

BANYULE BABBLE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF BANYULE

HOLY SPIRIT WATSONIA ❖ ST ANDREW'S ROSANNA ❖ ST JOHN'S HEIDELBERG

APRIL
2011

Office: 1 Burgundy Street Heidelberg 3084 ph. 9457 1144 Tues–Fri 9 am–1 pm

Ministers: **Philip Trowse** 0416 230 455
Andrew Bowles 0423 932 030

Rosemary Young 0437 848 394
Rosaleen Rudd

Internet: www.banyuleparish.org.au

email banyuleparish@netspace.net.au

Editor: Peter McKay ph. 9459 5852 email petergmckay@hotmail.com

PHILIP PHILOSOPHISES

"THE LOCAL CHURCH: THE HOPE OF THE WORLD"

*A people of faith • Serving God
A blessing to others*

You would be forgiven for thinking we have had enough disasters in our world lately. The last few months have been horrific, and these days we are instantly and intimately connected with disasters as they actually happen to our fellow human beings. Floods, earthquakes, wars, refugees: so much human suffering! As Christians we share the horror of it all, but we also have a hope to share.

God has a plan for his world which will never be daunted: to make his children perfectly happy and one in His love. The world needs this message, the news of eternal life which we carry in "earthen vessels". Bill Hybels of Willow Creek, an influential church growth leader, believes that, "The local church is the hope of the world". It's quite an audacious thing to say!

In our small corner of the world, how are we contributing to this? We are seeking "to serve God, and be a blessing to others". So we have set our goals, and are working towards them.

Are we getting anywhere? How do

you think we are going?

You will be aware that some of our changes are unsettling people: the moving of pews, the change in rosters, the spending of money on maintenance, the loss of some of the traditional ways like musical settings and robes. Sometimes there seem to be so many things happening at once! Yes, we are changing some things which have been precious to us.

But remember what we are trying to do. We are seeking to reach the next generation, and to let our worship be more inspiring (filled with Spirit) and uplifting. We want to serve God, please Him and warm his heart, and bless others who we share life with.

It is gratifying that our new Parish Directory, about to be published again, will have at least a dozen new names since last year. Most of these are younger families. God has blessed people through our baptism programme and through mainly music. This is the work of our whole team of volunteers, inspired by the work of the Holy Spirit. We have a united and gifted team in the staff, and have had some lovely happy times in Family

Services. There has been good preaching, which builds people up in their faith. We have continued to celebrate the ancient traditions which ground our faith, as we begin our Lenten journey, from Ash Wednesday to the highlight of the Christian year, as we celebrate Easter.

I am grateful to see the openness and love which characterises our people; it is a blessing to be part of *this* "local church which is the hope of the world".

"Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near". Hebrews 10: 22-24

God bless you
and keep you.

Philip



FOR YOUR URGENT ATTENTION!

Last year we spent \$6000 on lawn mowing at St John's and St Andrew's. (Holy Spirit has a mowing roster.)

\$6000 on lawn mowing is not considered good stewardship of our money.

The Wardens are asking the Parish for people willing to cut grass at these centres and form rosters.

There are self-propelled mowers at each centre: you do not need to push.

If you can help, contact Allan Way (9459 9049) or the office (9457 1144) and tell us which centre you prefer.

The more people we have, the less each does!!!

Please can you help?

Parish Working Bee

Saturday 9th April, 9 am – 12 noon
at St John's Heidelberg

All able-bodied members of the parish, from all centres, are urged to come.

Work to be done includes:

- Repairing the gravel drive
- Laying pavers
- Pruning tree branches
- General gardening

Bring any useful tools you have. We especially need **steel rakes, shovels, rubber mallets, pruning tools**, and any general gardening tools.

This Month – April

Sunday 3rd *Mothering Sunday*

Saturday 9th: 9 am – 12 noon Parish Working Bee at St John's

Monday 18th: 1.30 pm St Andrew's Mothers' Union Branch Lenten meeting

Thursday 21st *Maundy Thursday:* 6 pm Passover Meal at Heidelberg

Friday 22nd *Good Friday:* 10 am services at St John's and St Andrew's

Saturday 23rd *Easter Eve:* 5.30 pm Holy Spirit

Sunday 24th *Easter Day:* 10 am at St John's and St Andrew's (healing service)

Wednesday 27th: Mothers' Union Deanery Day at St Alban's Coburg; 1.30 pm St John's Ladies' Fellowship

Next Month – May

Saturday 28th: 6.30 pm Soup, Rolls & Auctions at St. Andrew's. No service at Watsonia

Wanted

- Stuff to be auctioned on 28th May

Money – February

Income: Giving:	\$5,662.70
Other:	\$14,878.26
Total:	\$20,540.96
Expenses:	\$31,814.11
Loss:	\$11,273.15

Giving was down further, while expenses were up ☹.

Parish Spring Fair Meeting

St Andrew's, 5th March 2011

Eleven people attended, with six apologies.

