

The Anglican Gazette



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DEDICATION OF ST JAMES THE FISHERMAN



Finally, on November 14, the Dedication Day dawned with the portent of late storms but still much work had to be completed to have everything neat and tidy ready for the afternoon service. Many parishioners over the preceding weeks had built safety fences, planted gardens and trees, laid lawns and generally had the church and surrounds looking spectacular for this momentous occasion.

With the help of our local SES, the traffic was directed into the car park and surrounding streets. Parishioners, past parishioners, visitors and dignitaries were happily greeted and ushered to their seats. The waiting congregation enjoyed the singing of the choir accompanied by the orchestra. The church was splendidly dressed with beautiful flower arrangements, donated by Dawn Noble and were the artistic

creation of Jen Mildon.

With over 350 people comfortably seated by 2.00pm, the service began with Bishop David Robinson knocking on the door three times and the keys to the church being handed to the Wardens, Rhylla Webb and Loraine Veach by the builder, Mr Gary Jeffreys. As the Bishop processed down the main aisle, he marked the floor with the letters Alpha and Omega and proclaimed possession of the church in the name of Christ. Also in the Official Party were The Venerable John Coleman, the Rector The Revd Canon Michael Donaldson, Associate Priest The Revd Canon Phillip Ward, Wardens, Builder Gary Jeffreys, and the Architect from Thomson Adsett, Mr Russell Girle

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THE BISHOP'S MUSINGS

Dear Friends,

October - December 2015

Peace on Earth

The message of Christmas is 'Peace on Earth'. The images of a baby in a manger, of angels and shepherds rejoicing at the birth of Jesus create a warm and marketable picture. It's also a message we long to hear in this broken world, but are we being realistic about how peace is achieved?

Simeon in Luke's gospel, speaking to Mary, comments, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed - and a sword will pierce your own soul too." (Luke 2:34f) These words sound, to me, like a warning. Yes, the salvation of the world has arrived, yes, there will be peace, but that peace comes at a price.

Peace with God came through the death of Jesus. God's grace does not come cheaply; reconciliation and forgiveness come at a price. The difficulty is that, for many people today, many Christians today, we want peace with God and peace on earth but we aren't prepared to pay the price.

As we reflect on the world around us, there are many conflicts and acts of terror that are changing the way we think and act. While we struggle to find solutions to these issues (there are histories and complexities we do not understand) we can and should pray. Pray for peacemakers, for governments and leaders who are trying to seek solutions to these difficult issues, remembering that with God all things are possible.

This Christmas, I want us to think closer to home. Consider what it would take to bring peace to our homes, our communities, our church. What would it take to bring peace to families torn apart by domestic violence; peace to communities that are split because of race or faith; peace to those suffering mental illnesses? Are we, as followers of Jesus, prepared to pay the price of peace?

We live in a society that has largely turned its back on God. Individualism, freedom to do 'my thing my way', self-satisfaction and the idea that 'I am the most important person in the world' have distorted our frame of reference. We no longer see each individual as a loved and valuable child of the one true God. Rather we have made the individual the centre of all that is. The difficulty is that, once an individual assumes that they are the most important person in the world, all other persons, by definition, are second in importance. In many cultures and countries, this has led to an attitude of superiority of men over women and an attitude of superiority over those of different colour, ethnicity, and culture. In such an environment, peace with God and peace with others is squeezed out in favour of protecting our own interests.

As we draw closer to Christmas and the celebration of the birth of Christ, can we stop and think about the price of peace? The price that Jesus paid in coming to earth, living and dying so that we might have peace with God.

Then can we ask what price we are prepared to pay to bring peace, real peace, into our communities, our churches, our families. Are we able to put others ahead of ourselves, to serve others as Jesus served? Are we able to hold our tongues and not gossip about others? Can we hold back the sarcasm and hurtful words we use? Can we build one another up rather than tear down?

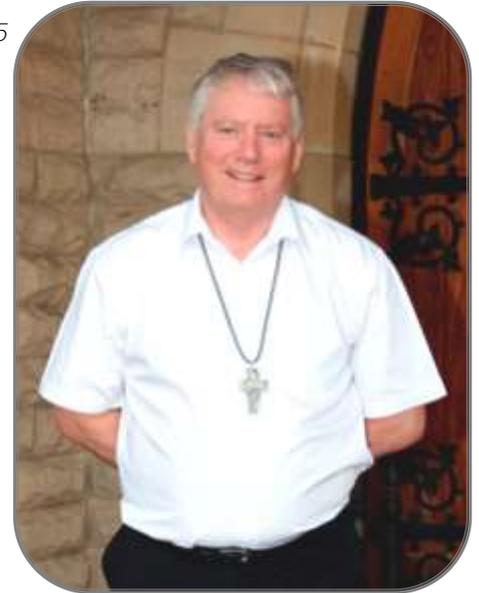
It's time to take the 'me' out of Christmas and make God the centre of our lives; to see others as Jesus sees them; to be willing to die to self and lay down our lives so that Jesus may be seen in and through us.

