



THE SPIRE

All Saints' Parish Magazine

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MISSION STATEMENT: With the Holy Spirit working through us, to encourage our community to be part of God's family and become the body of Christ

PRAYER

*"Does God want you to pray? The scriptures are full of injunctions to pray, from prophets, apostles, and from the Lord himself. Well then, go on and pray! The best way of remedying the situation of having stopped praying is to start praying again, and to trust in God's forgiving grace."*¹

Sometimes prayer is simple.

Sometimes it seems impossible.

Sometimes the life of prayer is fulfilling and refreshing.

Other times it's dry and lifeless.

You are sure to have felt all these emotions at one time or another as you have reflected on your prayer life and your relationship with God.

*"Prayer means us and God. It is the bond and interaction between the human and the divine. Sometimes it can be the sweetest, most sublime and most exhilarating of experiences. Sometimes God becomes very real to us and we feel a tremendous awe or a wonderful and warm closeness to him. However, at other times, and sometimes for long stretches, all this completely dries up and prayer, which used to feel exciting and alive, now feels empty and dead. The ease and inspiration, the strength and the motivation just don't seem to be there anymore."*²

It is important always to remember that we are worthy to stand before God and pray to him, not because of our own righteousness but because of Christ's gracious love for us. God **wants** us to pray and welcomes us whenever we come before him. He will always hear us, whether we come to him idle, busy, joyful, sad, depressed, unable to find words, full of poetry, alone, lost in a multitude, crying or singing. When we seem not to be able to find God in our situation we are assured that he is there and will hear our cry of "Help". As in the story of the Prodigal Son, God the Father welcomes his children when they come to him, no matter how stumbling a speech they may have ready, and no matter how long it's been. If each day in our lives starts with a *"Thank you God for all I am and all with which I have been blessed - food, shelter, friends, clothes, love - and your glorious salvation"* we are uplifted and ready to carry God into our everyday. Prayer, a constant listening and talking with God, will inevitably accompany us through our day and we will more readily see God's working in our everyday and talk to him about it as it happens.

Love God graciously - do not make your love conditional upon his doing things for you, always expecting a reward. Make your prayer not 'Lord, please do...' or 'Lord, please give...' but always 'Lord, make me...' - an act of offering and self-offering.

Do Thou O Lord
according to Thy will,
forgive me. Grant that I
may never live apart
from Thee or afar off,
and that I may not
offend Thee anymore.



1. Wallis, Paul: *Rough Ways in Prayer. How can I pray when I feel spiritually dead?* London, SPCK, 1991. p.16

2. *Ibid.* p.3

MARK'S REMARKS



Prayer

Christians Pray. It's what we do, and who we are. Writing 150 years ago, the Scottish minister, Robert Murray M'Cheyne, wrote: "*What a man is alone on his knees before God, that he is, and no more.*" There is a reason we constantly read in the gospels that Jesus withdraws by himself to a quiet place, to pray.

We read in scripture, that the prayers of the righteous are powerful and effective (James 5:16). But in our modern, enlightened and busy society, we so often forget this simple truth. We are better at organising than agonising; better at administering than interceding; better at fellowship than fasting; better at doing than asking.

One of the great joys of the Christian life is the privilege of coming to our God in prayer. When Jesus died on the cross that first Good Friday, he opened up the way for us to approach boldly the throne of God, so that, even now, we can delight in meeting with our heavenly Father, who longs to receive and hear our prayers.

There is no doubt that our Land, our Society, our Town, our Churches, are grappling these days with significant issues. Any solution and way forward is going to start with prayer. Yet, for many of us, if we are perfectly honest, prayer is a struggle. I have yet to hear anyone say they are happy with their prayer life. We all want to pray more, pray more deeply, pray more passionately, pray more powerfully, practise more prayer.

I wonder if so often prayer is a struggle because we start in the wrong place: with ourselves. We should be starting with God. A delight in prayer grows naturally out of a delight in God, a delight in who he is, and in what he has done; out of a recognition, that in prayer, we are meeting with the living God, coming before the divine throne of Grace, and interceding with our loving heavenly Father.

When we delight in God, we will naturally pray for people and things that are beyond us: for missionaries taking the good news of Jesus to those who have never heard his name; for our fellow churches across the diocese; for our sisters and brothers across the world, facing opposition simply for daring to follow Jesus.

A fruitful prayer life will have more in common with gardening than simply cutting down a tree. Chopping down a tree is something that is done once, and then it's finished. But as any gardener will tell you, you never actually finish tending your garden - there is always something to be working on. Prayer is similar. The apostle Paul presents a picture of a "constant attitude of prayer". Prayer belongs anywhere, anytime, regular, constant and disciplined. Just as a gardener is never far from the garden they tend, so a prayerful person is never far from a prayerful attitude, taking any moment to speak to our loving heavenly Father.

"If God is the shorthand term, or the nickname, of goodness-and-beauty-and-truth-and-love, then God is what/who I want to be close to and one with.

How do I do that?

By deciding to!"