A vote was taken on whether we should have a Parish Fair on November 5 2011: the result was a unanimous YES.

The meeting determined that the Fair linked with the parish goals, by using people's gifts to work together to raise funds, and by outreach to the community through increasing our visibility and demonstrating Christian life to the wider community.

A **Core Planning Team** was set up to provide leadership and coordination. It has two representatives from each centre, plus a publicity person. The members are:

Heidelberg: Rod Harris (chair), Crystal Dunn

Rosanna: Althea Bernet, Mavis Lean

Watsonia: Barbara Andrews, Beth Jones

Publicity: Eddie Ireland

This team, plus all stallholders, will comprise the Fair Committee, which is responsible for decision-making.

The Core Planning Team will meet next at St Andrew's Rosanna on Saturday, April 2nd at 10 am.

Christian Religious Education in Banyule and Watsonia Primary Schools

March is the month when C.R.E. starts in schools. This year our Parish is involved in:

Banyule P.S.—Grades 4, 5 & 6: Philip Trowse & Andrew Bowles.

Watsonia P.S.—Grades 3, 4, 5 & 6: Phil (Philemon) Waters;

—Two grades 1/2: Lillian Smith;

—One grade 1/2 & Preps: Elsie Storr.

Isn't it good the parish has two schools where C.R.E is taught!

Thank you all for your prayers and financial support for this local ministry.

Extra helpers and teachers are most welcome to join the teams.

Elsie Storr

St John's Ladies' Fellowship

Our speaker at our March meeting was Fellowship Vice President Maureen Shand. Maureen related how she became a parish secretary at St John's in 1988 and held that position for 14-plus years. During that time she realised that all the vicars, curates, workers, etc. had one thing in common – they all put papers and books and things into boxes and there they stayed. She asked vestry if she could put these 'things' in order, never dreaming what she had unleashed. At first she put things in envelope folders and this was utterly unwieldy so she started recording all this straight onto her old the computer. She did this sporadically for years – especially full-on for the 150th 'The Church in the Park'.

In 2009, two good friends, Crystal Dunn and Gloria De La Rue put her name forward as a candidate for a project which was to be started at St John's by the Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Society 'ADFAS'. She met with a group of people who were about to embark on a 2-year-plus voyage of 'Church Recording'. It was explained to her that each part of a church was recorded according to a standardised system for posterity. "Wow! Maureen said, this is right up my alley!"

She joined ADFAS as an associate member and became part of a team of committed, learned, friendly, competent people – all voluntary workers – to save work done by previous generations, for future generations. Each team member had their speciality. Maureen was the all-rounder fact finder, researcher, on all of the areas that information was needed. She found she mostly had it at her finger-tips from all her years of archiving.

The team has proceeded for two years plus, going over St John's with a fine toothcomb. Maureen has gone into every hidey-hole and ferretted out every bit of information.

So now they are nearing the end of the project. The final product is a book – a copy for the Church, one for the diocese and one for the ADFAS library. Maureen said. "She will be so proud to see the book". It is expected to be ready for the 160th in October.

Maureen then showed us some very unusual and interesting things from the Archives. She said she'll have lots more on show for the 160th.

We all then gave Maureen lots of applause for such an outstanding presentation and insight into the history of St. John's. **Thank you, Maureen.**

Our next meeting will be on April 27 at 1.30 pm. Everyone welcome. Our speaker will be our Assistant Minister, Andrew Bowles.

Pauline Holbery, Secretary Tel. 9459 0364

St Andrew's Mothers' Union

Sunday April 3rd: Mothering Sunday

Monday April 18th at 1.30 pm: Branch Lenten Meeting

Friday April 22nd: Good Friday

Sunday April 24th: Easter Day

Wednesday April 27th: Deanery Day at St Alban's, Coburg

Betty Kettle 9435 6533

Mothering Sunday

(April 3rd)

Mothering Sunday is a time to thank God for our mothers and those who have cared for us, and for their love in expressing his love for us. Children come to know the love of God for them mostly through the care and concern of those who bring them up.

How did it start?

A long time ago, the church had a rule that on the fourth Sunday of Lent, everyone should visit their 'mother' church. This referred to the most important church in their area.

It soon became a time when families could meet and enjoy each other's company, so, as well as being a time when people paid attention to their mother church, they also made it a special day for mothers.

By the 1700s, it had become a holiday for young servants and apprentices. They were allowed to go home and visit their mothers on this day. It might be the only day of the year on which they could do so. It was quite common for children to work away from home.

It's not hard to imagine how excited the children were on Mothering Sunday and how much they enjoyed carrying home flowers and cakes. These cakes, baked especially for Mothering Sunday, were called Simnel cakes and were made with fine flour and spices.