Peace on Earth is possible when we, in humility and faith, put our trust in God and love the people around us.

With Jan's and my love and blessings for you and your family this Christmas time... may it be a celebration of love and peace.

With every blessing

+ David



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Submission Requirements:
Deadline: 14th of the month prior to publication.
Length: 150-200 words. Longer with permission.
Images: minimum size 1600x1200 pixels OR 750 KB.
The Panel reserves the right to edit content to fit space requirements if needed.



ORDINATION OF THREE

Stuart Haynes, Beryl Andersen and Helen Rinaldis were ordained priests in the Church of God at St Paul's Cathedral on Monday 30 November, the feast of St Andrew. Family, friends and members of congregations from many parts of the Diocese gathered to celebrate the ordinations.

In his sermon at the ordination The Revd Canon Mike Donaldson exhorted the candidates to follow the example of St Andrew who, throughout his life, brought people to 'see the Messiah'. The Revd Canon Donaldson explained that, for all Christians but especially the ordained, this is the purpose of ministry.



Christ to every corner of the world, and finally be taken back home to the light of the Lord.

May our new priests be blest in their ministry and be a blessing to many people for many years to come.



After promising that they would be faithful stewards of the gospel and the sacraments, after promising they would be diligent in prayer and shape their lives to the gospel and then promising obedience to the Bishop, hands were laid upon them by the Bishop and other priests.

You saw, for an instant, the priesthood, in all its muddled glory: mere women and men, of all shapes and sizes and haircuts, fat and thin, short and tall, brown and white, bald and hirsute, huddled around each candidate, reaching with real tenderness and reverence to touch Stuart, Beryl and Helen, and praying from the bottoms of their hearts, that they not fail their vows, or lose their faith, or be possessed by greed and avarice, but rather serve the faithful with every iota of their beings, and bring the revolutionary message of the



Photo credit:
John & Kerrod Wells

For more photos, please see the website

Many of our Parishes are suffering from drought and have asked for our prayers.

A PRAYER FOR RAIN

God our heavenly Father through your Son you promised to those seeking first your kingdom and your righteousness all things necessary for bodily welfare: send us, we pray, in this time of need, rain to water the earth, that we may receive its produce to strengthen and sustain us and always praise you for your bounty; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE

A protocol has been established to respond to any complaints of abuse within parishes and agencies of the Anglican Diocese of Rockhampton.

Anyone wishing to seek assistance should telephone The Director of Professional Standards:
Mr Greg Milles on 1800 242 544.

THE SEE ENDOWMENT FUND

When the Diocese of Rockhampton was excised from the Diocese of Brisbane and established in 1892 it was hoped that a See Endowment Fund would be fully subscribed. Such a fund was put in place to make sure that the cost of having a Bishop of Rockhampton Diocese would be assured and not require support from the Diocesan budget. Unfortunately the fund was never fully established and the Diocese has had to live with that for the last 123 years. The fund however still exists, and income that is earned from capital invested becomes part of the annual budget for the Bishopric. The Diocese would be greatly assisted if, over 123 years later, the fund received new gifts and bequests from benefactors. Gifts can be made to the Diocese of Rockhampton, PO Box 710, Rockhampton QLD 4700 and bequests should be worded: ***"I bequeath to the Corporation of the Synod of the Diocese of Rockhampton for the purpose of the See Endowment Fund."***



DEDICATION OF ST JAMES THE FISHERMAN (cont from pg 1)

The Paschal candle was lit and processed behind the Processional Cross, carried by Grace Reed, to the front of the church while the hymn "Lift High the Cross" was sung. Bishop David then dedicated the Baptismal Font and The Holy Table, which was then dressed by the Wardens; the lectern was then dedicated and a Bible placed upon it. Following the first Bible reading, the choir gave a wonderful rendition of the Psalm 147 "Sing to God with Joy and Gladness." With the beautiful view of Keppel Bay seen through the large windows behind the Sanctuary, the singing of the "Galilee Song" was very evocative of the location of the new church. The Gospel reading was read by The Revd Canon Phillip Ward.

Bishop David, in his address, reminded the people to always PRAISE the Lord and remember our PURPOSE of using St James the Fisherman for the ministry of the Word and for the community around us. He urged us to never be afraid to PROCLAIM the Gospel wherever we find ourselves.

Bishop David, the parish Clergy and Wardens then moved to St Faith's Chapel to dedicate the chapel in honour of St Faith. Many people remembered the **Anglican St Faith's school for girls in Yeppoon** which closed in 1968.

Mr David Rees, the Diocesan Registrar read The Mandate which was then signed and Bishop David



declared "this House of God is dedicated, under the title of Saint James the Fisherman". This announcement was heralded with a stirring Trumpet Voluntary played by Paul Tucker.

