



Bishop Carol Writes ...

We have a neighbour who is a builder. During this time of COVID-19 restrictions, he has had some time on his hands, so he has started work on a retaining wall bordering our two properties. I have noticed with interest the hours he has put into the placement of a single post – the one on the corner. Why is it so important to get the corner post correct? It is because it is from this post that the fence will gain its straightness, strength and endurance. The corner stone in a building is equally important. A cornerstone in the foundation of a building unites two walls and is the starting point of the building.

The analogy of building a house is used frequently in the New Testament to illustrate the personal growth in our spiritual lives, or the building up of the body of Christ—the Church.

In 1 Peter 2:6, Peter quotes Isaiah, saying, 'For in Scripture it says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame."' Peter sees Jesus as the cornerstone of the Church, agreeing with Paul who says, '(You are) members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and

prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone'. (Eph 2:19b-20)

As disciples of Jesus, we are part of this building. We are each one of the bricks or stones that goes to make up the temple. Yet it is not a static existence. Paul continues, 'In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.' (Eph 2:21-22)

Jesus is actively building us together spiritually, into the dwelling place of God. It's an organic and interactive process both with God and with the other stones. He works with us and in us, to build us into a strong and beautiful temple, fit for his dwelling. The 'building together' doesn't happen in an instant. Jesus works with materials that need much refining. Rough parts need smoothing, crooked parts need straightening, corners need realigning, so that the stones fit together properly, creating a building of beauty, strength and endurance. Our Christian walk, and our lives together as a church, will at times be uncomfortable.

One of the key catch cries during

this time of COVID-19 is 'we're all in this together', as we are encouraged to support one another by abiding by strict social distancing and hygiene measures. We willingly do this. During the fire crisis, we saw great examples of support and sacrifice as we came together in support of one another.

What we can do short-term as a nation under siege, God calls us to do at all times and in all situations, in the power of the Holy Spirit. It's as

we 'come together' and support one another, love one another and serve one another, putting others first and our own desires second, that Jesus is able to craft this building – his Church – into a holy temple which is fit for his dwelling. Then, as Peter encourages, as 'a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, (we) may declare the praises of him who called (us) out of darkness into his wonderful light'. (1 Peter 2:9)



'Wild ride' for New Bishop



The Chief of the Defence Force General Angus Campbell welcomes in the new Bishop.

It's been 'a wild ride' in the military for Grant Dibden, who was inducted and installed as Anglican Bishop to the Defence Force at the Royal Military College Duntroon Chapel on 18 March. Bishop Dibden was a career soldier, rising to colonel and commanding the Force Support Group when in 2004 he left the army to pursue full-time Christian ministry. He returned to the Defence Force as a chaplain in 2007 with the rank of captain. Now, as head of the Defence Forces' Anglican chaplains and a member of the 10-strong Religious Advisory Committee to the Services, he has a nominal rank of Major-General.

'I got a call from the Primate when I was in the Middle East on full-time service, asking would I consider becoming the Anglican Bishop to the Defence Force? I'm not sure you should say "gobsmacked" to the Primate, but ... I thought and

prayed for 10 days and let my name go forward and was subsequently selected. I'm comforted to know that it didn't take God by surprise,' Bishop Dibden said. 'It's been about following where I thought the Lord has been leading me,' he said. 'I'm also comforted by the fact that God promises to be with all of us until the end of the age (Matt 28:20) and so I can rely on Him and know that with His help I will be able to fulfil this most important role.'

His most important job in his new role is the pastoral care of the Anglican chaplains in the Defence Force: 43 full-time chaplains, 43 part-time and another six now in training. All have to live and work in a multi-faith environment in which there is great diversity of ethical and cultural views.

Two other key responsibilities are recruiting chaplains, making sure they are a good fit, and helping them

transition back to their dioceses when they leave the service, which includes liaising with local bishops.

'We are short of army reserve chaplains at the moment. If we could find another 15 Anglican chaplains who wanted to do some reserve service, the Defence Force would take them in a heartbeat, as long as they were good quality people,' Bishop Dibden says. Also, the Chief of the Defence Force is eager to get more women chaplains - 'and if the Chief of the Defence Force is interested in it, then the rest of us are fascinated by it'.

The main challenge is working in such a diverse environment, he says. 'One of the key things in my role will be bringing unity to that, that's what the Gospel requires. There's a range of views in the Anglican Church,

and we have to live in harmony.'

The COVID-19 pandemic provides another challenge, finding ways to minister to people when chaplains can't just walk around and chat. Many in the Defence Force, as in wider society, are working from home.