Submitted by Elsie Storr

Holy Spirit Ladies' Guild Watsonia

invite you to join us for a

Fashion Parade

by Givoni

Ladies Fashions, Leisurewear, Sleepwear
& Men's Knitwear

1.30 pm

Wednesday 11th May 2011

Holy Spirit Anglican Church

78 Watsonia Rd Watsonia

Entry \$6

includes afternoon tea and door prize

RSVP Joan 9846 1681 Wed 4th May

'Now, about the collection . . .' (1 Cor 16:1)

The parish relies on the offerings of its members to keep operating. The traditional level of giving was a tenth of one's income, but most of us have fallen well behind that. Consider whether you should be giving more.

You can give using envelopes. If you don't have any, if you can find any boxes of envelopes at your centre (perhaps in the narthex or tea area), just help yourself to a box. Otherwise, ask someone to find one for you. We don't have a pledged system, so any box of envelopes is fine.

Or you can give using the ADF Direct Debit Planned Giving system. Forms should be available in the narthex or tea area, or ask someone to get you one, or download it from: <http://www.melbourne.anglican.com.au/ServingCommunity/anglicanfunds/Downloads/ADF%20Planned%20Giving%20form.pdf> You fill it in, and then money is transferred regularly from your bank account (or credit card account) to the parish's bank account at no cost and with no further trouble. It will happen even if you can't get to church in any week, and there is no need to have the right change. It is anonymous—the parish doesn't know from whom the money is coming—but you get slips you can put in the collection, if you wish, to show you are contributing. You can cancel the arrangement at any time.

5 MINUTE INTERVIEWS

Or, getting to know your fellow parishioners

MICHAEL (MIKE) TERRY

History of an adventurous life

Born Hong Kong 1939. Evacuated to Melbourne 1940. Returned to Hong Kong 1947. Sent to UK Nautical College 1954/56. At Sea 1956/68, in 1966 passed his final exams to become a Ship's Captain.

Migrated to Sydney 1968. Returned to the sea 1974: got command of his first ship. Moved to Melbourne and ashore again in 1976.

Retired 1998, involved in voluntary work with various community organisations since then.

Married to: Gwynneth, with three children: Karen, David and Chris; and three grandchildren: Zoe 15 yrs, Regan 11 yrs and Jack 8 yrs.

Q What makes you happy?

I am just happy to be alive with my family.

Q What annoys you?

Politicians.

Q What have you achieved or performed in your life that has given you great satisfaction?

Command of my first ship and since retirement doing voluntary community work which has been a very rewarding experience.

Q Who (living or dead) would you most like to have a cuppa with and why?

I would like to have a conversation with Ghandi about his philosophy on life, and with the Captain of the Sea Shepherd about what we are doing to the environment.

Q Looking back over your life who or what event(s) or person(s) have had a great influence on your life?

Firstly my father, and secondly the Chaplain in Nautical College.

Q What do you think people would be surprised to learn about you?

It appears that I was the first European child to visit Hiroshima after the bomb was dropped (I went there approximately February 1947, and the bomb was dropped in August 1945).

Q What motto or saying would sum up your attitude to life?

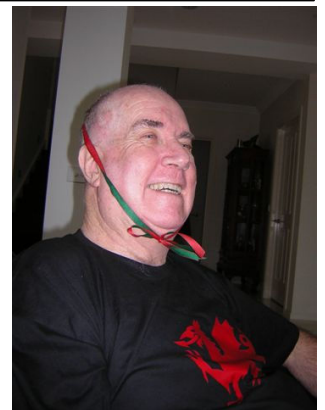
Trust God.

Q If you had not gone to sea what career would you have liked to take up?

Law had always been my second choice.

Q Do you love the sea and why?

Yes, I do love it, the sea is always changing, at sea you are so close to nature, and therefore I felt close to God, The only other place where you could feel almost as close to God would be out in the middle of outback Australia.



Interview by Gay Miller

Lent 2: March 20

Sermon by Robert Street

at St Andrew's Rosanna

Genesis 12:1-4a Psalm 121

Romans 4:1-17 John 3:1-17

The planet and the people of Japan have taken an incredible battering the last little while haven't they?

This week all of us I am sure have been distressed at all that we have been confronted with on our screens and in our newspapers. Who cannot be moved by the sight of folk searching through piles of rubble in the forlorn hope of discovering parents or grandparents or children. We have been appalled at the power of those waves crashing over seawalls and destroying homes and villages and towns in their path. With a little imagination we can picture what it must be like to be in the everyday security of your home and then for your house be overwhelmed by a wall of water and almost instantly reduced to rubble. And on top of that we feel the fear of the yet unknown consequences of the damage to nuclear reactors for our health and for the health of our children.

What do we say in the face of so much grief and tragedy and fear? It is too much. I am sure many of you like me have switched off the television at times and put down the newspaper because we find it too hard to watch the images over and over and over again and to hear heartbreaking stories one after another. Perfectly understandable and even necessary if we are not ourselves to be overwhelmed. How can we speak of the good news gospel in such circumstances? How can we sing praises and thanksgivings when so many of our brothers and sisters throughout the world—not only in Japan: in Christchurch, in Haiti, in Libya and on and on it goes; even here in our own country—have had their lives torn apart?