Ref. Geddes, Joan Bel: *Are you listening God? (I need you)*. Notre Dame IN, Ave Maria Press, 1994. p.160

ANGLICAN NEWS

Our Diocesan newspaper, *Anglican News*, is a great read and keeps us in touch with what happens around our Diocese of Canberra-Goulburn. The latest edition is always available on the website (anglicancg.org.au) or can be downloaded for you at the Parish Office if you have no access to the web.



COME WORSHIP with us!



These are our regular weekly services times
Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the Lord our Maker
Psalm 95:6 (NIV)

We hope you can join us in worship together

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| FIRST SUNDAY | 9:30am Holy Communion 11:30am St Paul's Talbingo |
| REMAINING SUNDAYS | 9:00am Holy Communion 10:30am Family Service |
| EVERY WEDNESDAY | 7:30am Holy Communion |
| EVERY THURSDAY | 10:30am Blakeney Lodge Holy Communion/Morning Prayer |
| FIRST & THIRD WEDNESDAY | 2:00pm Holy Communion |
| SECOND WEDNESDAY | 2:00pm Holy Communion at Murray Glen Village |
| EVERY ALTERNATE FRIDAY | 10:45am BUPA Prayer and Praise |

THE CRANMER PRAYER

The foundations of the prayer book as now used in the Anglican Church of Australia lie in the prayer book prepared in the vernacular English by Archbishop Thomas Cranmer for use in English churches and first published in January 1549. Thomas Cranmer had been working privately on a new liturgy for several years prior to this and his prose has been one of the glories of the English language ever since. He had been Archbishop of Canterbury since 1533 (when he was appointed by Henry VIII) but the English prayer book was only published when the Act of Uniformity was passed by the House of Lords on 15 January 1549, after the accession of Edward VI, abolishing the Latin mass from use in England. The book underwent many revisions and was eventually succeeded by the 1662 *Book of Common Prayer* which has endured to the 20th century. This has undergone various revisions in Anglican and Episcopal churches throughout the world in the last 100 years, forming the basis, in Australia, of our current "green prayer book", *A Prayer Book for Australia* (APBA) first published in 1995. Cranmer's influence is still strong in much of the form and fashion of the liturgies included, particularly the Eucharist, Morning and Evening Prayer and many of the occasional prayers. One prayer, in particular, which is central to our preparation for the eucharistic meal in the service of Holy Communion, is known as the Prayer of Approach/Prayer of Humble Access (see §21, p.125 of APBA), often referred to as "Cranmer's Prayer". In the structure of the eucharistic gathering we experience a growing intensity as we progress through a series of steps:



- ◇ the Welcome and the Gathering (all the people coming together in God's presence)
- ◇ the Confession, Pardon and Absolution, our individual reconciliation with God
- ◇ the Hymn of Praise (the Gloria), acknowledging God's holiness and merciful forgiveness
- ◇ the Ministry of the Word (readings and psalms)
- ◇ the Sermon, interpreting the Word
- ◇ the Creed (our common and joint public statement of belief)
- ◇ the Intercessions (our corporate prayers for the world, the creation and the faithful)
- ◇ the Comfortable Words (an assurance of the saving grace of Jesus and faithfulness of his promise)

At this point in the liturgy we say together the Prayer of Humble Access - our approach to the Lord's table in preparation for sharing the Body and Blood of the eucharistic meal. The prayer represents two aspects of the Gospel coming together: we are fallen creatures, in our sinfulness not worthy to stand before a Holy God. But, whenever we speak of human sinfulness, we immediately speak the word of Grace, that our Lord's nature is always to have mercy. The prayer holds these two realities together - we are sinners, God is merciful. Because of God's grace, we can accept our own unworthiness and then be lifted up into the presence of God. The prayer teaches us that receiving the body and blood of Christ is a gift, a grace that is granted to us. We do not "take" communion, we "receive" it as a gift. We participate in the body of Christ, nourished, cleansed and renewed in him. We are also given the assurance that our life in him is eternal, and so we receive a taste of the future in the present.. The prayer is a clear and succinct summary of the Gospel and our need for God's grace. In the Eucharistic gathering we then share

- ◇ the Greeting of Peace, coming together in humility, forgiven and pardoned, invited to share the holy meal in fellowship together
- ◇ the Thanksgiving and the administration of the elements in communion
- ◇ the Sending Out of the people into the world, refreshed and renewed—the dedication, blessing and dismissal.

Our service concludes, but the beauty of the prayers shines on in our daily lives.



ANGLICAN WOMEN

In the last issue of the Spire it was reported that All Saints' Anglican Women, at their February meeting, decided to cease functioning as a formal group within the Parish and the Diocese, opting to maintain the fellowship links through *ad hoc* meetings and activities. As a final gesture, the remaining members of the group designed and led the liturgy in church on the first Sunday in May. The liturgy celebrated the roles of women in the life of the church historically, giving thanks for those in the history of All Saints'. As the financial activities of the group were signed off, the remaining funds were donated to the Parish for general ministry purposes. The final commitments accounted in that donation, were elements of maintenance in the memorial rose garden, including replacement of several damaged/old roses, the cleaning of the Supper Room carpet once the Hall renovations were completed (cleaning done in May) and a contribution (a family donation in memory of Marj Blyton) to the cost of the updated lighting in the Hall (also completed in May). We give thanks for the fellowship of the AW group and for their long-term commitment to the Parish and the wider community. May their spirit of service continue in the Parish.



