



# 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**

### EPIPHANY



Following Christmas Day the Western Church journeys through the season of *Twilevetide*, the 12 day period in Christian theology which celebrates the nativity of Jesus, spanning from the day of Christ's birth (25 December) to the coming of the Magi, the Wise Men, to worship and adore Him. *The Feast of the Epiphany* (6 January) is the twelfth day, when we celebrate the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles as represented in the arrival of the Magi. The record of this event is to be read in Matthew 2:1-12. The twelve days represent the

amount of time it took after the birth of Jesus for the Wise Men to travel to Bethlehem for the epiphany, when they recognised Him as the Son of God.

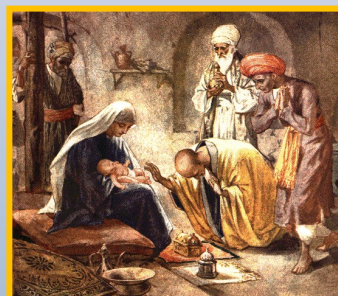
Their journey was an act of determination and perseverance in getting to see Jesus. They followed a star but found a stable. Surely they were expecting a palace, a mansion? They must have felt vast disappointment - just as we do when we follow stars and find stables, when we experience a "high" but end in the depths. We must pause to consider:

- a) We remind ourselves that the Wise Men came looking for God. Although they found themselves in a stable, they did not close their minds to God's presence. In the end it didn't matter that the King they had come to worship was living in a stable, because for them the star, which they had so assiduously studied, had led them to the truth: the truth that God had become human and was turning upside-down the values of the world. Often, when we find ourselves in a bad way, we stop looking for God at all or looking for any good in our predicament.
- b) Remember that the Wise Men offered their best to God. Their expensive royal gifts are not the first things they offer - the first thing they do is offer themselves in humble adoration and praise to the new born king. This is the best gift anyone, Jew or Gentile, can offer to God. Listen to Christina Rossetti:

What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb.  
If I were a wise man I would do my part,  
Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

- a) This visit was the beginning of new directions in the lives of the Wise Men. They did not return to Herod, they returned home in peace and love having experienced the divine revelation of seeing God in his glory lying in the poverty of the stable - an encounter that had touched their hearts.

We can likewise approach life with an open mind, not expecting God to be found only in the good times or in our churches, but accepting that God is with us wherever we are, whether that be on top of the world or in the deepest dark places of despair. We can let God be wherever and however He is. We can give of ourselves and truly seek God, changing our stables to new temples and new lives.



**Often we do not see through the clutter of our lives and our minds, but maybe the Wise Men can help us in our journey.**

## MARK'S REMARKS



### A Simple Christmas

The simple things in Life are often the best.

There is no denying that our world is facing some incredibly complex problems: Global Warming, COVID-19, widespread poverty, constant wars across the continents, to say nothing of the increasingly complicated lives we all live. The great news of Christmas is that God has a very simple solution to the complex problems of our world. Everything wrong in our world is just a symptom of a deeper, underlying problem, the sin and rebellion that lies deep within every human heart.

God's simple solution, is to come himself as our Saviour. On the first Christmas God himself took on flesh and was born as a baby to save us from our sins. That was the message of the Angels to the shepherds:

"But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord." - (Luke 2:10 - 11)

This baby, born to Mary and laid in the manger, has come as the Saviour we so desperately need. The simple message of Christmas is that God's king has come, not in a palace or to trumpet blasts and extravagant fanfare. The Christ has been born in Bethlehem and laid in a lowly, humble manger.

God sent his angels to proclaim the birth, not to the scholarly and sophisticated religious leaders, but to common, ordinary shepherds. Luke 2:8 does not say "And there were Pharisees and priests living in the synagogue nearby, keeping watch over their scrolls and religious rituals". Nor does it say "There were kings and princes keeping watch at the palace".

God chose to send the Angels, not to those religious leaders, but to the common and everyday - the shepherds. God's simple message is for unsophisticated people, not just the learned. You don't need a PhD in philosophy to understand it. The shepherds were poor, illiterate, unschooled folk and they could understand God's simple message.

That simple message, that "A Saviour has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord", is a message for all the world, not just for the wise and well-schooled, but the more simple shepherds watching their flocks by night; not just for the worldly and sophisticated, but simple enough for a child to grasp.

Jesus' promise and the message of the angels is for all who believe that "a Saviour has been born; He is Christ the Lord." It doesn't matter who you are, it doesn't matter how much you know, it doesn't matter how smart you are, it doesn't matter what you do. All that matters is that you know and acknowledge that "A Saviour has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord."