Of late when I have been invited to preach I have been focussing mainly on the Psalm for the day—something we don't do so often. The psalms represent the prayers of the people of Israel—and our prayers—and range over the whole spectrum of human emotions and feelings: not just the positive ones—gratitude, trust, joy—but the ones that are not so nice: you find in the psalms anger, grief, envy, even cries for vengeance: feelings we like to think we do not have.

In our psalm today we find a great affirmation of trust in God's protection. God is always with us to watch over us, never sleeping, keeping us safe in all danger. The last verse often used as a blessing for those going on a journey—the Lord will defend your going out and your coming in from this time forward for evermore—beautiful words.

I wonder how many folk in Japan left their homes and prayed for God to watch over them, some of them certainly Christian folk like us? How many sent their children off with a blessing such as this. And they never returned home. So where was God? He will not suffer your foot to stumble. He will guard you from all evil. That was certainly not true for the people of the coastal cities of northern Honshu, was it?

Some will say, and you can understand why, that such events make a mockery of our faith. There is no God: life is in the end utterly meaningless and earthquakes and tsunamis and all these disasters are simply random events. To think otherwise is to live in a fantasy world. If we are honest these thoughts come into the minds of many of us and challenge any easy faith.

What is to be said? What can we do in the face of such overwhelming events?

First we should not try and explain their meaning. There are some who rush to explain it as God's judgement on great wickedness. No! There is just as much wickedness here in Melbourne or anywhere else as in Japan. That is cruel and just wrong.

There are those as always who are proclaiming that it is heralding the end of the world. NO! There have been earthquakes and droughts and storm and flood and devastating plagues down through all the centuries—and Jesus himself tells us not to concern ourselves with when the end may come. We need to acknowledge how little we know—that we do not have any easy answers. God does not send these events on certain people just as he does not plan for any individual to be stricken with cancer. To try and explain to those who suffer why God has allowed this to happen may be for the best of intentions but it is to engage in a futile attempt to feel some superiority, some secret knowledge ordinary people do not have, and it distances us from those who suffer.

The example of Jesus points in the opposite direction. We are to draw near those who suffer. We are to share with others in our common humanity: laughing with those who laugh and weeping with those who weep, as St Paul tells us. We have no special knowledge about what this all means. What we have is a powerful motivation to love. In the gospel we have the most well-known of Jesus words. For God so loved the world (that is all of us: the people of Japan and Haiti and Sichuan and New Zealand and Australia—the whole lot of us) that he gave his only Son. God gave the most precious thing he could—His very self—in order to return us to fellowship with him and with all humankind, that none of us may perish but have life eternal. We are called to respond to him not by believing in him in any intellectual sense but by believing in the sense we use that word when we say it of a person, I believe in you. In the sense that we can rely in someone we can trust. We are saved by our trust in the love of God.

That's the challenge isn't it: to trust even when the world is collapsing around us. To trust and to live in love: to live in the light of Christ: to refuse to succumb to the darkness.

We are called to trust that it IS worthwhile to commit to love and to refuse indifference when confronted with people's pain.

We are challenged to acknowledge the pain of others, and to draw alongside, and not to seek to explain it.

Before we can acknowledge the pain of others we need to acknowledge our own pain and grief. The psalms have many examples of people pouring out their hearts before God. "How long O Lord will you so utterly forget me: how long will you hide your face from me?" (Ps 13). Most famously Psalm 22: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Jesus himself expressing his anguish and sense of abandonment. If we do not allow ourselves to feel our sense of loss deeply then we are likely to be unable to be with others in their loss—and may even judge them for, as we say, "letting themselves go".

We are not immune from the common suffering of humanity and if we are to weep for others we are to weep also for ourselves. Out of our own expression of grief comes the possibility of compassion for others.

If we return to the present situation in Japan — Most of us feel deeply for the people caught up in it. We are unavoidably aware of it. In days gone by before modern means of communication, we might barely hear of disaster on the other side of the world. We were only aware of what happened in our own little part of the world. Now we not only hear but see almost immediately when a catastrophe occurs and we see the faces of the injured and bereft. And it can become too much for us to bear and we literally switch off. After all what can we do? We cannot do anything from this distance. And many of us at this stage in our lives are unable to give much financially to help. Which leaves us with that which we can all do and that is: pray.

Immediately I hear: Pray? Really? And what will that really achieve? What difference will it possibly make to anybody in Japan if I pray here in Melbourne? Will God really hear my prayer and somebody will be found under the rubble? Will God in response to my prayer prevent another explosion in a nuclear reactor?

How are we to pray? What do we pray for? We have all probably had experience of praying desperately for something which didn't come about—perhaps a loved one died despite our anguished prayers. We know that we cannot summon God to do what seems so obviously the right thing. We may indeed be able to tell of wonderful answers to prayer—but there have been times when God has disappointed us, let us down, at least that's how it feels. So what is the point?