ALL SAINTS' PRAYER CHAIN

What is All Saints' Prayer Chain? The Prayer Chain is made up of a small group of regular worshippers at All Saints' who, upon request, will pray to our Lord to help support those in need at any time due to accident, illness, emergency, thanksgiving - need of any kind.

Please enlist our prayer support (as below) - your prayer partners can't solve your problem but we can (and do) pray on your behalf that the Lord will give you strength to cope. It is always comforting to know that a group is praying for you (all at the same time!) in whatever your urgent situation may be.

Our network of faith seeks to support others in our community in prayer. All messages are confidential and will not be passed to anyone other than prayer chain members and never discussed in any other environment. There is no need to give lots of details (or any if that is your preference). Your message will be passed on as you specify our aim is to be your advocate through prayer.

Shirley Breed (6947 1724) is the Prayer Chain Co-ordinator:
contact with her will activate the chain of prayer.



NEW HORIZONS FOR MS HANDLEY

After more than three decades as a teacher and then, latterly, Chaplain, at Franklin Public School, Sue Handley has recently retired from active involvement in these roles. Over her time with the Education Department and Generate Services Sue has made a positive difference to the lives of teachers, students and families and proved a constant witness to the faith she holds so dear. We welcomed her to All Saints' in 1986 when she was first appointed as a teacher in Tumut (she grew up in the parish of Junee) and have valued her contribution to the Christian life of the Parish and the wider community ever since. As she continues her witness in fields other than the local schools, we wish her joy in her retirement and give thanks for the love and care she shares with us all, wherever we are on our individual journeys and wherever she meets us.

MURRAY GLEN VILLAGE

All residents of Murray Glen Village are welcome to participate in a service of Holy Communion held on the second Wednesday of each month at 2:00pm in their Community Centre. The service is informal and includes hymns with piano accompaniment. An open invitation is extended to anyone wishing to attend these services - attendance is not restricted to Village residents. Fellowship is enjoyed over a cuppa following the service.

At 1.30pm each Tuesday afternoon a Bible Study, led by Rev. Liz Sloane, is held in the Community Centre when the readings for the following Sunday are read and discussed. Although held at the Village, the Bible Study is open to anyone wishing to come along and newcomers are always most welcome. If you would like more information on these activities please contact Rev. Liz Sloane on 0427 633 981.



CELEBRATIONS AUGUST –NOVEMBER 2021

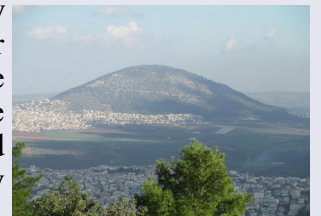
| | | | |
|-----------|--------------|------------------------------|---|
| Sunday | 8 August | | Feast of the Transfiguration |
| Tuesday | 31 August | | Aidan of Lindisfarne (651AD) |
| Wednesday | 29 September | | Feast of St Michael and All Angels Police Remembrance Day |
| Sunday | 3 October | 9:30am | Holy Communion at All Saints' Rogation Sunday—thanksgiving for the created order |
| Sunday | 7 November | 9:30am | Holy Communion at All Saints' All Saints' Day |
| Sunday | 21 November | 9:00am 10:30am | Holy Communion at All Saints' - Christ the King Family Service and Sunday School |
| Sunday | 28 November | 9:00am 10:30am 11:00am | Holy Communion at All Saints' - Advent Sunday Family Service and Sunday School Holy Advent, Tummorroma—HC and Patronal picnic |
| | | | |

THE FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION - The Glory of the Mountain Top



In 2021 Sunday 8 August celebrates the Feast of the Transfiguration, the day on which we commemorate the revelation of Jesus' divinity as it was given to the apostles Peter, James and John (ref Mark 9:2-10). Jesus was revealed to the fearful disciples by God as His Son, standing in His glory in the presence of Moses (the supreme law-giver of the nation of Israel) and Elijah (the first and the greatest of the prophets). We cannot know what happened, we can only try to understand. Mark tells us that the garments of Jesus became radiant and that when the incident came to an end, cloud overshadowed them. In Jewish thought the presence of God is regularly connected with the cloud. It was in the cloud that Moses met God. It was in the cloud that God came to the Tabernacle. It was the cloud which filled the Temple when it was dedicated after Solomon had built it. The descent of the cloud is a way of saying that the Messiah had come and any Jew would understand it like that.

The disciples present to witness this event wanted to hold onto the awe and the wonder of it by building a "booth" (building a chapel) but Jesus assured them that this was not appropriate - they must go down the mountain and move on, rather allowing the experience to inform their spiritual life in the day to day. It must be enough that they had heard God's voice acknowledge this Jesus as His Son. The experience made the disciples witnesses of the glory of Christ - a witness being someone who first *sees* and then *shows*. This event had revealed to them the glory of Christ and when the time came after the resurrection they had the story of this glory to tell to people.