Following prayers and speeches and the singing of the Hymn "To God be the Glory" everyone was invited to partake of afternoon tea on the lawns. With the help of Dawn and her hospitality students from St Ursulas, everyone enjoyed meeting friends and tasting the delicious food supplied by the many wonderful St James' cooks. With storms elsewhere and a cooling breeze, this time was most enjoyable.

As visitors departed, many busy hands were making the church ready for a combined Parish service on the Sunday morning but also to set up the undercroft in readiness for the Parish Lunch at noon on Sunday.

An early morning storm with heavy rain was the start to a busy Sunday; not the weather we had planned. However, the good Lord sent the sunshine in readiness for the combined service which allowed approximately 150 people to attend. As one parishioner said, "You can't under estimate the power of prayer." as the weather forecast was generally unfavourable for what we had planned but all weekend the weather was fine for when we needed to be outside. The first service after Dedication really felt as though the Holy Spirit was truly present - this was not just a building but a sacred place; a welcoming space; a quiet sanctuary. We are blessed to have so much future potential in this church building.

With a caterer busy cooking, the undercroft ready to host 250 parishioners (40 children) at 31 tables all laid with white cloths with fragrant frangipani centre decorations, we all enjoyed tasty nibbles and drinks on the front lawns. Bishop David said grace and a delicious meal was shared in good company. The guest speaker, The Revd Jan Robinson, gave an inspirational talk about her and David's earlier lives and how lives can change when we allow Christ to be an important part. What an inspiring teacher Jan is - we enjoyed stories from her days in the classroom and admired a treasured drawing by one of her students.

Parish lunch is always a time to meet old friends and make new ones. We enjoyed the company of the very young and even a beautiful lady, Mrs Joan Giles, who is soon to celebrate her 100th birthday. I was blessed to have her as my guest.

Such an occasion is never over until the washing up is done! Many weary but happy helpers tidied the undercroft, washed and wiped and had time to talk and reflect on a great weekend. Perhaps, building and dedicating a church are "a once in a lifetime experience." So, how blessed is the Parish of Keppel?

Marzley Baldwin



"Come, Follow me," Jesus said, 'and I will make you Fishers of men.'

Matt 4:19 (NIV)





RIP WAYNE URQUHART



After a yearlong battle with cancer, Wayne Urquhart, President of the St **Matthew's Cottages Management Committee** passed away on Tuesday 15th September 2015. For 24 years, Wayne worked as an active member on

the committee and as President for the past five years. **During Wayne's tenure as President, he led the committee in implementing the procedures which are now in place for all new and existing residents. This involved working with the Diocesan Chancellor Mrs Margo Purcell on a suite of documents including the Expression of Interest for Licence to Occupy, Expression of Interest for persons wishing to be considered for a Licence to Occupy a cottage in St Matthew's Cottages Estate, the Constitution of Association of St Matthews Cottages, St Matthews Cottages Association By-Laws and the Licence to Occupy. These documents and procedures ensure that the St Matthews Cottages are an enjoyable place for all**

residents to reside. Many of the residents agree that these procedures have improved the community greatly.

Throughout Wayne's time as President he was very proud of the committee and their achievements. Financially the committee successfully applied for and received grants from the Queensland Government Gambling Community Benefit Fund in 2010. This totalled over \$37,000 and was used to replace the concrete stumps and steel posts for the cottages. This meant that the committee and the residents were not required to fund the project themselves, allowing funds to be redirected into other projects benefiting the cottages and the elderly.

In 2013, he assisted Kay James in successfully applying for and receiving funds from the Iwasaki Foundation totalling over \$5,000 which improved the community facilities with the replacement of two indoor bowling mats, two sets of indoor bowls, a new TV for the hall and a BBQ.

In February 2014 Wayne worked tirelessly with Kath Hindlay and inspected every cottage within the estate. They implemented an active management programme which led to upgrading all of the cottages. This included installing fans, replacing floor coverings, kitchens, rooves and other minor repairs to keep the cottages in tip top condition for all new and existing residents. Their hard work is evident when entering the complex, the units and grounds are bright, clean and immaculately presented.

Wayne thoroughly enjoyed the challenges of working on the St Matthews Cottages Management Committee and we know that the success of the committee can be **attributed to Wayne and his team's drive to succeed.** Together we believe that they have made St Matthews Cottages one of the best communities for the elderly in Rockhampton.

Celina Johnson (daughter)

AROUND THE DIOCESE - KEPPEL

They say patience, persistence and perseverance are all virtues. If that is so then the congregation at Keppel is a virtuous lot. All these combined with much faith, supported by prayer, have been needed to see this enormous building project through to completion. The faith community of Keppel Parish is rightly proud of the new Worship and Ministry centre dedicated to St James the Fisherman in Housden Place at Lammermoor. Over the last six years this former youth camp and conference centre has been transformed as rundown buildings have made way for an impressive modern building that captures the imagination of all who visit. Positioned on the ridge line at Lammermoor, the worship space has commanding views to Rosslyn Bay and Great Keppel Island while the social space on the western side commands views to the hills and across to central Yeppoon.

