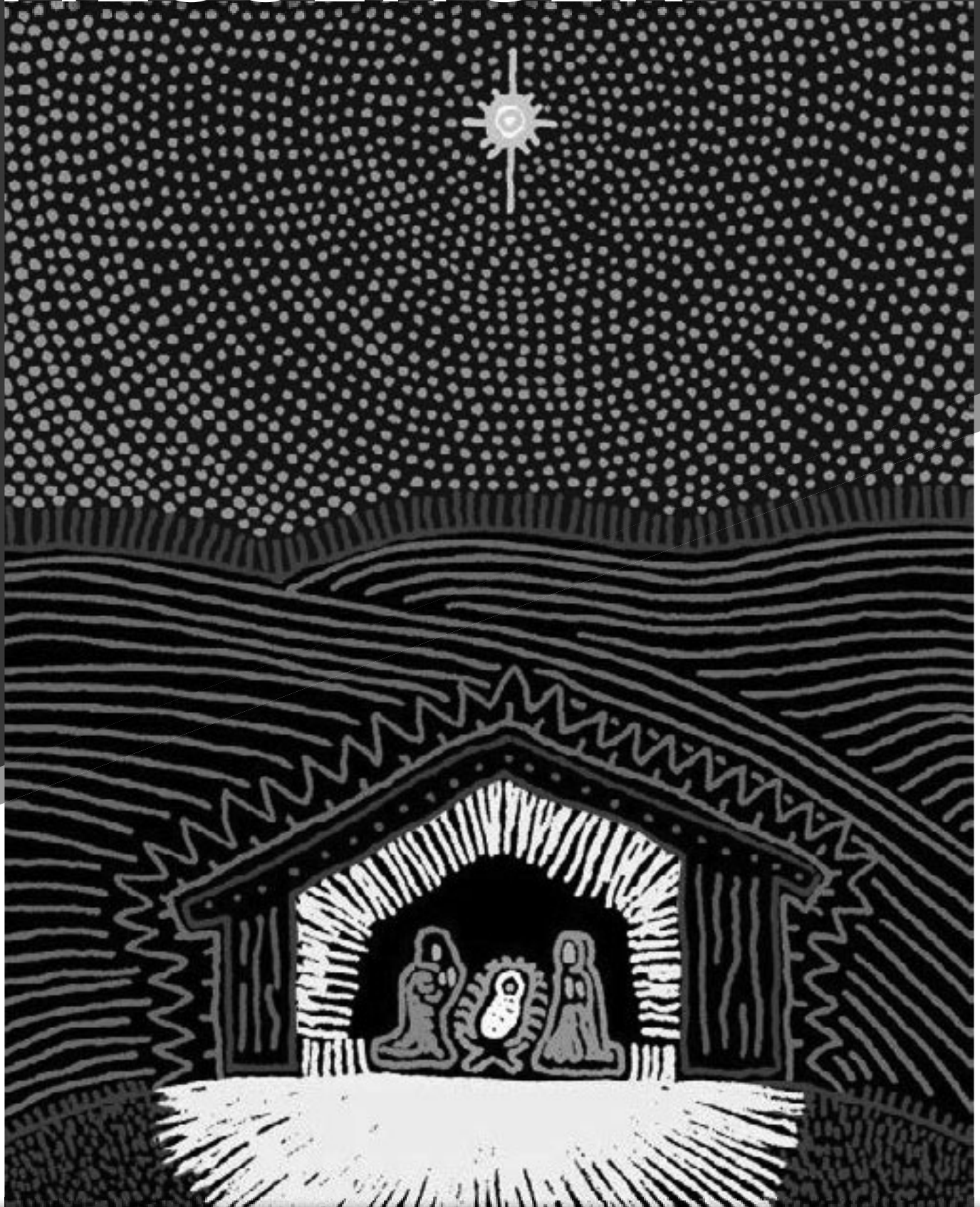




A MAGAZINE FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIANS | DECEMBER 2022

MESSENGER



But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. - Luke 2:10-11

IN THIS EDITION

- ▶ 2 Feature
- ▶ 3 From The Archbishop
- ▶ 5 St George's Cathedral
- ▶ 7 Amana Living
- ▶ 9 Anglican Schools Commission
- ▶ 10 Anglicare WA
- ▶ 12 Parkerville Children and Youth Care
- ▶ 14 St Bart's
- ▶ 15 Goldfields
- ▶ 16 Liturgy
- ▶ 18 Book Reviews
- ▶ 22 Archives
- ▶ 23 Bunbury Bulletin
- ▶ 24 Nor'West Postcard
- ▶ 26 Children and Youth Ministry
- ▶ 28 Wollaston Theological College
- ▶ 29 Around The Province
- ▶ 30 Theatre & Arts
- ▶ 31 Crossword
- ▶ 33 Clergy News
- ▶ 34 Mission - Anglican Overseas Aid
- ▶ 35 Classifieds
- ▶ 37 Where to Worship
St George's Cathedral



FEATURE

Keeping Hope Alive



FROM THE ARCHBISHOP

**Prince of peace -
Gift of God**



ANGLICAN OVERSEAS AID

**Fighting famine in
Kenya this Christmas**
Nils von Kalm



CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY

**Joy for All People:
The Saviour Not a Santa**
Mark Grobicki



Thank you, loyal readers and contributors,
for your support over the past year.

Wishing you and your loved ones a holy,
happy and safe Christmas and every blessing
in the New Year!

The Editorial Team



5 MARKS OF MISSION

1

To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom

2

To teach, baptise and nurture new believers

3

To respond to human need by loving service

4

To transform unjust structures of society, to
challenge violence of every kind and pursue
peace and reconciliation

5

To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation,
and sustain and renew the life of the earth

MISSION 2020+ PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit!

Give us new confidence in your grace,
new words for the mission we share,
new strength to go where you send us,
new spring in our step, as we set out
to spread our faith in changing times,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Reading on your mobile?
The Messenger now comes in a mobile-friendly view.

CLICK HERE



Keeping Hope Alive

Christianity is mainly wishful thinking.

So says the theologian and novelist Frederick Buechner. If you look at the way Buechner writes about hope, this is what you find: Christianity is mainly wishful thinking.

'Even the part about Judgment and Hell reflects the wish that somewhere the score is being kept. Dreams are wishful thinking. Children playing at being grown-ups is wishful thinking. Sometimes wishful thinking is the wings the truth comes true on. Sometimes the truth is what sets us wishing for it.'

Before the fear inside us – all of us at one time or another – starts acting up, grasping at certainties, pushing this surprising suggestion as far away as possible, it may be worth sitting quietly for a while. It may be worth putting the Christmas rush to one side, sitting quite still, not struggling to achieve anything, just opening our eyes and hearts wide, looking steadily at baby Jesus in his crib, at the helpless victim on a cross, letting his words flow over us and seep in.

Advent, the four-Sunday-season leading to Christmas, at its longest this year with not just four Sundays but four whole weeks, is offered for just this purpose, kindling and rekindling hope, keeping the flickering flame of hope alive.

This is harder for adults than for children, much harder, and increasingly hard work for all who know too much about the world. We know too much about everything. Too much about climate change, and time running out. Too much about our own fragility and mortality. Shaking off real-life threats whenever we can, amusing ourselves with distractions instead of facing up to harsh reality, pretending things are

better than they are in the face of lies, brutality and violence. Holding too tight to what we know or think we know blinds us, so that we cannot see what God may be doing, unable to join the dance.

'Sometimes wishful thinking is the wings the truth comes on.' Perhaps prayer is wishful thinking time, time together and individually as Christmas rushes toward us, time when we will not avert our eyes or look the other way, when we determine to let truth wing its way to us, trusting that God gives grace and strength for whatever is required of us. Perhaps common prayer with its rituals and certainties is a perfect time and place to accustom ourselves to uncertainties, to fresh initiatives, listening intently for whatever the Christlike God is saying, to whatever melody the Spirit is singing today?

Not, of course, that keeping hope alive is just for keeping ourselves alive. Hope is about keeping everyone alive, sharing bread, joining hands to be and do together what we cannot be or do alone. Hope is about companions and friends for the journey, eating and drinking, laughing and weeping together as joyful pilgrims, knowing the Lord more clearly, loving him more dearly, following him more nearly each and every day. Yes, 'Sometimes the truth is what sets us wishing for it.' At Christmas and New Year, here is a prayer for us all.

Prince of peace - Gift of God

THE MOST REVD KAY GOLDSWORTHY AO *Archbishop*



In Advent our bible readings herald a time of waiting and watching. We began with a reading from Isaiah chapter 2. Parts of it are well known to Christians who have been reading their bible for a while, but it's also known more widely by people outside the church, especially those who have sought words of comfort and hope of peace in times of terrible conflict.

In the days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore - Isaiah 2:1-4

These words of scripture written so very long ago speak of a future hope and promise of God's presence, God's dwelling. A promise of a new world which we continue to look for when the fullness of God's reign of peace will be revealed. At the same time, we Christians hear these words speaking of the promise of God's loving as we know it already, given by our heavenly Father, in the gift to the world of his son Jesus, in whom 'all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell' (Colossians 1:19-20).

You may already know the story of this promise lived in the ministry and dogged persistence of Bishop Dinis Sengulane, a long-time bishop of Lebombo, in the southern area of Mozambique. Bishop Dinis was consecrated in 1975, and for many of the early years of his ministry led the church in that part of Mozambique through the reality of a country during a civil war which lasted for 15 years. He and the people of the Diocese had to work out how to be God's church in a climate of suspicion and violence.