If you do believe this, then it changes everything. When the Angels came with their simple message for them the shepherds didn't just stand around chatting and marvelling amongst themselves. They dropped everything and headed straight to Bethlehem to see for themselves the baby lying in a manger. If we truly believe the simple message from the angel, we need to drop everything and investigate Jesus for ourselves. Unlike the shepherds we don't meet Jesus lying in a manger, but we do have the opportunity to hear him in the Bible, to speak to him in prayer and to meet him in his people gathered together this Christmas.

The questions for each of us are: "Do you believe the Message the Angels spoke to the shepherds?" "Do you believe the words of the carols we sing each Christmas?" "Are you going to take hold of God's simple message, available to all people and, leaving everything behind, search Him out?"

Remember what the Angel said to the shepherds,

**"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord."**

What are you going to do about it? How will you respond?

*The Rector, Wardens and Parish Councillors extend their best wishes to all parishioners and friends during this wonderful Christmastide. May each of you experience the hope, the joy and the peace which are the essence of this season and may that peace and joy continue with you throughout the coming new year.*



### 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](http://anglicancg.org.au)) or can be downloaded for you at the Parish Office if you have no access to the web.





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 our common worship*

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

## **CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2022**



*We invite you to come to celebrate together at these services  
 during the festive season*

Thursday	15 December	Home Communion
Sunday	18 December	9:00am Holy Communion at All Saints' 10.30am Family Service at All Saints' 5:00pm Christmas Service (HC) at Holy Advent, Tumorrroma
Saturday	24 December	5:00pm Family Christmas Service at All Saints' 7:30pm Christmas Service (HC) at St Paul's, Talbingo 9:30pm Holy Communion at All Saints'
Sunday	25 December	9:00am Holy Communion at All Saints'
January	Services	As usual (see above)

## **THE COMMON CUP and alternatives in our celebration of the Eucharist**

One of the major changes introduced under COVID-19 rules and still impacting our congregational behaviour was the removal of "the common cup" from our Eucharistic celebration. Our continuing use of the intincted breads, allowing us to partake of both bread and wine at the common feast, seems set to continue for some time. This "style" of sharing at the Lord's table incorporates the theology of the celebration and the ongoing necessity for acceptable health practices. It is encouraging that we are again able to partake of the sacrament at the altar rail (for those for whom it is physically possible) rather than in the distanced seating arrangements which had to be enforced at the height of the COVID restrictions. For those for whom access to the altar rail is difficult, it is pleasing that they are now receiving communion in the body of the congregation no longer "socially distanced".

Our Diocesan Bishop has encouraged us to consider alternative ways of administering/partaking of the sacrament, being mindful of the new "one-use plastics" ban, a task which the Parish Council is now addressing.





## COMMUNITY HUB

Are we there yet?

Following the call for “Expressions of Interest” by the Blakeney Millar Foundation on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021, All Saints’ Parish Council agreed that the Parish should apply for the demountable buildings then becoming available from the Tumut Hospital site as redevelopment of that site commenced.

It was agreed that the Parish demolish the weatherboard Sunday School buildings to the rear of the Parish Hall and place the demountable buildings in that same location in their place.

The Parish Council was delighted to be advised that the Parish was successful in our application - out of a total of eleven applications which were received from across the local community. All Saints’ had stated in our application that, if our bid were successful, we would be happy to contact other applicants inviting them to use our facilities and ensuring they have access if required.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2021 the Development Application for the process was submitted to Snowy Valleys Council. The timeline was of great importance as we needed to prepare the site for the demountable which was due to be delivered to site in April 2022. Site preparation (documented in previous issues of the *Spire*) was undertaken and the new building did indeed arrive - in four sections. These sections were delicately re-assembled and the utilities for the building were connected over the following weeks.

Our Diocesan Bishop, the Rt Rev Mark Short, blessed the building for purpose on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2022, and we were proud to be able then to outline our vision for the use of the new building and of the newly upgraded Parish Hall facilities, both being fundamental to our pastoral outreach in the community.

We do regard our facilities as a vital resource and we thank God for the privilege of providing a meeting place for groups to come together. There are various individual spaces available, some larger and some smaller, and opportunities for storage to be negotiated by user groups.