This building catches the eye of travellers in several locations and reminds them that the people of God are actively present in the community.

We extend an invitation to people across the Diocese to come and visit us when you are next in Rockhampton or Yeppoon.
The Revd Canon Mike Donaldson

POSITIONS VACANT

HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN

A vacancy exists for a part-time (10hrs per week) Anglican Chaplain at the Rockhampton Base Hospital.

This position is open to either a lay or ordained person.

For more information and to express your interest in this position please contact:

Megan Calderbank
bishop.pa@anglicanchurchcq.org.au
ph: 07 4922 6755

GAZETTE EDITOR

The volunteer position of Gazette Editor is open to either a lay or ordained person.

For more information and to express your interest in this position please contact:
gazette@anglicanchurchcq.org.au



AROUND THE DIOCESE

EMU PARK - CHRIST THE KING

The Venerable Dr Rob Philp and Mrs Jocelyn Philp were welcome visitors for "Christ the King" Patronal Festival at Christ Church, Emu Park on Sunday 22nd November. The church was looking well cared for. Since Cyclone Marcia the interior has been painted and new



fans installed. Our local parishioners were out in force and visitors from Yeppoon and Rockhampton added to a special service conducted by Archdeacon Dr Rob Philp with the help of Canon Phillip Ward and Liturgical Assistant, Rhylia Webb. Floral displays were the work of Loye Hewitt and Suzanne Oates. Everyone gathered for morning tea in the shade of the church and took time to catch up with old friends.

Lyn Booth

I was listening intently last Sunday as the list of former worshippers in Christ Church was read so reverently by Lyn. (intercessions)

Over the years these long ago Christians, and to us the recent loved souls, have left us a legacy of love for this "Old Building".

They have left a part of themselves within these ancient walls.

They have 'Prayed', 'Praised', 'Requested' and 'Thanked' our Lord for many Blessings. They have knelt at the Altar Rails with us, as they received the Body and Blood of Christ. They have sung the hymns with us. They have laughed with us and cried with us. They have seen a loved one walk through the door for the first time, and they have seen a loved one carried through the door for the last time. They have rejoiced at the Baptism of a new Christian. They have welcomed many a quest, with us. They have seen cyclones come and go, and still the old building stands secure, strong, as the worshippers of long ago were.

They have been here, Body and Soul, over the years and now they have claimed the great Promise of Christ, "So I am with you always, even to the end of the age".

Desi Pearson

NORTH ROCKHAMPTON

A number of us from St John's Church were privileged to attend Remembrance Day at Parkhurst School. The Students have established a "Remembrance Garden" and have incorporated two wooden posts previously from St George's Home to commemorate the armed forces presence during WW11 and General

MacArthur's address to the American Troops on the very hill that St George's Homes occupied! The troops moved



in, the "orphans" were moved to St Faith's Yeppoon, and the school children from St Faith's took up residence at Barcardine. Parkhurst School choir will come up for a Christmas Service at the

Church in December.

The Revd Delfina Trail

In mid September, seven young people were admitted to early Communion. Both Mrs Beth Berry and Mrs Jenny Ireland; including some parents and one grandma assisted Revd Delfina in their preparation. The children brought along with them a symbol that was unique both to them and their relationship with God.

At a Caritas meeting, the group held a bring and buy. It provided a good opportunity to restock the fridge and freezer with goodies. At a more recent meeting, the group held a session called 'in the bag.' It was an evening to discover the importance of every item ladies carry in their handbag, out of both necessity and spiritual purposes.

Three times a year, ladies from the northside Catholic, Anglican and Uniting Churches share in an ecumenical morning tea. Funds raised always go to a good cause. This year donations were given to western parishes and School Chaplaincy.

Mrs Val Gribble, who is currently the World Chairman of GFS, addressed the GFS and members of the parish about her recent visit to Japan and about the world project supported by GFS in Japan. The project involves sewing. The women in Japan are donating their kimonos as materials for sewing to create items for sale. The aim, to raise funds in support of those victims involved in the 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

The ladies of St Matthew's cottages held a Melbourne Cup luncheon. The ladies prepared a beautiful spread. A sweep was organised and everyone was given a number of horses. The majority were excited when Michelle Payne became the first female jockey to win the Cup. We extend to everyone in the Diocese, a happy Christmas and best wishes for 2016. *Lawrie Fox*





AROUND THE DIOCESE

WINTON - BAPTISM WINTON STYLE

There were children to be christened and, as this year is the 120th anniversary of the first performance of **Banjo Paterson's 'Waltzing Matilda' in Winton** all those years ago, it was thought this would be a good opportunity to showcase some more of Banjo's poems, including 'A Bush Christening'.