Acknowledgement: Barclay, W.: *The Daily Study Bible. The Gospel of Mark*. Edinburgh, the Saint Andrew Press, 1974.

THE GOD OF SURPRISES



ROSES IN JUNE, 2020

Last year during the pandemic lockdown and subsequent months of concern for my family overseas and in Victoria, I was buoyed by the appearance of roses blooming in late Autumn and on into the Winter months. Rose bushes that would normally have been descending into Winter sleep mode, were vibrant with colour and promise. Expressions of hopefulness could be seen in every petal.

This year, more lockdowns have been imposed on family members, but a single poppy flowered well before its normal flowering period to brighten that corner of the garden.

Our God is a God of surprises, but more than that, a generous God who gives what is impossible for us to achieve ourselves, but always possible for Him.

We only need to look beyond the immediate and the obvious and we'll discover the treasures in life that He gives.

Rev Liz Sloane

"O Lord, who created the soaring hawk and the raindrop glistening on the bramble leaf, open our eyes to your great glory and set our hearts on fire with your praise."

Ref: Robson, Pat: *Celtic Praise: prayers of praise*. Australian edition, 2005 p.3



A DELICATE POPPY, MAY, 2021

A LITTLE MORE PARISH HISTORY

In previous issues of the *Spire*, the histories of some of the outcentres of our Parish were recorded - Tumorrroma, Blowering, Gilmore and Tumut Plains. This edition looks to two more of these worship centres - St Pauls' Talbingo (below) and Brungle (p.7)

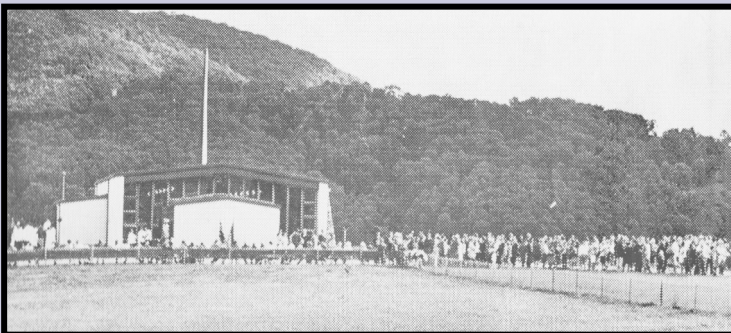
SAINT PAULS' TALBINGO

On 5 February 1965 the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Authority contacted churches in our region and indicated that Talbingo would be established to house the workforce constructing Tumut 3 power station and that land sites would be available for churches and community buildings. The churches believed it was possible to coordinate the formation of a combined church at Talbingo and the Authority encouraged this with the offer of providing a building free if the idea bore fruit. Negotiations continued and the building was completed on 12 April 1967 and dedicated on 23 April 1967 for ecumenical use, unique in the history of churches in Australia. Six hundred people were present at that service of dedication. The Constitution (13 January 1966) vested ownership in the Authority but usage in the churches. The church has since been the focus for Christian activity and service around the town. As the SMA was wound down and workers and their families moved away congregations declined. As SMA withdrew from the township and the town passed to the then Tumut Shire, new arrangements were needed. On 9 February 1991 a Certificate of Incorporation was issued to "The Church of St Paul Talbingo Incorporated" and the transfer of title was completed. Since then the church has been run as an incorporated body with a management team consisting of representatives of all the Christian denominations who use the building. A high point in its early history was attendance at a Sunday service on 3 May 1970 by HRH the Princess Anne who visited the Authority's infrastructure for several days around that date.

In 1971 Rev Stan Willey wrote in his annual review of Parish activities:

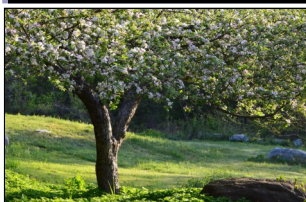
"St Paul's Talbingo is in the process of change. Many people are leaving as the dam work draws to a close, but they are being replaced by the permanent staff. We do not know how many will be Anglicans, only time will tell, so it is difficult to know what arrangements to make for 1972. I feel sure that the evening service will cease and services held in the morning - possibly on two Sundays in the month - one to be Holy

Communion and the other Morning Prayer..." Since that time service times have varied as needs have decreed, the current arrangement standing at a single Anglican service each month.



Left: Rev S Willey talks with HRH Princess Anne at St Paul's Church Talbingo. Over 280 district residents attended the service and another 700 people waited outside for a glimpse of the Princess.

Above: A panoramic view of the church as over 1000 people awaited the arrival of Princess Anne.



After the fall from grace in the Garden of Eden, Adam was walking with his sons Cain and Abel.

As they passed by the ruins of the Garden of Eden, one of the boys asked, "Father, what's that?"

Adam replied, "Boys, that's where your mother ate us out of house and home."

Please save:

Used postage stamps, pre-stamped envelopes, envelopes with company, business and council logos. All these are collected for sale to stamp enthusiasts, raising needed funds for mission and outreach. Either leave them whole or cut across the top to include the logo and stamp (printed or otherwise). These can be left at the Parish Office or at the rear of the church. Thank you to all who save stamps regularly and pass them on to us to support the work of Missions.