The major building works and preparations are now complete but some final tasks are in hand:

- replacement of Reverse Cycle Air Conditioning ( completed)
- stencil for disability carpark
- painting of ramp railings
- fixing of nonslip tiles
- landscaping (including completion of fences)
- toilet door signs (completed)

It is pleasing to report that the Community Hub is now being occupied by Kurrajong Waratah for three days a week under a two year agreement and by a fitness instructor for one day a week. The local Girl Guides group utilises the building every Thursday night during school terms.

Other community groups currently utilising our Hub and Hall facilities on a regular basis are Tumut Bridge Club, Smooth Movers, KiddyLink, CanAssist, Cast Snowy Theatre group, Tumut Youth Group, Blakeney Lodge Auxiliary and Vitality Passport (a MLHD project).

The facility and its suitability for purpose are both answers to much prayer within the Parish. The Parish Council is very pleased to lead the thanks for such a magnificent answer to prayer.

There are many who are to be thanked for their willing contributions in so many ways to furthering the project and who are still committed to the continuing development of both facilities. Thankyou to all of these folk.

The Parish is indebted to the Parish Council and, in particular, to Lorraine Wysman for initiating the projects and steering them so smoothly from their inception to the point they have currently reached.



From this  
to this



## CHRISTMAS REFLECTION

We love Christmas with all the lights, gifts and good cheer of friends and family. To celebrate Christmas is to share life with another, for that is what God has done, shared divine life with created life in a simple yet profound way: the birth of a baby. It may surprise us to know that the first thousand years of Christianity likely did not celebrate Christmas with a nativity scene, for the early Church was an Easter Church not a Christmas Church. Emphasis was on the risen Christ not the birth of Jesus. In the Middle Ages, however, a new emphasis on the Word made flesh, the Incarnation, took place, beginning in the twelfth century, focussing on the earthly life of Jesus, drawing on the imagination and spiritual senses to identify with the miracle of God's birth in the flesh.



There are so many ways of looking at Christmas and Christmas celebrations and trying to understand the impact that Christ's nativity has in our lives. It is important to see that creation itself is made holy by the celebration of Christmas. God was present at the manger - in the trees, the stars, the oxen, the ass and the people gathered. All of heaven and earth were brought into a unity of love in that initial celebration of Christmas.

We must be attentive to how we are celebrating Christmas. Are we too worried about the dinner meal? Or about the gifts we did or did not buy for another? Are we too focussed on ourselves? Are we bathed in tears of joy and amazement at the profound mystery of God bending low to embrace us, to become one of us? Christmas must be the celebration of deep relationship. God, the trinity of love, searches for human hearts, where He seeks to dwell. "God bends low in love and lifts us up so that we may be where God is." (Ref: Bonaventure - *The Life of Saint Francis of Assisi*)

We do not have to worry about things going right on Christmas Day, or any day for that matter. God has come to us, is with us, and will forever be born in us as our future, if we make space for Him in our lives. Let us celebrate this Christmas with song and dance, for all creation is bubbling with the Spirit of Love, alive with the presence of God.

An extract from: *A Short Christmas Reflection* by Ilia Delio, OSF, Center for Christogenesis, December 2021

## 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORDINATION OF WOMEN AS PRIESTS

There was much joy and celebration expressed at St Saviour's Cathedral in Goulburn on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2022 when our Diocesan family held a celebration commemorating the occasion 30 years ago when women candidates were first ordained into the priesthood by our then Diocesan Bishop, the Rt Rev Owen Dowling. That day 30 years ago was the joyful culmination of so many years of prayer, controversy, heartache, legal battles, protests, vigils, discernment, compromise and shared faith journeys. The "battle" cost many people dearly but there was great rejoicing throughout much of the Anglican communion when the women's call to ministry was acknowledged and celebrated. There were many familiar faces who returned to St Saviour's from throughout Australia for the commemoration this year, praising God and thanking Him for his Spirit of growth and renewal which has accompanied the women's priestly ministries.



## YOUTH GROUP REPORT - Rev Mark

One of the highlights of this past year has been the churches coming together to run a combined Youth Group. To find out a little more about it, I've interviewed one of the teenagers who regularly attends each week.

**Tell us a little about yourself.** My name is Elizabeth Evers and I'm in Year 8 at Tumut High.

**When is Youth Group?** Every Thursday evening from 5:30pm - to 8:00pm in the All Saints' Hall

**What do you do?** Pretty normal Youth Group stuff. Each week we start with some games. Then we sing a couple of songs, listen to a Bible talk and break up into small discussion groups. Then we finish with dinner together.