'I want to encourage the chaplains to make disciples who make other disciples,' Bishop Dibden says. 'Chaplains don't preside over large churches or enjoy a big preaching ministry - it's more personal interaction with ones and twos, building trust and rapport and encouraging people.'

This article uses some material by Barney Zwartz previously published on melbournarchbishop.org.au and by Russell Powell previously published in the Southern Cross.



Bishop Grant Dibden with his wife, Jeanette.

Clergy News

The Reverend Paul Davey has been appointed Rector, North Goulburn.

The Reverend Mark Evers has been elected by his peers as Area Dean for 'Wagga Wagga & the South West'.

The Reverend Ian Marshall has been licensed as Director of Ordinations.

The Reverend Milos Ledl who was deaconed and priested in this Diocese died in Goulburn on 30 April 2020 aged 92 years.

The Reverend Tim Narraway has been elected by his peers as Area Dean for 'The Coast'.

Anglicare has appointed *The Reverend Sarah Plummer* as Director of Missions.

The Reverend Jane Simmonds has been appointed Archdeacon for the Diaconate & Head of the Household of Deacons

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Articles for each edition need to be submitted by the 25th day of the previous month.

Any statements or opinions expressed in articles published in this newspaper are attributed to the identified author and are not necessarily endorsed by or representative of the Diocese or its officers.

Address: GPO Box 1981, Canberra, ACT 2601
Advertising: enquiries to the editor.

ISSN 2207-6484



Our Diocese is committed to holistic Safe Church Ministry. This means: we commit to our pastoral, duty of care, legal and insurance obligations; with the goal that all ministries are spiritually, emotionally and physically safe; based on the premise that Diocesan parishes and ministries should be person-valuing and respectful places free from abuse and harm, for ministry to God's glory.

The Creating Safe Ministries program assists us to fulfil this commitment. Those who need to complete a Creating Safe Ministries workshop can access the National Anglican Safe Ministry Induction (Awareness) and Refresher course online.

Details of these can be found here:

<https://anglicancg.org.au/safe-ministries/safe-ministry-unit/safe-ministries-training-and-workshops/>

Safe Ministry Helpline: 1800 070 511

Passing the Baton at Synergy



It's funny how time seems to both move at an incredible pace yet also be standing still! That's certainly how I feel as my time as Director of Synergy Youth and Children comes to a close.

The past six and a half years have been an incredible God-led journey serving Synergy and the Diocese. Working with young people, running camps, leadership development and discipleship were all on my 'list' of ideal activities.

God, by His grace, called me to a role where my experience and passion would be well-utilised and I would continue to follow His calling on my life.

There have been many highlights and some difficult times. The loss of our campsite at Wambiri in 2018 was difficult, as was having to cancel Summer camps in January 2020 due to the bushfires. Having a growing camp ministry and struggling to find leaders has always been a challenge

as has the constant increase in costs.

My highlights all include the amazing young (and not-as-young) people I've been blessed to serve alongside during my time as Director. To serve alongside amazing people who are willing to give of their time, resources and abilities to run a camp, lead a group and share Jesus with young people is amazing. To see young people come to know Jesus is always amazing, you just can't beat it!

One memorable moment was on my very first Winter Camp. At lunchtime, the campers snuck up on me and recreated a viral video by polishing the top of my bald head singing 'shine bright like a diamond'. Funnily enough, I remember doing something very similar to a bald leader when I was a teenager! I had come full circle and right there I knew I had made it; I was one of them, part of the group.

I have never worked with a more committed group of people who are dedicated to seeing young people reached for Jesus as I have with Synergy. To all the Leaders, Volunteers and Board Members

– thank you! You have made a difference; you have helped many young people and children come to know Jesus and I will miss you. I'm excited to see where God will lead Synergy under the leadership of Ben Paton. He is certainly the right person for the job!

As for me, I've been serving part time as the Associate Pastor at Woden Valley Alliance Church in Canberra for the past 12 months and will continue to serve there for as long as God calls me.

Young people are longing for people who will invest in them, share life with them and encourage them. Friends, now more than ever, let's continue to create spaces where young people can be known by us, where we can share the love of Jesus with them and help them know the One who loves them completely.

It has been an enormous privilege and blessing to serve as Synergy Director. Thank you for all your support and may you continue to grow in your relationship with Jesus!

*Blessings,
Andrew Edwards*

Anglicare's New Director of Mission and Culture



The Reverend Sarah Plummer has been appointed as Anglicare's new Director of Mission and Culture. Sarah will commence in the role on May 1.