Working in collaboration alongside other church leaders they tried to bring those in conflict

together. One undertaking was an effort called PPP - Preparing People for Peace - which meant going to every province of the country and asking people, 'What do you think might jeopardize peace in the future?' In answer to this question one woman said, 'Guns,' going on to tell those who were listening, 'We have so many guns in our hands. Both sides have been very generous in dishing out guns, so when peace comes are those guns going to be just left alone?' Bishop Dinis is reported as replying to her, 'Oh dear. My theological training hasn't really equipped me to talk about guns, let me talk to the Boss. Can I come back to you tomorrow?' That night, as he prayed, he read these words from Isaiah chapter 2 and they came to life, 'They will turn their swords into ploughshares.'

Bishop Dinis' prayer turned to action and through Preparing People for Peace, church leaders asked people to bring their guns out and hand them over. Then those guns were broken up and exchanged for an instrument of production, a farming tool or something similar. The very weapons which had been

used to kill and destroy were used, not to kill or maim or destroy, but rather, were transformed for another purpose, the purpose of aiding in farming, growing food, assisting with animals, making tools to build for community needs or an artwork giving expression to the creativity of people.

I have been challenged by that Isaiah passage to think about the amount of work that would have gone into making a sword or a spear in the time described in Isaiah. The hot, sweaty and hard work of firing, forging, beating, shaping, not once but many times to hone a sharp edge, a well-balanced spear point, or sword edge, in order to make a weapon that was well balanced and easy to us in a time of war, designed to cleave through flesh and bone.

There has also been the challenge of thinking about what it would take to turn a sword into a ploughshare, which while still a blade, is differently configured. Imagine the work that would need to go into changing the purpose of something made for destruction and violence into something designed for the purpose of sustaining life, breaking open the ground for seeds to be planted, doing the hard work of tilling soil, ploughing, planting, harvesting. Hard work, sweaty, gritty work, but with such a different purpose.

As a result of the ministry overseen by Bishop Dinis Sengulane the programme known as Turning Swords into Ploughshares has collected more than a million different items of war equipment turning them into works of art, tools for work and jewellery, and encouraged people in other parts of the world to take up similar projects of peace building.

Meanwhile, in Advent 2022, as the war in Ukraine continues to bring suffering and threat, and as conflicts in so many other places bring despair, we continue to pray to the Lord of all for peace for an end to conflict. As we look to Christmas and the birth of the Prince of Peace, we can all pray that we will be people of peace and take our place, lifting our voices only and ever to announce the hope of God's promised peace through our words and actions.

We pray that we won't be people of aggression in our personal relationships, and that we won't stand by silent while people suffer violence at the hands of others. We pray that we will speak of the hope of peace when we see violence in our communities, or in the actions of those in places of leadership, or in the world.

In the face of all the violence that swirls around near and far, God's promise of peace is alive within us, so we can speak this hope with confidence and grace.

Even as we see the dark clouds of war and conflict around the world, we know the promise of God's love and peace, for now and for the future. I hope that this Advent and Christmas you will know the strong hope that comes from receiving God's love. That real, bone deep, mysterious and wonderful hope that in the gift of God's own beloved son, Jesus, as human and little as any of us has ever been, is the sure and certain hope for all people, in every circumstance.

May that hope wrapped up in that saving love be transforming for us all this Christmas.



Your Cathedral

THE VERY REVD CHRIS CHATAWAY *Dean*



What is God calling you to? There are a variety of ways in which we might respond to that question. I am someone fortunate to be serving God where I believe God has called me to be.

Although there are downsides, such as the amount of form filling! - a necessary but mind-numbing reality for many clergy and lay leaders in this age of compliance - it is a great blessing to be where you think God means you to be, and it is a great honour to be Dean here in Perth.

2023 is turning out to be an exciting time at your Cathedral.

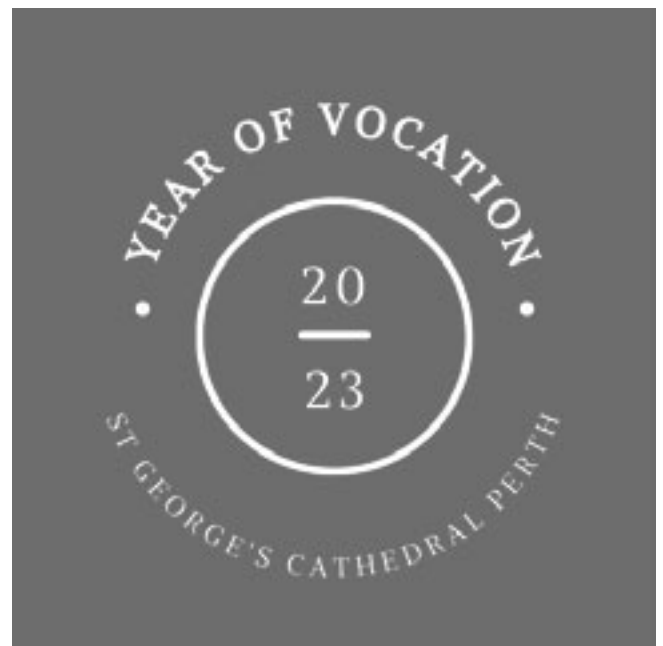
Our plan is to designate 2023 as a 'Year of Vocation.' It is the umbrella under which we will encourage prayer, teaching, conversations and action, helping people ask themselves, 'What is God calling you to?'

A few of our plans are:

- In **February**, there will be a three-week sermon series. It will focus on what we mean by vocation, why it matters, and how it affects everyone of faith. At Choral Evensong for these three Sundays, we are changing the normal sermon to an interview of 'ordinary' Christians about their own vocations and their journey to be who they are today.
- **Holy Week and Easter** will be a significant opportunity to continue to explore vocation through the events of the last days of the life of Jesus. Bishop Humphrey Southern, Principal, Ripon College Cuddesdon, will be visiting Perth to help us rediscover how we discern what God might be calling us to.

- Early in **June**, we welcome Bishop Jeremy Greaves, assisting Bishop in the Diocese of Brisbane, who will help us explore what vocation is through the lens of our Anglican identity.
- 'Handling the New Testament' – an **Advent** course for 2023 that draws us back to basics on the New Testament.

It is encouraging to see people returning to Cathedral worship, to have interstate and overseas visitors again, after two and a half years of absence due to the pandemic. As the communal life returns to the Cathedral, I look forward to what 2023 will bring.





ST. GEORGE'S
CATHEDRAL
ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF PERTH WA

JOIN US FOR A

A FAMILY CHRISTMAS

COME DRESSED UP AS
YOUR FAVOURITE
NATIVITY CHARACTER!

17 DEC
10AM

CHILDREN MUST COME
WITH AN ADULT

ST GEORGE'S
CATHEDRAL

38 ST GEORGES
TERRACE



Give the gift of companionship this Christmas

STEPHANIE BUCKLAND *Chief Executive Officer*



Can you imagine dying alone?

It is the reality of many older Australians who are faced with a lonely death.

This could be because they don't have family or friends nearby, relationships have broken down, or other commitments make it difficult for someone to be with them 24 hours a day.

In 2020, not-for-profit aged care provider Amana Living introduced the **No One Dies Alone Companion (NODAC)** program. It was inspired by the No One Dies Alone program founded at Sacred Heart Medical Center in America.

The program involves volunteers providing companionship to an Amana Living resident at the end of their life. This is different for every resident, but it can include holding a conversation, reading to them, playing music, or giving comfort simply by being there.

NODAC volunteers provide support in three-hour blocks over a 24-hour period. The role complements the high-quality clinical and personal care delivered by Amana Living staff, ensuring there is always someone with the resident.

Amana Living needs more volunteers who want to support a person in their final moments by providing vital reassurance and human connection.

To become a NODAC volunteer, you need to have empathy, good communication skills, resilience, a willingness to commit to training, and your own mobile phone and transport. You also need to be able to commit to at least one, three-hour shift per month.

If you become a volunteer, you can select the care centre you visit and the time you have

available. You'll be fully supported by Amana Living's NODAC Coordinator.

Kelly Frausin (pictured right) is a No One Dies Alone Companion (NODAC) volunteer. She joined the program because she wanted the opportunity to give back.



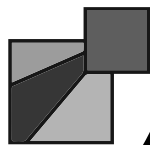
'My grandmother had passed away and our family was with her the whole time,' Kelly said. 'After reading an article about the program, it made me realise that many aged care residents don't get visitors and aren't as lucky as my family. I decided the NODAC volunteer position would be a way for me to give back.'

Amana Living urgently needs NODAC volunteers to support residents at Wearne House in Mandurah, Parry Care Centre in Lesmurdie and Thomas Scott Hostel in Camillo. There are also opportunities available at other locations in Perth and Kalgoorlie.

Amana Living also welcomes people who would like to be a volunteer for other activities such as being a companion to residents who do not have visitors or family members able to support them.

If you'd like to give the gift of companionship this Christmas, contact Amana Living on **08 9424 6335** or volunteers@amanaliving.com.au

You can also visit www.amanaliving.com.au/nodac for information on how to apply.



Anglican Community Fund

Helping Anglicans be Financially Stronger
Giving back to the Anglican Community since 1966

**Wishing you and your families a
joyous Christmas and a safe and
peaceful New Year**

Thank you for your kind and valued support from your team at
the Anglican Community Fund



We advise our Christmas Holiday hours for 2022:

Friday 16 December 9.00am – 11.30am

Monday 19 December to Friday 23 December – Normal hours

Christmas closure Monday 26 December to Monday 2 January 2023

Reopening Tuesday 3 January 2023

Resume normal hours 9.00am – 4.00pm

Disclosure

Anglican Community Fund (Inc) is not prudentially supervised by APRA; and any investment in the Anglican Community Fund (Inc) will not be covered by depositor protection provisions of the Banking Act 1959 or the Financial Claims Scheme. All financial services and products are designed for investors who wish to promote the charitable purposes of the Fund.

Love Grace Mercy

THE REVD PETER LAURENCE OAM *Chief Executive Officer*



So often it takes others to remind us of the simple truths of our faith. This is especially so as we approach the end of the year. Everything around us shouts the trappings of 'Christmas-anity' (my word cocktail of 'Christianity' and 'insanity'). The story is retold, one hundred times a day in every shopping centre, but where's the substance?