The point of praying in the midst of tragedy is an expression of hope. Like the psalmist we may sometimes rage against God for not being with us when we needed him, or being there for others. That sort of engagement with God may not sound much like faith, but it is an affirmation that there is a God we can appeal to. It is an act of faith that expresses our conviction that life is NOT meaningless. Life should not be unfair, innocent children should NOT suffer. We may be subject to the randomness of nature, but that does not mean that all of life is simply a cosmic accident and that we amount to nothing in the end.

In the midst of the darkest experiences we have known, we have experienced the love of others and the source of that love: the creative

being of God. God is love (that's one bible verse we can all remember). In our prayers we above all seek to bring ourselves into union with that love. We can act lovingly in practical ways if that is possible. But where that is not possible we nevertheless express our loving concern for those in need. We offer our love to them, we ask that God's love may sustain them—we defy the darkness by placing ourselves within the light of the world, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Spirit we send out that light and love. We will probably never know what may come about because of such prayers. It is easy to dismiss them as airy-fairy nonsense.

But I believe that the love in our prayers adds to the light and hope in our world and that as our prayers join that of others around the world transformation and healing do take place.

The alternative is to say I can do nothing. I am past caring. And we switch off: not just the television, but ourselves—our Spirit. And when we do that we add to the darkness and hopelessness in the world.

We do have a choice. We allow love—the love of God—to work within us. Or we turn away from the love of God—we turn away from others and contribute to the darkness and the hopelessness within the world.

To return to Psalm 121. This great expression of confidence in trust is made in a time which was even more precarious than ours. The violence of war was constant, people lived with the threat of disease and sickness, drought and famine were regular experiences. These words come not out of some unreal existence. They come out of lives of great uncertainty. And yet the psalmist has not allowed hope and love to be overcome.

The Lord for the psalmist was a constant caring presence who would not finally allow him to be overcome. The reality is that from time to time we will stumble and fall and we experience loss and grief. However the creator of heaven and earth will sustain us and we can be sure that he will defend us from this time forward and for evermore.

As we hold in God's love the people of Japan and Christchurch and flood-affected parts of Australia; as we pray for members of this community, and friends and family who are in difficult places; in our own

griefs—as we lament and cry out “How long, O Lord?”, may we still our hearts—open our eyes and ears—to see the wonderful things God has done for us: and take hold of the promise that nothing that we may experience in life or death will finally separate us from God's love.

In the darkest events even small acts of kindness as well as selfless acts of heroism shed light. They can speak to us of the invincibility of love and challenge us to believe in God's greatest expression of love, Jesus Christ, who gives us life in this present time, but in the time to come eternal life, in which creation will be healed of all that is destructive, and in which the cries of the abandoned and fearful will be no more.

Each day we are called not to do what is impossible for us, but to link ourselves with the fathomless love of God, doing what is within our means and praying in love for all of those who suffer: refusing to be indifferent, trusting that our love linked with God's love contributes to the great purpose of God to bring healing and unity to all of his creation.

Robert Street



Some go to church just for a walk,
Some go there to laugh and talk;
Some go there for speculation,
Some go there for observation,
Some go there to meet a lover
Some the impulse oft discover;
Some go there to meet a friend,
Some go there the time to spend,
Some go to learn the parson's name,
Some go there to wound his fame,
Many go there to doze and nod,
But few go there to worship God.

Virginia and Farmer's Almanac, 1793

Favourite Hymns

Builder's hymn: *The Church's one foundation*
Tailor's hymn: *Holy, holy, holy*
Dentist's hymn: *Crown him with many crowns*
Optometrist's hymn: *Open my eyes that I might see*
Shopper's hymn: *By and by*
Weather forecaster's hymn: *There shall be showers of blessing*
Baker's hymn: *I need thee every hour*

Submitted by Mary Milton

All the verses!

We bring you this month one of the great Easter Hymns, 'Salve, festa dies', originally written in Latin by the great Venantius Honorius Clementianus Fortunatus (ca. 530 – ca. 600–609), translated by Maurice Frederick Bell (1862–1931), Percy Dearmer (1867–1936) and Gabriel Gillett (1873–1948), and set to music by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958). ('Vaughan Williams' is an unhyphenated double-barrelled surname, and remember to pronounce 'Ralph' as 'Rafe'.) The translation and setting were specially made for Vaughan Williams and Dearmer's *The English Hymnal* (1906).

This magnificent hymn has some special characteristics. There are *three* melodies: one for the refrain, and two different melodies alternating for the verses, so the odd-numbered verses are sung to one tune and the even-numbered verses to another tune. This confuses some congregations, as does the irregular metre. It has the further advantage of causing trouble if people try to omit verses (other than in pairs).