WORSHIP AT BRUNGLE

Best summarised by a quote from *Spire* of August 1975, p.4:

"The Anglican parishioners at Brungle meet for worship in the Presbyterian Church and, though few in number, appreciate the kindness of the Presbyterian folk in allowing them the opportunity to come together for Communion. Mrs Noel Sephton has prepared the church for services each month and the Harmer family has been most hospitable in providing the mid-day dinner for the visiting clergyman. It has been customary over a long period to have Communion at the Harmer residence because of the inability of Mr Harmer to visit the church. A patient man, in many years of suffering, he executed leather work to a very high standard, and passed to his rest on 26th July, 1974, aged 84 years. Mrs Harmer, advancing in years, still receives her communion at home." Worship continued at Brungle (for some time in the community hall) into the 1990s until faithful worshippers Queenie and June Harmer moved into town to live.



ACTS - A MODEL FOR PRAYER

Do you know the **ACTS** of prayer? Prayer is very personal, very intimate and, more often than not, very private. Our intimate moments with God must be imbued with reverence and a sense of waiting on His majesty. It is not always easy to know how to begin our conversation with God or how to focus our thoughts appropriately and effectively, particularly if we are stressed or concerned about elements of our daily life. The **ACTS** of prayer can provide us with a guide for our everyday approach to God and an appropriate ordering of our thoughts.

Adoration. Our first approach to God will entail a moment filled with humility as we come into His presence, expressing our enormous reverence for the Trinity - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - and the ineffable presence of such greatness in our life and the promise of life eternal with Him in his glorious realm.

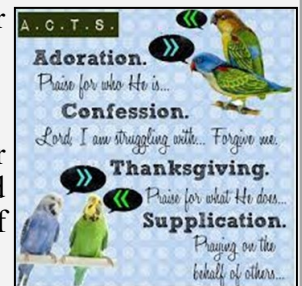
Confession. Having recognised that very nature of God, we have no choice but to confess our sins and seek forgiveness for our shortcomings, for transgressions known and unknown, for sins of omission and sins of commission.

Thanksgiving. Knowing the extent of God's grace in loving us and extending forgiveness for our confessed failures leads us to bend our knees in thanksgiving for his creation, his grace, his unconditional love and his provision for us in so many ways.

Supplication. Only at this point in our conversation with God can we come to him in humble supplication, seeking his guidance in our lives, his support in our difficulties, his understanding in our naivete and his sublime presence in all we do and say in our everyday life.



There are some days when, in our haste, in our confusion and in our particular circumstances we cannot control our disordered thinking and we find the entry into prayer challenging. At these times the **ACTS** of prayer may just make the difference for you. Try it!



A FLORIDA COURT SETS AN ATHEIST HOLY DAY!

You have to love this Judge! You must read this.....

In Florida, an atheist created a case against Easter and Passover Holy days. He hired an attorney to bring a discrimination case against Christians and Jews and observances of their holy days. The argument was that it was unfair that atheists had no such recognized days. The case was brought before a judge. After listening to the passionate presentation by the lawyer, the judge banged his gavel declaring, "Case dismissed!"

The lawyer immediately stood and, in objecting to the ruling, said, "Your honour, how can you possibly dismiss this case? The Christians have Christmas, Easter and other holy days; the Jews have Passover, Yom Kippur and Hanukkah; yet my client and all other atheists have no such holidays."

The judge leaned forward in his chair saying, "But you do. Your client, Counsellor, is woefully ignorant."

The lawyer said, "Your Honour, we are unaware of any special observances or holidays for atheists."

The judge said, "The calendar says April 1st is April Fool's Day. Psalm 14:1 states, 'The fool says in his heart, there is no God.' Thus, it is the opinion of this court, that, if your client says there is no God, then he is a fool. Therefore, April 1st is his day. The court is adjourned."

You have to love a Judge that knows his scripture!

HALL RENOVATIONS



The very beginning

It is very pleasing to report that the new roof, ceiling, lighting and air conditioning in the Parish Hall have all been completed. The redevelopment has been a long and involved process with some loss of momentum over the COVID shut down period, followed by delays with contractors caught up with rebuilding after the bushfires and delays in availability of materials.

Despite these delays, all is now complete and the result is pleasing, with the fresh new cream roof, new ceiling tiles and LED lights brightening the interior and 3 R/C air conditioners to keep the hall warm or cool depending on the season. The Parish Office and the room to the right of the stage each have a new ceiling and the Parish Office also has an air conditioner. The old gas heaters in the hall and supper room will be removed and internal painting of the hall and Office is planned for the spring.

We are very grateful to Lorraine Wysman for all her work organising quotes and managing the project before she left for her 'city escape', and to Graeme Smith for taking over from Lorraine once the work commenced.

There were several very well attended working bees held to clean up the hall as the job came to an end and it is now an inviting and comfortable space for the parish and community groups to use. Indeed, it is now in demand!

We are able to say 'Stage One' has been completed and the upgrading of the kitchen and men's toilets ('Stage Two') will now be prioritised for the second half of the year.



Was there really a possum in there?

Judy Cooper
Parish Council Chair



Artwork from Vanuatu for WDP 2021- addressing the issue of family violence.