Last month I had the privilege of being in the room with Presidential historian and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jon Meacham. He's one of America's most prominent public intellectuals. You may have read some of his books: from *Destiny and Power*, his biography of George HW Bush, to *His Truth is Marching On*, a portrait of civil rights icon and long-time US congressman John Lewis. The writings in these two books reflect his personal relationship with an intimate knowledge of both men, enabling him to paint a portrait in words that few could ever achieve.

Beyond Bush and Lewis, I discovered first-hand how Meacham's depth of knowledge in the fields of politics, history, religion and current affairs has the unique ability to bring historical context to the issues and events impacting daily life in 2022. It isn't the Pulitzer Prize-winner's many books on famous American Presidents of the past that speak most powerfully; albeit they cover greats including Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Jefferson and George HW Bush. Rather, his book entitled *The Hope of Glory* speaks of his deep faith, as he reflects on Jesus' seven last sayings from the cross. In it, Meacham reminds the reader that Jesus' message from the cross was one of love not hate; grace not anger; mercy and not vengeance.

Meacham is an active Episcopalian (Anglican) and was appointed the Canon Historian at National Cathedral in Washington DC one year



Jon Meacham with NAES Executive Director, The Reverend Dr David Madison

ago. Prior to that appointment, he was active on the parish councils of both Trinity Church Wall Street and St Thomas' Church on Fifth Avenue in New York City. Meacham 'walks the talk'. He well understands the complexities of 'being Anglican', which was evident when he delivered the keynote address at the recent conference of the

USA National Association of Episcopal Schools, held in Texas.

Meacham reminded those of us in that conference room only a few weeks ago that those called to serve in Anglican schools are called to live Jesus' words of love, grace and mercy each and every day with each and every person – student, colleague, parent, stranger. This is what our schools are called to do. In a world that is complex at so many levels, we share the love of Jesus through Chapel, religious studies classes, pastoral care and well beyond.

Advent and Christmas can't stand apart from the events of Good Friday and Easter. To quote Frank Sinatra; "you can't have one without the other"! That's the great privilege Anglican schools have, as through each school year they retell the Jesus story in new and fresh ways. Simple truths in a complex world. And in so doing, we hope that each young person will embrace a life of love, grace and mercy; walking in the footsteps of Jesus, no matter what their faith tradition may be.

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas!

Not All Christmas Celebrations Are Merry

CHRIS THOMASON *Chaplain*



Christmas, a time to celebrate, a time for families to get together. For those of us who identify as Christians it is also a time to remember the birth of our Saviour. A time to reflect on what it means to be Christian, a time to reflect on the life of Jesus, a time to reflect on what it means, when in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus said, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." (Matt 22:39b NRSVUE).

But, for some it is a time of dread, fear and worry. There are expectations, sometimes unrealistic expectations and people cannot cope. Most families have tensions, even our own church family has tensions. Not everyone can work through or live with these tensions.

Anecdotal evidence suggests the holiday period around Christmas and New Year is the worst time of the year for family and domestic violence incidents.

So not only has there been an increase in family domestic violence incidents across Australia since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are entering the worst time of year for those incidents.

Children are the invisible and often forgotten victims of family and domestic violence. **One in three incidents** in WA report children being exposed to violence. This exposure means that these children can not grow up in a nurturing environment. They live in a home dominated by fear, where violence is normalised. They are **twice as likely** to experience partner abuse as an adult than others. But, with the right support, children can recover from the trauma they have suffered.

Grace* and her sister were exposed to substance abuse and significant family domestic violence between their mother and father, and by the time Grace was four, they had already been placed into foster care, reunited with their biological parents, only to end up back in foster care again. Grace (now 10 years old) feels most safe with her foster parents and sister.

Grace's story isn't uncommon to our Young Hearts counsellors at Anglicare WA, and it is their job to try and help children like Grace feel safe enough to explore their past trauma so that they can heal and break the cycle of family domestic violence.

Young Hearts directly supports children and young people who have been exposed to family and domestic violence.

Our counsellors seek to inspire feelings of safety and connection in these children, improving their immediate health and wellbeing, as well as providing opportunities for healthy relationships in the future.

Through counselling, it became evident that Grace was artistic and that the process of making and creating helped to still her mind.

This became a major avenue through which much of the therapeutic work was done.

2 in 5 Australians would not know where to get help for domestic violence, but luckily Grace had people around her that did.

Additionally, if you or someone you know is experiencing family domestic violence, our

Friend in Need app provides a variety of support options and information. If you're not sure where to go, call us on 1300 11 44 46.

We wish you a safe and happy Christmas.

* Name has been changed



Help
Young Hearts
grow new
beginnings

Anglicare WA is committed to ensuring children don't grow up thinking that this kind of behaviour is okay. If you wish to support our Young Hearts program, you can make a gift this Christmas by heading to anglicarewa.org.au/donate



Your gift can make wishes come true

From Parkerville Children and Youth Care's humble beginnings as a children's home on an 18-acre block in the Perth Hills, we have evolved into a dynamic and professional organisation that is leading the way in innovative and responsive services for Western Australian children and young people.

Today, we are driving change through evidence-based therapies and expert knowledge. The safety and wellbeing of children, young people and families, and ensuring their voices are heard, remains at our heart.

While this year has thrown some challenges our way, it has been heartening to see the dedication of our team and our community to ensuring minimal disruptions to service so that children, young people and their families remain supported and have access to the services and support they need to heal and thrive.

As Christmas approaches, we want to give a gift of hope for the future and inspire memories of joy, and to do this we need your help.

Giving those most in need a bright and joyful Christmas, on a day that can often be tougher than most, is an invaluable gift.

With your donation this festive season, you can help us create a memorable Christmas for 163 children and young people currently in our care and accessing our out of home care services.

You may not get to see the joy your gift brings on Christmas morning, but your gift will have them beaming, knowing that you care!

All donations received through our Christmas Gift Drive go directly towards purchasing gifts for the children and young people in Parkerville Children and Youth Care's care, or those accessing our services.* Should any funds

remain unspent by Christmas 2022 they will go towards birthday presents or back to school items for those same children and young people, over the coming year.



To make your donation today, go to [**parkerville.org.au/support-us/donate/christmas-gift**](https://parkerville.org.au/support-us/donate/christmas-gift) and help us spread the word with your friends, family, workplace or community!

*A small processing fee is deducted for credit card payments



Creating a brighter future for our community

With the new year on the horizon, we are looking forward to the future of Parkerville Children and Youth Care. It's an exciting time as we consider our next steps and dream big about our potential to make a positive impact towards helping Western Australia to be the safest place in the world to bring up children and young people, and for that, we thank our supporters, our funders, our peers and colleagues, and to our ever-increasing cheer squad.

Without you we couldn't achieve what we do, nor could we sustain ourselves without the

warmth and care you send our way. The whole Parkerville Children and Youth Care team draws on the community's positive regard, kind words, and active support so that we can in turn provide that to the children, young people, families and communities we serve.

From all of us here at Parkerville Children and Youth Care, we wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and thank you for your generous support of the children, young people and families at the heart of all that we do.

A time to reflect

MELIATA THOMASON *Chaplain*



The past month has been a particularly busy one for St Bart's. We just recently celebrated the inaugural launch of our Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) to show our commitment to providing a culturally safe place where inclusive relationships can flourish. We are committed to enabling a culture of support and security for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents and staff to thrive at St Bart's.

We are also committed to supporting the health and wellbeing of residents and staff of the LGBTQIA+ community. We were thrilled to all share in a BBQ lunch to celebrate Pride Month in November, with some staff members also joining in the Perth Pride Parade.

St Bart's was honoured to welcome the Reverend Bruce Hyde with the Parish of Bull Creek-Leeming to lead a beautiful service for Remembrance Day recently. St Bart's consumers, aged care residents and staff came together to commemorate, and a very moving rendition of The Last Post and Reveille, played by Robert McCormack, echoed throughout the Lime Street buildings. Afterwards, we all gathered to enjoy lunch together, which was provided by St Bart's Patron Graham Edwards.

And now as we enter the Christmas period, it is a time to remember the birth of Jesus, the coming of our saviour, 'God with us'.

Why would God have his son, Jesus, born in a stable in Bethlehem to a young mum called Mary? This poor and humble beginning to life on earth seems so remarkable in its un-remarkableness. Why didn't God have Jesus born into a wealthy, ruling family? I like to think it is because Jesus being born into a poor, humble family gave him the deep understanding, acceptance and love for all people, particularly the vulnerable and minority groups that are often forgotten. I believe this reflects that all people are welcome, worthy, and loved into



God's family and no one is excluded.

Many people have Christmas celebrations with family, friends, food, fun, and gifts. At St Bart's, Christmas can be a difficult time for many of the vulnerable people we assist. It often brings to the surface past experiences of trauma and separation from family and friends. It can be a time of hardship, suffering and uncertainty, much like Jesus' life beginning in a community of hardship, suffering and uncertainty. 'God with us' came not in a time of peace and prosperity, but in a time of difficulty.

For this reason, each year St Bart's family of staff aim to lift the spirits of our consumers in a variety of ways. Together, we organise an annual Christmas Hamper Appeal to deliver delicious Christmas treats and small gifts to every resident, generously donated by local businesses, schools and parishes. We also host traditional Christmas lunches for our consumers,

and Santa visits our Family Service with gifts for the children. Meanwhile, the Chaplaincy team and Anglican parish volunteers share in Christmas carol concerts at several St Bart's locations.

I pray this Christmas that we extend our hearts and hands in welcoming those less fortunate to our Christmas celebrations.

For more information about St Bart's or to make a donation, please visit stbarts.org.au or get in touch with us by calling 9323 5100.