Several children were to be christened. Some were keen to be immersed ('dunked' in their terminology). There is a billabong in the main street but the sides are steep and slippery and the water is dyed blue, so that was not suitable.

A large bucket was acquired (such as might be used to water horses), along with a lovely black quart-pot. The boys, who ranged in age from 12 years down, were asked if they would rather have their heads shoved in the bucket 3 times, or have water poured on them with the quart-pot. **The unanimous response? 'Oh, shove my head in the bucket!'**

The baptisms were conducted as usual, with due solemnity, but the dripping heads and spraying water were a little different from the usual quantity of water used for the church font.

The three youngest, including a baby, had water poured on them, using the quart-pot.

The Revd Anne Nixon

RETURN OF CROSS AND CANDLESTICKS TO ST PAUL'S AFTER THE WALTZING MATILDA CENTRE FIRE.

Early in 2015, the Winton Historical Society installed in the Qantilda Museum an exhibition of World War 1 memorabilia, entitled 'More Than a Song'.



St Paul's lent a cross, in memory of Frederick Hulton-Sams, one-time priest of Winton, who was killed at Hooges bringing water to the wounded, and a pair

of brass candlesticks in memory of the brother of Archdeacon Fellows, who was killed at Messines.

When the Waltzing Matilda Centre burnt down, we were afraid that they were gone for ever. The timber backing for the cross was burnt away, and the cross was blackened and warped by the heat, while the candlesticks were blackened, but structurally sound. After quite a long time, and a lot of work by professional conservators, they have been returned to us, looking like new! We are indeed blessed! Thanks be to God.

The Revd Anne Nixon

BOYNE RIVER

September commenced with St Mark's hosting a Quilt and Craft Expo over two days which was a very successful community event. There was a large display of amazing quilts that was voted on by those who attended the event. The winner of the popular vote was a quilt entered by our own Sonia Widderick.



In addition to the quilt displays were craft displays by members of the St Mark's Craft Group that meets each Tuesday morning at St Mark's in Boyne Island. This included a spinning display by Mr Bevis Carmichael. Many thanks to Wendy Kernke who coordinated the event.

Later in September the St Mark's Ladies Guild held their annual dinner, which this year was themed to Spring Fling. The Ladies Guild dinner is a highlight of the social calendar for the Boyne Tannum Church community. The dinner is held in St Mark's, with pews moved out of the way, the church is set up for the dinner. The night included trivia, music and dancing. A great dinner meant that nobody was going home hungry, with lovely desserts provided by the members of the Guild. A great night was had by all who attended the dinner. The Ladies Guild operates a bargain shop at St Mark's which generates finances to assist in the ministry and mission of the parish.

In November we held our annual Trivia Night which was another great evening for the church community to connect with the local community as well as a lot of fun. Many thanks to Fiona and Mark Hodge who do such a great job of running this activity for the parish each year.

Freyia Schwarzrock



AROUND THE DIOCESE

WANDAL

“Messy Church” has arrived at St Luke’s Wandal and the numbers attending have increased each month. It sometimes feels like “organized chaos”, but everyone really enjoys it. Participants arrive when they can from 10am - **you are never “late” for messy church!!** The messy part is followed by a short address from Father Shaji and then some snacks in the hall.

Once again, the annual Beef ‘n Bush Dinner was a great success and guest speaker John Reeve was very entertaining with his tales of live beef exports in the 70’s. The monthly street stalls and the September games luncheon have also continued to be successful fundraisers for the parish.

In September we sadly farewelled Irene Keding, a faithful member of our congregation. Our thoughts and prayers are with Adele and Alan and their extended families.



In October we celebrated St Luke’s Day, giving thanks for the many blessings we have received in our church. Our guest for the service was The Revd Canon Michael Donaldson from Keppel Parish and he spoke to the congregation on stewardship.

November events included the Melbourne Cup and the Summer Garage Sale, which were very successful. Still to come is the Christmas Fair on November 27, a combined event with our neighbours, the Hall School. This was held for the first time last year and is a great way to reach out to the school community.

Jan Nightingale

LONGREACH

September was a very busy month, starting with a very good flower Show. Congratulations to all concerned. The Revd Peter Bertram missed it as he was taking a wedding in the Muttaborra area. A few days later he flew south to have three weeks with his family. During that time we had a visit from The Revd Canon Phil Ward, and his time included a christening and a wedding at St Andrews.

October brought us back to normal, and one service was dedicated to the memory of Bush Brother Frederick Hulton-Sams. The end of the month brought a little rain, for which we were most thankful after the scorching heat of the week.

The Parish Council has decided to have an awning erected outside the “crying room” as the sun is affecting the historic document and photos stored there.

November started with another successful Garage

Sale and plans were made for another at the end of the month. It also brought a little more rain but still Longreach itself gained no further water. At least some graziers have had some relief and Ilfracombe had 3mm added to its very low dams.