An especially favourable characteristic is the number of verses. There are at least 32 different verses in the original, with rumours of more. Since some lazy congregations jib at singing 32 verses at one go, the hymn is split

into four parts, to be sung at Easter, Ascension, Pentecost, and the local church's Dedication festival. Each part has a different refrain.

This month we shall include only the Easter part. Further parts will appear in later editions of the *Babble*, thus building it into a magnificent library of knowledge.

Easter

Refrain:

*Hail thee, festival day!
Blest day that art hallowed forever;
day wherein Christ arose,
breaking the kingdom of death.*

Lo, the fair beauty of earth,
from the death of the winter arising,
Every good gift of the year
now with its Master returns.

Refrain

He who was nailed to the Cross
is God and the Ruler of all things;
All things created on earth
worship the Maker of all.

Refrain

God of all pity and power,
let thy word be assured to the doubting;
light on the third day returns:
rise, Son of God, from the tomb!

Refrain

Ill doth it seem that thy limbs
should linger in lowly dishonour;
Ransom and price of the world,
veiled from the vision of men.

Refrain

Ill it beseemeth that thou,
by whose hand all things are
encompassed,
Captive and bound shouldst remain,
deep in the gloom of the rock.

Refrain

Rise now, O Lord, from the grave
and cast off the shroud that
enwrapped thee;
Thou art sufficient for us;
nothing without thee exists.

Refrain

Mourning they laid thee to rest,
who art Author of life and creation;
Treading the pathway of death,
life thou bestowedst on man.

Refrain

Show us thy face once more,
that the ages may joy in thy brightness;
Give us the light of day,
darkened on earth at thy death.

Refrain

Out of the prison of death
thou art rescuing numberless captives;
Freely they tread in the way
whither their Maker has gone.

Refrain

Jesus has harrowed hell;
he had led captivity captive:
Darkness and chaos and death
flee from the face of the light.

Refrain

Beggars in Rome

Two beggars in Rome are sitting side-by-side on a street in Rome. One has a cross in front of him; the other one, the Star of David. Many people go by and look at both beggars, but put money only in the hat of the beggar sitting behind the cross.

The Pope comes by, stops and watches throngs of people giving money to the beggar behind the cross, but giving none to the beggar sitting behind the Star of David.

Finally, the Pope goes over to the beggar behind the Star of David and says, "My poor fellow, don't you understand? This is a Catholic country; this city is the seat of Catholicism. People aren't going to give money if you sit there with a Star of David in front of you, especially when you're sitting beside a beggar who has a cross in front of him. In fact, they would probably give money to him just out of spite."

The beggar behind the Star of David listened to the High Priest, turned to the other beggar with the cross and said, "Moishe, look who's trying to teach the Goldstein brothers about marketing."

Submitted by Mike Terry

Footprints

One night I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord.
Many scenes from my life flashed across the sky.
In each scene I noticed footprints in the sand.
Sometimes there were two sets of footprints,
other times there were one set of footprints.

This bothered me because I noticed
that during the low periods of my life,
when I was suffering from
anguish, sorrow or defeat,
I could see only one set of footprints.

So I said to the Lord,
"You promised me Lord,
that if I followed you,
you would walk with me always.
But I have noticed that during
the most trying periods of my life
there have only been one
set of footprints in the sand.
Why, when I needed you most,
you have not been there for me?"

The Lord replied,
"The times when you have
seen only one set of footprints,
is when I carried you."

Authorship disputed; several versions exist

Submitted by Mary Milton

N.B. There are at least four different versions of 'Footprints', claimed by four different authors. Dozens of other people have also claimed authorship. The version here printed is the Mary Stevenson version.

Mission Snippets

By Mavis Lean

Anglicare Victoria exists to create a more just society by expressing God's love through service, education and advocacy.

In 1886 the Mission to Streets and Lanes was established, followed by the Mission of St James and St John in 1919, then in 1921 St John's Homes for Boys and Girls.

On 1st July 1997 these three agencies merged to form Anglicare, which has become the largest provider of home-based care for children and young people in Victoria. Emergency relief and material aid is provided to over 50,000 people every year. Sadly the needs increase at an alarming rate.

People helping people restore their lives is God at work, through people He calls.

Anglicord: Anglican Overseas Aid has been involved in projects in Ethiopia, where childbirth claims the lives of 30 mothers for every 1000 babies born into the nomadic communities of East Africa; fighting breast cancer in Gaza; and assisting a poor 60-year-old Kenyan farmer burdened with raising five grandchildren whose parents died of AIDS-related illnesses. With assistance from Anglicord's partner, the Mothers' Union, the farmer has learned small business skills and increased her livestock holdings from just two chickens to six sheep and more than ten chickens, thus providing for her family as well as money for school fees.

Burmese Karen refugees in Mae La in Thailand have been visited, and again Anglicord works closely with the Mothers' Union, who manage the Karen Anglican ministry at the border, helping some of the poorest and most vulnerable people living in dire circumstances. This is just a glimpse of Anglicord ministry worldwide.