God-Talk: Christmas Tree

THE REVD DR ELIZABETH J SMITH AM *Mission Priest, Parish of The Goldfields*



Late in Advent, I recruit two teenage parishioners and drive out of town in search of a Christmas tree for St John's Kalgoorlie. We find a likely dirt track running off the highway, and bump along it for a few hundred metres, keeping an eye out for something suitable.

I'm not fussed about the species. Some years it's been a casuarina, sometimes a eucalyptus. Sometimes I've pruned one of the suckers that come up from the stump of a river red gum in my own back yard. This time, we find new leafy branches springing up skywards from the trunk of a fallen tree. We choose one that is just the right size and shape for its new seasonal destiny. We fell it and stuff it carefully into the car, trying to avoid picking up too much dust. It is, however, impossible to avoid bringing along several families of ants.



Back at my place, we hose it and each other down. It's a hot Goldfields morning, and what teenager could resist aiming the hose at his brother as well as at the tree? Back at the church, we hunt out the black plastic tub full of sand to plant the tree in, and the white plastic tubs full of tinsel and baubles. We include a little sister to help with the decorations. With the tree safely strapped to one of the architectural columns of the building, everyone chips in to load it with bling.

Symmetry is impossible. Nature is beautiful, and random. The tree itself resists perfection. Children are much less worried about the perfect arrangement of baubles than adults are. It's about who can reach highest to twine the tinsel, who can be trusted on the little ladder to place the star on a perilously bendy twig at the top, and how many golden orbs a six-year-old can hang off one low branch.

This wonky, lopsided, Australian tree, with its random decorations, is a wonderful symbol of the mystery of God being born as a human baby. It's infinitely better than the compact, commercial, symmetrical, northern European, fake tree I have at home, with its tasteful, pricey, carefully curated adornments.

The Christmas gum tree points to a God who loves an untidy world, an asymmetrical world, a messy, scruffy world. The summer-time tree shows us a God who comes right down into the local mess, who is fully engaged with earthly untidiness, who takes all the risks associated with human imperfection. God, who is indeed high and heavenly, who truly is holy and glorious, who is normally way, way out of our reach, this God actually comes right here to live with us. All the power and glory get parked in heaven. Love, danger and crazy joy take up residence right here.

Perhaps a scruffy Christmas tree can help us relax a bit, stress less about getting things right, and encounter a God who embraces the unpredictable randomness of being human, and shines with love among our chaos.

Our Rich Liturgical Heritage

Our Lord's Circumcision for us



THE RT REVD DR PETER BRAIN

The Collect for The Circumcision of Christ is worth visiting this Christmas/New Year. Reminding us of our Lord's ministry and our hearty response to his grace, both timely and challenging.

Almighty God, who madest thy blessed Son to be circumcised, and obedient to the law for man; Grant us the true Circumcision of the Spirit; that, our members, being mortified from all worldly and carnal lusts, we may in all things obey thy blessed will; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP)

Jesus's circumcision comes to us from the set gospel of Luke 2:15-22. Because this was the requirement of the law for Jewish boys, obedience can be described as God's will, as the phrase *who madest* suggests. Our Lord's incarnation included his identification with humanity. Some 30 years later He would likewise identify with us sinners in being baptised. Having no sin he needed neither the Old Covenant sign of circumcision nor the New Covenant's baptism. However, it was vital for him to be fully obedient and totally identified with us sinners if He were to be our Saviour, as his name Jesus indicated.

Jesus lived in obedience to God where Adam failed. This qualified him to be the perfect Lamb, able to bear the full weight of his Father's righteous judgement for our sins. The Cross was his baptism, as he was fully immersed in our sin. It was his circumcision when he was cut to the heart in undergoing separation from his Father so that all who turn to God in repentance and who trust him, might enjoy full fellowship with God.

Our response to this amazing grace is to continually ask for that *true circumcision of the Spirit*, enabling us to be *mortified from all carnal lusts and fully obedient to thy blessed will*. Our salvation is possible because of our Lord's obedience to the requirements of the law and its penalties.

All of grace, it is to be received humbly, then lived out in full and glad obedience to his *blessed will*.

The Collect helps avoid the grave dangers of cheap grace and formalism. Formalism has no power because it is more devoted to the outwards signs than the *Spirit's* radical cutting away of sin to which they point. Cheap grace, renders sin unimportant through redefinition and refusal to repent. Every aspect of the believer's life and character, *our members*, must be put to death, mortified. Conformity to the world and the reformation of our lusts are not only evidences of our faith, but essential to our individual testimony and a corporate life that attracts the blessing of God. No believer can

ever take their sin lightly for that would diminish the cost of the Cross to our Lord. No believer or church would want to ape the world or give in to our deathly lusts because that would be like saying: 'we know better than you Father', 'your death has not cut my heart Lord Jesus' and, 'Holy Spirit I am more interested in the outward signs than your company, correction, cleansing, comfort or counsel'.

A circumcised heart will always be content and contrite, settled in Christ but never passive in regard to its own growth in sacrificial service and godliness.

The life of the Spirit grows best in the rejection of sin and active pursuit of obedience to God's Bible revealed will, above every whim of the world, temptation of Satan and murmur of self-will. Mortification speaks of an ongoing circumcised heart that delivers far more than formalism, selective obedience or half-hearted discipleship. The Christian leader, J Graham Miller offered this wise observation: 'When spiritual life languishes among the people of God two parallel processes make this decay evident: lax behaviour and stricter ritual'. Reminding us of our Lord's ministry on the Cross and the Holy Spirit's heart convicting work, the Collect leads us to a richer and more blessed way.

Advent and Christmas

APPEAL 2022

Your gift will transform communities

This Advent and Christmas, Anglicans in Development invites you to support projects which will positively impact individuals and communities in Australia and around the world.

Donations to this appeal are Tax-deductible



DONATE ONLINE at
www.abmission.org/Christmas2022
or scan the QR code



REVIEWED BY THE RT REVD DR PETER BRAIN



Songs of Suffering 25 Hymns and devotions for weary Souls

Joni Eareckson Tada

Crossway 2022 - \$22.99 hardcover

This beautifully presented book from the pen of one who has been a quadriplegic since 1965 comes with the understanding of the sufferer, the wisdom of a servant disciple and the love of a humble believer. The 25 hymns are grouped under the headings, Songs of Comfort, Strength and Hope. In her devotions following each hymn, Joni demonstrates her trust in God by giving us compassionate insights into God's faithfulness. Along the way she offers a much-needed apologetic for the power of congregational singing to lift confused, contrite, comfortable and comfortless hearts. This is a real gem that accompanied by poignant photography, applies Psalm 119:54, in an apt and timely way. An excellent gift and companion for lifting our hearts out of ourselves and upwards to our gracious Lord and Saviour.



But I Say to You... Christ the Controversialist

J R W Stott

IVP 2013 reprint of 1970 - \$19.99 paperback

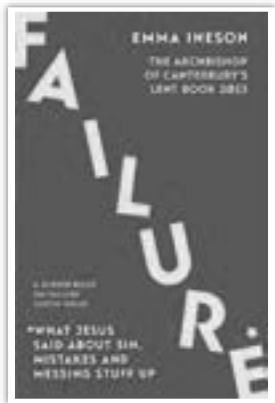
I came across this book as I was shopping for some gifts for grandchildren. It is now on my reading list following Christmas. But why review such an old book? For one it is a classic. For two it reminds us that we do well not to domesticate Jesus. For three, we can always expect to be challenged by the Lord, who 'comforts the disturbed and disturbs the comfortable'. For four, the eight questions addressed remain relevant? Is religion natural or supernatural? Is our authority found in tradition or Scripture? Is the Bible an end or means? Is salvation based on merit or mercy? Is morality outward or inward? Is worship lips or heart? Is our responsibility to withdraw or be involved in the world? Is ambition for our glory or for God's? The book flows out of Stott's call for clarity and a desire to 'argue that evangelical Christianity is real Christianity...from the teaching of Jesus Christ himself'. A controversial aim indeed, but in true Stott manner, anticipates objections from evangelicals, and in so doing offers a short outline of what he understands by evangelical. Given that 'the only difference between a grave and a rut are the dimensions' I'm looking forward to the challenge.

Some books for older primaries and younger teens

I was delighted to see some golden oldies for children being republished. These included the Jungle Doctor books by Dr Paul White and many of Patricia St John's classics. A long-term English missionary to Lebanon, her wonderful rapport with children was seen in her first book Tanglewood's Secret. Drawing on the experiences of children she knew her reprints (by 10 Publishing) include **Nothing Else Matters** 1982 (\$14.99) about forgiveness. **Where the River Begins** 1980 (\$12.99) about hope and **The Mystery of Pheasant Cottage** 1977 (\$12.99) about unanswered questions.

Newest Books for Lent 2023

SHIRLEY CLAUGHTON



Failure: What Jesus Said About Sin, Mistakes and Messing Stuff Up

Emma Ineson

The Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 2023 published December 2022, price \$20-\$30. 224 pages

What a great compliment it must be to be invited to write the Archbishop's Lent Book. Justin Welby describes the book as "superb, humorous, realistic and absolutely not judgemental".

The Revd Dr Emma Ineson was appointed last year as Bishop to the Archbishops of Canterbury and York. She said, of this important position, that "I am absolutely delighted to be taking up this new role at such a time of great opportunity and challenge for the Church of England as we emerge from the Covid pandemic".

Of this significant appointment, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby said "I am truly delighted to welcome Bishop Emma to Lambeth Palace. I know she will bring her considerable wisdom, humour and humility to the role, as well as her wealth of experience as a chaplain, teacher and outstanding preacher".

The publication date for this book is 19 December 2022- almost here! We can catch a peek of what to expect through the striking cover and the publisher's blurb. The book is described as "wonderfully humorous and encouraging".

