraging, and it has been good to welcome some who have returned to church, new members who have relocated to Warrnambool and people whose search for God has led the to our church. It is also good to welcome those brought for baptism. It is lovely to see so many people using the church the church during the week, quietly praying or lighting a candle.

Our renovations are close to completion (several years late!) We are blessed with a beautiful, heritage church and the renovations have unearthed some new treasures. The team overseeing the work have done a great job.

WEST MOORABOOL

ARCHDEACON CHRISTOPHER ALLANBY

In the past year we unveiled and blessed an icon that was written for us by talented artist, Caroline Healey, a member of the parish. This is a lovely memorial to a faithful parishioner, Sue Henry. A reflection corner has been created in the back of the church, where people can use the icon in their personal devotions. Cards of the icon are available for people to use at home.

Regular musical events by local choirs are held in the church, which bring members of the wider community into the church. A "Georgian Feast" held recently saw about 80 people enjoying food, wine and music. Many community groups use our facilities each week.

The work of Anglicare in our parish provides a valuable community resource – the Drop in Centre is well patronised, as is our Emergency Relief centre. Our Get Out for Good program is also a great asset for the community.

Bishop Scott's appointment as assistant bishop has created much excitement in the parish and in the local community. A busload of parishioners travelled to Melbourne for Bishop Scott's consecration, and the church was packed for his first service as bishop the following day. It is lovely that + Scott's special gifts are now shared across the diocese in new ways.

As well as Eucharistic services at 8.00 and 9.30 on Sundays, small groups meet for Eucharist on Tuesday evenings, and Wednesday and Thursday mornings. We have a faithful MU group who provide a great ministry of hospitality (especially for funerals) and a small but hardworking guild. We are blessed to have a number of retired clergy who lead worship and study groups. A new group exploring the sacraments has recently been formed.

Canon Robyn Shackell

We, the congregation of St John's Bungaree, are indebted to the late Archdeacon Christopher Gibson Allanby for our 155 year old bluestone church.

Having been born in Tasmania in 1836, he came to the Victorian mainland in 1858. After Theological studies in Sydney he was ordained by Bishop Perry in Melbourne. In 1862 as a curate at St Paul's Bakery Hill, he took charge of a large area east of Ballarat known as Little Bendigo and the Forest. It became the parish of St Mark's Brown Hill.

He must have been constantly visiting in the district, arranging for committees to plan the location, funding and building of 9 churches – Lal Lal, Yendon, Warrenheip, Pootilla (church at Pootilla was built in 1872. It closed in 1989), Bungaree, Mollonghip, Glen Park, Nerrina and Elaine - also 4 school rooms and the Parsonage. For over 50 years he ministered in this large area (30 miles by 10 miles).

Surely, in his later, years he must have used a horse for transport. However, in an interview for the Ballarat Star as he retired in 1914, he said he had "walked every inch of the parish – when the roads were bush tracks; there were some trying experiences." He said he regularly walked from 10 to 30 miles per day on rough roads.

For 12 years from 1884 he was Archdeacon of the Wimmera; then from 1896 Archdeacon of the Loddon before it became part of Bendigo diocese. Twenty churches and several parsonages were built during these years.

When Ballarat diocese was formed in 1875 – he requested the help of lay readers. Later on, students from St Aidan's Theological College took the services in some of the churches. The students benefited from the Archdeacon's

training. What a legacy!

Alas, many of the small timber churches have gone. Now we are encouraged, by excessive advertising, to believe that our happiness and welfare depend on the things we possess.

Like Archdeacon Allanby, we know – and must ‘advertise’/share – that our peace and satisfaction come by following in Christ’s way. The way of humble, loving care for all of God’s creation.

By Marie Davies

WEST WIMMERA

West Wimmera Parish centres consist of St Augustine’s Kaniva, St. George’s Nhill, St Peter’s Dimboola and St Paul’s Rainbow. Unfortunately attendance numbers at each centre are falling however the loyal and devoted people attending continue to do God’s work.

The Nhill congregation is blessed to have Karen refugee families from Myanmar (Burma) attend regular devotions. Several secondary students are reading the weekly lessons and the Gospel is being read in Karen by their parents. The Sunday School at St George’s is generally well attended with numbers ranging from 5 to 15 enthusiastic children.



One Sunday in May St George’s was blessed to have parishioners from St Thomas’s Church in Werribee join the Nhill congregation for worship. The Karen communities often visit one another’s churches for special occasions. We were delighted to have the Werribee choir sing. They have amazing voices and it is obvious they enjoy worshipping God in this way.

Long time parishioner, Merv Schneider will be celebrating his 100th birthday in July. Merv is a regular attender at St George’s, reads the lessons, maintains the church building and mows the lawns. The West Wimmera Parish wish him good health and best wishes on attaining this momentous milestone.

We are grateful that the Ballarat Diocese organise visiting clergy to take weekly services in each of the centres in our remote parish.

BALLARAT AND QUEENS' ANGLICAN GRAMMAR SCHOOL

LOOKING BACK

Having celebrated 100 years of Anglican Education at our current site and a history that goes back further still, the Grammar School enjoys a long association with the Diocese as we mark its 150th Anniversary!

We value our Anglican roots and have our eye firmly fixed on an Anglican future – Anglican Chaplaincy is present throughout our School and wider community including Old Grammarians, parents, grand-parents and future Grammarians – the Chaplaincy Tree below shows some of the ways that we live out our Anglican Identity.