**Who goes?** About 10 - 15 teenagers from a variety of churches across Tumut. There are more when the students are here from the Augustin Academy, about half of them come as well.

**Why do you go?** Because it's good to meet with other teenagers who are Christian, or at the very least interested in God.

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**What's been the highlight so far?** Realising I'm not on my own. That there actually are other Christian girls my own age in Tumut.

**How does Youth Group help you live and grow as one of God's children?** The same way church helps grownups. When we meet we learn more about God and encourage one another to keep trusting Jesus.

**What's the best thing you've learnt this year?** That I'm not alone. There are others like me. And it's also a great reminder every week to keep following Jesus.

**How can we help?** Pray. Tell and invite other teenagers. The leaders would probably love people to volunteer to provide dinner so they don't have to. And you can even come and attend and just hang out with us teenagers. We really aren't that scary!



## **TUMUT COMMUNITY PANTRY**

As we reflect on the period 2021-2022 we see it has been quite a challenge in some respects. We have moved from COVID restrictions to managing our ministry with depleted numbers of volunteers, as some needed to take advantage of the freedom of movement post COVID. We have been, of course, very much aware of the threat of the virus as it has continued to move through our community.

Sadly, in June, we farewelled Rod Cooper, who had been our auditor and a valued volunteer for some years. Our thoughts and prayers are still with Judy and the family as they mourn Rod's loss.

Our customer numbers fluctuate as needs arise and lessen. Our community is still amazingly supportive of the service of Tumut Community Pantry in many and varied ways. The larger contributors are Coles, through their Second Bite program, and Woolworths in their offering products nearing "use by" dates or those with damaged packaging, as well as frozen meat, which is a great supplement to the groceries, vegetables, fruit and bread available. The church communities still offer great support and individuals from their own backyard produce. Where would we be without this support?

Where would we be also without our magnificent caring, thoughtful, generous and gracious volunteers who give tirelessly of their time and energies to this ministry. Many of them have their own challenges in life, but the servanthood of Jesus is shown in their actions. I thank them for their efforts and willingness to volunteer.

With the "Christmas Pantry" on our horizon I encourage as many as possible to donate either non-perishable Christmas food products or even a small financial donation to assist in our purchase of hams, Christmas cakes etc., remembering that we distribute around 100 hampers each Christmas. Can you help bring that extra drop of happiness to a challenged household in this busy season?

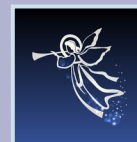
The Rev'd Liz Sloane



## **THE JOY OF JOY'S 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY**

What a joy it was during the first week of November to celebrate with one of our "Parish treasures", Joy Jacobs, as she reached her milestone 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Now resident in Blakeney Lodge, she was provided with much joy and excitement in the presence of extended family and of many friends, enjoying a service of thanksgiving and celebration conducted by Rev Harvey Sloane and a family lunch to follow. Over and above this, we are sure she has had extra visitors and messages of congratulations and good will. There are so many things to celebrate about Joy's journey to this point - her family, her music (everyone associated with All Saints' Music Hall productions has a "Joybelle story"), her faithful service in God's church and its mission in the local and extended community, her unfailing dedication to the furthering of all the causes and tasks to which she committed herself during her lifetime of service within the Tumut community, her compassion and care, and the welcome always provided at her home in Sydney Street. Joy's knowledge of Tumut and its history reflects her family's long ties to the district and their involvement in every aspect of local community.

We wish Joybelle peace and contentment as she reflects upon the celebrations and settles back into her everyday witness, living and singing and making music for the Lord.



## **SYNOD REPORT** - prepared by Andrea Quinn

Lorraine Wysman and I attended the Second Session of the 47<sup>th</sup> Synod of the Anglican Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn on Friday and Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at the Goulburn Workers' Club in Goulburn.

This was a totally new experience for me, never having attended such a meeting before. Synod usually occupies two and a half days, from Friday lunchtime to Sunday around 4pm. However due to the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II, Synod was shortened by a day in order for Clergy to return to their parishes for Sunday Services. (Ed: For reports of Diocesan remembrances of Queen Elizabeth II see *Anglican News* October 2022 issue available on the Diocesan website: [anglicancg.org.au](http://anglicancg.org.au))

Synod was opened at 2:30pm Friday with a Presidential Address by Bishop Mark Short. Bishop Mark talked about freedom while living with COVID and about the freedom in Christ we experience as believers, referring to Paul's letter to the Galatians. In particular, he drew attention to the positive view of our freedom which has at its heart the benefit of others: a freedom not for the sake of indulging ourselves but for the sake of serving our neighbour in love. In this we follow the example of Jesus who became a 'slave' in order to achieve our Salvation.