Emma suggests that "our tendency to lump all kinds of failure together could be a bit unhelpful. A more nuanced understanding of what sort of failure we're dealing with might just allow us to make friends with it and respond more appropriately. This idea leads us 'Towards an (imperfect) Theology of Failure', based on key Christian thinking, and Emma poses the question of whether sin is an individual or corporate thing. Looking at the church, we consider, what is God's purpose for it? And in the light of key concerns such as safeguarding and racial justice, how might we re-examine concepts of success and recognize and measure failure?"

The book is described as "wise and humorous, theologically astute yet accessible".

This much anticipated Lenten book will be available in bookshops and on-line before Christmas. St John's Books can access copies for customers if requested.

Contact books@stjohnsbooks.com.au



AVAILABLE
NOW!

AUSTRALIAN ANGLICAN DIRECTORY 2022/2023

An essential resource for all

PRINT VERSION

By the time you are reading this, the new directory should be in print and available. Print copies available from Garratt publishing or from St Johns books. The price (without postage) is \$80. St Johns Books is offering a generous introductory offer of just \$5 for postage, per copy, anywhere in Australia.

The directory has been comprehensively updated with the help of the General Synod Office and the Diocesan Offices throughout Australia and includes:

- Contents
- Foreword from the Primate
- Introduction
- How to use the Directory
- Acknowledgements
- The Office of the Primate
- Chart of Australian Dioceses
- Map of Australian Dioceses
- Statistics
- Dioceses
 - Bishop(s) and major office bearers
 - Diocesan structure
 - Parish/church list
 - Clergy list
- Churches, parishes and their clergy
- Ordinations
- Obituaries
- Schools and Colleges and more!

ONLINE VERSION

For the important new on-line version, please access the link below. This will take you to a form which will give you all you need to know, including how to get a free trial!

Subscribe now – [Anglican Church of Australia Directory \(anglicandirectoryaustralia.com.au\)](http://Anglican Church of Australia Directory (anglicandirectoryaustralia.com.au))

For further information please contact books@stjohnsbooks.com.au or garrattpublishing.com.au. All enquiries for online version anglicandirectoryaustralia.com.au

For your convenience the Directory's ISBN 9781922441041

Other new Lenten publications which sound exciting

WHAT WERE YOU ARGUING ABOUT ALONG THE WAY: Gospel reflections for Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week and Easter, from the Spirituality of Conflict Project, Canterbury Press 2021. Based on the Gospels of the Lectionary. Padraig O'Tuama edited Pat Bennett. (Available from Garratt Publishing \$49.95, but booko.com might be quicker and a few dollars cheaper)

Check out their website at www.spiritualityofconflict.com. For each Sunday there is an extended reflection, prayer and questions for lectio divina or group discussion. It features Catholic, Anglican, Presbyterian and Pentecostal writers from the Iona Community, Holy Island, Coventry Cathedral's Centre for Reconciliation, the Church of Scotland reflecting the broad nature of the witness to peace.

GODFORSAKEN: The Cross - the Greatest Hope of All (The Archbishop of York's Lent Book 2023) By Archbishop Stephen Cottrell, just published, about \$32. (Not in bookshops yet but available on-line at www.booko.com for best prices)

This series of reflections, written for Lent and Holy Week 2023 by the Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell, ponders the significance of these words. What does it mean for Jesus to have quoted them, at the very end of his life? What do those words mean for us? This is a beautiful and compelling exploration of the dark, suffering side of the Passion - and how Jesus' words lead us to the greatest hope of all.

THE POWER OF RECONCILIATION, Justin Welby, published 2022 about \$35.00 (available as an e-book online; limited copies at St Johns Books and hard cover instore at Koorong Books)

This revolutionary book was published for the 2022 Lambeth Conference in July, when bishops from all around the world assemble in Canterbury. But its importance goes far beyond these confines. The author deals with conflict and reconciliation within families, businesses, warfare between nations, races and all forms of political conflict. The book concerns the secular sphere every bit as much as the religious, though Welby's message is Christian inspired, and the influence of Desmond Tutu strongly felt.

REFLECTIONS FOR LENT 2023 22 February - 8 April 2023, Kate Bruce, Mark Oakley, Graham James, Paula Gooder. (By Church House Publishing the cost is about \$18.00, but the quickest and cheapest is to buy from Blackwells on-line at www.blackwells.co.uk/bookshop (includes postage) or from Church House publishing. This book does not appear to be with Australian booksellers.)

Reflections for Lent is designed to enhance your spiritual journey through the forty days from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday. Covering Monday to Saturday each week, it offers reflections on readings from the Common Worship Lectionary, written by some of today's leading spiritual and theological writers.

Each day includes full lectionary details for Morning Prayer, a reflection on one of the Bible readings and a Collect for the day

It also features a simple form of morning and night prayer, a guide to keeping a good Lent and an introduction to lectio divina by Stephen Cottrell.

The Holy Week study is by Paula Gooder.

Rock Mass for Peace - 1970

NAOMI LAM *Diocesan Archivist*

Five days before Christmas in 1970, the Cathedral became home to Rock Mass for Peace. The Rock Mass was the initiative of the Dean, The Very Revd John Hazlewood, and attracted a crowd of over 2000 people.

"There was no hypocrisy, only love and peace and a scene that was totally and honestly the young people's; but the scene was also totally and honestly contained within the Church's most solemn sacrament, celebrated inside the Cathedral Church" ("good on yer, Dean," 1971).

The success of the first mass meant three more were scheduled through Lent on 7, 14 and 21 March. The music was provided by band, the Bakery with occasional soloists. The services were broadcast to two commercial radio stations with the Rock Mass for Love on 21 March being recorded ("Special events in Lent", 1971). The recording became an album of which we have a digital recording of within the Archive collection.

Despite a largely positive reception, Rock Mass was not without its detractors from within and outside the Diocese.

"During the June series Hazlewood reported that 'members of the cathedral congregation had also said they hoped that none of the young people who attended the rock services would attend the usual 10am services on Sundays and detract from the respectability of the congregation'" (Tonkin, 2001, p157).

Rock Masses continued to be held, although less frequently until 1975 (Tonkin, 2001).

"Much as Hazlewood enjoyed the publicity which these events brought, it is clear that his motives were genuinely pastoral, aimed at touching the lives of youth who would otherwise have no contact with the church. The dean was largely successful in tempering the noise and high spirits of the throng with an atmosphere of genuine reverence" (Tonkin, 2001, p158).



Album Cover of Rock Mass of Love recorded in 1971



References

Good on yer, dean. (1971, February) Anglican Messenger

Special events in Lent. (1971, March) Anglican Messenger

Tonkin, John (2001). *Cathedral and Community: A History of St George's Cathedral, Perth*, University of Western Australia Press

Bunbury Bulletin



We have farewelled The Revd Dr Lucy Morris as Priest in Charge of St George's, Dunsborough. Lucy was previously our Diocesan Secretary and has been the inaugural Chair of our Diocesan Safe Ministry Authority and our Diocesan Reconciliation Working Group. She will be much missed as she moves to be the Rector of Buderim Parish in Queensland.

St. George's has an amazing ministry in making prayer quilts for people, so it was very fitting they gave Lucy a quilt as she departed. The Revd Rose Guok also had her final services at St Mary's, Busselton the same day.

We wish all you *Messenger* readers well as you remember and celebrate the extraordinary coming of Christ. " ... The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth".

VACANCIES

The Diocese currently has, or will have, full time Priest-in-Charge vacancies in the parishes of Kojonup and Katanning, Busselton, Dunsborough and Coodanup and part time positions in the parishes of Augusta/Margaret River, Boyup Brook, Carey Park, Collie, Narrogin, Southern Forests and Southern Ranges.

If you are interested and would like more details, please view some of these under 'Vacancies' on our website at: bunburyanglican.org and/or contact Bishop Ian by email at bishop@bunbury.org.au.

The Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School is seeking a new chaplain.

Nor'West Postcard

JOCELYN ROSS OAM



Christmas is coming! Jesus' birthday! Carols in many communities start as early as the first weekend in December!!! Such wonderful opportunities for Christians in smaller towns and communities to come together and proclaim Jesus!

If you are travelling north over Christmas, please look out for Carols Events and Sundays and Christmas service times and join with the congregations where you are holidaying - such an encouragement for the locals!!!



◀ Christmas Carols in **Kununurra** are at the church starting at 6.00pm on 4 Sunday December. Looks like a great evening with glowsticks, Christmas story and a candy cane hunt!! Services are Christmas Eve 6.00pm and Christmas Day 9.30am.

Broome Anglican Church has Carols on 11 December at 5.00pm, and Christmas Service times are 8.30am, 10.00am and 5.00pm.

Karratha Church's Advent sermons are on hope, joy, peace and love. Carols by Glowlight is at Hampton Oval in Dampier on 4 December at 6.30pm with a church Christmas Party on Sunday 11 December after church.



Newman Anglican Church recently held a Christmas Family Fun afternoon with Christmas craft, biscuit decorating, a nativity phone booth, Christmas games, and dinner provided for \$5 per family! Twelve families from the town had an enjoyable afternoon. Carols by Glowsticks is on 4 December from 6.00pm to 8.00pm. Come dressed in your Christmas best, with prizes for the best-dressed! And a Wreath Making and High Tea on Saturday morning 10 December. Amanda says that there are numbers of people leaving Newman at present. Sadly they are not hearing of any replacements.



NORTH WEST AUSTRALIA

In **Exmouth** the Anglican Church is planning a Christmas Cookie Decorating event, Christmas Carols both in Onslow and Exmouth, and the Christmas Services will be streamed live on the website.

The Christmas Communion Service at **Carnarvon Anglican Church** is on Sunday, 18 December, following a Christmas Street party on 17 December. There is a midnight service on Christmas Eve at St. George's, and the congregation join the Uniting Church members on Christmas Day.

In **Denham**, Shark Bay's Christmas Communion Service is Sunday 11 December, following Carols on Saturday night in the Church as last year was sooo windy outside! We are doing a Christmas Presentation at Shark Bay Primary School on Tuesday morning.