Bush Church Australia has a mission to reach Australians for Christ—not a small task as the size of Australia is contemplated, and the indifference of many people in suburbia, reluctant to commit to church. Prayer is vital for the dedicated people willing to go, to live and work for God in isolated and remote parts of Australia.

Julie and Richard Lanham, with Jack (17), Jacob (15) and Elijah (13), are involved in youth ministry at Gilgandra in NSW, and offer praise for the chaplaincy program. The small Missions Committee in our parish remember their birthdays with a card and message from each member, and send greetings at Christmas.

Church Missionary Society: Currently there are 33 missionaries, with 24 children, serving in 11 nations around the world. The goal of CMS is to raise up five new missionaries for the next five years over and above the current missionaries,

to enable life in Christ to continue to be proclaimed.

Members of the parish have been long-time supporters of CMS missionaries and special efforts have been made to invite them to spend a day at the parish with morning tea or lunch as a time of great fellowship, and helping people understand the work of a missionary.

Bruce and Bron Hallyburton have been connected with St Andrew's since their move to Chile many years ago, and they last visited the parish in March 2009.

Steve and Jenny Sonneman, with children Timothy and Elizabeth, are in Pakistan, where Steve teaches evening classes for lay people and Bible subjects to Bachelor of Ministry and Master of Divinity classes. Jenny works full-time at Timothy and Elizabeth's school, teach both Pakistani and expatriate children. They were deeply involved in the devastating floods in 2010, assisting in the massive task of restoration.

CMS missionaries seek to introduce people, not to a set of moral principles or the model of a great teacher and prophet, but to the person of our Saviour, Jesus.

Leprosy: It is almost impossible for us in Australia to comprehend what the stigma of leprosy can do to a family. A dedicated team of doctors, nurses and support staff are well aware of the complications and treatment of this dreadful disease.

Just one story of a young teenage girl: Nargis from Bangladesh sits on her bed in the corner of the hospital ward, singing a traditional Bangla song. Nargis loves to sing, so you would be forgiven for thinking she had not a worry in the world—until you got close enough to see the tears streaming down her face.

She has spent four months in hospital with leprosy reaction. She has only seen her mother once and has no idea when she might see her again, as there are four more children at home to care for.

Nargis was diagnosed three years ago. She loves school but was forced to drop out of school for the last couple of years—all because of the stigma that surrounds the disease in the village. Her father lost income so life is even more difficult.

Do pray for Nargis and her family and the many sufferers of this disease.

Medical Mission Auxiliary celebrates 91 years of supporting missions, based on the biblical teaching of God's love and compassion in Christ: the mandate to the church to care for the poor, sick and victims of injustice. Like many auxiliaries, MMA is searching for younger people to be involved in this valuable ministry.

Recently young people have received training that has helped them out of poverty; there have been lives of newborn babies and young mothers saved; people with disabilities have been helped to live productive lives: the opportunities are endless. I believe MMA is still relevant in

this troubled world, and it looks earnestly for people to catch the vision. If you cannot help in any other way you can join in the prayer: "Lord, richly bless MMA and expand its borders. Keep your hand on this organisation and protect it from all evil."

Interested? Attend MMA Autumnfest:

Tuesday 5th April at 10.30 am

St Mark's Church, Burke Rd Camberwell

Program: 10 am Morning Tea, 10.30 am

speakers – Andy and Jenny Bennett on

home assignment from Tanzania

Further information: Ruth Judd 9898 2982

Open House is a ministry to people in our local area that continues to restore lives and inspire those with no hope, and has achieved so much over the past 38-plus years. Countless people have been touched by this ministry, from the staff, the people who enter Open House, the kitchen helpers, those who provide meals—the list is endless. And this mission is here right on our own doorstep. Do pray for the vital work of Open House.

The Mothers' Union came into being in 1876 at Alresford UK by Mary Sumner, the Rector's wife. Her concerns for mothers of young children was so strong, she had a vision of mothers meeting together to pray for families and be Christ's witness in their homes. From a small beginning of some 50 young mothers, MU has grown to in excess of 3½ million members in 75 countries worldwide. In the Diocese of Melbourne there are 1100 members still involved in the diverse ministry of sharing Christ's love by encouraging, strengthening and supporting marriage and family life.

The bushfires in Victoria saw MU swing into action offering practical support, then providing gift boxes filled with special goodies throughout the diocese.

Recent floods saw many MU members personally affected and they were helped by the many, many volunteers as others joined the team to clean up. The last line of a prayer specially written for those stricken by floods reads "Give us the courage to rebuild our land, renewed in hope through Jesus Christ our risen Lord". Amen.

The whole prayer is now appropriate for the people of Japan. Each day a diocese around the world is remembered in midday prayers by deanery and branch members.

Indeed MU is alive and well at the age of 135! New members are always welcome.