Sarah grew up in the town of Yeoval in Central-West NSW. As the

first woman appointed as a Senior Chaplain with the NSW Police Force in 2016, she was responsible for caring for members of the specialist commands including the counter-terrorism unit, marine unit and PolAir (Police Force Airwing). The

role was a partnership between NSW Police and Anglicare (Sydney) on behalf of the Anglican Church and she worked across all NSW Dioceses conducting weddings, funerals and significant state-wide services requested by the NSW Police Force.

Sarah has also worked as a chaplain within Anglicare's residential aged care services. Prior to that, Sarah was World Vision International's Director of Prayer Ministries. In this role she provided mission formation programs for tens of thousands of World Vision staff across the globe.

Asked what she is anticipating in her new role, Sarah said, 'I really enjoy meeting people and hearing their stories. I love discovering ways communities can flourish together so that the most vulnerable have evidence of hope and goodness. It will be a privilege to serve Anglicare and I really look forward to this new opportunity.'

Sarah is married to Craig and they have two daughters Anastasia and Kalista. They live in an off-the-grid sustainable farm but as part of her new role Sarah will be licensed by Bishop Mark Short to minister in a parish in Canberra.

Asked about her other loves, she

said 'I love dirty chais which sounds worse than it is... a chai latte with one shot of coffee. I love all things sport and cry every time the Australian flag goes up at the Olympics. I enjoy chats with friends and travelling to communities in this world who are overcoming incredible adversity.'

While the pandemic will hamper travel for the first months, she is looking forward to catching up with staff via zoom.

This position replaces the role previously held by (Bishop) Ian Coutts but also takes on oversight of Anglicare Colleges and workforce development teams. The recruitment process for this position was initially delayed to allow time for the election of a new Bishop of the Diocese, then to allow Bishop Mark to settle into his new role.

by Jeremy Halcrow, CEO Anglicare



Keep Calm and Pray:

SCHOOL CHAPLAINCY @ RADFORD COLLEGE DURING COVID-19



Radford College students who are next-door neighbours watch the Easter service on a driveway to 'be together while apart'.

In serious situations there are often moments of levity which keep us going. As the situation with COVID-19 developed, I was part of a school leadership meeting to decide how we would respond. One of the Assistant Principals made a joke about the Royal Family not travelling on the same plane and asked whether we should implement similar strategies! As it happened that was our last face-to-face meeting and we started meeting online.

When I think back to that meeting it feels like so much has happened, both for me personally and for the school community that I serve. There has been a massive amount of learning that has taken place for the students and the staff in terms of how to utilise the tools that we have for remote learning. There

has been collective grief as we see what is happening within our school community, the Canberra community and on a national and international level. There has also been resilience, creativity, care and humour as staff, students and family members have adapted to the situation that we find ourselves in.

In many ways, the purpose of my role as chaplain remains the same, even as the way that I undertake some of my duties has changed. Pastoral care is different as I'm not running into people incidentally. I'm part of the Well-Being Team and we have found ways to promote connection and well-being in this time of increased emotional and mental load. Within the specific field of chaplaincy, Morning Prayer with staff has moved online. This was a

source of joy and encouragement for me as we journeyed towards Easter. Together we have spoken the language of lament, love and hope as part of our vocabulary of faith.

In the last two days that students were at Radford I worked with Jon Holden from Cheeky Creek productions to film the Easter service. Students participated in leading the liturgy, storytelling, music and drama. Families watched the Easter service at home, which provided a new way of connecting. For weekly chapel videos at the end of Term 1, I interviewed the staff on campus, asking them to share what Easter meant to them and to send a message to the students. The Junior School teachers enjoyed taking the roles that the students normally perform in chapel services. I've recorded Godly Play stories for students in the Early Learning Centre and taught Religious and Values Education classes online (with mixed success!)

Taking off my shoes and being filmed saying an Acknowledgement of Country in Gossan Hill Nature Reserve for a pre-recorded assembly provided a new perspective on one of our regular practices. The video of me washing my hands for 40 seconds while saying the Lord's Prayer was another assembly item which communicated a message for our times in a new medium!

Students have continued to look for ways to serve each other and

the community. George Huitker, Director of Service Learning, has worked hard to maintain connections with our partners in service through the radCreates e-card project (<https://radcreates.wordpress.com/> password: inthistgether). These e-cards have encouraged many in the community.