St Mark's, Kalbarri will hold their Christmas Communion on Christmas Day at 9.00am, with Archdeacon Bill Ross presiding at the Service, which is to be followed by a Bring and Share Christmas Lunch. Visitors in town are most welcome!!

Holy Trinity, Northampton, Christmas Communion service is also early on 18 December at 9.00am.

Holy Cross Cathedral is to have a 5.00pm Family Service on Christmas Eve, with Christmas Day services at 8.00am and 10.00am. And St. George's, Bluff Point, Carols at 6.00pm, Communion at Midnight (11.00pm) , and Christmas Day at 8.30am.

Our new Bishop and his wife, Darrell and Elizabeth Parker, were in Geraldton for a few days in November to meet some of the Diocesan staff and see the newly purchased Bishop's House. We look forward immensely to his Installation on 15 February.

Joy to the World! The Lord is come!!!



For more news about the North West visit anglicandnwa.org | [@northwestanglicans](https://www.instagram.com/northwestanglicans)
or sign up to receive the North West Network magazine

Joy for All People: The Saviour Not a Santa



THE REVD MARK GROBICKI *Priest-in-Charge, Parish of Bassendean and
Member of the Anglican Children and Youth Ministries Commission*



‘But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.’ (Luke 2:10–11, NRSV)

On behalf of ACYMC, may I wish you ‘Merry Christmas’.

Christmas is a time of celebration. We say to perfect strangers, ‘Merry Christmas.’ We sing, ‘Tis the season to be jolly....’ It’s a time, for young and old, to stop study and work, to gather with others, to give gifts, to eat and drink. It is a time of celebration.

Or at least it is meant to be. But one of the things about Christmas is that for many individuals, many families, and many children and youth, it is often a very difficult time. It could be the added Christmas stress and financial pressures.

Or loneliness. Or ill-health. Or the reminder that the past year has not been what our new year resolutions had hoped. Or being apart from family or friends. Or seeing that loved one’s empty chair at the table. For many, young and old, there may be a myriad reasons not to celebrate at Christmas time.

And yet in the famous Nativity story, the angel declares to the shepherds that there is ‘good news of great joy for all the people’. No matter what our circumstances, what our bank balance, what our achievements or failures, who we’re with or even who we’re not with, Jesus’ birth is meant to be good news of great joy for all.

Why? The angel gives the reason: 'to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord'.

**The birth of Jesus is good news for all,
because he is the Saviour - and not a
Santa.**

Let me explain.

You see, in theory, if you are to get a gift from Santa, what do you have to do? Well, as the song goes, if Santa Claus is Comin' to Town:

*He's making a list, He's checking it twice,
Gonna find out who's naughty or nice...
He knows if you've been bad or good,
So be good for goodness sake!*

The story of Santa might be good fun for young children, but a real-life Santa wouldn't be particularly good news for real-life people – people in our hurts, sufferings, and imperfections. If Santa only rewarded the perfectly good and nice, at least I know I wouldn't be getting much from him!

But the coming of Jesus is good news for all people, because he did not come like a Santa, but as the Saviour.

If Santa would give people what they deserve, a Saviour gives what we don't deserve.

A Saviour rescues people – as a bewildered Joseph was told when receiving the news that Mary would have a child, 'you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins' (Matthew 2:21, NRSV).

**Jesus did not come to reward those who
have been perfectly good and nice, but
– through his incarnation, life, death
and resurrection – to save those who
are under the penalty and power of sin.**

He did not come to give breakable, disposable gifts to those who are good enough, but to give life with God to those who recognise we aren't.

And that salvation is for everyone who turns to him in repentance and faith, irrespective of our circumstances, young and old.

It is something we all can know, and all can celebrate this Christmas.

And that is indeed good news of great joy for all people.

Merry Christmas!



SUNDAY 27 NOVEMBER	FRIDAY 23 DECEMBER	SUNDAY 25 DECEMBER
7.30pm Advent Carol Service	7.30pm Festival of Lessons and Carols	8.00am Holy Eucharist with Carols
SATURDAY 17 DECEMBER	SATURDAY 24 DECEMBER	10.00am Choral Eucharist with Carols
10.00am Children's Christmas Service	7.30pm Festival of Lessons and Carols	Music: <i>Spatzenmesse</i> (Mozart)
SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER	11.00pm First Eucharist of Christmas	<i>The Holly and the Ivy</i> (Owen)
7.30pm Festival of Lessons and Carols	Music: <i>Little Organ Mass</i> (Haydn)	
	<i>Candlelight Carol</i> (Rutter)	

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL PERTH WESTERN AUSTRALIA
38 St Georges Terrace, Perth ~ (08) 9325 5766 ~ perthcathedral.org ~ facebook.com/StGeorgesCathedral

The Joy of Diversity

THE REVD DR CHRISTY CAPPER *Deputy Warden and Lecturer in Systematic Theology, Academic Dean*



When I graduated from university, I began to work full time as a staff worker with Power to Change (formerly Student Life, part of Campus Crusade for Christ). One of the questions that people would ask me, both students and people in local churches, was ‘why is there more than one Christian group on campus?’

It was a fair question. The fact was, the two major Christian groups on campus were both non-denominational and had nearly identical beliefs, but we had different cultures. We had different ways of working, different flavours. Some students came to Student Life who would never have gone to Christian Union, and vice versa. Their diverse cultures and flavours aided people who came to faith in Christ through these different groups. We used to work together for joint events, and the staff teams and student leaders got on well - our different flavours were a blessing.

In some of my theological work I consider the blessing that difference can be when we value it in one another and value the opportunities that these differences give us to share the love of Jesus with different groups of people. When I think back to those days of university ministry, working with different groups of Christians from various denominations and backgrounds helped me to learn to value that our diverse voices could bring both dissent and harmony. It all depended on how we used them.

The Anglican Church has always been a complicated and diverse group of people and ideas. As I watched the opening night show of the musical *Six* (about the wives of Henry VIII – and an excellent musical!), I considered the complexity that was inherent in the formation of the Anglican church, the church politics mixed with national politics. We can't escape complexity, but we can remember that our diversity can be a blessing.

This is one of the things I love about theological

colleges, and about being at Wollaston Theological College. I love helping students come to understand their own faith, their own role in this diverse group of people that God has brought together. I love to take students through the thread of Christian theology for the past 2000 years and see the way that people have expressed their ideas about who God is. Different theologians have been living in different time periods, in vastly different cultural situations, and yet, there is a constant love of God. There is a common thread of their faith seeking understanding, of people of faith – lay and ordained – seeking to understand more of the God that worship that we may better love and serve our God.

For me, studying and teaching theology is a joy-filled endeavour. It is a journey that I love to take with students (with anyone really!). It isn't a journey of trying to change people's ideas or beliefs. It is not an ideological indoctrination – it is a journey of discovery, a journey of joyfully loving diversity and the blessing that this is to us in the work that God has given to us. As we close 2022 and live in the complexity and blessing of our diversity I look forward to a new year and to meeting students from a range of backgrounds who want to know and love and serve God more. I look forward to introducing them to the joy of learning more about God and who God has created them to be so that we might know the place in the body of Christ that we take and know that the kidney cannot say to the liver 'I don't need you' but instead we can embrace and live into the difference and diversity that makes us whole.

QEI Jubilee Service and Tree Planting

THE VEN BILL ROSS *Archdeacon Emeritus*

On Sunday 30 October a Service & Ceremony to mark the Platinum Jubilee of the reign of the late Queen Elizabeth II was conducted at the Geraldton Cathedral of the Holy Cross.

Some 140 people were in attendance, representing a wide cross section of the community including, Ms Lara Dalton MLA, Member for Geraldton, Councillors of the City of Greater Geraldton, business and industry leaders, members of various churches including the Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Geraldton, The Most Revd Michael Morrissey, and several community groups. The occasion was of particular significance to Geraldton as the Queen visited here three times, of particular note in 1988 to declare the town a City.

The Service was conducted by Emeritus Archdeacon Bill Ross and involved young and older members of the Cathedral congregations and community representatives including Bishop Morrissey, with Bible readings and prayers. Some of the late Queen's favourite Bible readings and hymns, plus quotations from her Enthronement and several Christmas Messages were included in the service and the tree planting ceremony. The Cathedral Choir was accompanied on the organ by Marjorie Smith and trumpeter Craig Bassett. A prayer for the new King, Charles III, and the singing of *God save the King*



Pictured from top: Congregation showing community participants; Guard of Honour assembled at the Tree Planting with the Dean of Geraldton, Lachlan Edwards; Congregation assembled at the Tree Planting in the Cathedral grounds; Member for Geraldton, Lara Reynolds MLA, shoveling soil to plant the second Tree in honour of the Queen's 70 year Reign, with the Dean of Geraldton, Lachlan Edwards, looking on.

were included in the service.

At the conclusion of the Thanksgiving Service members of the Cathedral Boys' Brigade, plus Girl Guides, Army and Navy Cadets, and School Captains from Geraldton Grammar School and Geraldton Christian College formed a Guard of Honour to lead the congregation out to the Cathedral grounds to two sites for the tree planting ceremony, conducted by the Dean of Geraldton, The Very Revd Lachlan Edwards. Two Pin Oak trees had been propagated for planting as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee tree planting programme around the Commonwealth, sponsored by the Australian Government.

Ms Lara Dalton MLA performed the tree planting, while Bible readings, quotations from some of the Queen's speeches, and prayers were presented. The tree planting was arranged to represent the journey from the Queen's Enthronement to the 70th Anniversary of her reign as Queen of the Commonwealth.

The Ceremony was followed by a Garden Party morning tea, which was indoors because of the unfortunate arrival of Geraldton's wind and rain.