These snippets of mission in the parish of Banyule are offered simply to encourage those involved, and to show that the ministry of caring is alive and well, and under the direction of our Heavenly Father it will continue to grow.

Mavis Lean

N.B. Mission Boxes are available for CMS, BCA, Leprosy and Anglicare—contact Mavis.

Vestry Notes

Meeting of Tuesday 15th March 2011 at 7.30 pm

ITEMS FOR ATTENTION

- The blinds have been installed on half the rear windows of St Andrew's.
- Authorisation has been given for drainage repairs to go ahead at Watsonia.
- The possibility of running a stewardship campaign is being investigated.

MINISTRY REPORTS

Senior minister

- Three weddings this month, one funeral, and three Ash Wednesday services.
- Philip feels encouraged and has greatly appreciated his support team.

Associate minister

Absent

Assistant minister

- Andrew has been all round the Parish – is getting a sense of what his ministry will be. He is enjoying *mainly music*, Baptism classes, CRE & will soon assist with Marriage Education classes.

WARDENS' REPORT

Heidelberg

- Light globe in the lower car park to be replaced.
- Working Bee on Sat 9th April 9am – 12am

Rosanna

- The pile of wood chips has been spread.
- There is no progress on the possums.

Watsonia

- The sky-light blind has been fixed.
- Main concern is the drainage.

Parish

Volunteers will be sought to mow the lawns at Rosanna and Heidelberg.

FINANCE

- The BAS statement for October, November & December has been sent to the ATO and an acknowledgment has been received.
- The treasurer's report was accepted and accounts to the value of \$31,814.11 as presented were approved for payment.

OUR GOALS

Property and Maintenance

The Property Committee's report accepted. It was decided:

- to undertake drainage repairs at Watsonia.
- to purchase blinds for one side of the rear windows at Rosanna.
- to draw up plans for the renovation of the Rosanna Memorial garden.
- to undertake a Stewardship campaign.
- to store the 4 pews at the back of the church at Rosanna for a period to trial the use of the space at the back of the church for Family Friendly services, morning tea and mainly music.

Worship

It was decided:

- to discontinue the use of sung aspects of the liturgy for a trial period until the end of 2nd Term.
- that worship teams be responsible for music in the family friendly services.

CALENDAR ITEMS FOR THE COMING MONTH

- Saturday 26th March – Trivia Night

Rosemary Bellair

NB. IF YOU FEEL YOU WOULD LIKE CLARIFICATION ON ANY OF THESE POINTS, VESTRY MEMBERS AND WARDENS ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE TO HELP.

Many Anglicans will abstain from alcohol during Lent...

How many families living with a problem drinker would welcome such a reprieve (even just for six weeks)!

The media keep us up-to-date with the growing number of binge drinkers, the number of drink-related accidents and street violence. Not much is reported on the number of people who suffer great despair simply because they're either family or friends of an alcoholic.

The solution seems simple—leave! Well I didn't want to leave and I spent hours praying that God would stop the drinking. I knew God was there, I was convinced I'd seen him when I was a small child, but I did wonder if he was hard of hearing because nothing changed. I never thought that maybe I was the one with the hearing problem.

Strangely it was in a non-religious fellowship that I learnt how to take advantage of God's care. It was suggested that whether I believed in God or not, I wouldn't make much progress until I accepted that there was a power greater than me and I didn't need to be the one sorting out other people's lives. I was encouraged, a day at a time, to tend to my own responsibilities and let the consequences of excessive drinking stay where they belonged—with the drinker. Not because I'd stopped caring but because I wanted to be able to care and love cannot exist where there is no justice.

Justice did prevail, my life improved enormously: my husband finally decided his life was unmanageable: he joined Alcoholics Anonymous and finally stopped drinking. Yes, my prayers were answered once I came away from the wishing-well and prayed only for wisdom to see the direction I needed to travel and courage to make the journey.

I am just as well blessed to be part of the loving Parish of Banyule and a grateful member of Al-Anon.

Joy Ross

Al-Anon Family Groups can be reached on 9642 3330 Monday to Thursday between 10.30 am and 2.30 pm.

A mother from Rosanna mainly music asks:

Hi! We need to find a new and loving home for our beautiful cat, Fern. I have had her for a very long time, but due to respiratory problems, we need to let her go. She is very good with kids and is affectionate, toilet trained, and can live inside or outside (prefers inside). I love her and will try to avoid a cat shelter at all cost. Praying for a miracle!! God bless.

Phone Sue 0406013566.

Mike Terry writes:

Hi Peter,

Mavis tells me you are plagued with possums at St Andrew's.

A most efficacious way to minimise the problem is as follows:

Arrange for the Vicar to baptise them, and I will guarantee you will only be bothered at Easter and Christmas!

Cheers, Mike

Misprints and Oddities

A reception was held at the home of the groom and the happy couple left afterwards for their honeymoon at Coleshill near Birmingham. The bride travelled in her birthday outfit.

Blaydon Courier