It is heart warming to see the interest shown by the rest of the state and the efforts to help. The Women’s Guild Drought Relief Committee is doing its best to spread the help as widely as possible.

God bless all, and thank you.

Eva Tindall

SPRINGSURE

The end of year is coming speedily to a close and with so much to do in the few short weeks ahead, one wonders if there will be time left to say thankyou to God for all His blessings; the rain, some of which has fallen in the drought stricken areas of the west, the green fields and flowers, the list goes on, but most of all we thankyou for Jesus Christ Himself.

The Flower Show, which in spite of sickness resulting in few workers and having to abandon part of the programme and other problems, when all seemed doom and gloom, the day turned into a very successful one. Those who attended have nothing but praise for the display of flowers, plus the delicious afternoon tea served by the Ladies Guild.

Operation Christmas Child, organised by Churches Together, a project to send Christmas boxes to children in underprivileged countries, resulted in a large number of boxes sent off to the organizers.

Bishop Alf provided the men’s breakfast at his home.

Those who attended have nothing but praise for the meal. Thankyou Bishop Alf. While this was going on the Ladies met at the Christian Family Church to enjoy a delicious morning tea, hear a gifted speaker followed by fellowship with Christian friends.

It was with deep sadness we said good-bye to a beloved friend in Kay Morris who passed into eternal life after a long illness. Kay was a deep Christian lady and a shining example of Godly living to those around her. We extend deepest sympathy to her grieving family.

Anne Travers

CLERMONT

How remiss of me to forget to put pen to paper for the July-August Gazette, now where have those months gone? (also forgot what happened back then!)

So let’s catch up. Our parish was overjoyed when we received the word that we would again have a Minister (if only part time). The Revd Bob Witten was commissioned by Archdeacon John Coleman on Friday August 28 at 6pm. A fellowship gathering with a cup of tea followed in our hall; lots got to say hi to Bob and Sue and catch up with John and Margaret. The night was enjoyed by invited guests and parishioners. Bob and Sue have been most welcomed since their arrival, and have settled into the Rectory. Sue loves her second home and Bob never stops (fixing). We must say a huge thank you to The Revd Honorio Hincapie for the care he gave to our Parish in the absence of a Minister; always made himself available when needed.

Our yearly Springtime Afternoon Tea and Cent Sale held Saturday September 5 was a great success. The



AROUND THE DIOCESE

parish held a book stall at the local monthly markets on December 5, and has amassed a huge number of books (donated over time) with lots of variety.

Carols by Candlelight in the park on December 11 might bring some rain. It will be hosted by the AOG this year, and is always an enjoyable evening. The Christmas Service is arranged, with the tree up, star on top and lights shining (don't you just love it?).

Happy Christmas and Peace and Good Will to all.
Sandra Strohfeldt

EMERALD

Approximately 100 people including children were present on Sunday 29th for the Sunday School Nativity Play. Our talented children and some adults helped to tell the story of our Saviour Jesus' birth. Although unable to have real animals in the manger we have been again blessed to have a baby of suitable age in our congregation to be Baby Jesus. This year 5 months old



Harper Mason was our baby, Hunter Joass was Joseph and Laura O'Brien was our Mary. After the

service all of our children and young people were presented with gifts including beautiful Bible Stories for 365 days of the year.

All children baptised at St Luke's over the past few years were sent invitations to this special service which was followed by a shared Christmas Lunch.

Our congregation have again been gathering gifts for our Linking Alms family and feeling the blessings of giving at this special time of year.

Christine Joass

GRACEMERE

Another three months gone in the blink of an eye. Turns out a whole lot can happen in such a short time. Here are just a few highlights:

We had a Father's Day BBQ in early September, which included a family friendly, interactive service with tasks like fishing for (cardboard) people, knocking out temptations (skittles) and juggling different aspects

of life (learning how to juggle 3 balls) while keeping your eyes on Jesus. A month later we used Rev'd Narelle's 10th anniversary of priesthood as an opportunity to express our love and appreciation for her with a special service and a yummy Pot Luck Dinner including cake and dessert. We are so blessed to have Narelle as our priest, teacher and friend.

The following Sunday our congregation decided to support and join the council's rally against domestic violence in Gracemere and just have a shortened service afterwards. Speeches delivered by the Mayor, the local Councillor, the head of Gracemere Police and Rev'd Narelle after the march pointed out how domestic violence widely affects our community and how to support people dealing with it.

On 25th October we celebrated St Andrew's Day by throwing a birthday service and party for our St Andrew's family. During another interactive service, divided into four groups we wrote prayers, shared experiences from our walk with Christ, celebrated the



various God given gifts and talents within our St Andrew's family and prayed for the community. Afterwards we enjoyed good fellowship over a cuppa, a BBQ Munch and a delicious birthday cake.