ANTHONY HOWES

Anthony presents more news of arts and entertainment every Saturday from 10.00am till 12.00noon on Capital Radio 101.7 FM and Capital Digital



Ten years ago this December, St George's Cathedral and the Order of St John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller, staged a Christmas production solely to raise funds for the homeless. Since that time, each year, it has seen significant thousands of dollars achieved for this purpose. On 16 December 2022, the tradition continues. Importantly, in the last three years, writer Jenny Davis and producer, yours truly, have attracted WA's bright new theatre company, Theatre 180, to become involved. Cathedral, the OSJ and Theatre 180, make sure that all the ticket money raised, goes to 'the cause'; this year 'Give A Feed' which supplies Food Hampers for the homeless. Every ticket bought, \$30 for adults with \$25 all concessions, provides sustenance at Christmas for those who otherwise may well go without, be they literally without shelter or like so many mothers, existing in cars with their children.

This year, the production is set as if in a recording session for a costumed radio play – with the Cathedral lending its spacious beauty to the scene! It's 1796, and a farmer's wife in rural England is preparing for Christmas and looking back over an eventful year, full of details of village life and peopled with wonderful characters. Based on a real 18th century journal, eight performers are joined by the Perth Undergraduate Choir, and organist John Beaverstock, to take you back in time to the days of simple pleasures, fun and games and Christmas music around the fireside. It will bring you from Advent to Christmas with so much good cheer and zing. Called, **A Farmer's Wife At Christmas**, it is freely adapted and reimagined by Jenny Davis from Anne Hughes' 1796 journal, collated by Jeanne Preston for 'The Farmers' Weekly' of the 1930s.

Of the cast, Jenny says: 'Apart from Tony in his role, the stage performers are all my family, real and theatrical! Husband Bernie and I, my daughter Rebecca and Stuart her husband, and three of my four grandchildren aged between 12 and 17. So it is a family affair playing the roles of a family and colourful local villagers. A domestic arrangement telling a domestic tale.'

The essence of the Christmas spirit echoes through, to us, in the quaint but eloquent dialogue. That essence? The power and life given to us in the birth of the Saviour, and the joy of living in a loving community. *'On Christmas mornin' we all of us to church, including Sarah and Jane and the childer, all vittals being laid out ready at home. I decked out in my finest lace, John's mother in her black silk and John fine in his russet brocade weskit. And on Christmas night we did all go out to see the full moon, and then indoors where the tapers in their silver candlesticks did shine on the green holly and the firelight glowed, and we did sing carols to the babe in the manger, and I did give thanks that my babe shall grow up among so many dear friends...'*

Do come to the Cathedral for **A Farmer's Wife At Christmas** on Friday 16 December at 7.30pm. You will be assisting so many of the homeless through 'Give A Feed'. This is a two-way Christmas gift - for you, a joyful Christmas experience, and for the homeless, increased funding at this time of giving. Adults \$30, all Concessions \$25. Book with Trybooking: www.trybooking.com/CDYXY All proceeds to 'Give A Feed'.

While the Messenger rests in January, arts information continues each Saturday on Capital Radio 101.7 FM 10.00am to 12.00noon.

A happy and holy Christmas to you and yours.



(Above)
Rebecca Davis in
*A Farmer's Wife
at Christmas*;
(Right) Writer
and producer
Jenny Davis



Advenient

THE REVD TED WITHAM

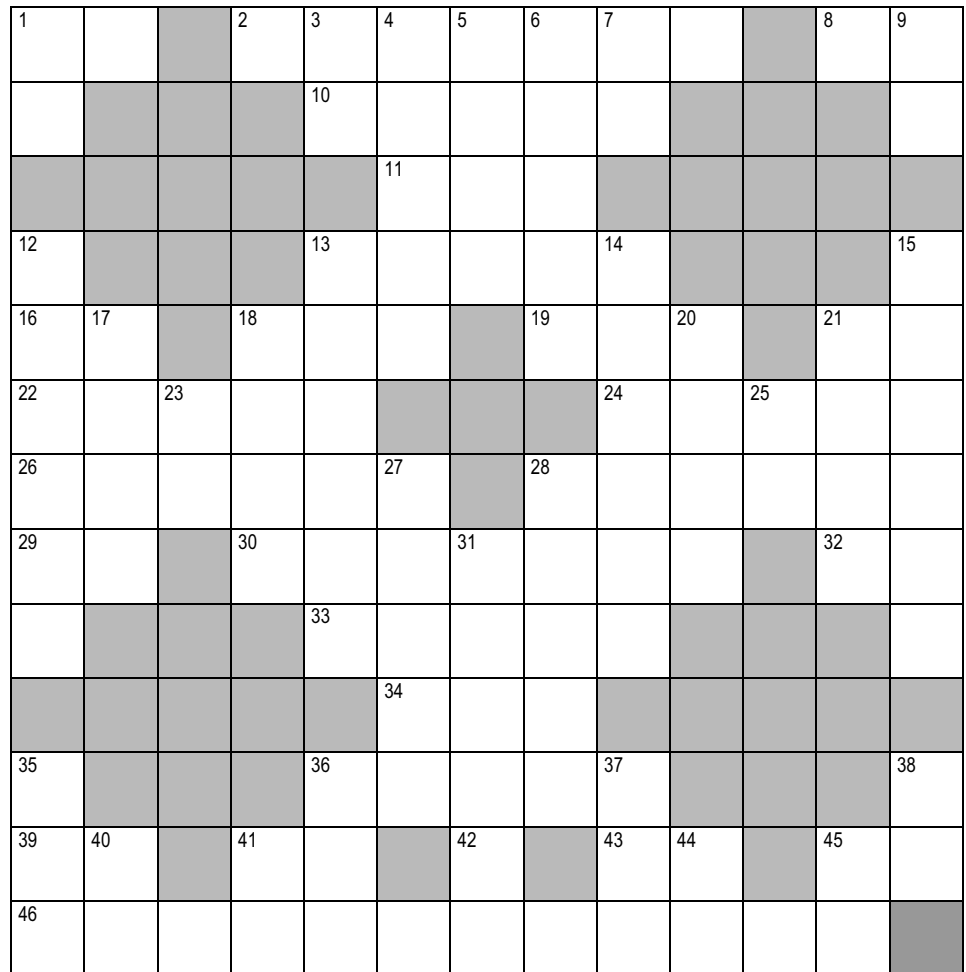
The Revd Ted Witham has been helping Messenger readers flex their brains for more than a decade, setting challenging crosswords in his spare time. Ted is fascinated by linguistics and teaches French and Latin at the University of the Third Age.



Clues

ACROSS

- 1., & 8 across. Art back across the supernumerary. (4)
2. An elf in the midst of two things starting on the Epiphany. (7)
8. See 1 across.
10. Logs a jumble in prisons. (5)
11. Wildebeest in the interregnum? (3)
13. Set out to binge the brew. (5)
16. Start the electric car! (2)
18. Sounds like cities in Iran are close by. (3)
19. Delved into skullduggery! (3)
21. Mother is in the middle of Christmas. (2)
22. French cow to start you being foe confusing. (5)
24. Change the communion table, I hear. (5)
26. I am not able to stir in no cant. (6)
28. Greeny confused about renewable power. (6)
29. Take the cleaver to autocross. (2)
30. Faith tied to the leg of the falcon. (7)
32. Within inches! (2)
33. Purple from the mallow flower. (5)
34. An orc backed into a customer relations officer. (3)
36. They are singing about the chi ro! (5)
- 39, 41, 42, 43 & 45 across. Ritual as a fusion of country. (10)
46. Festivals or nice stable about. (12)



DOWN

- 1., & 9 down. Sam with a kiss back from the Nativity. (4)
3. Worship graphics. (2)
4. Keen to agree about it. (5)
5. Yearn for an extended period. (4)
6. Virus identified as flowing. (5)
7. Starts at theological seminary. (2)
9. See 1 down.
12. Video recorder for us, with Bush Church Aid mass. (6)
13. Curly brim of the double shape. (6)
14. Delicate gradation about ace nun! (6)
15. Start animal rights among the lynx for speaking. (6)
17. Sweet-talk fibre-optic cable. (4)
18. Nun crossed during Evensong. (4)
20. Gravity out of the wind for merry music-making. (4)
21. The wise men a figment of imagination? (4)
23. A letter for the enrolled nurse. (2)
25. Short musical trill. (2)
27. To cheat around the imparting of knowledge and skills. (5)
28. 'Amen' voiced and relayed to the ambassador. (5)
31. A little gold roar around first light. (6)
35. A pouch in the sacrament. (3)
36. I hear you see consumption in the CityBus. (3)
37. Religious attitudes indicator. (3)
38. To a degree.
40. Sue left off the University of the East. (2)
41. See right away Saint Elizabeth. (2)
44. Behold inside the angelology. (2)
45. To be in Israel shortly. (2)

See page 35 for solution

SUMMER SCHOOL

FAITH & HUMAN DIGNITY

SUNDAY AFTERNOONS
IN FEBRUARY
2.00PM - 5.00PM

*INCLUDING AFTERNOON TEA
AND EVENING PRAYER*

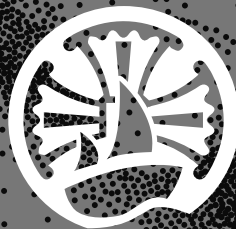
THEMES

FAITH AND HUMAN DIGNITY

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND
MODERN DAY SLAVERY

FAMILY AND DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE

SUPPORTING A FIRST
NATIONS VOICE



The Anglican Parish of
Kingsley North-Woodvale
St Anselm of Canterbury

FOR MORE INFORMATION | RSVP:
admin@kingsley.perth.anglican.org

19 FOREST HILL DRIVE, KINGSLEY

Appointments

The Revd Lorna Green	Chaplain, Amana Living	30.01.23
----------------------	------------------------	----------

Change of Status

The Revd Ben Underwood	Rector, Wembley	01.12.22
------------------------	-----------------	----------

Locum Tenens

The Revd Lynne Eastoe	Locum Cathedral Pastor	01.01.23-30.04.23
-----------------------	------------------------	-------------------

Resignation

The Revd Dr Steven Daly	Rector, Leederville	14.04.23
The Rt Revd Jeremy James tssf	Assistant Bishop of Perth	15.02.23
The Revd Michael Wood	Chaplain, University of Western Australia	18.11.22
The Revd Joanna Colgan	Assistant Curate, Perth College	12.22

RIP

The Revd Alan Dutton	Former Chaplain, Christ Church Grammar School, Rector of Mosman Park and Cathedral Canon	11.22
----------------------	--	-------

A farewell note from The Revd Ted Witham

This will be my last cryptic crossword for the Anglican *Messenger*. I have enjoyed setting them for 15 years, and I thank those faithful – and sometimes frustrated – solvers who have stayed with me during the decade and a half. I will be using the time for other creative activities, in particular, to concentrate on writing plays, stories and poetry.