TUMUT INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL—WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – ICC mission activities

It is always good to receive feedback from some of our partners in mission. The Tumut World Day of Prayer service in March 2021 (one of 280 held around NSW) was held in All Saints, shared by 20 Christians from our local community. The service this year was prepared by the women of the Christian churches in Vanuatu, focusing on their country and its achievements and needs. The Offering taken at this year's services will support a project in Vanuatu that seeks to address the issue of family violence that has been culturally acceptable in the past and is widespread across Vanuatu. Assistance will also be provided to help rebuild a school for girls and boys that was wrecked by Cyclone Harold in April 2020.

The offerings at services in 2019 and 2020 supported Slovenia and Zimbabwe respectively. In 2020 WDP NSW donated \$95,000 to the Bible Society to address the needs of mothers with a child with a disability. In 2019 the offering supported a trauma healing project in Slovenia which has one of the highest rates of suicide globally as well as a very high rate of low self-esteem and hopelessness. The trauma healing project is a Scripture-based program to help address these issues.

What a joy it is each March to join with Christians across the world in more than 150 countries to pray with and for communities in need and to support financially the Scripture-based projects designed to address specific needs in those communities.

MESSY CHURCH

It is with great joy that the return of Messy Church is planned in 2021. The opportunity to care for and witness to our local families and children once more after the restrictions of 2020 will be exciting. There are several families in the Parish looking forward to its recommencement, anticipating the worship, the teaching, the games and the sharing of food and fellowship. The intention is to continue offering Messy Church on the first Sunday of each month during the year (from September onwards). It will be a great way to celebrate the upgrading of the Parish Hall with its new roof, ceiling, lighting and air conditioning.



As a couple of our accustomed leaders from 2019/2020 have now left Tumut to further their studies, there is wonderful opportunity for new ministry for those who feel they can contribute in any way to this activity. If you wish to discuss sharing in this ministry please contact Rev Mark (6947 1018 or 0413 446 535) or Anthony Carroll (0437 908 262) or the Parish Office (6947 1155).

SHARING THE SCRIPTURES

Have you ever wondered how the readings for our Sunday worship and annual festivals and feast days are chosen? In our Anglican Church environment there is nothing random about the choices. We make use of an annual handbook used Australia-wide called *An Australian Lectionary*, an authorised pattern for reading the scriptures. It includes two systems: one for Sundays and feasts (a three-year cycle of readings) and another for weekdays (a two-year cycle). The system is based on the *Revised Common Lectionary* developed with ecumenical agreement for use worldwide. In Australia it is used by Anglican, Churches of Christ, Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Uniting Church, and many Baptist and other congregations.

The three-year scheme for Sundays is based on the Gospels: Years A (Matthew), B (Mark) and C (Luke), accompanied by a systematic coverage over the three years of the Old Testament by its major divisions (the Law, the Prophets and the Writings). Year A begins on the first Sunday in Advent in years that can be evenly divided by three, for example, 2019 and 2022, thus making 2020-21 Year B. Each yearly cycle commences on the first Sunday in Advent.

Thus, we derive our structure of readings for Sunday services:

- ⇒ First readings follow the divisions of the Old Testament (except in the Easter season when this reading is from *Acts*)
- ⇒ The Psalm is chosen as a response to the First Reading
- ⇒ The Letters in the New Testament are given systematic coverage over the three years
- ⇒ The Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke are covered year by year. The Gospel of John is read in Lent and Easter and around Holy Week and Christmas.

There are further layers and intricacies of organisation - but now you get the general idea!

THE LIFE OF PRAYER

In Western Christianity great emphasis has been placed upon verbal intellect and words have been the medium for safeguarding truth and defining doctrine. What happens when words dry up? We often refer to the loss of words in our prayer life as the “desert experience”. In that desert, words are absent or of less use and silence becomes our medium - we learn the art and discipline of silence. Out of that we come to a deeper understanding of other forms of prayer: symbols. These can be many: physical prayer (expression through physical posture or movement), candles, incense, icons, pictures - all can be strengthening.

- Natural beauty we can use to help us pray when our resources are low; church buildings can be quiet and restful, a sanctuary of peace;
- Candles have a quiet beauty all of their own. To focus on a candle flame in a darkened room diminishes our field of vision and therefore the distractions; they can remind us of the eternal presence of God with us;
- Pictures/photographs put a person (or place) much more fully in our heart than if their name is merely “on a list”, making our intercession much richer and more profound;
- Icons can operate in the same way as photographs - contemplation of a symbol of Christ or the person depicted reminding me that when I pray, I join with these people, one in Christ, united in the silent prayer of the Spirit;
- Incense reminds us that we are part of the whole church spanning time and space - a cosmic flow of prayer and worship, sweet and fragrant, rising to God. (Revelation 5:8, 8:4)

What we must never forget is that the Holy Spirit is always present in our hearts, knowing our prayer and interceding for us even when we are least able to focus that prayer for ourselves. In his letter to the Romans, Paul writes:

“Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.” (Romans 8:26,27)

Acknowledgement: Wallis, Paul: *Rough ways in prayer. How can I pray when I feel spiritually dead?* London, SPCK, 1991.