Another big day for the whole congregation happened on 29th November: Our annual Gracemere Community Christmas Carols. Young and old enjoyed a great night with a sausage sizzle and cent sale, while singing their favourite Christmas carols and watching a slightly different Christmas play narrated from Mary's perspective. The play lead the audience through Jesus' whole life, from the ascension all the way back to our Lord's birth - what a great start into Advent and a good reminder about the reason for the season.

We wish all of you a blessed Christmas time filled with lots of love, joy and peace.
Tina Reiser

MESSY CHURCH TRAINING

Glen and Sue Taylor from Sherwood Parish in Brisbane led a very informative and creative training event on Saturday, November 28th. Several Anglican parishes were represented as well as members of the Baptist and Uniting Churches. Glen and Sue have shared their information and power point presentations with us, so please contact Revd Jan Robinson at jan@anglicanchurchcq.org.au if you would like assistance or more information.





PILGRIMAGE TO PNG – A PERSONAL REFLECTION



Traditional greeting at Martyrs School, Popondetta

Our recent pilgrimage to Papua New Guinea was both challenge and surprise. I was awed by the story of the early Christian missionaries to this place. First, there is the story of the landing of Anglican missionaries at Wedau in 1890 and how the women of **the tribe stood between the men of tribe and Revd's MacLaren and King**, protecting them from attack and the very real possibility that they would have been the main course at dinner later that day!! Why and how did these women know to protect these missionaries? I am challenged by this story to consider my own faith, would I have the courage of these missionaries to trust that God was totally in control. One of the key elements of this visit was to see how God is at work in the world. In this story we see God going before his people, **protecting them, as they fulfil God's call to proclaim the good news of Jesus.**

You may have read recently of the terrible drought being experienced in parts of PNG, people have taken to eating clay and mushrooms in order to survive. There simply is no food in many places. Supplies of food and

water have to be carried long distances and life is hard. Yet, everywhere we went there was plenty – evidence of many hours of work preparing food and drink for their visitors. Here I find myself challenged by the sacrifice of these people, their love and concern for their guests and ask myself, would I be as generous?

In the midst of such hardship I was surprised by thankfulness and joy. These brothers and sisters in Christ shared part of their story with us and as they did they became part of our story, indelibly etched onto our minds and hearts. As we shared food, as we shared in **the joy and energy of worship, the presence of God's spirit among his people was clearly seen.**

I believe, the Pilgrimage to PNG affected everyone, those like myself visiting for the first time, those for

whom this was their second or third trip and those who call PNG home. It will be interesting to see how God uses our different experiences to further shape and transform us.

Bishop David Robinson



Students at Christ the King School Port Moresby

SAFE MINISTRY TRAINING

Bishop-in-Council have agreed that the following groups of people should undertake Safe Ministry Training: All License Holders and Holders of Certifications; Parish Councillors; Wardens; Members of BiC, Heads of Organisations, Members of Tanyalla Management Board (and voluntary workers at Tanyalla), **St Matthew's Cottages, St Mary's Cottages.**

The following dates have been set for future training:

- 6 Feb 2016 Barcaldine 9am - 3pm
- 7 Feb Emerald 11am - 4pm
- 20 Feb Gladstone 9am - 3pm
- 30 April Rockhampton - **St Pauls' Cathedral 9am – 3pm**

Please note Feb 6th training will be held at: Department of Transport and Main Roads Training Room 70 Elm Street, Barcaldine

Please register with Revd Jan Robinson:
jan@anglicanchurchcq.org.au

A SMILE FOR YOU

It was the Sunday after Christmas and the priest was looking at the nativity scene prior to packing away the figures when he noticed the baby Jesus was missing from the scene.

Immediately, he turned towards the rectory in order to call the police. But as he was about to do so, he saw little Harry with a red wagon, and in the wagon was the figure of the little infant, Jesus.

The priest walked up to Harry and said, 'Well, Harry, where did you get the little infant?'

Harry replied honestly, 'I took him from the church, Reverend.'

'And why did you take him?'

With a sheepish smile, Harry said, 'Well, about a week before Christmas I prayed to little Lord Jesus. I told him if he would bring me a red wagon for Christmas, I would give him a ride around the block in it.'





SPREAD SOME JOY THIS CHRISTMAS

Christmas should be a time of joy and celebration, but for many Central Queenslanders it is anything but. From the loss and disruption brought by massive natural disasters to personal hardships like poverty, illness and isolation, Christmas will be a stressful and lonely time in many local households.

You can help, by contributing to one of the appeals helping Anglicare Central Queensland support families in need this Christmas.

In Rockhampton, Gladstone and Biloela we're working with our local newspapers for the Adopt-A-Family Christmas Appeal. Check the Morning Bulletin or the Gladstone Observer every Saturday, or the Central Telegraph on Fridays, for a list of local families available for "adoption". Put together a Christmas hamper for your adopted family, with some non-perishable groceries, and simple gifts.

In Rockhampton, you can also donate gifts at Westfund at 127 East St. Leave your gift under the tree, and AnglicareCQ will deliver it to a child or family that deserves a reminder that they're part of a community that cares.