Overall, I was very glad when the school holidays arrived, and I could have a much-needed rest! There were moments that were completely overwhelming where I sent out an SOS to my friends who pray. Working with colleagues, connecting with other chaplains, responses from students, moments of grace and my regular professional supervision sessions were lifelines during this time of rapid change and uncertainty. The Easter journey reminds us that death gives way to new life in Christ and that God's love and presence are with us. This is a message for all times, including our present time.

by Reverend Dr Katherine Rainger, Senior Chaplain Radford College

The Radford College Easter Service can be viewed here: <https://vimeo.com/404882494/e70d6fd0d6>



A PreK student responds at home to the Godly Play story 'Jesus is Risen'.

Farewell to Servant Ron Badger



Earlier this week one of the stalwarts of the parish of Yass and a great contributor to the Diocese, Ron Badger, passed away.

Ron's many capacities in Yass included having a leading role, with his wife Barbara, in establishing and nurturing the local ministers group which is now a strong, committed

and unified force (Anglican, Baptist, Catholic, Pentecostal and Uniting churches), for Christ in the district.

The Reverend Haydn Swinbourn, Rector of the Anglican Parish of Yass from 1995-2002, writes:

'In my time in Yass Ron Badger was an excellent Rector's warden. Ron and I shared several additional ministry roles in the Diocese, including both serving on Bishop-in-Council from the mid 1990's until I was seconded to the Army as a Chaplain in 2002. Ron consulted with diocesan groups using his qualifications as an engineer as well as providing the wisdom earned through experience.'

Ron and Barbara were 'ten pound poms' who immigrated to Australia as newly-graduated University students to make a new life together in a new and emerging country; Ron as an engineer and Barbara

as a physiotherapist. They both contributed to their local churches and communities beyond their professional status, assisting and leading wherever they were able and volunteering happily. Ron was a long-time member of the Yass Rotary Club.

Barbara, now 80, is a resident of Horton House in Yass. Barbara and Ron were quite the team and completely committed to the mission of God on earth. One of Barbara's significant contributions to the national church was taking a lead role as advocate and agitator for the Movement for the Ordination of Women (MOW) in the Anglican Church.

Ron and Barbara have always made space for the development and encouragement of young people in the church, supporting such initiatives as Camp Pelican, and the former Diocesan Youth Commission. My two

daughters were positively influenced by Ron and Barbara. Their fellowship, wisdom, hospitality, love and encouragement are treasured gifts.'

Ron had many roles at a Diocesan level including:

- Honorary Lay Canon of the Cathedral (appointed 2002)
- Lay Member of Synod – Yass (2008 – 2011)
- Alternate Lay Member of Synod – Yass (2011-2014)
- Lay Member of Bishop-in-Council elected by Synod (2008-2011)
- Lay Member of the Clergy Appointment Board Diocesan Panel (elected by Synod) (2008-2011)
- Member of the Diocesan Audit Committee (2004-2012)
- Member of the Episcopal Election Review Committee (until Sept 2014)

The Diocese continues to be open & caring for all



Currently, Tuckerbox is also helping distribute free hampers as part of the Canberra Relief Network. God bless Holy Cross Anglican Church for running this wonderful ministry.



COVID-19 has made this ministry, and our other food security services in our beautiful Diocese, even more essential. Our food security ministries through Anglicare and the churches do need our prayers and help, please. Food and goods shortages, recent difficulties in accessing supplies, hoarding, groceries becoming increasingly expensive, the growing number of unemployed, fewer volunteers and staff due to the need to self-isolate and people's fear of leaving home – together are all impacting essential ministries and the ability of people in need to access food assistance.

The Tuckerbox team's profound love for each person receiving

support that afternoon was inspiring. Kirsty Baker, with her welcoming smile and kindness, led the team in prayer and orientated everyone to the ministry.

Everything was thoughtfully set up in advance. Three different sites were running on 11th April. Mark, alongside others, recorded the details of people seeking food assistance. Monica joined the volunteers helping people purchase groceries. At the end of the shift, Ben Paton skilfully debriefed everyone, and we prayed for the people who attended Tuckerbox that day.



Bishop Mark and Monica spoke to each person who attended Tuckerbox that afternoon and offered to pray for them. Between them, Bishop Mark and Monica think they prayed with nearly every person. People repeatedly said, 'Thank you, I needed that'.

People explained that they really need prayer right now because times are hard, and they are worried. They

are spiritually hurting. Bishop Mark and Monica are so thankful that the Tuckerbox team brings hope in these times and also sees each person holistically, in a genuinely person-centred way. Each person is precious to God.