Bp Mark quoted Martin Luther who said in his treatise *The Freedom of the Christian*: "A Christian is the most free lord of all, and subject to none; a Christian is the most dutiful servant of all, and subject to everyone."

The Bishop went on to talk about exercising freedom with reference to schools, Anglicare, domestic violence and ADS (Anglican Diocesan Services). He also referenced extending freedom to others, particularly noting Afghanistan and our Diocese being a signatory to the *Christians United for Afghanistan Campaign*.



Consideration of the Bishop-in-Council Report and the Finance Report followed (both reports were circulated prior to Synod) and continued until 5:30pm. Synod members then moved to St Saviour's Cathedral for the dedication and unveiling of a plaque in memory of Bishop Cecil Allan Warren, who died in 2019. Bp Warren was Asst Bishop in our Diocese from 1965-1971 and subsequently elected as 7<sup>th</sup> Bishop of the Diocese, serving in that role from 1972 until his retirement in 1983.

Saturday's Synod experience commenced at 8:30am with prayers and Bible study, leading into the Business session which began at 9:15am with a presentation regarding the Property Trust. This was followed by an Anglicare presentation which noted, inter alia, the resignation of the current CEO who is moving on to different pastures. Asst Bishop Carol Wagner led a presentation entitled Ministry Wellbeing, a report covering Professional Development, Supervision and Ministry Reviews as well as general Clergy Wellbeing.

This was followed by a presentation on the St Mark's National Theological Centre report. St Mark's offers educational opportunities tailored to each person's needs and abilities, specialising in distance, on-campus and blended learning for students from around Australia. Lay and ordained people from a range of educational and spiritual backgrounds have the opportunity to study the Bible, ministry, theology, pastoral counselling, spiritual care for the ageing and more, at several levels of education including higher degrees by research (HDR).

The presentation of notices by Synod members was followed by lunch prior to a second (afternoon) business session which covered Notices of Motions and Ordinances, the presentation of a report from the Public Issues Commission, a presentation on Domestic and Family Violence, reports from the AIDF (Anglican Investment Development Fund), Anglican Diocesan Services and the Anglican Schools Commission.

Synod business concluded at 5:30pm on Saturday and was followed first by a Service at the Cathedral and then by the Synod Dinner held in the Goulburn Workers' Club auditorium, featuring guest speaker Rev Canon Tim Swan, the CEO of Anglican Aid, the overseas aid and ministry support agency of the Diocese of Sydney. At the dinner the partnership between the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn, Anglican Aid and the Diocese of Jos in Nigeria was relaunched. (Ed: For more detail on this partnership see *Anglican News* October 2022 issue available on the Diocesan website: [anglicancg.org.au](http://anglicancg.org.au))

For me, the main issue to come out of this Synod was that of 'Clergy Care and Wellbeing', along with our need for the care and wellbeing of our fellow Christians.

Some statistics to come from the matter of 'Clergy Care' were a great shock to me and I'm sure most of the other Synod members. These included the following:

- Stress among Clergy represented 90% of all diseases suffered by Clergy.
- Doctors, lawyers and clergy had the most problems with drugs, alcohol and suicide.
- 3 out of 4 clergy (of 11,500 surveyed) reported severe stress, anguish, worry, anger and depression.
- In USA 75% of Clergy do not finish working life as Clergy and their Life Insurance premiums are much higher than secular premiums. (I don't have figures for this in Australia)

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## **The care and personal wellbeing of the clergy is crucial to the health of the Church.**

The vital issue for me arising from this Synod is that we as Christians and as a Parish community need to be caring and loving in our interaction with each other and particularly with our Clergy. "If we don't have love for our brothers and sisters, how can we say that we love God?" (1 John: 4:20). Jesus said that "people will know you are my disciples by the love that you have for one another." (John: 13:35)

My wish for our Parish is that we shall be seen and known as those who love God and each other and that we will reach our whole Community with the same love and care with which God so blesses us.