I hope you have not only enjoyed the mental workout in solving the puzzles but also have found them to be a blessing in the little world each puzzle created.

- Ted Witham, December 2022

Fighting famine in Kenya this Christmas

NILS VON KALM

As most of us prepare to feast this Christmas, women like Consolata in Kenya are struggling to feed themselves, let alone their families.



Anglican Overseas Aid is working with its partner in Kenya to restore dignity to women like Consolata as they face severe famine. Photo credit: Anglican Church of Kenya.

Consolata is one of more than 4 million people in Kenya who are in urgent need of food and water due to a drought that has been ongoing for the last two and a half years.

Most of the rivers in the region where she lives have dried up. 'The drought is affecting our gardening. We only have two rivers that are now dry for most of the year', she explains. As communities mainly depend on rainfed agriculture, it is a dire situation indeed, and with the last five seasons recording no harvest, the nutrition status of the communities has significantly deteriorated.

Anglican Overseas Aid's partner in Kenya, the Anglican Church of Kenya, is working with 900 of the most vulnerable families in the region to provide packages of rice, green beans, porridge, flour and cooking oil.

These families include children who are acutely malnourished. Teachers in the schools have

been reporting a significant drop in school attendance, and even cases of children fainting in schools due to hunger. Can you imagine being so hungry that you faint?

Thankfully, the Anglican Church of Kenya is able to run a school feeding program. The program is working with 77 schools in the area, providing a nutritious porridge with a combination of high-protein grains.

Anglican Overseas Aid, through its partner in Kenya, is working to bring healing to a broken world, and returning a sense of dignity to women like Consolata and their families. In these months around Christmas, the Anglican Church of Kenya will also be following up with families to start small income-generating activities, ranging from indigenous poultry keeping to beekeeping.

Inspired by the Christ-child who came in suffering to relieve the burden of hurting, vulnerable people, Anglican Overseas Aid is working for a world where all people can live with their God-given dignity restored, a life rich in abundance and flourishing. For Consolata and her family, that's all she wants for Christmas.



**You can donate to Anglican Overseas Aid's
'Kenya Hunger Crisis' Christmas Appeal**

Visit the [AOA website](#) Call 1800 249 880

Cheque made payable to Anglican Overseas Aid at
Anglican Overseas Aid, PO Box 389, Abbotsford VIC 3067

Crossword solution

X	T		T	W	E	L	F	T	H		R	A
M				G	A	O	L	S				S
					G	N	U					
W				B	E	G	I	N				L
E	C		N	I	R		D	U	G		M	A
B	O	E	U	F				A	L	T	A	R
C	A	N	N	O	T		E	N	E	R	G	Y
A	X		C	R	E	A	N	C	E		I	N
M				M	A	U	V	E				X
					C	R	O					
S				C	H	O	I	R				B
A	U		S	T		R		A	L		I	A
C	E	L	E	B	R	A	T	I	O	N	S	

CROSSWORD SETTER REQUIRED

**After more than 15 years,
Fr Ted Witham is no longer able to serve
as the Messenger Crossword Setter.**

Is there anyone out there who might be interested in putting up their hand to take on this task? If so, please contact the *Messenger* Team at messenger@perth.anglican.org.



L'Arche Perth is seeking a part time Community Leader

(4 days a week) SCHADS Award 6 Pay point 1

Perth is committed to living the L'Arche Identity and Mission journey together. We celebrate the gifts of people living with an intellectual disability and embody the spirit of L'Arche in shared living, inviting people to spaces of hospitality and creating places of belonging.

For further information please email Claire Lawler,
National Leader - leader@larche.org.au
www.larche.org.au

ST PHILIPS Anglican Church Cottesloe

The Parish of St Philip's Cottesloe, Perth, Western Australia is seeking an experienced priest, rooted in biblical teaching and prayerful spirituality, who is gifted with vision and energy to lead our congregation with its vision of "growing young" and its mission of making disciples who make disciples.

The role of Rector of St Philip's is a demanding, multifaceted one, well supported by a skilled and passionate Associate Minister, a part time church administrator, lay volunteers, sound finances, and a committed, multigenerational congregation eager to build on its strengths to share Christ's love in our community and for our world. St Philip's is situated in the well-to-do coastal western suburb of Cottesloe and is surrounded by multiple private and state schools.

We are seeking a priest who is:

- committed to biblical teaching in the evangelical tradition of the Anglican Church of Australia
- committed to strong pastoral care
- committed to develop and upskill lay leadership by women and men
- committed to support the equal role of women in ministry
- committed to developing our vision to grow the parish's ministry among young adults in partnership with nearby schools
- experienced in successful effective leadership of a Christian community, and in fostering positive relationships within and beyond the church walls
- skilled in leadership of a ministry team
- spiritually uplifting and compassionate and able to inspire adults and children through preaching, teaching, example, and pastoral care

We would welcome a dynamic Senior Minister to inspire and lead us in love, in faith, and in mission.

For more information about St Philip's please visit our website at stphilips.net.au.

All enquiries and expressions of interest including curriculum vitae to be addressed to
Bishop Jeremy James at jjames@perth.anglican.org



Your Cathedral needs you!

Are you an active or retired clergyperson currently holding the Archbishop's Licence or PTO? Have you ever wondered what cathedral ministry is like? We're looking to expand our team of associates and welcome clergy from across our diocesan family to help lead our midweek services.

For an informal conversation with no pressure, please get in touch with the Rev'd Steve Hilton on precentor@perthcathedral.org

Volunteer Organist

Available for church and entertainment around the Northern suburbs.
Casual or full time

Email: music4meandu@hotmail.com

KINLAR VESTMENTS

Quality vestments - albs, chasubles, stoles, altar cloths, and more.

Phone Vicki for an appointment

0409 114 093 or 08 6460 6468

kinlar.vestments@gmail.com

kinlarvestments.com.au



RICH HARVEST CHRISTIAN SHOP

Bibles, CDs and DVDs, cards and others ...

39 Hulme Court, Myaree WA 6154

Monday – Friday: 10.30am - 6.00pm

Saturday: 10.30am - 3.00pm

Email: rich7harvest@gmail.com



AnglicareWA

**A Gift in
your Will,**

regardless
of size...

... is one of the most generous things you could do for our charity. This lasting gesture will support a family somewhere in WA.

- For more information or a private conversation: 9263 2076 or bequests@anglicarewa.org.au

MESSANGER

*Get in touch with
the Messenger team*

Phone: **08 9425 7200**

Email: messenger@perth.anglican.org

DEADLINE: Around the 24th or 25th of every month prior to publication. Articles must be under 400 words and may be edited without notice, images to accompany articles are encouraged

PHOTOGRAPHS: Permission needs to be sought from parents/guardians/carers for photographs with children. Digital photos should be a high quality.



St George's Cathedral

Information about our services and events can be found on the website at www.perthcathedral.org

Everyone is very welcome to all services and events at the Mother Church of the Diocese.

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.00am
Holy Eucharist (BCP)

10.00am
Choral Eucharist

5.00pm
Choral Evensong

MONDAY TO SATURDAY SERVICES

Monday-Saturday	8.00am	Morning Prayer and 8.15am Holy Eucharist
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday	12.15pm	Holy Eucharist
Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Eucharist
Monday-Saturday	4.00pm	Evening Prayer

SPECIAL SERVICES

Sunday 4 December	5.00pm	Choral Evensong for St Nichola of Myra
Sunday 11 December	5.00pm	Choral Evensong for St Lucy the Martyr
Saturday 17 December	10.00am	Children's Christmas Service - A Family Christmas
Sunday 18 December	7.30pm	Festival of Lessons and Carols
Friday 23 December	7.30pm	Festival of Lessons and Carols
Saturday 24 December	Christmas Eve	
	7.30pm	Festival of Lessons and Carols
	11.00pm	Midnight Mass: First Eucharist of Christmas Sermon: The Archbishop - Music: Little Organ Mass (Joseph Haydn), Candlelight Carol (John Rutter), The Cathedral Consort
Sunday 25 December	Christmas Day	
	8.00am	Holy Eucharist with congregational carols
	10.00am	Choral Eucharist with full choir, and congregational carols Sermon: The Archbishop, Music: Spatzenmesse (Mozart), The Holly and the Ivy (Matthew Owens), The Cathedral Consort

SPIRITUALITY SERIES

Enrolments to Bishop David Murray, Cathedral Centre for Spirituality
spirituality@perthcathedral.org or phone 9325 5766

A Day in the Spiritual Life of the Cathedral
Wednesday 14 December 9.30am–2.30pm

Spirituality and Language with Bishop David Murray

The day begins in Upper Burt Memorial Hall with tea, coffee and prayers. The day includes the presentation, reflection, Eucharist and prayers. (Entry \$12, includes lunch)

Coffee, Prayers & Spirituality

Wednesday 21 December 9.30am–11.30am

Spirituality and The Bow with Mr Paul Wright, Head of Strings, WAAPA
Coffee or tea, prayers and a presentation. (Entry \$5)