NEW2U

Partnering with **ANGLICARE**

Tumut Anglican Parish

40 Russell Street Tumut

Telephone (Business Hours) 0467 653 820

Trading Hours:

Saturday: 10:00am to 1:00pm

Monday: Closed

Tuesday to Friday: 10:00am to 1:00pm



Recycled clothing for all ages, plus bric-a-brac, shoes, handbags, jewellery, books, gifts, toys, travel luggage, manchester and more!

**ALWAYS A BARGAIN
BROWSE REGULARLY
SOMETHING NEW EVERY DAY**

DONATIONS of good quality items during opening hours are always appreciated

NEWS FROM NEW 2U

Wow! June 2021 represents the tenth anniversary of the opening of the New2U store and all that this implies in terms of service to the community and individual clients. Thanks to the many volunteers who have invested much love, devotion and time to the store and its organisation over those ten years. Through their commitment we have been able to provide clothes, bric-a-brac, care, compassion and monetary assistance to many individuals and groups across our community.

The sense of rejoicing in this achievement is heightened when it is acknowledged that the volunteers not only "give", but also "receive". There is a great sense of purpose and a gracious response to God's calling that brings peace to those who are able to serve in this volunteer capacity. For many it is their major avenue for putting their faith into action, sharing the principles of their faith with the wider community.

The reputation of the store for its cleanliness, freshness, and welcoming environment has enabled much pastoral care and compassionate listening to be undertaken during its ten years of service. Comments on its effectiveness are received from near and far, within our community and from travellers from other parts. We thank God always that we can be a channel of his love by these means.

Over and above all this, there has been a constant monetary return through sales, enabling support of the Parish, of the Tumut High School chaplaincy and of various local causes. An initial service of the provision of emergency food parcels has since been more efficiently overtaken by the Community Pantry.

Thanks to all for their commitment and service.

The Management Committee

TUMUT COMMUNITY PANTRY

Our Community Pantry is special. It is unique in that this style of community outreach to those in need does not work in every place. Some towns are too small, some too large for the community to come together and network in the manner that ours is able to do. It is the networking of many church communities, groups, individuals and businesses that makes the model successful in our town. The Committee of the Tumut Community Pantry is the lynchpin, enabling wider networking to connect and support the ministry.

Prayer is an essential part of our working: prayer before we open each week, prayer cover for our clients' needs, for our volunteers and for the donors of goods for distribution.

The saying, "Many hands make light work" is so relevant here. Our weekly operation needs organised preparations and forward thinking to ensure that we have sufficient and varied foods for distribution each Friday. Collection from our larger donors, Coles and Woolworths, churches and other points of collection, requires those with strength to lift and carry. Before Friday the boxes are packed; on Friday the room is arranged carefully and well-presented to encourage our customers.

Observing our volunteers as they serve the clients reveals their graciousness, tolerance, compassion and thoughtfulness as they walk each client around the goods available that day. Often the volunteer needs to encourage nutritious options for foods and suggest ways of preparation that will add variety to meals.

I thank all the volunteers for their willing and generous hearts. This town is all the better for such a ministry in our midst.

The Rev Liz Sloane

YOUR GIVING TO GOD'S WORK

If you are a pledged giver, thank you - you already have your 2021 envelopes. If you wish to become a pledged giver, sets of Giving Envelopes are available from the Office upon request.

If you wish to make your regular contribution to God's work through All Saints' via direct periodic payment from your account please use the following details:

Acct name: All Saints' General Account

BSB 032-766

Acct No.: 110007

Ref: [Offering] [your name]

If you have any queries please contact the Parish Office on 02 6947 1155



From our Registers



Baptisms



| | |
|---------------|-------------|
| Alex John Lee | 6 June 2021 |
|---------------|-------------|

Marriages



| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Victor Ducret & Dell Belchambers | 21 May 2021 |
|----------------------------------|-------------|

Funerals



| | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| William Eric Werner | 9 March 2021 |
| Ingrid Maren Anne Borgert | 17 March 2021 |
| Rhonda Jean Webb | 31 March 2021 |
| Margaret Betty Quinn | 15 April 2021 |
| Marjorie Julia Myers | 24 April 2021 |
| Marjorie Eleanor Barton | 3 June 2021 |
| Athol John Price | 7 July 2021 |
| Barry Irving Breed | 7 July 2021 |
| Colin Montague Sturt | 9 July 2021 |

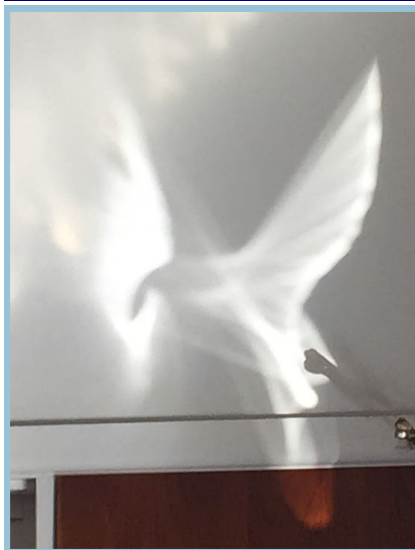
ALL SAINTS' MERCHANDISE

All Saints' memorabilia available for purchase either at the back of the Church after a service or from the Parish Office.:

- ◆ All Saints' linen tea towel \$5.00
- ◆ All Saints' cards (5 pack) \$5.00
- ◆ *A Labour of Love* booklet \$5.00

These items provide excellent gifts for those who have an association with All Saints'.