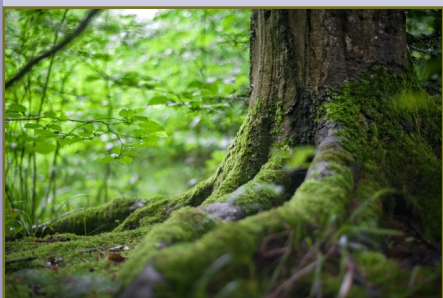
### **Editor's note:**

The Parish thanks Lorraine and Andrea for their attendance at Synod as our representatives. Unfortunately our third Synod representative was unable to attend this year. Each Diocesan Synod covers a three-year period, divided into three sessions, one in each of those three years. Our lay representatives (3) are elected by the Parish to serve for that three-year term and are privileged to experience the wonderful sense of partnership and community of faith which characterises the annual meetings. They are, by virtue of their involvement, provided with much information concerning the Diocese itself, the Diocesan agencies, its outreach, mission and fundamental social concerns. Each of our representatives would be happy at any stage to share with you the materials to which they have access and to discuss the matters which come before the meetings.

## **REFLECTION from Rev Liz Sloane**

*"Dear God,*

*We pray for balance and exchange. Balance us like trees. As the roots of a tree shall equal its branches so must the inner life be equal to the outer life. And as the leaves shall nourish the roots so shall the roots give nourishment to the leaves. Without equality and exchange of nourishment there can be no growth and no love. Amen"* from: *When I talk to You* by Michael Leunig



This letter (to God) from the cartoonist, Michael Leunig, speaks to me of faith. Faith emanates from the very depths of our being. It must be securely anchored in truth and belief : anchored so that the outer world, external forces cannot shake it loose and produce doubts that dismantle. A deep-seated faith nourishes and enriches our life. Those who witness to us in the world, the Scriptures that inform and guide our being through life, prayer and worship - these all enrich and nurture our faith.

Christmas is a time when we celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Saviour. He is the keystone of our faith, the sure foundation. Christmas is a reminder of God's gracious gift to humankind, His Son, Jesus. Knowledge and belief in all that he gave us, in word and actions to guide us, dwell deeply in our being if we have faith, and His Spirit enables us to be faithful witnesses in a challenging world.

## **THE LEGEND OF THE DOGWOOD**



**T**here is a legend that says, at the time of the Crucifixion, the dogwood tree had been the size of the oak and other forest trees. So firm and strong was the tree, that it was chosen as the timber for the cross.

To be used thus, for such a cruel purpose, greatly distressed the tree. Jesus, nailed upon its timbers, sensed the distress and in his gentle pity for all the sorrowing and suffering said to it, "Because of your regret and pity for my suffering, never again will the dogwood tree grow large enough to be used as a Cross. Henceforth it shall be slender and bent and

twisted. Its blossoms shall be in the form of a cross, two long and two short petals; in the centre of the outer edge of each petal there will be nail prints, bright with rust and stained with red, and the centre of the flower will be a circle of thorns. All who see it will remember."



When you, your family, your friends or your community organisation are seeking a venue for a forthcoming gathering, remember the Parish Hall is now available for hire - it is beautifully updated, has catering facilities, is air conditioned and/or heated as needed. Contact the Parish Office (6947 1155) or Lorraine Wysman (0427 471 722) to discuss your needs and the availability of the facility.





## **SYMBOLS/FURNITURE IN OUR CHURCH**

In this issue of the *Spire* the examination of various symbols continues.



**The Pulpit** - By the meaning of the word itself, a pulpit is an elevated platform used in preaching or conducting a worship service. Traditionally, the pulpit would be on the Gospel side of the church (the left), whence the Gospel was preached. In All Saints' it is currently on the right hand side of the transept as the congregation views it (the Epistle side of the church). It has at different times been on the left - following the Restoration in 1985 it was most appropriate to have it in its current position, leaving the other side as the domain of the organ "works". The pulpit ensures that every member of the congregation can see and hear the preacher as he/she expounds the Gospel.



**The Lectern** - The other speaker's stand, the Lectern, acts primarily as a simple reading stand, where the scriptures are read before the assembled congregation. It is typically used by lay people to read the scripture lessons (apart from the Gospel lesson), to lead the congregation in prayer and to make announcements. The form of an eagle, the symbol of St John the Evangelist, is often incorporated into a lectern. John's gospel begins with the words "In the beginning was the Word", so there is a symbolic connection between the eagle and the Bible which rests on its wings - the Word of God.