We cannot see COVID-19. We cannot see God. However, both impact us. COVID-19 brings fear. God and His people who are following the example of Jesus bring sacrificial love. Bishop Mark and Monica wish to thank all who are sharing God's love and comfort with others in their situations, just like the volunteers at Tuckerbox. Thank you! You are all our heroes! May God bless and keep you.

by Monica Short



Early April the Tuckerbox ministry at Holy Cross Anglican Church Hackett put out a call for volunteers to staff the food ministries for Easter Saturday – that is, in a social distancing sort of way. Bishop Mark and Monica Short contacted Sue Jordan about helping. One o'clock on the 11th April, Bishop Mark and Monica Short turned up to Tuckerbox with their plastic gloves, excited to be part of the team.



Tuckerbox, as explained on their website, is a weekly food service for people with tight budgets. Groceries such as shampoo, meat, dairy, bread, fresh fruit and vegetables are available for a nominal fee. Additionally, it provides free food.

SWAC Food and Welfare Ministry Expands



ministries had to be suddenly suspended – all except one, which has grown.

Our food and welfare ministry has morphed into something we are calling SWAC-care. Essentially, we have partnered with Carevan and Anglicare to provide food hampers to those who we know are in need. Donations are received from parishioners, through local council or from other welfare providers. Parishioners can then deliver them (to the porch) of someone they know who has need, or to those who are already known to us through our normal food-relief programs.

We have even had

the opportunity to provide hampers to the Day Care Centre onsite who have had families lose their jobs.

Before the COVID-19 threat was realised we had undertaken a sermon series during term 1 in which we were exploring what it

meant to promote the gospel through our words, deeds and godliness of life. Who would have thought that we would be interrupted with this incredible opportunity to do good to all, in the name of Jesus.

by Reverend Scott Goode



South Wagga Anglican Church normally has significant links into their local community with a range of mums and bubs programs, children and youth ministries, interest groups and food-relief partnerships.

Like all parishes around our diocese, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, every one of these

The Faithful at St Edmund's Gunning



Jill Granger delivering the St Edmund's Penny

St Edmund's has a congregation of about 20 odd on a good Sunday. They are faithful and beautiful people and I find myself humbled to minister among them.

As you will appreciate, they are involved in the wider life of the community and bring their faith into action constantly. Since we have been unable to meet in the church or as a congregation elsewhere, we have continued to produce the pew sheet called St Edmund's Penny. I write a sermon each week as well as a small piece encouraging the faithful church, another member of the congregation produces the readings and propers for each Sunday, and we also produce a sheet with the words of one or two hymns.

The congregation is not young and not necessarily tech savvy. Email for some is the cutting edge (me included).

Those written pieces are currently being distributed (by request from the recipients) to 45 email addresses, a further six are delivered

to post boxes or other mail. That is 51 deliveries, most of those have two or more people receiving at each address, so that's 100 or more people. Maths wasn't my best subject at school but that looks like a congregational growth of 500%. Not too bad in an age when the church is told it is irrelevant.

Of course there are other things being undertaken by the parishioners; telephone pastoral care, visiting the lock-ins and those who are alone, running a prayer chain, and we also have a weekly Zoom bible study/fellowship gathering for those who can manage.

My view is that people are finding community in the faithful folk of the church. God has turned the virus into some kind of blessing, and my prayer is that we will see a revival and renewal continue once the doors open again. In that vein, the Vestry is already planning a community meal in the church hall once the lockdowns have passed.

by Reverend Hadyn Swinbourn

ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL, ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL. ALL THINGS WISE AND WONDERFUL, THE LORD GOD MADE THEM ALL.



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A service was held at Holy Covenant Jamison to acknowledge the loss of over one billion animals of all varieties and kinds that were killed in the recent bushfires and to acknowledge the very difficult, heartbreaking work of the rescue volunteers and vets and the grief they experienced.

The loss of property, lives, homes, infrastructure, bushland and so much more was a devastating grief to us all that was profoundly compounded by the loss of our lovely and unique wildlife.

Those who attended were given an opportunity to take a cut-out green

leaf with an animals name on it and place it on the bare branches of the prayer tree of hope before lighting a candle in memory. It was a moving service flanked by the singing of: All things bright and beautiful and Lord of earth and all creation, let your love possess the earth.

At the conclusion of the service everyone was given a lovely book mark covered in a collage of animals on the front with the words 'He made everything beautiful in its time' on the back. (Ecclesiastes 3:11)

by Archdeacon EM Anne Ranse OAM