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 10-12 Sept | Synod - Goulburn |
| Wed 29 Sept | Police Remembrance Day |
| Sun 7 Nov | All Saints Patronal Festival |
| Sun 28 Nov | Advent Sunday Tumorrroma Patronal Festival and Community Picnic |
| Sun 4 Dec | Remembrance Service 4pm |
| Sun 12 Dec | Parish elections (after 9am service) |



The image at the left was observed projected onto the wall in the kitchen during Sunday morning tea in the Hall - a reflection of sunlight onto the wall from the lid of the stainless steel urn!!

"AS THE SUN CAN BE SEEN
ONLY BY ITS OWN LIGHT,
SO CHRIST CAN BE KNOWN
ONLY BY HIS OWN SPIRIT."
Robert Leighton

THE JOY OF THE SACRAMENT

Rev Mark rejoiced in the opportunity to administer the sacrament of marriage for Victor and Dell at Murray Glen Village during May. It is a joy to know that these two have found joy together in these new surroundings and we wish them much contentment.

As for Rev Mark, he was heard to observe that this is the first marriage he has performed in a retirement village and that perhaps his next similar privilege will be to perform a baptism! The cycle would then feel complete - beginning to end!

"You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending" - C.S. Lewis

A bend in the road is not the end of the road...unless you fail to make the turn.



SPIRE subscription

Your annual Spire subscription of \$5 per annum can be paid at any time at the Office (9-12 Mon, Wed, Fri), by Direct Deposit or through the Sunday offertory plate.

Direct Deposit: BSB: 032-766 Acct no.: 110007 Ref: [Your name] Spire

ALL SAINTS' ANGLICAN CHURCH PARISH DIRECTORY

River Street, PO Box 182 Tumut NSW 2720

www.AnglicanParishTumut.org

Facebook: All Saints Anglican Church Tumut

Rector: Rev'd Mark Evers (Phone 0413 446 535) Email: Rector@AnglicanParishTumut.org



Lay Ministers

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|
| Ron Biggs | 6947 3258 | | |
| Judy Cooper | 6947 9047 | Jeff McAlister | 6947 2585 |
| May Doon | 6947 2342 | Ralda McAlister | 6947 2585 |

Wardens

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Geoff Rotgans (Rector's Warden) | | Alison Faulder (Tumorrroma) | 6946 6255 |
| Judy Cooper (Tumut) | 6947 9047 | | |
| Lorraine Wysman | 0427 471 722 | | |

Parish Councillors 2021

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Lynne Withers | Worship | Rev Liz Sloane | Pastoral Care |
| Judy Cooper | COVID Compliance | Rev Mark Evers | New2U/Anglicare |
| Dianne Smith | Finance | Rev Mark Evers | Publicity |
| Anthony Carroll | Youth/Children's Ministry | Geoff Rotgans | Secretary |
| David Menzel | Buildings | Andrea Quinn | |

All Saints' Catering Service 2021

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| Judy Cooper | President | Rod Cooper | Treasurer |
| Ralda McAlister | Secretary | | |

All Saints' Synod Representatives 2021

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Rosemarie Menzel | Elizabeth Stanford | Lorraine Wysman | |
| Parish Administrator | Wendy Guldbransen | 6947 1155 | (Mon, Wed, Fri 9am-12nn) |
| | Parish.Office@AnglicanParishTumut.org | | |
| Newsletter Editor | Parish Office | 6947 1155 | |
| Pastoral Care Coordinator | Rev Liz Sloane | 0427 633 981 | |
| WHS Coordinators | Greg and Sharon Musson | 6946 4488 | |
| NEW2U | Management Committee | 0467 653 820 | |
| CD Ministry | Parish Office | 6947 1155 | |
| Spire Editor | Elizabeth Stanford | 0412 676 681 | |
| Prayer Chain Co-ordinator | Shirley Breed | 6947 1724 | |
| Funeral Catering | Ralda McAlister | 6947 1155 | |
| Web Support | Sue Handley | 6947 1755 | |
| Playgroup | Kiddylink@AnglicanParishTumut.org | 6947 1155 | |



The gambler in each of us:

God gave us two ends: one to think with and one to sit on. Heads, you win; tails, you lose.

Your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions
Joel 2:28

CDs of weekly church services and also the *Tumut & Adelong Times* are available post-free to the sight impaired.

Please contact the PARISH OFFICE (6947 1155) on Monday, Wednesday or Friday mornings if you know someone who would like to receive either or both CDs weekly.



If you would like to know more about the issues raised in this *Spire*, about church activities or ministry, please contact the Parish Office. The Office is attended on Monday, Wednesday & Friday mornings from 9.00am to 12nn. Phone: 02 6947 1155