**The Font** - The Font is the receptacle in which water is held for baptism, one of our most important Christian rituals. Baptism represents the washing away of sins and incorporation of a new member into the Christian church, forgiven of past sins through faith in Christ. During a non-immersive Baptism, the water in the font is blessed and is used as a symbol of God's cleansing Spirit, as promises are made of faithfulness in a new journey of faith. The font is most commonly placed near the entry to the church nave to remind all comers as they enter the church of their own initiation as a member of the Church, the Body of Christ. In older churches there is sometimes a special chapel, or even a separate building, to house the font. The marble Font at All Saints' is octagonal and decorated with many symbols - it is recorded that St Ambrose and St Augustine wrote that a font should be octagonal "because on the eighth day, by rising, Christ loosens the bondage of death and receives the dead from their graves", the eighth day being "everlastingly hallowed by the resurrection of Christ".



**The Crucifix** - The crucifix, the image of the Christ on the cross, will be found in many places in both Catholic and Anglican churches. In our Anglican tradition there will often be found a Crucifix above the Lectern where the Word of God, as revealed in the Bible, is read before the congregation, reminding us of Christ's sacrificial love for us shown in his death on the cross and glorious resurrection. Often, an empty cross will be hung above the Pulpit where the gospel of the risen Christ is proclaimed., reminding us that we live in the glory of the resurrected Christ and in God's gracious redemption.



**The Compass Rose** - This is a symbol identifying those who belong to the worldwide Anglican Communion. The Compass Rose is set in the nave of Canterbury Cathedral, dedicated by Archbishop Runcie at the final Eucharist of the 1988 Lambeth Conference. The centre of the rose contains the cross of St George and is surrounded by the inscription in Greek, 'The truth shall set you free'. The points of the compass represent the spread of Anglican Christianity throughout the world. The mitre on the top indicates the role of Episcopacy and Anglican Order that is at the heart of the Churches of the Communion. Here the rose appears on a banner on a field of blue.

*If there is a symbol which you would like examined, please let the Editor know.*

# 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

The end of the year approaches and we are well into the sale of summer gear. As always, we will welcome donations of saleable clothes and bric-a-brac. It is always remarkable how a display of attractive bric-a-brac and/or homewares in the window attracts clients into the store. Thankyou to Kaye, in particular, for the attractive and effective displays that she maintains in the window.

Thankyou to our dedicated team of volunteers - those who work with clients in the shop, those who work behind the scenes, those who contribute from home, those who put so much thought and time into making the shop a success. We look forward to another year in your company in 2023.

The annual Christmas luncheon to thank you all and allow you to celebrate together will be held at the Bowlie on Tuesday 6 December (the store will be closed) - please ensure you have registered your attendance and paid for your lunch. It will be good to be all together in one place at one time!

An important element of the success of the store and its community outreach is the prayer support we receive from many across the Parish. We are very aware that our success depends upon keeping our faith central to all we plan and all we do and upon our seeking to make God's presence known in the wider community.



**A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS TO ALL**

*The Management Committee*



## INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL

Tumut Inter-Church Council is pleased to be making plans for activities in 2023. The Covid struggles of the last couple of years have impacted our cooperative activities severely, although we have managed to gather for *Songs of Praise* in 2022 and to use a mixture of physical gatherings and Zoom sessions to further our community involvement in prayer support for the Ukraine and for the Persecuted Church.

It is good to be able to report that the new Pastor to the Seventh Day Adventist community of faith, Jason Drury, has commenced his service to God in Tumut and is enthusiastic to support the ICC in its undertakings. The Council looks forward to a fresh start in 2023, witnessing to God's love and serving our local faith community.



## YOUR GIVING TO GOD'S WORK

If you are a pledged giver, thank you. 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



## Funerals



Lilly Webb	5 July 2022
Stephen Boyd McMahon	22 July 2022
Kyle David Jeffree	25 Sept 2022
Brian Rudolf Jensen	18 October 2022

## Baptisms



Milani Jean Harris	6 August 2022
Hank Gregory Day	14 August 2022
Harvey Miller	28 August 2022
Lyra Maree Greenhalgh	11 Sept 2022
Kelarah Louise Weaver	9 October 2022
Harry George Webb	22 October 2022
Elam Christopher Mahachi	12 November 2022