You can also use AnglicareCQ's Christmas wrapping stall at City Centre Plaza, knowing all the funds raised will go back into providing services to your local community.

In the Central Highlands, AnglicareCQ will be one of the beneficiaries of the Emerald Neighbourhood Centre's Linking Alms Appeal and Blackwater's Combined Churches Community Christmas Appeal.



LAY RETREAT 2015

This year's Lay Retreat was held at The Haven, Emu Park from Friday afternoon of October 30 to Sunday morning of November 1. The weekend was led by The Revd David Rogers-Smith from Bush Church Aid with inspirational messages delivered by Bishop David. 14 attended this Retreat from many parishes. Most seemed to be experienced "Retreaters" but this is the first Retreat I have ever attended and what a wonderful opportunity to spend exclusive time with those who are travelling on the same journey. I came away with valuable insight in relation to prayer and informative ideas on everything that should be applied when preaching. What a beautiful location to spend quiet opportunities reflecting on God's message and studying scripture. I certainly will be attending next year and look forward to catching up with newly made friends.

Lyndall Anderson (Parish of Keppel)



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ABM Anglican Board of Mission - Australia Working for Love, Hope & Justice

MISSION NEWS

- ABM provided notebooks and lanyards for Synod. Every organisation allocates money for marketing – ABM has chosen to be innovative by gifting those it directly represents. They also sent Robert MacLean to speak quite passionately about projects we fund.
- Canon Val Gribble attended the National ABM Conference in Newcastle and has written an in-depth report of this gathering of dioceses from all over Australia. Quite a few dioceses have their own "Auxiliary" especially dedicated to raising funds for ABM.
- ABM has provided Priest's Stoles to be presented to Helen Rinaldis, Stuart Robinson and Beryl Anderson at their ordination to the priesthood 30th November 2015.
- Do you have a person in your parish responsible for "Mission" or... better still, an ABM Rep?
- ABM Christmas cards will be electronic this year. Please see the website.
<http://www.abmission.org/resources.php?action=list-items&catId=20>
- I commend to you the Archbishop's November appeal to support Clergy and their training in PNG.
- 18th February 2016 Val and I will both attend Provincial Conference which possibly will be in Darwin. Great for the Northern Territory if possible. QLD and NT are part of the same ABM province. Blessings to all those God entrusts to your care,

Delfina Trail (North Rockhampton)



CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS IN KENYA

ABM's 2015 Christmas Appeal focuses on the Children's Education program in Kenya and the Evangelism and Christian education project in the Philippines.

ABM asked staff from our partner in Kenya to share both Anglican and national Christmas traditions.

In Kenya preparations for Christmas start with nativity programs in the weeks of Advent and the main activities start on Christmas Eve.

Mr Kiio said, "People start celebrating on the evening of 24th December. In some churches they start celebrating from 6:00pm all the way through until after midnight. During that time there are plays and concerts relating to nativity."

On Christmas Day people go to church for a Christmas celebration. Children recite verses from the Bible on the birth of Jesus Christ, short plays are performed by the youth in some churches and people exchange gifts as well as Christmas cards.

Mr Kiio said, "The service ends at midday to give people time to go and celebrate Christmas with the rest of their family members. Families come together to celebrate Christmas - they enjoy different meals such as fried chicken, roasted goat's meat, roasted cow's

meat and well-to-do families enjoy turkey meat. Many also enjoy pancakes (chapatti), rice and other traditional meals."

Like in Australia, Kenyan churches are decorated with different types of colours and people put up Christmas trees in their homes.

Mr Kiio said, "Churches donate food and clothes for the poor and marginalized, they also take food to prisons and those in jail to show the love of God and the joy of salvation."

At Christmas Sunday School children who have done well in church activities throughout the year are given gifts and Sunday School teachers are awarded as well.

In Kenya, ABM supports the Christian Education program which builds young children's faith from the age of 3 through to 12. The aim of the project is to build a learning area in Nairobi for the training of leaders to further develop ministry in Kibera and to grow the number of Formation Leaders.

So this Christmas, ABM invites you to share the joy of giving and help our Partners further develop their education.

Donate at www.abmission.org/christmas2015



ABM Anglican Board of Mission - Australia
Working for Love, Hope & Justice

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS
WITH ABM

- Christmas eCard
- Weekly readings
- Weekly reflections
- Weekly prayers

Available on our website

www.abmission.org/Christmas2015

DIOCESAN OFFICE CLOSURE

Close: 12 noon Thursday 24 December
Reopen: 8:30am Tuesday 5 January

The Bishop and staff wish to extend a very happy, holy and safe Christmas and New Year period to all.

BREAKING NEWS

On Sunday 29 November, Duinga was buffeted by a horrific storm in which St Michael & All Angels Church was lifted off its stumps and unceremoniously dumped on its side.

(photo supplied by Gribble family)