Students and Staff regularly meet for Chapel Services and celebrations of the Eucharist living out a rich liturgical life that seeks to speak to students as well as giving them a voice.

The Bishop and local Clergy are a regular and welcome presence at the School with the Annual "Blessing of the Pets" in the Junior School and the Leavers' "Seed to Tree" Eucharist in the Senior School highlights each year.

The Chapel of St Mark forms a "home-base" for our liturgical program, but services are held in the newly built Rintel Centre that can accommodate the whole student population of over 2000, the Wendouree Centre for Performing Arts that provides the latest Audio and Visual effects as well as the Oval and services under the trees in the warmer months.

Throughout the year students and staff live out their Christian calling through various Social Justice initiatives, but the largest of these comes out of our cherished relationship with Anglicare and our support of the Anglicare Emergency Relief Centre in Bakery Hill – the



annual "Can the Chapel" non-perishable food drive!

Just one practical result of our commitment to our Anglican connections and our bright future.

MOVING FORWARD

Each year students from the Senior School are appointed to the Anglicare Parish Partnerships Committee where they are full voting members. Many students have used their time on this committee to develop their leadership skills that they have lived out in Year 12 school-wide Leadership positions and into their futures beyond the School.

The 2025 Anglicare Representatives are Year 11 students Milly Wilkie and Eleanor Justin. Milly and Eleanor visited the Emergency Relief Centre to gain firsthand knowledge of how the

MOTHERS' UNION

KATHLEEN HEDGER
1923-1989

"Can the Chapel" Appeal could best support their work. Milly and Eleanor then presented a full Chapel Service that highlighted the work of Anglicare, the need in the community and then outlined a clear plan to gain many non-perishable items that would really benefit the clients of the Relief Centre. The Appeal runs as an internal "House Competition", but Eleanor and Milly really wanted the focus to be on meeting a need, on "giving rather than winning".

The result of leadership from Eleanor and Milly, but also School Guardians and House Captains led to over 3000 items donated, needing three ute-loads to transfer the items from the Chapel of St Mark to the Emergency Relief Centre!

Eleanor and Milly represent over 2000 students who are learning about the God who loves them, saves them and guides them into deeper connection and love with God and their neighbours.



Milly Wilkie 2025 Ballarat and Queens' Anglican Grammar School Anglicare Parish Partnership Committee representative speaking at the lectern in the Chapel of St Mark to launch the "Can the Chapel Appeal."

My mother, Kath Hedger, was born in Gippsland on 2nd November 1923. She was the second of three children born to Gus and Annie May McHugh. Gus worked as a signalman on the railways, which required the family to move quite frequently to different locations around Victoria.

The children initially attended a Catholic primary school. Kath was an excellent student, and would have loved to be a teacher, but at this stage, there were no educational opportunities for girls. When she left school, she worked as a clerk in a grocery store.

Kath then paid for piano lessons in classical music. When we were growing up, we loved to hear her play Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin and other classics-quite a feat to learn this skill as a teenager.

At some stage, Kath and her sister Nancy, became very involved with the Anglican church. This was never to waiver. Kath's faith was such a stalwart in her life.

Kath met Frank Hedger in Preston, where they both lived. They married at St James Anglican Church, Thornbury on November 14th, 1942. Frank was a radio operator with the RAAF. After the war, Frank was transferred to Ballarat, where their first child, David, was born in 1943.

On September 20th, 1944, on David's first birthday, and with her second child on the way, Kath learned that her brother Maurice, a pilot in the RAAF, had been shot down in Holland. No details were known. This, naturally, was to have a lasting effect on Kath.

After leaving the RAAF base, the family moved to Wendouree. By this time there were 3 children. Another 3 were born, the last in 1953, while Frank was in London. He had been

chosen by the RAAF to attend the coronation of Queen Elizabeth 2. A wonderful opportunity for him-but it must have been hard for Kath, keeping the home fires burning with 5 children, and welcoming the sixth.

In 1955, the family moved to a large old house in Buninyong. Great for a large family, but freezing in winter and hard to heat, according to Kath.

Kath then commenced her long involvement with the Holy Trinity church at Buninyong. She was an active member of the Mothers Union and became the church organist. She continued to play the organ at Buninyong church services until her death in 1989.

In July 1966, after a short illness, Frank tragically died at the age of 50 years. Kath was left with 3 teenagers to care for. She now had to find work outside the home to support herself and her children. She was first employed at the Ballarat Orphanage, then at Ballarat and Clarendon College junior school-where she remained until she retired.

Frank and Kath had a very close relationship. She never really reconciled his loss.

She now became more involved in church and diocesan activities. She was the president of the Mothers Union in the Diocese, she studied for a theology qualification and became a Lay Canon of Christ Church in 1985.

Kath studied to work as a marriage guidance counsellor and was involved from the beginning in the formation of Lifeline in Ballarat.

In early 1989, Kath suffered a heart attack. Seemingly recovered, she travelled to Sydney for the national Anglican Synod in August 1989. However, on September 10th, while visiting family in Sydney, Kath suffered a second heart attack and died suddenly. She was 67 years old.

My mother was, and still is, very helpful to me in my spiritual endeavour. She inspired me with her theological knowledge and her books. From two such books, 'Letters to

Young Churches' and 'The Gospels in Modern English', by J.B. Phillips, I read every day. Lectionary guided, of course.

As a tribute to Kath's commitment to the Anglican Church in Ballarat, a memorial plaque was placed in the Anglicare office at Christ Church Cathedral.



**Ministry
Development**

2025