Sun 20 Nov	Feast of Christ the King
Sun 27 Nov	Advent Sunday - Bishop's visit 11.30am Tumorrroma service & picnic (Bp Mark to celebrate)
Sat 3 Dec	4.00pm Remembrance Service
Tues 6 Dec	12nn New2U Christmas lunch
Sat 10 Dec	2.30pm Christmas Party
Sun 11 Dec	Parish elections (after 9.00am service) 9.30am St Paul's Adelong 150th service & lunch (with Bp Mark)
Sun 19 Dec	5.00pm Tumorrroma Christmas service
Sat 24 Dec	5.00pm Family Service All Saints' 7.30pm Talbingo Christmas service 9.30pm All Saints' Christmas Eve
Sun 25 Dec	9.00am All Saints' Christmas Day

## Marriages



David Archibald Sheddon & Vikki Maree Treglown	20 August 2022
Clive John Sexton & Lorna Anne Earsman	10 Sept 2022

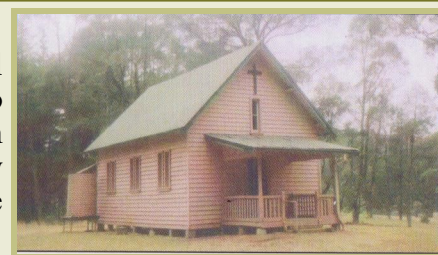
## SUNDAY LUNCH WITH FRIENDS

Every Sunday there is a very social gathering of friends from All Saints' who meet at 12nn to share lunch and enjoy each others' company. The venue changes from week to week (check with someone at church on Sunday morning) but the joy is constant - come when you can and chat with friends.



## FOR YOUR 2023 DIARY

The delightful Holy Advent Church, Tumorrroma, a country centre of All Saints' Parish, will celebrate the centenary of its beginnings at a special event to be held during the weekend 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> December 2023. This will be a celebration of joy and thanksgiving, shared by the parish with the members of the Holy Advent congregation and in the presence of our Diocesan Bishop. Keep the dates free and watch for more information.



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.



## 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](http://www.AnglicanParishTumut.org)

Facebook: All Saints Anglican Church Tumut

Rector: Rev'd Mark Evers (Phone 0413 446 535) Email: [Rector@AnglicanParishTumut.org](mailto: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)	0422 781 177	Alison Faulder (Tumorrroma)	6946 6255
Judy Cooper (Tumut)	6947 9047		
Lorraine Wysman	0427 471 722		

## Parish Councillors 2022

Lynne Withers (Asst Secretary)	Worship	Rev Liz Sloane	Pastoral Care
Judy Cooper (Chairperson)	COVID Compliance; Education/Scripture	Rev Mark Evers	Youth; New2U/Anglicare
Dianne Smith (Treasurer)	Finance	Rev Mark Evers	Publicity
Lorraine Wysman	Property Development	Geoff Rotgans	Secretary
David Menzel	Equipment Maintenance	Andrea Quinn	

## All Saints' Catering Service 2022

Judy Cooper	President	tba	Treasurer
Ralda McAlister	Secretary		

## All Saints' Synod Representatives 2022

Andrea Quinn	Elizabeth Stanford	Lorraine Wysman
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<b>Parish Administrator</b>	Wendy Guldbransen	6947 1155	(Mon, Wed, Fri 9am-12nn)
	<a href="mailto:Parish.Office@AnglicanParishTumut.org">Parish.Office@AnglicanParishTumut.org</a>		
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Parish Office	6947 1155	
<b>Pastoral Care Coordinator</b>	Rev Liz Sloane	0427 633 981	
<b>WHS Coordinators</b>	Greg and Sharon Musson	6946 4488	
<b>NEW2U</b>	Management Committee	0467 653 820	
<b>CD Ministry</b>	Parish Office	6947 1155	
<b>Spire Editor</b>	Elizabeth Stanford	0412 676 681	
<b>Prayer Chain Co-ordinator</b>	Shirley Breed	6947 1724	
<b>Web Support</b>	Sue Handley	0414 422 509	
<b>Playgroup</b>	<a href="mailto:Kiddylink@AnglicanParishTumut.org">Kiddylink@AnglicanParishTumut.org</a>	6947 1155	

## SPIRE DELIVERY

The Parish Council is presently reviewing the costs associated with the production and delivery of the *Spire*. The first step in this review is to ask for anyone who presently receives the printed *Spire*, to supply to the Parish Office, where possible and appropriate, an email address to which the digital *Spire* file can be sent at the time of publication. This will assist in lessening printing and postage costs. If you no longer wish to receive the *Spire*, we ask that you advise Wendy in the Parish office ([parish.office@AnglicanParishTumut.org](mailto:parish.office@AnglicanParishTumut.org) or call 02 69471155). Thankyou for your prompt attention to this matter.

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